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'Ground has shifted' under Modi govt; regime 'not here to stay': Sonia Gandhi in memoir

New Delhi . (Agency).

The "ground has shifted" under the Modi government's feet, Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi says, expressing her firm belief that the regime is not here to stay and that the government's actions demonstrate its insecurity.

In her memoir, Belonging: A Journey of Love, Gandhi says she senses the next generation's yearning for fairness, an end to oppressive systems and injustice. "It will take time, but I know the wheel will turn and they will succeed. They will retrieve the soul of our country and heal its wounds," she writes in the book, which hit the stands on Tuesday.The country's young men and women will safeguard its hard-won freedoms and carefully designed harmony, Gandhi says in the 526-page book, which traces her life from her childhood in Italy and meeting Rajiv Gandhi in Cambridge to his assassination and her entry into politics."As of this writing the government continues with its narrative that its power and popularity remain intact. But it's my belief that the ground has shifted under their feet. The mainstream media remains as partisan as before, but the government's actions demonstrate its insecurity," she says.

India, Canada Discuss Free Trade Pact Aimed At Boosting Bilateral Commerce

New Delhi(Agency).

India and Canada on Wednesday discussed advancing negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement, aimed at boosting two-way commerce and investments.The discussions were held between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and visiting Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade of Canada, who is leading a Canadian delegation.Both



sides discussed "advancing negotiations on the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and strengthening our bilateral economic ties," Goyal said in a social media post.The two ministers also exchanged views on the importance of a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement that delivers meaningful market access, leverages the complementarities of the two economies and creates new opportunities for trade and investment.Reaffirmed our shared commitment to taking the India-Canada economic partnership to new heights, with CEPA serving as a catalyst for deeper commercial engagement and shared prosperity," he said.

Veterans urge Rajnath Singh to save Air Force Sports Complex near PM's residence

In a letter dated November 5, signed by Wing Commander Ajit Kakkar (Retd) on behalf of AFSC veterans and members, the signatories have urged the Defence Minister to reconsider the decision to transfer the land to the Land and Development Office (L&DO).

New Delhi (Agency).

Air Force veterans and members of the Air Force Sports Complex (AFSC) have appealed to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to intervene in the closure and handover of the facility in New Delhi's Race Course area, seeking restoration of its previous status and protection of its sporting infrastructure.In a letter dated November 5, signed by Wing Commander Ajit Kakkar (Retd) on behalf of AFSC veterans and members, the signatories have urged the Defence Minister to reconsider the decision to transfer the land to the Land and Development Office (L&DO). They have sought the preservation of the complex's existing possession, access, facilities and institutional character.The veterans have also requested that no eviction, dispossession, closure, demolition or alteration be carried out while their representation is under consideration and a comprehensive review of the matter is undertaken.Describing the complex as an integral part of the Indian Air Force's



institutional legacy, the letter says it has remained associated with the force for nearly eight decades, contributing to sporting excellence, physical fitness and camaraderie among serving and retired personnel.The signatories have argued that the AFSC is much more than a sports and recreational facility. They have described it as a cherished space where generations of Air Force personnel and their families have built friendships and lasting memories.The letter also highlights the emotional significance of the complex for elderly veterans in their seventies, eighties and nineties, saying its closure would sever a longstanding connection with the institution to which they devoted their working lives.

VETERANS FLAG HERITAGE, GREEN COVER AT COMPLEX

The appeal has also drawn attention to the complex's extensive green cover and heritage trees, some of which reportedly date back nearly 300 years. The veterans have urged the authorities to take into account the site's historical, ecological and environmental significance before making any further decisions.They have sought a comprehensive review involving the Defence Ministry, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Indian Air Force.

I wish no ill of anyone: DK Shivakumar amid speculation of rift with Siddaramaiah

D K Shivakumar denied any discord with Siddaramaiah and said he wished no one ill. The remarks underline his emphasis on patience, conscience and inclusive governance amid political scrutiny.

Mysuru,(Agency)

Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has said he wishes no ill on anyone, including his predecessor Siddaramaiah, amid speculation about differences between the two leaders, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Shivakumar said he wanted to use his tenure to make a lasting and positive impact on people's lives. His remarks came after he dismissed speculation on Monday about differences with Siddaramaiah, saying there was no discord between them.Speaking at the release of researcher Ramya's book, Chalisuva Bande (The Moving Rock), in Mysuru on Wednesday, Shivakumar said he had worked with Siddaramaiah and had no intention of harming him or anyone else."I will do work that will remain in people's hearts during my tenure. I will not wish ill of anyone. I have worked with Siddaramaiah. I



am not a person who wishes ill of him or anybody else. I will not wish ill of anyone in the future either. This is my commitment," he said, according to a statement from his office cited by PTI.Reflecting on his political journey, Shivakumar said politics was difficult and required patience, perseverance and the ability to withstand criticism. "Swimming in politics is not easy. Reaching the shore after swimming is even more difficult. Some people are waiting to see whether I will be allowed to govern for one, two, three or six months and what I will do. The opposition is unable to digest my growth. Some cannot even utter my name," he said.Expressing faith in himself and the people of Karnataka, Shivakumar said he did not intend to deceive or trouble anyone. "I have no intention of cheating anyone, causing trouble or wishing ill of anybody. My desire is that no one should face unnecessary.

Harish Rawat rules out CM bid, sets sights on Congress win in 2027

Dehradun(Agency).

Former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat has said he is not in the race for the Chief Minister's post and that his main objective is to help the Congress form the state government in 2027, news agency Press Trust of India reported.As the Congress prepares for the Assembly elections through statewide campaigns, Rawat said he would not seek the chief minister's post or any other office if the party secured a majority.Calling speculation about his participation in the chief ministerial race baseless, Rawat said in a social media post on Wednesday, "Our party has many capable and qualified individuals for this role. Our goal is to ensure the formation of a Congress government in 2027. We aim to oust the BJP government and establish a Congress administration."Reflecting on his political journey, Rawat said the Congress had given him opportunities to rise from a booth-level worker to a Union minister and chief minister. He said he no longer had any desire for a particular position.

"I consistently strive to remind the public of the achievements of the Congress government, including those from my own tenure as chief minister, while highlighting the failures of the BJP government by way of comparison," Rawat said, according to PTI.Rawat also highlighted the Ankita Bhandari murder case, saying his objective was to secure justice for a "daughter of Uttarakhand" and bring the "VIP" allegedly linked to her murder to justice. He described the issue as important for the state and linked the demand for justice to the Congress's main political priorities.The former chief minister also raised allegations of a scam involving mid-day meals for schoolchildren and food supplies meant for pregnant women. He alleged that hundreds of crores of rupees had been siphoned off by depriving the intended beneficiaries of food.

Unforgivable: Akhilesh says Yogi Adityanath insulted Lord Krishna, vows BJP defeat

Lucknow(Agency).

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday accused Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath of insulting Lord Krishna through his alleged remarks about cowherds and claimed that the BJP would be defeated in the 2027 Assembly elections, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Yadav made the allegations in a post on X while sharing a video clip of Adityanath's remarks at an event in Uttarakhand a day earlier. In the clip, the



Chief Minister purportedly said that without people from the hill state, Yadav would have been grazing buffaloes in his native Saifai in Etawah.

"By using abusive language against 'Gopalaks' (cowherds), the Uttar Pradesh chief minister has, by implication, insulted Gopal, or Lord Krishna. This is unforgivable," Yadav said."First, he was involved, along with a big gang, in the theft of offerings, donations and contributions made to the Ram temple in Ayodhya, and gave them a clean chit out of fear that the truth might come out. Now he is attacking Lord Krishna. He is using such objectionable language because he wants to establish his own power, separate from Sanatan Dharma," Yadav alleged.

Navi Mumbai leads Centre's cleanliness rankings as Indore exits top city category

New Delhi(Agency).

Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai ranked as the cleanest city in India in the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025-26, the Central Government's annual cleanliness survey.



It was followed by Surat in Gujarat and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, while Madhya Pradesh's Rewa was declared the cleanest riverfront town and Uttarakhand's Rudrapur emerged as the cleanest Himalayan city.In the 10 lakh-plus population category, Greater Visakhapatnam emerged as the cleanest city, followed by Jabalpur and Lucknow. Among cities with a population of 3-10 lakh, Ujjain topped the cleanliness rankings, with Chandigarh and Guntur securing the second and third positions, respectively. The results of Swachh Survekshan 2025-26 were announced on Wednesday.

Indore, which had been ranked the cleanest city for eight consecutive years, was placed in a different category this year, securing the second position in the Mentor City category along with its partner town, Depalpur, under the newly introduced 'Swachh Shehar Jodi' initiative.The initiative is a city-to-city mentorship and peer-learning programme launched under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban. It involves 72 mentor cities and around 200 mentee cities. Based on their performance in the cleanliness survey, top-performing cities have been identified as mentors and paired with lower-performing towns.

Death threat to Arvind Kejriwal, caller seeks Rs 7 crore in Bishnoi gang's name

New Delhi(Agency).

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Jarnail Singh on Thursday said that a caller claiming to be a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang threatened to kill the party's national convenor and the former Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, and his daughter, Harshita Kejriwal, unless Rs 7 crore was paid as ransom.The MLA from Delhi's Tilak Nagar constituency has also alleged that he received a threatening phone call and WhatsApp messages from the caller. Singh approached the Mohali Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) on November 6 and lodged a complaint, mentioning that the caller had identified himself as a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.According to Singh's complaint, the caller demanded Rs 7 crore from Kejriwal and threatened to kill him and his daughter if the money was not paid.



Based on the complaint, Mohali Police registered a case under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act. The investigation has been assigned to Inspector Sunil Kumar of the Cyber Crime Police Station.The 58-year-old politician had also received a death threat in 2019, when he was serving as Delhi Chief Minister. His office had received emails threatening to kill him, following which the Chief Minister's Office lodged a complaint and the Delhi Police launched an investigation.

POLICE PROBE CALLER'S IDENTITY

Police are examining the call details, IP logs and location data linked to the mobile number used to send the threats to establish the identity of the caller.In his complaint, Singh also sought adequate security for Kejriwal and his family in view of the alleged threat.

Crime Branch arrests key accused in Sidhrawali murder case

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The Crime Branch Sector 40 team of Gurgaon police has arrested the key accused in the murder of 35-year-old Deepak, who was shot dead inside his Maruti Swift near Sidhrawali bus stand in Pataudi on Monday night.The accused, Monu alias Dholia, a resident of Narnaul in Haryana, is suspected to have been involved in the shooting. Police suspect that an old enmity between the victim and the accused and his associates could have led to the murder. Dholia,25, has ver dozen criminal cases against him and was held by Manesar crime unit in 2024 with a weapon.

According to sources, investigators are probing the rivalry to establish the motive behind the killing and determine whether other people were involved in planning or executing the attack.

Deepak was found dead inside his car on Monday morning, with his seat belt fastened and multiple bullet injuries. Police had recovered 18 empty cartridges from outside the vehicle. CCTV footage had also captured a person approaching the car and opening fire.

Two men injured in separate hit-and-run accidents

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two men sustained serious injuries in separate hit-and-run accidents in the city. In both cases, the vehicles involved fled the spots, and police registered FIRs against unidentified drivers after receiving complaints from the victims. While the accidents happened on Nov 6, police registered cases Tuesday.

In the first incident, Rishabh Kumar, who works at Radical Minds technologies inside the GoWork building in Udyog Vihar Phase 1, was walking home with two friends, Hari and Mayank, around 11pm-midnight on Nov 6, when a speeding truck hit him near Lynx Cafe. According to his complaint lodged at Udyog Vihar police station Tuesday, the truck's body struck him as it passed close by, knocking him down, after which its wheels ran over him. He sustained serious injuries and was taken to Manipal Hospital. The truck driver fled without stopping, and its registration number could not be noted.

Road crash victim's body dumped in vacant plot, car at site nails four

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Four men from Delhi have been taken into custody for allegedly dumping the body of a road accident victim in a vacant plot in Om Vihar Colony, police said Tuesday.

Tronica City Police received information on Nov 10 that the body of a man was lying in a walled plot near a wood godown in Om Vihar Colony. A team led by the station in-charge reached the spot and found injury marks on the head and back of the body.Four people were named in the incident: Sanjay; Sachin Tomar alias Bholu; Aditya Singh Rana, alias Aadi; and Tarun, son of Rajkumar. All four live in Chauhan Patti.

A field unit was called in. Inquest and postmortem proceedings were initiated. Police checked surveillance and CCTV footage from the spot, which first showed a Scorpio-N as suspicious. The footage then showed two people carrying the body, seated between them on a scooty, from the Sonia Vihar area in Delhi. The same people were seen near the godown where the body was found. The Scorpio-N was traced, and the owner and others linked to it were questioned.

Coal, firewood banned in hotel, restaurants, Gurgaon eateries told to switch to clean fuel

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Hotels, restaurants and eateries across the city have been directed to stop using coal and firewood as fuel, including in traditional tandoors, with the district administration ordering an immediate ban and directing civic authorities and pollution control officials to conduct inspections to enforce the restriction.Deputy commissioner Uttam Singh, in an order, directed all such establishments to switch to electricity-based, gas-based or other permitted clean-fuel appliances, in compliance with the Commission for Air Quality Management's (CAQM) revised directions under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP).The restriction prohibits the use of coal and firewood as fuel in eateries, including for operating traditional tandoors. It is aimed at reducing particulate matter and other pollutants released by burning these fuels, which adversely affect ambient air quality and public health, particularly during periods of deteriorating air quality in the



National Capital Region.

To ensure compliance, the municipal corporation, other concerned municipal authorities and regional officers of Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) have been directed to jointly enforce the ban. HSPCB's Gurgaon regional officers (north and south) will ensure that establishments stop using the prohibited fuels and shift to permitted clean-fuel alternatives.

Sub-divisional magistrates have also been asked to coordinate with municipal authorities and other enforcement agencies for effective implementation. The district information and public relations officer has been tasked with publicising the order to create awareness among establishments and the public.The administration has directed the concerned authorities to submit daily action-taken reports detailing inspections, violations detected and action initiated. These reports will be submitted to the concerned regional officer of HSPCB.

"The order follows CAQM's revised GRAP schedule dated Sept 29, 2026, which calls for strict enforcement of the existing prohibition on coal and firewood in tandoors at hotels, restaurants and open eateries," an official said.CAQM's direction no. 66, issued on Aug 5, 2022, had prohibited the use of coal and firewood, including in traditional tandoors, and required eateries to use electricity-based or clean-fuel gas-based appliances. HSPCB subsequently adopted CAQM's approved fuels list for NCR and non-NCR areas of Haryana through an order dated July 21, 2022.

Leopard search now in forest patch that wandering Sariska tiger stayed for months

Ghaziabad.(Ajency)

A leopard has been spotted inside the Jhabua forest patch in Rewari, the same one that a wandering Sariska tiger — ST-23030 — had made its home for several months in 2024, triggering a long wildlife operation to relocate it. The forest department on Wednesday sent six camera traps which will be set up to track the leopard's movement and establish its location before attempting to capture it.

The leopard was first spotted at the farms of Haryana Agricultural University (HAU)'s regional centre in Bawal, where a cage was installed after the sighting. It remained in the area for a day before moving towards Jhabua, around 20km away. Wildlife officials said pugmarks found in the area helped trace its route."Our team has identified the pugmarks. We have sent six camera traps to the area. The team will install them to track the animal's movement and establish whether it is a male, female or is it alone or with a young animal. We need to identify the areas it frequents before deciding where to place a cage," divisional wildlife oicer RK Jangra told .Oficials said the department is keeping a watch as the leopard is unlikely to remain in one location. The Jhabua forest, spread across around 750 acres, had earlier drawn attention when Sariska's tiger ST-2303 reached the area two years ago. The tiger was later shifted to Rajasthan's Ramgarh reserve several months after the animal stayed there.

The leopard's presence has raised concern because Jhabua is largely surrounded by agricultural plains, while the Aravalis are 70-80km away.

Residents have complained to the wildlife department that HAU campus had around 10 dogs, none of which has been seen since the leopard was spotted. However, officials have not confirmed whether the dogs were attacked by the animal.

Nearly 80% faulty meters still await fix, Haryana discom sets Nov 30 deadline

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

Nearly four out of five electricity meters identified as defective across Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN) areas are yet to be replaced, prompting the discom to give its field oficials 20 days to clear the backlog.Of the 34,525 defective meters that have remained unreplaced for more than three billing cycles, only 8,030 (23.26%) had been changed till Nov 10. The remaining 26,495 must be replaced by Nov 30, following a deadline set by DHBVN managing director Vikram Singh at a meeting of the discom's board of directors on Tuesday.Hisar and Delhi zones together account for nearly 77% of the pending cases. Hisar has the highest number of replacements pending at 17,101, with 3,403 meters



already changed. In the Delhi zone, 4,627 meters have been replaced, while 9,394 remain pending.Singh directed the chief engineer (material management) to ensure adequate stocks of electricity meters at every store, so field staff do not face shortages during the replacement drive. He also asked all superintending engineers to closely monitor progress in their respective circles and ensure that no case pending beyond three billing cycles is left unattended.The discom will share weekly progress reports every Friday to track replacements and identify circles falling behind. Circles with comparatively fewer pending cases have been asked to prioritise and clear their remaining backlog.Singh stressed that there should be no laxity in the exercise, as timely replacement of defective meters is essential for accurate electricity billing and better consumer service.

PM2.5 stays elevated for 2 days after Diwali in Gurgaon, second-day level up 70% from last year

Gurgaon.(Agency))

Air pollution in the city remained elevated for two days after Diwali, with PM2.5 levels on the second day rising nearly 70% from last year, according to a comparison of festival-period data over the past decade.PM2.5 concentration stood at 184 micrograms per cubic metre (µg/m³) on the second day after Diwali, compared with 108 µg/m³ in 2025 and 112 µg/m³ in 2024. The level, however, was lower than the 205 µg/m³ recorded on the same day in 2023.

A day after Diwali, PM2.5 was recorded at 213 µg/m³, down from 242 µg/m³ in 2025 but higher than 153 µg/m³ in 2024. This year's reading was also below the 282 µg/m³ recorded on the corresponding day in 2023.

The concentration declined by about 14% between the first and second days after Diwali, from 213 µg/m³ to 184 µg/m³. Even so, the second-day level was 23% higher than the Diwali-day concentration of 150 µg/m³.PM2.5 refers to particles that are 2.5 microns in diameter, about one-thirtieth the width of a human hair. These fine particles can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter the bloodstream when inhaled. Prolonged exposure can aggravate or trigger cardiac and respiratory illnesses.Explaining why pollution remains high after Diwali, air analyst at CREA Manoj Kumar said atmospheric mixing conditions determine how quickly pollutants disperse."During the afternoon, the boundary-layer height, or mixing-layer depth, was at its highest. So, whatever crackers are burst in the morning gets dispersed during the day. But the mixing-layer height reduces at night, leading to lower atmospheric dispersion and accumulation of pollutants. When crackers are burst in the evening, pollution keeps accumulating, with concentrations generally peaking between midnight and early morning, around 1am to 5am," he said.He said the reduction in mixing-layer height at night limits the vertical movement of pollutants, allowing emissions to build up closer to the ground and affect pollution readings the next morning.A decade-long comparison shows the highest post-Diwali PM2.5 concentrations were recorded in 2021, when levels reached 439 µg/m³ on the first day after Diwali and 363 µg/m³ on the second day.

