



@thesikhtimes



facebook.com/
thesikhtimes



instagram.com/
qaumipatrika

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

The Sikh Times

National Daily

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

Vol. 18 No. 163

RNI NO. DELENG/2008/25465

New Delhi, Saturday, 31 October 2026

sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

9654077232

12 pages

₹ 3

India's extreme poverty falls from 27.1% to just 2.6%, says World Bank: How big is this achievement?

New Delhi. (Agency).

India has recorded one of the world's fastest declines in poverty, with the proportion of people living in extreme poverty falling from 27.1 per cent in 2011-12 to just 2.6 per cent in 2023-24, according to the World Bank. The latest figures indicate a major shift in living standards across the country, particularly among low-income households. The decline comes at a time when several countries continue to struggle with poverty, unemployment and rising living costs. According to the World Bank's October 2026 Poverty and Equity Brief, an estimated 49.6 crore Indians moved above the poverty line for lower-middle-income countries during this period. The report describes India's progress as "one of the fastest poverty declines in the world". Rising household spending, employment growth and government welfare programmes, including food subsidies, contributed to the decline.

What does the World Bank report say?

The World Bank measures extreme poverty using an international threshold equivalent to \$3 per person per day, adjusted for differences in purchasing costs between countries.

Why Delhi traders are appealing to Sonia Gandhi against Rahul-led pre-Diwali rally

New Delhi (Agency).

Traders know who to do business with. When they find one door shut, they knock on another. Delhi's trading community, fearing a major disruption to Diwali business due to the Rahul Gandhi-led INDIA bloc's November 1 rally, on Friday appealed to Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi to get the protest march postponed. Behind the appeal is there a perception that Sonia Gandhi is more accommodative and flexible than the Congress's new-gen leadership, who are seen as more assertive and clinical? After writing three letters to Rahul Gandhi didn't elicit a favourable response, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has now approached Sonia Gandhi, the Congress matriarch, requesting her to intervene. The traders want the rally at Ramliha Maidan postponed until after Diwali, warning that it could disrupt business worth Rs 10,000-12,000 crore across nearly 20 major markets in Delhi.

The Congress-led INDIA bloc's march on November 1 is an attempt to intensify its campaign against the alleged "vote theft" and the way the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is being conducted, while demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The choice of Sonia is interesting because she has gradually moved away from the party's day-to-day functioning, leaving Rahul Gandhi and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra to take a more active role in political and organisational matters. Yet, for the Delhi traders, approaching the former Congress president appears to be an attempt to reach someone.

PM inaugurates new cattle breeding centre in Gujarat to boost milk output

Palanpur(Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday inaugurated the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre in Gujarat, aimed at improving indigenous cattle breeds and increasing milk production, news agency Press Trust of India reported. The centre, established by Banas Dairy at Bhildi in Banaskantha district, will use advanced breeding techniques and provide affordable breeding services to livestock farmers. PM Modi, who arrived as part of a two-day visit to Gujarat, toured the facility and interacted with officials to understand its functioning. He was accompanied by Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and Banas Dairy chairman Shankar

Chaudhary, who is also the Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly. Spread over 127 acres, the centre has been built at a cost of Rs 325 crore

The facility will use breeding methods such as in-vitro fertilisation and embryo transfer to improve the quality of indigenous cattle breeds and raise milk production. It aims to produce 25,000 high-quality embryos every year, the statement said. The centre will focus on indigenous cow breeds such as Kankrej, Gir, Sahiwal and Tharparkar, as well as buffalo breeds including Mehsani, Banni, Jaffrabadi and Murrah. The initiative seeks to help dairy farmers obtain higher milk yields from fewer animals as cattle maintenance costs rise and fodder availability declines. The government said the centre would offer high-quality semen, embryos and breeding services to livestock farmers at affordable rates. During his visit, PM Modi is also scheduled to inaugurate and lay the foundation stones for five major development projects of Banas Dairy at Bhildi.



with technical guidance from the National Dairy Development Board and support from the Centre's Rashtriya Gokul Mission, according to an official statement cited by PTI.

