



@thesikhtimes



facebook.com/
thesikhtimes



instagram.com/
qaumipatrika

PUBLISHED FROM
Delhi, Haryana, Uttar
Pradesh, Punjab,
Chandigarh, Himachal
and Jammu

The Sikh Times

National Daily

VISIT:
www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

Vol. 18 No. 152

RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

New Delhi, Tuesday, 20 October 2026

sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

9654077232

12 pages ₹ 3

Why Siddaramaiah quiet despite sting operation by own party: Union Minister HD Kumaraswamy

HASSAN. (Agency).

Union Minister for Steel HD Kumaraswamy on Sunday said he expresses his sympathies for former chief minister Siddaramaiah for maintaining silence despite facing a humiliation over the sting operation. Unfortunately, he commented, leaders from his own party are tarnishing Siddaramaiah's image. "But, I am yet to understand why Siddaramaiah has remained quiet despite a major political conspiracy hatched against him," he wondered. He alleged that Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and Home Minister Priyank Kharge played a vital role in the sting operation and got Siddaramaiah removed as chief minister, besides tarnishing his image. Congress might have got uprooted long ago had Siddaramaiah not been in the party. The party is sustaining itself in the state only because of Siddaramaiah, he added. He said CM DK Shivakumar allegedly hatched a conspiracy to take over the NICE company and the recent statements of the CM substantiate that he is backing NICE MD over the issue.

Vijay's TVK got 99% of its Rs 13.3 crore donations from two ministers

Chennai (Agency).

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's TVK party has declared receiving Rs 13.3 crore in voluntary contributions from four donors during the financial year 2025-26, with ministers Aadhav Arjuna and RV Ranjithkumar accounting for 99 per cent of the funds, according to figures submitted to the Election Commission of India (ECI). The figures revealed that Sports and Public Works Minister Arjuna contributed Rs 8.2 crore, while Ranjith donated Rs 5 crore. Arjuna's contribution makes him the party's biggest donor, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the total contributions TVK reported for the financial year. The figures also show two additional donations of Rs 5 lakh each. Snow Sho, located in Lions Town, Thoothukudi, made its contribution through a demand draft. Another Rs 5 lakh was donated by Snow Exports & Imports, which is registered at the same address, also via demand draft. Meanwhile, the ECI figures also show that the AIADMK reported voluntary contributions of around Rs 161.35 crore during FY 2025-26. The DMK reported contributions of around Rs 191.19 crore, with Tiger Associates emerging as its biggest donor with Rs 125 crore. Kolkata-based lottery firm Tiger Associates is linked to lottery magnate Santiago Martin through a common business associate. Its designated partner, Subbayan Nagarajan, is a long-time associate of Martin, and corporate records show that the two are partners in another firm.

Tiger Shroff shooting: 2 arrested, juvenile detained from Rajasthan's Kota

New Delhi (Agency).

Two men have been arrested, and a juvenile detained in Rajasthan's Kota in connection with the firing at Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai. The accused have been identified as the 17-year-old minor and Rehan, both from Haryana; and Hrithik Kumar from Bihar. A joint team of the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) Rajasthan and Kota City Police, acting on inputs from Mumbai Police, arrested the three men from the Railway Colony area. The accused arrived in Kota aboard the Pune-Jaipur Superfast Express at around 10.15 am. Two other people have also been detained in connection with the shooting, including one from the Maharashtra-Gujarat border today. Earlier in the day, the Mumbai Police had registered an attempt to murder case against the three accused. The FIR was initially registered by Juhu Police but has now been transferred to the Mumbai Crime Branch. The case has been registered under

Babbar alleges Bishnoi gang death threats over 1984 Sikh carnage campaign

"Stop writing and speaking about the November 1984 Sikh carnage," callers told him

The Sikh Times
By Sourabh Sharma

NEW DELHI, October 19: Senior journalist Gurcharan Singh Babbar has alleged that shooters linked to Lawrence Bishnoi are repeatedly threatening to kill him and his family and ordering him to stop writing and speaking about the November 1984 Sikh carnage. He said the threats were coming through calls displayed as international on his phone. According to Babbar, the callers specifically demanded that he stop writing and speaking about the 1984 killings. He said an earlier caller had warned that he would meet the same fate as Sidhu Moose Wala. Babbar, Editor-in-Chief of The Sikh Times and president of the All India Sikh Conference (Babbar), said he informed the police emergency number 112 about the threats on Monday. According to his account, Sub-Inspector Virender Singh of

Mukherjee Nagar police station subsequently telephoned him and asked where the calls were coming from. Babbar said he told the officer that his phone displayed "International Call" when the calls arrived. He also informed the officer that he had just received another call in which the caller again threatened to kill him. The latest account follows written complaints to the Delhi Police Commissioner on October 17 and to Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 19, seeking urgent protection for Babbar and his family. Copies of both complaints set out his fears of an attack and his allegation that the threats were intended to silence his work. In his October 17 complaint, Babbar said he feared that his movements were being watched at his residence, office and printing press. He asked police to investigate whether the threats involved hired shooters and people directing or financing them. He alleged that senior Congress leaders, retired senior

Delhi Police officers and their criminal associates could be behind an



attempt to have him killed. He linked these suspicions to his campaign seeking accountability for the November 1984 anti-Sikh killings and to evidence he says he possess-

es concerning the alleged involvement of political leaders and police officers. In his October 19 appeal to Amit Shah, Babbar alleged that repeated written warnings to senior police officials had not resulted in effective action. He also alleged collusion between Delhi Police and retired senior officers, and said he would hold the police responsible if he were murdered. "These people want to silence my pen and my voice," he wrote in the appeal. He said the threat from shooters had made it difficult for him even to leave his home. The identities of the callers, the origin of the calls, their alleged connection to the Bishnoi network and the alleged involvement of the people Babbar suspects have not been independently verified. Babbar's October 17 complaint sought immediate security arrangements for him and his family, including protection at his residence, office and printing press. It also asked investigators to trace the threatening calls, identify the callers

and establish who might be directing or financing them. He further requested preservation and examination of relevant telephone records and other evidence, appointment of a responsible senior officer to investigate, and prompt information about protective measures and action taken. Babbar asked that his written complaint be treated as a prior warning about the people and network he suspects if he were attacked or killed. He sought investigation of their possible involvement and action against anyone found responsible. The October 17 complaint listed copies for the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, senior judicial authorities, Delhi's Lieutenant Governor and Chief Minister, and Sikh religious institutions, among others. "Please treat this complaint as a matter of the highest urgency," Babbar wrote to the Police Commissioner. "I request immediate preventive action before any harm comes to me or my family."

UP rolls out interest-free loans to boost rural women's entrepreneurship

The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced interest-free business loans for rural women through the Mahila Udyami Credit Yojana. The initiative seeks to strengthen women-led enterprises, household incomes and the rural economy.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh government has introduced the Mahila Udyami Credit Yojana (Women Entrepreneur Credit Scheme) to promote entrepreneurship among rural women and strengthen the state's rural economy. The scheme aims to benefit nearly one crore women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across Uttar Pradesh by providing access to interest-free loans of up to Rs 1 lakh. By improving access to capital, the initiative seeks to help women establish small businesses, expand existing enterprises and achieve greater financial independence. It also aligns with the broader objective of creating more Lakhpati Didis—women who earn a sustainable income through entrepreneurial activities.



KEY FEATURES OF THE SCHEME

The Mahila Udyami Credit Yojana is designed to make credit more accessible to women seeking to start or expand small businesses. Interest-free loans: Eligible beneficiaries can receive loans of up to 1 lakh

at zero interest, reducing the cost of borrowing for small entrepreneurs. Loans in three instalments: To help women plan their businesses and access funds in stages, the loan amount is divided into three instalments: First instalment: Rs 20,000 Second instalment: Rs 30,000 Third instalment: Rs 50,000 Together, the three instalments amount to Rs 1 lakh. Dedicated credit cards: Women entrepreneurs are provided with dedicated credit cards to facilitate access to funds and manage business transactions. Repayment period: Borrowers are given up to three years to utilise the funds and repay the loan, according to the scheme details outlined in the source material.

Opposition's "Birthday Trip" Swipe At Bhagwant Mann Over France Visit Plan

Chandigarh. (Agency).

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's proposed visit to France has triggered a political controversy, with BJP leaders Tarun Chugh and Ravneet Singh Bittu, along with Shiromani Akali Dal leader Bikram Singh Majithia questioning the purpose of the trip, the inclusion of family members and the possible use of public funds to meet its expenses. The Opposition has questioned the timing of the proposed visit, alleging that Mann is planning to celebrate his birthday in Paris when Punjab is grappling with a drug crisis, concerns over law and order, attacks on those opposing drug trafficking and pending dearness allowance (DA) for government employees. The Opposition's criticism has centred on whether Markfed's participation in the France trade exhibition provides sufficient



justification for the chief minister's proposed visit, whether family members will accompany him as part of the official delegation and who will bear the associated expenses. Markfed is short for Punjab State Co-op Supply and Marketing Federation. BJP national headquarters in-charge and Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Chugh launched a sharp attack on Mann, accusing him of

prioritising a family trip over the state's pressing challenges. "Gangsters running amok when the chief minister goes for a fun trip," Chugh said, alleging the state was facing a serious law-and-order crisis while the chief minister was preparing for a foreign visit. Chugh said reports of drug-related deaths continued to emerge from villages and neighbourhoods across Punjab, while those raising their voices against the drug trade were being targeted. He also referred to grenade attacks on police stations and concerns over the safety of police personnel, questioning the government's priorities. The BJP leader questioned why Mann's presence in France was necessary if the invitation was specifically extended to Markfed to participate in an exhibition, and demanded that the Punjab government make public the formal invitation.

Muslim women suffer most: Himanta Sarma renews push for UCC across India

Assam (Agency).

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has called for the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) to be implemented across India, arguing that Muslim women suffer the most in its absence, news agency Press Trust of India reported. Sarma said a common law was needed to address issues such as polygamy. He made the remarks during a visit to Uttar Pradesh's Basti district on Sunday. According to PTI, Sarma told reporters, "The UCC has already been notified in Assam and should be implemented nationwide." He added, "Muslim women suffer the most in its absence." The Assam

Chief Minister was in Basti to visit the residence of BJP national general secretary Harish Dwivedi in Teliyajot village and offer condolences to his family



following the death of Dwivedi's mother. Responding to criticism of the BJP by the Congress and other opposition parties amid protests against the SIR and calls for a "regime change", Sarma said,

"Power comes through votes, not through strong-arm tactics." He added, "Those who believe that a change of government can be brought about through intimidation should look at Bangladesh and Nepal." He claimed that only 5,000 to 10,000 people had taken part in the protest in Delhi, PTI reported. Commenting on the stampede at a Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata, Sarma expressed grief and said the government had taken immediate note of the incident and arranged treatment for those injured. He said necessary measures were also being taken to prevent similar incidents. Sarma had travelled by road from Ayodhya to Dwivedi's residence.

Himanta Biswa Sarma called for nationwide implementation of the Uniform Civil Code. He said its absence disproportionately affects Muslim women and leaves concerns such as polygamy unresolved.

SUV rams into cycle in Faridabad, man trapped under it, injured

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 35-year-old man was trapped under a Maruti Suzuki Grand Vitara after the SUV allegedly hit him outside his house in Faridabad’s Sector 85 on Thursday night. The driver allegedly moved the vehicle back and forth several times before fleeing, leaving the injured man pinned underneath. A video of the incident surfaced on Sunday, showing the victim’s family crying as his wife desperately pushed the car in an attempt to free her husband. Neighbours eventually gathered at the spot and helped rescue him by moving the vehicle. The victim, Sanjeev Kumar, a mason from Bihar’s Munger district, lives in Faridabad’s BPTP in Sector 85 with his wife and three children. “He was returning from work on his bicycle on the night of Oct 15 and had stopped outside his house when the SUV, allegedly driven by Lalit Mishra, another Sector 85 resident, hit him,” a police officer said. Sanjeev was dragged under the vehicle on impact. His wife, Pushpa Devi, alleged that the driver got out of the car, saw her husband trapped underneath and fled without helping him.

FIR against 2 X users for false posts claiming Dhruv Rathee arrested

Noida.(Agency)

An FIR was registered against two X users and other unidentified accounts for falsely claiming that YouTuber Dhruv Rathee had been arrested by Noida police, saying the posts risked disturbing public order. The posts appeared on Oct 16. Rathee had travelled to India to join the protest demanding the resignation of chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. He was detained from his Gurgaon home on Oct 10, ahead of the planned demonstration, after police said he had not heeded warnings against attending a protest for which permission had not been granted. After the latest X posts, cops in Noida clarified that Rathee had not been arrested by them. The FIR names Abhishek Kumar (@Abhishek060722), whose post claimed Rathee had been arrested over videos allegedly disrespecting Hindu gods and urging Army and police to revolt against the govt. It also alleged that the “politician behind the action was too powerful.

Car chased us, tried to stop us at gunpoint’: Producer of Udaipur Files alleges threat on way to Noida

Noida.(Agency)

Film producer Amit Jani has alleged that unidentified miscreants chased his Defender SUV and attempted to stop it at gunpoint while he was returning to Noida from Jammu after visiting the Vaishno Devi shrine. According to Jani, the incident took place near Sonipat in Haryana at around 8.28 pm. He alleged that a white car overtook his vehicle, flashed its high beams and signalled his driver to stop. Anticipating danger amid what he described as continuing threats from Haryana, Jani instructed his driver to speed away.In his statement, Jani alleged that the white car continued to pursue them at high speed before pulling alongside their SUV. He claimed that the driver of the other car then pulled out a weapon.“I instructed the driver to speed away.

Most stilt+4 approvals in Gurgaon-Manesar came before July 2024, Haryana tells HC, calls petitioner’s 30,000 claim wrong

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Department of Town and Country Planning (DTCP) has told Punjab and Haryana high court that over 60% of the 15,447 stilt-plus-four-floor (S+4) building plans approved in Gurgaon-Manesar’s licensed colonies were cleared before July 2, 2024, when the state issued fresh instructions on such buildings. The department disputed petitioner Sunil Singh’s claim that nearly 30,000 approvals came after that date. It said the figure was arrived at by deducting an assumed 5,000 earlier approvals from a cumulative total of about 35,000, without any source. That total, it added, includes 2,997 permissions from Panchkula, which do not relate to the PIL. In an affidavit filed in CM 432-CWPIL of 2026 in CWP-PIL 212 of 2024, DTCP Director General Dr J Ganesan opposed Singh’s plea to stop further S+4 construction and halt the issuance of occupation certificates (OCs). The department said all such buildings could not be treated as violations and construction stopped across

the board. It sought dismissal of the application with heavy costs, alleging misrepresentation of facts and misleading the court.The high court’s interim order of April 2, 2026, marks the end of the period covered by the department’s breakdown, not the introduction of the 2024 rules. According to the affidavit, 9,625 plans (62.3%) were approved up to July 1, 2024, under policies issued in March and September 2019 and provisions of the Haryana Building Code, 2017. Another 5,822 plans (37.7%) were approved between July 2, 2024, and April 2, 2026. OCs have been issued for 8,602 buildings.Singh had cited a departmental letter dated May 4, 2026, to claim that around 35,000 permissions had been granted under the S+4 system, nearly 30,000 of them after the July 2024 instructions. DTCP said the letter did not state that this many approvals were granted under the new policy; it gave cumulative figures across agencies and cities.

Under clause 8 of the July 2, 2024, records of approved plans and OCs but not the instructions, the building plan approval and OC are deemed withdrawn if the stilt parking area is fully or partially enclosed. The



department said violations are dealt with case by case under Section 10 of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Act, 1975.The department said it maintains

Under a standard operating procedure of Nov 16, 2022, architects are authorised to issue OCs for independent residential plots under self-certification, after which the records are submitted to the district town planner. DTCP said it has no record of pending OC applications with architects.Rejecting Singh’s contention that no procedure exists for augmenting infrastructure, the department said a standard operating procedure was framed by the Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP) under the 2024 instructions and was enclosed with the May 4 letter that the petitioner himself annexed. It provides for sector-wise capacity audits of water supply, sewerage, power and roads, and a separate bank account for funds collected.

Centre’s move to scrap fixed distance norms for Haryana polluting units under NGT scanner

Gurgaon.(Agency)

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed a petitioner to submit documents pertaining to the rules governing the siting of polluting industries. In an order dated Oct 7, an NGT bench, headed by chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava, also issued notices to the respondents — Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF) — after petitioner Dr Amit Kumar challenged the Centre’s decision to replace fixed minimum-distance criteria with site-specific conditions for granting pollution consents.The petition, filed under sections 14 and 15 of National Green Tribunal Act, has challenged notifications issued on Jan 23 and gazetted on Jan 27, under Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act. The notifications amended the Centre’s 2025 guidelines governing consent to establish and consent to operate for industrial units. In his petition, Kumar has argued that the changes dilute environmental safeguards and were introduced without adequate scientific studies, carrying-capacity assessments or stakeholder consultation.Under the earlier guidelines, industries had to maintain specified distances from water bodies and other sensitive locations. The 2026 amendments replaced these fixed



Jan. The tribunal issued the notices to the respondents — CPCB and MoEF — on the applicant’s plea to condone the delay in filing the case. The matter will be heard next on Dec 15. Under the earlier guidelines, red-category industries were required to be more than 500 metres from the nearest boundary of a surface water body, floodplain or high flood level, while the prescribed distance for orange-category units was more than 75 metres if they generated effluent and more than 30 metres if they did not. Green-category units had to maintain a distance of more than 30 metres.Separate distance criteria applied to settlements, educational institutions, places of worship,

archaeological monuments, national parks, reserve forests and heritage sites. The earlier guidelines also stipulated that natural or stormwater drains passing through industrial sites should not be disturbed. Under the 2026 amendments, for units requiring environmental clearance, the relevant expert appraisal committee would prescribe conditions; for other units, the state pollution control board would do so. Itter rivalry with the Bishnoi gang. Kumar has alleged that the amendments violate environmental principles, including the precautionary principle, and sought restoration of the earlier distance norms and protections for natural drains. The petition also challenges provisions concerning deemed consent to establish for micro and small enterprises in notified industrial estates, the role of registered private environmental auditors and the validity of consent to operate.Under the amended framework, consent to operate can remain valid until cancelled, replacing the earlier fixed validity periods for different categories of industries. The applicant has also sought periodic compliance audits and a review of certain consents granted under the new provisions. The Centre has described the amendments as an effort to streamline the consent process and replace rigid distance requirements with site-specific environmental assessment, while retaining safeguards against non-compliance.