Road rage murder accused who was hiding in Noida park shot at in gunfight with cops

Noida.(Agency)

Two days after a man was killed in a road rage incident outside a park near Naya Bans in Sector 15, a suspect has been arrested from the Sector 3 area after a gunfight. The cops have also apprehended the minor who was named in the FIR filed after the murder.Police said Aftab alias Tussi killed Amit (25) and battered his friend Shivam after Shivam's scooter brushed past his feet outside the park on Nov 9. Aftab was there with his friends Golu, Abhishek Pandit and a teenager to celebrate the birthday of another acquaintance.A verbal altercation



between Shivam and Aftab soon turned violent. Amit too was caught in the fight. Amit sustained fatal head injuries, and his friend Shivam was injured in the attack.

Their friends Vinod and Yashpal took them to a hospital where Amit was declared dead. Shivam was referred to a higher medical facility. Police said his condition was stable.Based on a complaint filed by Amit's father, a case was registered against Aftab, Golu, Abhishek and the teenager under BNS sections for murder and attempt to murder at Phase 1 police station.Additional deputy commissioner of Police Abhay Kumar Mishra said they were tipped off at 2 am on Wednesday that Aftab, who had been absconding since the murder, was hiding at a park in Sector 3 and was allegedly planning to flee the area.

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Ghaziabad noise level twice safe limit on Diwali night despite 3-year dip



Gurgaon.(Agency)

Noise pollution in the city breached permissible limits by a significant margin during Diwali celebrations on Nov 8 night, with residential zones recording some of the highest violations. UP Pollution Control Board Ambient Noise Quality data showed Diwali day noise level was nearly double the UPPCB's safe limit standard — ambient noise standards for residential areas are 50 dB(A) by day and 40 dB(A) at night. However, Diwali night was quieter this year as compared to the last three years.

UPPCB had set up two noise pollution monitoring stations in the city at Vasundhara Sector 16 and Model Town a week before Diwali to get comparative noise pollution data. On Diwali day (Nov 8), the ambient noise was recorded at 76.98 dB(A) from 2 pm to 12 am at Vasundhara. At Model Town station, it was recorded at 76.98 dB(A)."On Nov 1, the reading for the same time period at Vasundhara Sector 16 station was 60.31 dB(A), and at Model Town station, it was 59.93 dB(A). It was about 17 notches more," an UPPCB ocial said.At the Vasundhara Sector 16 station, noise on Diwali day was 79.26 dB(A) last year, 80 dB(A) in 2024 and 87.1 dB(A) in 2023. At Model Town, the readings were 75.66 dB(A) in 2025, 78 dB(A) in 2024 and 79.3 dB(A) in 2023.The dB(A) scale accounts for the sensitivity of human hearing to different frequencies and is the most common measure of noise because it reflects how people perceive sound.

Ambient noise standards for commercial areas are 55 dB(A) by day and 45 dB(A) at night.

Stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana 'barely' influenced Delhi's AQI in 2024-2026: Report

New Delhi: A new analysis of Delhi AQI data for September-October of 2024-2026 has found that the air quality in the national capital was barely influenced by stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana, according to a Delhi-based climate research organisation's report released on Wednesday. The report by Climate Trends further said that local, non-agricultural sources played a larger role in determining Delhi's air quality. Fire events in Punjab and Haryana were essentially unchanged between 2025 and 2026, down just four per cent (201 to 193), yet Delhi's AQI fell 15.8 per cent over the same period. Between 2024 and 2025, by contrast, fires dropped 88 per cent while Delhi's AQI fell 3.9 per cent, it said. However, the report highlighted that Delhi AQI's improvement in recent years hides "a worse ordinary day." It states that while mean AQI fell from 169.3 to 142.6 between 2025 and 2026 – a 15.8 per cent drop – the median AQI, the one most people in Delhi actually breathed, got dirtier. The median AQI rose from 135 to 154, up 14.1 per cent in the same period. Notably, the mean AQI is the plain average of every day's readings, while the median AQI is the middle value in the daily readings arranged from lowest to highest. The median AQI is considered a better measure of the ordinary, typical day, and is barely affected by one or two extreme spikes. "The improvement comes almost entirely from the near-disappearance of extreme days: AQI above 200 fell from 10 days to three, and nothing crossed 300, compared with a peak of 353 the year before. This is a flattening of the worst spikes, not a cleaner autumn (September-October) overall," the analysis said. It also found that in the September-October period this year, weather conditions, which should have typically worsened pollution, did not do so, because of strengthening El Nino conditions and a fall in rainfall, which was 78.2 per cent lower during the period compared to the corresponding period in 2025. "This narrows the likely explanation toward something changing in Delhi's own emissions rather than the sky or the fields," the analysis said.



Nuh police have arrested three cyber criminals allegedly involved in fraudulent bookings on the Rapido app and scams involving the purchase of old currency notes and coins. Four mobile phones and SIM cards were recovered from the accused, and two separate cases were registered at the cyber police station in Nuh. According to police, a complaint surfaced on Tuesday during the screening of suspicious mobile numbers on the 'Samanvay' portal. The complaint was filed by Sudhir Kanojia, a resident of Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. Acting on the complaint and technical data, a police team traced the mobile number to an empty field near the road connecting Singar and Nai villages. The team arrested the accused, identified as Mustakim, a resident of Nai village. A mobile phone containing the relevant SIM card was recovered from his possession. The police found that WhatsApp and the Rapido app accounts linked to the mobile number were logged in on the phone. Images related to barcodes and Rapido ride bookings were also found in its gallery. In a separate operation on Tuesday, police arrested two other accused, identified as Sabir and Asap Ali alias Osaf, residents of Daurakhi village, near Salamba bypass. During the search, two mobile phones were recovered from Sabir, while a mobile phone and four additional SIM cards were seized from Asap Ali alias Osaf. The recovered phones contained WhatsApp and WhatsApp Business accounts logged in using various SIM numbers. One of the phones also had a PhonePe account logged in. The police said the two accused concealed their identities and lured people with promises of buying old currency notes and coins at high prices. They subsequently defrauded their victims by collecting 'registration fees' through QR codes.

Delhi's average AQI falls, but typical air quality worsens

New Delhi: Delhi's air may appear to have improved this autumn, but the numbers tell a more complicated story. An analysis of data for September and October from 2024 to 2026 found the fall in average AQI was driven largely by fewer extreme pollution days, while the air on a typical day actually became dirtier. The analysis, released by Delhi-based climate research organisation Climate Trends, also found little evidence stubble burning in Punjab and Haryana was the main factor determining Delhi's air quality during the period. Instead, it said local, non-agricultural sources played a larger role. The contrast is clearest in the year-on-year figures. Between 2025 and 2026, fire events in Punjab and Haryana fell by only 4%, while Delhi's mean AQI dropped by 15.8%, from 169.3 to 142.6. Between 2024 and 2025, fires fell by 88%, but the mean AQI declined by only 3.9%. Yet the median AQI, which represents the middle value of all daily readings and is less affected by extreme spikes, moved in the opposite direction. It rose from 135 in 2025 to 154 in 2026, an increase of 14.1%. The analysis said the apparent improvement came "almost entirely from the near-disappearance of extreme days". AQI readings above 200 fell from 10 days to three, while no day crossed 300 this year, compared with a peak of 353 the previous year. The findings also come despite weather conditions that would normally have worsened pollution. Rainfall during September and October was 78.2% lower than in the corresponding period of 2025, while strengthening El Niño conditions were cited in the analysis. With the number of fires in the fields showing little change and weather conditions offering no obvious explanation, the analysis said: "This narrows the likely explanation towards something changing in Delhi's own emissions rather than the sky or the fields."

NGT orders fresh inspection of illegal industrial units in East Delhi

New delhi: A Bench comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava, Chairperson, and Dr Afroz Ahmad, Expert Member, was hearing an application, alleging that certain industrial units, identified as Respondents No. 7 to 42, were operating illegally and causing pollution through activities such as metal surface treatment, pickling, nickel electroplating, powder coating, glass melting, heat treatment, phosphating, anodising, galvanising and fabric dyeing. The Tribunal took note of previous inspections in which certain premises were found locked, preventing officials from ascertaining the nature of the activities being carried out inside them. The Tribunal observed that authorised officials of the Municipal



Corporation of Delhi (MCD) are empowered under the relevant provisions of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, particularly Sections 431 and 433, to enter and inspect premises and, where legally applicable, open locked premises in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The MCD submitted that it would take appropriate action if adequate police protection, including personnel equipped with body cameras, were provided. The representative of Respondent No. 43 expressed no objection to providing the necessary police force. The joint committee constituted by the Tribunal on November 8, 2024 has been directed to conduct a fresh inspection, particularly of premises that could not be inspected earlier because they were locked. The Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Yamuna Vihar, will remain present during the next inspection along with the joint committee. A representative of the Chief Executive Officer, BSES Yamuna Power Limited, has been included in the joint committee. If any unit is found to be operating illegally, BSES Yamuna Power Limited will take prompt action to disconnect its electricity supply. The applicant has been directed to provide the geographical coordinates of other allegedly illegal units in the area, which must also be inspected by the joint committee. The joint committee must submit its inspection report at least one week before the next hearing. The District Magistrate, North-East District, Delhi, continues to serve as the coordinating agency for the joint committee.

The robbery took place on August 27, when the complainant's bag containing Rs 44 lakh was allegedly snatched at gunpoint

New Delhi: Delhi Police has arrested all six accused, including the alleged main executor, in a daylight armed robbery of Rs 44 lakh in Shahdara, recovering over Rs 26 lakh in cash and a pistol, an official said on Tuesday. The robbery took place on August 27, when the complainant's bag containing Rs 44 lakh was allegedly snatched at gunpoint, he said. The main accused, Satyam Vishwakarma alias Devil, was formally arrested on October 16 after being brought from Uttar Pradesh on a production warrant. He was subsequently taken on four-day police custody, during which he led investigators to the recovery of the weapon allegedly used in the robbery, they said. The pistol, along with its magazine, was recovered on October 18 from roadside bushes along the Haliyapur-Kurwar Road near the Gomti Kurwar Bridge in Uttar Pradesh's Sultanpur district, where the accused had allegedly discarded it while fleeing. Police said the other five accused arrested in the case are Pranjay Tiwari, Sarab Tiwari alias Praful, Ambrish Tiwari alias Chanchal, Gaurav Tiwari and Ram Jeet. According to the investigation, Pranjay allegedly acted as the insider who provided information about the timing of the cash movement, enabling the robbery. Sarab allegedly connected him with the execution team, while Ambrish allegedly accompanied the main accused during the robbery. Gaurav allegedly arranged accommodation for the accused, and Ram Jeet allegedly provided a getaway vehicle and helped them evade arrest. During the initial phase of the investigation, police recovered Rs 3.90 lakh and seized a car allegedly used in the crime, along with three mobile phones. In a subsequent operation in Sultanpur, police recovered another Rs 22.51 lakh from the possession of the main accused's 19-year-old sister, who was bound down for allegedly facilitating the concealment of the stolen cash, officials said. The total cash recovery in the case stands at Rs 26,41,500, they added. Police said the investigation involved sustained raids in Uttar Pradesh and efforts to track the accused and the stolen money across state borders. The main accused has now been remanded to judicial custody. The accused have previous criminal involvements in cases registered in Uttar Pradesh, including offences relating to assault, criminal intimidation and cheating, according to police records. A case was registered under relevant provisions of the BNS at MS Park police station. Further investigation is underway.

Elder brother stabs sibling over drinking habit in Delhi, held

New Delhi: The accused, identified as Pankaj Kumar, alias Pintu (38), has been apprehended, and the knife allegedly used in the crime has been recovered, the police said. The victim, Rinku, was taken to Rajiv Gandhi Hospital, where he is undergoing treatment. According to preliminary inquiry, the incident occurred after a dispute between the two brothers escalated into a violent altercation. Pankaj allegedly stabbed Rinku with a knife during the confrontation. The police said the dispute stemmed from Rinku's alleged habitual drinking, which his elder brother and father reportedly objected to. Another altercation allegedly took place on the day of the incident when Rinku was under the influence of liquor, leading to the stabbing. A case has been registered under relevant sections of law at the Nand Nagri police station. Further investigation is underway.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANIL KUMAR S/o MADAN KUMAR R/o B – 516 G/G , Block – B , J J Colony , Madipur , PO : Paschim Vihar , Dist : West Delhi , Delhi – 110063 have changed the name of my minor son KUNAL alias KUNAL DHOLKHADIYA aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as KUNAL DHOLKHADIYA

NAME CHANGE

I, LAXMI / LAXMI DEVI W/O RAVI SHANKAR R/O PLOT NO-217,1ST FLOOR,BLOCK-A,SECTOR-8,DWARKA,DELHI-110077,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO LAXMI SHANKAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as KAILASH S/o NANAK CHAND R/o GF 4 , M – 21 , Sector – 12 , Partap Vihar , Vijay Nagar , PO : Ghaziabad City Dist : Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh – 201009 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KAILASH CHAND

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, EKTA GUPTA D/o KRISHAN KUMAR, Ex-wife of ANKIT MITTAL, R/o B-144, Street No. 4, Jyoti Colony, Shahdara, PO Shahdara, Distt. North East Delhi, Delhi-110032, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide court decree HMA No. 2683/25 dated 06.12.2025. Further, I have changed the name of my minor son RAGHAV MITTAL aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as RAGHAV for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as HAINI W/O Kaptan Singh R/O H. NO-21, VTC-KAKROLA VILLAGE, District-South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HONEY.

NAME CHANGE

I, PRIYANKA GOYAL W/O PUNEET R/O BABRA MOALLA, HOUSE NO-259/9, KHATIYAN GALI, ROHTAK, HARYANA-124001 have changed my name to PRIYANKA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shaksham Bakshi S/O Sanjeev Bakshi R/O 10/127 1st Floor (Right Side) Malviya Nagar Delhi 110017 have changed my name to Saksham Bakshi for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, PRAVEEN SHEEGIHOLI S/O NAGAPPA SHEEGIHOLI R/O H NO-44, LIG Flats, Pocket D, GTB Enclave, Nand Nagari, Nand Nagari Nct Of Delhi-110093 declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as PRAVEEN NAGAPPA SHEEGIHOLI and SUSHMA PRAVEEN SHEEGIHOLI in my minor son PRINCE PRAVEEN SHEEGIHOLI aged 07 years in his school records. The actual name of mine and my wife are PRAVEEN SHEEGIHOLI and SUSHMA S KOLI respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SHAHINA D/O FAHIM AHMED KHAN R/O D-2, Taj Enclave, Link Road, Near C N G Patrol Pump, Geeta Colony, East Delhi, Delhi-110031 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHAHINA PARVEEN KHANAM

NAME CHANGE

I, SHANET S/o KAMAL JEET R/o. WZ- 50-A THIRD FLOOR, FRONT SIDE, OM VIHAR PHASE-3, UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059 have changed my name to SHANET AJMANI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, CHHABI SHARMA W/O SHRIKANT SHARMA R/O HOUSE NO-314/23, GALI NO-3,HIRA NAGAR, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANKITA SHARMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, ROHIT S/O BRIJESH KUMAR SINGH R/O 231, STREET NO-1, RAVI NAGAR, BASAI ROAD, NEAR DARONA PUBLIC SCHOOL,GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ROHIT KUMAR SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, VIKASH KUMAR REKHAN S/O MANOJ REKHAN R/O M155, SECOND FLOOR, SOUTH CITY 1, NEAR CREATOR GYM, GURUGRAM, HARYANA-122003 have changed my name to VIKASH REKHAN for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I Naveen Kumar S/o Bhagwat Prasad Jangra R/o 09 Hanuman Mandir Marg Block-C Ashok Vihar Phase-2 Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name to Naveen Jangra for all purpose

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client **Mr. Rahul Sharma S/o Surendra Sharma (GPA Holder)** in respect of **First Floor without roof rights, area measuring 40 Sq. yards, Built up on Property Bearing No. V-987, out of Khasra No.38, Situated at Village-Ghonda Gujran Banger in the abadi of Arvind Mohalla, Ghonda, Illaqa-Shahdara, Delhi-110053** claiming to have undisputed ownership. Now my client intends to sell the property in which **SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited** will provide the financial assistance If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within Seven days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SURYA PRAKASH S/O VASUDEVA R/O H.No.-A-162, Street No.-4, Gokal Puri, North East, Delhi-110094, declare that name of my mother and my father have been wrongly written as VASUDEV and SUNITA in my 10th and 12th class educational documents and name of my father has been wrongly written as VASU DEV in my Caste Certificate No. SC/04/42/9829/29/8/2008/82051/11589. The actual name of my father and my mother are VASUDEVA and SANTOSH respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MR. SURENDER SOLANKI IS OWNER AND IN POSSESSION OF "PLOT BEARING NO. A-1/123/1-A, AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 38, SITUATED IN THE ABADI OF VILLAGE DABRI, WITH LAL DORA, NEW DELHI." AND ACQUIRED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE GPA (REGD.) DATED 02.07.2010 EXECUTED BY MR. RAM CHANDER IN FAVOUR OF MR. SURENDER SOLANKI. NOW MR. VIKAS KUMAR BHARDWAJ IS GOING TO PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY, FROM OWNER / SELLER MR. SURENDER SOLANKI, WHICH WILL BE MORTGAGED WITH TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST HOUSING LOAN FOR PURCHASING OF SAID PROPERTY. PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO UNDERSIGNED IF ANYONE HAS AN OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE
E-16, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032.
MOBILE NO. 9958996685.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ANJU BADUGU W/O RAJNEESH KUMAR BADUGU R/O E-106/3A FIRST FLOOR STREET NO 7 KRISHNA NAGAR SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE SOUTH WEST DELHI-110029, have changed my name from ANJU SINGH to ANJU BADUGU by virtue of my marriage with RAJNEESH KUMAR BADUGU and shall hereafter be known as ANJU BADUGU

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AYAAN NAVED S/O MOHD.NAVED R/O House Number - 5363, kucha Rehman, chandni Chowk, Delhi G.P.O, PO: Delhi, DIST: North Delhi - 110006 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHD AYAN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MR. VIKAS PAHWA IS OWNER AND IN POSSESSION OF "PROPERTY AS RESIDENTIAL BUILT UP KOTHI OF KHASRA NO. 411, AREA MEASURING 300 SQ. YARDS, SITUATED IN LANE NO. 12, FOREST LANE, VILLAGE NEB SARAI DELHI-110068" AND ACQUIRED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE NOTARIZED GPA, SPA, ATS DATED 13.11.2018 EXECUTED BY MR. KARAMVEER. NOW MR. ANUP KUMAR SHARMA AND MRS. MEENAKSHI SHARMA ARE GOING TO PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY, FROM OWNER / SELLER MR. VIKAS PAHWA, WHICH WILL BE MORTGAGED WITH TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST HOUSING LOAN FOR PURCHASING OF SAID PROPERTY. PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO UNDERSIGNED IF ANYONE HAS AN OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION.

ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE
E-16, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032.
MOBILE NO. 9958996685.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUMITRA Spouse of BENKAT RAMAN TIWARI residing at VILL-ATAKHARIYA, PO-SUKULPUR, DIST-PRAYAGRAJ, UTTAR PRADESH-212305, have changed my name from SUMITRA to SUMITRA TIWARI vide Affidavit dated 12/11/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NOSHAD KHAN S/O BABU KHAN R/O 9, SHAHNAGAR, BULANDSHAHR, UTTAR PRADESH-203001, have changed the name of my minor son ARSHAD KHAN aged 12 years and he shall hereafter be known as ARSHAN KHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as MUNNI W/O SHARAVAN KUMAR R/O 477, Sanjay Camp, Dakshinpuri Extn, Dakshinpuri, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi -110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as KANCHAN DEVI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is Publicly informed that my client Mr. Anoop Kumar Pandey S/o Vidyadhar Pandey R/o. Plot no. 581 Sai Enclave Block A Dadri Dhoom Manikpur Gautam Buddh Nagar Uttar Pradesh 203207 is the owner of Kumar Pandey in respect of A Part of Residential Plot No. 24, Total Area Measuring 50 Sq. Yds., i.e. 41.8 Sq. Mtrs., pertaining to Khasra No. 581, situated at Village Dhummanikpur, (inside Sai Enclave Phase-02), Pargana and Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh. (Regd. Vide Document No. 63068, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 23452, on Pages No. 87 to 106, SRO: Dadri, Gautam Budh Nagar). (hereinafter called the said property), vide Sale Deed Dated 08.10.2021.
That Title Documents Prior to Sale Deed dated 18.12.2025 has been lost/misplaced and not traceable. That my client intends to mortgage said property with AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. That my client have clear titles and have no third-party interest.
All the persons, if any, including bank, financial institutions, having interest in respect of or against the said property are hereby required to make the same known in writing within 07 days with the documentary evidence from the date of publication, failing which the said claim of the person/s, if any will be considered waived and Settled.

Advocate Prateek tyagi
Mob_ 8851611865

LOST & FOUND

I, Mr. Surender Suri, Son of Late Mr. Attar Chand Suri, Resident of House No. 74, Street No. 3, Shivpuri, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have lost original GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY dated 31/12/2024 which was executed by Mr. Nikhil Gheek in my favor from 09/10/2026. Despite diligent efforts, the said document is untraceable. Anyone finding the same or having any information regarding the document is requested to contact the authority or is requested to send it directly to the address mentioned above. For further discussion, kindly inform me at the contact details mentioned below.

9810439939

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client **Mr. Khem Chand,** who is purchasing the House No.56, admeasuring 167.22 Sq. Mtrs., carved out of Khasra No.352, situated in the revenue records of Village Bhalswa, Jahangir Pur, Guru Nanak Dev Colony, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi-110042 from Mr. Om Prakash Vasan S/o. Mr. Shyam Dass Vasan who is the owner/ Attorney Holder Vide GPA, ATS and WILL dated 21.09.2002 and Conveyance Deed (PM-Uday) dated 14.01.2026, which is Registered as Document No.2026/15/I/1398, Sub-Registrar, VI-A, Pitampura, Delhi, on 23.01.2026. claiming to have dual name i.e. Mr. Parkash Vasan S/o. Mr. Shyam Dass and Mr. Om Prakash Vasan S/o. Mr. Shyam Dass Vasan (Aadhar Card no. 2746 1406 2525) and (Pan Card no. ADPPV3415L) and both are same. As different name appear in GPA, ATS and WILL dated 21.09.2002 it is written as Mr. Parkash Vasan S/o Mr. Shyam Dass and in the Aadhar Card, Pan Card and Conveyance Deed it is written as Mr. Om Prakash Vasan S/o Mr. Shyam Dass Vasan. Now my client intends Purchase the property in which **Truhome Finance Limited** (Formerly known as Shriram Housing Finance Limited) will provide the financial assistance If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within Seven days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mrs. Vinita Chauhan** is purchasing the **Ground Floor Portion Without Roof/Terrace Rights, Built-on Property bearing No. A-30, admeasuring 100.00 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 780, Situated at Village Mandawali Fazalpur, Gali No. 1, North Block, West Vinod Nagar Known as North Vinod Nagar Illaqa Shahdara Delhi.** from **Mrs. Rajni Bala** who is the owner of the property vide Sale Deed dated 01.01.2025, which is registered as Doc. No.2025/5/I/69, Book No. 01, Volume No. 3996, Page No. 23 to 34, on dated 03.01.2025-SRO-VIII-A and Intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited,** Branch:-Noida. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mr. Rajiv Chaprana** is the owner of **Residential Plot no. A-20, area measuring 100.335 Sq. Mtrs. (Having Ground & First Floor), comprised in Khasra no. 0/71/0, Situated in Unauthorized Colony Badarpur Extn, Pocket A & B, Mathura Road, Delhi-44. vide Notarized Relinquishment Deed dated 29.12.2020 and Conveyance Deed (PM-Uday Cell) dated 04.11.2022 which is registered as Doc no. 8053, Book no. 1, Volume no. 16810, Pages no. 62-66, dated 24.12.2022, SRO- V, New Delhi.** and Intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Capital Ltd.,** Nehru Place, Delhi. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khaitan & Khaitan
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

US Army Sentinel Scolds Pete Hegseth And Aides For Laughing At Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier

world.(Agency).

A US Army sentinel scolded Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and his top aides after some in the group were heard laughing and talking at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery during a Veterans Day visit. The group had just completed posing for a group photo at the memorial, dedicated to unidentified dead service members, when the compound reverberated with their insensitive laughter.

"All visitors will maintain an atmosphere of silence and respect at all times," the sentinel called out, stopping his patrol to face the group as they departed.

Hegseth was surrounded by his wife, Jennifer Hegseth, chief of staff Ricky Buria, deputy chief of staff Patrick Weaver and senior adviser and deputy assistant Tami Radabaugh.

Quizzed about the incident, the chief Pentagon spokesman, Sean Parnell, said the soldier correctly reminded everyone to maintain decorum.

"The Secretary and the entire Department have always honoured and will always honour the sacrifices our military men and women have made to keep America safe.

India, Canada Discuss Free Trade Pact Aimed At Boosting Bilateral Commerce

world.(Agency).

India and Canada on Wednesday discussed advancing negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement, aimed at boosting two-way commerce and investments.The discussions were held between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and visiting Maninder Sidhu, Minister of International Trade of Canada, who is leading a Canadian delegation.

Both sides discussed "advancing negotiations on the India-Canada Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and strengthening our bilateral economic ties," Goyal said in a social media post.

The two ministers also exchanged views on the importance of a balanced and mutually beneficial agreement that delivers meaningful market access, leverages the complementarities of the two economies and creates new opportunities for trade and investment.

Would Benefit Your Health': Canadian Nurse Offers Sex During Home Appointment

World.(Agency)

A Canadian nurse allegedly offered to have sex with a patient during an appointment, claiming it would benefit his health. After receiving contact details from a pharmacist, the patient reached out to Lori Chern, a nurse practitioner in British Columbia. Chern instructed him to come to her home for the assessment, after which she was expected to complete the necessary medical forms for the RCMP assessment. After the patient reached her home, Chern sat right next to him while taking his blood pressure before making "remarks that appeared flirty"."After taking the reading, the respondent complimented the complainant on their physique as well as heart rate and blood pressure, saying they seemed to have the health of an 18-year-old and making other gestures," the complaint stated. Bringing up the subject of sex, the nurse allegedly told the patient that "sex was very important for a man to regulate himself and be in good health". She then offered to have sex with him.

Five years of fighting climate change haven't done much and stronger targets are needed, report says

Climate change is caused mainly by the release of greenhouse gases, which happens when fuels like gas, oil and coal are burned.

ANTALYA, Turkey.(Agency).

The world has failed to slow or stop global warming trends in the past five years because plans weren't realized and efforts that would have helped were canceled out, a report said Thursday.The grim assessment came during a U.N. climate meeting in Antalya, Turkey, where more government leaders were due to speak Thursday about the state of a warming world and what they hope to do about it.

"Aggregated climate action has now essentially stalled for five consecutive years with positive and negative actions canceling each other out," the independent Climate Action Tracker said in its report. The first five years after the 2015 Paris Agreement, the world did so much that it trimmed an entire degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) from warming projections, but nothing has changed since, the report said.Climate change is caused mainly by the release of greenhouse gases, which happens when fuels like gas, oil and coal are burned. Confronting climate change means finding ways to drastically cut the amount of emissions put into the atmosphere each year. Countries establish plans to reduce emissions, called nationally determined contributions. The speed of reductions and ways to achieve them are different by country.

Because colletive eforts of countries haven't significantly reduced global emissions, the world is now "headed toward an irrecoverable overshoot of 1.5 degrees Celsius" (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial temperatures, which is the warming threshold the world adopted during the Paris Agreement, according to the report.

n the Trump administration and Caracas.The report said if the nations of the world fulfill all their climate promises — which is a big if — the globe will end the century 2.6 degrees Celsius (4.7 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer than preindustrial times. That's the same pace the globe was on in 2024 and 2025, showing the



new set of promises made last year have "failed to the move the needle" of projected warming, said report lead author Sarah Heck, a climate policy analyst at Climate Analytics.

"This is still not enough," Heck said. "Countries really do need to strengthen their targets."That's the message island leaders gave the rest of the world Wednesday. Even more leaders of island nations were expected Thursday to reinforce what to their people is a life-or-death message. While all the globe is threatened by climate change's souped-up storms, hotter heat waves, worsening droughts and floods, island nations also have to watch rising seas shrink swallow up their land."Every new oil well drilled, every piece of coal extracted is a threat to my country's future. The discovery of new fossil fuel resources is not something to celebrate, but something to fear," Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine said Wednesday as her colleagues from Tuvalu, Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Niue and other islands are expected to make similar pleas Thursday. "No one has the right to pollute their neighbors.""It is time to wake up," said Heine, who recalled coral that she watched go from "bright and lush" to white with bleaching this year. She said the response of the world to the inevitability of passing the 1.5 warming limit target "must be overwhelming or the world we know is over."

Indonesia's vice president resigns as his eligibility and academic credentials are questioned

JAKARTA, Indonesia.(Agency)

Indonesia's vice president resigned Thursday as questions grew over his eligibility for the office after recent court rulings disputed his educational credentials.Gibran Rakabuming Raka, the 39-year-old son of former President Joko Widodo, submitted his resignation to the leadership of the People's Consultative Assembly, the country's highest legislative body, at the parliament building in the capital, Jakarta.Raka did not comment as he left the meeting.The academic credentials investigation was apparently not related to investigations into allegations that top police officials had been involved in wiretapping targeting the president.Under Indonesia's Constitution, a vice presidential vacancy does not trigger a new election. The office remains vacant until the People's Consultative Assembly elects a replacement from two candidates nominated by the president within 60



days.

Raka had ofered to resign Tuesday during a meeting with President Prabowo Subianto, saying he wanted to avoid a prolonged political controversy. But a Cabinet minister said the president urged Raka at the time to defend himself and it wasn't clear if he accepted the resignation ofer.The Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court ruled last month that the documents Raka submitted regarding his overseas education didn't meet election requirements.A subsequent petition, submitted Wednesday to the House leadership by 120 lawmakers from eight political parties, began a parliamentary process that could lead to his impeachment.Under Indonesian law, House leaders must establish a special committee to examine whether Raka has violated the constitution by serving as vice president, despite allegedly failing to meet election requirements. If lawmakers determine there is sufficient basis for the accusation, the House must ask the Constitutional Court to rule on whether a constitutional violation has occurred.

Marketing, Pricing, Trading: 5 Things To Watch As Anthropic IPO Nears

world.(Agency)

Anthropic PBC is in the home stretch for its initial public ofering, which including the $26 billion private placement is poised to top SpaceX's record. The deal could raise up to $90.4 billion for the company and its co-founders when it prices on November 18, cementing the first listing for a frontier AI model maker.Here are five things investors should be looking for in the days ahead.

1. Formal Marketing. Before a company battles the final boss of IPOs - the pricing - it has to go out and convince investors why they should buy as many shares as possible. Anthropic's marketing campaign ahead of next Wednesday includes both lofty projections and star power, with Goldman Sachs Group Inc. research analysts sharing models predicting Anthropic's revenue will soar to about $685 billion by 2030, and JPMorgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon sitting down with Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei for a live-streamed chat.

2. Subscription Levels. Anthropic's filing Tuesday laid out terms such as the $70 to $78 per share price range, and info giving investors information to calculate its fully diluted valuation could reach $1.4 trillion. It also coincided with the start of gauging demand for shares. The deal is already multiple times oversubscribed, meaning there are orders to cover all of the shares in the deal several times over. For reference, SpaceX's $75 billion base ofering drew more than $350 billion of demand.3. Potential Upsize. There's no guarantee that Anthropic will increase the size of its IPO or the valuation, but with orders flowing in, a strong response from investors will tempt the company to swell its target, likely around the middle of the marketing period. A boost to the valuation is under consideration, the Financial Times reported.

Mississippi elects Democrat Scott Colom as state's first Black US senator since Reconstruction

JACKSON, Miss.(Agency).

Democratic nominee Scott Colom defeated Republican Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith on Wednesday in Mississippi's closely contested U.S. Senate race after a prolonged ballot counting process, giving the state its first Black U.S. senator since post-Civil War Reconstruction.Colom's narrow victory is a seismic shift in Mississippi, which has been controlled mostly by white conservatives for generations despite having the largest share of Black residents of any U.S. state. The outcome adds to a decisive midterm rebuke of President Donald Trump, whose party suffered defeats in several Republican-controlled states, and it will bolster some Democrats' argument that their future runs through the American South."All I did was have the courage to imagine a night like this," Colom told a crowd of hundreds who gathered at Tougaloo College for his victory party. "I had the courage to believe in Mississippi. I had the courage to understand that we can show the country that Mississippi matters."The Associated Press called the race in Colom's favor after local officials spent several days processing absentee and provisional ballots, called affidavit ballots in Mississippi.The last time Mississippi chose a new Democratic senator was 1947; the winner was a staunch segregationist. Colom, a 43-year-old local prosecutor, capitalized on the state's large Black population, discontent with the economy and Hyde-Smith's missteps as she sought a second full term.

"They actually deserve a senator that will listen to them, that actually cares about what they think, actually cares about what they're going through," Colom said in the campaign's closing stretch.Hyde-Smith, 67, called Colom late Wednesday afternoon to concede and released a concession speech online shortly afterward.While this is not the outcome we worked for or hoped for, I respect the decision of Mississippi voters," Hyde-Smith said. "I want to congratulate Scott Colom and wish him well as he takes on the tremendous responsibility of representing our great state."

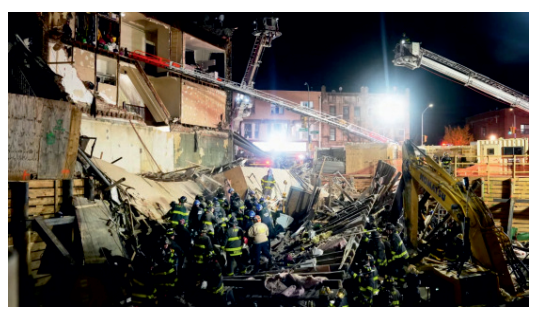
Colom said during the campaign that he could represent all of Mississippi, a state where racial divisions have long defined its politics and society, and he repeated that pledge after his victory.

Firefighters dig through rubble after NYC building collapse kills 2 and traps people in wreckage

NEW YORK.(Agency)

Firefighters dug through the rubble of a three-story building in Brooklyn after it collapsed at the edge of a construction site Wednesday afternoon, killing at least two people and trapping others beneath the wreckage.tion," said LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell.News helicopter footage showed scores of firefighters scouring the debris in the borough's Flatbush section, clambering over the rubble pile and using their hands and power saws to get through the ruins.At least 10 people were rushed to a hospital with injuries, including four in critical condition, Mayor Zohran Mamdani said during a news conference. New York City Fire Department officials said their search and rescue operations would continue for several days."We do not know how many people were missing overall," said FDNY's chief of department, John Esposito.About 250 firefighters were working the scene, Mamdani said. At around 6:30 p.m., firefighters pulled a dust-covered person — still alive and moving — out of a hole they had dug into the rubble pile, hoisting them up on a stretcher and rushing them to a waiting ambulance.

The building that collapsed — a mixed-use structure with apartments sitting atop businesses — had been perched at the edge of a lot where another one-story building had been torn down for a construction project. The site was being excavated, and the building that fell down filled the construction pit with bricks and wood.New York City's buildings commissioner, Ahmed Tigani, said that at the time of the disaster, construction workers were



on site doing excavation work adjacent to the building that collapsed.Another building that shared a wall with the collapsed structure remained standing, but its wall was shorn off, exposing the rooms inside, including a bedroom and closets filled with clothing.

A drone hovered over the site as firefighters dug by hand, tossing chunks of rubble aside. Rescuers also used dogs to sniff for survivors. As darkness fell, firefighters used flashlights to illuminate the area where they worked.This has been an incredibly challenging and fast-moving situation, with precarious wreckage to navigate and dangerous voids beneath the surface," Mamdani said.

Scott Colom Wins Mississippi, Becomes State's 1st Black Senator Since 1874

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

Democratic nominee Scott Colom defeated Republican Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith on Wednesday in Mississippi's closely contested US Senate race after a prolonged ballot counting process, giving the state its first Black US senator since post-Civil War Reconstruction.Colom's narrow victory is a seismic shift in Mississippi, which has been controlled mostly by white conservatives for generations despite having the largest share of Black residents of any US state. The outcome adds to a decisive midterm rebuke of President Donald Trump, whose party suffered defeats in several Republican-controlled states, and it will bolster some Democrats' argument that their future runs through the American South.

The Associated Press called the contest Wednesday in Colom's favor after local elections oficials spent several days processing absentee and provisional ballots, called afidavit ballots in Mississippi."While this is not the outcome we worked for or hoped for, I respect the decision of Mississippi voters," Hyde-Smith, 67, said in a two-minute concession speech posted online. "I want to congratulate Scott Colom and wish him well as he takes on the tremendous responsibility of representing our great state."

A spokesman for the senator said she called Colom to congratulate him and concede before the video was shared publicly.Colom scheduled a victory celebration with supporters Wednesday night in Jackson.

The last time Mississippi chose a new Democratic senator was 1947, and the winner then was a staunch segregationist. Colom, a 43-year-old local prosecutor, capitalized on the large Black population, discontent with the economy and Hyde-Smith's missteps as she sought a second full term.They actually deserve a senator that will listen to them, that actually cares about what they think, actually cares about what they're going through," Colom said in the campaign's closing stretch.Colom said during the campaign that he could represent all of Mississippi, a state where racial divisions have long defined its politics and society.