INDIA bloc postpones 'public impeachment' of CEC Gyanesh Kumar to October 31

The impeachment proceedings are to be held on October 31, a day before the Opposition's mega rally at Ramliha Maidan against alleged electoral irregularities and the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls

New Delhi(Agency)

The INDIA bloc has postponed its proposed 'public impeachment' of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar, scheduled for Friday, due to rains in the national capital, sources said. The impeachment proceedings are to be held on October 31, a day before the Opposition's mega rally at Ramliha Maidan against alleged electoral irregularities and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, they said. The event was to be held at the official residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge after the Opposition failed to secure permission to organise it at venues such as the Constitution Club and Talkatora Stadium. The INDIA bloc had planned a three-hour mock impeachment,

with former Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar presiding over the proceedings. Kharge was to move the motion against the CEC, while



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was scheduled to deliver the concluding remarks. At least 30 speakers representing 21 political parties, besides civil

society members and people affected by the SIR exercise, were expected to participate. The move is part of the Opposition's escalating campaign against Kumar, whom it has accused of partisan conduct and mishandling the revision of electoral rolls. The parties have been demanding his resignation, alleging that the exercise has resulted in the large-scale deletion of eligible voters. The controversy intensified after the Election Commission's SIR exercise placed 13.39 crore electors under the categories of absent, shifted, dead and duplicate (ASDD) across the country. The poll panel has maintained that the exercise was intended to remove ineligible and duplicate entries, while allowing genuine voters whose names were omitted to seek inclusion.

After MLC poll setback, BJP-led Mahayuti in damage control mode

Mumbai(Agency).

The electoral setback in the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC) polls has triggered damage control within the ruling Mahayuti alliance, with Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde asking Shiv Sena leaders to refrain from publicly targeting alliance partners and the BJP launching a review of its defeats. In the polls conducted on October 23, opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) won three of five Maharashtra Legislative Council seats, delivering a major blow to the ruling alliance. Congress candidate Abhijeet Wanjari was declared the winner in the Nagpur Graduates' constituency after counting stretched for over 40 hours. The victory was significant as



Nagpur is home to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari and the RSS headquarters. Of the five Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies that went to polls, the MVA won three seats, while the BJP-led Mahayuti secured two. In the wake of the setback, Shinde has called for a collective

review of the alliance's performance, urging leaders to identify shortcomings, avoid repeating mistakes and ensure that internal disagreements do not benefit the opposition. Local leaders have also been asked to submit detailed reports on the reasons behind the setbacks, which will be examined by the Mahayuti coordination committee. Meanwhile, the BJP has initiated its own review exercise following its defeat in the Nagpur Graduates' constituency. National general secretary BL Santhosh arrived in Pune to hold a review meeting with party MLAs and corporators to assess the reasons behind the electoral setbacks, including possible organisational shortcomings and coordination issues within the alliance.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat calls for turning Northeast's tourism potential into business opportunities, livelihoods

New Delhi(Agency).

Union tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Thursday called for transforming northeastern states' tourism potential into business opportunities and sustainable livelihood. Highlighting the immense potential of the region, the minister said that its rich biodiversity, cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and natural landscapes offer distinctive opportunities for adventure, nature-based and experiential tourism. Shekhawat further emphasised the potential of adventure tourism, music festivals and concert tourism to attract new visitor segments, encourage longer stays and generate economic opportunities for local communities. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 14th edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM), organised by the Ministry of Tourism in association with the Government of Arunachal Pradesh at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

The three-day event aims to showcase the tourism potential of the eight North Eastern States and strengthen business engagement with domestic and international tourism markets. Shekhawat also urged developing tourism experiences with appropriate safety standards, community participation and environmental safeguards. The minister of state for tourism Suresh Gopi and minister of state for education and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Sukanta Majumdar, chief ministers of Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim Pema Khandu and Prem Singh Tamang respectively were also present. The 14th edition marks the return of the International Tourism Mart to Tawang after 13 years, following the second edition held here in 2013.

'No recommendations': Karnataka CM talks tough on transfers

BENGALURU(Agency).