Lawrence Bishnoi has a new rival: Bambiha gang

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A rivalry with the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has allegedly fuelled the revival of a parallel criminal network operating in the name of slain gangster Devender Bambiha, officers of Haryana STF said. The network has allegedly brought together old associates, family members and recruits, with some key operatives coordinating activities from abroad. Its targets include toll operators, hotel owners, property dealers, bar operators, liquor contractors, car showroom owners and financiers across Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Delhi-NCR. During a bail hearing for Neetu (25), wife of Gaurav alias Gori, an associate of gangster Kaushal Chaudhary, the prosecution detailed the gang’s alleged modus operandi and organisational structure. In an order dated Oct 14, sessions judge Narender Sura granted her bail.According to the agency, those allegedly involved in the network include Himanshu Bhau and Sahil Ritholi of Rohtak, Bibi Kadyan, Neeraj Pandit of Faridpur in Faridabad, and Chaudhary of Gurgaon, who was recently sentenced to life imprisonment in a murder case. Saurabh Gadoli, Chand Ram alias Chande and Amit Dagar are named among the trusted associates. The prosecution cited criminal cases against several of them. The prosecution alleged that the gang uses intermediaries to make threat calls to businessmen and collect money. Those who refuse to pay despite repeated calls are targeted, with shots fired at their shops or offices. To intensify the pressure, the gang allegedly circulates videos of shootings, CCTV footage and media coverage of the incidents. The money is then distributed among gang members and their families.Investigators cited extortion-related firing incidents at Matru Ram Halwai and a Mahindra showroom in Hisar, and at a mobile shop in Palwal. They also referred to the murder of financier Manjeet. The agency said young people active on social media are lured with promises of money and opportunities abroad, then allegedly used as sleeper cells for shootings, weapons trafficking and drug smuggling.

3 relatives held for abetment after 5 of family found dead at home

Noida.(Agency)

Three persons were arrested for abetment to suicide after five members of a family, including three children, were found dead at their home in Greater Noida’s Rabupura on Saturday. Police said four audio recordings recovered from a phone in the house pointed to a property dispute within the family.



The five who were found dead – frothing at the mouth – were Mahesh, his wife Lalita (35) and their children Laddu (11), Mishti (7) and Sakshat (3). On Sunday, police arrested Mahesh’s sisters Sunita (45) and Sapna (32), and Sunita’s husband Shekhar (50), all residents of Delhi. They were arrested on charges of abetment to suicide. According to Rabupura SHO Shyambabu Shukla, Sunita allegedly influenced their mother to have the family house transferred in her name in 2025, leaving Mahesh upset. Their mother lived in the same Rabupura house with Mahesh.“Four audio recordings, each around two minutes long, were recovered from Mahesh’s phone. In one, he can be heard

blaming Sunita, Shekhar and Sapna for the extreme step. He did not blame his mother, who lived with them,” Shukla said.The recordings, sent from one phone to another, helped establish the family dispute and led to the arrests, police said.The sequence of events on Friday night is also central to the probe. Police examined CCTV footage near the house and found that Lalita had gone to a local fair with two children and some neighbours, while Mahesh stayed home with their son. She returned at 10.04pm. Police suspect that after she came back, Lalita prepared noodles for the family and Mahesh may have mixed a poisonous substance into it. The family ate and went to sleep, but none woke up the next morning. Used utensils were found in the house.The deaths came to light around 8am on Saturday, when a boy from the neighbourhood went to call the school-going children for an examination. When nobody answered to repeated knocks on the door, the child climbed over the boundary wall and opened the gate. The child’s mother then entered and found the family unresponsive.) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.Mahesh and one child were on a cot. Lalita and the other two children were on a bed, with one child clinging to her lap. All five, police said, were frothing at the mouth, with no visible injuries.Police said the main gate was bolted from inside and CCTV checks showed no outsider entering the house. However, autopsies did not establish the cause of death. Viscera samples were preserved for forensic analysis.

Farmers give consent, New Noida land acquisition set to begin soon

Noida.(Agency)

Land acquisition for New Noida is set to begin soon, with 281 farmers agreeing to give up their plots through mutual consent. Noida Authority has finalised acquisition rates and will now initiate the process for the Dadri-Noida-Ghaziabad Investment Region (DNGIR), a proposed urban development spread across nearly 20,000 hectares.Noida Authority CEO Krishna Karunesh reviewed the project at a meeting and asked officials to begin the process at the earliest. “The rates for land acquisition in New Noida have already been determined. A meeting with villagers and gram pradhans was held last week. So far, 281 farmers have submitted consent forms to give their land through mutual agreement,” he said.The acquisition will take place in four phases. The Authority plans to acquire 3,165 hectares by 2027, another 3,798 hectares by 2032, 5,908 hectares by 2037 and 8,230 hectares by 2041.Compensation will vary by phase. Farmers in the first two phases will receive rates based on those of Greater Noida Authority, along with developed plots measuring 6% of their acquired land. In the final two phases, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) rates will apply, along with 7% developed plots.Greater Noida Authority recently

raised its compensation rate from Rs 4,125 to Rs 6,415 per sqm, while YEIDA increased its rate from Rs 4,300 to Rs 4,558 per sqm. Noida Authority will set up three new work circles — 11, 12 and 14 — to oversee the project.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbbar
N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Quami Parika Printing
Press, A-4/A-14, Tironia City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shuh Zafar Marg,
Press Area, TTD, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbbar
Mob: 9654077332, 9971389517
Website : www.sikhstimes.in
Email : sikhstimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DEL/ENG/2008/25465

DC Kupwara reaches out to border populace at Keran Vibrant Village

KUPWARA : In an extensive outreach initiative to deliver governance at the doorsteps of border residents, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Abhishek Sharma, today presided over a Mega Grievance Redressal Camp and conducted a comprehensive tour of the border Vibrant Village, Keran. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a firsthand assessment of various ongoing developmental works across the sector, emphasizing quality control and strict adherence to project completion timelines. The grievance redressal camp witnessed large-scale public participation, including local ex-PRI members, village elders, and youth, who projected diverse issues and developmental demands concerning essential sectors such as power, healthcare, tourism, agriculture, and mobile connectivity. The DC gave a patient hearing

to the issues raised and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned executing agencies and departments for prompt redressal. Highlighting the holistic development of border areas under the Vibrant Villages Programme, the DC assured the public of saturated delivery of basic amenities and targeted economic empowerment. Addressing connectivity challenges, he assured that telecommunication services in the sector will soon be significantly augmented, with all major operators actively being onboarded to resolve network bottlenecks. Taking serious cognizance of power supply demands, the DC directed Executive Engineer, KPDCL to fast-track ongoing electrification projects and ensure immediate grid connectivity to two local villages facing power supply issues. To preserve the fragile ecology while catering to the growing tourist

influx, the DC called for concerted community and administrative efforts to make Keran completely

Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs) To tap the area's scenic potential sustainably, Chief

(CAO) and Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) were strictly instructed to implement



plastic-free. He directed Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) to formulate an integrated sanitation action plan, establish a Single-Use Plastic (SUP) checkpoint, and expedite the completion and proper maintenance of

Executive Officer, Lolab Bangus Drangyari Development Authority (LBDDA) was instructed to draft a comprehensive infrastructure upgradation roadmap tailored for ecotourism. Furthermore, the Chief Agriculture Officer

targeted interventions for agricultural expansion and aggressively promote the cultivation of high-value secondary crops, notably strawberry farming, to boost local farm incomes. On the healthcare front, the DC directed the health

department to organize regular medical camps and strictly instructed that all doctors and paramedical staff deputed to the area must attend to their duties religiously to ensure uninterrupted medical services to the public. During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the iconic Rooh-e-Hind Flag site in Keran. Paying tribute to the national symbol, he expressed deep gratitude and appreciation to the Indian Army for their steadfast dedication, and continuous support to civil administration and border communities in fostering peace, security, and development in the region. The Mega Camp and tour were attended by CEO LBDDA, Farooq Ahmad Baba; Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Kupwara; Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Kupwara officers from Indian Army and concerned officers from all line departments.

DC Ganderbal inspects Class 10th Examination Centres

GANDERBAL : Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Shreya Singhal, today visited examination centres in the district to inspect the ongoing Class 10th examinations and review the arrangements put in place for their smooth and orderly conduct. During the visit, the DC took stock of the facilities available at the examination centres and assessed the arrangements made for the convenience of students. She reviewed the overall conduct of the examinations and emphasised the need to ensure a peaceful, fair and student-friendly environment. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements remain in place throughout the examination process. She stressed the importance of addressing any issues or difficulties faced by students promptly and directed the concerned supervisory officers to ensure the fair, transparent and smooth conduct of examinations in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. It was informed that a total of 35 examination centres have been established across District Ganderbal for the Class 10th examinations. The DC directed all concerned departments and officials to maintain close coordination, remain vigilant and ensure the timely resolution of any issues that may arise during the examination period.

6-ft-long Python found inside truck bonnet in Faridabad

Faridabad: A six-foot-long python was found inside an Eicher Canter truck in Faridabad, triggering panic at a CNG pump in Pali village. According to eyewitnesses, the truck driver had stopped at the CNG station and opened the bonnet to clean the engine when he spotted the python coiled around the vehicle's wiring. Following the discovery, locals managed to bring the reptile out and tied it with a rope. A video of the incident has since surfaced, showing the python wrapped around the truck and later being dragged along the road after being tied with the rope. The driver said the Canter had been parked overnight at the CNG pump and the python had likely crawled into the bonnet during that period.

KVK Bandipora-1 strengthens Farmer Capacity for Commercial Makhana Production in Kashmir

BANDIPORA : As part of its continued efforts to promote emerging aquatic crops and diversify agricultural livelihoods in Kashmir, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, SKUAST-Kashmir, organised the fourth farmer training programme on Makhana cultivation under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Makhana, in collaboration with the Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir. The training brought farmers and farm women into direct interaction with agricultural experts, focusing on the practical aspects of Makhana production and its prospects as an alternative income-generating enterprise.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan, explained the cultivation requirements, production techniques, crop management, harvesting methods and possibilities for processing and value addition. Assistant Director, Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, Feroz Ahmad Shapoo outlined departmental initiatives aimed at expanding Makhana cultivation in the region. Addressing the participants, Scientists from KVK Bandipora-1, discussed the nutritional and commercial importance of Makhana. They highlighted the increasing relevance of this nutrient-rich food crop and encouraged farmers to explore its cultivation as a means

of diversifying farm activities and tapping emerging market opportunities. A key component of the programme was the field visit to the aquatic crop demonstration and experimental plots at the KVK farm. Participants observed ongoing trials of Makhana, lotus and water chestnut and interacted with scientists regarding their cultivation requirements, crop establishment and adaptability to the local environment. The training concluded with an emphasis on translating scientific knowledge into field-level adoption and enterprise development.

CM Omar Abdullah calls J&K Circular Economy Policy 2026 'a decisive step towards green growth,

Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has described the newly notified Jammu & Kashmir Circular Economy Policy, 2026, as "a decisive step towards resource recovery, green growth and ecological sustainability," marking a shift towards a low-waste, resource-efficient development model tailored to Jammu and Kashmir's diverse geographical and settlement patterns. The policy envisages a differentiated three-tier governance framework: Circular, Circular+ and Circular++ to align waste management, recycling, resource recovery and

wastewater reuse systems with the capacities and requirements of local bodies. It provides for decentralised processing in small and remote areas, hub-and-spoke logistics across intermediate corridors, and advanced circular economy systems in major urban centres, including Jammu and Srinagar. Recognising the diversity of waste streams across Jammu and Kashmir, the policy covers municipal solid waste, food and wet waste, tourism-related waste, horticulture and agricultural biomass, packaging waste, construction and demolition debris, e-waste

and wastewater. It also seeks to promote material recovery through repair, refurbishment and reuse, including resource loops linked to wool and handicrafts. To address terrain-related and logistical constraints, the roadmap provides for targeted regional value-chain clusters to facilitate the aggregation, transportation, recovery and productive utilisation of materials. These clusters are envisaged around urban material recovery, apple and horticulture biomass, tourism circuits and artisan material loops, linking waste management with local economic activity and livelihood

generation. The policy outlines an indicative 10-year planning envelope of ₹3,548.7 crore, with financing envisaged through convergence with Central schemes, Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) mechanisms and user charges, alongside opportunities for Public-Private Partnerships. The framework seeks to support long-term infrastructure development while reducing dependence on recurring government subsidies. A key objective of the policy is to achieve over 90 per cent urban material recovery through improved source

segregation, greater diversion of waste from landfills and the development of sustainable green livelihoods. It also seeks to create opportunities for self-help groups, youth and waste workers by integrating resource recovery into local economic activity. With its focus on decentralised solutions, regional specialisation and resource efficiency, the Jammu & Kashmir Circular Economy Policy, 2026, provides a long-term framework for strengthening environmental sustainability while supporting more resilient urban and rural development across J&K.

DC Budgam reviews Facilities at Railway Station Budgam

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the availability of essential facilities, security arrangements and ongoing developmental works at Railway Station Budgam. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the availability of essential services, particularly adequate water supply, and took stock of facilities for in-house employees. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of ongoing water supply schemes and explore a change in the existing water supply source to ensure reliable supply to the railway station. He also instructed the concerned departments to expedite the installation of streetlights, complete pending fencing works, ensure adequate accommodation facilities for SSB and RPF personnel, and remove encroachments, wherever identified. Emphasising inter-departmental coordination, the Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure the timely and quality completion of all ongoing works and the prompt resolution of issues. The meeting was attended by the Chief Area Manager, Northern Railways, Srinagar; ASP Budgam; Joint Director Planning; Superintending Engineers of R&B Circle and Hydraulic, Budgam; Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE and KPDCL, Budgam; Tehsildar Budgam; Executive Officer, Municipal Council Budgam; Deputy Commandant, 163 Battalion SSB; and Assistant Divisional Engineer, Northern Railways, Srinagar.

DC Shopian visits Pir Ki Gali to assess winter Preparedness and Tourist Facilities

SHOPIAN : Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Charandeep Singh, today visited Pir Ki Gali to take first-hand stock of the available facilities and assess winter preparedness. The DC was accompanied by ADDC Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, CEO, Dubjan-Pir Ki Gali Development Authority, Rouf Rehman, Tehsildar Shopian, Executive Engineers (Xens), DIO and officers of the concerned departments. During the visit, the DC assessed the existing facilities and stressed the need to improve basic amenities and infrastructure to ensure a better experience for tourists

and visitors. He also reviewed the status of ongoing works and directed the concerned departments to ensure their timely completion. The DC also paid obeisance at Ziyarat Shareef at Pir Ki Gali and directed the concerned authorities to ensure the provision of water facilities at the shrine. He directed the Roads Organisation (BRO) to ensure proper filling of potholes along the road to improve road conditions and facilitate smooth and safe movement of visitors and timely Snow clearance of the Mughal road. The DC also reviewed measures required to upgrade existing facilities, strengthen infrastructure

and further promote the tourism potential of these destinations. Emphasising the importance of advance planning and interdepartmental coordination, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure that all necessary arrangements are put in place well in advance to meet winter challenges. The officers briefed DC on the ground situation and the preparedness measures being undertaken in their respective areas. He directed them to remain vigilant and ensure the timely availability and deployment of men, machinery and other essential resources required for snow clearance, road maintenance and emergency response.

