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Ajay Rai calls Gyanesh Kumar corrupt, demands repoll of Varanasi LS seat where PM won

Lucknow/Agra(Agency)

Uttar Pradesh Congress chief Ajay Rai on Saturday demanded the arrest of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) row, calling him a "corrupt and dishonest person". He also sought the cancellation of the 2024 Lok Sabha election in Varanasi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi won, and demanded that the poll be held again.

Rai alleged that Kumar helped rig the election to ensure the BJP's victory. His remarks came amid Opposition criticism after a news report claimed that Kumar ignored objections raised by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi on 14 occasions in 10 months over decisions and orders linked to the SIR exercise. Speaking to reporters in Agra, Rai said, "Gyanesh Kumar is a corrupt officer and a dishonest person. He is the one who orchestrated a fraudulent election victory. He ensured (PM) Modi's win by rigging the election across the entire state, and he continues to aid the BJP and PM Modi. The person who helped form the (BJP) government did so by stealing our votes, by resorting to dishonesty."

He added, "He should be arrested, and the (2024 Lok Sabha) election in Varanasi must be cancelled. A re-election should be held."

DMK MP seeks EC action against Vijay, TVK minister over Pocco case remarks

Bengaluru. (Agency)

DMK Rajya Sabha MP J Constandine Ravindran has filed a complaint with the Election Commission, accusing Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay and sports minister Aadhav Arjuna of violating the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) and a Madras High Court order by referring to an ongoing Pocco case ahead of the Madurantakam Assembly bypoll.

The parliamentarian alleged that the two TVK leaders repeatedly made mention of the sensitive case, which involves granite baron R Veeramani, in "complete disregard" of the court's order during an election rally.

"The speeches were made in Tamil before large public gatherings. They were telecast by television channels and have been circulated widely on social media," Ravindran wrote in his complaint.

He said the High Court had categorically asked TVK representatives to refrain from speaking in any manner that linked the Pocco case against Veeramani to the DMK, its leaders or functionaries.

The direction was issued on Friday, September 25, during the hearing on a defamation suit filed by DMK general secretary Duraimugan against Arjuna, his fellow minister CTR Nirmal Kumar, and the IT wing of the TVK.

In his complaint, Ravindran also asserted that the remarks made in Madurantakam were also in violation of the MCC, which stipulates that criticism of other parties should remain confined only to their policies, programmes, past record and work.

Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov backs India's permanent UN Security Council seat, opposes more Western expansion

New Delhi(Agency)

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has backed India's candidacy for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), while cautioning against increasing Western representation as part of any reform of the powerful UN body. Addressing world leaders at the UN General Assembly, Lavrov said changes to the Security Council must not weaken the prerogatives of the Council or its permanent members. He also made clear Moscow's opposition to allocating additional permanent seats to Western countries.

Russia backs India and Brazil

"UN Security Council reform cannot involve any additional seats being allocated to Western countries, especially to Germany and Japan, who are now on the path to militarism and revanchism," Lavrov stated.

At the same time, Lavrov called for broader representation of the Global South, arguing that the Council's composition should better reflect geographical realities.

"We are in favour of broadening the representation of Asia, Africa, and Latin America. We support Brazil's and India's candidatures for a permanent seat," Lavrov said.

He added, "And at the same time, I wish to emphasise this, we must satisfy the interests of the African continent in keeping with the Israeli consensus and the SEAT declaration."

BRICS nations, including Russia, had earlier reiterated their

support for Brazil and India playing a greater role in the UN, including the Security Council, in the New Delhi declaration. **Mauritius endorses India's candidature**

The push for Security Council reform was also prominent during the ongoing general debate at the UN headquarters, with several leaders calling for the Council to reflect present-



day geopolitical and economic realities.

Mauritius gave an explicit endorsement of India's bid. Mauritian Foreign Minister Dhananjay Ramful said, "We support the positions of the G4 and of L69 on Council reform, and we reiterate our support for India's candidature for a permanent seat, commensurate with its constructive role in global affairs."

Mauritius also endorsed the Common African Position,

calling for adequate regional representation, equal rights for new permanent members and dedicated spaces for small island developing states.

Portugal also backed structural reform. Prime Minister Luis Montenegro called for a more representative Security Council with permanent representation for Africa, Brazil and India.

G4 partners press for reform

Support for New Delhi's ambitions also came through the four-nation G4 alliance. Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine said, "The Marshall Islands affirms its longstanding support for Japan and its G4 partners to achieve permanent membership on the UN Security Council."

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi did not name individual G4 candidates in her address, but placed Security Council reform at the centre of her remarks.

Amit Shah said India had not only sustained but accelerated its growth trajectory despite global challenges, reaffirming the government's long-term target of making India the world's leading economy by its 100th year of independence.

September 30 INDIA bloc meeting to intensify stir against CEC

KOLKATA (Agency).

The India bloc is expected to go into a huddle on September 30 at the Constitution Club in Delhi to deliberate and strategise a joint programme aimed at cornering the Centre on the issue of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, amid concerns over special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The decision to hold the meeting was taken after the top leadership of INDIA bloc parties touched base on Saturday. Leader of the disputed Trinamool Mamata Banerjee spoke at length over the phone to Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and CPM general secretary MA Baby to discuss the course of action against the BJP and CEC, sources said.

Besides Rahul, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia Gandhi, Mamata, her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, and Baby are expected to attend the meeting. Sources said INDIA bloc leaders are likely to chalk out a roadmap for pan-India protests seeking removal of Kumar and an independent inquiry into the EC's decisions. Discussion will focus on three core agenda items, including impeachment motion against Kumar, nationwide stir in poll-bound states including UP, Punjab

and Uttarakhand.

Speaking in Sreerampur in West Bengal's Hooghly, Mamata on Saturday said, "I sent a message to Rahul Gandhi, and told him we must sit together."



Punjab university students block highway, damage campus property over unverified rape rumours

New Delhi. (Agency)

Students damaged buildings and blocked a highway near Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab late on Saturday after unverified claims of a gang rape and a student's death spread on campus. Police said they had found no evidence to support the rape allegation. The university called the rumours "false, baseless and fabricated".

Around 2,000 students gathered near the girls' hostel in Phagwara after the claims circulated on social media. The protest escalated when students blocked the highway, smashed window panes and threw bricks and flower pots. Parts of university buildings caught fire during the unrest.

Police cleared the highway and restored traffic. Kapurthala Senior Superintendent of Police Gaurav Toora said officers had brought the

situation under control and had begun talks with students and university officials.

Police find no evidence

Police said a woman had died by suicide four to five days earlier near the campus agriculture department. They said they had received no complaint that linked her death to the rape allegation.

"The students claim that there was a woman who was raped. We don't have a complaint about the girl," Toora said. Police had not established the identity of the woman mentioned in the rape rumour or of any alleged perpetrator, he added. "Some students claimed a girl student died by suicide, while some claimed that the student was raped. This has led to unrest among students against the LPU administration. So far, we have found no substantiating evidence to corroborate."



How many sitting MPs, MLAs changed parties after winning elections between 2022 and 2026? Study reveals shocking numbers

Bengaluru(Agency).

More than a hundred sitting Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) switched their political parties after winning elections between 2022 and 2026, according to a new report published by the election watchdog Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The recent analysis examined the movements of sitting members across the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha, and state and Union Territory Assemblies during general elections and by-elections over the four-year window.

The analysis revealed that in total, 111 legislators swapped parties: 26 Lok Sabha MPs, seven Rajya Sabha MPs, and 78 state MLAs, between 2022 and 2026.

ADR compiled its findings from candidate election affidavits, categorising the movements based on the specific legal mechanisms used by lawmakers to switch political alignments.



Which state recorded the highest number of political party switches

The study found party switches across 17 States and Union Territories. Nagaland recorded the highest number, with 32 MPs/MLAs, accounting for 29% of all the cases analysed. West Bengal followed with 20 cases (18%), while Telangana recorded nine (8%). Goa and Punjab had eight each, accounting for 7% apiece. Maharashtra recorded six cases, while Meghalaya had six and Manipur five.

Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat recorded four cases each. Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan had two each, while Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh recorded one case each.

NDPP, AITC and Congress account for most exits

Among the parties from which the legislators moved, Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP) recorded the highest number of exits at 25 (23%). It was followed by the All India Trinamool Congress.

2016 surgical strikes set new benchmark in India's anti-terror policy: PM

NEW DELHI(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said the 2016 surgical strikes were India's decisive response to the pain caused by terror attacks and had set a new example of the country's counter-terrorism policy. In his monthly Mann Ki Baat broadcast, he said India follows a policy of zero tolerance against terrorism and has made it clear that terror will be dealt with strongly and decisively. PM Modi said that over the past decade, from the Balakot air strike to Operation Sindoor, India has repeatedly sent a clear message that any attempt by terrorists to target the country would invite a befitting response.

Referring to the surgical strikes, PM Modi said, "A major historic achievement of India is set to mark its 10th anniversary in just a day - this achievement is the surgical strikes. Ten years ago, on September 28-29, 2016, the Indian Army carried out surgical strikes on terrorist hideouts in Pakistan." The strikes were carried out across the Line of Control after terrorists attacked an army camp at Uri in Jammu and Kashmir, killing 18 soldiers. In the same address, he also spoke

about the fight against drugs, paid tribute to Vishva Hindu Parishad leader Ashok Singhal, referred to the Somnath Swabhiman Parv, and highlighted cleanliness drives being led by young people across



the country.

He also mentioned that the world was astonished by the way Indian soldiers crossed the LoC to act against terrorism. "The surgical strike boldly demonstrated to the entire world a new example of India's counter-terrorism policy," he said.

CM Shivakumar seeks scrapping of SIR, Siddaramaiah wants Gyanesh Kumar dismissed

Shivakumar urged the president to intervene and dissolve the Election Commission and demanded that the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls be scrapped and undertaken afresh.

NEW DELHI(Agency).

Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Saturday accused the Election Commission of India of being a "partner in vote theft" and demanded its dissolution, while former chief minister Siddaramaiah sought President Droupadi Murmu's intervention and the dismissal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the poll panel's functioning and autonomy has come under serious question.

Addressing a Congress protest at Freedom Park against the CEC, Shivakumar accused the Election Commission of functioning as a "puppet of the BJP". "The Election Commission is a puppet of the BJP. The names of poor voters and those who criticise the administration are being targeted. They have become partners in vote theft along with the BJP," he said.

Shivakumar urged the president to intervene and dissolve the Election Commission and

Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls be scrapped and undertaken afresh.

"The president should intervene and dissolve the Election Commission. The chief election commissioner should be arrested and elections that were conducted illegally should be cancelled," he said.



Referring to Article 324, Siddaramaiah said the CEC enjoyed special protection from removal and could be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a Supreme Court judge.

In his Mann Ki Baat programme, PM Modi said the 2016 surgical strikes marked a decisive turn in India's response to terrorism.

Woman found dead in Gurgaon PG, kin accuse live-in partner of murder

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 23-year-old woman was found dead at a paying guest accommodation in Islampur where she lived with her partner on Friday. Her family suspects that her live-in partner had killed her and hanged her body. Police, however, have questioned the man and are investigating the circumstances surrounding the death, which looks like a suicide.The woman was a native of Etah district in Uttar Pradesh and had been in a relationship with her partner, who also belongs to Etah, for several years. They had been living together at the PG, but she did not tell her family about it.Her sister, who also lives in the city, occasionally visited her but was unaware of the relationship. She told police that she had spoken to the woman on Thursday night and had no indication that anything was wrong.Police said her partner, who also works for a private company, left for work on Friday afternoon. He told investigators they did not quarrel. He said she had called him while he was at work, but he could not answer. When he called her back, she did not respond. He made several more calls, but there was no response. Worried, he contacted a neighbour and asked him to check on her. The neighbour then looked through the window and found her hanging, following which he informed the police.She was taken to a hospital, where she was declared dead. Her body was kept in the local mortuary for autopsy. Her mother has accused her live-in partner of killing her daughter and then hanging her body. The family has submitted a complaint to police, but no case has been registered so far.

Teen who won golds in rope skipping last week falls to death from Ghaziabad condo

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 14-year-old girl died after falling from the 12th floor of her Raj Nagar Extension flat on Friday night, just days after returning from Shirdi with two gold medals at a national-level rope-skipping event. Prachi, police said, had gone to the balcony to collect clothes put out to dry when she fell.The Class 9 student of Dehradun Public School in Sanjay Nagar was at home with her parents, younger sister and grandparents when the incident occurred around 9pm in Tower G of Rajnagar Residency. Her father told police she had gone to bring in the clothes. The exact circumstances of the fall are being examined. Residents and security personnel rushed to the spot after hearing a loud thud. Prachi was taken to Yashoda Hospital in Sanjay Nagar, where doctors declared her dead on arrival.Police and a forensic field unit inspected the society after receiving the emergency call and collected evidence. The body was sent for an autopsy. CCTV footage is also being examined to establish what happened before the fall.ACP Ziauddin Ahmed said police were speaking to family members and examining the circumstances. “Further legal proceedings will be taken on the basis of the autopsy report and statements recorded during the inquiry,” he said.The tragedy came days after Prachi’s sporting achievement. She had returned from Shirdi, where she won gold in the Double Dutch pair freestyle and Double Dutch single freestyle categories at the CBSE Rope Skipping National Championship. Her victories had brought celebrations at home.Her father, Suresh Chand, works as a software engineer with a multinational company. Police said preliminary inquiry had not indicated any other cause behind the incident.The fall is the latest in a series of high-rise deaths in NCR. Last month, a 24-year-old DU PhD scholar died after falling from the 27th floor of a Ghaziabad highrise. In March, a three-year-old boy died after falling from a 12th-floor balcony in Greater Noida West.

Dowry case against husband, in-laws after woman, 3-year-old daughter found dead in Khoda home

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

An FIR has been registered against a man and his family members after his 30-year-old wife Preeti Singh and three-year-old daughter were found dead inside their rented flat in Khoda’s Bharat Vihar on Friday evening.The FIR names Preeti’s husband Anirudh alias Sonu, mother-in-law Raj Rani and sister-in-law Rinki Singh. Police have also detained Anirudh for questioning as part of the investigation.Preeti’s family has alleged that she was being harassed by her husband and in-laws over dowry and that Anirudh had been demanding money from her. The family further alleged that Anirudh was unhappy with the motorcycle given at the time of their marriage in June 2021 and wanted a car instead.Sources said Preeti had also suspected her husband of having an extramarital affair, which has not been independently established by police.Preeti, a homemaker, and Anirudh had been married for around four years and had been living on rent on the second floor of a two-storey house in Bharat Vihar. Their three-year-old daughter also lived with them. Anirudh, a native of Hardoi, works as a lab technician at a private hospital in Kaushambi, while Preeti was originally from Unnao.According to police and neighbours, no major dispute between the couple had come to light publicly before the incident. Anirudh’s sister Rinki, who lives with her family on rent on the ground floor of the same building, also told police that she had not noticed any serious dispute between the couple.Police said Anirudh was unwell on Friday and had not gone to work. At around 5:30 pm, he reportedly left the house to purchase medicines. Shortly afterwards, Rinki’s 10-year-old daughter Ananya went upstairs to Preeti’s flat.

2x1 becomes 2x2 after fitness nod, RTO green signal — how pvt buses get retrofitted & safety takes back seat

Noida.(Agency)

As sleeper buses operating on highways face scrutiny over safety lapses and overloading after a fire on a Delhi-Mahoba AC bus burnt nine passengers to death earlier this week, retrofitters TOI spoke to over the week said it was common practice for bus operators to retrofit buses after getting fitness certificates and RTO clearances. According to retrofitters, sleeper buses approved with a 2x1 configuration, two berths on one side, a single berth on the other and a central aisle, are modified by several operators to convert them into a 2x2 layout. The changes allow operators to increase passenger capacity from 36 to 48 by adding 12 berths. But this comes at the cost of aisle space. The length and width of individual berths are also reduced, leaving passengers with limited space to stretch their legs or turn c o m f o r t a b l y w h i l e

travelling.Retrofitting is not a cosmetic modification. The moment you add AC units, electrical loads or alter the passenger compartment, you are changing the vehicle’s original safety configuration. Every such modification must be properly engineered, inspected and certified, otherwise a small electrical fault can rapidly become a major fire hazard,” a worker at a bus service shop in sector 44 said requesting anonymity. An overloaded or poorly modified electrical system is a serious risk in a sleeper bus because passengers are confined in an enclosed space and evacuation is slower, another said. “Retrofitting without proper technical checks can compromise the very safety systems designed to protect passengers in an emergency,” he said.Former deputy commissioner (transport) Anil Chhikara said under Rule 62 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, a new bus gets a

fitness certificate valid for two years. It must then undergo fitness testing every two years until it is eight years old, after which the test is required annually.“The



VAHAN system allows online submission of fitness applications, fee payment and appointment/slot booking, but states that fitness remains a non-contactless service, requiring the vehicle to be taken to an RTO or fitness facility

for verification and testing. For transport vehicles undergoing renewal, however, MoRTH has mandated fitness testing through private Automated Testing Stations (ATS), eliminating the need for an RTO visit or inspection by a regional inspector,” said Chhikara.In practice, however, Chhikara said these renewal checks by ATS operators rarely involve a physical inspection, with vehicle owners often permitted to simply upload photographs of the bus. “In fact, 99% of the buses that have been involved in fire incidents have not been genuinely tested even once,” he said, adding that this amounted to a violation of transport laws and a criminal lapse. He said private ATS operators should also be brought under scrutiny.Chhikara noted that several sleeper buses that have caught fire in recent incidents were BS-VI vehicles, and said their extensive wiring systems made electrical failures a critical line of inquiry.