"It's got to be about having a party that represents rural America again, suburban America, urban America - a party that makes sure we actually deliver for voters in ways that make their lives better," he said.Party leaders hailed the senator-elect's triumph, with nods to the South's emerging battleground status after other upset victories from North Carolina to Texas.

"Scott Colom is the only person who could've gotten this done," Democratic Senate leader Chuck Schumer of New York posted online. "Along with his staf and volunteers, Scott ran the campaign of a lifetime and re-imagined what's possible for Democrats in the South.

Bullet-riddled bodies of 2 J&K special cops found day after they went missing

Srinagar.(Agency)

The bullet-riddled bodies of two Special Police Officers (SPOs), who went missing after gunfire was heard in the Deharna forest area of Marwah in Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district on Wednesday afternoon, were recovered by search parties in the Dachan forest area. The authorities have not ruled out a possible terror angle in the incident.A massive search operation has been launched to track down the terrorists involved in their abduction and killing.According to sources, the bodies were found nearly 2 km from the spot where the two SPOs went missing. Both personnel had been shot multiple times, and their service weapons were also missing, sources further revealed.The personnel, identified as Rashpal Singh, 45 and Bobby Chand, 57, were travelling from Kiyar Dachhan to Basnan in the Inderwan area of Upper Ridge Deharna when the firing was reported. A Special Operations Group (SOG) team and the Station House Officer later headed towards the area.According to preliminary information, Rishipal and Bobby Chand were part of the SOG. They were on their way to relieve a team of the Army's 17 Rashtriya Rifles deployed at Basnan.

Liquor smuggling trail leads police to Rs 35 lakh after Madhya Pradesh cop's murder

Indore.(Agency)

Investigators have seized Rs 35 lakh in cash, suspected to be proceeds from illegal liquor smuggling, after questioning the main accused in the murder of a police officer in Madhya Pradesh's Dewas district, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Khategaon police station in-charge Dilip Puri was crushed to death under a truck last week while trying to stop an interstate consignment of illicit liquor. Eight people have been arrested in the murder case, with six of them in police custody, Dewas Superintendent of Police Aditya Mishra told reporters on Wednesday."About Rs 35 lakh has been seized based on the information given by the main accused, Rahul Jaiswal. The money had been earned from the illegal liquor trade," Mishra said.The gang members or their associates had secured liquor contracts worth Rs 40 crore in Harda district in the name of Patendra Jaiswal, a resident of Barwani district, the superintendent of police said."Patendra had a mere 10 per cent stake in the contracts, while Rahul Jaiswal, Manish Jaiswal and Mohin Jaiswal held a 30 per cent stake each," he said.As part of the investigation, police raided Manish Jaiswal's office in Indore and questioned several people. Investigators also found WhatsApp chats between the accused that contained details of profits from the illegal liquor trade and the distribution of money among the partners, Mishra said.

Shigella infections spread in Keralam's Malappuram, 75 cases reported

Malappuram.(Agency)

Keralam's Health Department has intensified surveillance and preventive measures after Shigella infections were confirmed in three areas of Malappuram district, news agency Press Trust of India reported. People have been urged to remain cautious.The district has reported 75 Shigella cases so far this year, including eight cases linked to infected people, District Medical Officer Dr V Vinod said in a statement.The latest infections were reported from Areekode, Pulpatta and Edavanna. The district-level Rapid Response Team held an emergency meeting to assess the situation and strengthen measures to contain the infection.Shigella is a bacterial infection that causes diarrhoeal illness and mainly affects children. It spreads through contaminated water and stale or inadequately cooked food. Direct or indirect contact with the faeces of an infected person can also transmit the bacteria, the medical officer said, according to Press Trust of India.Symptoms usually appear within one or two days of infection and include diarrhoea, blood and pus in stools, severe abdominal pain, fever, vomiting and dehydration.

APCPDCL restores power to all houses in cyclone-hit Prakasam

APCPDCL Director TVSN Murthy has been staying here and closely monitoring the restoration works at the field level.

ONGOLE.(Agency)

Power supply has been fully restored to all household consumers in Cyclone Murasu affected areas of the district, with restoration completed in Naguluppalapadu by Wednesday. APCPDCL Ongole circle authorities are now working to restore power to aqua, industrial and agriculture services.APCPDCL Director (Projects and HRD) TVSN Murthy inspected the ongoing restoration works in various cyclone affected areas, including Uppugundur, Ammanabrolu, Kanaparthi, VR Palem and other villages on Wednesday.He was accompanied by Ongole Circle Superintending Engineer (SE) Katta Venkateswarlu and other officers. He inspected the damaged electrical lines, distribution transformers, poles and wires in agricultural fields and other power infrastructure, reviewed the progress of restoration and enquired about the measures being taken to restore supply.He also interacted with staff working at the sites and issued instructions to expedite the works. Meanwhile, the Prakasam district CPDCL authorities have enhanced their preliminary damage estimate to Rs 20 crore.Explaining the ongoing



restoration works and estimated damages, SE K Venkateswarlu said, “Initially we estimated Rs 3 crore worth of damages and later it was enhanced to Rs 5 crore and then to Rs 10 crore. Now our revised estimate has reached Rs 20 crore as about 15,000 electrical poles collapsed or were damaged and the concerned supply lines and other infrastructure suffered damage in the same range.

Total 1,400 electricity department personnel took part in the restoration works, including 400 staff from Karnataka, 300 from Tamil Nadu and staff from neighbouring Kurnool, Vijayawada and Anantapur districts.”

APCPDCL Director TVSN Murthy has been staying here and closely monitoring the restoration works at the field level. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and APCPDCL CMD P Pulla Reddy also continuously monitored the works, which helped a lot in speeding them up.“We thank the government, all our higher officials, field staff and our affectionate consumers who stood with us in this critical time and extended their cooperation and support in restoring power supply. We will restore power to the remaining aqua, industrial and agriculture services and bring the situation to normalcy within a short span of time,” the SE added.

382 cases registered in drive to keep private buses in Ernakulam on right ‘track’

The MVD crackdown, carried out following public outcry & court directive, exposed serious safety violations in city

KOCHI.(Agency)

In a special enforcement drive prompted by public complaints and directions from the High Court, the motor vehicles department (MVD) has registered 382 cases in a crackdown on private buses in Ernakulam and imposed fines totalling Rs 2,41,344 for various violations.The inspection, conducted by the enforcement wing, exposed lapses ranging from serious safety violations to routine breaches of traffic regulations. The drive was conducted across major areas, including Aluva, Kalamassery, Kakkanad, Tripunithura, Fort Kochi and Mattancherry, with private buses in focus.As many as 28 cases were registered against private buses found operating without functional speed governors or after the devices had been removed or disconnected. According to the officials, speed governors are essential to ensure that vehicles adhere to prescribed speed limits.Their removal or tampering can allow buses to operate beyond permitted speeds, increasing the risk of accidents. The MVD has also directed the buses found to have tampered with or removed speed governor systems to suspend services. The operators were instructed to restore the systems to working condition and produce the vehicles for inspection before resuming operations.A total of 89 cases were registered against conductors operating without valid licences. Another 55 cases were registered in connection with buses operating with their doors open. The department also registered 31 cases each



for non-functional or missing Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD)/GPS systems and the absence of mandatory fire safety equipment. These violations are particularly concerning as GPS-based tracking systems help monitor vehicle movement, while fire safety equipment is crucial during emergencies.

The enforcement drive also uncovered several instances of dangerous driving and disregard for traffic regulations. Nine cases were registered for overspeeding, while seven cases involved driving without a valid licence.Officials also detected 14 cases of mobile phone use while driving and 17 cases of trip cutting, a practice in which buses allegedly overtake or race against competing services to get ahead and secure more passengers. Another 14 cases were registered against buses for picking up or dropping passengers at locations other than designated stops. The department also registered 12 cases of operating services without valid permits and two cases for operating without insurance.The inspection further identified violations involving the unauthorised use of vehicle equipment. Two cases were registered for the use of air horns, while 16 cases involved the use of unauthorised lights. Ten cases were detected for violations relating to smoking while driving, while another 43 cases were booked under various other motor vehicle regulation violations.MVD officials said the drive was intended to ensure that private bus operators prioritised passenger safety and complied with statutory requirements instead of engaging in dangerous competition on the roads.

PIL filed in Andhra Pradesh HC on Special Teacher Eligibility Test conducted by govt

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Andhra Pradesh High Court challenging the Special Teacher Eligibility Test (Special TET) conducted by the State government in August 2026, alleging that all the questions in the examination were reproduced verbatim from a practice question bank released before the test.The petitioner, Dr Guntupalli Srinivas, a professor and social activist, has sought a declaration that the



examination and its results are illegal and directions to conduct a fresh test in accordance with National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) guidelines.He has also requested the court to stay the declaration of results and all further proceedings relating to the examination.The petition alleges that all 1,350 questions across nine papers were identical to those in the practice question bank released through the AP LEAP application on September 26, 2026, with the options for 1,345 questions also reproduced verbatim.A division bench comprising Chief Justice Lisa Gill and Justice Challa Gunaranjan heard the petition on Wednesday.

Counsel for the petitioner, Gadipudi Venkateswarlu, argued that the issue was not a conventional question paper leak, as the government itself had released the question bank in advance.He contended that the examination failed to assess teachers’ teaching skills and qualitative standards.The petitioner sought directions to preserve all digital records, server logs and question bank files without alteration.

Won’t spare you: Before Kulgam attack, CRPF jawans got an unexpected warning

Kulgam(Agency)

Two days before terrorists opened fire at a CRPF checkpoint in Jammu and Kashmir's Kulgam district, a young boy walked up to the same post and issued a warning to the personnel stationed there: "We will not spare you."The personnel did not take the threat seriously at the time. But after Wednesday's attack left three jawans injured, police are now trying to identify and trace the boy, sources said.According to the sources in Kulgam, the boy, believed to be a Class 10 student, approached the static checkpoint on Monday and told the CRPF personnel, "Hum tumhe chhodenge nahi" (We will not spare you).

While the personnel initially dismissed the warning, the incident has come under scanner following the attack on the same post. Police are now trying to establish the boy's identity and ascertain whether his threat had any connection with Wednesday's firing.On Wednesday, two heavily armed terrorists emerged from a dense cluster of trees and opened fire at the CRPF post near Mir Bazar in Kulgam district around 2.15 pm, injuring three personnel, one of them critically.The checkpoint is located around 75 km from Srinagar and barely a kilometre from the strategic Jammu-Srinagar National Highway.Sources told India Today that terrorists used special metal-jacketed armour-piercing bullets in the Kulgam attack, with some rounds piercing.

34 years on, CBI court convicts former Tarn Taran SSP in 1992 disappearance case

Amritsar, Mohali.(Agency)

More than three decades after transporter Amrik Singh Sakri was picked up by Tarn Taran police from a Ludhiana hotel and subsequently disappeared, a Special CBI court in Mohali has convicted former Tarn Taran SSP Gurmeet Singh Randhawa in the 1992 case.

Another accused, constable Parminderjit Singh alias Babbu, has been acquitted, having been given the benefit of doubt. Special Judge Dinesh Kumar Wadhwa pronounced the verdict in the case relating to Sakri’s disappearance on November 25, 1992. He was allegedly picked up by a Tarn Taran police party from Hotel Amaltash in Ludhiana, where he was attending the wedding of his brother-in-law’s daughter.According to the CBI investigation, the family approached senior police officers and sent telegrams to higher authorities, including then CM Beant Singh, seeking Sakri’s release.

However, his whereabouts remained unknown.In 1996, Sakri’s wife approached the Supreme Court through a habeas corpus petition. The state informed the court that he had died and submitted bhog advertisements as evidence. The family, however, disputed the claim.The Supreme Court subsequently ordered a CBI probe into the alleged illegal cremation of unidentified bodies by Punjab Police during the militancy period. Sakri’s disappearance was also brought under the investigation.

‘Chitta available like toffees’: Nihang addresses Aman Arora at public meeting in Sangrur

Ludhiana.(Agency)

A Nihang Sikh on Wednesday addressed Punjab AAP president and Cabinet Minister Aman Arora and sought a solution to the drug menace and said chitta (heroin) was available in the village ‘like toffees’, during a public meeting at Tolawal village in Sangrur’s Sunam.The programme was organised to discuss development works and distribute ownership documents under the ‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’ scheme.The man, identified as Gurpreet Singh Goldy, said, “Drugs are available in our village like toffees. Even thefts take place, and drug addicts are behind these thefts. We want a solution to this problem.”In response, Arora said the drug menace was like cancer and could not be treated overnight. “This entered our state during the tenure of the previous governments. It is a bad thing, and we are working to eradicate it. But it will take time to cure this cancer. The government is making efforts, but people too need to act responsibly.”

Arora also argued that the drug problem could be addressed only if demand was curbed. “If there is no demand for drugs, they will automatically disappear. It is your right to complain to us, and it is our duty to listen to you.”Another individual also addressed Arora and questioned the villagers’ role in tackling the menace, asking why people stood surety for those arrested in drug-related cases and helped them secure bail.“Whenever someone is arrested, one or the other villager comes forward to give bail. Why? As long as villagers keep securing bail for such people, how can drugs be eradicated?” he asked.Meanwhile, Sangrur SSP Dr Ravjot Kaur Grewal told The Indian Express that she had learnt about the exchange through social media.She said that no formal complaint regarding drug availability in the village had been



received so far. “We will inquire into the issue,” she said.Arora visited nearly eight villages in Sunam constituency on November 11 to distribute ownership documents to 2,256 families under the ‘Mera Ghar Mere Naam’ scheme. He also inaugurated a village sports ground at Togawal.The minister distributed ownership documents to 140 families in Ghasiwal, 370 in Chauwas, 380 in Tolawal, and 240 in Bir Kalan. Another 300 families in Jharon, 315 in Sahoke, 229 in Mander Khurd and 282 in Togawal received the documents.

Traditions and Titans

Govardhan Puja is tomorrow, and I thought you might enjoy discovering the fascinating slice of religion, culture and history it embodies on the southern outskirts of Delhi NCR, particularly in the twin villages of Asola and Fatehpur Beri. If you rejoice in having friends with deep rural roots, you get invited to their pujas, weddings and family feasts, and experience a side of Old India that we city sparrows rarely get to see.

My old neighbours, who became friends, had centuries-old ancestral lands in Asola and Fatehpur Beri and took me there to observe Govardhan Puja. It is dedicated to Sri Krishna's feat of lifting Mount Govardhan to save his people from Indra Dev's tempestuous fury. On my first visit, we got there an hour before sunset. I walked with them around the cattle sheds, marking the cows' foreheads with tilak and hanging marigold garlands around their necks. Of course, I spent the nicest time with the endearing little calves, whom I tried to coax near me to eat a handful of grass freshly cut for this ceremony.The village barber's wife, who received clothes, money and sweets for this ceremonial rite, had fashioned a large outline in cow dung of a man on the ground of a mud courtyard. Marigolds were sprinkled around it, and clay lamps and stalks of sugarcane were set about it. This was the Govardhan Purush or Giriraj Maharaj.

The farmhands and the men of the house circled it seven times, ceremonially singing Sri Krishna's name. After which, we all sat together to eat our simple but satisfying dinner. We had chhaach—real village buttermilk, the kind Sri Krishna must have drunk in Gokul—together with stuffed parathas out of a big, round stainless steel box brought from home. The prasad drew a surprised laugh from me the first time I saw it. It was gulgule, little fried dumplings of wheat flour, ghee and jaggery. An old-fashioned sweet, much like the rice-flour, ghee and jaggery adhirasam of South Indian festivals. What ancient choices of the subcontinent was that testimony to?

Cowbells sounded in the background, and the gentle chimes drew a smile. Like many people in cities, I had hung a wind chime on my balcony, and when my neighbours dropped by, they said the sound reminded them of the cows in their village. The peaceful twilight, the clean air, the scent of grass and vegetation, and the wind in the trees were relaxing and meditative.

My friends took me to the next holding, where a group of seniors in white dhoti-kurtas, wearing turbans, sat on cane chairs and puffed by turn on a hookah. After we paid our respects, my friends said, "Please tell our friend here (meaning me) something about the history of our village."We took our places on string cots set out near them. Steel glasses of ginger tea and more gulgule magically appeared, and I waited expectantly.Do you know anything about our village already?" asked one elder. "Tauji (elder uncle), I know you're the strongest men in India," I said. The elders laughed indulgently because it was true. If you search for 'India's Strongest Village' on the net, the results show links related to Asola and Fatehpur Beri. It is famous as the 'Bouncer Hub', supplying hundreds of nightclub bouncers, private security personnel and bodyguards across New Delhi. It has a famously strong physical culture. Young men in the community are massively focused on traditional wrestling, high-protein diets.

Time to practise what we preached on climate

As COP31 in Antalya focuses on implementation of existing global climate commitments, India should focus on something it proposed at COP26 in Glasgow—Lifestyle for Environment Mission. Smart messaging for behavioural shifts may help achieve a sense of responsibility that decades of law-making hasn't been able to

There have been two broad approaches to environmental management—command and control (C&C), and environmental fiscal reforms. In India, the C&C approach has been the main tool, anchored in environmental laws such as the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980, Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Unlike in many developed countries, it may be premature for India to adopt market-based instruments anchored in eco-taxes, as consensus across states would be key for implementation, including integration in the goods and services tax regime. But what if the everyday choices of the population are based not only on laws, taxes and rules, but also on the way those choices are presented to them?

Take the case for acting against pollution. Individual behaviours contribute immensely to emissions through consumption patterns, choice of transportation, and waste disposal, among other things. This is where the India-led global Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) mission, proposed at five years ago at the Glasgow COP, can be transformative in pursuing behavioural shifts among citizens towards adopting eco-friendly lifestyles.

Behavioural nudges are small changes in the way choices are presented that encourage people to choose a desired action without altering their choices. They influence behaviour in subtle, yet powerful ways. Such nudges could be implemented through framing effects and information campaigns, exercising smart defaults, influencing social norms, designing incentives and environmental alterations by removing external barriers that influence choices.To do this effectively, identifying actions contributing to pollution would be key—zeroing in on transportation, household energy use, waste management and consumption. Solutions for transportation must identify inadequate first- and last-mile connectivity, access barriers, safety concerns and extreme congestion during peak hours that constrain daily commuters from using public transport. Experiments that have used personalised, point-to-point travel information with clear route maps and specific information on time-saving and emission-reduction have proved better at increasing the use of public transport in richer countries. In Hong Kong, for example, a 25 percent pre-peak time fare discount for morning commutes to one of the 29 heavy-use stations eased peak train crowding by 3 percent.In India, transport systems could display a public report showing the emissions per mode of transport. Commuters who select the lower-emission modes may be rewarded with travel credits, which could be redeemed while paying for future trips. Tech-driven behavioural studies in Bengaluru show such efforts can



remove barriers to taking public transport, resulting in higher metro use. Signage on step counts and calories burned through walking in public transport spaces could nudge those conscious of completing their daily quotas.Switching off car engines at traffic signals is not a common habit in India. At a railway crossing in England's Canterbury, carefully-worded road signage reduced the number of drivers leaving the engine on during waits. What worked were messages focused on outcome (improvement of air quality), social norm (being a responsible driver) and self-regulation (thinking about own action).Linking outcomes with rewards and gamification to drive small but consequential 'power habits' can be explored. A campaign on these lines would need to be rolled out in each state. Provision for energy-saving exchange coupons and such innovations could also be thought of as part of this strategy.