MD NHM visits SKIMS Medical College Bemina to review MCH healthcare services, infrastructure

SRINAGAR : Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K, Athar Aamir Ul Shafi, today conducted an extensive visit to SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar, to review healthcare delivery systems and ongoing developmental infrastructure projects. A comprehensive review meeting was convened with hospital administration and the discussions centered primarily on strengthening Maternal and Child Health (MCH) services and fast-tracking upcoming Critical Care Block (CCB) being built under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). The meeting evaluated current maternal & child health indicators, discussing targeted measures to further elevate the standard, safety, and accessibility of clinical care for expecting mothers. Detailed evaluations were conducted on pediatric

healthcare services, with a specific focus on the operational performance and clinical outcomes of the Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU). The Mission Director meticulously reviewed the physical and financial progress of the upcoming Critical Care Block (CCB) being built under the Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM). Strict emphasis was placed on adhering to established timelines for its timely completion. Following the meeting, the MD toured key critical care units, including the Labour Room, Maternity Ward, Special Newborn Care Unit (SNCU) and Critical Care Block. During his rounds, he inspected the ground-level execution of healthcare delivery, evaluated hygiene

and infrastructural standards, and directly interacted with frontline medical staff as well as patients. He strongly emphasized the vital importance of maintaining uncompromising standards of clinical quality, optimum institutional cleanliness, and empathetic, respectful maternity care for all beneficiaries. The hospital administration assured

the Mission Director of their unwavering commitment to translating these directives into actionable service improvements, ensuring optimal utilization of NHM resources for the benefit of the general public. Mission Director was accompanied by Principal SKIMS Medical

College Bemina, Medical Superintendent SKIMS Bemina; Head of Departments, Divisional Nodal Officer NHM, Kashmir; Programme Managers from NHM J&K and other officers of the department.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mohd. Shahid S/o Mr. Shafeequddin is the owner of Freehold Residential Property No. E-254 (Old No. E-103), area measuring 270 Sq. Yds. (200 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 1/74) & (70 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 1/23), out of Kharsa No. 1/74 & 1/23, situated in the area of Village Ziauddinpur, in the Abadi of E Block, Gali No. 2, Chand Bagh, Nizaga Shahdara, Delhi, by virtue of Notarized GPA, Notarized ATS & Will dated 01.07.1999, now our client is declaring that that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and Built-up Second Floor sold to be Mr. Dil Chasma Huma and same has been financed by SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited Branch: Laxmi Nagar New Delhi. 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 15 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 09958871432)

NAME CHANGE

I, RUKHSANA BEGUM W/O MOHAMMAD PARVEZ RESIDING AT HOUSE NO 1654 GALI TAKHAT WALI SUWALAN DARYA GANJ NEW DELHI 110002 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RUKHSANA KHATOON TO RUKHSANA BEGUM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD RAZI S/O MOHD SAMI R/O 7848, NAI BASTI, BARA HINDU RAO DELHI - 110006, Have changed my name to Mohammad Razi for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, DANIALY SON OF SYED MUKHTAR AHMAD R/O V-250, STREET NO-21-B, VIJAY PARK MAUJUPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME ARISHFA TO ARISHFA DANIALY FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mr. Waseem Akram S/o Md. Mustaqeem is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential House No. 95, area measuring 43.72 Sq. Mtrs. i.e., 52.29 Sq. Yards, Situated at Mohalla Salmahakan, Khurja Pargana and Tehsil Khurja, District Bulandshahr Uttar Pradesh. Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Gift Deed dated 05.10.2026 Vide Doc No. 24618, Book No. 1, Vol No. 17154, Page No. 285-300 on dated 05.10.2026 at SR- Khurja, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. (1) Death Certificate & SMC of Late Mohd. Mubin & (2) SMC of late Mohd. Rustam 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 the said property to be financed/ mortgaged with Piramal Finance Ltd., Branch: Kalkaji New Delhi. 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 09958871432)

NAME CHANGE

I, SHAHANA W/O YUSUPH R/O 313/85-A, 2ND FLOOR GALI NO 1 TULSI NAGAR INDERLOK NORTH WEST DELHI 110035, CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAHANA KHATUN.

NAME CHANGE

I, QAISER JAHAN W/O MOHD HANEEF Residing at HOUSE T-389 F/F GALI NO-12 GAUTAMPURI SEE LAMPUR, North East Delhi 110053 have changed my name to KESAR JAHAN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, YUSUPH S/O AHMAD HASAN R/O 313/85-A, 2ND FLOOR GALI NO 1 TULSI NAGAR INDERLOK NORTH WEST DELHI 110035, CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD YUSUF.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAHUL KUMAR S/O VIJENDER KUMAR AGGARWAL R/O 679/H, GALI NO-2 KABOOL NAGAR SHAHDARA DELHI 110032, CHANGED MY NAME TO 110032.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAGENDRA PRASAD SAH S/O RAJENDER PRASAD R/O E-2/570 C F/FLOOR KH NO-246, GALI NO 3 PUSTA 4 SONIA VIHAR DELHI 110094, CHANGED MY NAME TO NAGENDER PRASAD.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto know as Satendra Singh Rathai alias Satender Rathai S/O Iqbal Singh R/O Ward no-4, Shiv Vihar, Binoli road Baraut, Baraut, District-Bagpat, Pin-250611 have changed my name and shall here after be known as Satender Rathai.

NAME CHANGE

I, GULSHAN JHAA R/o L-1511/3, SANGHAM VIHAR, Delhi-110062 have changed my name to GULSHAN JAHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, NAVIKA SEHRA W/O ABHISHEK KAPOOR R/o L-35, RAMA PARK ROAD, BLOCK-L, MOHAN GARDEN, DWARKA MOR, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059 have changed my name to NAVIKA KAPOOR.

NAME CHANGE

I, Zahida W/O Mohd Khalil R/O House No-1556 Pahari Bhojla Bazar Chitli Qabar Jama Masjid Delhi-110006 Have Changed My Name To Zahida Khalil Permanently

NAME CHANGE

I TASNEEM SABIHA SUHAIL D/O MOHAMMED SHAHID AHMED SIDDIQUI holder Indian Passport No C1164199 issue at ABU DHABI on 19/02/2025 permanent resident of FLAT NO 13 H I G HOUSING BOARDA COLONY MOZAMJAH MARKET, HYDERABAD PIN: 500001, TELANGANA, INDIA and presently residing at FLAT NO 501, AI HASHIMI JEWELLERY BUILDING, LIWA STREET, ABU DHABI, U.A.E. Do hereby change my name FROM TASNEEM SABIHA SUHAIL TO TASNEEM SABIHA SIDDIQUI With immediate effect.

NAME CHANGE

I AMIT KUMAR S/O NANDLAL SAH R/O PLOT NO-20, VILLAGE RANHOLA, GANGA RAM PARK, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041. have changed my name to AMIT KUMAR SAH for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I SHEFALI ROHIT ARORA D/O RAKESH RALLY R/O 176 AVTAR ENCLAVE PASCHIM VIHAR DELHI-110063. have changed my name to SHEFALI RALLY for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHABANA BEGUM W/O MOHAMMAD ZUBAIR R/O 6671 GROUND FLOOR BERI WALI AHATA KIDARA BARA HINDU RAO DELHI-110006 have changed my name to SHABANA BI for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I JYOTI GUPTA W/O ANURODH GOYAL R/O 35-A, NEW LAYALPUR EXTN, CHANDER NAGAR, KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051. have changed my name to JYOTI GOYAL for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, GAURAV JAIN S/O PRAVEEN KUMAR JAIN R/O 1/9306, Gali No.2, Pratap Pura, West Rohtas Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to GAURAV KUMAR JAIN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, HAMNA MASOOD KAMAL W/O ASIM KAMAL R/O Flat No. 302, C-29, Arqam Apartments, TTI Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 have changed my name to HAMNA KAMAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, VINIT KUMAR S/O SATYAVIR SINGH, residing at 604, Ghaghra Tower, Income Tax Colony, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 have changed the name of my minor daughter JIVA SAINI URF JIVA CHAUHAN, aged 7 years and shall here after be known as JIVA CHAUHAN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, NO-14842224Y, Rank-H/V, Name-ANOOB B residing at H NO. 649 AALAYAM, PULVEEDU KANNIYARUKONAM, KEEZTHONNANKAL, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, KERALA- 695584, declare that my caste is wrongly mentioned as CHAMAR in my service records, instead of correct caste as CHERAMAR. That I belong to CHERAMAR caste of SC Community.

A Year After Louvre Heist, \$100 Million French Crown Jewels Remain Missing

Paris.(Agency)

One year after a stunning break-in at the Louvre Museum, the four main suspects are in jail awaiting trial, but police appear to have run out of leads to locate the stolen crown jewels. Thieves disguised as workmen sliced their way into the museum with industrial disc-cutters on October 19 last year before making off with eight irreplaceable items worth an estimated \$100 million. They include a brooch and crown from Napoleon III's wife Eugenie. President Emmanuel Macron referred to the robbery as an attack on France's history. Experts from law enforcement and private art theft agencies who spoke to AFP believe the best chance of recovering the treasures is if the thieves acted alone and stashed their loot somewhere in the Paris region."There was a short period of time where they may have hidden them in a wall or buried them," Christopher Marinello from Art Recovery International, a private agency, told AFP.All four men were arrested within 10 days of the heist. Interrogation The last known sighting of the glittering 19th-century gems was on CCTV footage recorded in an underground lock-up in the gritty Aubervilliers suburb of northern Paris, where all the suspects live.

Vienna-Bound Plane From Tel Aviv Diverts To Bulgaria After Bomb Threat

Sofia.(Agency)

A bomb threat against an Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna on Sunday forced the plane to divert to Bulgaria, according to Bulgarian authorities and the airline.The Austrian Airlines crew decided to make an emergency landing in Sofia after reportedly receiving a bomb threat as they neared Romania, Bulgaria's transport ministry said in a statement, adding that the passengers were evacuated from the aircraft after landing. The Bulgarian air force scrambled a MiG-29 fighter jet to escort the airliner as part of established procedures, the transport ministry said. The airline told AFP that 51 passengers and six crew were aboard the flight, and that a security search of the aircraft -- an Airbus A320 -- was launched after it safely landed in Sofia about a half hour after the threat.

Elon Musk Hints At Tesla Roadster Flying Over Grand Canyon In Future Demonstrations

world.(Agency)

Elon Musk has hinted at some ambitious stunts for Tesla's next-generation Roadster, suggesting that future demonstrations could see the electric car fly over the Snake River or the Grand Canyon, land on its wheels and exceed half the speed of sound.His post on X came after Tesla showcased the Roadster performing a stunt that involved driving upside down and briefly taking to the air.Tesla emonstrated the next-generation Roadster at SpaceX's facility in Texas on October 15, 2026. During the showcase, the car accelerated towards a specially designed curved ramp, climbed it and continued travelling upside down along the surface. It then performed a short airborne manoeuvre before landing safely.The demonstration offered a closer look at Musk's long-running vision for the second-generation Roadster, which was first unveiled in November 2017. Tesla positioned the car as an electric performance flagship, while Musk revealed.

Venezuela opposition alliance confirms Nobel laureate Machado as leader

✱ The coalition's announcement comes as one Opposition faction engages in political transition talks with the interim government, following the US ouster of longtime

KYIV.(Agency)

An alliance of Venezuelan Opposition parties on Sunday (October 18, 2026) confirmed exiled Nobel Peace Prize laureate Maria Corina Machado as its leader, increasing pressure on interim authorities to allow her return.The coalition's announcement comes as one Opposition faction engages in political transition talks with the interim government, following the US ouster of longtime leader Nicolas Maduro.Members of the



Opposition's Unitary Democratic Platform (PUD) agreed to "recognise and support the leadership of Maria Corina Machado," who is currently living in Panama, according to the final document presented at the conclusion of a meeting in Caracas.Mr. Maduro was captured in January by the US military and

flown to stand trial in New York, with his deputy, Delcy Rodriguez assuming power in his place and governing under intense pressure from Washington.At the Caracas meeting, members of the alliance put forward 14 proposals for restoring democracy in Venezuela, along with a roadmap for holding

general elections.The alliance also agreed to demand the unconditional release of all political prisoners, an end to political repression and the right of xiles to return home.It called for full freedom for political parties, the lifting of bans on candidates running for office and an end to administrative proceedings targeting political organizations, as well as measures to protect human rights.

The group called for a peaceful transition to democracy and free, competitive elections — but did not set a date for the vote.

Vente, Ms. Machado's party, is calling for elections next year and demanding that a date be set.Ms. Machado has been in exile since she covertly left Venezuela in 2025 to receive her Nobel Peace Prize. According to her party, she has tried at least seven times to return home but has been blocked by Venezuelan authorities.The agreement comes as the government and a faction of the opposition hold their third round of US-backed talks in Caracas. Ms. Machado has not been invited to participate.

Grass fire at Canadian military base kills 4 soldiers and critically injures 19 other people

WAINWRIGHT, Alberta.(Agency)

Four Canadian service members were killed and 39 people injured, including 19 critically, when a fast-moving fire overtook soldiers conducting live-fire combat training at a military base in Alberta, officials said Sunday.Maj. Gen. Wade Rutland said military officials knew about the fire for hours but believed it was sufficiently contained to allow training to continue before winds suddenly shifted, sending flames racing toward the soldiers."The fire was a kilometer away when the wind shifted. That is not normal for a fire to move a kilometer in 36 seconds," he said at a news conference in Edmonton.Rutland said a commander at the scene told him soldiers went from seeing no fire to having flames upon them in less than a minute.The fire broke out Saturday during high-intensity combat training involving Charlie Company of the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.About 84 soldiers were split between a grenade range and an area where they practiced attacks on simulated enemy positions. The fire swept into the second training area.Rutland said investigators had not determined what ignited the grass fire. He said the battalion was preparing for rapid deployment to global crises and a mission to reinforce Canadian troops in Latvia next spring. The military identified those killed as Sgt. Morgan Wong of Edmonton; Pvt. Shaun Farrell of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan; Pvt. Aidan Goulding of North Vancouver,

British Columbia; and Pvt. Hayden Lykkemark of Langley, British Columbia. All four were serving with the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, based in Edmonton.Alberta Premier Danielle Smith said 39 people were receiving medical care. Sayeh Zielke, chief executive of Acute Care Alberta, said 19 were in critical condition, eight were



stable and 12 were ambulatory and receiving treatment for less serious injuries.Smith said some suffered severe burns and could face weeks or months of intensive treatment.Prime Minister Mark Carney described the incident as one of the worst peacetime tragedies for Canada's military on domestic soil. He ordered flags lowered to half-staff on federal buildings nationwide. Carney said the families of those killed had been notified. Those affected included regular forces personnel, reservists and soldiers from bases across Canada. **Hospitals respond to mass casualties** Alberta health officials said patients

were transferred from Wainwright to four hospitals — the University of Alberta Hospital and Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary and Red Deer Regional Hospital.Alberta officials said they had lifted the "Code Orange" emergency activated at several hospitals Saturday night to mobilize staff and beds for the casualties.The response involved 22 ground ambulances, six airplanes and two helicopters, with assistance from neighboring Saskatchewan. Smith said all patients had been accounted for and no further patients were awaiting transport. Wainwright Mayor Bruce Pugh said the town's small hospital was not designed to handle a mass-casualty incident but praised local medical personnel.Rutland confirmed that military search-and-rescue technicians parachuted into Wainwright to reinforce the emergency response. Pugh said their red parachutes were illuminated by flares as they descended shortly before midnight. Cathy Keane, a mayoral candidate in Ontario, said her eldest son was among those critically injured. "As a mother, right now I need to be with my son and family," she wrote on Facebook, saying she was traveling to Alberta. Conservative opposition leader Pierre Poilievre, who represents the area in Parliament, visited Wainwright on Sunday and said he had heard accounts of people who ran toward the danger to help others and were now fighting for their lives in hospitals.

Trump backs ally Netanyahu ahead of Israel's tight election

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump on Sunday endorsed his ally Benjamin Netanyahu before Israel's close-fought parliamentary election on October 27, providing a boost to the veteran prime minister's bid to win a new mandate.Netanyahu touted his close relationship with the US president in a video released by his Likud party, saying that together they had "crushed Iran" and adding that re-election would allow him to work with Trump to "eliminate the Iranian threat over the next two years, or even sooner".The endorsement comes less



than two weeks before Israel's first vote since the October 7, 2023 Hamas-led attack, which opposition politicians have accused Netanyahu of bearing personal responsibility for after allegedly ignoring warnings.Trump and Netanyahu, who polls show is in a tight election race, have worked closely together on Israel's multi-front wars after the Hamas-led attack, including bombarding Iran, and the endorsement could be a boon to his re-election campaign."Bibi Netanyahu has been Strong, Brave, and Brilliant in the face of tremendous opposition, including that coming from even Israel, itself," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform, using a common nickname for the Israeli leader."This is the kind of Partner that the United States of America is demanding of Israel, a Country for which it has done so much. Please let this Letter serve to represent my Complete and Total Endorsement of Bibi Netanyahu in his upcoming Race for Re-Election as Prime Minister of Israel.

Egypt's top security body agrees to help Saudi Arabia defend itself against Houthi attacks

CAIRO.(Agency)

Egypt's top security body said Sunday it has agreed to support close ally Saudi Arabia in the major escalation of fighting between the kingdom and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen, which has marked the latest front in the Iran war.Saudi Arabia has been pressing allies for military assistance. The Houthis have repeatedly attacked airports and oil infrastructure across the kingdom with drones and missiles that can change direction during flight, posing a challenge to interceptors. At least 19 people have been killed, thousands of flights have been affected and global markets have been rattled.Also on Sunday, the Saudi defense minister was meeting with the United Arab Emirates president about ways to strengthen cooperation, according to the UAE's news agency WAM. The countries have had tense relations in the recent past as they backed different factions in the Yemeni coalition fighting the rebels. The Egyptian announcement o military assistance came a month after a visit by the Saudi crown prince. Chaired by President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the National Defense Council decided to provide "all possible forms of support" to enable Saudi Arabia to defend its security, according to a presidential statement. It didn't provide details. El-Sissi on Saturday called for parliament to grant him the authorization to deploy troops and military equipment abroad.Civilians in both Yemen and Saudi Arabia have died The surge in fighting has threatened civilians in

both Saudi Arabia and Yemen, which has seen a return to civil war. The interim capital of Yemen's internationally recognized government, Aden, has seen its airport and a palace used by the government attacked in the past week.On Sunday, an airstrike killed at least nine people, including five children and two women, in Yemen's rebel-held northern province of Saada, the Houthi-run Health Ministry said.Spokesperson Anees al-Asbahi said the strike hit a house in Sahar district and wounded 19 others, including 11 children. Some were in critical condition, he said.Al-Asbahi blamed Saudi Arabia. There was no immediate comment from the kingdom. The Houthi-run al-Masirah satellite channel aired footage of people clearing debris with their hands and pulling two young people out of the rubble.The rebels said attacks by Saudi-led forces had killed or wounded over 30 people in the past 24 hours. Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree, the Houthis' military spokesperson, said 110 missiles or airstrikes were carried out against civilian sites in Sanaa and other cities. The Associated Press could not independently verify the claim.Across the border in Saudi Arabia, a Saudi helicopter gunship crashed near the city of Najran in the southwest, killing its two-member crew, a Saudi military spokesperson said, citing a technical malfunction. The Houthis earlier claimed to have downed it. Later, Saudi Civil Defense authorities said a projectile fired by the Houthis landed in a residential area of Najran province, wounding six people.