MCG engineer named in plaint to vigilance goes on leave, colleague gets charge

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Days after State Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (SV&ACB) arrested a computer operator and registered an FIR following a contractor’s complaint alleging a demand of Rs 92,000 for clearing a civic works bill, MCG has issued an office order handing over the work of executive engineer Pardeep Kumar — named in the complaint — to another executive engineer during his leave.MCG’s order does not mention the vigilance case, the contractor’s complaint, or any disciplinary action against Pardeep — it simply records that Tushar Yadav will discharge Kumar’s work during his leave. He has been on leave since the computer operator, Pawan Kumar, was arrested on Sept 18. According to the complaint, contractor Bhim Singh alleged that Pardeep had told him Rs 92,000 would have to be paid as

commission for his bill to be passed. Singh said he had been awarded the work for about Rs 28 lakh, had completed around 90% of it, and had a bill of about Rs 23 lakh pending. He further alleged



that, after the bill was processed, he was asked to pay the amount to Pawan. Singh allegedly paid Rs 80,000 to the operator, following which the operator sought the remaining Rs 12,000, according to the complaint.The vigilance bureau subsequently laid a trap, and Pawan was

arrested while allegedly accepting the Rs 12,000 on Sept 18. SV&ACB has accused only Pawan in the FIR, registered under sections 7 and 7A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and Section 308(2) of BNS, 2023. Pardeep could not be reached despite repeated attempts.“This order shall come into force with immediate effect,” read the order issued by MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya on Sept 24.In its Sept 20 report, TOI had reported that contractors associated with MCG Contractors Union alleged that demands for illegal payments arose at multiple stages, from allotment of work orders to processing and clearance of bills — while making clear they were not alleging that every MCG engineer or official was involved.MCG chief engineer Vijay Dhaka had told that contractors facing such demands should approach him directly.

Five men hold former sarpanch at gunpoint, loot over Rs 1 crore from Faridabad house

GURGAON.(Agency)

Five armed men broke into a newly bought house in Faridabad and looted more than Rs 1 crore in cash kept for a land deal. Mohammad Qadeem, former sarpanch of Shahpur Kalan village, was alone in the house. The men allegedly held him at gunpoint, took the money, then tied him to a cot and locked the main door from outside before fleeing.Qadeem told the cops he bought the house in his neighbourhood around four months ago. He started shifting his belongings to the new house on Thursday. His family, however, continued to stay at their old house.On Friday, he went to sleep alone at the house around 11pm. The men who had masks on their faces woke him up around 2.15am. One of them put a pistol to his temple and asked about

cash and jewellery. When Qadeem told them that there was no money in the house, the men assaulted him.One of the robbers kept the pistol pointed at him while the others entered another room and broke the locks of an almirah and a trunk. They took around Rs 4 lakh from the almirah and nearly Rs 1 crore from the trunk.Qadeem told police that the cash was kept for a land deal. He got the money after selling a plot in Quraish Pur around 10 months ago and kept the cash at the house for buying another piece of land.After taking the cash, the robbers tied Qadeem’s hands and legs to a cot. They locked the main door from outside before leaving. Qadeem, however, managed to free his legs and reached the staircase, where he started shouting for help.His son, Avsh, who was sleeping at the family’s old house nearby, heard the noise

and reached the new house. He freed his father’s hands, following which the family informed police. The robbers also took Qadeem’s mobile phone. They later threw it into a field some distance from the house. The phone was traced after the alarm set for 5 a.m. rang and a field worker brought the phone to the cops. The phone has been taken into police custody as part of the investigation. Police suspect that the robbers knew that a large amount of cash was kept at the house and are examining the possibility that someone close to the family may have been involved in or facilitated the robbery. A case has been registered at the Dhauj police stationunder BNS Section 309 for robbery. Crime branch teams of Faridabad police also visited the house to collect evidence.

493 hills, yet Mangar 'agri land' on paper: Decade after NGT sought clarity on status, experts say loophole in records threatens Aravalis

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A decade after National Green Tribunal (NGT) ordered Haryana govt to settle the status of land in Mangar, parts of the eco-sensitive Aravali hills were still recorded as agricultural land despite being visibly hilly on the ground. The mismatch threatened to undermine protection of a landscape the tribunal had sought to safeguard.The discrepancy emerged during a recent ground check. It was especially significant because NGT intervened after private companies sought to change parcels in Mangar from gair mumkin pahar (uncultivable hill) to agricultural land. It then ordered a detailed survey of the disputed khasras.The govt survey, involving the forest department, Union environment ministry and Forest Survey of India, used cadastral maps, satellite imagery, digital elevation models and GPS-based ground verification. It found the parcels formed part of the Aravalis - hills, valleys and foothills - despite varying revenue classifications, including gair mumkin pahar and bhood.Of 606 entries examined, 493 were hills, 96 were



natural gullies in hills and 17 were foothills or valleys. "We did a survey and found that Mangar has little plain area and mostly gair mumkin pahar. What has happened over the years is a tendency to change the revenue records. Misrepresentation of the area is wrong. Gair mumkin pahar can't be agriculture," said MD Sinha, former conservator of south Haryana. The survey also recorded substantial vegetation. One 244-hectare tract

comprised vegetated hill slopes typical of the Aravalis, while another 357-hectare area in western Mangar was identified as hilly terrain.Yet, a recent ground check found some existing hills still recorded as agricultural land - a discrepancy that conservationists said could create room for development. "Largely, Mangar hills are non-protected and this loophole facilitates so-called development. For instance, the recent hill cutting. Forest department also fails to do

anything as the land is still magda and not gair mumkin pahar. These create issues for protection and conservation," said ecologist Sunil Harsana.The risk was not merely on paper.

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DM Kupwara chairs NCORD Committee Meeting, reviews Anti-Drug measures in District

KUPWARA, SEPT-
BER: District Magistrate (DM) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired a meeting of the District-Level NCORD (Narco Coordination) Committee to review the measures being undertaken to curb the menace of drug abuse and illicit trafficking in the district. The meeting focused on strengthening coordinated efforts among various departments and agencies involved in drug demand reduction, enforcement, prevention, public awareness and rehabilitation. Detailed discussions were held on the progress achieved so far and the measures required to further intensify the district's fight against drug abuse. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed

enforcement-related action taken under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The meeting took stock of FIRs registered by the Police Departments of Kupwara and Handwara, action taken against drug peddlers, attachment of properties linked with narcotics-related activities, preventive detention of habitual offenders and other measures aimed at disrupting the drug supply network. The District Magistrate directed all concerned departments to maintain close coordination and adopt a proactive approach in identifying vulnerable areas and taking timely action against persons involved in the cultivation, production, transportation and

distribution of narcotic substances. The meeting also reviewed the ongoing drive against illicit cultivation of cannabis and poppy. The concerned agencies were asked to sustain field-level surveillance and ensure timely destruction of illegal crops to prevent their conversion into narcotic substances. Measures pertaining to the removal of encroachments and other activities associated with drug-related hotspots were also discussed. Emphasizing the importance of preventing the availability of spurious and unauthorized medicines, the District Magistrate directed the Assistant Drug Controller to intensify market inspections and conduct special checking drives in coordi-

nation with the Police Department. The officers were asked to ensure strict action against the sale and distribution of fake, spurious or unauthorized drugs and strengthen monitoring of pharmaceutical outlets across the district. The District Magistrate stressed that enforcement alone cannot address the drug problem and called for greater emphasis on preventive interventions, awareness generation and rehabilitation. He directed the concerned departments to enhance awareness programmes, particularly among students and youth, regarding the harmful consequences of

drug abuse and the importance of seeking timely assistance. He further underscored the need to identify vulnerable individuals and ensure that persons affected by substance abuse are appropriately guided towards counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services. The concerned departments were instructed to work in close coordination to facilitate access to support mechanisms for affected persons and their families. The District Magistrate called upon all

stakeholders to adopt a sustained and coordinated approach towards making Kupwara a drug-free district, stressing that concerted efforts by government departments, law-enforcement agencies, educational institutions, civil society and the general public are essential to effectively combat the challenge of substance abuse. SSP Kupwara, Syed Al Tahir Gilani; SSP Handwara, Tahir Saleem Khan; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad

Khan; Principals of GDCs, ACR, ACD, CMO, DIO, ARTO; officers from the Prosecution Department, Agriculture Department, Drug Control Department and Social Welfare Department; Tehsildars,

and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as MANSHU SAHU, S/o DOMU SHAHU Residing at House No. - 11A DDA Flats, Block - B, Sarai Basti, Onkar Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110035 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUNISH SAHU.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto Known as HIMANSHU KUMAR JHA alias HIMANSHU KUMAR, S/o DINESH KUMAR JHA, Residing at B-75 Block Porsha, Dist-Morena, Madhya Pradesh-476111, have changed my name from SYAMBETI DEVI to SHYAMBETI TOMAR for all future purposes, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 09/01/1984 instead of my correct date of birth as 03/04/1984 Vide Affidavit dated 26/09/2026 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, OMKAR S/O RAMANUJ SINGH Permanent R/o Village - Yodhanbigha Nimri, Shekhopur Sarai, P.O: Nimri, Dist: Sheikhpura, Bihar - 811103 Presently Residing at House No. - 190/17, Onkar Nagar - B, Tri Nagar, Delhi - 110035 have changed the name of my minor son SHASHANK aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHASHANK KUMAR.

PUBLIC NOTICE
The General Public is hereby informed that our NARESH S/O HUKUM CHAND AND MRS. LATA W/O NARESH BOTH R/O C-182, J COLONY, KHANPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062, I hereby inform the general public that my said clients have disowned their son, VISHAL S/O NARESH AND daughter in law MONIKA W/O VISHAL R/O C-182, J COLONY, KHANPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110062, have served all relations with them with immediate effect. My said clients have divested them of all their movable and immovable properties. Any one dealing with them shall be responsible for his or her dealings with them and that my clients will not be held liable in regard to such actions/ dealings.

Adv. Pankaj Kumar Yadav
CN No.405, District Court Complex, Saket, New Delhi-110017 (M) 9990619597

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, SUBHASH KUMAR S/O KAMESHWAR SINGH, R/o 51, Gali No. 7, Ambekdar Nagar, Haidpur, Delhi-110088, declare that my name has been wrongly written as SUBHAS KUMAR in the educational documents of my daughter namely SOMIYA KUMARI, aged about 16 years. The actual and correct name of mine is SUBHASH KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHD TASMIL S/o Mohd Shaheed R/O House No.C-112, Gali No.8, Ghonda Extension, Garhi Mendu, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Mohd Tasleem.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammad Shandar Naqvi R/O D-201, Rail Vihar, Alpha-1, Greater Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, U.P.-201310 have changed my name to Mohammad Shandar.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohd Aslam Mughal R/O C-156, Gali No.13, Near Sheesha Wali Masjid, North Ghonda, Garhi Mendu, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Mohd Aslam.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rukhsana Begum R/O C-11, Gali No.12, North Ghonda, Subhash Mohalla, Garhi Mendu Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Afsana Begam.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ikram Khan R/O U-116, Gali No.5, U-Block, Arvind Nagar, Garhi Mendu, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Mohd. Ikram Khan.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohd Vakil R/O K-189, Gali No.1, Near Khadde Wali Masjid, Gautam Vihar, Garhi Mendu, Delhi-110053 have changed my name to Vakil.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mr. Shah Alam S/o Late. Ghazi Mohd Anwar is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential Built-up Upper Ground Floor Portion, without roof rights area measuring 90 Sq Yards. I.e. 75.24 Sq. Mtrs. built on Property Bearing No. N-60, Rect. No. 63, Kila No. 6 Situated in the abadi of Narayan Nagar, Laxmi Nagar, Village Khureji Khas, Illaga Shadarda, Delhi. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Relinquishment Deed dated 13.05.2025 Vide Doc no. 2025/51/4345, Book no. 1, Vol no. 4362 Page no. 119-132 SRO-East, Preet Vihar. Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property, and same property sold to be Mohammad Suhail and the said property to be financed/ mortgaged with Piramal Finance Ltd., Branch: Loni Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh, If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate
F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 9958871432)

Refused Rs 60 for alcohol, man stabs rickshaw driver

New Delhi: A petty dispute over Rs 60 escalated into a brutal assault near Tank Road parking in the central district's Prasad Nagar on Friday night, leaving a rickshaw driver seriously injured. Around 9:30 pm, Nitesh, a rickshaw driver, stopped by a tea stall near Jheel Park run by Lab Kumar Pradhan (55). According to Jheel Park for years and had no criminal record. The police conducted a raid at his house, but failed to find him. They got information that the accused returned to his tea stall to collect some belongings. Acting on the information, the police rushed to Jheel Park and arrested him. During interrogation, Pradhan confessed to committing the crime, claiming he lost his temper after Nitesh refused to give money to buy liquor. On his disclosure, the police recovered the blood-stained clothes and the knife used in the crime. A case under Section 109(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered against the accused.

arm. Passersby informed the police about the incident. After getting information, a PCR van reached the spot and rushed the victim to RML Hospital, where his condition was stated to be stable. The accused fled the spot after committing the crime. During investigation, the police identified the accused as Pradhan, who was residing in a rented accommodation in Shadi Khampur. Originally from Baleshwar, Odisha, Pradhan had been running a tea stall near Jheel Park for years and had no criminal record. The police conducted a raid at his house, but failed to find him. They got information that the accused returned to his tea stall to collect some belongings. Acting on the information, the police rushed to Jheel Park and arrested him. During interrogation, Pradhan confessed

to committing the crime, claiming he lost his temper after Nitesh refused to give money to buy liquor. On his disclosure, the police recovered the blood-stained clothes and the knife used in the crime. A case under Section 109(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered against the accused.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, Roomana W/o Mohd Nadeem R/O House No. 2071, Kucha Chelan, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110002 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Romana in my minor daughter Rushda aged 14 years in her school records. The actual name of mine Roomana which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, Nida Qureshi W/o Shuaib Ahmed R/O House No. 893, Haveli Azam Khan, Chitli Qabar, Jama Masjid, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi - 110006 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Nida Shuaib in my minor son MOHAMMED ALI aged 14 years in his school records. The actual name of mine Nida Qureshi which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, Suresh Prasad Mahto S/O Inder Dev Mahto, R/O Kh No-222/224 Ground Floor, Street No-4, Block-A, Inder Enclave Phase-1, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi 110086, have changed the name of my minor son Avadesh Kumar aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as ABHADHESH KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
I, Yashasvi D/o Jagbir Singh R/O J/139A, Adani Sansara Vilasa, Sector-63, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001, HaveChanged My Name To yashasvi Dhanikhar for all future purpose.

UPDATING OF SLAM IN LOCO SHED MALDA

Tender Notice No. TRS-MLDT-08-26-27, Date: 24-09-2026.

Name of work with its location: For & on behalf of the President of India, Tenders are invited from bonafide contractors for awarding contract of 'Updating of SLAM in Loco Shed Malda.'. The work shall be completed within twenty four (24) months from receipt of LOA.

Estimate cost of work: ₹60,21,110.40/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹1,20,400/-; Last date & time for submission of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 22-10-2026. For more details please visit in website www.ireps.gov.in.

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that my client, Vikas Hans and Poonam Hans both intend purchase in respect of the Upper Ground Floor (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Floor") built on Property bearing No. 21/2, out of Khazra No. 128, 9, area measuring 58.52 Sq. Mtrs. i.e. (70 Sq. Yds.), situated at Abadi of Gali No. 1, New Laxmi Colony, in the area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaga Shadarda, Delhi-110051, from Shri Ashwani Kumar, Initially owner of Late Prakash son of Pt. Hans Raj with respect of the said property, Document No. 5203, in Addl. Book No. I, Volume No. 343, on pages 113 to 116, registered on 28.11.1957. (SRO-Delhi), thereafter, General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell and WILL dated 02.12.1985 in favour of Smt. Daya Wanti, thereafter, General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell and WILL dated 28.04.1997 in favour of Miss Chanchal Kumari, Shri Suresh Kumar Sachdeva and Shri Ramesh Kumar Sachdeva, thereafter, Registered General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell and WILL dated 25.05.1999 in favour of Shri Naresh Kumar son of Shri Kishan Lal, thereafter, Registered General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell and WILL dated 27.02.1999 in favour of Smt. Geeta Bhatia, thereafter, registered General Power of Attorney, Agreement to Sell and WILL dated 29.01.2000 in favour of Shri Sewa Ram son of Late Shri Kishan Chand, Unfortunately said Shri Sewa Ram, died intestate on 25.11.2003, leaving behind Smt. Krishna Pahwa(daughter), Smt. Satya Sethi(daughter), Smt. Balwant Rani Dua(daughter), Smt. Chander Nagpal(daughter), Smt. Meenu, Smt. Puspangjali(daughter) and Smt. Mamta(daughter) and Smt. Bhagwati Devi (wife) as his legal heirs, thereafter, Relinquishment Deed dated 11.03.2005 was executed by Smt. Krishna Pahwa, Smt. Satya Sethi, Smt. Balwant Rani Dua, Smt. Chander Nagpal, Smt. Meenu, Smt. Puspangjali and Smt. Mamta in favour of Smt. Bhagwati Devi, which is duly registered as Document No. 2664, in Book No. I, Volume No. 1621, on pages 48 to 50, registered on 11.03.2005. (SRO-VIII), thereafter, Sale Deed dated 15.04.2005 in favour of Smt. Sudesh Rani wife of Shri Kewal Kishore, thereafter, as Document No. 4398, in Book No. I, Volume No. 1681, on pages 177 to 181, registered on 15.04.2005. (SRO-VIII), Unfortunately said Smt. Sudesh Rani died intestate on 09.05.2006 and her husband Mr. Kewal Kishore, pre-deceased her on 22.03.2006, leaving behind Shri Jitender Kumar(son), Smt. Meena Pathak(daughter), Smt. Sandhya(daughter) Shri Ashwani Kumar (son) as her legal heirs, thereafter, Relinquishment Deed dated 17.02.2016 was executed by Shri Jitender Kumar, Smt. Meena Pathak and Smt. Sandhya in favour of Shri Ashwani Kumar, as Document No. 922, in Book No. I, Volume No. 8363, on pages 152 to 156, registered on 23.02.2016. (SRO-VIII) and is presently in peaceful physical possession thereof. Based on the documents produced for my examination and the information provided to me, the afore-said property appears to be free from all encumbrances, liens, charges, mortgages, attachments, acquisitions, litigation, and third-party claims. The proposed purchase of the aforesaid property is to be financed by RBL Bank Limited, Branch- Building No 1, First Floor, Modi Mill Compound, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

NAME CHANGE
I VINAY JAIN S/O RAHTU LAL JAIN R/O H.NO.111, G/F, SAINI ENCLAVE, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to VINAY KUMAR JAIN for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as Bhawana Sharma D/O: Late Pramod Kumar, R/O Village Kurthal, Tahsil- Budhan, Muzaffargarh Uttar Pradesh - 251309, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHAWANA DEVI.