Karnataka Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has put a stop to transfer lobbying, announcing that from November 1 no transfers will be permitted except routine ones. Sources at the Chief



Minister's Office (CMO) described the directive as a stern warning to all concerned. The Chief Minister made it clear that nobody should approach him with transfer recommendation letters.

Shivakumar asked officials and public representatives to stop spending time on such recommendations and to give priority to government work and public service. "I will not tolerate recommendations or pressure for transfers," the CM said, adding that any negligence in public service will invite strict action. He urged the administration to focus on three things — effective implementation of government schemes, ensuring that benefits reach eligible beneficiaries and prompt resolution of public grievances. "Authority and influence must be used to serve the people, not to seek transfers," he said, asking everyone to take the message seriously and work towards better governance. The CM, by setting a deadline, is signalling that service delivery, not political lobbying, should set the agenda.

Congress urges Centre to coordinate Cyclone Arnab relief, ensure aid through PM CARES fund

New Delhi(Agency).

The Congress on Friday urged the Centre to coordinate relief and rehabilitation efforts with state governments in the wake of the devastation caused by Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh and heavy rainfall and flooding in Odisha. It also called for timely assistance to all affected families through the PM CARES fund. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in Andhra Pradesh and voiced concern over the disruption caused by the cyclone in Odisha. "The Union Government must lead

coordinated relief and rehabilitation efforts with state governments, ensuring timely assistance through the PM CARES fund to all the affected families," Kharge said in a post on X. He also



urged Congress workers to extend all possible help to people affected by the disaster. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra echoed the appeal, urging party

workers to assist in relief and rescue operations in the affected areas. "My thoughts are with the people of Andhra Pradesh facing the devastation caused by Cyclone Arnab and those in Odisha affected by heavy rainfall and flooding. I pray for everyone's safety and urge Congress workers to extend every possible help to those affected and support relief and rescue efforts," she said. On Thursday night, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had also expressed concern over the devastation in Andhra Pradesh and the flooding in Odisha, urging the governments to ensure swift relief and rehabilitation for every affected family. He offered condolences.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in Andhra Pradesh and voiced concern over the disruption caused by the cyclone in Odisha.

Noida clears decks to allot 13,000 more abadi plots in urban villages

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority has amended its Master Plan 2031 to resolve pending cases involving the allotment of 5% developed residential plots to farmers. The amendment provides for earmarking these plots on land adjoining existing village abadi areas and is expected to pave the way for allotment to nearly 13,000 farmers who gave up their land for development projects but are yet to receive developed plots that were part of the compensation package. Noida, Greater Noida and Yamuna authorities currently follow a policy of giving farmers 5%, 6% and 7% of developed plots respectively in return for acquired land. Allotment has been planned in several cases, but farmers claim nearly 12,800 beneficiaries are still awaiting developed plots. “Since the master plan 2031 is nearing full implementation, identifying suitable locations for planning and allotting the remaining plots has become difficult. In view of farmers’ demand for an early resolution of these cases, the Authority has decided to amend the master plan to allow 5% abadi plots on land adjoining existing village abadi,” a Noida Authority official said.

Ghaziabad schools to remain closed on October 30 amid UP PET-2026 examination

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Schools across Ghaziabad will remain closed on Friday, Oct 30, in view of the Uttar Pradesh Preliminary Eligibility Test (PET)-2026, according to an order issued by the district education department. No such order has been issued in Noida yet.The District Inspector of Schools (DIOS), Ghaziabad, issued the directive on Oct 14, declaring a one-day educational holiday on Oct 30. The order applies to all govt and private secondary schools, inter colleges, aided and unaided institutions, and schools recognised by the UP Board, CBSE, ICSE and the Basic Education Department in the district.The decision follows directions from the Uttar Pradesh govt and the district administration regarding the conduct of the PET-2026 written examination.