Bomb threat alert forces Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to divert to Sofia

Caracas.(Agency)

An Austrian Airlines flight from Tel Aviv to Vienna made an emergency landing in Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, on Sunday, October 18, after the crew reported a "bomb threat signal", Reuters reported, citing Sky News. There were 57 people — 51 passengers and six crew — on board. Bulgaria's transport ministry said a fighter jet flew alongside the plane until it landed, and the passengers were then safely evacuated. No injuries have been reported, and an investigation has begun. **What happened on the flight** Flightradar24 data shows the Airbus A320, registered OE-LZE, was due to leave Tel Aviv for Vienna at 6:40 pm. It was diverted to Sofia at 9:25 pm. The ministry said the crew raised the alert while the plane was on the border with Romania. In its statement, it said the crew "decided to land in Sofia extraordinarily".The BBC said the plane, flying as Austrian Airlines flight 82, left Ben Gurion Airport on Sunday evening and landed at Vasil Levski airport in Sofia about three hours later. It said the landing came about 30 minutes after the alert was first raised. **Fighter jet escort and search** The Bulgarian air force sent up a MiG-29 fighter jet to escort the plane, the ministry

said, according to the BBC. After the landing, the passengers left the aircraft. Officers then searched the plane. The BBC said an investigation has begun. **What officials and the airline said** Bulgarian and Israeli media said the plane received a bomb threat. Austrian Airlines confirmed the same but gave no more details. Reuters said it could not verify the report at first, and that neither Austrian Airlines nor the ministry replied straight



away to its requests for comment. The BBC has asked Lufthansa, which owns Austrian Airlines, for comment. The incident follows other case involving commercial flights in recent weeks: **Flydubai:** Last month, a pilot tried to hijack a Flydubai flight bound for Tel Aviv by attacking the captain. The crew and passengers overpowered him, and the plane landed safely in Saudi Arabia.

Keralam: UDF govt puts horti wine rule in cold storage

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

The UDF government on Sunday froze an LDF-era decision that allowed bakeries, supermarkets and malls to sell fruit-based wine with high alcohol content, and removed a top-level excise official who had issued the licence to a bakery in Thrissur. The first-of-its-kind decision of the previous government will remain on hold until the new liquor policy, expected by November-end, is announced. The move followed a row over MRC bakery in Thrissur’s Chalakudy securing the first-ever licence to sell horti wine with up to 15% alcohol content. The owner, Krishnakumar, bought the first stock on Saturday. However, following news reports, Excise Minister M Liju froze the decision, telling reporters that the government was not told about the licence. On his instructions, Deputy Excise Commissioner C K Anil Kumar, who issued the licence, was removed.

Kolkata stampede: Ropes dropped, one exit, warnings that led to panic

Kolkata.(Agency)

Only one exit, narrow lanes, inexperienced volunteers, rain and ill-timed announcements by organisers: It was this potent mix of security gaps that culminated in the stampede that led to 19 deaths at the Chorbagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja in Kolkata, The Indian Express has learnt. So far, seven people have been arrested and charged under BNS sections 105 and 110, related to culpable homicide, and section 3(5) on common intent, which aims to hold all co-accused equally liable. Those arrested include Raj Kumar Sewda (48), secretary of the puja committee, and Santanu Dubey (55), its vice-president. All the accused have been sent to police custody for 10 days. Of the 25 injured, two are in ICU, officials said. Located in North Kolkata near the Burrabazar area, Chorbagan Sarbojanin, like most Durga Pujas in the area, is surrounded by narrow lanes and bylanes. Over the past three days, police sources said, the puja saw a huge rush of people, with police barricades breached at least 10 times on Friday alone, a day before the stampede at around 7.40 pm on Saturday.

Godavari river turns blue at Andhra's Polavaram with decline in flood intensity

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Godavari river at Polavaram has undergone a visible change in colour, from a copper hue during the monsoon to blue in recent days, following a decline in flood intensity. The change, observed between early and mid-October, coincides with a reduction in the sediment carried by the river. During the monsoon, heavy rainfall in the upstream catchment areas brought large volumes of floodwater into the Godavari. The water carried red soil, silt and sand from the surrounding hills and streams, giving the river a reddish-brown or copper appearance near Polavaram. This colour was particularly noticeable from July to the first week of October. With rainfall easing and flood flows receding, the quantity of soil and other suspended particles entering the river has declined. As the sediment settles, the water has become clearer, with a blue hue now visible along stretches near the Polavaram spillway. The inflow from the Sileru river, whose waters also appear blue, is another feature of the changing river scene. It reflects seasonal changes in the river’s flow.

After Kolkata stampede tragedy, pandals in Odisha adopt queue darshan

Stringent action will be initiated against any organiser found to be violating the guidelines, an official warned.

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

A flagship government programme led by Chief Minister V D Satheesan to build a comprehensive wellness model has sparked widespread controversy, as medical experts question its core provisions. Critics allege that key health department stakeholders were kept in the dark to allow long-opposed provisions, such as the practice of ‘mixopathy’, to be introduced through the backdoor.‘Mixopathy’, a critical term coined by modern medicine doctors in India, refers to the practice of combining or integrating modern scientific medicine with traditional AYUSH systems such as ayurveda. Tensions surfaced following the maiden meeting of the 16-member ‘Kerala Holistic Model for Health, Wellness & Longevity Task Force’ on October 12. Although the meeting



was attended by top health administration officials, including the principal secretary of health, the director of health services, and the director of medical education, concerns remain over how the initiative was structured. “The senior leadership of the health department have been kept in the dark about the proposals. Integrating ayurveda into public health centres is controversial and not suitable for Keralam, which already has a good network of AYUSH institutions,” a source said.Despite a national policy advocating the mainstreaming of AYUSH, the Indian Medical Association (IMA) continues to strongly oppose ‘mixopathy’ at the lans.

Monsoon rains spark second wave of butterfly migration in western TN

The movement has been recorded in Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts, TNBS members said.

COIMBATORE .(Agency)

A second wave of butterfly migration has been recorded across the western districts of Tamil Nadu, following an earlier movement in mid-September. Large numbers of four species from the Danainae subfamily, Blue Tiger (Tirumala limniace), Dark Blue Tiger (Tirumala septentrionis), Common Crow (Euploea core) and Double-branded Crow (Euploea sylvester), have been spotted across the region. The current wave, which is larger than the first, gained momentum following fresh northeast monsoon rains and the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon in mid-October. The movement has been recorded in Salem, Namakkal, Erode, Tiruppur and Coimbatore districts, according to members of the Nature and Butterfly Society (TNBS). “Blue Tigers were recorded passing through Rasipuram at a rate of 72 per minute by one of our members, with large numbers heading towards the foothills of the Western Ghats. The westward and south-westward movement is consistent with the pattern expected during the onset of the northeast monsoon. A reverse migration from the Western Ghats towards the plains would generally begin in April or May the following year,” said A Pavendhan, president of TNBS. Members of the Coimbatore Nature Society also assisted TNBS members in observing the migration in Coimbatore

district.The migration peaked over the weekend, with sightings reported across Coimbatore district, from Mettupalayam to Singanallur, between 8.30 am and 4 pm on Saturday (October 17). The rate of movement ranged from five to 135 butterflies per minute. Sightings of migrating Crows and Tigers continued on Sunday (October 18) in Erode and Tiruppur districts, including Udumalpet. “Moderate rainfall was recorded across Tamil Nadu during this period, particularly along the migration corridor. However, one unusual observation was that the butterflies were flying much closer to the ground than

usual. While they are typically seen migrating at heights of five to 25 metres or more, their lower flight path this time warrants further ecological study,” said K Sadhees Kumar, a senior TNBS member from Erode district.The low-flying movement has also resulted in butterfly deaths on busy roads, said S Gopalakrishnan, another senior TNBS member. “Several instances of roadkill were reported as the butterflies crossed busy traffic. In one instance, more than 1,000 specimens were reportedly killed. Upon reaching the foothills of the Western Ghats, the butterflies were seen congregating on nectar-bearing plants,” he said.

Thenisai Thendral Deva laid to rest with state honours in Ranipet

RANIPET.(Agency)

Veteran Tamil music composer and singer Deva, popularly known as ‘Thenisai Thendral’, who died of a heart attack in Chennai on Saturday, was laid to rest with state honours at his farm in Pazhaya Mangadu village in Sakkarammallur, Arcot taluk, Ranipet district, on Sunday. Personnel from the Ranipet Armed Reserve Police fired 72 rounds into the air as part of the honours.Deva’s mortal remains were brought from Chennai to his farm around 3 pm. Residents of his native village put up tribute banners along the route. His body was taken to the burial site in a procession accompanied by traditional percussion music. Local residents and relatives gathered to pay their last respects.Several prominent personalities, including CM C Joseph Vijay, DMK president M K Stalin and actors Rajinikanth and Kamal Haasan, had paid their last respects to Deva’s mortal remains in Chennai on Saturday.



FIR against Surat firm after 6-year-old bridge found unsafe in Narmada district

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Roads and Buildings Department has registered an FIR against a Surat-based contractor over alleged substandard work on a bridge built over the Karjan River in Narmada district, said an official release from the state government on Sunday.The government has also initiated departmental proceedings against the officials responsible.The FIR was registered at the Rajpipla Police Station on Sunday against Royal Infra Engineering Pvt. Ltd. The bridge, which is crucial for connectivity in and around Rajpipla and Ramgadh, was found to have several construction-related defects, raising concerns

about its safety for public use.

As per the release, the Department had awarded the bridge construction contract to Royal Infra in 2018-19 at a tender cost of Rs 10.71 crore. The bridge’s construction commenced on September 15, 2018, and was completed on August 14, 2020.However, during an inspection of the bridge, several critical deficiencies were detected in its construction, compelling the authorities to suspend traffic movement on it.The release stated, “During an inspection, officials noticed settlement in one of the bridge’s foundations. Following this discovery, the Quality Control Division was directed to conduct a comprehensive inspection.

Gujarat Hardlook: Corporate Road in Gujarat chokes after Ahmedabad bridge opening, civic body scrambles for solutions

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

On September 24, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated several infrastructure projects in Gujarat’s largest city, Ahmedabad. The Makarba Railway Overbridge was one among them. Built at a cost of Rs 98.60 crore, the bridge was meant to ease traffic chaos caused by the level crossing (LC-24) where commuters would have to wait till the train passes, causing a flood of vehicles crisscrossing from either side.The project was completed under the Central government’s Phatak Mukht Abhiyan, a scheme aimed at freeing cities of traffic jams caused by railway crossings.However, the opening of the bridge has created more chaos on the road with the authorities adding more traffic police personnel, widening the road, implementing a

capsule design alternative and perhaps adding a traffic signal to correct the alleged fault in the design.Ashwin Jansari, a retired professor who lives on Anandnagar Road and has an office in the Dev Prime building on the Corporate Road which connects one end of the new bridge, has had to change his route to reach his workplace on time. He feels the traffic situation was better earlier. “Earlier (before the opening of the ROB), the traffic was, in fact, not a big issue. I thought the new bridge would make travel on the route easier, but it is creating traffic chaos. Everyone living around the bridge is complaining every day that things should have been considered right from the beginning and it should be designed properly. Now, I have to take a longer route and start early from my house to reach my office on time,” Jansari told .

Odisha's forest department identifies 12 sites for adventure ecotourism

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

The Forest department has identified 12 ecotourism sites for introduction of a wide array of low-impact adventure tourism activities to enhance visitors experience and extend sustainable livelihood support to the local communities.Deputy conservator of forests (DCF), ecotourism, Vivek Kumar said Similipal, Satkosia, Mahendragiri, Jiranga, Deomali, Barbara, Hirakud, Bichitrapur-Kuldiha, Gandhamardan, Karlapat and Chandaka are among the sites where the department has decided to introduce adventure tourism activities in the initial phase. Kumar said the state plans to upgrade its ecotourism sites with environmentally conscious infrastructure that improves tourist experience while minimal to zero impact on the forests. “The eco-tourism wing has worked out a low-impact plan to bring fun outdoor activities to the nature spots. Visitors will get to experience the thrill of high-rope challenges like zip lines, Burma bridges and commando nets while there will also be special tracks for all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and mountain biking trails wherever permitted,” he said.There will also be provision of archery at some of these places, while for water lovers, the plan includes kayaking,

canoeing, boating and river crossing. People will be able to enjoy rock climbing on built structures. The camping sites and long walking paths will also allow guests to enjoy nature safely while keeping the environment clean. There will also be provision of view points and children’s adventure zone at these sites, he added.“While wall climbing, canopy walk and rowing have been introduced in Chandaka wildlife sanctuary recently, steps will be taken for introduction of the



eco-adventure activities in other identified eco-tourism sites. The initiative will diversify sustainable tourism offerings, enhance visitors experience and strengthen livelihoods of local community members engaged in these eco-tourism sites,” he said. The Odisha Ecotourism Society has initiated a process for selection of a professional agency capable of implementing the project in identified sites in a responsible manner.

‘Babita Singh Reporting’ and a rising tide one cannot silence

Last weekend, after an exhausting day, my mom and I sought comfort in the familiar digital rabbit hole — binge watching. The candidate for our redemption — no review read, no opinion formed — was the latest OTT offering, ‘Babita Singh Reporting’.Babita Singh aka Baby is a teacher-turned-cop in Madhya Pradesh. While on a visit to her hometown, her childhood friend Bansai is allegedly murdered, and she finds herself compelled to investigate. The story could have just been a crime thriller, but this is precisely where its brilliance lay.Having already lent strength to the acclaimed Malayalam drama ‘The Great Indian Kitchen’, Nimisha Sajayan returns as a closet feminist in her role as Baby. She sees, she endures, sometimes she speaks. But she knows.Right at the beginning, we are compelled to make a choice: to recognise the micro-aggressions that reek of patriarchy, or to pull over the veneer of normalcy to explain what Baby endures. After all, do we not watch cinema to forget the ills that plague us?An alpha male chasing a girl is not just considered acceptable, but called love. A male actor courting a female actor half his age is never frowned upon, for we attach expiry dates on women, a privilege male actors are bereft of. We cheer cinema that calls out social ills too, but label it social messaging, arguing the veracity of the tenets in our own homes, for vices reside outside our peripheries. We cheer cinema we should sneer at otherwise, but cinema is an escape and an excuse.And this is the excuse ‘Babita Singh Reporting’ allows us, for the patriarchy is woven so deftly that you recognise it only when it invokes muscle memory.Trapped in the quagmire of a no-leave desk posting, Baby jumps into quicksand when she accepts a false accusation, only as it will allow her leave to visit her in-laws. She, and us, are reminded subtly how getting leave is important for her familial obligations. Her husband graciously offers that she quit her police job once his shop loan is repaid. This is a familiar trope: a woman’s job is within the home, and if the husband can bring the bread, who needs her to add the butter? More so, as Baby lands up as a cop on an ex-gratia post. She sees, silently.Baby endures. She reaches Rewa, to her husband’s mother and sister politely reminding her of her underactive thyroid, and how it affects her appearance and chances of conception. A particularly poignant scene, where Baby is shown pasting make-up for a family function, stands out. Nimisha brilliantly captures the weight of patriarchy, where the much chastised ‘lipa pothi’ is not a choice, but an imposition.These moments are easy to blink by, for we notice only what we feel. This also is not about Baby being a victim, and we are quickly reminded as to how patriarchy is a generational construct. The same household that bruises Baby is also bleeding; her sister-in-law is reeling under similar patriarchal expectations and taunts from her in-laws. But of all generational bonds that bind us, patriarchal bondages are the toughest to break. We pass them on like the plague. Baby speaks with empathy, loud enough for us to hear but soft enough for us to ignore. When she tells her colleague that she cannot understand what it is to be married, she likens it to how Baby cannot understand what it is to slog for a government job. When Baby’s husband mocks her in front of his cousins, hinting at her need to lose weight to be able to conceive, she is quick to quip, much to the chagrin of her husband.And she is not the only survivor of this patriarchal violence. We learn how Bansai, her friend, committed suicide succumbing to the burden of patriarchy, which heavier on a few genders crushes us all under its generational weight.

Both celebrated their birthdays within six days of each other, that too last month. Both crossed the ruling party’s Margdarshak Mandal (Guiding Committee) threshold of three score years and fifteen. Plus one.