NAME CHANGE
I, MITTLESH JAIN W/O VINAY KUMAR JAIN R/O H.NO.111, G/F, SAINI ENCLAVE, DELHI-110092, have changed my name to MITTLESH JAIN for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ujjwal Dhanikhar W/o Jagbir Singh R/O 3a 305, Rang Rasayan Apartments Sector-13, Rohini, Delhi-110085, Have Changed My Name To Ujjwal for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE
I, Jagbir Singh Dhanikhar S/o Kishan Lal R/o B-81 2nd Floor, Dwarkadish Enclave, Sector-26 Rohini, Pehlad Pur bangar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, Have Changed My Name To Jagbir Singh for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, SWATI CHUGH D/o VINOD KUMAR CHUGH W/o ABHISHEK BEHERA R/O 1094, JOY APARTMENT, PLOT NO.2, OPPOSITE J M INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, SECTOR-2, DWARKA SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110075, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SWATI CHUGH BEHERA in my marriage Certificate bearing No. 9073000024131 issued by Nct Of Delhi. The actual name of mine is SWATI CHUGH, which may be amended accordingly.

ELECTRICAL WORKS OVER TINSUKIA DIVISION

Tender Notice No.: TSK/Elect/258; dated. 24-09-2026; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **SN-1; Tender No.: LV-T-14-TSK-TLAC-28-R1. Brief Description of Item :** Annual Maintenance Contract of RBC-cum-EBCs of Hitachi Hi-Rel Power Electronics Pvt. Ltd. make installed in coaches of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia coaching depots covering breakdown and preventive maintenance, repair and supply of spare parts for a period of 2 (two) years. **Tender Value:** ₹37,01,312.72/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹74,000/-; **SN-2; Tender No.: LV-T-14-TSK-TLAC-29-R1. Brief Description of Item :** Annual Maintenance Contract of RBC-cum-EBCs of Signotron (India) Pvt. Ltd. make in coaches of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia coaching depots covering breakdown and preventive maintenance, repair and supply of spare parts for a period of 2 (two) years. **Tender Value:** ₹37,01,312.72/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹74,000/-; **SN-3; Tender No.: LV-T-14-TSK-TLAC-30-R1. Brief Description of Item :** Annual Maintenance Contract of RBC-cum-EBCs of Electronic Equipment Company Pvt. Ltd. make installed in coaches of Dibrugarh and Tinsukia coaching depots covering breakdown and preventive maintenance, repair and supply of spare parts for a period of 2 (two) years. **Tender Value:** ₹21,66,622.08/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 43,300/-; **SN-4; Tender No.: LV-T-14-TSK-934-R1. Brief Description of Item :** Augmentation and replacement of Electrical Assets of Electrical General Service Over Tinsukia Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,47,70,313/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,95,400/-; **SN-5; Tender No.: LV-T-14-TSK-944-R1. Brief Description of Item :** At Dibrugarh-Electrical Works for Construction of new sick line at Dibrugarh Coaching Depot. **Tender Value:** ₹1,31,80,141/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,63,600/-; **SN-6; Tender No.: LV-T-14-957-R. Brief Description of Item :** Electrical Works for (1) At Tinsukia Division: Provision of 01 no RUB by elimination of L-Xing (RM-267) At Km 307/5-6 in Tinsukia Division. (2) Proposed construction of RUB/LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. RM-282 at km 329/6-7 between section Bogninadi-Gogamukh under the jurisdiction of ADEN/North Lakhimpur. (3) Proposed construction of RUB/LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. RM-287 at km 340/9-341/0 between section Gogamukh-Dhemajai under the jurisdiction of ADEN/North Lakhimpur. (4) At Tinsukia Division: Provision of 01 no RUB by elimination of L-Xing at RM-290 at Tinsukia Division. (5) At Tinsukia Division: Provision of 01 no RUB at Km 359/6-7 between section Bordolani-Dhemajai by elimination of L-Xing at RM-299 under jurisdiction of ADEN/Silapathar. (6) At Tinsukia Division: Provision of 01 no. RUB at Km 365/89 between section Dhemajai-Sripanti by elimination of L-Xing at RM-306 under jurisdiction of ADEN/Silapathar at Tinsukia Division. (7) At Tinsukia Division: Provision of 01 no RUB at km 330/5-6 between section Bogninadi-Gogamukh by elimination at RM-283. **Tender Value:** ₹1,13,70,996.60/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,27,400/-; **SN-7; Tender No.: LV-T-14-959-R. Brief Description of Item :** Electrical Works for (i) At Tinsukia Division:- Provision of 01 no RUB at MD-2 at (KM139-140) in Khowang-Lepetkata section at Tinsukia Division. (ii) Provision of 01 no RUB by elimination of L-Xing No. ST-89 at Km 360/3-4 in Titabar-Mariani Jn. section at Tinsukia Division. (iii) Provision of 01 no RUB at ST/99 at (KM 389/0-1) in Nakachari-Selenghat section at Tinsukia Division. (iv) Provision of 2 nos. RUB at L-Xing no. ST/117 at Km 430/5-6 and ST/118 at Km 434/3-4 in Simaluguri Jn- Lakwa section at Tinsukia Division. (v) Provision of 2 nos. RUB at L-Xing no. ST/131 at Km 487/6-7 in Namrup-Borhat and ST/134 at Km 502/2-3 in Naharkatiya-Duliaigan section at Tinsukia Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,26,83,775.12/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,53,700/-; **SN-8; Tender No.: LV-T-14-963. Brief Description of Item :** At Tinsukia Division : Provision of Hybrid Solar Power Plants 100 KW(50KW*2) with Lithium Ion Battery Bank over Tinsukia Division. **Tender Value:** ₹1,37,95,007/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹2,75,900/-; **SN-9; Tender No.: LV-T-14-964. Brief Description of Item :** Provision of Air-conditioning system at PWI and IOW Office Furkating Jn, Mariani Jn, Simaluguri Jn(E), Simaluguri Jn(W), Namrup, New Tinsukia over Tinsukia Division. In Connection with work "Furkating Jn- Jorhat Town-Mariani Jn.(SL)-TBR-49 500 Tk.m Work. **Tender Value:** ₹9,21,455/-; **Earnest Money:** ₹18,400/-;

Date & time of closing of above all tenders at 13:00 hrs. and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 16-10-2026. Complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 13:00 hrs. on 16-10-2026 in the website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (Elect), Tinsukia
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
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STORES E-PROCUREMENT

E-Procurement Tender Notice No. 05/2026; Dated: 23-09-2026.
E-tenders are invited for the following work:-

Description of works	Tender Quantity	Tender Due Date
SN. 1, Tender No. 04265210		
Supply of 6 quad cable, 1.4 mm dia copper conductor, polythene insulated screen wire /strip galvanized steel armoured, underground Jelly filled as per specification no. RDSO/SPN/TC/72/2007 with amendment no 1 or latest.	13 KM	14-10-2026 (15.30 Hrs.)
SN. 2, Tender No. 04265209		
6 Quad cable 0.9 mm dia copper conductor, polythene insulated, Aluminium screened armoured underground jelly filled Cable as per RDSO Specification No. IRS:TC 30/2005 (Ver-1) Amdt 1 & 5 or latest.	142 KM	14-10-2026 (15.30 Hrs.)
SN. 3, Tender No. 04265207		
Underground armoured unscreened Railway signalling cable, PVC insulated, copper conductor, Spec. No. IRS:S: 63/2014 (Rev.4.0) or latest of Size: 12 Core x 1.5 Sq.mm .	374 KM	14-10-2026 (15.30 Hrs.)
SN. 4, Tender No. 04265206		
Underground Power Cable, PVC Insulated Unscreended Armoured, Aluminium Conductor for Railway Application, Spec : IRS-S-63/2014 (Rev.4.0) & IS : 1554 (Part -1) or latest, SIZE : 2C X25 Sq. mm	105 KM	14-10-2026 (15.30 Hrs.)

NOTE:- For full details of Tender Notice and Tender Documents, **Tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in)** prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tender.

Principal Chief Materials Manager/Con/Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
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NEWS BOX

Nepal's hydropower ambitions face climate reality check

KINSHASA, Congo.(Agency)

Nepal's hydropower boom has long been touted as a cornerstone of economic growth and renewable energy, but the devastating flood in August exposed its vulnerability.The disaster triggered by a glacial mountain collapse on the China-Nepal border killed more than 1,400 people and left thousands missing - - while knocking 410 megawatts (MW), or about 10 percent of the generation capacity, out of Nepal's power system.More than 90 percent of Nepal's electricity comes from hydropower, but extensive damage to its river projects has prompted questions about its energy security as climate and geological risks intensify."Hydropower has been a major driving force in growth of the country... generating jobs and income," Uttam Bhlon Lama, senior vice president of the Independent Power Producers' Association (IPPAN), told AFP."It was bringing huge hope and future prospects to the people," he said, adding that the country would now have to rethink its dam-building spree."We have to prepare... This is our new normal."Over the past decade, the Himalayan nation has increased hydropower output more than fourfold to about 4,120 megawatts, according to government figures , helping connect nearly all its 30 million people to the grid.The country had previously moved to export surplus electricity to neighbouring India and Bangladesh, seeking to turn its glacier-fed rivers into a source of revenue. Authorities suspended electricity exports after the disaster.The major destruction of hydropower infrastructure underscored the risks of that strategy in a region where glaciers are retreating, permafrost is thawing and extreme hazards are becoming harder to predict.

CNN Says White House Didn't Allow It To Board Trump's Air Force One

world.(Agency)

The White House left CNN off Air Force One for President Donald Trump's trip Saturday to a college football game in Tennessee, marking the latest media restriction from the administration in an ongoing dispute with First Amendment implications.CNN, a member of the US network video pool that rotates duties shooting and sharing video coverage of the president, reported it had been scheduled to fly aboard the president's plane Saturday for a visit to a midday game between the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and the University of Texas. But White House guidance issued Friday night instead included Real America's Voice, a conservative outlet.The White House guidance was issued after journalists from CNN, along with MS NOW and Politico, which Trump banned last week from the White House grounds, returned to the executive complex with TV cameras in hand after a judge handed the organisations a reprieve.US District Judge Timothy Kelly temporarily struck down the president's ban in an overnight ruling early Thursday, but his decision dealt with "hard passes" to the White House grounds and didn't directly address pool duties.The judge's temporary order also said nothing directly about Air Force One.The spot meant for CNN on the flight has long been saved for a member of the US network video pool; Real America's Voice is not a part of that group. The White House did not respond to emails from The Associated Press requesting comment about the decision.

CNN declined to comment.

A written pool report Saturday morning confirmed there was "no TV pool" for the travel, though Real America's Voice celebrated its inclusion in the trip and said it would make feeds available to other news outlets.

Hamas leader says Israel to use Gaza 'blood' in election

The Israeli premier has vowed in the run-up to the vote not to withdraw troops from Gaza and rejected a US-led peace initiative in which Hamas said it would surrender weapons.

DOHA.(Agency)

The leader of Hamas brushed aside the possibility of change from Israel's upcoming election in an interview on Saturday, saying he expected Israelis to campaign off Gaza's "blood"."Whether this or that person comes to power, or this party or another -- our people have suffered at the hands of all Israeli parties," Khalil al-Hayya told the Qatari station Al-Araby."We absolutely refuse to allow the blood, suffering, and cause of the

Palestinian people to serve as fuel for Israeli elections. What matters to us is that our people achieve their goals, aspirations and legitimate rights."Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is locked in a tight contest as he seeks to stay in power in the October 27 elections. The Israeli premier has vowed in the run-up to the vote not to withdraw troops from Gaza and rejected a US-led peace initiative in which Hamas said it would surrender weapons, a promise Israel views with scepticism.The vote is the first since Hamas led the deadliest ever attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, with militants storming into southern Israel and killing 1,221 people and dragging 251 others as hostages to Gaza.Israel's retaliatory offensive has displaced virtually the entire population of Gaza, damaged or destroyed the vast majority of buildings and killed more than 73,900 people, according to the Gaza health ministry, which operates under Hamas and whose figures are considered reliable by the United Nations.Polls show Netanyahu's



most formidable challenger to be Gadi Eisenkot, a former military chief who served in Netanyahu's war cabinet but has accused him of failing strategically.The

Palestinian Authority in turn has scheduled a legislative election for November 28, which would be the first in two decades, although there are widespread doubts about whether it will go ahead.Hamas won the last election, held in 2006, defeating Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas's Fatah.

Abbas, 90, has since been ruling by decree, with the legislature not allowed to convene and Hamas seizing control of Gaza.Abbas is based in the West Bank, where the Palestinian Authority wields limited autonomy."We are ready to sit down with President Abbas to lay the foundations for a national program and achieve genuine unity," Hayya said."If the Palestinian elections are postponed, that step must serve as an entry point for putting the Palestinian house in order."Hamas has been working on an alliance with Mohammed Dahlan, a former Fatah figure born in Gaza who has been an interlocutor with the United States on its peace plan."In the event of a postponement, the alliance will remain intact and open to all, aiming to forge a unified national front," Hayya said.It remains uncertain if Hamas could even run in the election as Abbas has required all candidates to accept the platform of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which has recognised Israel's right to exist since 1993 at the start of the Oslo peace accords.

Oman calls for self-restraint, dialog in Mideast conflict

UNITED STATES .(Agency)

Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi called at the UN Saturday for "self-restraint" from all sides in the Middle East war, while stressing that Muscat was ready to mediate.

Earlier on Saturday, President Donald Trump rejected a truce deal proposed by Iran that Tehran said could have reopened the Strait of Hormuz to shipping within a week. The waterway is key to the world's energy supply and is now central to the conflict between the US and Iran, which is at a stalemate after nearly

seven months."We call upon all parties concerned to settle their outstanding disputes through



pursuing a policy of self-restraint and foresight, and through engaging in

dialog to reach consensual, political solutions and sustainable understandings for the benefit of all," Albusaidi said, addressing world leaders gathered in New York.

"Oman once again reaffirms its steadfast commitment to continuing its efforts aimed at safeguarding navigation in the Strait of Hormuz... We also call upon all parties to cooperate with Oman in these efforts."Oman sits across the Strait of Hormuz from Iran, and ships seeking to skirt Tehran's restrictions have recently been taking a route that hugs the Omani coast.

German, Russian foreign ministers have rare meeting at UN

UNITED NATIONS.(Agency)

The German and Russian foreign ministers met Saturday on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly, holding what's believed to be the first such tête-à-tête since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The meeting came as tensions between the European Union and Russia rose — and just before Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov addressed world leaders.In the encounter, German Foreign Minister Johann Wadephul called on Russia to abandon its "dangerous path of escalation" toward Germany, Europe and the NATO alliance, a German delegation official said. Ties between Russia and Germany have soured in recent weeks, following an attempted drone attack last month at Leipzig airport — Germany has blamed the incident on Russia — and tit-for-tat responses that followed it.

Wadephul expressed openness to a better relationship but said it required a genuine willingness from Russia's leadership to end the war in Ukraine, according to the official.The German news agency dpa reported that the roughly 20-minute meeting took place in a room provided by the Russian side and ended with both ministers shaking hands.

Later, Lavrov said at a news conference that "nothing new came from" the conversation.

Then, Lavrov denounced the West in his speech

After the meeting, Lavrov went on to take the rostrum at the General Assembly, where he defended his country's war in Ukraine and lobbed barbs at the West — including Germany. He made a point of blasting the notion of Germany or Japan gaining a permanent seat on the powerful U.N. Security Council. The United States has long supported permanent seats for those countries and India.Criticising NATO and the U.S. — though not President Donald Trump by name — Lavrov complained that the West "continues to try to maintain its privileges and to impose its own rules on everyone else" even as the geopolitical ground is shifting."A fairer, multipolar world order is emerging before our very eyes," said Lavrov, whose country is part of the BRICS group of leading developing nations and other organizations that he portrays as more forward-looking and constructive.

Moscow has repeatedly sought to stress that it maintains a strong position on the global stage despite its 4½-year war on Ukraine and isolation from the West.Writing on her personal Telegram channel, Maria Zakharova, a spokesperson for Russia's Foreign Ministry, said that "tens of diplomats" had come to meet Lavrov to "shake his hand and thank Russia."An overwhelming majority of General Assembly member nations have repeatedly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine, as Wadephul noted in his own address to the assembly.

Gunmen Open Fire On Ambulance Rescuing Victims Of Pak Suicide Bombing

Dera Ismail Khan.(Agency)

Gunmen opened fire on an ambulance attending the scene of a suicide bomb attack at a roadside police checkpoint in northwestern Pakistan that killed at least 12 people on Saturday and wounded about 35 others, officials said.The attack involving



service. Local police chief Safdar Baloch said most of those killed and wounded were security personnel and passersby.The blast destroyed the sprawling checkpoint, and witnesses said gunshots were also heard after the attack.Faizi said gunmen opened fire on an ambulance as emergency crews transported victims to a nearby hospital, killing a rescue worker and wounding two others. Two women and a child were among those killed in the suicide bombing, he said.