30 arrested in 21 narcotics cases in month-long Ghaziabad crackdown

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Authorities in the district have stepped up action against the illegal sale and trafficking of narcotics, with a focus on educational institutions and other sensitive areas.Between Sept 21 and Oct 22, police arrested 30 people in 21 narcotics cases. Separately, under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), four cases were registered, and 10 people were arrested.Police seized 47.37 kg of ganja, 2.46 kg of charas, 15.5 kg of doda, 140 grams of intoxicating powder and 146 grams of intoxicating tablets during the period. Twenty-one hookahs, 21 chillums, 26 pipes, 14 stands and 12 units of flavoured tobacco were seized under COTPA.The crackdown was reviewed at a meeting of the district-level Narcotics Coordination Centre at the collectorate on Wednesday. Additional District Magistrate (City) Vikas Kashyap, who chaired the meeting under the direction of District Magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar, directed departments to intensify enforcement against drug trafficking and.

Garbage fleet planned at 875, but rollout to begin with 100 vehicles

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG will begin rolling out its new door-to-door garbage collection arrangement with 100 vehicles from Wednesday, with the remaining 775 vehicles scheduled to join the fleet by Nov 15. The existing stopgap arrangement, which currently uses 591 vehicles across eight zones, will continue until the new system is fully operational, ensuring waste collection and transportation are not disrupted during the transition.The new arrangement will involve 875 vehicles — 675 light commercial vehicles, 184 e-rickshaws and 16 compactors — for door-to-door waste collection, segregation and transportation to treatment facilities. The rollout follows nearly two years of reliance on interim arrangements after MCG terminated its contract with Ecogreen Energy in June 2024 over alleged poor performance. The Haryana govt approved the engagement of two agencies in Aug. Delhi MSW Solutions Ltd has been assigned Cluster 1 under a contract worth Rs 327 crore, while BVG India Ltd will handle Cluster 2 under a

contract worth Rs 320 crore. Both contracts are for five years, with a provision for a two-year extension. The existing agencies operating under the interim arrangement are scheduled to exit by Jan 2027.“The agreement was signed with the agencies earlier this month, and they will start operations from Wednesday. Until the new arrangement is fully implemented, garbage collection and transportation will continue to be handled by the existing agencies,” an MCG official said.The rollout was discussed at a review meeting chaired by Haryana industries and commerce minister Rao Narbir Singh on Monday. He directed officials to strengthen road cleaning, ensure regular water sprinkling and expedite waste management work. The meeting also reviewed waste processing at Bandhwari landfill, road improvement projects and action against violations of pollution-control and sanitation norms.At Bandhwari, 42.95 lakh metric tonnes of the 58.5 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste received at the site had been processed as of Oct 20, leaving

15.55 lakh metric tonnes to be treated. Officials said contracts worth Rs 151.2 crore had been awarded for processing 16.8 lakh



metric tonnes of waste, while a proposal worth Rs 61.71 crore for processing another 8.5 lakh metric tonnes had been sent for approval.With restrictions under Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in force, Singh asked officials to ensure regular deep cleaning and water sprinkling on roads to

curb dust pollution. He also stressed the need for effective monitoring of garbage collection, transportation and sanitation work.Between Jan 1 and Oct 23, MCG issued 12,914 challans for violations of pollution-control and sanitation rules, amounting to around Rs 2.68 crore, officials said. During the first stage of GRAP, 139 challans worth Rs 4 lakh were issued between Oct 21 and 23.MCG has also completed redevelopment work on more than 223km of the 396km of roads identified for improvement following directions from Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). Around 35% of the work on 10 designated ‘iconic roads’ has been completed, the official said. Earlier this month, Haryana chief minister’s chief principal secretary Rajesh Khullar set a 30-day deadline for upgrading 100 roads in the city.Since the termination of Ecogreen Energy’s contract in June 2024, MCG has relied on temporary arrangements and short-term contractors for waste collection and transportation.

Car crashes into parked bus on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, couple and daughter die; 10-year-old, infant survive

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A cab driver, his wife and their seven-year-old daughter died early Thursday when their car rammed into a bus parked on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Bhondsi police station area around 3.15am. Their two other children, a 10-year-old boy and a one-year-old girl, were pulled out alive from the wreckage. The boy is seriously injured.The deceased were Bambam Kumar Sah (39), his wife Rupa Kumari (27) and their daughter Mahi (7). Originally from Bihar’s Banka district, Bambam lived in Delhi’s Rajokri with his family and drove a cab for a living. The family had borrowed a Maruti Swift from a friend, Raju Singh, to visit Balaji temple in Rajasthan, Bambam’s brother Balmikee Sah said. They left Rajokri

around 8pm, visited the temple and were on their way back when the crash occurred.Police sources said Bambam was driving at 124 kmph when the car hit the bus. His son Ayush (10) was in the front passenger seat. Rupa, holding one-year-old Tingi, sat behind Bambam, with Mahi beside her.The impact was so severe that more than half the car went under the bus, trapping the occupants in the mangled wreckage.