What’s in a birthday—or in this case a couple? That too birthdays past, in this case, quite recently. I will explain the deeper significance in the end but first let’s understand whose birthdays we are discussing. I can tell you that they are counted among India’s two most powerful men. Both celebrated their birthdays within six days of each other, that too last month. I am sure you’ve guessed by now, but here’s another hint. Both crossed the ruling party’s Margdarshak Mandal (Guiding Committee) threshold of three score years and fifteen. Plus one.That, after all, is only a notional not constitutional rite of passage for the BJP, therefore I consider is pointless to dwell on it. Instead, I want, rather, to reflect on the stark contrast between these two birthday celebrations. What, indeed, does that contrast tells us about contemporary India?Yes, one of them is our prime minister, whose seventy-sixth birthday was on September 17.I have, in my earlier writings, called Narendra Modi India’s “Millennium Man.” Given all his achievements and contributions to the nation, Modi will be remembered as India’s greatest leader since Mahatma Gandhi. All the easier, you might think, now that Gandhi is so systematically reviled.Comparisons, as they say, are odious.Butanotherbirthdayof an eminent personage almost comes to mind immediately.He too crossed the same magic milestone, that toojust a week prior. I am, of course, referring to Mohan Bhagwat, the Sarsanghachalak of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Bhagwat turned 76 on 9/11. Ominous or auspicious? I would say the latter. Because unlike RSS haters and baiters, he is so much closer to Swami Vivekanandathan the Al Qaeda terrorists at the opposite end of the religious spectrum.As Bhagwat himself said in his centennial outreach interaction in London in September, the motivation of RSS was “shuddha, sattvik prem” not hatred as RSS critics accuse it of. Vivekananda, too, one might remember, called for the end of religious fanaticism and violence in his famous Chicago address on that day in the 1893 Parliament of World Religions. But the reason for the comparison is that Bhagwat’s birthday went almost unmarked and unheralded. Ironically, it was Modi published a homage in major newspapers else the nation may not even have noticed. Modi’s on the other hand, following closely after on September 17, was celebrated with fervor or, some would say, sycophancy. Top Cabinet members, starting with Defence Minister and long-timer supporter, Rajnath Singh, sang paeans to the great man. So fulsome was Singh’s tribute that one wiseacre remarked that the Defence Minister turned into Deference Minister for the

occasion.A whole host programmes and commemorations followed: lamps were lit, there were special prayers, havans, temple rituals, processions, motorcycle rallies, blood-donation camps, cleanliness drives, tree-planting ceremonies, exhibitions, not to mention elaborate publiccelebrations. The Prime Minister’s photograph even received ritual attention in some places.A month-long Seva Sankalp Abhiyanmobilised the BJP’s formidable organisational machinery.Accompanying these festivities was a nationwide publicity campaign celebrating 25 years of the yashasvi Prime Minister’s service in constitutional office, beginning with his assumption of the Gujarat chief



ministership in October 2001. Newspapers and magazines carried adulatory accounts of his extraordinary accomplishments. Even the Union Cabinet adopted a resolution celebrating his quarter-century in government.Well deserved, of course, then why this disquiet? Mohan Bhagwat himself hinted at it. The day after, on September 18, 2026, addressing the Yuva Dharma Sansad in Ujjain, Bhagwat warned against ahankar (arrogance) and the illusion of absolute power: “A person who acts out of ahankar (arrogance) believing that everything is under their control because of the ego, carries the misconception in mind that everything should happen according to their own will. But that is not so.” Was this a slanting reference to Modi? After all, the RSS doesn’t believe in vyakti puja, the worship of individuals. Individuals come and go, but it is the Sangathan that must prevail.Perhaps, Bhagwat did not refer to Modi at all. But couldallthe pomp and circumstance of the latter’s

Karnataka must focus on drought, not sting operations

While the Supreme Court is seized of the matter, the Press Council of India has shared guidelines for journalists to follow while on the job during protests

The Congress government in Karnataka is embroiled in a controversy over sting operations, diverting attention from drought and agrarian distress caused by a 32 percent deficit in south-west monsoon rainfall, with several farmers dying by suicide amid major crop losses.Last week, Chief Minister D K Shivakumar cautioned his Cabinet colleagues about sting operations allegedly planned to target them, destabilise the government and tarnish the party’s image. Claiming to know those behind the operations, Shivakumar hinted at the opposition, triggering political mudslinging, with Union minister and JD(S) leader H D Kumaraswamy and state BJP president B Y Vijayendra demanding a CBI probe or a formal police case.After being targeted by allegedly fake social media campaigns, former CM Siddaramaiah lodged a complaint with the Bengaluru police commissioner and secured a court order restricting the video’s circulation. Two JD(S) social media workers were detained by the Central Crime Branch for questioning, while Kumaraswamy staged a dharna outside the police commissioner’s office on Thursday,



alleging failure to nab the real kingpin. This political drama unfolded even as 226 of the state’s 240 taluks remained drought-hit, crop losses were estimated at over ₹46,324 crore this year, and farmer suicides over the past three years totalled 2,809. Independent

assessments have repeatedly linked rainfall deficits to farm distress deaths.Yet, the priority accorded to sting operations at a Cabinet meeting at such a juncture exposes the skewed priorities of the Shivakumar-led government, which aims to retain power in the 2028 Assembly polls with a larger majority. The state government announced an input subsidy of ₹2,500, which farmers’ groups have termed inadequate. Visits to drought-hit taluks by ministers, MLAs and officials remain conspicuously absent, while the government’s focus remains on protecting the party’s image.Both the ruling dispensation and the opposition would do well to heed Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee chief B K Hariprasad’s comment: “If we indulge in such mudslinging... everyone is in it. As they say in Hindi, ‘Hamam mein sab nange hain’ (Everyone is naked in the bathhouse). It is not a good development in politics.” For the sake of lakhs of distressed farming families, Karnataka’s political class must turn its attention to the crisis that demands it most.

No Jantar Mantar, no Central Park — when restrictions become fundamental, rights a favour

With US Secretary of State Marco Rubio in India, Delhi needs to objectively assess the way ahead in India-US ties

The government thwarted attempts of the CJP and several other groups of protesters and activists from holding a big ‘Lehra do Tiranga’ rally at Central Park in Connaught Place, Delhi, with the CJP’s top leadership being detained ahead of the rally. The stakes are high for the Modi government. It must shift headlines away from the continuing protests rocking the capital if it wants to retain control of the narrative, writes Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra in her weekly column, The Great Game , titled How to unfurl the Tiranga. Is the person who wants to unfurl the Tricolour, for example, a good or not-so-good person? The moral dilemma is upon us. To be or not to be anti-national is no longer the question, she writes.A right to protest at a place you cannot reach is a right on paper. It resembles a theatre ticket when the doors are locked, writes Supreme Court senior advocate Sanjay Hegde in his Edit article, A democracy needs its kopagriha. Drawing an analogy with Valmiki’s kopagriha in the Ramayana, where Kaikeyi expressed her anger to Raja Dashratha against making Lord Rama king, Hegde writes that Delhi has its own kopagriha; it is called Jantar Mantar. The designated place stays open, but the road leading to it is shut. When a police commissioner shuts a dozen Metro stations to stop a few hundred people, he inverts that order, treating the restriction as fundamental and the right as a favour, he writes.US Secretary of State Marco Rubio is visiting India from October 18 to 22 to discuss bilateral ties, trade, regional security and energy cooperation. His itinerary includes Gujarat’s Jamnagar and Mumbai, but not Delhi. Given the turbulence and setbacks in India-US ties, Delhi needs to make an objective and prudent assessment of the way ahead, writes C Uday Bhaskar, director of the Society for Policy Studies, in his Edit article, India must stay engaged with the US.The critical policy approach for India is to revisit the central



assumption that has guided bilateral relationship since 2005: India and the US have corresponding security objectives vis-a-vis China, particularly in the Indo-Pacific. That assumption is no longer valid, he writes. India describes itself as a “resident power” in the Indo-Pacific, seeking freedom of strategic action without a bloc mentality. The US increasingly wants bloc discipline when it suits its interests, while retaining flexibility in its

dealings with Beijing. Rubio’s visit is more than a review — it will be a reality check on the trajectory of the troubled India-US relationship, Bhaskar argues. Meanwhile, China has responded strongly to India’s move to standardise the names of 28 places in Ladakh. It is an irony that Beijing has opposed India’s move even as it has long pursued similar measures itself. As per China’s playbook, what it does is right, while similar actions by

others are wrong, writes former Ambassador to China Gautam Bambawale in his Edit article, Chinese duplicity to the fore. Rather than flexing its muscles and attempting to exhibit its comprehensive national power, China should adopt a practical, solution-finding approach to lay the foundation for a more straightforward relationship between the two neighbours, he writes.On another front involving China, Afghanistan’s de facto authorities have inaugurated a 121-km unpaved transit route connecting Badakhshan with China’s Xinjiang bypassing Pakistan. Efforts to promote a Pakistan-proof gateway via the Wakhan Corridor face challenges, including Beijing’s security concerns, writes former Ambassador to Afghanistan Jayant Prasad in his Edit article, Afghan route to China faces hurdles. By preventing overland transit for Afghan goods destined for third countries, Pakistan thwarted Afghan aspirations, Prasad writes. That explains why Afghanistan is keen to promote the alternative Pakistan-proof transit routes through Chabahar Port and the Wakhan Corridor.The Nobel prizes have acquired an iconic status that is seen as universal benchmarks of excellence. While the judgments in the other five categories are regarded as largely objective, the literature prize is more subjective, writes Peter Ronald deSouza, former director of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, in his Edit article, A Nobel that’s not so universal. he selection of Anne Carson, from Canada and Iceland, for the Nobel Prize in Literature has drawn widespread applause but also produced some lingering doubts. The larger question is the epistemic asymmetry between the Global North and the Global South. The Nobel committee members may have sincere intentions, but the ecosystem within which they make their selection is framed by bias, deSouza writes. The North’s way of seeing, he argues, becomes the universal way of seeing.

Festive joy dims as veggie prices go up in Telangana

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

Amid festive season, rising vegetable prices are squeezing household budgets across Telangana, prompting consumers to cut back on purchases.

Tomatoes that sold for around Rs 20 per kg at roadside markets in Hyderabad two weeks ago now cost Rs 50, while supermarkets charge around Rs 60. Tomato prices have risen by around 150% at roadside markets and 71% in supermarkets, driven by heat, water shortages, crop damage, and lower market arrivals. Onion prices have also surged, reaching Rs 65-70 per kg in early October, up from around 30 a month earlier. At Hyderabad's Rythu Bazaars, onions sold for Rs 45-50 per kg on September 12, while street vendors charged around 60. Quick-commerce platforms quoted Rs 60-70 per kg. Wholesale prices at Malakpet market rose to Rs 45,000-52,000 per quintal, against Rs 18,000-20,000 in July. "The rise in onion prices was linked to lower supplies from Maharashtra and Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh, both important sources for Telangana. Rain damage in these regions affected availability, while some farmers in Kurnool.

Bus shortage & inadequate crowd management anger Sabarimala devotees

PATHANAMTHITTA.(Agency)

Thousands of devotees had a harrowing time after inadequate crowd management measures and insufficient transport facilities left them stranded for hours at Sabarimala on Sunday, the opening day of darshan for the Thulam month at the hill shrine.

Irrked by a shortage of buses, a large number of pilgrims blocked the road in protest even as the officials attributed the disruption to ongoing road repair work along the Nilackal-Pampa stretch and the failure to deploy sufficient KSRTC buses to meet the surge in demand. With the rituals falling on a weekend, routes to the shrine saw an unprecedented rush of devotees. Traffic congestion ended up crippling movement of pilgrims along the Nilackal-Pampa route. A vehicle carrying children from Pandalam Palace, who had travelled to Sabarimala to participate in the melshanthe selection process, was also stuck in traffic for hours. The congestion extended up to Attathodu, while an accident along the route further aggravated the situation. Those returning after darshan also faced prolonged waits for buses. In view of the situation, the Temple Ritual Protection Committee, a devotee organisation, convened an emergency review meeting and held discussions with authorities to address the hardships faced by devotees.

429 assistant professor posts to be filled in Telangana universities

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Telangana government has given permission to fill 429 vacant assistant professor posts in the state universities under the Higher Education department through direct recruitment in the first phase. According to GO Ms No 142 issued by the Finance department on Sunday, the vacancies will be filled in seven state universities. Osmania University accounts for the highest number of vacancies at 252, followed by Kakatiya University and Satavahana University with 49 posts each, and Palamuru University with 45 posts. Dr BR Ambedkar Open University and Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University have 16 vacancies each, while Telangana University has two vacant posts. The government has directed the Telangana Council of Higher Education and the registrars of the respective universities to initiate the recruitment process immediately. The universities must adhere to the applicable recruitment rules, reservation provisions, roster points and other statutory requirements while issuing notifications. The recruitment will follow the uniform guidelines issued by the government, stated in the GO.

Imran Khan Leave India Notice: Bombay High Court to hear actor's plea on October 26

Pune.(Agency)

The Bombay High Court has agreed to hear actor Imran Khan's plea on October 26 against the Leave India Notice (LIN) issued by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO), asking him to leave India by October 28 after he took part in a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Mumbai on October 10. The plea was moved before a bench of Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait M Sethna on Monday, seeking urgent hearing in the Imran Khan Leave India Notice case.

The Leave India Notice was issued on October 14 for an alleged violation of the Immigration and Foreigners Act (IFA), 2025, by joining the protest. Senior advocate Venkatesh Dhond, representing Imran Khan, argued that the actor has been living in India since he was 2 years old and was issued a LIN without any show-cause notice or a hearing because "he attempted to attend a protest where he was stopped halfway through and he went back."

"We are placing it on October 26. They (respondents) will get time to take instructions. Are there any criminal antecedents? Join or add state government as party since this



is a local matter," the bench said.

"He has no police record. My request is since he has to leave the country by 28th, October 26th might be cutting it very

fine or close. I am requesting the matter be heard day after tomorrow or Friday," Dhond said. "October 26 will be fine," the bench said.

Imran Khan had approached the court through advocates Zulfikar Memon, Parvez Memon, and Chirag Naik of MZM Legal, challenging the 'Leave India Notice' as "unconstitutional, manifestly arbitrary and disproportionate". Pending disposal of his writ petition, he sought direction from the court to quash and set aside the notice, along with an "immediate stay" on its operation and implementation.

BJP leader Kirit Somaiya had filed a complaint alleging that Imran Khan, the US citizen and OCI cardholder, had violated the law. Following an FIR, the FRRO issued the LIN on October 14. The actor claimed the authority merely acted "at the behest of and on the timetable of a political functionary who holds office under the IFA". Meanwhile, the FRRO on Saturday issued a show-cause notice (SCN) to actor Imran Khan, stating that his registration as an OCI cardholder may be liable to cancellation under Section 7D(e) of the Citizenship Act, 1955.

Rs 25,000 aid for couples: What is behind this Maharashtra district's mass wedding drive?

Farmers, sugarcane harvesters, and agricultural workers in Beed can now register through local Anganwadi workers to participate in government-backed mass weddings scheduled between November and December.

Nagpur.(Agency)

The Beed district administration in Maharashtra has announced a mass wedding initiative for drought-hit rural families to help reduce the financial burden of marriage ceremonies. The weddings will be organised in three phases on November 25-26, November 14-15, and December 30-31, with eligible couples set to receive government assistance of up to Rs 25,000. Beed District Collector Vivek Johnson announced the initiative in an Instagram post on Saturday, saying the programme aims to help farmers, agricultural labourers and sugarcane harvester families avoid heavy wedding expenses amid the drought.

"The state government has declared drought across the entire Beed district. Considering the situation, and to ease the financial burden on farmer families during their children's marriages, the district administration has decided to organise mass weddings," Johnson said. The initiative is being undertaken under the guidance of G Sreekanth, Divisional Commissioner of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. The district administration is coordinating with various government departments to extend financial assistance of up to Rs 25,000 to eligible couples through schemes such as Kanyadaan and Shubhamangal.

Eligibility criteria

The assistance aims to support eligible

beneficiaries from communities included in the schemes, such as scheduled castes, neo-Buddhists, denotified tribes, nomadic tribes, other backward classes, and special backward categories. Additionally, families of farmers and agricultural labourers are



also eligible for this initiative, provided they meet the relevant eligibility criteria. Johnson said the administration wants to ensure financial constraints do not add to the difficulties rural families face during the drought. He urged eligible couples to register for the initiative and use the assistance available through government schemes. "To participate in the mass wedding initiative, eligible couples can approach their local Anganwadi workers and register themselves. They can also select

a date from the scheduled phases," he said, adding that those with queries about the registration process can contact the administration on 9307670495.

To coordinate the programme, a district-level committee has been formed under

the chairpersonship of the additional collector. At the taluka level, committees headed by the respective tehsildars will oversee the arrangements. These taluka committees will include block development officers (BDOs) and child development project officers (CDPOs) from the Women and Child Development Department. "Participating in mass weddings is not just a way to save money but also reflects a commitment to society," Johnson said.

Drought in Karnataka hits animal, poultry nutrition, scientists scramble to find solutions

Bengaluru.(Agency)

The impact of drought in Karnataka is deeper and more worrisome than what is visible on the surface. While the focus has largely been on drought's adverse impact on agrarian communities, an expert assessment has revealed that it has a worse impact on farm animals and poultry -- considered a buffer for farmers in absorbing losses and stress.

This revelation has led experts from Bengaluru-based Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)-National

Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology (NIANP) to intensify work on addressing nutrition aspects among farm animals and poultry across Karnataka. The assessment by



ICAR-NIANP scientists in 226 of 240 taluks has found that prevailing drought conditions induced water scarcity, heat stress, malnutrition and starvation, abnormal eating habits, and threatened disease outbreaks among farm animals and poultry. During the assessment, researchers found that drought impacted milk quality, resulting in reduced solid fat content and vitamin levels. They noted a dip in soil.

Gunmen open fire, attack Pune businessman with machete near airport

Pune.(Agency)

Two bike-borne men opened fired at shipping businessman Rana Dilip Suryavanshi and attacked with a sharp weapon near Baramati airport in Pune district on Sunday evening, Pune rural police said. Police said that Suryavanshi did not sustain bullet injury but sustained an injury inflicted by a sharp weapon and was being treated at a hospital. According to Pune rural police, the incident took place around 7.30 pm near Baramati Airport. "Initial probe suggests that Suryavanshi was visiting a location near Baramati airport when two men came and one of them opened fire at him. The suspects also attacked him with a machete. He has not sustained bullet injury but has sustained an injury due to machete. He is being treated at a hospital and is out of danger," said an officer from Pune Rural police. After the incident,

senior police officers visited the location. A case of attempt to murder was being registered at Baramati taluka police station.