The Pakistani Taliban, formally known as Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan has experienced a surge in armed group violence in recent years, much of it claimed by the TTP and the outlawed Baloch Liberation Army, a separatist group primarily active in neighboring Balochistan province.

an explosives-laden vehicle occurred in Dera Ismail Khan, a district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said Bilal Faizi, a spokesman for the provincial emergency

'Worry and sorrow': West Asia war opens old wounds in Kurdistan

PENJWEN.(Agency)

Kurdistan resident Ahmed Faraj was just a child when his city became a battlefield in the Iran-Iraq conflict. Decades later, with the West Asia at war, he fears his home might be drawn in again.For months, drones and missiles have buzzed over his lush green hometown of Penjwen bordering Iran, as the Islamic republic and the United States fight a war that has engulfed most of the region.Iran and its allied Iraqi armed factions have intensified attacks on bases hosting US troops, as well as against Iranian Kurdish opposition groups, whose fighters have long sought refuge in Kurdistan's mountains.

While the initial violence has largely subsided, Faraj worries that if fighting resumes, the conflict could escalate, putting his city at risk because "in war, borders no longer exist"."I clearly remember Penjwen's destruction," the 57-year-old told AFP as he sipped his tea at one of the city's busiest markets.Led by Saddam Hussein,

Iraq attacked neighbouring Iran in September 1980, triggering an eight-year war that is estimated to have killed hundreds of thousands of people on both sides.Faraj said one of his sharpest memories was from a



year later, when Iran attacked his hometown, resulting in "dozens of civilian casualties".Eventually, once Penjwen was deserted, "the Iraqi regime demolished the town itself, flattening all the houses with

TNT and bulldozers so that Iranian forces couldn't enter and establish a base there", he added.

Haunted by a memory

Between 1987 and 1988, Saddam's government carried out the "Anfal Operation" that is thought to have killed around 180,000 Kurds.Following a US-led invasion of Iraq, Saddam was toppled in 2003 and hanged three years later, putting an end to Iraqi proceedings against him on charges of genocide over the Anfal campaign. Former parliamentarian Abdul Rahman Ali Reda was also a child when the war broke out, and one incident still haunts him: when Iraqi forces burned down his family home on a hill in Penjwen."That sight has never left me," he said, now 53 years old."Homes, schools, government offices and religious sites were all levelled to the ground, and even after all these years, many houses remain in ruins and have never been rebuilt," Reda told AFP.

NEWS BOX

Six decades, 88 deaths: The dangers that come with a police uniform

Mumbai (Agency). The death of 56-year-old Police Sub-Inspector Kisan Kamlakar Bhoir after he was allegedly attacked with a cement brick during a night patrol has added another name to a long roll of policemen who have lost their lives while performing their duties across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Bhoir’s death takes the number of police personnel from the Mumbai, Thane and Navi Mumbai commissionerates listed in the police memorial records examined for this story to at least 88. The records include 76 personnel from the Mumbai Police commissionerate, six from Thane police units and five from the Navi Mumbai commissionerate over the last six decades. Bhoir is the latest addition to the list. But the numbers tell only part of the story. The circumstances in which these policemen died have changed dramatically over the decades — from communal violence and encounters with armed criminals to terrorism, crowd-control operations, rescue missions, traffic enforcement and, in Bhoir’s case, an apparently routine intervention during Ganpati security duty.

As festivities end, Mumbai’s discarded footwear gets a second life

BENGALURU (Agency). When Mumbai’s Ganeshotsav crowds disperse, they leave behind an unusual part of the festival’s aftermath: footwear abandoned around pandals and along crowded procession routes. This year, BMC’s waste management and sanitation teams collected nearly eight tonnes of shoes, sandals and slippers across the festival, including nearly four tonnes from Ganesh idol arrival processions on August 29. Instead of being sent to landfills, the footwear is being sent to GreenSole Foundation for upcycling and distribution to children in BMC schools and the tribal belt across Maharashtra. The collection followed concerns within the civic administration over the quantity of footwear left behind during the festival each year. “Much of this footwear is eventually dumped in landfills. Through this initiative, it can instead be upcycled and distributed to the underprivileged, while reducing waste,” said Vrushali Ingule, Assistant Municipal Commissioner of BMC’s F South ward. The first major collection was carried out after the Chinchpokli Cha Chintamani Ganpati aagman procession on August 29. BMC sanitation workers collected footwear from areas including Bharatmata Junction, Jijabai Lane and the stretch near Chinchpokli railway station. The material was initially stored at a vacant plot at Saibaba Municipal School in Parel before being sent for processing. At GreenSole’s Bhiwandi facility, the footwear is manually sorted, washed and sanitised before being dismantled. Uppers, soles, laces and other components are separated and assessed for reuse.

Chennai Mayor hits back at trolls mocking her new haircut

CHENNAI (Agency). “If I eat a burger, it’s an issue. If I cut my hair, it’s an issue,” Chennai Mayor R Priya wrote on X after she was mocked on social media over her new haircut. Questioning why her personal choices were repeatedly turned into controversies, she asked whether she was being singled out because she is a woman or because of the community she belongs to. A video of Priya entering the council hall for Friday’s meeting went viral, with some users, including TVK supporters, circulating edited versions mocking her appearance. Priya also asked why those who advocate women’s rights were silent when she faced such attacks. “When it comes to me, I have no idea where the feminists and those who claim to stand up for women disappear,” she said. “Being a woman in public life does not give anyone the right to judge her based on her appearance, lifestyle, or personal choices,” she wrote, adding that every woman was entitled to dignity, self-respect and a life on her own terms. DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi condemned the attacks and asked why Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay had not stopped his supporters from targeting Priya. “While the CM says he ‘won’t let anyone speak wrongly about any woman,’ why then has he allowed these attacks on Mayor Priya by his fans and cadre?” she asked. Former MLA TRB Rajaa said TVK resorted to vulgar abuse whenever it could not answer political criticism. He accused its supporters of trying to silence women through personal attacks.

Why BJP govt in UP is giving fillip to Yadav warrior’s folklore in poll season Minister says Lorik’s story part of UP cultural inheritance, BJP says projects not linked to caste or election

Lucknow (Agency). A folklore hero of the Yadav-Ahir community, known for his valour and fight against caste oppression, is the new icon to be celebrated by the BJP government in Uttar Pradesh as the state gears up for the Assembly elections early next year. Officials said the facility is intended to host theatre, folk music, storytelling and other cultural performances, taking Lorikayan from an oral tradition to a contemporary performance space and making the story accessible to younger audiences. Tourism and Culture Minister Jaiveer Singh has described Lorik’s story as part of Uttar Pradesh’s cultural inheritance, highlighting its themes of courage, bravery and resistance to injustice. Political significance of the project The project is significant in a district where Lorik’s story has deep roots in the Yadav-Ahir folk tradition. Ballia already has Veer Lorik Akhara, a statue, and the Veer Lorik Sports Stadium. “Not just in Ballia, Lorikayan is a recognisable folk tale in the entire Bhojpur region. There is an actual Lorik Pathar in Robertsganj in Sonbhadra district, which is



believed to have been cut in half by Veer Lorik to prove his love for Manjari,” said an official. The state’s Culture Department is constructing a 350-seat auditorium and a library in the honour of Veer Lorik at Hasanpura village in Bansdih tehsil of Ballia district, associated with the legend. The government is planning to

Rs 1.36 crore has been released, and the foundation work has begun,” said an official of the Culture Department. According to the government’s project document, the 350-seat auditorium will have sound reinforcement, HD cinematic projection, intelligent LED stage lighting, motorised curtains and acoustic and interior works. For a folk hero whose story has survived through generations of oral history, the BJP government’s decision to greenlight the project represents a shift: A Yadav warrior is being given a permanent stage in Ballia at a time when political parties are preparing for the Assembly election in the state. The Yadav community is among the politically significant OBC groups in Uttar Pradesh and has traditionally been strongly associated with the Samajwadi Party. Ballia, which borders Bihar, has seven Assembly constituencies. In the 2022 Assembly polls, three were won by the Samajwadi Party (SP), two by the BJP and one each by BJP ally Suheldev Bharatiya Samaj Party and the BSP. With the death of Uma Shankar Singh, the BSP’s lone MLA from Rasra, the BJP is eyeing to win his constituency as well.

Two men die after suspected gas leak near public toilet in Mumbai

Police suspect the men were exposed to gas emitted by a small-scale industrial unit near the toilet.

Mumbai (Agency). Two men died after allegedly being exposed to a strong chemical smell inside a public toilet in Mumbai’s eastern suburbs in the early hours of Sunday. According to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) officials, the incident occurred near the Parsi Panchayat Gate, close to Mrunaltai Bridge in Ram Mandir (East). BMC officials identified the men as Prabhakar Dhanivar, 24, and Bhavin Desai, 18. Both men were taken to Trauma Care Hospital around midnight and declared dead at 3.49 am, according to doctors there. Locals alerted the authorities after noticing a strong chemical odour coming from the public toilet



and reported that two people had suffered suffocation. The Vanrai police have registered an accidental death report and await the post-mortem analysis to establish the exact cause of

death. “Prima facie, it looks like gas emitted by a small-scale industrial unit near the toilet might have come in contact with the two individuals,” a police officer said. BMC officials said the incident was reported to the authorities at around 8.30 am, following which teams from the fire brigade, police, 108 ambulance services, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, and the BMC ward staff were mobilised and sent to the spot. Officials were also expected to examine the toilet premises and ascertain the source of the smell. A detailed inquiry is likely to establish the sequence of events and the cause of death.

Ex-trustees Champat Rai, Anil Mishra named witnesses in Ram Temple donation ‘theft’ chargesheet

Rai and Mishra resigned as Trust office-bearers after allegations surfaced

Lucknow (Agency). The Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya, has listed 133 witnesses — including former office-bearers of the Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, Champat Rai and Anil Mishra — in its chargesheet against the eight accused. Rai served as the Trust’s general secretary and Anil Mishra as a member. They resigned after the allegations of the donation theft surfaced. Other witnesses named by the SIT include Krishna Mohan, a Trust member who filed the original complaint; Gopal M Nagarkatte, also known as Gopal Rao, who was frequently invited as a special invitee to Trust meetings; along with several local residents and police personnel. The chargesheet, running to approximately 74,000 pages, was filed before a local court in Ayodhya on Wednesday. It is learnt that

the SIT, in its chargesheet, stated that allegations of donation theft first came to light when a video and a written message were sent to Champat Rai while he was travelling by train from Delhi to Ayodhya on June 4. He was informed about the cash found in the bathroom of the counting room. The video showed bundles of currency notes lying inside a bathroom. Later, after reaching Ayodhya, Rai was shown several videos, learnt to be mentioned in the chargesheet, in which the counting staff could allegedly be seen removing donation money while it was being counted. The eight accused — Avinash Shukla, Lavkush Mishra, Anukalp Mishra, Manish Kumar Yadav, Karunesh Pandey, Ramshankar Mishra, Ram Shankar Yadav alias Tinnu Yadav and Subhash Srivastav — face charges of criminal breach of trust, criminal conspiracy, and offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act. All are in



judicial custody. The documents accompanying the chargesheet include supporting materials, annexures, exhibits, and other evidence. During the probe, police recovered Rs 79.8 lakh from seven of the eight arrested men, sources said. No cash

or valuables were recovered from Subhash Srivastav. The chargesheet details the specific occasions on which each accused was caught removing the donation money, as well as instances of assisting others in doing so, sources said.

UP man got first government teaching job at 59. Road there took 26 attempts The applicant, a Class 12 student who was 17 years and eight months old at the time of the February 5 incident, claimed he had no intention of hitting the couple’s bike.

Lucknow (Agency). At 59 years and seven months old, Baghpat resident Vijay Kumar Sharma will embark on a new chapter of his life from Monday — stepping in as an assistant teacher at a government-aided school after spending nearly four decades teaching in private schools. Sharma cleared the Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT) examination this year and will now join Inter College Ailum, a government-aided higher secondary school in Shamli district, located 15 km from his residence at Barawad village in Baghpat district. He will teach Sanskrit to students up to Class X. “It was always my dream to get a government job as a teacher, and I made several attempts over the last 27 years. I kept giving the exams, and now, at the age of 59, my dream has finally come true,” said Sharma, a father of five, including

three daughters, after clearing the exam conducted by the Uttar Pradesh Education Service Selection Commission (UPESSC). Kumar graduated in 1987, followed by dual postgraduate degrees in Hindi and Sanskrit, and completed his BEd in 2003. Recounting his selection, Sharma said a vacancy opened this year for 292 posts of Sanskrit teachers. “I had cleared the written examination several times but repeatedly failed to clear the interview stage. There were times I felt that the selection process itself was flawed, but I never let that hurdle make me feel hopeless — I kept trying... This time, there was no interview, and I believe that gave candidates like me an equal opportunity to prove ourselves,” he said as he thanked the government for eliminating the

interview round in the selection. According to him, he will get about two years and a few months to teach in government schools, since the retirement



age is 62. “I was born in February 1967. I will serve just over two years, but even that is deeply satisfying — it was my dream to teach at a government school,” he said, adding that Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath personally handed him his appointment letter in Lucknow last Tuesday. Vijay’s two sons serve in the UP Police, while his wife, Kaushal Sharma, is a homemaker. Of his five children, four are married. Vijay’s eldest daughter, Mamta Sharma, who also appeared four times for the government teacher exam, said her father is a huge inspiration for young people who give up on life over failures. “My father failed 26 times, but I never once saw any helplessness or self-doubt in him. After our brothers were selected into the UP Police, we asked him not to take the exam anymore, but he never listened to us and kept trying,” she said. Speaking about her early days, the daughter said, “We faced financial difficulties in the early days, since my father was the sole earning member of the house.

Woman ends her life over sexual harassment in Bengaluru

Asha’s husband died a few weeks ago. She lived with her children and worked at a garment factory. Sarjapur police have registered a case.



BENGALURU (Agency). A 30-year-old woman died by suicide on Wednesday after she was allegedly subjected to mental and sexual harassment by a couple. The victim has been identified as Asha of Sarjapur. Her mother Lakshamma from Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu filed a police complaint on Thursday against Somesh and his wife. Somesh, a driver, who knew that Asha was a widow, was allegedly pressuring her to have an illicit relationship with him, while his wife allegedly accused Asha of having a relationship with her husband. Unable to bear the harassment, Asha swallowed pills to end her life on Wednesday and later died at a hospital. A case of abetment to suicide under Section 108 of BNS is registered against the couple, the police said. Asha reportedly told her mother over phone on September 23 that the couple had been harassing her and she no longer wanted to live. Asha said she had consumed tablets to end her life and asked her mother to take care of her children. Lakshamma, her mother, immediately alerted her son Shivakumar, who took Asha to a nearby hospital. She was subsequently shifted to a hospital in Basavanagudi, where she died. Asha’s husband died a few weeks ago. She lived with her children and worked at a garment factory. Sarjapur police have registered a case.

Working the government with borrowed eyes

Every morning, before I leave for work, I ask a machine whether my shirt matches my trousers. It is not a question I could once answer for myself. For a person blind since birth, the small rituals that sighted people perform without a thought—checking that a collar is clean, that the colours do not quarrel, that no stain is announcing itself ahead of a review meeting—have always meant borrowing someone else’s eyes: a parent’s, a spouse’s, a colleague’s, a kind stranger’s. You learn to live with the borrowing. You also learn what it costs, in small surrenders of privacy, to need another person simply in order to know how you look. Now an application on my phone tells me, in its level voice, that the blue shirt does not agree with the green trousers, and that I would do well not to step out dressed like Dobby the house-elf in Harry Potter’s world. The relief is out of proportion to the task. It is the relief of deciding something about myself, by myself. This is the part of the artificial intelligence story that the productivity debates keep missing. For most people, these tools are a faster horse—they do a little more quickly what could already be done. For a blind person, they are often the difference between doing a thing oneself and not doing it at all. A machine that can look at a photograph and describe it does not so much save me time as hand back a small piece of the world that was previously shut.

The examples multiply once you begin to notice them. A blind student can now have the diagram in her textbook described to her—the graph, the labelled figure, the illustration that carried half the lesson and none of the words, and that students before her, myself included, simply had to do without. She can be in on the meme her classmates are laughing at, fluent at last in a visual language everyone else speaks without effort—which is less about information than about belonging. None of this shows up in any measure of efficiency. All of it decides, quietly, whether a person is folded into the ordinary life around her or left a little to one side of it. I meet the same capability at my own desk, at a larger scale. Governments run on things a screen reader was never able to read: scanned files, photographed documents, hand-drawn maps, a junior officer’s picture of a half-built road sent up from the field. For much of my career, these were sealed to me unless someone read them aloud. Now I can ask a machine to describe the worksite in the photograph, or to boil a two-hundred-page project report down to the parts that deserve a closer look. It is the same trick that sorts my wardrobe—sight, briefly, on loan—turned to the work of governance instead of the work of a morning.

I try not to mistake the gift for a miracle. The machine is confident even when it is wrong, and I cannot glance at the original to catch it out; the duty of verification that everyone now carries sits a little heavier on someone who cannot see the thing being described. With a shirt, the stakes are low and the bargain is plainly worth it—the worst case is a small sartorial crime. With a confidential file, I am not permitted to feed into a public tool in the first place, or a Tamil document the model only half-follows, the sum comes out differently. And the tools that promise access are themselves, often enough, delivered through apps and pages a blind user can barely move through—an irony one learns to curse under one’s breath.hich is exactly where the State should come in, for none of this ought to depend on the luck of which application a person can afford or reach. Accessibility already sits in our law—the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the guidelines for government websites—and is honoured largely in the breach. As governments now hurry to buy and build AI, the moment is unusually good to insist that access be a condition of purchase rather than a patch applied afterwards; that public-facing systems work with a screen reader from the first line of code.