An emergency response vehicle team reached the spot and police began rescue efforts with fire brigade personnel. Using a mechanical cutter, rescuers cut through the car and pulled out Ayush and Tingi. Police gave Ayush water even as he was being pulled out, as the airbags had also deployed.

Ayush was first taken to a nearby hospital and later referred to Safdarjung

Hospital in Delhi. Police said he could not move his leg. Tingi suffered a forehead injury but is out of danger.“I received a call from the cops around 4am, following which I informed my family in Bihar and reached the spot. I was devastated to see the bodies. Now, since we won’t be able to afford an ambulance to Bihar, we will cremate them here. My handicapped mother won’t be able to attend their last rites,” Balmikee, also a cab driver, told. Relatives said the two surviving children will stay with their grandmother in the family’s native village in Bihar. Ayush is a student at a private school near the family’s rented accommodation in Delhi. The bodies were taken to Sohna Civil Hospital for postmortem and handed over to the family. Police seized the car and the bus.

Ghaziabad builder told to refund Rs 3.7 lakh to flat buyer for delay

Noida.(Agency)

The District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission has directed a builder to refund around Rs 3.7 lakh collected from a prospective flat buyer in 2013, along with 6% interest calculated from the date the buyer filed a complaint in 2022. The builder has been told to pay Rs 15,000 as compensation for mental agony and litigation expenses. The builder did not send any representation during the proceedings and did not file any counterclaim.

Commission president Anil Kumar Pundir and members Shailja Sanchan and RP Singh on Oct 22 allowed the complaint against Krishna Infocom,



with its registered office in east Delhi, but dismissed it against the second party, Shyam Builders Pvt Ltd, for lack of evidence.“Krishna Infocom is ordered

to pay the complainant a sum of Rs 3,65,077, along with 6% annual simple interest from the date of filing of the complaint on Oct 14, 2022, until the actual payment. It should also pay Rs 10,000 as compensation for mental agony and Rs 5,000 as litigation expenses. In case of non-compliance of the order within 30 days, simple interest of 9% instead of 6% will be payable on the amount from the date of filing of the complaint till the actual payment is made,” the commission ruled.Nehru Nagar resident Sushma Gupta filed a complaint on Oct 14, 2022, saying that she had booked a flat with a floor area of 1,205 square feet for an amount of Rs 31,44,790 with Krishna Infocom.

Original certificates lying with Haryana govt, MBBS graduates in the state are in a fix ahead of NEET admissions

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Around 300 MBBS graduates who cleared NEET-PG and secured postgraduate seats risk losing them because their original documents are with the state govt under its bond policy. The doctors, who are racing against time as they face a Nov 2 deadline to complete admission verification formalities, have written to the directorate of health education for the release of their original documents, saying years of study and a hard-won opportunity to specialise in their subjects anywhere in the country could be jeopardised by an administrative delay. The dispute has affected graduates from four govt medical colleges — PGIMS, Rohtak; Shaheed Hasan Khan Mewati Govt Medical College in Nuh; Kalpana Chawla Govt Medical College in Karnal; and BPS Govt Medical College for Women in Sonapat. The doctors said colleges are retaining not just their permanent MBBS degrees, but also detailed mark cards for all four professional examinations, internship documents, character and attempt certificates, and permanent registration papers issued by Haryana Medical Council. They argued that the bond policy provided for withholding only the permanent degree, not these other documents. A provisional degree, they insisted, could serve in its place.They have addressed their letter seeking the originals to Dharendra Khadgata, director of medical education and research, and marked a copy to Sumita Misra, additional chief secretary of health. WHY DOCUMENTS MATTER