Another area, and a key cause of concern in developing economies, is waste management and consumption. A formal arrangement needs to be explored in the 'refuse and reuse' mindset, for which educating the public is key, wherein specialised sessions on properly segregating dry waste, wet compost and, in cases, hazardous electronic waste. The Haritha Keralam Mission, which has a dedicated team of trained supervisors and workers for doorstep waste collection and segregation with a predictable schedule and user fees to feed into recycling units, could be replicated and scaled up for municipalities across India. For e-waste, substantive exchange offers for those who use electronic items for a longer period could be devised. This will promote mindful tech purchases and maintenance, rather than replacing gadgets quickly.

India has explored behavioural approach earlier. The best example is in the energy sector, whose lessons would need to be scale up. Power-rating labels and operating cost information on electrical devices have nudged consumers towards buying energy-saving appliances. The Give It Up campaign for LPG subsidy, launched in 2015, has intensively used behavioural approaches, enabling effective redirection of government resources.

A widespread information campaign with practicable energy-saving steps, along with technical support to industrial consumers, launched in Japan after the Fukushima incident, resulted in reduced energy consumption. Similar strategies on energy efficiency could be replicated for implementation across states through local bodies.A behavioural approach is not a substitute. It will be effective only when complemented with adequate institutional support, robust infrastructure and interesting incentives.

Fund alone can't cover India's statistics blind spot

While improving data collection is essential, it represents only one aspect of addressing the problem

In order to achieve its goal of becoming a developed economy by 2047, India must know accurately how its people work, make money, spend money and live. Hence, the Union Cabinet has approved ₹4,371 crore for the Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics and Research (VISTAR)—a five-year programme that runs until 2030-31 to update the nation's statistical infrastructure, conduct more surveys, use AI to process data and improve data collection at both the state and district levels. The initiative is designed to address one of the primary weaknesses of policy making: that any decision about economics is only as good as the information used to make it. A large and diverse India cannot be understood through national averages that often mask significant differences among states, districts and communities.VISTAR aims to provide for 59 surveys over five years—as opposed to 43 major surveys previously—as well as an eighth Economic Census that will locate non-farm businesses and their employees down to gram panchayats and municipal wards. VISTAR will also monitor services and small businesses through



mobile phone, retail and e-commerce data to supplement the traditional survey approach. These improvements are particularly important for an economy where informal employment, small enterprises and rapidly-growing digital businesses are difficult to measure using conventional means. State governments can determine which districts are producing jobs and which are lagging, know at a granular level where families are spending less money, and the challenges small businesses are facing. They can assess if public funds are reaching targeted segments. Furthermore, state governments can use VISTAR to evaluate whether government schemes are improving citizens' lives.

While improving data collection is essential, it represents only one aspect of addressing the problem. Historically, issues related to credibility, timeliness and comparability of official statistics have made working with mountains of data difficult. Although more surveys and advanced technologies promise to improve availability, if the resulting data is not consistent and easily scrutinisable—that is, presented in formats that are uniformly user-friendly—the benefits will be minimal.

Achieving India's objective of being a developed economy requires not only more precise information, but reliable, usable sets that can help guide policies, track progress and hold government officials accountable.

Numbers point to maelstrom forming in global finance

Traditional checks are weaker just when financial markets are getting overstretched like rarely before. It won't be easy for central banks to chart a course out of this trouble

Psychologist James Reason's 'Swiss cheese model' holds that major disasters in complex systems are the result of the accumulation and alignment of multiple failures—the 'eyes' or holes in some kinds of cheese. Today, several risks—overvaluation, high debt, cash flow shortfalls, volatility, rising interest rates, interconnections, financial games, poor safeguards—are creating the perfect conditions for a financial crash.Valuations are stretched. Cyclically adjusted 10-year US price-to-earnings (CAPE) ratios are at their highest levels since the 19th century, above the levels of 1929 and only slightly below the peak of the dotcom boom. They are around 41 times earnings and over 67 times earnings if current exaggerated incomes are normalised. In comparison, CAPE reached 32.6 times and 44.2 times earnings before the crashes in 1929 and 2000, respectively.

The ratio of US share market's capitalisation to GDP, known as the Buffett indicator, is over 230 percent of GDP, the highest recorded level. Valuations of non-US equities are also extended, although to a lower degree. Property, the largest repository of global wealth, is overvalued by up to 50 percent using price-to-affordability metrics, although there are significant locational discrepancies.Price rises have outstripped underlying cash flows. Across 10 countries that account for 60 percent of global GDP, as of 2025, $620 trillion in real assets—like machinery and equipment, infrastructure, buildings, natural resources, and intellectual property—support over $1,800 trillion in financial assets representing eventual claims against the same property and cash flows. Since 2000, wealth growth has reflected valuation gains in financial assets, especially real estate, rather than changes in productive assets. For every $1 in net new investment in real assets over the past 20 years, liabilities have grown by almost $4, of which about $2 is debt.

As of mid-2026, global debt has reached around $350 trillion or 308 percent of world output, up from around $210 trillion a decade ago. There are layers of leverage with investors, fund and businesses borrowing at the same time against the underlying cash flows.

Debt must be repaid or refinanced. Much of this borrowing was taken out during periods of near-zero rates and renewals, if possible, will be at a higher cost. Cash insufficiency threatens failures and credit losses. As interest rates rise, there are already pockets of distress amongst less creditworthy borrowers.

In parallel, investors, pension funds and insurers rely on cash flows from their investments to finance spending or meet contractual payouts. Lack of distributions and write-offs reduce available funds that underpin economy activity creating adverse feedback loops. Simultaneously, higher volatility feeds risk models, triggering margin calls and involuntary deleveraging as lenders tighten liquidity.The cost of capital is rising. The era of low government bond yields may have ended. Higher-for-longer rates are probable due to cost pressures from wars, disruption of supply chains, and national-security-driven reshoring. Premiums for risky assets, which have declined to historical lows, will rise to compensate for increased instability. The rising gap between required returns and cash generation undermines asset prices.

Linkages between financial institutions, derivatives and securitisation create multiple paths that will rapidly transmit shocks, making it difficult to isolate and control problems. Investment behaviours exacerbate strains, as passive indexed investments and rule-based quantitative trading styles relying on momentum increase fragility.

There are familiar financial misdemeanours. True



indebtedness is understated by the proliferation of off-balance-sheet financing arrangements, which at Alphabet, Microsoft, Amazon, Meta and Oracle alone have reached $1.65 trillion, compared to $1.35 trillion in on-balance-sheet debt. Post-Enron auditor reforms are being watered down to make share listings 'great again'.Traditional buffers are weaker. With consolidation in banking markets, market-making—which, in a crisis, plays a critical role in warehousing risk purchased at a discount—is weaker. It is dominated by investors and quantitative trading firms, who when volatility increases frequently withdraw from trading. This lower trading liquidity is creating potential larger dislocations where there is forced selling or multiple participants simultaneously unwind positions. Regulators are perverely reducing bank capital requirements at a time when they are likely to be needed. The decreases, lobbied for by the banks, are intended to boost economic growth by more debt-financed consumption and investment ignoring existing elevated levels of borrowing. The argument is that the changes will simplify rules and lower compliance costs.Given ongoing issues at individual institutions, it is unclear whether the changes are justified. Regulators argue the need for recalibrating standards to better match actual asset risks. Given that by most measures actual exposures have become riskier, it is difficult to make the case for reductions. In reality, the relaxation is designed to enhance profitability on shareholder's funds and also allow more distributions to shareholder and share buybacks.

The ability of governments and central banks to intervene is uncertain. Public finances are stretched by intractable budget deficits and the highest levels of government debt outside of war. The average budget deficit across the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development is 4.6 percent of GDP, with few countries in surplus. The average government debt-to-GDP ratio in OECD countries now exceeds 112 percent—well above the pre-2007 average of around 72 percent. A sizeable portion of this is now funded not by long-term holders, but by hedge funds.

15-day digital arrest: 80-yr-old loses Rs 25 lakh

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

An 80-year-old retired lecturer lost Rs 25 lakh after fraudsters kept him under digital arrest for over 15 days by posing as Mumbai Cyber Crime police and government officials.The victim told police that he received five WhatsApp video calls on October 16 from a person claiming that his Aadhaar number had been used to open a bank account linked to money laundering and terror funding. He was falsely implicated in the case and sent a purported arrest letter linking him to the Popular Front of India (PFI).

The fraudsters instructed him to send WhatsApp messages every two hours confirming that he was safe. This continued until November 7. They also repeatedly video-called him and monitored his movements, warning him against answering other calls.On November 2, they sent him a purported SEBI letter bearing his name and Aadhaar number, directing him to sell all his shares as part of the investigation. Fearing arrest, the victim sold his shares and received Rs 25,14,985.89 in his bank account.

The fraudsters subsequently asked him to transfer the money to a fake Reserve Bank of India (RBI) account for verification, assuring him that it would be returned within three days if he was found innocent.On November 5, the victim transferred Rs 25 lakh to the account provided by the fraudsters while remaining on a video call with them. A day later, they demanded another Rs 50 lakh, but he realised that it was a fraud and approached police.

Kerala cabinet maintains silence on GNA power purchase initiative; govt-Congress leadership rift widens

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

Despite the controversy surrounding the proposed GNA power purchase initiative, the issue did not figure in Wednesday's cabinet meeting. With the opposition questioning whether the government had lost its collective responsibility, Chief Minister V D Satheesan and Power Minister Sunny Joseph, who is also the KPCC president, maintained a studied silence.None of the other ministers raised the issue either, apparently mindful of the need to avoid further embarrassment for a government that assumed office barely six months ago.At the meeting, Sunny Joseph presented a KSEB-related proposal to enhance the compensation awarded to people affected by the laying of the 400 kV transmission line in Malabar. Sunny's intervention initially raised expectations among his cabinet colleagues that he might also raise the contentious GNA issue. However, despite an elaborate discussion on the compensation proposal, neither Satheesan nor Sunny Joseph spoke about the power purchase initiative.

Bulldozer at Abhishek Banerjee's doorstep, illegal footpath shed removed

Kolkata.(Agency)

A bulldozer was deployed outside TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's residence in Kolkata on Thursday as civic workers demolished an illegal bamboo footpath shed and removed an iron gate obstructing pedestrian movement on the footpath.A heavy police presence was seen outside the TMC national general secretary's residence on Kalighat Road as workers pulled down the shed and



used a gas cutter to dismantle the gate. The civic action came amid a political row after Banerjee alleged that police personnel were keeping watch outside his residence.The TMC claimed the shed had originally been built by the state security department to accommodate personnel assigned to his Z-plus security cover, which has since been withdrawn. While Banerjee's office staff had begun removing the structure on Wednesday, civic authorities moved in on Thursday to clear the footpath. The issue has also drawn complaints from local residents who said the structure restricted pedestrian movement.

Mumbai lakes drying fast, drinking water level sinking. More cuts next?

Record heat, no October rain and dry winds have left the lakes that supply Mumbai's drinking water at an 8-year low. So will the 10 per cent water cut continue?

Mumbai(Agency)

With summer still months away, Mumbai's drinking water reserves are depleting faster than usual. As of November 3, the combined stock in the seven lakes that supply the city's drinking water has dropped to 84.35 per cent of their capacity, the lowest for this date since 2018. A separate audit by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), covering three of the seven lakes, found that evaporation losses in October were roughly double those of last October, or more.On the same date, the stock for all seven lakes stood at 95.67 per cent in 2025, 93.75 per cent in 2024 and 89.46 per cent in 2023. The last time it was lower than this year's 84.35 per cent was in 2018, when the reservoirs held 79.63 per cent of their capacity.The fall comes barely a month after the withdrawal of the southwest monsoon. On November 3, the seven reservoirs collectively held 12.20 lakh million litres. The three lakes the BMC audited specifically for evaporation were all well below last year's levels. Modak Sagar was down to 50 per cent of its capacity, against 84 per cent on the same date last year. Tansa stood at 81 per cent, against 95.92 per cent, and Middle Vaitarna at 86.56 per cent, against 99.53 per cent.The evaporation audit was limited to



these three lakes, Tansa, Modak Sagar and Middle Vaitarna, and to the month of October, civic officials said. It sampled water loss over one square metre and scaled that to each reservoir's surface. No such estimate is available for the other four lakes.At Tansa, estimated losses rose from 823.53 million litres in October 2025 to 1,729.01 million litres this October. At Modak Sagar, they rose from 644.84 million litres to 1,299.60 million litres, and at Middle Vaitarna from 381.34 million litres to 1,018.42 million litres.Additional Municipal Commissioner (Projects) Abhijit Bangar said the civic body had anticipated faster depletion in view of the El Niño conditions and the India Meteorological Department's forecast. "The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecasted higher temperatures for October due to El Niño. Consequently, water depletion levels this month were significantly higher than in recent years. Measurements at three key locations confirmed that evaporation losses in October rose compared to the same period last year," he told ."Beyond the elevated evaporation rates, sporadic rainfall was recorded across the lake catchment area in October last year, which contributed a net addition to the water stock. In contrast, there was no rainfall during the same period this year," he added.

Mumbai rocket ban, crores in smoke: Stuck with unsold Sivakasi stock, traders write to Fadnavis

The ban on rockets and similar aerial firecrackers followed 499 fires in Mumbai over five days of Diwali, two in three of them sparked by firecrackers, with two deaths and eight injuries

Mumbai.(Agency)

Firecracker vendors in Mumbai and Thane have written to CM Devendra Fadnavis objecting to the ban on aerials firecrackers, claiming they have suffered losses in crores. The fire brigade, on the other hand, has reported 499 fires in Mumbai over the five days of Diwali, two-thirds of which were caused by firecrackers.In its letter, the Mumbai-Thane Fireworkers Welfare Association called the ban premature, stating that the restrictions (imposed during the Diwali sales period) have had a devastating impact on the business. The traders are concerned that the stock they have procured from Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu will go unsold.The BMC has banned rockets and aerial firecrackers from Nov 9 to Nov 25, following fire personnel identifying them as the main cause of fires. Thane district has also put in place a ban until Jan 8, 2027.Mumbai Fire Brigade data shows 499 fires between 6th November and 10th November, 333 of which were directly attributable to firecrackers. The highest number of calls (166) came on 9th November, with 142 on Diwali day itself (8th November). Zone 4 (Malad, Goregaon, Borivali and Kandivali) had 175 fires. For comparison, the city had 289 fires during the Diwali period in 2025 and 262 in 2024.Two died, and eight were injured this year as opposed to zero deaths and three injuries in 2025 and 2024, respectively. Dhanpat Mahatu (46), a lift operator at a highrise in Andheri, died of smoke inhalation after being trapped in a passenger lift. Shanwaz Niyaz Khan (16) sustained



100% burns in a fire that broke out in a shop that was full of firecrackers.Minesh Mehta, Hon'ble General Secretary of the Traders' Association, felt the Government should have been focusing on awareness rather than a complete ban on the aerials. "The ban has been imposed due to the increasing instances of fire. However, this time we have noticed that people are performing stunts by bursting rockets in their hands instead of keeping them in bottles. The government should have created awareness about the right way to burst crackers instead of banning them," Mehta said.He said demand was already subdued before Diwali, and customers stopped coming after the ban was announced. Several traders reported a decline of up to 50 per cent in sales.

A trader in Pydhonie, one of South Mumbai's prominent firecracker markets, said business had dropped by nearly 50 per cent over the past three days. "People used to come to Pydhonie to purchase firecrackers right up to Bhaubeej. However, there have been very few customers over the past three days. Traders are neither displaying nor selling aerial crackers, and this has affected business as people purchased them for their visual appeal," the trader said, requesting anonymity. Rajender Ghone, owner of Padmini Fireworks, said the sudden restrictions had left traders with stocks they might not be able to sell even if the ban was lifted."Diwali is the only season when people actively purchase crackers. We procure rockets from Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu, and these are now most likely to go to waste because of the ban. We have suffered huge losses due to the sudden decision. Most of our sales took place a day before the ban. Even our regular customers purchased fewer crackers this year. The government should provide us monetary assistance," Ghone said.

Why no civic poll before end of term, Madras HC questions SEC

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The HC on Wednesday questioned the delay in holding civic body polls in Tamil Nadu and asked why the state election commission (SEC) had not taken preparatory measures in advance to ensure that the elections were conducted before the expiry of the tenure of the civic bodies.Justice N Senthilkumar raised the queries while hearing a petition filed by R Baskaran, an advocate from Chengalpattu, seeking directions to conduct elections to rural local bodies. The judge asked the government and the SEC to file their replies and adjourned the case by three weeks.The petitioner's counsel alleged that the constitutional mandate to hold



polls before the completion of the five-year term had been violated.The petition also sought to declare the October 19 GO appointing special officers to rural local bodies in Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi districts as illegal, without the authority of law, ultra vires Section 261-A of the Tamil Nadu Panchayats Act, 1994, and violative of Articles 14, 243-E and 243-K of the Constitution.

Appearing for the state, Advocate General Vijay Narayan informed the court that the census exercise was expected to be completed next year.Ward delimitation could be taken up only after the census, following which reservations for SCs and STs in wards and posts would be finalised.

KPSC recruitment scam: Arrested chairman denied bail, woman member gets relief

Bengaluru.(Agency)

A special court in Bengaluru on Wednesday rejected the bail pleas of suspended Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) chairman Shivashankarappa Sahukar and alleged middleman Basavaraj Kannale, finding prima facie evidence of money laundering linked to bribes allegedly collected from candidates in the veterinary doctors recruitment scam.The special court for hearing Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases, however, granted conditional bail to arrested KPSC member B V Geetha on the grounds that she was a woman. The court directed Geetha not to leave the country, cooperate with the investigation, and furnish a Rs 5 lakh surety bond.Special Judge Manjunath Sangrueshi's order comes weeks after the court rejected the bail plea of IAS officer Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, former KPSC controller of examinations, who is also an accused in the case.The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Sahukar and Geetha on October 6 and Kannale on September 18. Kannale was already in prison following his arrest by the state CID on August 30.

Grandmother with health issues: Argument for bail

The court order comes ahead of the ED filing a prosecution complaint in the money laundering case on November 17. It also follows the Karnataka High Court's November 3 decision to constitute a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the veterinary doctors' recruitment scam. The SIT has taken over the investigation and is likely to examine the roles of Sahukar and Geetha, which were not examined by the CID.During the bail arguments last week, B S Prasad, Geetha's counsel, had argued that the 46-year-old member should be accorded special consideration for bail because she is a woman,



a grandmother, and has health issues. The ED opposed the plea, contending that Geetha was "not a scapegoat" and, as a non-practising advocate who served as prosecutor for the state Lokayukta, an anti-corruption agency, was fully aware of her actions.

Rs 20 lakh-Rs 40 lakh bribes paid: ED

According to the ED, Sahukar and Geetha obtained answer keys for the KPSC veterinary doctors' recruitment exam held on January 9 from Gangwar and leaked them to nine candidates in exchange for bribes ranging between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 40 lakh.