Why it’s getting harder to end wars

Conflicts are increasingly viewed through the implications for the wider balance of power

NEARLY 2.5 lakh people were killed in armed conflicts in 2025. The Uppsala Conflict Data Program recorded 65 armed conflicts involving states, the highest number since the Second World War. More than four years after Russia’s full-scale invasion, the war in Ukraine grinds on without a political settlement. In Gaza, three years of fighting have left over 73,000 dead. A ceasefire has not resolved the underlying political and security questions, and violence continues. The war launched by the US and Israel on Iran has passed the six-month mark and spread across the region. In 1971, Fred Iklé published *Every War Must End*, a book in which he observed that war termination was a neglected element in strategic thought. Governments, he argued, devoted considerable attention to the preparation for and conduct of wars, but far less thinking to the political and military conditions necessary to bring them to an end. He attributed this difficulty to the disconnect between military action and political purpose, shifting aims as conflict progressed, and the weight of sacrifices already made, which made compromise increasingly difficult. None of the difficulties described by Iklé has disappeared, but the problem today may extend beyond the failure of governments to think strategically about how wars should end. Three contemporary developments deserve particular attention. Taken together, they raise the possibility that the conditions necessary to terminate wars have become more difficult to establish. The first is a sharpening of geopolitical power competition as the American unipolar moment recedes. Conflicts are increasingly viewed not merely through the objectives of the belligerents, but through the implications for the wider balance of power. A rival’s war can become an opportunity to weaken it, even when negotiations are possible. The Western support for Ukraine serves both as a defence against Russian aggression and the wider strategic objective of constraining Russia. China and Russia have an interest in propping up Iran so that the US cannot achieve a quick victory. The institutions entrusted with maintaining international peace and security have fallen prey to the same geopolitical divisions. When permanent members of the Security Council are themselves belligerents or have a strategic interest in the outcome of the war, they have little incentive to come together to halt aggression. Other multilateral forums like the SCO, BRICS and G20 offer few alternatives and have struggled to develop a common approach to ending ongoing conflicts. War termination thus becomes hostage



capture territory extremely hazardous. On paper, the US and Israel possess an overwhelming military advantage over Iran, but that has not stopped Iran from widening the conflict with missile attacks across the region. The ability to inflict enormous military damage does not necessarily translate into the ability to compel an adversary to accept defeat. Nuclear weapons introduce another paradox. They are the ultimate instrument of force, yet their possession can make a decisive victory against a nuclear-armed adversary exceptionally difficult. Russia’s nuclear arsenal constrains the extent of Western military support, while the fear of escalation keeps the conflict limited below the threshold that could invite a nuclear response. Where both adversaries are nuclear-armed, nuclear weapons can help bring an immediate confrontation to a halt without resolving its underlying causes. The fighting

ends, but the conditions that gave rise to it remain. The third development is a changing information environment that has narrowed the political space for compromise. Leaders mobilise public support for war by promising ambitious objectives and demonising the adversary. Social media amplifies these messages, and they become entrenched in public memory. Any tentative concession by the government is portrayed by the domestic Opposition as a surrender or betrayal. Even when the two sides recognise the need for compromise, leaders find themselves constrained by the high expectations they have created among their populations. The proliferation of fake news and AI-generated photos and videos has further complicated matters. Both sides can selectively present battlefield success, exaggerate enemy losses and even manufacture evidence of victory. These competing narratives can sustain public expectations of victory even when the military situation offers no such justification. Leaders find it difficult to acknowledge setbacks that contradict their own claims of success. The battle to control perceptions has thus become an obstacle to ending the war itself. These three developments reinforce each other. When decisive military victory becomes elusive, a negotiated settlement assumes greater importance. However, geopolitical competition makes such settlements difficult to achieve, while competing narratives leave leaders with little space for compromise. As fighting continues, external interests become entrenched and public expectations harden. What begins as a conflict with clear objectives can develop into one in which neither side can secure victory, yet neither can easily accept peace. Iklé’s warning thus acquires renewed significance for contemporary strategic thinking. Governments must clearly define what they seek to achieve through the use of military force, but also retain the flexibility to reassess political objectives based on military realities. Ultimately, wars are a two-sided contest, and their termination cannot be based on one side’s objectives alone. The adversary has his own interests and calculations about the costs of continued fighting. Ending a war requires understanding what could persuade the enemy that stopping the fighting is the preferred outcome. A strategy that leaves the opponent with no acceptable way out gives him every reason to keep fighting.

Apart from culprits, act against assault videos shared online

Polymakers must also examine if the existing laws suffice to target the evolving methods of sexual violence in the digital sphere, especially if visuals are shared in the seedier sections of mainstream platforms for profit

Women and girls are accustomed to having their movements restricted in the name of safety. If they venture out alone and face violence, society often turns the accusatory lens on them to police their behaviour, rather than the perpetrator. Taking a male relative or friend along is thought to protect them. Yet, recent incidents in a New Delhi park and two Bihar districts have shown that even such a safeguard can be meaningless. On the contrary, the presence of a boy with a young girl is easily weaponised against her on the euphemism of ‘moral policing’. In reality, this behaviour that is often exercised by men—and validated by other men—is another way in which patriarchal values are reinforced by clamping down on women’s rights and freedoms. In the Delhi case, three men are accused of sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl, who was accompanied by a male friend, by posing as police personnel. In Bihar’s Jamui, the violence that a girl and her teenage classmates faced after sundown was filmed. Just



days later, another video from Samastipur was shared in which a group rounds up on a young couple in broad daylight. Following these incidents, women students of the renowned Lady Shri Ram College in Delhi, that is located near the park, raised concerns for their own safety. Meanwhile, Bihar police initiated action to take down videos of the underage girls’ molestation from social

media accounts. Three aspects deserve particular attention. First, almost 14 years after the Delhi rape protests, it is unconscionable that public spaces in the capital and elsewhere remain utterly unsafe for women. The ‘smartness’ of India’s cities is meaningless if they cannot, at the very least, be well-lit and adequately policed. Second, filming of sexual violence by perpetrators has become a dangerous norm. In such cases, the police must also invoke the relevant laws to crack down on the additional digital violence that re-victimises the survivor for as long as the material is online. Policymakers must also examine if the existing laws suffice to target the evolving methods of sexual violence in the digital sphere, especially if visuals are shared in the seedier sections of mainstream platforms for profit. Third, as experts and this publication continue to contend, it is the certainty of punishment that reduces crime, not the severity.

What Gandhi's experiments with food can teach us

As a nationwide nutrition campaign plays out, it would be instructive to look at the Mahatma’s inquiries about diet. Despite being a vegetarian, he believed food choices should never be forced

Anyone who reads Mahatma Gandhi’s primary writings, like his 96-volume collected works, will be startled by the sheer amount written on nutrition. “My experiments on dietetics are dear to me as my researches on ahimsa. They give me recreation and joy,” he wrote in *The Story of My Experiments with Truth*. He constantly experimented with his diet, trying new foods or regimens. andhi also happily advised others on what they to eat, and ended letters to family members with a description of his current diet and an exhortation for them to tell him what they were eating. He tried to keep up with dietary writings, like the works of the American dietician J H Kellogg, whose magnum opus, *The New Dietetics: A Guide to Scientific Feeding in Health and Disease*, he received in 1927. “It is enough to make one giddy even to contemplate reading that volume,” he wrote to his American correspondent R B Gregg. Which is why, among the myriad ways modern India might disappoint Gandhi, our continued failures on nutrition might be what hurts him most personally. What is the value of our technological leaps and massive infrastructure development when you know that lakhs of children remain hungry or are eating food of such poor quality that their lives are stunted from the start? Yes, this is simplistic, and arguments about how development at all levels raises the economy in general may be true. But can you honestly say you haven’t felt that sickening feeling sometimes, as you speed by to another restaurant, that India still has people whose daily nutritional intake is less than what was probably wasted in preparing your meal? The tourism ministry recently announced a deal to get Michelin’s restaurant guide to India. Would Gandhi have felt this was

an achievement? What is particularly odd is that this nutritional deficiency exists at a time when more nutritional advice comes at us than ever before. Companies push products on us. Social media influencers attack companies for doing that, and make their own suggestions. Politicians and pundits offer advice on how we can improve our life by changing our diets. And the algorithms are always telling us to take a supplement, stop eating this, start eating that and find the food hack that will deliver us true health. Yet, the lecturing doesn’t seem to be accompanied by listening. When it comes to nutrition, there seems to be gap in understanding why people make their food choices. What you eat has become a way to label and then judge you, rather than a way to understand you. A good example is the government’s millets campaign, which never seems to end—as was evident with the millet pulao served at the BRICS banquet. But where are all the people willingly eating snacks, main meals and banquets made of millets? The campaign never stopped to ask why Indians stopped eating millets. Traditional consumption of millets started dropping from the late 19th century, as maize in particular substituted it, along with increased availability of rice and wheat. Indians didn’t forget that millets were healthy, but just didn’t like eating them as much as these other grains. Millets are, as their name indicates, mostly grains so small that their husk can’t be removed, so they must be consumed whole. This is what makes millets more nutritious rather than the starch-heavy milled wheat and rice, but also makes them stodgy when cooked. The millet campaign might have had more

success if it started by working for solutions people would accept. This might have included focusing on ragi, the one millet that’s easy to eat, or advocating easier-to-eat mixes of millets and starchy grains. It might even have



concluded that most people would not eat millets, but they could still be grown to ferment into ethanol or as a substitute for sugarcane, as one variety of sorghum (jowar) can be grown. But this would have meant really engaging, without judgement, with what people ate and didn’t. It was easier just to tell them that they should eat instead, and then jump on this badgering bandwagon with books, articles and events—which people would consume and then go back to eating rice and wheat. This is a recent example, but this tendency to find magic solutions and then lecture Indians

on why they should follow them goes back decades—to the lean years after independence and famines of the 1960s. Gandhi’s long engagement with diets suggests a slightly different approach. He was ready to give advice, but also listen to it—hence his regular requests for correspondents to tell him what they were eating. He experimented with many different diets—salt-free, fruitarian, raw food—but ultimately concluded that there was no one solution, just constant listening to one’s body and experimenting with what works. He was always interested in the potential of new foods—for example, discussing the potential of avocados with Paramahansa Yogananda, the California-based guru, or the soy-based experiments of Narahari Rao, Vinoba Bhawe’s father. Gandhi was a committed vegetarian, but he was never dogmatic about it, nor did he believe that it automatically made you better or even healthier. From his early years as a student in London, where his political awakening happened while working with the Vegetarian Society, he was aware of how painfully dogmatic and divisive vegetarians could be and how, crucially, this was counter-productive to their cause. When a correspondent raised a hypothetical question about whether a husband who had become a vegetarian could compel his wife to do the same, Gandhi replied that, on the contrary, it was his duty to keep buying her meat while still trying to persuade her to switch from true conviction. He believed that real change could not be achieved through forcing a choice, but from genuinely convincing people why a certain way was best.

Territorial Army honours BDA chief Major Manivannan

The latest recognition by the CDS is the second such commendation awarded to Major Manivannan this year.



BENGALURU (Agency).

BENGALURU: Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner Major Manivannan was felicitated with a Commendation Card by Chief of Defence Staff General NS Raja Subramani at a ceremony held at the 106 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army) PARA in Bengaluru on Saturday. Major Manivannan was commissioned into the 106 Infantry Battalion (TA) PARA on February 8, 2014. He was recognised for his hard work, dedication,

continued collaboration and service in the Territorial Army while also discharging his responsibilities in civil administration.

He was earlier awarded a Commendation Card by the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command, in April this year, in recognition of his service and contribution to the Territorial Army. The latest recognition by the CDS is the second such commendation awarded to Major Manivannan this year.

NFR to Continue and Operate Additional Special Trains for the Upcoming Festive Season

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 27th September: In view of the forthcoming Puja, Diwali and Chhath festival season, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has decided to continue existing special train services as well as operate additional special trains. These services will provide convenient travel options, facilitate increased passenger movement and strengthen connectivity during the festive period. The special services include trains connecting Secunderabad - Naharlagun, Santragachi - Naharlagun, Howrah - Lumding and Kolkata - New Jalpaiguri. These services will connect important destinations across the Northeast, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Telangana regions, offering enhanced travel options and improved connectivity to passengers during the festive season. Train No. 07046 (Secunderabad - Naharlagun) Special will depart from Secunderabad from 02nd October to 30th October 2026, every Friday at 08:30 hours to reach Naharlagun at 16:00 hours on Sunday. In the return direction, Train No. 07047 (Naharlagun - Secunderabad) Special will depart from Naharlagun from 05th

October to 02nd November 2026, every Monday at 13:00 hours to reach Secunderabad at 21:50 hours on Wednesday. The service

Santragachi at 04:15 hours on Monday. The service will operate for 9 additional trips in each direction, as per the existing days of



will operate for 5 additional trips in each direction, as per the existing days of run, timings, stoppages and composition. Train No. 08047 (Santragachi - Naharlagun) Special will depart from Santragachi 02nd October to 27th November 2026, every Friday at 18:00 hours to reach Naharlagun at 20:50 hours on Saturday. In the return direction, Train No. 08048 (Naharlagun - Santragachi) Special will depart from Naharlagun from 03rd October to 28th November 2026, every Saturday at 23:55 hours to reach

run, timings, stoppages and composition. Train No. 03005 (Howrah - Lumding) Special will depart from Howrah from 16th October to 27th November 2026, every Friday at 07:15 hours to reach Lumding at 08:00 hours on Saturday. In the return direction, Train No. 03006 (Lumding - Howrah) Special will depart from Lumding from 17th October to 28th November 2026, every Saturday at 11:00 hours to reach Howrah at 12:30 hours on Sunday. The service will operate for 7 additional trips in each direction. The

train will have stoppages at important stations including Bandel, Katwa, Jangipur Road, Malda Town, New Jalpaiguri, Kamakhya, Hojai and other stations enroute. Train No. 03129 (Kolkata-New Jalpaiguri) Special will depart from Kolkata from 17th October to 29th November 2026, every Saturday and Sunday at 23:10 hours, to reach New Jalpaiguri at 10:45 hours on Sunday and Monday, respectively. In the return direction, Train No. 03130 (New Jalpaiguri - Kolkata) Special will depart from New Jalpaiguri from 18th October to 30th November 2026, every Sunday and Monday at 12:45 hours, to reach Kolkata at 00:40 hours on Monday and Tuesday, respectively. The service will operate for 14 additional trips in each direction. The train will have stoppages at important stations including Naihati, Nabadwip Dham, Azimganj, New Farakka, Barsoi and Kishanganj, among others. The details of stoppages and timings of these trains are available in IRCTC website and are also being notified in various newspapers and social media platforms of N. F. Railway. Passengers are requested to verify the details before undertaking their journey.

'Two girls missing, priest at hostel': Ghost rumours trigger panic at Chitkara University

Chitkara University is located in Rajpura in Patiala district, close to the Patiala-Mohali district boundary.

Patiala (Agency).

Unverified claims about two girls studying in Chitkara University triggered panic and unrest on the campus late Friday night, with hundreds of hostel students gathering and demanding clarification from the university management. The situation remained tense for nearly two hours before being brought under control by the police. Chitkara University is located in Rajpura in Patiala district, close to the Patiala-Mohali district boundary. The unrest began around 10.30 pm on Friday after an unverified message went viral among students. While one version claimed two girls were missing, another said they had died. The conflicting reports sent students rushing to confront university authorities, who were asked to show CCTV footage.

The situation turned tense after a large number of students gathered on the campus amid the rumours. The university called the police to control the situation. During the commotion, two police vehicles were damaged and an inspector, Ajay Kumar, was allegedly manhandled by some students. Additional police force was subsequently called to the campus to

bring the situation under control. Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Banur, Sukhdev Singh, said no one who had raised the alarm could identify the girls or confirm whether anyone was actually missing. "We have taken the complaint seriously and will inquire into the matter in detail. We will also check the university



records to ascertain whether any student is actually missing," he said. The DSP said the situation was later brought under control. "I want to tell the parents that things are under control on the campus now and everyone is safe," he said. "The situation is calm. Two police vehicles have been damaged. Considering the students' age, we are not taking action against them and will instead counsel them. Our investigation found nothing

supporting the rumour of suicide or missing girls," SHO (Banur) Gursewak Singh told.

According to sources, an ambulance had arrived at the girls' hostel on Thursday morning, causing confusion among students. Some girls had also been talking about a ghost in the hostel, and a priest had reportedly arrived at the hostel on Thursday afternoon. "Nothing happened on the campus. The rumour travelled among the students. Everything is okay on the campus as of now," University Registrar Col. Rakesh Sharma told media persons. Gursewak Singh on Saturday said the rumours about ghosts and alleged incidents at the hostel had started on September 23 after some girls allegedly played a prank by creating horror sounds using a speaker inside the hostel from some undisclosed location. "Eventually, checking of all rooms was conducted by the hostel warden, but nothing was found. However, the fear continued to grow among the students, with another rumour circulating that a suicide had taken place in the hostel a few years ago and that a spirit was visiting the hostel," the SHO added.

Farmers' column: Widowed 19 years ago, 54-year-old Sukhpal now runs Rs 50-lakh worth enterprise

A resident of Guradi village in Budhlada tehsil, Mansa, Sukhpal has turned dairy farming into more than a means of livelihood.

Jalandhar (Agency).

Nineteen years ago, Sukhpal Kaur, at the age of 35, lost her husband. But she still had two young sons and a family to support. Today, at 54, she has a dairy herd valued at more than Rs 70 lakh, an enterprise that generates over Rs 50 lakh annually, adequate savings, and a livelihood that employs two permanent workers. She has enough to live on and hasn't lost her passion to keep building.