Police were yet to identify the suspects at the time of filing the report. Sources said that Suryavanshi was accompanied by security guards. Suryavanshi is proprietor of Rana Shipping Company.

Symbiosis professor in Nagpur put on leave over messages to students, alleged religious pressure

The action came after the VHP took a student's complaint about alleged inappropriate messages to the college and police. A university committee is now investigating.

Nagpur.(Agency)

A professor at Symbiosis Law School's Nagpur campus has been placed on leave pending an inquiry into allegations that he sent inappropriate messages to female students and urged them to follow Islam and read the Quran.

The university has set up a high-level committee to investigate the allegations, including claims about his conduct at his previous workplace, Symbiosis Law School in Hyderabad. No FIR had been registered till Sunday, police said. A student's father approached the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) after his daughter showed him messages allegedly sent by the professor. VHP members told The Indian Express. The organisation then raised the issue with the college administration and met the Nagpur Police Commissioner.

A university official said the administration had taken cognisance of the complaint and set up the committee to investigate and recommend action. "The concerned professor is now on leave and will not attend the campus until the inquiry is complete and its findings are available," the official said, adding that the committee would also examine the allegations from Hyderabad. According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone

5) Nityanand Jha, around 15-17 people from various organisations gathered at the university at about 11.30 am on Saturday. Police facilitated talks between the protesters and the administration, after which the professor was placed on leave. At around 6.45 pm, another group of 15-20 people arrived at the campus with the complainant and her father. The



inquiry committee was meanwhile holding an open-house discussion with around 100-120 students. Police then facilitated a meeting between the administration and a delegation of six or seven people, including the complainant. The committee assured them that the allegations would be examined and action taken within a stipulated time. bThe administration and police later briefed students on the developments. No law-and-order problem was reported, Jha said.

Three relatives arrested for abetting suicide of Greater Noida family

Delhi.(Agency)

Police on Sunday arrested three relatives for allegedly abetting the suicide of a couple and their three children, whose bodies were found at their home in Greater Noida’s Nagla Padam village on Saturday. The accused are Mahesh’s elder sister Sunita, 45, younger sister Sapna, 32, and brother-in-law Shekhar, 50, a police official said. According to police, Mahesh, 37, recorded a voice note before his death, allegedly holding the three responsible. Preliminary information suggested a property dispute may have led to the incident. Police said Sunita allegedly influenced their mother, Chandrawati, to transfer in her name the house where Mahesh lived with



her. Mahesh was reportedly distressed after learning about the transfer. The three accused are being questioned. The bodies of Mahesh, his wife Lalita, 35, and their children—Mishti, 7, Sakshat, 11, and Riyansh, 3—were found on Saturday morning, official said. Police further added that the CCTV camera footage of the area around the house did not show any outsider entering the premises. Post-mortems indicated signs of poisoning, and viscera samples have been sent for forensic analysis to establish the cause of death. Teams from the Forensic Science Laboratory and the Food Safety Department also visited the spot. A case under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita , relating to abetment of suicide, was registered on a complaint by Lalita’s brother, police said.

Over 1K personnel on duty at CR Park, vigilance stepped up after Kolkata stampede

Delhi.(Agency)

“No vehicle is allowed inside,” a paramilitary personnel standing between two barricades told an elderly devout headed to a Durga Puja pandal at Chittaranjan Park in South Delhi. Locals say this is probably the only time of the year when paramilitary troops can be seen on duty in the area. A day after 19 people were killed in a stampede in the Chorbagan area of Kolkata amid Durga Puja celebrations, security personnel are even more vigilant in CR Park, officers told The Indian Express on Sunday. “We have made sure that no unnecessary vehicles are inside the area, so that there is ample space for public movement in face of any untoward incident,” said Additional DCP (South) Aishwarya. Officers said that more than 500 police officers are deployed across the area. In addition to that, there are three companies of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF), with one more company ready to join if needed, taking the total number of security personnel on duty to nearly 1,000. Each CAPF company has about 80-100 personnel.Devotees come to CR Park for some of the most prominent Durga Puja pandals in the Capital, including the ones at Mela Block, K Block and B Block. People brave the constant traffic snarls starting from Greater Kailash — with even a 1-km stretch taking more than 20 minutes to cross — to reach the area for pandal- hopping. Police officers said that at the biggest of pandals, which see a footfall of more than 50,000 a day, an inspector-rank officer has been separately assigned to manage the security. One of them is the Kali Mandir pandal, in the B Block, which has its own army of sorts of guards to help the security personnel.“We have 150-160 private security personnel at the pandal. They were all trained for six weeks ahead of the Puja. We have a retired army colonel as our security chief,” said Dr Shirshendu Mukherjee, Secretary, Kali Mandir society.The Kali Mandir pandal is divided into five blocks, with two normal exit gates, and five emergency exits. Each block has a supervisor, and the whole area is covered by CCTVs attached to a central command.About 5,000-7,000 people, Dr. Mukherjee, visit the pandal during puja time in the day, while the number crosses 50,000 in the night.

Protests, detentions continue in Delhi amid security

Delhi.(Agency)

The national capital continued to witness protests and consequential detentions on Sunday over various issues, including demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and opposition to BJP leader Dushyant Gautam’s appointment as Sikkim governor over his alleged involvement in the 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari’s murder case. The protests took place even as central Delhi continued to witness heavy security arrangements, including around Jantar Mantar, Parliament, and Connaught Place. The National Students’ Union of India (NSUI) held an “Ungli Toh Uthegi–Hallabol March” towards Jantar Mantar, demanding Kumar’s resignation. Led by NSUI national president Vinod Jakhar, the march began at the NSUI national headquarters on Raisina Road and proceeded towards Jantar Mantar. Later, several NSUI members were detained and taken away from the spot. As security personnel were taking them away, several NSUI members stopped the bus ferrying them and helped the detainees escape the vehicle by jumping through its windows. The protesters held placards seeking accountability from the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the central government, including those bearing the message “Gyanesh, it’s done bro”. They also raised slogans against Kumar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister

Amit Shah. Delhi Police also detained around 50 protesters, including Congress members, on Sunday after they staged a protest outside the Patiala House Court, demanding an impartial probe into the 2022 murder of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari in Uttarakhand. Several detainees were taken to Jaffarpur Police Station. The protesters called for a fair probe into the alleged involvement of a “VIP”



who purportedly sought favours from Bhandari. The protesters gathered outside the court on Sunday to demand Gautam’s removal as governor. Around 100 to 150 people participated in the protest, including Congress members from Uttarakhand and members of the Aam Aadmi Party and Left parties. Police soon dispersed the protesters and detained several of them. A fresh wave of protests has hit the national capital

NSUI holds march demanding CEC’s exit; Congress, AAP and Left seek probe into ‘VIP’ link in Ankita Bhandari murder case.

ever since BJP leader Dushyant Gautam

Delhi cabinet approves Rs 50 cr foundation to support startups

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government has approved the setting up of the Go-Delhi Foundation with a corpus of Rs 50 crore to support young innovators and startups, a Chief Minister’s Office (CMO) statement said on Sunday. The approval was granted at a recent Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Rekha Gupta. The capital has nearly 21,000 startups recognised by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). The foundation aims to promote innovation and entrepreneurship by helping young people, researchers and entrepreneurs turn their ideas into market-ready products and successful enterprises. Gupta said the foundation would help startups and micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) access product engineering, prototyping, laboratories and testing facilities. It would also provide technical guidance, mentorship, incubation, business support and opportunities to connect with investors. The initiative will support entrepreneurs at different stages, from product development and testing to certification preparation and market access. It aims to bring various support facilities together on a common platform, making it easier to establish and expand businesses in the national capital. Government departments will also be able to share real-world challenges with innovators. Products and technologies developed to address these issues could be tested through pilot projects, with successful solutions considered for adoption, Gupta said.

The foundation will collaborate with industry, educational institutions, investors and other partners. It will follow a hub-and-spoke model, using existing facilities and partner institutions across Delhi to deliver its programmes. The foundation will be established as a not-for-profit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013, and operate under the Delhi government’s Department of Industries, the statement said.

Voter for a decade, now, not on SIR draft rolls’: Inside a Delhi public hearing

Delhi.(Agency)

When Naimuddin checked the Delhi draft electoral roll released in August, he found that his name and that of his wife had been marked under the “permanently shifted” category. This was a rude shock to the Jamia Nagar resident who claimed that no booth level officer (BLO) had visited his house during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, which started in June in the Capital. He recalled submitting his enumeration form at a camp near his home in July. “I don’t know how this happened. No BLO ever visited my house. I had submitted my enumeration form during the SIR exercise in July. I have had a driving licence since 1993. I graduated from Jamia Millia Islamia in 1999 and have been a voter for over a decade,” Naimuddin, in his late 40s, told The Indian Express at a Jan Sunwai (public hearing) organised by civil society groups in Jamia Nagar in the Okhla Assembly constituency on Sunday. The public hearing, organised by Jan Sarokar, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (MKSS), Voter Adhikar Manch and the National Federation of Indian Women (NFIW) at a baraat ghar in Jamia, saw around 150 voters registered at the desk to share their experiences and seek assistance in checking their electoral status.



Naimuddin was earlier advised to submit Form 6, used to register new voters, at a special camp organised by the Election Commission in Batla House, around a kilometre away. However, he was reluctant to do so, questioning why an existing voter should have to fill out a form meant for new voters. “I have been a voter for years. Why should I fill out Form 6, which is meant for new or first-time voters?” he asked. Another voter, Anita, arrived at the hearing with her daughter and four voter ID cards. She has been anxious ever since she discovered that her husband’s name had been

marked as “dead” under the absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) category. “There are six members in my family, including my husband, in-laws and brother-in-laws. All have been voting for years. I came here only to check the status of our votes, but was told that my husband’s name had been deleted. He is a carpenter and is alive,” she said. A volunteer subsequently found that Anita’s husband had two voter ID numbers. While one entry had been marked under the “dead” category, his name appeared in the draft roll under the second ID, of which he was reportedly unaware. At another desk, Zakir Hussain and Nafisha Begum, residents of Joga Bai Extension, said they had been unable to fill out their forms and were subsequently marked as “untraceable” and “permanently shifted”, respectively.

A look at numbers The volunteer-led “audit”, which preceded the hearing, found around 100 voters had been wrongly marked for deletion despite continuing to live at their registered addresses. The exercise, conducted between October 9 and 16, covered 1,579 voters across 307 households in Batla House. It examined voters on the ASDD list, the notice list and lists of those deleted before the SIR exercise. The survey covered around 69% of the 2,296 voters on these lists in the areas surveyed.

Gen Z turning grievances into legal challenges

Delhi.(Agency)

The city has been witnessing Generation Z’s growing assertion in the past few months. Its challenge to the establishment is no longer confined just to the streets. The young are also taking their battles to the classrooms, demanding accountability of those in charge. They are moving the courts too, questioning government rules and seeking remedies through the institutions of democracy. When we talk of courtroom interventions, it’s not merely about heavyweight lawyers such as Kapil Sibal and Prashant Bhushan taking up their cause to protest. Young lawyers, law students and ordinary citizens who believe that the system must answer for its failures are approaching the bench.

A recent public interest litigation before the Delhi HC is in line with this emerging trend. The issue at stake is deceptively simple, when a consumer orders paneer, s/he be entitled to know whether what is served is genuine dairy paneer or a non-dairy substitute. Last week, a petition filed by a 22-year-old fourth-year law student, and her senior from school, a practising advocate, brought a question of food safety, consumer rights and nutritional transparency before the court. The Delhi High Court issued notice to the Union government, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Delhi government, seeking their responses. The significance of this intervention extends beyond the merits of the food labelling dispute. For a generation increasingly conscious of nutrition, protein intake and healthy eating, the ingredients of everyday food matter. Consumers who choose

paneer as a source of protein expect a milk-based product. If a restaurant serves a substitute made with vegetable fats, starches or other non-dairy ingredients without adequate disclosure, the consumer’s choice is compromised.

The petitioners are not seeking a blanket prohibition on lawful dairy analogues or plant-based alternatives. Their argument is about transparency, products should be sold and served for what they actually are, allowing consumers to make informed decisions.



Rather than merely expressing dissatisfaction on social media or joining a street demonstration, the two young legal professionals have approached a constitutional institution to seek a legal remedy. They have taken up an everyday concern and translated it into a question of public accountability. This is precisely where Gen Z’s emerging political character deserves attention. Its activism does not always fit the conventional mould of party politics, ideological mobilisation or mass movements organised around a single leader. It can begin with an individual experience, a grievance encountered in daily life or a concern shared by a community.

NCRTC expects nod for two new Namo Bharat routes

Besides the two proposed corridors, detailed project reports for the Ghaziabad-Jewar and Noida-Faridabad-Gurugram corridors are under preparation, the NCRTC said.

Delhi.(Agency)

The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) expects approval soon for two proposed Namo Bharat corridors—Delhi-Panipat-Karnal and Delhi-Gurugram-Behror—as it marks three years of operations of the regional rapid rail service. Besides the two proposed corridors, detailed project reports for the Ghaziabad-Jewar and Noida-Faridabad-Gurugram corridors are under preparation, the NCRTC said. The 82-km Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut corridor has recorded over 4.5 crore passenger journeys since its launch in October 2023 and currently serves more than 1.1 lakh commuters daily, the

NCRTC said on Sunday. It recently recorded its highest-ever single-day ridership of around 1.68 lakh.

The NCRTC celebrated three years of Namo Bharat operations at an event attended by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal, Minister of State Tokhan Sahu and senior officials. Addressing the gathering, Manohar Lal said the rapid rail service was ushering in a new phase of regional connectivity and



providing a new dimension to urban transportation. He said better transport connectivity not only reduced distances between cities but also linked people with new opportunities and supported economic growth. Operations began on October 20, 2023, with the inauguration of the 17-km priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot. The remaining sections were opened in phases, and the entire 82-km corridor was dedicated by PM Narendra Modi on February 22 this year, along with the Meerut Metro, it said.

Asian Para Games:
Sheetal equals world
record to reach
archery final

New Delhi.(Agency)

Sheetal Devi began India's Asian Para Games 2026 campaign in spectacular fashion on Monday, October 19, equalling the world record in the women's compound archery qualification round in Nagoya. The 19-year-old scored 704 out of a possible 720 points, bettering her own Asian record and setting the tone for India's campaign. The archer from Jammu and Kashmir delivered a near-flawless performance, registering 57 perfect 10s from her 72 arrows, including 32 Xs, which denote shots landing in the innermost scoring zone of the target. overs of play were possible.Sheetal, the Paris Paralympics bronze medallist,



surpassed her previous Asian record of 698 by six points. The world record of 704 was set by Turkiye's Oznur Girdi at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. The reigning Asian Games champion also improved on her own Asian Para Games record of 680, which she had set at Hangzhou in 2023. Sheetal had won two gold medals, in the individual and mixed team events, and a silver in doubles at the previous edition. She had raised the Asian record to 698 in March this year before producing an even better performance in Nagoya.

LaLiga: Mbappe stars
as Madrid beats
Sevilla 4-1ahead of El
Clasico



MADRID.(Agency)

Kylian Mbappe scored twice including one brilliant individual goal as Real Madrid thrashed Sevilla 4-1 on Sunday to climb into third in La Liga. Arda Guler, who was fortunate to avoid an early red card for an elbow, netted a spectacular opener before Mbappe's double and a rocket from Yan Diomande as Jose Mourinho side moved above Real Betis. Mbappe's first was a sensational strike, involving a roulette on the edge of Sevilla's box, and his second a chipped Panenka penalty.Champions Barca are six points ahead of Real Madrid before next weekend's Clasico at Camp Nou after thrashing Betis on Saturday, with Atletico Madrid second, sandwiched between Spain's giants. "We played a great game... we are a team and we work to improve, we've only been together for a very short time," Mourinho told Real Madrid TV. "It's hard to have the calm that other coaches enjoy at other clubs, given the scale of Real Madrid, but we're making the most of every minute we have." Mourinho lined up with Diomande on the left in place of suspended Brazilian winger Vinicius Junior, and brought Guler in as part of the midfield pivot.Vinicius's red card for hair-pulling last weekend provoked ire in the Spanish capital at officiating in Spain.

Bundesliga: Maza and Schick help Bayer
Leverkusen clip Freiburg's wings

After a shock defeat to promoted Elversberg, Leverkusen have now picked up 13 of a possible 18 points and sit fourth, level with third-placed Freiburg on points but behind on goal difference.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ibrahim Maza and Patrik Schick combined to score two goals as Bayer Leverkusen came from behind to beat in-form Freiburg 2-1 in the German Bundesliga on Sunday.After a shock defeat to promoted Elversberg in the season opener, Leverkusen have now picked up 13 of a possible 18 points and sit fourth,

level with third-placed Freiburg on points but behind on goal difference. Replaced by Bayern Munich atop the Bundesliga table after Vincent Kompany's men thumped RB Leipzig on Saturday, Freiburg host the Bavarian giants next weekend.Schick's goal 14 minutes from time made him the first Leverkusen player to score in each of the first six matches in a Bundesliga season."It was a lot of fun, especially against such a strong opponent. Huge respect to Freiburg but we showed what we can do," Algeria attacker Maza told DAZN. "Schicky and I are building some petty good chemistry. The more time we spend playing together, the better it's getting. It's going pretty well right now."Freiburg coach Julian Schuster said his side would learn from the defeat ahead of Bayern's visit next Sunday. "It was completely unnecessary that we lost and dropped points here today," he said.