'Liking women's photos, history of rage, & scissors': Inside Kolkata techie's murder by live-in partner

Kolkata.(Agency)

It was on Diwali afternoon that a young live-in couple in Kolkata went out to buy firecrackers and mutton for dinner. Hours later on Sunday night, 25-year-old IT professional Sarthak Sarkar was found in a pool of blood. His girlfriend, Sanchalika Basu, and her mother, Moumita, were arrested from their rented accommodation.Two days on, the police investigation into Sarthak's murder has revealed that Sarthak was stabbed to death with a pair of scissors, allegedly after a dispute with his partner.

A 'fit of rage', and then…

Police claim their probe has also revealed that the primary suspect had a history of explosive rage.According to statements from the family members, the police claim, Sanchalika allegedly had a pattern of losing control in anger — a volatile temper that investigators say they believe might have culminated in her stabbing her live-in partner to death with scissors.According to police sources, Sanchalika's maternal grandmother allegedly told investigators that her granddaughter "lost all composure" in anger.On the night of the incident itself, police claim to have learnt, during an argument over the 22-year-old's college fees, Sanchalika allegedly physically assaulted her mother, before the deadly altercation with Sarthak.While Sarthak and Sanchalika had reportedly rented the flat in Phartabad area in Kolkata's Garia, the woman's mother used to live with them too.Sarthak would also spend several nights at his family home in Barasat. His father, who works with the West Bengal Education Department, said while the family knew of his relationship with Sanchalika, they did not know he was



living with her in Garia. He said Sarthak would frequently spend nights away from him, and had told them it was due to work pressure. He worked at a tech firm in Salt Lake Sector V.

What triggered the incident

Hours before the crime, Sarthak and Sanchalika seemed like a happy couple — they travelled together to Champahati to buy Diwali firecrackers, and on their way back home, stopped by a local butcher shop to buy mutton for dinner. The vendor recalled that the couple, who were his regular customers, appeared relaxed, cheerful, and entirely at ease.

DU associate professor sent on leave over sexual harassment complaint by student

Delhi.(Agency)

An associate professor at Delhi University's Satyawati College has been placed on leave and served a show-cause notice following a complaint of alleged sexual harassment and inappropriate behaviour by a woman student. The development comes days after an assistant professor at Daulat Ram College was sent on leave over similar allegations by a student.

Satyawati College Principal Subhash Kumar Singh said the matter was being examined by the college's Internal Complaints Committee (ICC). "The matter is with the ICC and a probe is going on… We cannot comment much, but yes, he has been placed on leave since last month."He added that the committee held a meeting last week. "Once the committee submits its report, a resolution will be sent to the governing body and then to the university for further action."It is learnt that the student filed her complaint on November 2, two days after the alleged incident. In her complaint, the student alleged that the associate professor had been harassing her over the phone and had sent her an obscene PDF document, claiming it was part of the syllabus. The complaint reportedly details several instances of alleged sexual harassment, misconduct, inappropriate behaviour and use of vulgar language.When contacted, the associate professor denied the allegations. "These are false and fabricated allegations against me. I was called by the ICC last week and have submitted my reply, which has also been video recorded," he said.

"I have not gone to college since last week… I am waiting for a fair action and result in the matter," he added.This is not the first case of an allegation of sexual harassment at the college.

Iconic Coffee Home to get a Rs 150 cr neighbour

Delhi.(Agency)

Connaught Place's iconic Coffee Home, which has been serving affordable meals and filter coffee to Delhiites since 1989, will soon have a new neighbour—a proposed `150-crore office complex for the Delhi Tourism department.The building is planned on the vacant space within the existing premises on Baba Kharak Singh Road, with officials clarifying that the popular eatery will remain unaffected and continue operating from its present location.

The proposed building will house the offices of the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation(DTTDC), which operates the Coffee Home. The corporation has cited a shortage of



adequate and suitable office space as the primary reason behind the project.According to the proposal, the building will have an estimated plinth area of 17,000 to 17,500 square metres.

Its tentative design envisages two basement levels, a ground floor and 12 upper floors. However, the final configuration will depend on feasibility assessments, applicable building regulations and statutory approvals.

DTTDC has invited bids to appoint an architectural consultant for the comprehensive design and engineering planning of the project. The selected consultant will undertake site surveys, prepare architectural designs and submit a detailed project report, including cost estimates. As per the tender schedule, a pre-bid meeting will be held on November 16, while November 25 is the deadline for submission of the bids.Coffee Home, a familiar landmark in Connaught Place, will retain its place on the premises. Established in 1989, the eatery has always been popular among office-goers, visitors and local residents for its reasonably priced food and beverages.

Consumer panel sends two Parsvnath directors to judicial custody over unpaid dues of homebuyers

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has sent two directors of Parsvnath Developers to two-week judicial custody, until November 18, in connection with 46 pending cases involving unpaid refunds and compensation to homebuyers.Observing that they had been "evading the process of law in various cases", the Commission – in its November 4 order – noted that the directors, Sanjeev Kumar Jain and Rajeev Jain, had issued cheques to homebuyers that were dishonoured when presented for payment.The order was passed by a Bench comprising Justice Sangita Dhingra Sehgal, president of the Commission, and member Bimla Kumari.The matter came up after a homebuyer, Abhishek Mundhra, sought to withdraw an execution petition against the company following an out-of-court settlement of Rs 1.25 crore. The company had issued five post-dated cheques of Rs 25 lakh each as part of the settlement.The Commission, however, refused to allow the withdrawal, noting that "no settlement deed… has been placed on record" and that the cheques were yet to be encashed."It is significant to note that the JDs (judgment debtors/directors) who are present in court have been evading the process of law in various cases. They have issued cheques to the DH/DHs (decree holders/homebuyers) and the same were dishonoured on



presentation," the Commission observed.The two directors were already in custody when the matter was heard. They had been taken into custody earlier in November in relation to the same case and were produced before the Commission by the Delhi Police Crime Branch from Tihar Jail.The directors had also sought release from judicial custody, citing the settlement. However, the Commission said no settlement deed had been submitted along with the application seeking withdrawal of the execution petition.

Taking up 46 pending execution cases against the company suo motu, the Commission noted that the amounts awarded to homebuyers remained unpaid. "All the above mentioned matters are taken up suo motu since the JD has not cleared the decretal amount in these cases and execution petitions are still pending. Both the Directors of the JD, namely Mr Sanjeev Kumar Jain and Mr Rajeev Jain, are taken into custody in all these matters," it said.

The Commission noted that arrest warrants had been issued against the directors in five cases, while they had been declared proclaimed offenders in seven others. In another 34 cases, proceedings to declare them proclaimed offenders had been initiated.Refusing to grant relief until the settlement cheques were cleared, the Commission ordered that both directors remain in judicial custody and be produced before it at 12.30 pm on November 18.

Overpriced X-ray machines, Rs 300-crore kickbacks: ACB exposes Rs 842-cr Delhi health scam

Delhi.(Agency)

A chargesheet filed by the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) in the alleged Delhi medical procurement scam details how tenders were manipulated to favour two pharmaceutical companies, causing an estimated loss of Rs 842 crore to the government.It names three public servants—Dr Vinod Kumar Ranga, Head of Office of the Central Procurement Agency (CPA); Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) chief Dr Vatsala Aggarwal; and former CPA Deputy Controller of Accounts Neeraj Chopra—along with two companies, F-Med Devices and M Sahib and Sons Private Limited. Both firms are allegedly owned by pharma trader Rajiv Rangila, arrested as one of the alleged masterminds of the fraud.The ACB alleged that tender conditions were tailored to favour the selected firms and discourage competing bidders. Their bills were cleared within a day or two, while other suppliers reportedly waited nearly two years for payment.The alleged manipulation was particularly evident in the procurement of X-ray machines. Although the CPA planned to procure 448 machines, the chargesheet said, a tender for just two was uploaded on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, allegedly to restrict competition.

ACB probe says firms linked to Rangila got CPA contracts via rigged tenders

The ACB probe into the medical procurement scam found an arrangement between the CPA's Head of Office and manufacturing firm Prognosis. While Prognosis supplied the same machines to other government departments and entities at `14.9 lakh each, inclusive of taxes, F-Med charged the CPA `37.8 lakh per machine.F-Med was the only company to qualify for the tender, the ACB claimed, alleging that the CPA official earned over `150 crore via X-ray machine transactions. Similar pricing irregularities were allegedly found in hospital linen, medicines, oral rehydration solution (ORS) sachets and surgical equipment.

'They brought him wrapped like a bundle': Father of 4-year-old who died in open manhole

Drain in which boy fell was covered with plastic sheet; body parts recovered

Delhi.(Agency)

Shahjahan (35) sits slumped on a steel bench at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital, exhausted and in tears. For over 24 hours, she has been crying, fainting, and calling out her four-year-old son Imran's name — sometimes mumbling it, at other times screaming. Beside her sits her elder son, just six years old, watching his mother helplessly.Hours earlier, Shahjahan had seen the dismembered remains of Imran, who fell into an open manhole in Outer Delhi on Tuesday. His body parts were recovered from a water treatment plant nearly 7 km away on Wednesday.Police suspect the body was dismembered by the large rotating machines that filter and treat wastewater at a sewage treatment plant before the parts were recovered from the water treatment plant.The family had gone to Das Garden in Outer Delhi's Baprola on Tuesday. Shahjahan's husband, Khurshid Alam, a construction worker, often brought his wife and two sons to the park, around 3 km from their home in Som Bazaar, while he worked nearby.In a neighbourhood of old dilapidated buildings housing mostly daily-wage earners,Das Garden was one of thefew places where children could play. It even has a swimming pool. "I work as a labourer nearby. He wanted to come to the park, so I brought my family along and left the children with their mother. They would have gone home by evening," Alam said. In the afternoon, Imran wanted to relieve himself.



The park and a barren plot of land are located on opposite sides of a service road. The Najafgarh drain runs underneath the plot. Overgrown with shrubs and soaked in sewage water, the plot is surrounded by a seven-foot boundary wall. A section of the wall is missing, with an iron hinge suggesting there was once a gate there.Alam said Imran and his mother entered the plot through this opening. About 10 m inside was an open manhole, around 50 feet deep. "He went towards the manhole to relieve himself. The hole was covered with some plastic sheet. He stepped on it and slipped inside. His brother screamed. That's when I came running," Alam said.

The manhole connects to a sewer line running parallel to the Najafgarh drain. The drain empties into the Yamuna, while the sewer travels about 7 km, crossing areas like Ranhola, and emptying into the water treatment plant in Nilothi, Nihal Vihar.At 3.21 pm, local residents called the police and personnel from Ranhola police station began rescue operations. When the boy was not found until 9 pm, teams from the NDRF and Fire Brigade, along with the BSF, were roped in. The operation was halted at 10 pm before it resumed on Wednesday morning.The teams started scavenging the manhole using floodlights and thick ropes, in an attempt to attach it to any remains of the child. Around 11 am, Imran's body parts were found near the end of the drain at the water treatment plant.

Chawri Bazar residents struggle to arrange structural audits after MCD notices

With inspections estimated to cost Rs 10,000–15,000, residents say they are unclear about the process and worried about bearing the expense.

Delhi.(Agency)

Residents living near the building that recently collapsed at Gali Sheesh Mahal in the Chawri Bazar area who were asked by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to ensure structural safety audits of their buildings are struggling to complete the exercise.Abdul (name changed), one of the residents who has received a notice for the safety audit said, "We received this notice right after the tragedy (Chawri Bazar collapse) and now we are trying to get the check done, even though we do not know how exactly to go about this. It is a new struggle for us but since we have been asked to, we have to do this."According to an MCD official, the cost of arranging these assessments, estimated at `10,000–15,000, is supposed to be borne by the residents.

Another resident who also got the notice but refused to be named said, "We do not how much we have to spend for this. In case it is too expensive, it will be difficult for us."The notices have brought into focus a larger question over the corporation's role in identifying structurally vulnerable buildings across the city, particularly in older and densely populated areas where the condition of adjoining structures can also come under scrutiny after a collapse.A structural audit refers to a systematic, engineering-led inspection of a building's structural elements including columns, beams, slabs, foundations, and load-bearing walls, which is done to assess their current strength, detect deterioration and most importantly determine whether the structure remains safe for continued use.Speaking about it, former MCD Works Committee chairman Jagdish Mamgain questioned whether the corporation has a comprehensive system to identify buildings at risk before an accident occurs. "The civic body cannot limit its response to issuing notices to neighbouring properties after a collapse and leave residents to arrange inspections on their own."



Namo Bharat crosses 5-crore passenger mark, 1 cr journeys come in 93 days

The Delhi–Meerut corridor recorded its fastest growth between successive ridership milestones, with 33.49 lakh journeys in October, according to NCRTC.

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi–Meerut Namo Bharat corridor has recorded more than five crore passenger journeys since the commencement of operations in October 2023, with the latest one crore journeys added in just 93 days, according to the official records shared by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) on Wednesday.The milestone comes nine months after the entire 82-km corridor, connecting Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in Meerut, was opened for public use on February 22 this year. The Sarai Kale Khan station, which serves as the originating point of the corridor, was also opened to commuters on the same day, completing the Delhi section of the network.The corridor began operations on October 21, 2023, with the inauguration of the 17-km priority section between Sahibabad and Duhai Depot. It took 574 days to record its first one crore journeys, on May 16 last year.The subsequent milestones were achieved at shorter intervals, with the corridor crossing the two-crore mark on December 11, 2025, three crore on May 2 this year, and, later, four crore on August 10. The latest one crore journeys were recorded between August 10 and November 10—the shortest interval between two successive milestones.The corridor recorded 35.25 lakh passenger journeys in August, with an average daily ridership of 1.13 lakh. The highest single-day ridership of 1,68,666 journeys was registered on August 28. September saw 32.41 lakh journeys, while October recorded 33.49 lakh.The 82.15-km corridor has 16 stations and connects Delhi, Ghaziabad and Meerut. Its expansion has also brought additional interchange options for commuters travelling through the National Capital Region, with connectivity to the Delhi Metro, Indian Railways, interstate bus terminals and city bus services.The network also introduced the integration of Namo Bharat and Meerut Metro services on shared infrastructure, with both services operationalised on February 22.The NCRTC has attributed the increase in ridership to improved regional connectivity and the availability of an alternative to road-based travel. The trains have an operational speed of up to 160 kmph.



Opened on Feb 22

The milestone comes nine months after the entire 82-km corridor, connecting Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi to Modipuram in Meerut, was opened for public.

Shooting star from TN gains gold in Jaipur

Thirteen-year-old S Sangamithra became the first player from Tamil Nadu to win an individual gold medal in archery



New Delhi.(Agency)

Hard work, systematic training, and her father Samuel Lovely Sundar's coaching led S Sangamithra to win gold in the Indian Round Girls (Under-21) event at the Junior National Archery Championship held in Jaipur. The 13-year-old became the first player from Tamil Nadu to win an individual gold medal.The Tamil Nadu Archery Association (TAAT) lauded the father-daughter duo for this feat. "Winning an individual gold at the national level is a remarkable milestone earned through dedication, discipline, perseverance, and hard work. Sangamithra's achievement is a beautiful reminder that consistent effort, patience, and determination pave the way for success," said Dinesh Pradeep, TAAT secretary. "Our sincere appreciation also to her father and coach Samuel Lovely Sundar, whose unwavering support, guidance, sacrifices, and steadfast belief in her potential have been integral to this journey."The Class 8 student of CLRI KV School, Adyar, who trains at the Dhyan Chand Sports Academy here, is elated. "Winning the gold medal at the National Championship was a very proud and unforgettable moment. I am extremely happy to have achieved this at the age of 13. This victory is the result of my hard work, dedication, continuous practice, and the support of my coach and parents," she told CE.Sangamithra trained for two hours each in the morning and evening every day. Her preparation included technical corrections, physical fitness, endurance training, and mental preparation. "My coach continuously guided me to improve my shooting consistency, concentration, and confidence," she said.At the event, players from the North and West zones gave tough competition to players from the South. "The elimination competition featured 64 archers. Archers representing Telangana, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan gave me tough competition in the elimination rounds. The Rajasthan archer in the final was a strong competitor," she said, adding that the final match was particularly challenging as everything she had trained for was put to the test.Sangamithra will be seen in action at the Senior National Archery Championship being held in Shillong.

Abhinav Bindra makes IOA letter public, flags unanswered questions on election rules

New Delhi.(Agency)

Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra has made public his correspondence with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), reiterating concerns over an apparent inconsistency between the body's Constitution and the rules governing its Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit (SOM) elections. Bindra said he decided to share his October 31 letter in full after the private communication found its way into the public domain and was referenced in recent media reports.In a post accompanying the letter, Bindra clarified that he had written to IOA president PT Usha and chief executive officer Raghuram Iyer before the elections, seeking an explanation over the apparent difference between Article 3.7 of the IOA Constitution and the recently notified SOM election rules.

He said he had received an indication of which rules were being followed, but his central constitutional question remained unanswered.



Bindra added that neither the Electoral Officer nor the IOA leadership had provided a substantive clarification since."My intention was never to question individuals or influence an electoral outcome. It was, and remains, to encourage greater clarity, transparency and confidence in our institutions," Bindra wrote in the caption."I have always believed that the strength of an institution lies not in the absence of questions, but in its willingness to address them," he added, stressing that the credibility of sporting institutions depended on the fairness and integrity of their processes.The former shooter said his decision to publish the letter was intended to establish the context of his earlier communication, rather than prolong the dispute or question anyone's intentions. He had already decided against pursuing a candidature in the electoral process, but maintained that the constitutional issue remained relevant beyond his own participation.

WHAT IS THE SOM RULES CONTROVERSY?

The IOA's Sportspersons of Outstanding Merit Rules, ratified on September 8, 2026, introduced a framework under which an 80-member roster is prepared by the Electoral Officer using a 10-tier eligibility system. Eight representatives, comprising four men and four women, are then elected to the IOA General Assembly from this roster.Bindra's concern centres on how this process aligns with Article 3.7 of the IOA Constitution. He had sought clarification on the apparent inconsistency before the elections but said his specific question was not addressed.

Ashwini Nachappa alleges forced exits, questions fairness of IOA elections

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former India sprinter Ashwini Nachappa has alleged that she was forced to withdraw from the Indian Olympic Association's (IOA) Sportspersons of Merit (SOM) elections under external pressure, raising fresh questions over the transparency of the electoral process. Nachappa said the decision was not voluntary and expressed disappointment with the state of sports governance in the country.The 59-year-old was among the original 11 candidates contesting for four women's SOM positions in the elections held virtually on Monday. Speaking to PTI on Wednesday, Nachappa claimed that she and other candidates were asked to pull out, but did not identify who exerted the pressure or explain how the withdrawals were communicated."I was asked to pull out. All those who withdrew were asked to withdraw under external pressure. It wasn't voluntary, I can say that much... that speaks volumes about transparency," she said.