A resident of Guradi village in Budhlada tehsil, Mansa, Sukhpal has turned dairy farming into more than a means of livelihood. It has become her business, her financial independence and, even at 54, the work that she still wants to do. With an intermediate education, she has also acquired years of practical experience in managing cattle. She understands their feed requirements, monitors their health and nutritional needs, and keeps track of their disease. At present, her herd has around 40 cattle—26 adult animals and 14 young ones, including Murrah and Neeli Ravi buffaloes, and Punjab and Himachal Jersey cows. For Sukhpal, they are not simply livestock. They are assets that she has built over years of work. Sukhpal said, "I sell 150 to 200 litres of milk

daily currently, which increases to even 300 litres during some months of the year, supplying households as well as village dairy channels. The rate I get is around Rs 80 to 85 per kg." The dairy generates approximately Rs 50 lakh annually from milk sales. After feed, labour, and other expenses, she says she retains around 50 per cent of the sales value.

Two permanent workers assist her with the dairy. She owns around 12 acres of familial land and keeps only about one acre of her land for green fodder, while



purchasing most of the remaining fodder. Feed management remains one of the major costs of the enterprise, she says. Yet she considers the dairy profitable and increasingly valuable for another reason. "The animals themselves have become a substantial asset." Most of her well-maintained adult cattle could fetch Rs 3 to 4

lakh each if sold today.

However, she says she is not looking to cash out. "My focus now is on retaining animals and expanding the herd. That marks a change from my earlier years, when livestock sales were an important part of my income. I would sell around six animals a year, earning approximately Rs 12 to 13 lakh from livestock sales, apart from milk income."

Ex-principal of Gujarat school held for 'raping' minor student

School trustee, administrator & hostel warden booked for bid to cover up incident: Kutch Police

Ahmedabad (Agency).

THE FORMER principal of a residential school in Gujarat's Kutch district was arrested on Saturday, a day after he was booked for allegedly raping a teenage, minor student of the same school on several occasions. The local police are

the pocket of the school principal, which set off an internal investigation that led them to finding out about the rape. The trustee then dismissed the principal from service. They then informed the parents of the student and sent her home."

The student was not found to be pregnant, police said on Saturday. The Investigation Officer (IO) emphasised that it is incumbent upon authorities of educational institutes to inform the police of any unlawful activities that have taken place on their premises, especially if it has to do with sexual exploitation of minors, said the Investigation Officer (IO). The IO added that the student was allegedly raped multiple times by the accused at an isolated place behind the hostel building. The matter



now on the lookout for a school trustee, its administrator and the hostel warden for allegedly covering up the incident, which came to light only a month later. On Friday, the girl's parents filed a rape complaint. The police inspector investigating the matter told the Indian Express that the accused, who was terminated from service in August after the incident came to light, was nabbed from a town in Anand district on Saturday.

In mid-August, a teacher at the school found a pregnancy test kit lying in the lobby of the institute. The teacher took the test kit to the warden of the hostel, who, in turn, checked CCTV footage. The inspector said, "The warden found that the pregnancy test kit had fallen out of

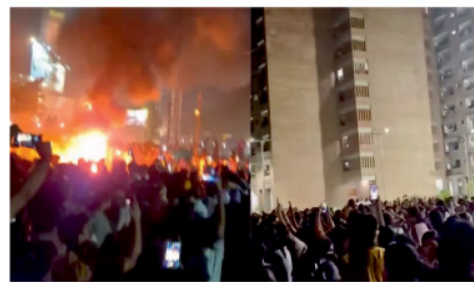
came to light following reports in sections of the media about alleged "shady activities" at the school. When the police began looking into these allegations in a preliminary inquiry, the school authorities submitted an application to the police on September 24, informing them about just the recovery of the kit, with no mention of the sexual assault, said the officer. "We then approached the parents of the girl. They filed a complaint of rape on September 25 that was then converted into an FIR, booking four persons including three men and a woman—respectively the ex-principal, trustee, administrator and hostel warden—under sections of the BNS and POCSO Act," said the SHO of the jurisdictional police station.

Violent protest at LPU over rape claim; police file FIR, university rejects allegation

Students damaged property inside the campus, set some items on fire, and blocked the Jalandhar-Phagwara National Highway outside the university.

Chandigarh (Agency).

A protest by students of Lovely Professional University (LPU) in Punjab's Phagwara over an unverified report of the alleged rape of a female student by an outsider on the university campus turned violent early Sunday morning. The protesters damaged property on the campus and set some objects on fire. They even blocked the Jalandhar-Phagwara National Highway outside the university. Following the protests, police have registered an FIR on charges of rape against unknown suspects based on students' statement. The victim remains unidentified. "We are verifying the facts. Students leaders and LPU management will have a meeting at 12 pm to resolve the issues being raised by



students," DIG Jalandhar range Naveen Singla said. Meanwhile, Lovely Professional University, in a statement to the media, said that "there is no truth in the rumours presently being circulated", and urged students and the public not to amplify them.

The unrest, which reportedly began near the

girls' hostel, intensified as students from different hostels joined in. By 2 am, a large number of students had gathered and moved towards the main entrance of the university. Students began sharing videos from inside the campus on social media, prompting the police to reach the spot. Videos circulating from inside the campus also showed protesters moving through the university mall and other areas amid the escalating protest. Some objects were set on fire during the unrest. Outside the campus, students blocked the National Highway around 4 am, disrupting traffic on the busy Jalandhar-Phagwara stretch. Protesters raised slogans of "We want justice," demanding action over the alleged incident.

In most parts of Bengaluru, Cauvery water undrinkable

BENGALURU (Agency). Cauvery river, one of the prime sources of water for southern parts of Karnataka, is extremely polluted. Also called Dakshina Pinakini, the river water was ranked under E category, indicating high levels of pollution, in most parts of Bengaluru.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), E category refers to the quality of water which can be used only for irrigation, industrial cooling and controlled waste disposal. The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) Water Quality Classification of Polluted River Stretches

in Karnataka for August 2026 stated that Cauvery water fell under E category in Sarjapur and Mahadevapura. In Chamarajanagar, Mandya and Ramanagara, it is under C and D categories, respectively. As per CPCB, if the water quality is C, it can be used for drinking with conventional treatment followed by disinfection and if listed under D, it can be used for propagation of wildlife and fisheries. The KSPCB report for April-July 2026 too showed water quality of Cauvery to be poor. The river samples at five locations in Kodagu showed it to be in the B

Category, which is fit for outdoor bathing (organised). "Most water bodies are D category in K'taka" A senior KSPCB official, seeking anonymity, said, "Nearly all water bodies (lakes and rivers) in Karnataka fall under D category. That is water not fit for consumption without proper treatment.

It is a sad state of affairs. If all the installed sewage treatment plants at all water bodies work at full capacity and if the polluting sources are shut down, even then, it will take a long time to revive and fully improve their water quality."

India's Ayush sector may grow from \$36.9 billion to \$318 billion by 2047: Study

A RIS study has pegged India's Ayush services sector at USD 36.92 billion in 2024-25. It says stronger quality, digital and global outreach could lift it to USD 216-318 billion by 2047.

Delhi. (Agency)

India's Ayush services sector has emerged as one of the country's fastest-growing service segments, with its economic contribution estimated at USD 36.92 billion in 2024-25 and projected to grow to USD 216-318 billion by 2047, according to a study by the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The study said the sector has recorded a compound annual growth rate of 16.91 per cent since 2022-23, directly supported 1.76 million livelihoods, and generated an estimated USD 1.77 billion in Medical Value Travel revenue in 2024-25. The report was released during the 11th Ayurveda Day celebrations in Nagpur on September 23. Union Ayush Minister Prataprao Jadhav said the findings underlined the sector's growing economic potential. "The findings of this landmark study affirm

that Ayush is not merely a cultural inheritance but a dynamic and high-growth engine of India's economy. The Ayush sector is poised to play an increasingly important role in healthcare, wellness, employment and global economic engagement, while contributing to our vision of a healthy and self-reliant India," he said. Ayush Secretary Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha said the study created an evidence base for future policy and investment. "For the first time, the economic contribution of the Ayush services sector has been measured through a nationally scaled, establishment-level survey covering all major Ayush systems. The report provides a robust evidence base to guide future investment, policy planning and reforms," he said. RIS Director General Professor Sachin Kumar Sharma said the study was based on a survey of 15,914 establishments across all six Ayush systems.

"This study marks an important step in building an evidence-based understanding of India's Ayush services economy. Based on a nationally scaled survey of 15,914 establishments across



all six Ayush systems, the findings show that an economy of USD 36.92 billion, growing at close to 17 per cent annually and supporting 1.76 million livelihoods, is no longer a peripheral sector but a dynamic, knowledge-

based service economy," he said. According to the study, clinics and day-care centres accounted for more than 71 per cent of the sector's total revenue. Standalone clinics generated an estimated USD 16.21 billion, while day-care centres contributed USD 10.13 billion. Ayurveda was the largest individual system, accounting for USD 17.73 billion, or nearly 48 per cent of the sector's total revenue. The Ayush-based wellness segment, including yoga centres, spas and resorts, recorded a CAGR of 21.29 per cent. Yoga centres alone saw about 75 per cent growth in revenue over two years, the study said. The sector directly supported 1.76 million livelihoods, with more than one million jobs concentrated in local and standalone clinics. Women accounted for 43 per cent of the overall workforce, and their participation was more than 50 per cent in several organised segments.

Delhi Cop Thrashed With Baseball Bat After Argument, Gets 5 Stiches Near Eye

Delhi. (Agency)

A Delhi Police head constable has been allegedly assaulted while he was returning home after work following an argument with some men at a shop in the Mangolpuri area. The cop, Krishna, said the incident took place around 12:15 AM on September 23. He said that his wife was unwell and had asked him to pick up a cold drink on his way back home. Krishna, who is posted at the Aman Vihar police station, said that while he was buying a cold drink from a shop near a petrol pump in Mangolpuri, some boys misbehaved with him. "I scolded them and chased them away. As I left with the cold drink, 7-8 boys came and thrashed me with baseball bat," he said in a video. The attack was also caught on a CCTV. He also said that his gold chain is missing after the attack. "Maybe they snatched it," Krishna said. "They also snatched my phone. But the police later recovered it," he added. He also claimed that he later went to a police station in Vijay Vihar to get the first information report (FIR) filed, but they "refused" to do register it. "They told me that the area where the fight took place does not come under Vijay Vihar police station. They are saying it comes under Mangolpuri police station," Krishna said. He also alleged that the police officers there didn't lend him a mobile to make a call to his family. "A head constable later gave me his phone to call my family," he said. Krishna said that he has received five stiches .



Weather Update: Delhi-NCR, Uttarakhand, UP brace for heavy rain as IMD issues warnings

Delhi. (Agency)

North India's spell of heavy rain shows no sign of easing, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting heavy to very heavy rainfall on Sunday, September 27, along with isolated extremely heavy showers over Uttarakhand. The weather system driving this spell is losing strength as it tracks north-northwestwards, but forecasters say its effects will keep large parts of central and northern India soaked for now. Thunderstorms and gusty winds are also expected to sweep through several states. Uttarakhand looks set for the heaviest rain on Sunday, with the IMD warning of heavy to very heavy showers and isolated extremely heavy rainfall in places. This follows an already intense spell in the hill state, with similar warnings issued for September 26. Himachal Pradesh and western Uttar Pradesh are also likely to see heavy to very heavy rain in isolated pockets, while eastern Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh could witness isolated heavy showers. Thunderstorms with lightning and winds of 40-50 kmph are forecast in parts of Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and western UP. Eastern UP, Rajasthan, Jharkhand and Telangana may see thunderstorms with slightly gentler winds of 30-40 kmph. **Why the rain persists as monsoon retreats** The wet spell is being fuelled by a depression that formed over northeast Madhya Pradesh and neighbouring north Chhattisgarh, which was tracking north-northwestwards on Saturday. It's expected to move into southeast Uttar Pradesh and gradually weaken into a well-marked low-pressure area. A low-pressure area forms where air pressure dips below that of its surroundings, drawing in moisture and setting off rain. Even as this system loses steam, its lingering moisture and circulation can keep triggering showers further north. A western disturbance, a weather system travelling eastwards through the upper atmosphere, is adding to the mix over northern India.

DDA seeks inputs from private developers for JJ cluster dwellers' rehab

The Master Plan for Delhi-2047 envisages in-situ rehabilitation of approximately 17 lakh JJ cluster dwellers.

Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority has started consultations with private developers to take forward its in-situ slum rehabilitation programme, with an investors' meet held on September 25 to seek industry inputs on the proposed framework for redevelopment projects across the city. Following directions from L-G Taranjit Singh Sandhu, the meeting brought together developers and other stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges involved in implementing large-scale rehabilitation projects. The Master Plan for Delhi-2047 envisages in-situ rehabilitation of approximately 17

lakh JJ cluster dwellers. According to the DDA, the programme aims to improve housing and living conditions of eligible residents at their existing locations while facilitating integrated



neighbourhood development, improved urban infrastructure and more efficient land use. During the investors' meet, developers

shared their views on several aspects of the proposed programme, including project structure, implementation mechanisms, allocation of risks, financing requirements and approval processes. The DDA said that the feedback would help refine the framework for private-sector participation and make it more transparent, predictable and responsive to market conditions. While addressing the gathering, the DDA vice chairman highlighted the role of private developers in meeting the scale of rehabilitation and redevelopment required in national capital. The authority said the proposed model seeks to combine safe and dignified housing.

Gujral's murals at Shastri Bhawan to get new life; NGMA-led team to remove, relocate artworks

Delhi. (Agency)

With the landmark Shastri Bhawan set to be demolished soon, two giant murals created by Satish Gujral in 1968 adorning its facade may get a second life, as an NGMA-led team of experts has drawn up a blueprint to "carefully remove and relocate" the prized artworks to a site within Lutyens' Delhi. The team, helmed by the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) in Delhi, consists of NGMA's artists, art and architectural conservation experts, and the celebrated artist's family members through the Gujral Foundation, a top official said. "Satish Gujral was one of the most eminent artists of our country, and last year, we celebrated his birth centenary at the NGMA. As the building is set to be

demolished, we have been assigned the responsibility to carefully remove and relocate his iconic murals of Shastri Bhawan. We will also document the entire process," NGMA



Director General Sanjeev Kishor Goutam told PTI. He said work has begun to find a suitable site for relocation, but "we wish to keep it within Lutyens' Delhi".

A lead investigator of this "challenging project" from the NGMA side said, "We have already communicated with the NDMC (New Delhi Municipal Council), as well as the art and culture department of the city government to suggest possible places for the relocation of the murals." The team recently zeroed in on the campus of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA) near the ITO, but it was found that the massive murals would need a much taller building for relocation, and therefore the hunt for a suitable new address is still underway. Built in the heart of Delhi in the initial decades after Independence to house offices of several ministries, Shastri Bhawan was named after the second prime minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri. It is a 'G+7' structure.

Police posts at subways, flyovers to boost women safety

Delhi. (Agency)

In the wake of recent incidents of violence against women, the Delhi government has expedited plans to establish police posts at pedestrian subways, areas beneath flyovers and near foot overbridges. Public Works Department (PWD) Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh on Saturday directed officials to complete formalities in coordination with Delhi Police and ensure the project is implemented at the earliest. "With the Delhi Police and the PWD completing formalities, directions have been given to issue tenders and start work on the ground. In the initial phase, we plan to set up police posts at around 50 locations. The government will set them up from its own budget, while the Delhi Police must provide



manpower and manage the area. Tenders for the project will be floated soon," Singh said. The government aims to improve safety and utilisation of public infrastructure through the project, he added. The PWD, which maintains around 106 flyovers, 115 foot overbridges and nearly 70 subways, will construct the proposed police posts. Officials said the government received an initial proposal from Delhi Police to set up about 50 posts, which was found feasible. "While we have approved that proposal, in future, we plan to cover all road assets such as flyovers, pedestrian subways and foot overbridges. Approximately 300 police posts will be set up," they said. The PWD is considering allowing commercial establishments inside pedestrian subways in a later phase, though the proposal is yet to be approved, they said. The objective is to provide a sense of security to subway users, they added. The move comes days after a 17-year-old girl was allegedly gang-raped at Astha Kunj Park by three men who posed as policemen. Delhi Police has since arrested them.

After Op Sindoor, India's Defence Push Faces A New Test. What Experts Said

Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam. The attack, attributed to Pakistan-based terror groups, killed 26 people, including one Nepali national, and injured many others.

Delhi. (Agency)

Operation Sindoor has provided India with important lessons about the country's defence capabilities, particularly the need to build greater self-reliance in emerging technologies, manufacture drones and missiles at scale, and develop the ability to rapidly adapt when adversaries devise countermeasures -- a view shared by defence industry experts who spoke about it at length at NDTV's Defence Summit on Sunday. Dr Samir V Kamat, former DRDO chairman and former Secretary, Department of Defence R&D said the Operation Sindoor, viewed alongside the wars currently being fought elsewhere, had underlined the need for

an "Atmanirbhar" defence capability. "I think Op Sindoor was a good learning experience for all of us. Though it was a very short conflict, this conflict, along with the current ongoing wars -- the Russia-Ukraine war or the US-Iran war -- has taught us that we need to have 'atmabirbharta' capabilities. And they have to be in the emerging domains of cyber security, information warfare, space situational awareness, space-based capabilities for ISR, it has to be in the ability to manufacture drones and missiles in numbers but also the ability to innovate and modify when an opponent comes up with a counter to whatever you have developed." Operation Sindoor was launched in response to the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's

Pahalgam. The attack, attributed to Pakistan-based terror groups, killed 26 people, including one Nepali national, and injured many others.



The missile strikes targeted facilities in Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bahawalpur, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum and Chakwal. These areas had long been suspected by intelligence agencies of harbouring terrorist camps.

The sites were believed to be affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), two terror groups responsible for multiple attacks in India over the years. Five of the nine locations struck were in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, while four were in mainland Pakistan. Dr Kamat said developing these capabilities could not be the responsibility of a single organisation but there should be a "whole of nation approach", bringing together industry, academia, MSMEs and start-ups. "And this can only happen if we work or approach a 'whole of nation' approach. One organisation cannot deliver the capabilities the country needs. We have to look at how we can synergise the capabilities that exist in our industries.