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar

N - 31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.thesikhtimes.in
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Institute fined Rs 6,000 for cutting neem tree to install ad pole near Noida Expressway

Noida.(Agency)

Haryana’s plan to set up a 2,000-tonne-per-day waste-to-energy (WTE) plant at Kasan village in Manesar has come under scrutiny after a study found that electricity generated by Delhi’s four operating incinerators carries a fossil-carbon footprint around 4.7 times the national grid average.The study, released on Thursday by National Alliance for Climate and Ecological Justice (NACEJ) and Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA), estimated that Delhi’s plants emit 3.42kg of fossil-origin carbon dioxide (CO2) per kilowatt-hour of net electricity exported. Central Electricity Authority’s weighted-average grid emission factor is 0.727kg per kWh.The study does not assess Haryana’s proposed plants or estimate their future emissions. However, its findings raise questions about the climate implications of expanding incineration as the city struggles with its waste-management challenges.In Aug, Haryana govt announced four integrated WTE plants with a combined capacity of 5,000 tonnes a day and proposed electricity generation of 50MW. The Gurgaon plant, the largest, is planned to process 2,000 tonnes a day and generate at least 20MW. The other three are planned for Faridabad, Ambala and Hisar, with capacities of 1,600, 900 and 500 tonnes a day, respectively. All are expected to become operational by Oct

2028. The state plans to use biodegradable waste to produce compressed biogas, and non-recyclable combustible dry waste to generate electricity.According to the Delhi study, the four plants processed 7,35,840 tonnes of plastic in 2023, about 42% of their refuse-derived fuel feed by mass. Burning it released an estimated 2.1



million tonnes of fossil-origin CO2, equivalent to the annual emissions of about 1.44 million cars. The plants exported an estimated 198kWh of net electricity per tonne of raw municipal waste processed, supplying less than 1.5% of Delhi’s total electricity demand. The authors clarified that their estimate covers CO2 from burning plastic alone, not all emissions from the plants’ chimneys or their full life cycle.

Edu minister inspects dilapidated school, calls it 'monument of graft'

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Delhi Minister Ashish Sood, along with his Cabinet colleague Ravinder Indraj Singh, during an inspection of a school building in Rohini, Sector 28, in New Delhi on Tuesday. Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood on Tuesday inspected Lal School in Shahbad Dairy, a school building under construction in Sector 28, Rohini, and Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in Bawana, during a visit to the Bawana Assembly constituency in North West Delhi. During the inspection of Lal School, Shahbad Dairy, officials of the Directorate of Education informed the minister that the school building, constructed in 2020, had deteriorated rapidly and was declared dangerous in 2024 due to its extremely poor condition. The minister was told that sub-standard construction material had been used, leading to the building

becoming dilapidated within just five years. The inspection revealed that



plaster had fallen off at several places, flooring was damaged and classroom windows were broken. Terming the condition of the school a serious case of corruption and negligence, Sood said, "The school building becoming dilapidated within just five years is a clear case of corruption and negligence." He further described Lal School as the "Taj Mahal

of corruption" of the Aam Aadmi Party. Addressing the issue, the Education



Minister promised that Lal School would be rebuilt and developed as a safe, modern and high-quality educational institution" and stated that "strict action will be taken against the guilty officers and responsible persons involved in the construction of the school". Referring to the hardships faced by students, Sood noted that around 5,000

students had to be shifted to another school in Rohini in July, forcing children to walk more than 2 km daily. Calling it a serious concern, he said, "I would call this school a monument of corruption. It is entirely a memorial of corruption. Because of this, children were forced to go far away from their own area, which is a matter of grave concern for us." He added that residents have been living near the school for decades without any issues related to water quality or fluoride content, rejecting claims that environmental factors caused the damage. The minister alleged that under the guise of an "education revolution," corruption had deprived poor children of

their right to education, causing severe inconvenience, especially during board examinations. Responding to the allegations, the AAP dismissed the Minister's remarks as a political stunt. In a statement, the party said that instead of making allegations, the minister should have ordered a proper investigation, fixed responsibility and taken action against those found guilty. During the visit to the under-construction school in Sector 28, Rohini, Sood directed officials of the PWD and the Education Department to complete the project before the next academic session, stressing the need to ensure quality construction. The minister also reviewed 8

acres of vacant land near Rajiv Gandhi Stadium, Bawana, and directed officials to ensure its proper utilisation. He instructed officials that a walkway for residents, along with a multipurpose hall and hostel, be developed on the land, and sought a detailed project plan within 15 days. Sood directed officials that both schools be developed on the lines of PM SHREE Schools with modern facilities, including smart labs and language labs. He further stated that the Delhi Government was committed to ensuring strong education and sports infrastructure in every Assembly constituency across the city.