"If the opportunity came and if there was fairness, I would have stayed on. But sadly the very ethics and values of Olympic sport has been erased completely, I thought there was no point (fighting the SOM elections)," she addedFive female candidates, including Nachappa, withdrew on November 7, leaving six in the contest for four positions. Incumbent IOA president PT Usha finished fifth with 40 votes, missing out on a place in the General Assembly. Anju Bobby George, Rani Rampal, Dola Banerjee and Saina Nehwal secured the four positions. Usha's defeat has complicated her bid for a second presidential term, although she could still enter the General Assembly through a nomination by a National Sports Federation..



NACHAPPA QUESTIONS ETHICS IN SPORTS GOVERNANCE

Nachappa, who competed at two Asian Games and won three Asian Championships gold medals in the women's 4x400m relay, said she had entered the electoral process hoping to contribute to Indian sport. However, she felt the circumstances surrounding the withdrawals left little reason to continue.

She also criticised the role played by some athletes in the process, arguing that the values associated with Olympism were not being upheld. Nachappa said she would now return to running her educational institution in Karnataka, which has around 900 students.

Not in our scope: BCCI rules out expanding IPL to 12 teams

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has denied reports that the board is planning to expand the Indian Premier League to a 12-team tournament.



New Delhi.(Agency)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has denied reports of expanding the Indian Premier League (IPL) to a 12-team event, stating that it is only focused on the IPL 2027 at present. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia refuted the claims of expanding the IPL.

A report in Mint on Wednesday claimed that the BCCI is exploring the possibility of adding two more teams to the IPL from the 2028 season. The report added that Vadodara and Pune have emerged as the potential host cities for the two new teams.However, BCCI secretary Saikia said there was 'no scope' of expanding the tournament to 12 teams despite increasing global interest in the competition."We have neither discussed formally nor informally the possibility of the IPL becoming a 12-team affair in 2028. It's not in our scope at this stage. We are concerned about the IPL of 2027, which is going to be the 20th edition of the IPL," Saikia said while speaking to PTI.

"So it will be a big affair. We are concerned about that and we aren't considering anything beyond that. Whatever news is circulating in the media, I think these are all speculative reports from some fertile minds," he added.The reports of IPL's expansion come amid the league's growing global influence.

IPL has become one of the most valuable sporting properties in the world, with the valuation of the franchises witnessing an increase after every passing season.As per the report, each new team could command a valuation of more than $1 million if BCCI decides to expand the IPL to 12 teams. Asian state-backed investment entities, sovereign wealth funds and major Indian conglomerates can be among the potential bidders for the new teams.

IPL 2027 auction in December

The BCCI remains focused on the next edition of the IPL, with the mini-auction set to take place in December this year. The IPL 2027 auction will be conducted in Goa on December 16. November 17 is the deadline for all ten teams to reveal their final list of retained and released players ahead of the auction.

Pat Cummins to break silence on Sandpapergate after Michael Clarke's explosive rant

New Delhi.(Agency)

Pat Cummins is set to address the 2018 Sandpapergate scandal after former Australia captain Michael Clarke publicly questioned his silence over Usman Khawaja's explosive allegations. Cummins has called a press conference for Friday morning, days after Clarke challenged the current skipper to front the media and explain what he knew about the controversy. The development follows Khawaja's claims in his autobiography Sabr that the entire Australian team knew about the ball-tampering plan during the 2018 South Africa tour. Announcing his media appearance on X, Cummins said he had taken time to understand



the full extent of the allegations before responding."I'm training at Cricket Central tomorrow morning before the Blues play in the Shield match," Cummins wrote."Happy to speak with any and all media about the events of this week at 9.30 am. I've taken some time to try and better understand the long list and full extent of Uzzy's allegations Clarke had been particularly critical of Cummins for not addressing the issue sooner. Speaking on 2DayFM's Breakfast with Nath & Emma, the former Australia captain said the national team needed to establish the truth and questioned why its current leader had remained silent.

We absolutely support Pat': Cricket Australia backs Cummins amid fresh Sandpapergate row



New Delhi.(Agency)

Cricket Australia chairman David Boon has thrown his support behind Test captain Pat Cummins following fresh allegations about the 2018 ball-tampering scandal. Boon has made it clear that Cummins' position as captain is safe and that the board continues to have full faith in him.

The controversy has returned to the spotlight after former Australia batter Usman Khawaja made fresh claims in his autobiography, "Sabr". Khawaja alleged that all members of the Australian team on the 2018 South Africa tour knew about the plan to tamper with the ball.

His claims have reopened the debate over the scandal and led to demands for another investigation. Cummins, who now leads Australia's Test team, has also come under pressure to explain what he knew.

Boon says Cricket Australia has full faith in Cummins

Boon said Cummins had led the team with honesty and had the board's complete backing.

"We absolutely support Pat," Boon said in comments published by The Australian on Thursday.

"He's been an exemplary captain, he's led the team with integrity and, you know, very successfully over the period of time that he's been captain, so there's no question of our confidence in him continuing on in that fact.

'If Neeraj Chopra can, why can't I?': National record holder Nirbhay Chaudhary on his Olympic dream

New Delhi.(Agency)

Maine waha se start kiya hai jaha se log finish karte hain [I have started where others finish]" - that is how hammer thrower Nirbhay Chaudhary looks at his national record-breaking performance. He threw 71.02m at the Indian Athletics Series Final this October, breaking a national record that had stood for almost 10 years.His throw erased the previous record of 70.73m, set by Neeraj Kumar in 2016.

Despite the record, Nirbhay was not fully satisfied with his effort. After releasing the hammer, he initially thought of stepping out of the circle so that the throw would not be counted. However, he changed his mind.

A few moments later, he heard the noise around him. When he asked his coach what had happened, he was told that he had broken the national record.

"I had made that throw casually. I did not think it would be a record-breaking effort. I had not even used much power. I never expected the hammer to travel so far or that I would break the national record. I don't know how it went that far," Nirbhay told TimesofIndia.com in an exclusive interview.For Nirbhay, whose name means 'fearless', the national record is only the beginning. He now wants to cross 75m and eventually reach the 80m mark."This is just the beginning. I am really proud of this performance. It has given me a new beginning. I have started where others finish," he said.

The wall of inspiration: From 70m + to 75m

A few months ago, Nirbhay returned to his room after a tiring practice session. He was covered in sweat, but the session had not gone as planned. He was struggling to perform, and his body was getting tired quickly as he recovered from dengue.His family was also worried about his future in athletics. Frustrated and angry, Nirbhay picked up a marker and wrote a target on the wall beside his bed: "70 + national record". He also set a deadline for himself - September 10. He then prepared a training schedule and follow

ed it closely. His routine included waking up early.

Tata Power seeks cost-linked Mundra tariff pacts with 4 more states

New Delhi. (Agency)

Tata Power Co. expects to soon sign agreements with four Indian states allowing it to charge prices for electricity from its 4-gigawatt plant in Gujarat reflecting higher cost of coal, Chief Executive Officer Praveer Sinha said Wednesday.

The company is seeking to finalize supplementary power-purchase contracts with Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Punjab and Haryana after it finalized a deal with Gujarat to sell power at prices that are in line with fuel costs.

"We are working closely with all of them to get these things finalized," he told reporters on an earnings call. "We expect at least two more states of Rajasthan and Haryana to sign before December end." Tata Power has been seeking tariffs that reflect fuel costs to operate its Mundra plant consistently. The company agreed to sell electricity at a fixed price when it won the tender to build the plant on India's west coast in December 2006, using coal imported from Indonesia. That tariff became uneconomical after Indonesia changed its coal-pricing rules in 2010 and linked the fuel to international benchmarks, pushing the plant into years of losses and forcing it to operate below capacity. Shares of the company rose as much as 2.1% in early trading Wednesday, approaching their highest level in about two months. The company's board approved building a 1.8 gigawatts pumped storage project with an investment of 118.7 billion rupees. It has installed generation capacity of about 17 gigawatts currently.

Adani Group eyes mix of equity, debt for $2.9 billion Evos takeover

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's group is set to fund as much as half of the €2.56 billion ($2.9 billion) acquisition of Netherlands-based liquid storage operator Evos B.V. with equity, with the remainder through a syndicated loan, according to people familiar with the matter.

Adani Group will infuse equity up to the equivalent of $1.45 billion to fund the transaction, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. The conglomerate, controlled by India's richest person, is also working to refinance about €1.3 billion of existing debt at Evos, the people said.

The planned debt financing would create an opportunity for global lenders as the ports-to-power company presses with its expansion overseas by acquiring Europe's second-largest independent liquid storage company. India's acquisition-finance market is opening up as regulatory restrictions ease with domestic banks allowed since July 1 to fund up to 75% of the value in corporate takeovers.

The overall financing strategy is expected to broadly follow the structure used in two recent large Indian outbound acquisitions, two of the people said. Tata Motors Ltd. syndicated a €3.875 billion bridge loan to fund its takeover of Iveco Group's commercial vehicle business last year, while Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd.'s $12 billion purchase of Organon & Co. involved debt funding and cash infusion.

Haldiram Snacks begins IPO process, eyes ₹10,000 crore listing in late 2027

New Delhi. (Agency)

The company is looking at a stock market listing in late 2027. The proposed IPO could be worth around 10,000 crore, with the company targeting a valuation of more than ₹1 trillion, the report said.

Haldiram Snacks Food was created through the merger of Delhi-based Haldiram Snacks and Nagpur-based Haldiram Foods International.

An executive familiar with the development told the publication that a project management office (PMO) team had been set up to oversee compliance and coordination between different business functions. Given the diversified and complex structure of the business, the process is likely to take anywhere from six to 12 months, or more. The proposed IPO is likely to include both an offer for sale (OFS) by existing shareholders and a fresh issue of shares, the news report said.

Haldiram's planned listing comes as India's consumer sector prepares for another major public offering. Coca-Cola India is also planning a stock market listing of its bottling business, Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings. The proposed issue is estimated to be worth around $1 billion. The beverage maker filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) last week.

Global investors hold stakes in Haldiram

The company has attracted investments from several global investors, including Singapore's Temasek, UAE-based International Holding Company (IHC), Alpha Wave Global and US-based L Catterton.

Temasek, Alpha Wave Global and IHC acquired stakes in the company in March-April 2025. Their investments reflected confidence in India's growing packaged snacks market and the company's plans to expand its presence in international markets, particularly countries with large Indian communities, such as the US and those in West Asia, the news report said.

Sensex, Nifty edge higher as rally loses momentum; inflation data in focus

The Sensex was trading at 82,067.98, up 188.58 points or 0.23%, at around 9:24 am. The Nifty 50 was up 50.65 points, or 0.20%, at 25,305.70.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Stock markets opened marginally higher on Thursday, but the pace of gains remained muted compared with the sharp rally seen over the past few sessions. Investors appeared to take a breather after a strong run-up, while attention shifted to the release of India's October retail inflation data for fresh cues on the interest-rate outlook.

The Sensex was trading at 82,067.98, up 188.58 points or 0.23%, at around 9:24 am. The index had opened at 81,762.27, against its previous close of 81,879.40. It touched an early high of 82,097.56 and a low of 81,576.15.The Nifty 50 was up 50.65 points, or 0.20%, at 25,305.70 around 9:25 am. It opened at 25,213.50 and moved between an early high of 25,312.40 and a low of 25,142.95. The relatively modest gains come after a strong rally in November. The Nifty has risen 9.55% in seven trading sessions this month, largely driven by aggressive buying from foreign institutional investors (FIIs).



BAJAJ FINANCE, BAJAJ FINSERV LEAD SENSEX GAINERS

Bajaj Finance was the top gainer among Sensex constituents in early trade, rising 2.51%. Bajaj Finserv advanced 1.81%, while ITC gained 1.65%.

State Bank of India rose 1.02%, while ICICI Bank and Adani Ports gained 0.94% and 0.90%, respectively. Titan was up 0.80%, Axis Bank gained 0.68% and Eternal advanced 0.67%.Bharat Electronics rose 0.63%, while IndiGo and Asian Paints gained 0.60% and 0.56%, respectively. Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank were also marginally higher.

IT, AUTO AND PHARMA STOCKS UNDER PRESSURE

Sectoral performance was mixed in early trade. The Nifty Financial Services ex-Bank index gained 1.43%, while the Nifty Financial Services 25/50 index rose 1.03%. The Nifty Private Bank index was up 0.54%, and the Nifty PSU Bank index gained 0.12%. The Nifty Media index advanced 1.41%, while Consumer Durables rose 0.79%. Metal stocks gained 0.41%, and Realty stocks were up 0.68%.

However, the Nifty IT index slipped 0.47%, while Pharma fell 0.44%. The Nifty Auto index declined 0.37%, and the Healthcare index was down 0.51%. The Nifty FMCG index gained 0.14%, while Oil & Gas slipped 0.04%. The Nifty Chemicals index advanced 0.43%.

Jensen Huang's chips are down

The affair and spy storm engulfing Nvidia

An alleged relationship with a Chinese businesswoman suspected of working for Beijing, a reported $7.5-billion chip trail, a second alleged affair inside Nvidia and a boardroom showdown. The man who built the world's AI chip powerhouse is suddenly fighting a battle on several fronts.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jensen Huang is used to being the man in the spotlight. The black leather jacket, the rock-star treatment at technology conferences, the standing ovations and the billions of dollars riding on every new Nvidia product launch have made him one of the most recognisable faces of the artificial intelligence revolution.

But the 63-year-old billionaire is now starring in a very different kind of drama. There are allegations involving a suspected Chinese intelligence operative, a reported $7.5-billion trail of Nvidia chips reaching Chinese companies, two alleged extramarital relationships and a boardroom crisis that could end his 33-year run as the company's chief executive.

The plot has all the ingredients of a political thriller. There is a powerful technology boss, a businesswoman whose links to China have attracted intelligence scrutiny, a US administration caught between commercial interests and national security, and a company whose most valuable asset may also be its biggest vulnerability: its founder.

The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday that Nvidia's board was preparing to oust Huang. News agency Reuters subsequently reported that the board is meeting to decide his future. A decision was expected by today.

However, Nvidia's board met on Wednesday to discuss Huang's future, but has not announced any decision regarding the company's longtime CEO, reported The New York Times. The reports followed another revelation: Huang allegedly had a second extramarital relationship, this time with an Nvidia executive who reportedly reported to him.



WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?

The woman at the centre of the espionage allegations is Alice Huang, also identified in reports as Huang Le. She is a business executive with interests in the cloud-computing and AI infrastructure business. She is not related to Jensen Huang.

Their paths crossed publicly in June 2024, when the two were photographed together during the Computex conference in Taiwan. There was another encounter in May 2025. Video footage reviewed by Reuters showed them attending a private dinner in Taipei.

In October 2025, The New York Times reported that the two had been seen socialising. The report also said federal investigators were examining the activities of Megaspeed International and potential shipments of advanced Nvidia chips to China. Megaspeed's own history offers an important clue to why the company attracted attention. In March 2023, 7Road International changed its name to Megaspeed International as it expanded its cloud-computing business focused on AI infrastructure. Alice Huang was subsequently associated with the company's leadership.

CHINA SPY AND CHIP CONNECTION

The timing made the relationship particularly sensitive. For a long time, Huang has argued that the US should allow Nvidia to continue selling its AI chips in China. His argument has been that shutting Chinese customers out of American technology could simply push them towards domestic alternatives, weakening America's long-term technological advantage.

Washington has taken a more cautious view. Advanced AI processors can power everything from commercial chatbots and scientific research to military applications. Keeping the most powerful chips away from China has therefore become a central part of US technology policy.

In December 2025, President Donald Trump said the US would allow shipments of Nvidia's H200 AI chips to China after reaching an agreement with the company.The decision brought Nvidia's commercial interests directly into the political debate over America's technology relationship with Beijing. Then came an episode that would acquire a different significance months later.

HFCL bags export orders worth 834 crore for optical fibre cables

New Delhi. (Agency)

Telecom gear maker HFCL on Thursday said it has secured export orders worth about ₹834.36 crore (around $88.94 million) for supplying optical fibre cables to an international customer, through its overseas wholly-owned subsidiary. The order is scheduled for completion by June 2027.

The company, however, did not disclose the identity of the customer. "These orders reaffirm the confidence reposed by our custome₹in the company's manufacturing capabilities, technological excellence and product quality," HFCL said in a regulatory filing.

HFCL posted a multi-fold jump in consolidated profit to 394.22 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2026, up from 72 crore a year ago, driven by demand for optical fibre cables from AI data centres. The company has forecasted 80 per cent revenue growth in FY27 and expects to achieve the 10,000 crore revenue mark before the projected timeline of Fy29. HFCL's consolidated revenue from operations more than doubled to 2,541.79 crore in Q2 FY27 from 1,043.34 crore in Q2 FY26.

In September, HFCL bagged an export order of $244 million, about 2,329 crore, for supplying high-quality optical fibre cable to a global multinational corporation, in a three-year agreement.

The company's board has approved a fresh investment of approximately 400 crore to expand its optical fibre and optical fibre cable manufacturing capacities. The proposed expansion will be funded through a mix of internal accruals and debt and is expected to be completed by July 2028.

PM Modi says farmers remain top priority as Centre clears Rabi fertiliser subsidy

The Union Cabinet has approved an estimated Rs 62,370 crore fertiliser subsidy for the Rabi 2026-27 season. The move aims to protect farmers from global price fluctuations and ensure the availability of fertilisers at affordable rates.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the Rabi 2026-27 season. The government has set an estimated budgetary requirement of Rs 62,370.02 crore for the six-month period from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027.



The allocation is Rs 24,417.73 crore higher than the Rs 37,952.29 crore budgetary requirement for the Rabi 2025-26 season. The approval is aimed at ensuring that farmers continue to receive essential fertilisers, including Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) and NPKS grades, at subsidised and affordable prices despite fluctuations in international fertiliser and input costs. In a post on X, Modi said farmers remained a priority for the government and that steps were being taken to ease the pressure on them amid difficult global conditions.

"Even amid difficult conditions around the world, we are leaving no stone unturned to make their lives easier," the Prime Minister said, adding that the approval would help protect farmers from fluctuations in international prices while ensuring the availability of fertilisers at reasonable rates.

SUBSIDY RATES FOR DAP, NPKS FERTILISERS

Under the approved arrangement, subsidies on P&K fertilisers, including DAP and various NPKS grades, will be provided to fertiliser companies according to the notified rates for the Rabi 2026-27 season.

The government said the move would help ensure the smooth availability of these fertilisers to farmers at affordable prices. It will also rationalise subsidies in view of recent trends in the international prices of fertilisers and key inputs.

The subsidy will be extended to fertiliser manufacturers and importers, enabling them to make the products available to farmers at subsidised rates.

HOW THE NUTRIENT BASED SUBSIDY SCHEME WORKS

The government currently makes 28 grades of P&K fertilisers, including DAP, available to farmers at subsidised prices through fertiliser manufacturers and importers.The NBS scheme has been in effect since April 1, 2010. Under the system, the government fixes nutrient-wise subsidy rates for fertilisers containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and sulphur.

These rates determine the subsidy provided to companies, helping keep the retail prices of the fertilisers affordable for f armers. The latest approval comes amid changes in international prices of fertilisers and inputs such as urea, DAP, muriate of potash (MOP) and sulphur.The government said the revised rates would help maintain the availability of P&K fertilisers during the Rabi season while taking into account movements in global input costs. The subsidy is intended to provide farmers with access to essential agricultural nutrients at reasonable prices during the sowing season.