NEWS BOX

Ravindra Jadeja ‘obviously in the mix’ for 2027 ODI World Cup, says Team India coach



New Delhi. (Agency)

India will start their 2027 ODI World Cup preparations with the three-match series against West Indies, beginning on September 27. The Men in Blue came close to lifting the title in 2023, but suffered a heartbreaking defeat to Australia in Ahmedabad. The focus in this series will be on three veterans: Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja. Kohli and Rohit have been a regular part of the ODI setup, but Jadeja is back in the 50-over setup after eight months. He last featured in an ODI in January, but India’s batting coach Sitanshu Kotak believes that the allrounder is in contention for next year’s World Cup.I think he is obviously in the mix. I am not part of the selection [committee], so I don’t know what their thinking is. I just think whoever is coming and playing for India, they are obviously part of the 20-25 players who possibly can be in the team,” Kotak said.He further said that Jadeja is a brilliant all-rounder and that anyone can check his records. Kotak added that the team combination will depend on the captain and coach, and there is still time to decide that. However, for him, Jadeja is also one of the best fielders in the world.“He bowls, he bats and the experience he has, and I actually firmly believe that experience is something you cannot beat. So like we see Rohit, we see Virat, [the same way] we see Jadeja. And that brings a lot to the team. Jadeja is obviously a very useful member of the team,” he added.Jadeja has played 210 ODI matches for India and scored 2905 runs at an average of 32.28, while also taking 232 wickets at an economy of 4.89. **Shubman Gill fit to play 1st ODI** India ODI captain Shubman Gill took a blow in the nets, but coach Kotak confirmed his availability, saying the batter was “Good to go.” This means that Yashasvi Jaiswal, who is also a part of the squad, might have to sit out. The left-handed batter smashed a century in his last ODI match against Afghanistan, but hasn’t featured in the playing XI since.

India Storm into Archery semifinals at Asian Games 2026, South Korea await - Details



New Delhi. (Agency)

India’s compound women’s and men’s teams have made it to the semifinals after beating Kazakhstan and Bhutan, respectively, here at Okazaki Chuo Sogo Park Multipurpose Square on Sunday. The women’s team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Chikitha Taniparthi and Prithika Pradeep defeated Kazakhstan’s Roxana Yunussova, Viktoriya Lyan and Adel Zhexenbinova 233-230 in the quarterfinals.The Indian team, who placed second in the qualification, started off with a win over Mongolia 238-223 in the Round of 16 before edging Kazakhstan in the quarter-finals.The men’s team of Kushal Dalal, Sahil Jadhav and Ganesh Mani Ratnam beat Bhutan’s Kezang Norbu, Tshetum Gaytshey and Tandin Dorji 235-232 in the quarterfinals. The Indian men finished third in the qualification and defeated the UAE 235-215 in the Round of 16 before eliminating Bhutan in the quarter-finals. Both teams will face South Korea in the semi-finals, with the medal rounds scheduled for September 30.The compound mixed team competition will also carry significance. With the discipline set to make its historic Olympic debut at LA28, one quota place is available at the Asian Games, adding another layer of intrigue to the battle for continental honours.Overall, eight quota places for the LA28 Olympic Games are up for grabs at the Asian Games. Two quota places each are on offer in the recurve men’s and women’s individual events, while the recurve mixed team and compound mixed team champions will each earn one men’s and one women’s quota place.India enjoyed its most successful Asian Games archery campaign in Hangzhou 2023, winning a record nine medals - five gold, two silver and two bronze. The compound archers swept all five gold medals on offer, while the recurve teams contributed a silver and a bronze.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The rain had made the runway at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium difficult to negotiate. It was coming down steadily as Karthik Unnikrishnan prepared for the biggest competition of his life, at an age when most triple jumpers would be thinking about the end of their careers rather than the beginning of their international ones.Karthik was 33 and making his Asian Games debut. He had waited years for this opportunity. He had also spent years wondering whether it would ever comeThere was more bad news waiting for him on the runway. Praveen Chithravel, India’s 2022 Asian Games bronze medallist, pulled a muscle in the opening round and was ruled out without completing a jump. The responsibility of carrying India’s challenge in the event was suddenly on Karthik, who had already arrived in Nagoya knowing that this could be the only major continental Games of his career...It was hardly the debut he had imagined. But then, very little about Karthik’s career has gone according to plan. **HUMBLE BEGINNINGS IN KERALA**

Karthik was born in 1993 and has been part of India’s triple jump scene since 2015. He is not a late starter in athletics; what slowed him down was everything around the sport. His parents ran a tea shop in Ooty, while Karthik grew up at his maternal grandparents’ home in Kerala. He was not particularly good at studies, and when his family saw a six-foot boy who needed direction, sport became the obvious option.At Parali High School in Palakkad, he was initially put into the hurdles, where he struggled. For a child living away from his parents and finding success in neither studies nor sport, failure quickly hardened into self-doubt. He cried. He felt lonely. When he was eventually moved to the triple jump, success came only in small bursts before stalling again at the state level. So he made the dream smaller. He stopped measuring himself against national standards and focused on the only thing he thought was within reach: he just wanted to wear the Kerala state jersey. **T H E A C C I D E N T A L BREAKTHROUGH** Karthik’s trajectory shifted when he was

called up as an injury replacement for a national meet and unexpectedly finished second. That medal caught the eye of coach P.G. Manoj, who gave him practical advice: secure a job first, then figure out the rest.



That security came through the sports quota in the Indian Air Force. It was a massive moment for a family that initially, and hilariously, thought getting an Air Force job meant he would be flying planes. Instead, the Air Force gave Karthik something he had never known: an environment where a domestic medal was just the starting point. Surrounded by jumpers looking far beyond state lines, his

internal target steadily moved from 15 metres to 16, and then to 17. The Asian Games and the Olympics were no longer distant abstractions.

CARRYING THE BAGGAGE

The problem with allowing yourself to dream bigger is that failure stops being a vague feeling and starts taking very specific shapes.Over the next few years, circumstance kept pulling the rug out. COVID-19 lockdowns trapped him in Patiala, far from his support system. Post-COVID recovery and the absence of his coach cost him at the Tokyo Olympic trials. An ankle injury at the Commonwealth Games trials sidelined him just after he had joined the elite club of Indians to breach the 17-metre barrier. By 2023, a severe tendon injury disrupted his muscle coordination so completely that he and his physio, Garima, now his wife, had to strip his technique down and teach him how to jump all over again.In isolation, each setback had a logical explanation: a bad infection, a torn tendon, bad timing. But stacked together, they became a psychological weight. Each major trial was no longer just a fresh runway.

Anahat Singh, Abhay Singh Chase Asian Games Gold With LA 2028 Spot At Stake

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian squash stars Anahat Singh and Abhay Singh will be on the verge of making history on Sunday when they take on Malaysian opponents in the women’s and men’s singles gold-medal matches at the Asian Games, with victory also bringing an Olympic qualification spot for the Los Angeles 2028 Games. Anahat will face Malaysia’s Sivasangari Subramaniam in the women’s singles final at 1:30 pm IST, while Abhay will take on Malaysia’s Ng Eain Yow in the men’s singles gold-medal match at 12:30 pm.The two finals offer India the chance to claim its first individual Asian Games gold medal in squash while also securing a place at the sport’s Olympic debut at LA 2028.At just 18, Anahat has already established herself as one of India’s leading squash players. She announced herself on the senior international stage even earlier, becoming the youngest member of India’s contingent at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Anahat also registered a win on her CWG debut, defeating Jada Ross of St Vincent and the Grenadines in the women’s singles Round of 64.Her latest Asian Games run has underlined her ability to perform



under pressure. In the semifinal, Anahat fought back from two games down to defeat Japan’s world No. 6 Satomi Watanabe 9-11, 11-13, 12-10, 11-6, 11-3. She was also forced to receive medical attention after a collision with Watanabe but returned to complete one of the biggest comebacks of her young career. Standing alongside her in Sunday’s

historic double bid is 28-year-old Abhay, India’s highest-ranked male professional squash player.Born in Chennai, Abhay reached a career-high PSA ranking of No. 22 in April 2026 and is currently ranked No. 26. An Arjuna Award recipient in 2024, he has emerged as a key member of India’s national squad. Abhay booked his place in the Asian Games final with a convincing 11-3, 12-10, 11-6 win over Pakistan’s Muhammad Irfan in the semifinals. He became only the second Indian man after Saurav Ghosal to reach the Asian Games men’s singles final. His recent record has also included significant success, with Abhay helping India win the 2025 SDAT Squash World Cup in Chennai and claiming the Indian Open in Mumbai and his third Tuanku Muhriz Trophy title in Malaysia in 2026. India already has a squash medal from the Games, with Joshna Chinappa and Velavan Senthilkumar securing bronze in mixed doubles.

Ro-Ko return as India enter final stretch of World Cup preparations with WI ODIs



New Delhi. (Agency)

Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli are back in action, and with the 2027 ODI World Cup now just over a year away, India’s three-match series against West Indies comes at a time when their World Cup plans need to start taking shape. There is still plenty to sort out, and every ODI between now and next October will give India a chance to settle combinations, look at their options and work out who fits where.entially settled for bronze.The first ODI of the three-match series will be played on Sunday, September 27, with the toss scheduled for 1:30 PM IST. Live streaming of the India vs West Indies ODI series will be available on the JioHotstar app and website, while the matches will be telecast live on the Star Sports Network in India.West Indies arrive with a very different set of priorities. Their hopes of direct qualification for the 2027 World Cup are over and they will have to go through the Qualifier for the third successive time to make it to the ICC event. The India tour is therefore an important test for Daren Sammy’s side, both in terms of seeing how they measure up against a strong opponent and identifying what needs to improve before the qualifier, which is five months away.India have played three ODI series this year and lost two of them. Injuries, along with the focus on the T20 World Cup, which India won, have meant they have struggled to put their strongest side on the field consistently. They will again be without Hardik Pandya and Jasprit Bumrah for this series, leaving two significant holes to fill.Pandya gives India the all-round balance that can change the make-up of the XI, while Bumrah remains the leader of their pace attack and one of their most important white-ball players. If both are fit and available when India travel to Southern Africa for the World Cup, they will be central to the team’s plans.

IND vs WI: Virat Kohli 59 runs away from breaking Sachin Tendulkar’s historic ODI record

New Delhi. (Agency)

Star batter Virat Kohli is on the verge of breaking another historic ODI record held by Sachin Tendulkar during the three-match series against the West Indies, which begins on Sunday, September 27. Kohli needs just 59 runs in the first ODI in Thiruvananthapuram to become only the second batter in men’s ODI history to complete 15,000 runs, joining Tendulkar in the elite list.Kohli has scored 14,941 runs in 302 ODI innings at an average of 58.59, with 54 centuries and 79 fifties. While Tendulkar is the ODI’s highest run-scorer with 18,426 runs, Kohli has several other milestones within his reach in the upcoming series.If the veteran batter scores 59 runs against West Indies, he will complete 15,000 ODI runs in his 303rd innings, making him the fastest batter to



the landmark by a big margin. Tendulkar reached the landmark in his 377th ODI innings in 2007, meaning Kohli would get there 74 innings earlier than his illustrious predecessor.Earlier, Kohli became the fastest batter to 13,000 ODI runs, reaching

the feat in 267 innings in 2023, breaking Tendulkar’s previous record of 321 innings. **Tendulkar’s home record also in Kohli’s sights** Kohli will also aim to break another of Tendulkar’s records, which is the most ODI runs scored at home. Tendulkar amassed 6,976 ODI runs in India, while Kohli currently has 6,867, leaving him just 110 runs short of surpassing the former India opener.Kohli’s record at home underlines his consistency. He has smashed those 6,867 runs in 127 innings, averaging 62.42, with 27 hundreds and 36 fifties. At home, Kohli has hit 41 international centuries, while Tendulkar’s record stands at 42. He needs two more centuries in India to overtake his former teammate and India’s batting legend in that list.

Panama coach blames Bengaluru traffic, poor logistics for 1-1 draw against India

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Panama coach Thomas Christiansen did not want to call it an excuse, but after watching his side surrender the lead and settle for a 1-1 draw against India in Bengaluru, he had little hesitation in pointing towards the circumstances around the team’s preparation.Speaking at the post-match press conference at Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Christiansen said Panama had not had enough time to train together because of travel and logistics, while the team’s journey to the stadium on matchday took around two hours in Bengaluru traffic. He also took responsibility for the result, with five players making their first starts for the senior national team as Panama begin a generational transition.“A generational change is not easy. Five players got their first start today. The result is my fault. We didn’t have time to work, to train, because



of the travel and logistics. But I’m happy to see them start with five debutants. We have to learn from this experience.”“I don’t want this to sound like an excuse, but it is not easy to be in a bus for two hours in traffic to get to

the stadium. The logistics and the travel here were also complicated. We have to be smarter when we sign these agreements again. I don’t want this to sound like an excuse, but we have to be careful with how

we handle things inside and outside the pitch because our players deserve better.”The five debutants were Marcos De Leon, Jair Modelo, Joseph Jones, Daivis Murillo and Mijahir Jimenez. Panama had also brought substantial World Cup experience to Bengaluru, with 14 players from their 2026 World Cup squad included in the group for the India friendly, although the side Christiansen fielded was clearly one being used to begin the next phase.Panama were based at the Renaissance Bengaluru Race Course Hotel, while their training sessions were held at the Centre for Sports Excellence Phase 3 in Bettahalasuru, up in North Bengaluru. Their final pre-match session was on September 24, so the squad had already made that trip across the city and back before matchday even arrived.Getting to Kanteerava on September 25 was a much shorter journey on paper.

Geopolitical developments, crude oil likely to steer stock market this week

New Delhi. (Agency)

Investors will focus on geopolitical developments, crude oil prices, bond yields and macroeconomic data announcements to determine market trends during the holiday-shortened week ahead, analysts said. According to experts, the US-Iran diplomatic talks and crude oil prices will drive global market sentiment. Moreover, the market is likely to remain cautious as crude oil prices, geopolitical developments and global bond yields continue to influence near-term direction, they said. Equity markets would remain closed on Friday for Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti. "Globally, developments around US-Iran diplomacy and crude oil prices will remain critical. Any progress on a framework for reopening the Strait of Hormuz could ease energy prices and provide some relief to India's import bill and the rupee, while renewed geopolitical tensions could keep volatility elevated," Ajit Mishra, SVP Research, Religare Broking, said. On the domestic front, industrial production data for August and the HSBC manufacturing PMI reading will be released during the week, he added. Additionally, market participants will closely monitor foreign institutional investor (FII) activity and the upcoming monthly auto sales figures.

"Global bond yields will also remain important following the Federal Reserve's September policy decision. Further increases in yields and the dollar could weigh on emerging-market capital flows, while a moderation in yields could provide some relief." The rupee will remain another important factor to watch, with persistent oil-related demand for dollars and continued FII outflows potentially keeping the currency under pressure, although RBI intervention has helped contain excessive volatility," Ponnudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

Sebi settlement overhaul may improve recovery in fund-diversion cases

Mumbai. (Agency)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India's (Sebi's) overhaul of settlement norms could help improve recovery of diverted funds and protect shareholders in cases involving financial misrepresentation and siphoning of funds, according to Sebi officials and legal experts, as the regulator seeks to resolve such matters without prolonged litigation. The market regulator approved the Sebi (Settlement of Administrative and Civil Proceedings) Regulations, 2026, in its board meeting last week, with key changes on calculation of settlement amount, separate treatment of wrongful gains, fast-track settlements in certain cases, and wider access to settlement. The norms are yet to be notified and will be brought into effect 30 days after notification of the regulations. Following the board meeting, Sebi Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said investor protection in such cases would involve not just the settlement amount but also disgorgement and Remedial and Regulatory Terms (RRT), where applicable. "Shareholders' interest can be protected in a variety of ways. One of the sure ways is that if there is a siphoning of money, it should come back first. That is non-negotiable. We have to understand that settlement is not only in terms of settlement amount, but it involves disgorgement and RRT, where applicable," Pandey said.

Tata Motors PV eyes 15% market share soon, targets 20% by FY31: MD

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles expects to cross 15 per cent domestic market share "very soon" and is working towards its previously stated target of 20 per cent by FY31, as the nearly year-old standalone business looks to drive significant growth through investments in new product categories, faster product interventions and powertrain expansion, its Managing Director and CEO Shailesh Chandra said. nge will be doing that," Injeti said. agencies In an interview with PTI, Chandra said the passenger vehicle business, which became a standalone entity following the demerger effective October 1 last year, has grown nearly 40 per cent over the past year and is exiting September with electric vehicles accounting for more than 25 per cent of its total sales. "Our focus is going to be, of course, to drive significant growth, double-digit growth. At the same time, we want to be leading the charge as far as the sustainable or zero-emission powertrains and emission-friendly powertrains are concerned, and at the same time, we have to continue to invest more aggressively, not only into new product categories, creating white spaces, but also in terms of faster change of interventions of the product to keep it relevant, to keep it competitive, to continuously keep it exciting for the customers," the Tata Motors MD & CEO said. Elaborating on the company's performance during the last one year, Chandra observed, "You are already seeing, in the last one year, the number of refreshes, facelifts and new launches that we have been bringing. I'm sure that when we end this month, which will be the completion of one year, we would have sold nearly 7,50,000 (vehicles). So the business would have come to that level, and we have grown in the last one year, by nearly 40 per cent.

UPI: Can you spilt up a bigger amount into tranches of Rs 2,000 to avoid MDR

New Delhi. (Agency)

October 15 is the date from which MDR or merchant discount rate will come into effect. It will require the merchant to pay a 0.4% fee for payments received above Rs 2,000. The point to remember is that this rate will be effective on person-to-merchant transaction and not on any other type of transaction. The question now on many lips is whether one could split up a bigger amount into tranches of Rs 2,000 and pay the merchant. However, the new system will discourage such tactics and the bank's fraud monitoring system may consider this pattern unusual if you repeatedly send the same amount to the same merchant within a short period of time. **Can a bill of ₹8,000 be divided into four bills of ₹2,000 each?** The MDR calculation will vary on a transaction-by-transaction basis.