Maharashtra TET paper leak: Three more held in UP, 10 in custody so far

Thane: The Maharashtra police have arrested three more persons from Uttar Pradesh in connection with the alleged Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) paper leak case, bringing the total number of individuals in custody to 10, officials said on Sunday. A state-appointed Special Investigation Team on Friday arrested Nareshkumar Mahore, Sanjaykumar Sharma, and Babul Kushwaha, all employees of an Agra-based private printing firm, a police official said. Printing & Publishing The trio allegedly smuggled question papers out of a secure facility during the printing process. Police also recovered three live cartridges from Sharma. They were brought to Bhiwandi in Thane district, where the alleged paper leak first came to light, on Saturday. A magistrate remanded them to police custody until July 9. The SIT is currently tracking financial and digital trails to apprehend the suspected kingpins, Bijendra Kumar Gupta and Sonukumar Kishanlal, the official said. The TET 2026 was postponed on June 27, a day before it was to be held, after police in Thane district found that a part of its question paper had been leaked and arrested three people. The SIT uncovered that the racket was spread across Delhi, Agra, Bihar, and Haryana. The investigation previously led to the arrest of Suman Kumari Gupta, the wife of the alleged mastermind, Bijendra Gupta, from Patna, after call records and financial trails linked her to him. The TET paper leak, which followed the national scandal caused by the leak of the NEET-UG paper, has affected nearly 6 lakh candidates.

Delhi cops nab 2 for operating mule account in Rs 2.10-cr digital arrest fraud

New Delhi: The accused, Sonu Khan (36), a resident of Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, and Arjun

of North-East district. The police recovered four mobile phones, six debit cards and 10 chequebooks



Chaudhary (38), a resident of Shahdara, were arrested by the Cyber police station

from them. According to the police, the investigation began after a complaint filed on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal was shortlisted for verification. The inquiry revealed that a suspected mule bank account operating in Yamuna Vihar had received Rs 98,592 on October 12. An examination of the bank transactions showed that Rs 49,000 had been withdrawn the same day, while the remaining amount was withdrawn through a cheque.

The police subsequently traced the transactions to an e-FIR registered at the Special Cell's IFSO unit on October 15 in connection with a digital arrest fraud. The case was registered on the complaint of a Janakpuri resident who alleged that cyber fraudsters had cheated him of approximately Rs 2.10 crore. During the investigation, a police team traced Khan to Gali No. 13, near Durga Mandir in Ashok Nagar, on October 23. He was allegedly operating a shop dealing in disposable items when the police apprehended him. Three mobile phones, 10 chequebooks and six debit cards belonging to different banks were recovered from his possession. During interrogation, Khan allegedly told investigators that he was working

for Chaudhary, who had helped him establish the shop.

In return for the financial assistance, Chaudhary allegedly obtained control over Khan's bank accounts, which were subsequently used in transactions under investigation, the police said. Acting on the information gathered during the probe, the police apprehended Chaudhary and recovered a mobile phone from his possession. Both men have been arrested, and the police are investigating their alleged roles in procuring, controlling and using the bank accounts linked to the fraudulent transactions.