Karan Johar Calls Trolling Of Ranveer-Deepika And Vijay

Rashmika Mandanna

'Downright Regressive'

Karan Johar has had enough of people policing celebrity relationships. The filmmaker, who is currently hosting the ninth and final season of his popular chat show Koffee With Karan, has spoken about the online backlash faced by couples such as Ranveer Singh-Deepika Padukone and Vijay Deverakonda-Rashmika Mandanna after their appearances on KWK. He feels that while everyone is entitled to an opinion, telling couples how they should behave in their relationships is crossing a line.In an interview with The Hollywood Reporter India, Karan called the criticism directed at Ranveer and Deepika 'downright regressive'. He also came out in support of Vijay and Rashmika, questioning why viewers feel the need to interfere in a couple's personal decisions.

Karan Johar Calls Ranveer-Deepika Backlash 'Downright Regressive'

Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone appeared together on the opening episode of Koffee With Karan Season 8. While the episode gave viewers a glimpse into their relationship, some of their revelations about dating other people before committing to each other soon became a talking point online.The couple faced considerable scrutiny, with several social media users questioning their relationship. Reacting to the backlash, Karan said, "They are beautifully in love. Such good actors in love with each other."He further pointed out that the couple had simply been honest about their lives and questioned why they were being judged for it. "They were just being honest about their lives. Since when should honesty be judged? You should be appreciative of someone's honesty," he said.



'Are You A Counsellor?': Karan Johar On Comments About Vijay-Rashmika Relationship

Karan also addressed the online discussions surrounding Vijay Deverakonda and Rashmika Mandanna after their joint appearance on Koffee With Karan Season 9.Their conversation sparked reactions online, with viewers closely analysing their comments about their relationship. Some also began offering unsolicited advice.Karan made it clear that he had no problem with people having opinions about celebrities. However, he drew a line when those opinions turned into instructions about how couples should conduct their relationships."Everyone's entitled to an opinion. But when you start telling them what to do in that relationship, I have a very big problem," he said.He went on to question why viewers felt entitled to advise the couple. "Who are you? Are you a counsellor? Are you a lawyer? Are you a member of their family?"The filmmaker also objected to the comments directed at the families of Vijay and Rashmika following the episode. According to him, viewers can discuss celebrities and their choices, but dragging their families into online debates is unnecessary.



Pregnant

Kiara Advani

Holds Baby Bump When Asked About Date Nights With Sidharth Malhotra: 'Ab Bass Ho Gaya'

Kiara Advani had a cheeky response ready when Karan Johar asked her and husband, actor Sidharth Malhotra how they make sure their date nights do not end at dessert. Cradling her baby bump, the actress, who is pregnant with her second child, replied, "Ab bass ho gaya!" leaving Sidharth and Karan laughing.The moment features in the promo for the couple's upcoming appearance on Koffee With Karan Season 9. The episode marks their first joint television appearance and the two are seen sharing some fun moments with host Karan Johar.The couple also look back at their wedding and recall a funny incident involving Shahid Kapoor. They reveal how Karan hilariously threw Shahid off the stage when he tried to join him during a dance performance.

There is more banter when Karan asks Sidharth and Kiara if there is a character they would like to roleplay. Sidharth responds with a joke about keeping their professional lives separate from their personal one, saying, "We don't want to bring our work home and certainly not to our bedroom!"The episode of Koffee With Karan Season 9 will stream exclusively on JioHotstar this Wednesday at 7 pm.



About Koffee With Karan

Hosted by filmmaker Karan Johar, Koffee With Karan is one of India's most popular celebrity chat shows. It first premiered in 2004 and features Bollywood stars discussing their careers, relationships, friendships and personal lives over a cup of coffee. The show is known for its rapid-fire round, where guests answer questions about fellow celebrities, and the Koffee hamper awarded to the winner. Season 9, which premiered on October 14, 2026, is the show's final season, bringing its 22-year run to an end. It streams on JioHotstar through The Peacock Hub.

Sidharth Malhotra And Kiara Advani's Wedding

Sidharth Malhotra and Kiara Advani got married on February 7, 2023, at Suryagarh Palace in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, in the presence of close friends and family. Karan Johar, who shares a close bond with both actors, was among the guests at the wedding. He had also played a role in their love story by bringing them together professionally through Shershaah, the 2021 film in which they starred opposite each other. After the wedding, Karan shared an emotional note, describing the ceremony as a celebration of love and recalling his affection for the couple.

Coachella 2027 Lineup Out: Diljit Dosanjh Returns 4 Years After Historic Debut; Joins Dua Lipa, Madonna, Others



Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh is heading back to one of the world's biggest music festivals. Four years after making his Coachella debut, the singer has been announced as part of the 2027 edition of the festival. He will be sharing the lineup with some of the biggest names in international music, including Dua Lipa, Madonna, SZA and Tame Impala. The Coachella 2027 lineup was officially announced today, on November 11.The Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival will take place across two weekends, April 9-11 and April 16-18, 2027. The event will be held at the Empire Polo Club in Indio, California.

Diljit Dosanjh Returns To Coachella After 2023 Debut

Diljit has been included in the festival's Friday lineup (April 9 and April 16), which will be headlined by Dua Lipa. The same day will also feature Madonna, BLACKPINK member JISOO, Zara Larsson, Steve Lacy, Peggy Gou, Kehlani and Giorgio Moroder, among others.Sharing the post by Coachella on his Instagram stories, Diljit wrote, "Panjabi aa gaye main stage Coachella te oye!"

The festival has an equally exciting lineup for its other two days. Tame Impala will headline Saturday, with performances by Phoebe Bridgers, Weezer, Tiësto, Martin Garrix, Robyn, Måneskin and NCT.

SZA will headline Sunday, which will also feature Don Toliver, Kygo, Dom Dolla, Empire of the Sun, Becky G and BABYMONSTER. Daddy Yankee has also been announced with a special billing, while Justice will make its Bunker debut with 'Blinded by the Lights'.

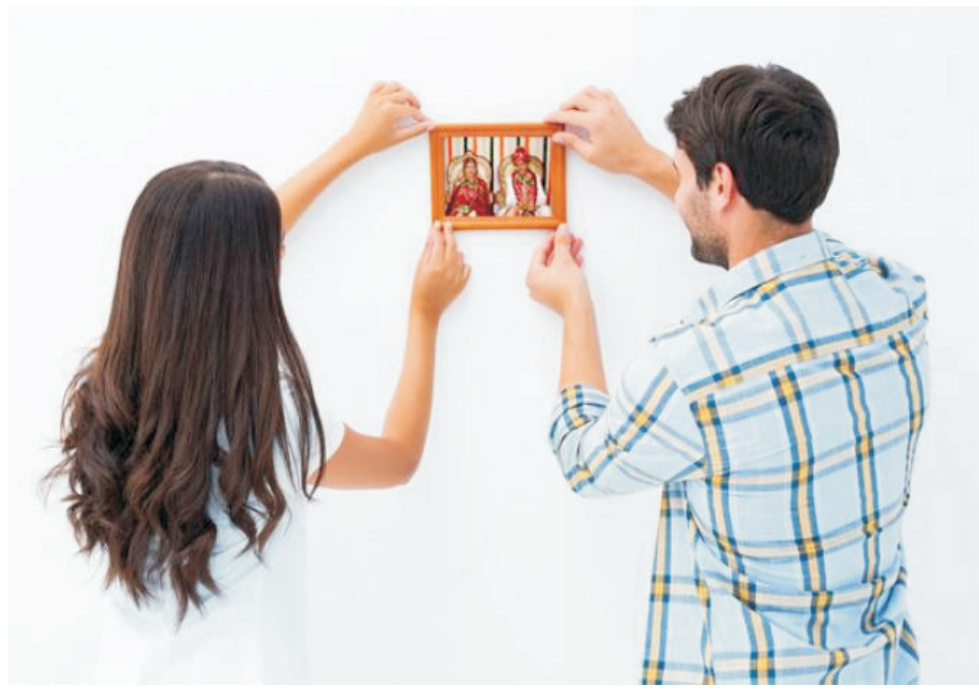
Manoj Bajpayee Reacts To Tiger Shroff Firing Incident, Says 'Definition Of Crime Has Changed Completely'



The firing incident outside Tiger Shroff's home has once again raised questions about the safety of Bollywood stars. Many actors are now taking extra steps to protect themselves. Manoj Bajpayee has also shared his thoughts on the incident and why he feels the situation is very different from what the film industry faced years ago.Amitabh Bachchan, for example, recently greeted fans outside his Mumbai home, Jalsa, from behind bulletproof glass during his usual Sunday appearance.In an interview with Hindustan Times, Manoj was asked if the fear of underworld threats, which Bollywood faced in the past, was coming back. The actor said things would never be the same as before. He explained that crime has changed and that the person attacked may not always be the one the criminals originally wanted to target."It will never go back to the same old time. That time, the industry was the target, right now, it's not this time. The pace and definition of the crime has changed completely. Now, somebody is sitting somewhere else and sending their shooters to attack a target, and that target may even not be the real target."Manoj Bajpayee Says Tiger Shroff Was Not The Actual TargetManoj also spoke about the firing outside Tiger Shroff's residence. He pointed out that Tiger was reportedly not the person the accused wanted to target in the first place.According to the accused's statement in the case, Salman Khan was reportedly their intended target. They had also allegedly visited the homes of several other Bollywood stars to gather information. These included Akshay Kumar, Amitabh Bachchan and Aamir Khan.Talking about how Tiger got caught up in the incident, Manoj said that other stars who may have been the actual targets now need to be extra careful."From Tiger's incident, what has come to the fore is that he was not the target, but suddenly became one. The whole conversation was about these other stars who were the real target and now they have to surround themselves with utmost safety."The actor said the situation was worrying but added that the state government was taking steps to deal with it. He hopes things improve and celebrities can feel safer.

11 ways to have a rocking

Married life



With divorces throwing many a marriage apart, there are those who feel that this institution is in urgent need of an overhaul if it is to remain relevant and not become the sham modern marriages are increasingly ending up as.



While many lament that monogamy is all but dead, we feel that it's still too early to write off the institution, or even reinvent it. It's worked in the past, and there's no reason why it shouldn't now. What we might need to do instead is to find ways to make our marriage work, rather than wait for it to flounder and then take recourse in the excuse that it wasn't meant to work anyway. If you think marriage is for keeps, here're 10 plus One ways to keep your marriage strong and rocking.

1. Know that the romance and passion of the early days will sooner or later fizzle out. Instead of moping for that lost passion, recall the early days of your dating/courtship/wooing/chasing. This will instantly re-establish the connect that brought you both together, and you'll fondly look back at those days and moments. You may not be able to summon that kind of passion, but you can still steal time for just the two of you.... Remember when passion subsides, companionship takes over. Revel in the comfort of becoming good companions.

2. True, you are now man and wife, but you don't need to merge your individual identities. If before marriage you were fond of wearing skirts, or playing a game of cricket with the boys, you don't need to give that up just because you're now married. As long as it doesn't hurt anyone, of course, like it would if you were a Casanova before marriage and insist on being allowed to remain so! It's worth preserving your own identity in a marriage because then you wouldn't be forced to cramp your signature/individual style or lose your personality. This will mean that there will be little scope for frustration and bitterness as your relationship gets older.

3. Have a lot of US time, but don't forget to have plenty of ME time either... you not only stay away from each other's hair, but also give no room for breeding contempt that too much familiarity and being together invariably bring.

4. While giving space to each other is vital, make sure that communication never ceases. Any lull in communication can be potentially dangerous. So, have periods of silences but fill each other in when you catch up. If there's anything that's bugging you about the other, or if there's something at work that's troubling you, nothing works better than using each other as involved and responsive sounding boards. Bounce ideas, plans, off each other.

5. Fights between couples are normal, but so is making up. Scream, holler, have it all out, but once you're over and done with remember to not let the sun go down on your fight. Make up before the day's out.

6. Many couples fight over finances. Joint accounts and holding investments together are all very fine, but there's no need to give up your fiscal independence or opt out of holding individual bank accounts.

7. Infidelity- Now that's a deal breaker, but don't suspect your spouse of infidelity if he or she is appreciative of someone of the opposite sex, or is a recipient of admiring glances from them. Also you don't need to jump into some absurd conclusion just because you stumbled upon some innocuous SMSes or mails, or the last number dialed happened to belong to a colleague of the opposite sex. Unless you've caught him or her red-handed or have enough incriminating evidence to nail him or her, like, say, lipstick on his collar (of a shade not in your lipstick collection) or some strong masculine perfume on her person (a fragrance that's certainly not part of your vanity collection), there's no need to go ballistic or melodramatic. Even in cases where the telltale signs are rather strong, it would be better if you can bring it up instead of losing your sleep, peace and equanimity of mind over it.

8. Parenting- now that's a tricky territory many couples fight over. Best would be to find a healthy middle ground. If one of you is too strict and the perfect disciplinarian, and the other way too indulgent, striking a balanced middle ground helps where parenting is concerned and less hair-splitting or accusations over kids and their upbringing, often an area of discord and bad blood between couples.

9. Take holidays together. Building your nest egg, or working doubly hard to see your way through that mountain of EMIs is smart, but don't forget to take a break and breather. Also, though our daily existence moves in a, more or less, set pattern, it is always nice to make room for some unscheduled and off the beaten track moments.

10. Respect each other's weaknesses and sensitive points. If he can't bear to hear any criticism about his mother, and she can't stand her unsuccessful attempts at losing weight being made fun of, know how to steer clear of those. Ribbing each other good-humouredly is healthy, provided you know where to get off. And finally:

11. Marriage is another word for monotony and routine, but nothing like action between the sheets to rev it up and keep it exciting. You don't need to keep your scores but remember that sleeping together isn't just a bedroom arrangement; it's a marriage binder too!

Post a comment



Innovative ways to make Family time count



Here are ways to ensure that you bond better with your folks

Take classes together Join yoga or aerobics classes offered for parents and kids together. If your little one is too young to participate, look for classes that help you burn calories with your baby by incorporating him into your yoga moves or just take them along with you for an evening walk, or jump into the pool for a swim and bond.

Holiday time

Getting away from the city, automatically, helps you switch off from the daily grind. Family holidays are great occasion for each member of the family to get relaxed. Only a peaceful environment can help them to forget the tensions and rejuvenate the mind and body to lead life actively and happily.

Happy eaters

Get the kids to accompany you to the market and let them pick their own fruits and vegetables. Involve them in the food preparation. This way, they are more likely to enjoy their meals and try new things. This would prevent you from stressing on what the little one's eating habits. Likewise, what toddlers munch on during snack time will have a lasting effect on their health down the road. The period from birth to two years is a critical window for the promotion of optimal growth.

No desserts as rewards The easiest way for parents to get their little ones to eat fruits and veggies is by bribing them with a candy post meal. However, this bribe can cost their health in the long run because it builds a greater aversion to foods like peas, bitter gourd and long gourd. Often, parents offer a food once, and if the child doesn't eat it, they never reintroduce it. The key is to introduce (children) to new foods.

Family dinners

A 2000 survey found that the nine to 14-year-olds who ate dinner with their families frequently consumed more fruits and vegetables and less cola and fried foods. Their diets also had higher amounts of many nutrients, like calcium, iron, and fibre. While on the table, serve your child small portions. A study has also found that when children served themselves food, the portions were appropriate for their age, whereas when adults served them double portions, the children ate 25 per cent more. Kids who frequently eat with their families are less likely to get depressed or develop an eating disorder.

Be there fully

It doesn't help if you are just there physically at home, and mentally still occupied with your job. So, set aside a specific time when you check your mails and return calls, instead of doing so throughout the day. Once home from work, also tape a note to the telephone that says 'No!' to remind you not to spread yourself too thin.

Revive date plans

Happy parents make happy kids. So, it won't hurt to revive the dating game. Catch a film or head out for a cup of coffee, while your kids are asleep. Working out together is also a fun way of spending time with your partner.

Redo your room

Too often, family rooms are the centre of laziness in a home. Change things around. Get the room painted in brighter colours or replace the comfy sofa with a bean bag. Clear up the clutter to breathe in new energy into the room.

Make chores fun

Instead of assigning each family member a chore to do alone, turn chores into a game you can do together. Race to see how fast you can get the house cleaned, and then try to beat your old time the next week. Play music while you are doing laundry and enlist the kids to sing and dance while helping to fold and put clothes away.

Your parents on Facebook. Like?

Youngsters share an awkward relationship with their parents on social networking sites



Shreya Raman is currently fighting off a major wave of embarrassment on her Facebook account. She logs in to find out that on her status update that went "Awesum party last nite!!!" her mother had zealously commented "You better nt hav been drinking?! who was with u? were u driving?"; and to add insult to injury, a friend comments: "ouch Shreya! u've been busted!"

Shreya's not the only one. Many young adults share a rather uncomfortable relationship with their parents on popular social networking sites. Everybody thinks twice before accepting a friend request from their parents or relatives and more often than not, end up editing their privacy settings so that they don't reveal much about what they're up to. "It's because I'll get hell from my mother every time I use a curse word, or talk about drinking with friends," says Naveen Raj, a final-year college student. Naveen feels that most youngsters feel conscious about their activities on the public domain when they know that their parents can view it too. "Takes the fun out of the social network when you have to lead a guarded existence online," he says.

Young adults have a number of things they'd want to keep away from their parents including relationship statuses and moments of inebriation that could have been caught on camera. "There are two extreme reasons behind why youngsters like to keep their parents from seeing what they post online. One, parents who use the medium to spy on their child's activities and clamp down on them, and parents who are too eager to be part of their child's social life," explains Sujatha Ratnam, a school counselor who has had to handle many incidents where parents get too involved. With cyber bullying taking prominence of late, a lot of parents feel that it's best that they are part of the whole social network movement. "Online or not, I look after my boy. Simple," says one parent while another defends her joining the website saying it has nothing to do with her daughter. "Just because I'm older does not mean that I don't have a life," she says. I have friends too and I have pictures and conversations to share. What's the whole issue with that?" she says.

But when it comes to letting out information online, it seems that the tables have turned these days. A recent study revealed that parents often reveal more information on their online accounts than what their kids do. Fourteen or forty, the whole idea of joining the social network has to do with a greater desire for a sense of belonging -- for some parents, with their children while for the young adults, with their peer group.

Rupesh Gaekwad, a high-school student, loves that his father's among his friends on the site. "I was in a boarding school the last two years and the site was the only way my father and I could share our interests. We got to bond despite the distance," he says.

Krithika Rau, a freelance writer feels that it's healthy having your parents on your friends' list, and people should really stop making a huge deal out of it. "If you're posting stuff on the site that you don't want your parents to see, then you shouldn't be posting it for the rest of the world to see in the first place," she feels. But Krithika too has a funny yet embarrassing anecdote to share: "It's cool that I have my dad on my friend's list, but it's quite embarrassing when I get random poll requests on my wall asking me whether I think my dad's sexy or not! Now that I don't Like," she laughs.