Therefore, four separate payments of ₹2,000 for a ₹8,000 bill will fall within the prescribed limit each time. Conversely, if the entire ₹8,000 is paid in a single transaction, the MDR will come into effect. However, this doesn't mean that customers should consider splitting payments completely risk-free. Banks to monitor payments to the same shopkeeper. As of now, there is no official daily limit on the distribution of such payments under the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) guidelines. However, banks constantly monitor customer transaction patterns as part of their fraud prevention systems. If a customer repeatedly sends the same amount to the same merchant within a short period of time, this pattern may appear unusual to the bank's system. In such cases, the bank's automated security systems may

initiate additional checks. In some circumstances, transactions may be temporarily blocked or the UPI service may be suspended. **Also daily transaction limit** Fraud monitoring isn't the only concern with frequent payments of ₹2,000. Bank accounts typically have limits on the number of transactions that can be made in a day. Therefore, if a customer splits

several large bills into smaller ₹2,000 payments, their account's daily transaction limit could be reached quickly. Even if each small payment is individually within the limit, making too many payments could expose the customer to other bank limits. **Merchant's requirements** There is also the issue of the merchant demanding a single payment for a single bill. There could be reasons such as accounting, bill reconciliation, refunds or fraud prevention. Payment methods should be based on the actual purchase and transaction volume, rather than based on MDR limits. Therefore, if the bill is for ₹8,000, then technically the customer can pay ₹2,000 four times, but it is not mandatory for the shopkeeper to accept payment in this manner.



India targets USD 100 billion gems & jewellery export goal

Experts predict that over the next 5 to 7 years, approximately 20 to 25% of India's gold consumption could come from domestic mines, with jewellery exports targeted to reach USD 100 billion.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The central government has set a target to export gems and jewellery worth up to USD 100 billion by 2040. This ambition aims to recognise and upskill lakhs of artisans, making them globally competitive in craftsmanship. During the 14th edition of the Delhi Jewellery & Gem Fair (DJGF) in 2026, Praveen Khandelwal, Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha, stated, "To achieve our export ambitions, the industry must strengthen its journey from 'Vocal for Local' to 'Local to Global' through investment, skill development, and greater value addition." Currently, India's gems and jewellery sector exports

approximately ₹2.5 lakh crore worth of goods, while imports stand at around ₹1.65 lakh crore. This reflects a strong export orientation



and significant contributions to the country's trade. Khandelwal also emphasized the importance of recognizing and upskilling local artisans, whose craftsmanship directly impacts product quality and global competitiveness. "Building

their capabilities will help Indian jewellery become more competitive and enhance its presence in international markets," he remarked. Experts predict that over the next 5 to 7 years, approximately 20 to 25% of India's gold consumption could come from domestic mines, with jewellery exports targeted to reach USD 100 billion. Pramod Derawala, Chairman of the National Jewellery and Gemstone Council of India (NJGCI), highlighted the growth opportunities in India's jewellery sector and the necessity to strengthen the value chain. He noted that the sector has significant growth potential in both manufacturing and exports, supported by government initiatives and increased market access through Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

Debt-to-income ratio: How it affects your loan approval and how to calculate it

Kolkata. (Agency)

While applying for a loan, it is common to check the credit score to gauge the chances of getting it approved. However, credit score is not the only metric to understand one's capacity for loan payment. The lender may also look into the borrower's debt-to-income ratio. Debt-to-income ratio assesses how much of an individual's monthly income is dedicated to debt repayment. It is the percentage of debt to be paid by a person against the money earned in a month. Credit score helps lenders understand the borrower's financial behaviour and stability based on factors such as loan repayment capacity, long credit history, and lower card utilisation ratio. Through this, the bank may understand the person's financial management habits. Meanwhile, the debt-to-income ratio is a real-time window into the person's current financial situation by giving them a look into the repayment capacity. How much of the person's monthly income is already

committed to debt payments helps the lender understand whether the loan has to be approved or not.

How to calculate DTI?

Debt-to-income ratio is calculated by dividing the total monthly debt payment by the total monthly income and multiplying by 100.

For example, a person has a monthly income of Rs 50,000 and has to:

- pay Rs 10,000 towards home loan
- pay Rs 3,000 towards credit card
- pay Rs 7,000 towards phone's EMI

This makes a person's total debt obligation Rs 20,000.

The debt-to-income ratio of the person stands at 40 per cent. Higher DTI indicates that a higher portion of your earnings is dedicated towards debt payment, which may negatively impact your loan application.

Though there is no fixed minimum limit that a lender considers for DTI and it may vary across banks, a DTI below 30 per cent is generally considered good.



Buying an old house or flat These documents must be verified before you take a home loan

If you are planning to buy an older home and intend to take a home loan for it, focusing solely on the property price and EMI is not enough. It is crucial to examine the property's condition, title, documentation, registration, construction approvals, and legal status. Also, factor in repair and renovation costs when calculating the total expense.

Kolkata. (Agency)

While scouting for a house or flat, many consider older homes too. And it can be done various reasons such as location, build, architecture etc. Older homes are often located in established neighborhoods that offer better infrastructure and connectivity. Additionally, the price of an older home in such a location may be lower than that of a new project. However, if you plan to finance the purchase through a home loan, looking only at the price and EMI is insufficient. Banks require clarity

regarding the title, documentation, construction details, and legal status of the property being offered as security for the loan. When buying an older property, the decision should not be based solely on its age. A 15-year-old house differs from a 40-year-old one, yet a property cannot be evaluated based on age alone. A buyer should examine the property's structural condition, past alterations, maintenance history, and anticipated repair or renovation costs. If the house is quite old or has undergone major modifications, obtaining a structural stability assessment can also be beneficial.

Consider costs of repair

If a home loan applicant has Rs 15 lakh set aside for the down payment and other upfront costs, the additional expense for repairs and renovations could alter their financing requirements. In other words, home loan planning should not be based solely on the property price. Buyers should formulate a comprehensive financial plan that accounts for EMIs, the down payment, repairs, renovations,

maintenance, and other costs associated with ownership.

Verification is essential

When purchasing an older property, the registration process does not mark the end of due diligence. Buyers should



verify the title, ownership history, encumbrance status, property tax records, and other critical documents. Additionally, it is crucial to check whether the property's current construction aligns with the sanctioned plan and applicable approvals. Older homes often feature modifications made after the original construction,

such as additional floors, extensions, or enclosed balconies. If documentation for these changes is unavailable or if the documents do not match the property's actual structure, securing home loan financing could become problematic.

Consequently, buyers should thoroughly verify all property documentation before committing to a loan.

Banks too scrutinize property

In the case of a home loan, banks do not look solely at the borrower's income and repayment capacity; the property itself is a crucial part of the loan process. According to sources, under the RBI's housing finance framework, a borrower purchasing a constructed property must declare that the property has been built in accordance with the sanctioned plan and/or building bylaws. Wherever possible, a completion certificate should also be available. Additionally, before loan disbursement, the bank is required to obtain a compliance certificate from an architect.

Richa Chadha

Recalls Being Told Ali Fazal 'Won't Amount To Anything': 'Iss Ladke Ka Kuch Nahi Hoga'

Ali Fazal has come a long way in his career. From struggling to find his place in the industry to working on big Bollywood and Hollywood projects, the actor has seen plenty of ups and downs. Richa Chadha has been around for a big part of that journey, first as a friend and later as his partner.

In a recent interaction with SCREEN, Richa spoke about what it feels like to see Ali getting the recognition he has worked towards for years. She said that while supporting a partner can be complicated at times, this year has simply made her happy. "Of course, it's more complex than just being supportive, but not this year. We've been together for a long time. We've been married for six years. When I see the culmination of all the hard work he's done over the years in 2026, there's no complexity. There's just pure happiness." Richa has also seen Ali during the days when things were far from easy. Remembering that phase of his life, she said she has watched him go from having very little to building a successful career.

"I've seen him at the time when he lived in a shanty and owned a bicycle. He's not only my partner, but also my friend. To see him overcome everything is just a very different feeling. I feel like maine iss din ke liye isko paal pos ke bada kiya hai (I feel like I've nurtured and raised it for this very day)." Richa also recalled how some people reacted when they found out that she was dating Ali. According to her, two people from the film industry actually called her and warned her that his career would not go very far. She remembered them telling her, "Iss ladke ka kuchh nahi hoga (This boy won't result in anything)." But Ali eventually proved that there was more to his career than those early doubts. Richa recalled how people were surprised when he landed the 2017 Hollywood film Victoria & Abdul, which starred Judi Dench. She also praised Ali for holding his own opposite the veteran actor, saying that it was no easy task. Ali is currently having a busy year. He was seen in Mirzapur: The Movie and also featured in Prime Video India's crime series Raakh. He was also part of Shakun Batra's segment in Lust Stories 3.

Richa and Ali first met while shooting for Fukrey in 2012. They started out as friends before eventually falling in love. The couple made their relationship public in 2017. They legally married in 2020 under the Special Marriage Act.



Taapsee Pannu

Recalls Being Removed From Film Because Hero's Wife Didn't Like Her: 'The Worst Reason'

Taapsee Pannu is known for never mincing her words and being candid about her journey in Bollywood. In a recent chat, the actress opened up about how she was dropped from a film at the hero's demand, without being given a reason. She also recalled another incident where she was replaced because the hero's wife didn't like her.

"I have been told that I was replaced by the hero of the film. God knows the reason. I keep imagining the reasons. I can imagine the insecurity; I can imagine that he wanted someone else whom he was closer to. I can imagine various reasons, but I wasn't given any solid reason. I was just told that he didn't want me in the film because I kept asking the reason for my removal," Taapsee told Nayandeep Rakshit.

In the same chat, she also recalled the worst reason she was given for being replaced. The actress said, "The worst reason given to me when I was replaced was, 'The hero's wife doesn't like you.' I don't know why she didn't like me." However, Taapsee did not name the actor or his wife.

Recently, Taapsee opened up about how she has started turning down work to avoid being typecast. "Everybody is going into their comfort zone and using tried-and-tested methods. For instance, for glamorous roles, they (industry) have a set of five actresses they can cast, and for hard-hitting, issue-based films, they have another set of five actresses to cast," she told PTI in an interview.

"I've actually started turning down films for this reason, telling makers that the audience will easily guess the ending. So, (I tell them) 'Don't cast me in this; it's bad for your film'.

"I've gone and 'de-sold' myself to a few films," she added. Meanwhile, Taapsee was last seen in Gandhari on Netflix.



Anjali Anand Recalls YRF Casting Director's 'Lose Weight' Remark, Mom's Reaction To Meeting Karan Johar



For Anjali Anand, becoming an actor did not happen as smoothly as one might expect given her family background. Despite having trained in both acting and dance, she found herself struggling to land substantial work. The situation became so difficult that she eventually ran out of savings and began considering a life outside the industry, including moving abroad. However, things changed for her as soon as Anjali bagged a role in a Karan Johar film, which eventually opened the door to her being cast as one of the leads in Dhamaal 4. Speaking about the unexpected turn in her career on Farah Khan's YouTube channel, Anjali recalled how her mother reacted when she told her she was going to meet Karan.

Anjali Anand talks about her initial struggles in the industry

In Farah Khan's recent Vlog, Anjali Anand revealed that her mother was in disbelief when she told her about meeting Karan Johar. According to the actress, her mother responded, "Badi aayi Karan Johar se milne wali." She essayed the role of Ranveer Singh's sister in Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. She said, "I was at the lowest point of my life in 2020. I was considering leaving India and quitting acting altogether. I was not getting any acting offers. The pandemic had happened, all my savings were exhausted, and I was living alone on rent for six months. I remember my friends had dragged me to Goa when I received a message from Shanoo Sharma. She said, 'Babe, call me.'"

Talking about her meeting with YRF's casting director Shanoo Sharma, Anjali said, "Whenever I used to meet her for roles, she would tell me, 'When you lose weight, we will do something.'" Anjali's mother recalled how she would react whenever her daughter headed out for an audition. She admitted that she would often assume Anjali would not get the role, telling herself, "She won't make it this time too." Anjali remembered how her mother reacted when she found out that her daughter was going to meet Karan Johar.

Raghav Chadha On 3rd Wedding Anniversary With Parineeti Chopra: 'Not Sure I've Found The Words To...'



Politician Raghav Chadha marked 3 years of marital bliss with Bollywood actress Parineeti Chopra with an adorable wish on social media. Expressing his gratitude for the life the two of them are building together, Raghav uploaded a video montage of some rare moments of the lovebirds together on IG.

He wrote on the photo-sharing app, "Three years and I'm still not sure if I've found the words to describe how much you mean to me. Which is saying something, because I'm usually not short of them (sic)."

"From that first breakfast together to now, you have somehow made every version of life feel warmer, fuller and more like home. Particularly, this past year has given us so much to hold close, and somehow made me even more grateful for the life we are building together. Happy anniversary @parineetichopra (sic)," he added.

Raghav concluded the post, saying, "I feel incredibly lucky that I get to do life with you." Parineeti's mother and Raghav's mother-in-law, Reena Chopra, wished the couple in the comment section, saying, "Awww !! Love you both! Happy Anniversary".

Parineeti and Raghav tied the knot on September 24, 2023, in a private ceremony in Udaipur. The couple embraced parenthood on October 19, 2025, as they welcomed their son Neer. These two are frequently seen supporting each other on social media.

Most recently, Raghav praised Parineeti ahead of her OTT debut with 'Shaque'. Sharing the recently released trailer of 'Shaque' on his official Instagram handle, Raghav penned, "So proud of you @parineetichopra... I know how much you gave to Shaque, especially through a time that was already very special for us. Having spent some time at the shoot in Shimla, I also got to see the warmth and talent of the team behind it. An exceptionally talented bunch, and clearly one you had a lot of fun working with."

How to do up your Staircase



Make your staircase look as interesting as the rest of your house. Here's how...

When it comes to home decor, staircases can sometimes become one of the most neglected areas because we tend to underestimate it. Actually, staircases can, if done up well, add a certain charm to your interiors. For row houses, bungalows, penthouses and duplex flats, the staircase forms an integral part of the structure and is often located in the living room or in an important part of your home. You should make sure that they are nicely done up.

Wall of fame Mandira Bedi's bungalow in Bandra has a beautifully done up staircase. She says, "Since it is an integral part of my home, I have taken special care to do it up. The decor at my home includes this area of the house and I like it that way. There are pictures of family and friends, vases of flowers, lights etc on my staircase."

Living room walls are not really ideal for putting up a lot of pictures of family and friends but the walls of your staircase can be like a gallery where you can display all your favourite pictures and get away with it! Since the stairways often lead upstairs to

the private area of the house, keeping these personal images here will help them from being too much in the public view.

Light it up You can go as creative as you want here. Overhead spotlights will make the stairs well-lit and safe. You can also use lights on the steps for effect. Gouri and Yash Tonk have beautiful and very

contemporary chandeliers on the landings of their staircase in their duplex apartment. "I liked these trendy chandeliers. They light up the stairway very nice and look very elegant and chic," says Gouri.

Take it to the next level You can use wood, stone, carpeting on the stairs and you can make it look interesting with a nice handrail, a variety of which is available readily.

The perfect landing The way you do up your landing can make or break the entire decor of the stairway. You can place a large vase or a pot of indoor plant or a tall floor lamp in the corner. Place interesting things but make sure that you do not clutter the stairway space.



Make your kitchen a sleek and stylish space

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



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

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

Know your Budget

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

You need to plan well

Measure the exact area and also keep in mind the layout and kind of space you have in your kitchen before you go out looking for a modular kitchen set-up.

not just looks nice but is also sturdy and long-lasting. Another thing you need to keep in mind is that it should be easy to clean.

Size it up

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

Flashy or functional

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

Does it Cater to your needs?

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

Light right

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



The lowdown on buying Rugs

Square or oval? Patterned or plain? Brightly hues, subdued or somewhere in between?

The myriad choices in pattern, style, colour, fabric and size, not to mention price, can make buying an area rug rather anxiety provoking. Thankfully, there are a few guidelines that will take some of the confusing guesswork out of choosing a rug, and put some fun into shopping for one.

Getting started

City slick, traditional or countrified? Decide on the mood you want to create in the room where you're putting the rug. That will narrow down the options while still allowing you to play with pattern and colour. Will the rug be purely decorative or will you be lounging or even dancing on it? Your answer will determine whether you should get a flat weave or knotted pile.

Size wise

Decide on the size of rug required. A large one can create a cosy, intimate feel in a room. As a rule of thumb, leave at least one foot around the perimeter of the room to create contrast between the floor and the rug. You can also use rugs to carve a large space into distinct areas, making it more dynamic. The size of the room is less important than the grouping of the room's furnishings. First, decide on the configuration of your furniture and then on the number and size of rugs required.

Settle on a budget

Dealers at most specialty rug stores can show you a range of rugs at various price points. Picking a wool/polyester blend over silk or even wool will mitigate costs without sabotaging style. Or consider a machine-made rug while you save up for that hand-woven masterpiece.

Style solutions

To decide on a style, start by examining your existing furnishings. Feel free to mix it up a bit—modern pieces with a traditional Turkish rug or '30s furniture on a contemporary geometric. But



do choose a rug that incorporates one of the neutral colours on the walls or in the upholstery so that it blends with the room's colour scheme.

And whether you love geometric, oriental or floral patterns the trick is to create contrast. If your sofa has a small floral, go for a larger patterned rug." Or if draperies and furnishings boast a large pattern, choose a smaller, more intricate motif. Pros mix up to five patterns, but novices should stick with about two per room.

If you haven't decided on furnishings, let the rug lead the way. A rug is a great place to begin a decorative scheme. A really beautiful one makes everything that sits on it look great.