Klopp called four Freiburg players up to the Germany squad for the first time and two of those combined for the opener with 14 minutes gone.Right-back Philipp Treu laid out a counter-attacking opener for Derry Scherhant with a clever flick.Five minutes

later, Schick played a smart one-two with former Aston Villa winger Moussa Diaby before flicking to Maza who slammed home.Schick blasted over the bar on the hour of the season after losing 2-1 at home against fellow strugglers Hoffenheim.Hoffenheim's Bambase Conte opened the scoring with his second goal in two games since a surprise call-up to Klopp's Germany squad in October.Wael Mohya pulled one back for the hosts just after the break but Alexander Prass put Hoffenheim back in front shortly afterwards as the visitors, who host Lyon in the Europa League on Thursday, won just their second game of the season.

Lyon go top of Ligue 1 as Monaco
fall to first defeat of the season

New Delhi.(Agency)

Ten-man Lyon held on for a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Nice to move top of Ligue 1 on Sunday, as previous pace-setters Monaco lost for the first time this season.Five teams are level on 14 points at the top of the table with Lyon heading Paris Saint-Germain, Paris FC, Lille and Monaco on goal difference.

Lyon head to PSG next weekend. "It's good to be top but it's not the most important thing," said Lyon coach Paulo Fonseca. "But having 14 points is very positive. Of course, that gives us confidence and greater responsibilities, but at this stage of the season it changes nothing."It was a close run affair for Lyon, playing in front of local boy and French cycling prodigy Paul Seixas, following Keito Nakamura's dismissal 20 minutes from time. Ivory Coast forward Elye Wahi, who opened the scoring for Nice on 18 minutes with his second goal of the season, was denied an injury-time equaliser by a razor-tight offside call.Two goals in three minutes turned the game around by half-time as Pavel Sul equalised by prodding home a rebound and Tanner Tessmann headed the hosts in front. Veteran Belgium midfielder Axel Witsel headed against the bar early in the second half while Wahi hit the post with a close-range header, shortly after Nakamura was dismissed for a high boot.Noah Cadiou's second-half penalty for Lorient prevented Monaco from returning to the top of Ligue 1 as the



principality outfit fell to a 1-0 defeat in Brittany on Sunday.Wing back Dembo Sylla earned the penalty on the hour mark at the Stade du Moustoir as he was felled by Monaco captain Denis Zakaria.Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky dived the right way, but Cadiou placed his spot-kick into the corner, to hand Monaco their first league defeat of the season. Stunning bicycle kick Paris FC joined the leading quintet as Lassine Sinayoko's injury-time penalty gave them a 4-3 victory over Rennes, who dropped to fifth, a point behind the leading five, despite forward Esteban Lepaul's hat-trick of penalties. Maxime Lopez twice gave the hosts the lead, only for Lepaul, who earned his first France cap in the recent international window, to equalise from the spot.Lassine Sinayoko looked to have given PFC the victory 14 minutes from time with a stunning overhead bicycle kick, only for Brazilian substitute Otavio's clumsy handball to hand Lepaul the chance to level up a third time.

Asian Para Games: Mona, Avani dominate 10m air
rifle as India bring home first gold medal

Bengaluru.(Agency)

India opened their medal account at the Asian Para Games 2026 with a commanding one-two finish in the women's 10m air rifle SH1 event on Monday, October 19. Mona Agarwal clinched gold with an Asian Para Games record of 250 points, edging out defending champion Avani Lekhara, who settled for silver with 249.6 points. The contest between the two Indian shooters went down to the finest of margins, with Mona finishing just 0.4 points ahead of Avani. The result also gave India their first gold medal of the campaign, with both shooters reaching the podium on Day 1 of the competition.Avani, the reigning Paralympic and Asian Games champion, had led the standings until the halfway point of the final. However, a 9.7 in the fourth series of the second stage allowed Mona to seize the advantage.Avani responded strongly under pressure, holding off challenges from South Korea's Yunri Lee and Kazakhstan's Aigerim Tulegenova, who briefly moved ahead of her. The Indian shooter recovered to secure silver, ensuring a memorable start for the Indian contingent.For Mona, the gold medal marked another major achievement in a sporting career that has risen rapidly since she took up competitive rifle shooting in December 2021.WHO IS MONA AGARWAL?



Born on November 8, 1987, in Sikar, Rajasthan, Mona contracted polio at nine months of age, affecting both her lower limbs. Before finding success in para-shooting, she explored several sporting disciplines, including para-athletics and para-powerlifting, and played an important role in women's sitting volleyball.In 2019, Mona captained Rajasthan's women's team to gold at the inaugural National Sitting Volleyball Championship. She began competitive rifle shooting in December 2021 and quickly established herself as a contender on the national and international stages.After winning a national silver medal in 2022, she earned bronze in the mixed team event at the 2023 World Shooting Para Sport World Cup in Osijek, Croatia. Later that year, she won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the World Cup in Changwon, South Korea.

How Archery Premier League is helping
Indian archers bridge the Olympic gap

India's archers continue to win medals at major international events, but Olympic success remains elusive. The Archery Premier League is seeking to bridge that gap through international competition, a faster format and pressure-

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's archers have enjoyed considerable success on the international circuit, winning medals at continental championships, World Cups and world championships. Yet, the Olympic stage remains a different challenge. For the Archery Premier League (APL), bridging that gap is the central objective, and its organisers believe the league is beginning to move Indian archery in the right direction. The second season of the APL in Hyderabad offered Indian archers more than an opportunity to compete for their respective franchises. It brought them alongside some of the world's best archers, introduced a faster competitive format and tested their ability to perform

under challenging conditions.Speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, APL chairman and director Anil Kamineni explained the thinking behind the league, recalling the question that prompted its creation.“We have been winning medals everywhere except at the Olympics. What is it that we are not doing right?” Kamineni recalled



asking.“We analysed the situation and found that several other sporting disciplines had benefited from having leagues of their own. We also noticed an improvement in athletes’ performances in those sports. So we thought, ‘Okay, let’s start our own league.’”The league was conceived as an attempt to address that gap, drawing on the success of franchise-based competitions in other sports and creating a different competitive environment for archery. LEARNING FROM THE BEST One of the APL’s central objectives is to bring leading international archers into the same competition as India's top performers. For younger Indian athletes, competing alongside established names

offers an opportunity to observe how elite competitors approach the sport, from their shooting routines to their handling of pressure.The exchange goes both ways. Kamineni said international archers had also spoken positively about competing alongside athletes from different countries, creating opportunities for learning across the field.The league has also brought recurve and compound archers together in the same competition. The two disciplines generally operate in separate competitive environments, but the APL has created opportunities for athletes to interact and compete as teammates. The mixed-discipline format is another attempt to broaden the sport's appeal while bringing together athletes who might otherwise have limited opportunities to share a competitive environment. FIVE SECONDS LESS The APL has also changed the pace of competition. Its format gives each team 120 seconds to shoot eight arrows in a set, working out to an average of 15 seconds per arrow. That is five seconds less than the conventional 20-second allowance per arrow in standard team formats.The shorter window demands quicker decisions. Archers must assess the conditions, settle into position and execute their shots without allowing the pressure of the clock to disrupt their accuracy.

Serie A 2026-27: Lazio crush
Juventus to move level with
Serie A leaders Inter; AC
Milan, Como also win

MILAN.(Agency)

When Anshul Kamboj made his Test debut in Lazio scored a statement win on Sunday, brushing Juventus aside 3-0 in Turin to move level on points with Inter Milan at the top of Serie A.Lazio trail the defending champions on goal difference, but 19 points is their highest total after seven league games, surpassing the 17 accumulated by Sven Goran Ericsson's team to open the 1999-2000 season.That side went unbeaten for their first nine games and ended up winning their second, and most recent, Serie A title, by one point from Juventus.

On Sunday, Lazio took control with a Danish double. Oliver Provstgaard, a 1.93m centre back, leapt high above the home defence after 37 minutes and guided a



header inside the far post.After 66 minutes, winger Gustav Isaksen, faced by a backpedalling fullback, drifted inside and placed a lo shot inside the far post. With three minutes left, substitute Fisayo Dele-Bashiru picked up the ball in his own half and cantered unhindered into the Juventus penalty area before sliding home his shot.ce. Right balance' AC Milan and Como both won earlier on Sunday to end the week in the top five.Milan held off visiting Atalanta 3-2 to end the weekend fourth, four points off the lead.

Sensex, Nifty trade flat as private bank earnings weigh, PSU banks rally

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Stock markets opened on a cautious note on Monday, with benchmark indices swinging between gains and losses as investors assessed the latest quarterly results from major private lenders HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.Elevated crude oil prices amid rising tensions around the Strait of Hormuz also weighed on sentiment, limiting the market's ability to extend last week's rally.

The BSE Sensex was trading at 74,729.27 in the latest closing session on Friday, while the Nifty 50 had settled at 23,146.15. In early trade on Monday, the Nifty 50 was at 23,161.50, up 15.30 points or 0.07%, around 9:38 am.The market opened amid mixed global cues after the Sensex and Nifty gained around 2.8% last week. Investors are now watching the December-quarter earnings season closely, with stock-specific moves likely to drive trading.

BANKING STOCKS IN FOCUS AFTER Q2 RESULTS

Shares of major lenders were mixed in early trade as investors assessed their latest quarterly performance.

Truecaller expects \$91 million tax claim from India over transfer pricing

Kolkata.(Agency)

Sweden's Truecaller said on Monday it expected Indian authorities to seek a tax claim of about 900 million Swedish crowns (\$90.85 million), including interest, after auditing its transfer pricing in the country.d..A transfer price is the actual price charged in a transaction between related entities, according to India's Income Tax website.

The caller identification app said it had received the first formal transfer pricing order from India for the 2022/23 financial year. A formal tax demand will follow.

The order, which relates to the allocation of revenue between Truecaller entities, proposes an adjustment of 270 million crowns in additional tax and interest, the company said.For the period between the financial years 2018/19 and 2023/24, the company said it expects a total liability of about 900 million crowns.However, it expects to get back about 350 million crowns in Sweden under double-taxation relief, putting its net potential exposure at about 550 million crowns.

Rupee rises to 94.80 against US dollar, but crude oil threatens recovery

New Delhi.(Ajency)

Rupee began the week on a cheerful note, inching towards the 94 mark against US dollar on Monday. The currency strengthened by 9 paise to 94.80 against the greenback in early trade, extending its recovery for a third consecutive session. This followed Friday's close of 94.89, when the currency had gained 10 paise.The Reserve Bank of India's structural forex interventions continued to support rupee, although elevated crude oil prices remain a key risk to sustaining the gains. Forex traders said that the currency has staged its sharpest rally in seven months, but sustained pressure from expensive crude, rising US treasury yields and continued foreign capital outflows has kept the currency under strain. The RBI has stepped up its market interventions amid these pressures.CR forex advisors MD Amit Pabari said the currency's movement below 95 over the past three sessions has brought the 94.80–94.70 range into focus.

Tata Sons reviews Articles of Association ahead of IPO, Tata Trusts' control at stake

Tata Sons is reviewing its Articles of Association ahead of a possible stock market listing. The exercise could reshape Tata Trusts' special governance rights while preserving its

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Tata Sons has begun reviewing its Articles of Association (AoA) ahead of a potential stock market listing, a move that could affect the special rights held by Tata Trusts over board appointments, voting and governance at the holding company of the Tata group, reported The Economic Times.The review is aimed at aligning the company's rules with Securities

and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) requirements for listed companies, according to the report. The proposed changes could cover the appointment of directors, independent board representation, voting rights and restrictions on share transfers.The development comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rejected Tata Sons' application to surrender its registration as a core investment company.Tata Sons must therefore comply with regulations governing upper-layer non-banking financial companies, which require such entities to list their equity shares within three years of being classified in that category.The review is at an early stage, and no final amendments have been approved.

WHY TATA TRUSTS' RIGHTS COULD COME UNDER REVIEW

Tata Trusts collectively own around 66% of Tata Sons, giving them majority ownership of the group's holding company. Under the existing Articles of Association, the Trusts

can nominate up to a third of the board.These provisions could need changes if Tata Sons lists its shares, as listed companies must comply with securities regulations governing



special shareholder rights and board composition.Under Sebi Regulation 31B, special rights granted to shareholders must be approved by shareholders at least once every five years. Public shareholders would play an important role in determining whether such rights continue.A listing would not automatically reduce Tata Trusts' majority stake in Tata Sons. However, the way the

Trusts exercise their influence at the board level could change depending on the final structure and applicable regulatory requirements.“The real issue is control, not compliance,” Harshal Anjaria, founder of Shreeyam Advisors, told The Economic Times.Certain decisions also require the affirmative vote of a majority of Trusts-nominated directors. A majority of these nominees must be present for a board meeting to constitute a quorum.

BOARD COMPOSITION AND APPOINTMENT RULES MAY CHANGE

A listed Tata Sons would also have to meet Sebi's requirements on independent directors. If its chairman is an executive director, at least half the board would need to comprise independent directors, according to the report.The process for selecting the chairman could also be reviewed. The existing five-member selection committee includes three nominees linked to Tata Trusts.

Sugar stocks fall up to 7%: Why shares are under pressure

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of sugar companies fell nearly 7% on Monday after the government directed oil marketing companies to stop using sugar-based products for ethanol production in the 2026/27 supply year, reported The Economic Times. The move is aimed at increasing domestic sugar supplies and easing prices, but it has raised concerns about the earnings of sugar mills that have invested in ethanol production.Bajaj Hindusthan Sugar led the losses, falling over 7%, followed by Shree Renuka Industries, which declined more than 6%. Balrampur Chini Mills dropped 4%, while Triveni Engineering and Industries fell over 3%. EID Parry and Dhampur Sugar declined more than 2% each.

WHY THE GOVERNMENT STOPPED SUGAR DIVERSION TO ETHANOL

The latest ethanol tender excludes supplies made from sugarcane juice, sugar syrup and B-heavy molasses, a by-product of sugarcane crushing that contains a high amount of sugar.

The decision limits the ability of sugar mills to shift sugarcane and molasses between sugar and ethanol production depending on market conditions. This could weigh on margins and returns from investments in ethanol-making capacity.The Centre's move comes as India, the world's largest sugar consumer, looks to increase domestic availability and bring down prices that

have reached record highs. Concerns that weak rainfall in key sugar-producing states could affect output have also added to supply worries, Reuters cited analysts at Motilal Oswal and Choice Broking as saying.

FESTIVE DEMAND ADDS TO CONCERNS OVER SUGAR SUPPLIES

Sugar consumption in India typically rises between August and November as festivals such as Ganesh Chaturthi, Dussehra and Diwali drive demand for



sweets, biscuits and other confectionery products.Ahead of the festive season, the government reduced the period for which sugar dealers can hold stocks to 15 days and capped their holdings at 1,000 quintals. The restrictions, effective from October 15 to November 30, 2026, are intended to prevent hoarding and ensure the steady movement of supplies through the market.Global supply concerns have also increased. Brazil, the world's largest sugar producer, has warned of harvest delays due to adverse weather. Its suspension of bi-weekly harvest and

production reports has further reduced visibility on the global supply outlook. In Europe, heatwaves and El Nio conditions across the European Union and the UK have raised concerns about tighter supplies. Regional sugar output estimates have been cut to 14.98 million tonnes. Thailand, the world's third-largest sugar producer, has also lowered its projected output by 15.6% to 9.5 million tonnes.Weather-related disruptions across major producing regions have changed expectations for the global sugar market.

While a surplus was anticipated at the start of the year, concerns over production have raised the possibility that supply could fall short of demand.According to Bloomberg, sentiment among sugar traders has turned more positive. Commodity Futures Trading Commission data as of September 29 showed that

net short positions in raw sugar had fallen to their lowest level in more than 21 months. This suggests that large speculators have significantly reduced their bets on falling prices.In Brazil, persistent heavy rainfall has disrupted sugarcane harvesting and milling. Green Pool Global has cut its sugar production estimate for the 2026/27 season in Central-South Brazil by 3%.Europe's production outlook is also challenging, with estimates from the EU Monitoring Agricultural Resources Unit indicating that the region's crop could be around 11% below its five-year average.

US 'very close' to finalising trade pact with India, says Marco Rubio

Mumbai .(Agency)

The US is “very close” to finalising a trade deal with India, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, while explaining how global energy supplies, oil prices and national security concerns influence Washington's decisions on Russian oil sanctions, according to ANI.

Rubio's remarks come ahead of his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in



Mumbai on October 20, Reuters reported. US CONSIDERS MULTIPLE FACTORS IN RUSSIAN OILS SANCTIONS

Speaking about US waivers on Russian oil and gas sanctions, Rubio said Washington had to consider their impact on global energy supplies and prices.“We've had to waive sanctions over the past few months because of the impact on global supplies and prices,” he said.Rubio added that the US takes several factors into account when making decisions on national security waivers, including the difficulties some countries face in securing energy from alternative sources.“Every country has a complex set of factors that it has to take into account. Geography is real. For some

countries, it's very difficult to acquire energy from alternative sources,” he said.

He added that these factors were not an excuse but needed to be balanced while making foreign policy decisions.

Rubio also linked the ongoing trade negotiations with India to the broader considerations involved in decisions on national security waivers.

INDIA-US TRADE DEAL IN FINAL STAGES

Rubio's comments come as India and the US continue to work towards concluding a bilateral trade agreement.Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal recently said that the first phase of the India-US trade pact had been finalised and was undergoing legal drafting. The government hopes to complete the process soon, he said.“The US bilateral trade agreement's first tranche has been finalised and it is going through final contours, the legal drafting and we hope to be able to finalise that soon and operationalise that once we get the competitive advantage over our peer countries,” Goyal said at an event in New Delhi, according to .The two countries announced a framework for an interim trade deal in February. However, the agreement has yet to be operationalised, amid prolonged negotiations.Goyal had earlier said that changing global circumstances would need to be considered while finalising the pact. On October 14, he described India-US relations as “very good” and said he did not see any problems in bilateral ties despite the delay in concluding the trade agreement.

Axis Bank shares crash 4% despite 38% profit jump: Should you buy the stock?

Kolkata.(Agency)

Axis Bank shares fell more than 4% on Monday despite the private sector lender reporting a 38% year-on-year rise in standalone net profit for the September quarter, as earnings fell short of market expectations and concerns over margins and operating costs remained.

The stock declined to Rs 1,232 on the BSE after Axis Bank reported a net profit of Rs 7,003 crore for the second quarter of FY27, compared with Rs 5,089 crore in the corresponding period last year. The profit was below the average estimate of Rs 7,124 crore, according to data cited in the report.The reaction highlights why a strong rise in profit does not always translate into gains for a stock. Investors also assess whether earnings meet expectations, how sustainable growth is and whether the bank can improve profitability in the coming quarters.

Axis Bank's net interest income (NII), the difference between interest earned and interest paid, rose 12% year-on-year to Rs 15,371 crore. However, its net interest margin (NIM), a measure of the profitability of its lending business, stood at 3.36%, down 10 basis points sequentially

WHY DID AXIS BANK SHARES FALL?

One concern is the pressure on margins. Centrum Broking noted that the bank's NIM declined sequentially, partly due to heavy foreign currency non-resident

bank (FCNR-B) flows. Adjusting for these flows, the brokerage said NIM improved marginally to 3.47%.

The bank's profit also saw a sequential decline of 1.5%, with weaker treasury gains and higher operating expenses weighing on performance, according to Centrum.Dolat Capital also flagged a decline in sustainable margins, while 360 One WAM noted that lower other income and higher operating expenses had affected the results.The trajectory of retail lending will also matter. Centrum said the sustainability of retail loan growth remains important for margin improvement, while Dolat Capital argued that continued retail growth would be needed to improve margins and return on assets.There were, however, positives in the results. Axis Bank's advances grew 23% year-on-year and 9% quarter-on-quarter. Its operating profit increased 6% year-on-year to Rs 11,083 crore, while core operating profit rose 11% to Rs 10,998 crore.Asset quality also improved. The gross non-performing asset ratio fell 30 basis points year-on-year to 1.16%, while the net NPA ratio declined 9 basis points to 0.35%. The net slippage ratio fell 30 basis points to 0.75%.

SHOULD YOU BUY AXIS BANK SHARES NOW?

Brokerages remain broadly positive on Axis Bank, although their target prices reflect different views on the bank's earnings outlook and margin recovery.



Kanpur Event Organiser Threatens
Legal Action Against

Anjali Arora

Over Kacha Badam Controversy

Social media influencer Anjali Arora, who rose to fame after a dance video to the song ‘Kacha Badam’ went viral, attended an event in Kanpur. Videos of her losing her cool at a DJ and slamming him for playing the song ‘Kacha Badam’ are going viral. Amid this, the organiser of the event has slammed the actress for her overreaction at the event. The organiser claimed that he and the team behind the event had no idea that the song would offend the actress, as it was the main stepping stone in her journey to fame. Speaking to State Media 24, the event organiser accused Anjali of staging a publicity stunt. The organiser said, “Yeh ek publicity stunt tha jo inke dwara kiya gaya tha. Har artist ko pata hota hai ki stage ki garima hoti hai. Agar stage par koi baat hui hoti, toh hum baad mein management team ke saath baithkar use clear kar lete,” and added, “Kacha Badam song bajne par Anjali Arora kyun offend ho gayi, iska jawab woh dekar nahi gayi hai.”

He further threatened legal action against Anjali and stated that he had invested lakhs of rupees in the event, particularly to bring Anjali in for a performance. However, he claimed that she barely appeared and left the stage within just 15 minutes after creating a scene. While videos of the incident are circulating all over social media, Anjali is yet to react or issue a clarification regarding the accusations.



What happened at the Kanpur event?

The videos that went viral featured Anjali Arora on stage as ‘Kacha Badam’ plays in the background. Soon after hearing the song, she turns around to speak to the DJ. One user wrote, “Anjali Arora got famous because of Kacha Badam, and now she’s getting angry at a DJ for playing the same song. What an irony.” Another user wrote, “Logo ko apni pehchan se samasya hai... waah... yahi hai downfall...” A third user wrote, “You won’t get a life of respect, no matter how hard you try.” Meanwhile, Anjali was recently seen playing the role of Sita in Mahakavya Shri Ramayan Katha. She was massively trolled after the film’s teaser was released. Earlier, she reacted to the criticism, saying that she did not feel upset by the backlash.



Aneet Padda's

Shakti Shalini NOT Pushed To 2027, Set To Clash With Shah Rukh Khan's King?

Aneet Padda’s Shakti Shalini is one of the most highly anticipated films, as it marks another chapter in the popular horror universe. Alongside Shakti Shalini, Shah Rukh Khan’s King is also among the most awaited films of the year. Earlier reports suggested that the Aneet Padda-starrer might be pushed to 2027 to avoid a clash with the Shah Rukh Khan-starrer, but it appears that the plans have changed.

It has been confirmed that the film remains scheduled to hit theatres on December 24, 2026. The release date appeared in a promotional video screened alongside Prahaar, confirming December 24 as the theatrical release date. With both SRK’s King and Aneet’s Shakti Shalini scheduled to arrive on the same day, it will be interesting to see which film dominates the box office in this mega Christmas clash. Vishal Jethwa, who stars alongside Aneet Padda in Shakti Shalini, had earlier addressed speculation about a possible delay in the film’s release.

Speaking exclusively to The Free Press Journal at FICCI FRAMES 2026, the actor acknowledged hearing the buzz, saying, “Maine bhi sune hain rumours,” and laughed off the reports.

About King

King was officially announced in November last year. The electrifying title reveal, released on

November 2 to mark Shah Rukh Khan’s birthday, introduced his silver-haired, action-driven look, an SRK-special theme song, and a striking dialogue delivered by SRK: “Darr nahi, Dehshat hoon.” With the release date revealed, anticipation for the film continues to soar.

Produced by Red Chillies Entertainment and Marflix Pictures, King marks Shah Rukh Khan’s first on-screen collaboration with his daughter, Suhana Khan.



About Shakti Shalini

Shakti Shalini was officially announced during Diwali last year. The title announcement promo was attached to Thamaa and introduced the central character with the descriptions: “The Protector”, “The Destroyer”, and “The Mother Of All”. The film marks another chapter in the expanding Maddock Horror Comedy Universe, which includes several interconnected titles that have found success at the box office.

Prateik Smita Patil Remembers 'Guardian Angel' Smita Patil On Birth Anniversary: 'I Feel Your Blessings...'



Actor Prateik Smita Patil penned an emotional tribute to his late mother, veteran actress Smita Patil, on her birth anniversary, describing her as his “guardian angel” and expressing his belief that their bond transcends the physical world.

Prateik took to Instagram, where he shared a string of pictures from the day he got married to actress Priya Bannerjee. The actor took to the caption section and said he continues to feel her blessings and protection through every moment of his life. “Happy forever heavenly birthday my guardian angel... this physical world was too weak to witness our love but we always had other plans... I feel your blessings and protection through every moment of my existence and more deeply with the moments in this journey that are meant to define me and understand who I really am and why we chose this journey together and for each other (sic),” Prateik wrote as the caption.

He added: “In retrospect i now understand how and why you’ve always been watching over me blessing me and protecting me from this cruel world through victory and defeat through the inevitable and deceit.... energy can neither be created nor destroyed but then we’ve so beautifully and carefully created an energy that was always written to be intertwined with our souls and be limitless and it most certainly can never be destroyed our spark will never fade our fire will never diminish our light will always burn bright.” Prateik is the son of Raj Babbar and Smita Patil. The couple first met on the sets of the 1982 film Bheegi Palkein. Prateik was born on 28 November 1986. The late star died from childbirth complications on 13 December 1986 at the age of 31. After her death, Prateik was raised by her parents in Mumbai. Smita Patil’s last work included Galiyon Ka Badshah. Directed by Sher Jung Singh, the film stars Raaj Kumar, Hema Malini, Mithun Chakraborty, Poonam Dhillon, Smita Patil, Aruna Irani, Ranjeet, Danny Denzongpa, Om Shivpuri, Iftekhar. The film was shot and completed several years before its delayed release and also marked the final film of Smita Patil, who died in 1986.

Nayyi Navelli Box Office Day 1: Yami Gautam's Film Earns Rs 3.25 Crore On Opening Day



Yami Gautam’s Nayyi Navelli has failed to impress the audience. The mythological drama released in theatres on October 16, 2026, but failed to make a mark at the box office. The film witnessed a slow start mainly due to the competition it faced from other major releases like Prahaar, Jailor 2 and Ranabhaali.

Nayyi Navelli Box Office Collection Day 1

According to Sacnilk, Nayyi Navelli collected Rs 3.25 crore on its opening day. The film did better than Rajkumar Rao’s Prahaar, which earned Rs 2.35 crore on Friday. However, it couldn’t match the opening of Yami Gautam’s 2024 film Article 370, which had collected Rs 5.90 crore on day one.

About The Film

In the film, Yami Gautam plays Mohini, a successful corporate executive who marries Raja Awasthi, played by Addinath M. Kothare. She moves to Meerut to start a new chapter with her husband and his rather unconventional family. But things get awkward when Raja’s brother, Bantu (Anurag Thakur), begins to suspect that Mohini is a daayan, or witch. And Bantu isn’t exactly keeping his suspicions to himself! He comes up with a series of bizarre arguments to convince the rest of the family that Mohini has a supernatural side. Soon, the household is filled with suspicion, strange accusations and plenty of chaos. As the story moves forward, Mohini’s true identity becomes an even bigger part of the mystery. “We watched it so you could save yourself the trouble. Nayyi Navelli fails to leave a lasting impression, offering neither the scares of a horror film nor the laughs of a comedy. The movie can cost you a ticket, popcorn and headache medicine.”

Nayyi Navelli OTT Release

The film’s posters have revealed Amazon Prime Video as its OTT partner. However, the makers are yet to announce the film’s official streaming date. In India, films usually arrive on OTT platforms around four to eight weeks after their theatrical release. Hindi films generally follow an eight-week window.

Go skintastic This summer!

Are skin woes dampening your summer spirit? Fret not, here's addressing a host of skin-related queries so that you can make the most of that gorgeous summer shift dress. Sweltering weather is synonymous with rising hems and plunging necklines. So don't let problem-ridden skin come in the way of daring summer dressing. "Eat for beauty," advises nutritionist and food consultant, Naini Setalvad. Paying a little attention to the changing needs of your body this summer can go a long way.

What are the diet essentials for the summer months?

Setalvad recommends a heavy breakfast, a light lunch and a medium dinner. "Fried food, red meat and dry fruits (except raisins) should be avoided. Eggs are heat producing and should be kept to a minimum; fish is a good option. Light grains like rice and wheat are okay for the diet but millets should be avoided," she states. "Yoghurt cools down the digestive system. So try to include raitas in your meals or use yoghurt as a salad dressing," she adds. Dr. Apratim Goel, dermatologist, says that antioxidants helps to counter the damage caused by over exposure to the sun. "Raw tomatoes are an excellent source of antioxidants. The bottom line for great summer skin, however, is maximum hydration," she explains.

How mommyhood Changes a woman

Becoming a mother is one of those experiences that changes a woman forever — and not just physically. These alterations are subtly visible in the way her personality undergoes a makeover once she gives birth and becomes engrossed in rearing her child. There are psychological, physiological and emotional changes, most of which are for the better — thereby elevating this phase in a woman's life to be one of the epitomes of her existence.

The deeply satisfying phase enriches her

Motherhood is demanding, however, at the same time, it is deeply satisfying too and this contentment enriches the mother to a large extent. Weight management and Ayurveda professional Dr Amrapali Patil says, "A mother instinctively knows that she is a special creation because she alone has been given the power to bring forth another human life and this builds up her resilience, character, strength, happiness, confidence, faith, love — all these characteristics reflect externally, making the mother look more charming and charismatic."

Hormones play their magic and enhances her beauty

A new mom -to-be's body is flooded with pregnancy-related hormones, say doctors. These tend to add a lovely glow to the skin, which make her appear radiant and fresh. The quality of her hair also improves, and hair fall reduces due to these hormones, say experts. The body develops soft curves and the breasts look fuller. Cosmetologist Dr Jaishree Manchanda says, "A woman's blood flow changes during pregnancy. This increased blood flow happens in order to help nourish the growing baby, but by a happy accident, it can make a woman look gorgeous and radiant too. So, once a woman is pregnant, her skin glows with an unmistakable radiance."



Motherhood becomes a source of strength

Being a mother requires strength and the process of going into labour and delivering a baby requires a woman to have faith and vanquish fear. Patil says, "This enhances her confidence further (a concept referred to as the Aishwarya Bhava in Maharishi Patanjali and Ashthanga Yoga). This adds to her internal stamina to take on life and manifests externally as enhanced body confidence." And one of the best things that a woman can wear is her confidence.

The immense power of pure love becomes a reality

Becoming a mother increases a woman's ability to love by many folds. Patil adds, "Love is a very powerful emotion and tends to make the facial features become tender, soft and less fierce. Such a face is more joyful, appealing and attractive."

Tips a mother can follow to enhance her beauty

Though one day in the year is not enough to celebrate motherhood, at least on Mother's Day, many acknowledge the mother who is invariably taken for granted on all other days. Mothers need to take care of themselves — their hair, skin etc and Dr Manchanda gives us tips...

Hair:

Have a healthy diet that is rich in antioxidants to strengthen the roots of your hair.

Acne:

The best natural ingredients to deal with this are aloe vera and eucalyptus.

Dark circles and puffy eyes:

Sleep for seven to eight hours, eat healthy and stay hydrated.

Skin:

Eat a lot of green leafy vegetables. Use cocoa butter, almond or olive oil on skin to avoid stretch marks.

peppermint or coriander drinks are ideal.

Does a predominantly fruit and vegetable diet ensure great skin?

Not all veggies are ideal for summer. Pumpkins, snake gourds, cucumbers, tomatoes and lettuce are good for light

the body tries to eliminate the accumulated toxins. Setalvad also suggests sprinkling dry ginger powder on mango in order to reduce the risk of flatulence.

What is the basic skin care regimen that one should follow during summer?

Your skin needs moisturising even in summer. Dr Goel recommends making an emulsion of your regular moisturiser by mixing

sunscreen?

'Sunscreen' is a golden word in summer. But it is a fact that it doesn't agree with all skin types. In such cases, make the most of physical protection in the form of broad-rimmed hats, sunglasses, full-sleeved cotton clothing, etc. "If sunscreen is too greasy for you, use aloe vera and calamine. This is especially good for acne-prone skin," says Dr Goel. He explains that over-the-counter sunscreens are of two kinds chemical and physical. "The chemical ones need to be applied 20 minutes prior to sun exposure whereas the physical ones (that contain titanium or zinc oxides and benzones) act instantly," she says.

Handy tips

- As inviting as they are, avoid pack aged facial wipes as most of them contain alcohol that could eventually harm your skin.
- Mineral water sprays are a good alternative when there is no provision for a face wash.
- Use a cold compress after long periods of sun exposure. It helps to instantly cool down the skin. Applying tomato juice or buttermilk relieves minor sunburn.



Hand makeup

What it is

People doing their eye makeup on their hands.

How it started

The idea behind the trend is to practise your eye makeup on your hand before committing to putting it on your face. But then, these designs just took on a life of their own. Some of them are so intricate that they look like the real deal.

How it's done

All you have to do is apply eye makeup the way you would normally, except that you do it on the upper part of your hand. You can experiment with all sorts of trends -glitter, cut crease and winged eyeliner, for instance..



10 Tips to rejuvenate your eyes this summer

You might have already started wearing your sunglasses and slathering on sunscreen thanks to the summer heat. In spite of taking all these

precautions, there are still high chances that you may end up catching an eye allergy because of the rising temperature. Here are some simple



yet effective tips that you can try to rejuvenate your eyes...

1. If you get conjunctivitis, ensure that you consult a doctor and use your eye drops regularly. Maintain hygiene so that it doesn't spread to people around you. Conjunctivitis is highly contagious so try to wash your hands as much as possible.
2. Do simple eye exercises every morning. This is especially essential for those who spend hours in front of the computer screen everyday. Wash your eyes with a splash of cold water at least twice a day.
3. To relax, place cucumbers on your eyes. This will provide a lot of relief to tired eyes.
4. If you are prone to dust allergy, use an eye compress.

5. Eat a lot of green veggies and protein-rich foods — these are excellent for eye health.
6. Don't expose your eyes directly to air conditioner. This may cause your eyes to get dry and sensitive.
7. Don't share your makeup products, especially the ones that are applied on your eyes. This may also result in spreading infection.
8. Give yourself an eye massage. Use your thumb and index finger to give your eyes a soothing massage. Much needed this summer!
9. If you are a swimmer, make sure to wear water goggles.
10. Sleep for at least six to eight hours a day. That in itself is a good way to rejuvenate your eyes. If you suffer from dry eyes, use soothing eye drops to get some relief. Don't forget to blink your eyes often.