Gurugram schools receive fake bomb threat: 26 institutions searched, email sender hunted

Gurugram: The bomb threats sent via email to

prominent Gurugram schools on Wednesday turned out to be fake. After several hours of search operations in 26 private schools, nothing suspicious was found. An FIR was registered, and the police are trying to identify the person who sent the email. According to Vikas Kaushik, ACP, DLF, a bomb threat was first sent via email to a private school in DLF Phase 1 around 7 am on Wednesday. A joint search operation was carried out by the bomb disposal team along with teams from the Gurugram police, SDRF, Civil Defence, and Fire Department. Other prominent schools in Gurugram received similar threats, prompting a search operation in all schools. No suspicious objects were found. School management informed the police control room after receiving the threat email. Parents were urged not to send their children to school, and those

who had already arrived were sent back. A senior police officer stated that some schools announced with teams from the Gurugram police, SDRF, Civil Defence, and Fire Department. Other prominent schools in Gurugram received similar threats, prompting a search operation in all schools. No suspicious objects holidays, but a thorough investigation was conducted, and nothing objectionable was found. CP Vikas Kumar Arora, Gurugram, said, "A total of 26 prominent private schools received the threat through emails.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHD AMIR KHAN S/O MOHAMMAD USMAN R/O HOUSE NO-L-65 BLOCK-4, MCD FLAT, NEAR GAGAN CINEMA, SUNDER NAGAR, DELHI-110093, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME FROM HUMAIRA TO HUMAIRA KHAN.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD AMIR KHAN S/O MOHAMMAD USMAN HOUSE NO. L-65 BLOCK-4, MCD FLAT, NEAR GAGAN CINEMA, SUNDER NAGAR, DELHI-110093 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD AMIR KHAN

NAME CHANGE
I, Wasim Abbas S/o Saeed Haider Naqvi R/o House No.50, 2nd Floor Gali No-10, Parwana Road, Brijpuri Extn, Krishna Nagar, Delhi-110051 have changed my name to Wasim Abbas Naqvi for all future purposes.

Public Notice
I, VISHAL TYAGI, D/O SUNIL TYAGI, R/o House No. 1158, GALI NO. 10, KRISHNA NAGAR, BAGU, GHAZIABAD, UTTAR PRADESH - 201009, hereby declare that I have changed my name to VERONICA TYAGI and my gender from MALE to FEMALE. Henceforth, I shall be known as VERONICA TYAGI, D/O SUNIL TYAGI, for all future purposes.

Public Notice
It is for general information that I, NEENA Daughter of HARI CHARAN and Wife of PRAVEESH KUMAR Residing at 318, LG Flats, Pocket-3, Paschim Puri, Paschim Vihar, S.O. West Delhi, Delhi-110063 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as BHAVANA in my Aadhaar Card No. 2873 2959 4838 and Voter ID Card No. JB11164052. The actual name of mine is NEENA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public notice is hereby given that my client Mr. Pawan S/o Mr. Anant Ram, R/o House No. 1321, Nangla Encave, Near Sagar Public School, Part-2, Faridabad Sector-22, Faridabad, Haryana-121005, is owner of Freehold Residential Flat No. SF-107, Second Floor, without roof rights, area measuring 97 Square Yards, built-up on Plot No. 25-A, out of Kharsa No. 1370, situated at Balaji Enclave, in the Village Raispur, Pargana Dasna, Tehsil and District Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh, vide Notarized General Power of Attorney Dated 04.05.2000., executed by Mrs. Usha Rani Sharma W/o Mr. Shivanand Sharma. It is Pertinent to mention here that initially property was owned by Bhumiidhar Singh, Sattori W/o Mr. Mahendra Singh, Mrs. Sheela Shau W/o Mr. Surendra Singh, Mr. Anuj Kumar & Mr. Vishwanath Bandhu Both Ss/o Mr. Satendra Singh, and Others. Further Mrs. Sattori appointed attorney to Mr. Rajendra Singh S/o Mr. Narayan Singh, for area measuring 138 Square yards, from her share of land comprising Kharsa No. 1370, and also Mr. Anuj and Mr. Vishwanath appointed attorney Mr. Rajendra Singh for area measuring 30 Square Meters, comprising Kharsa No. 1370 from their share. Further Mr. Rajendra Singh appointed attorney Mrs. Usha Rani Sharma W/o Mr. Shivanand Sharma for land area measuring 210 Square Yards, bearing Plot No. J-25-A. Being the owner of land area measuring 210 Square Yards, bearing Plot No. J-25-A, constructed flats over the said plot. Further, Mrs. Usha Rani Sharma appointed attorney Mr. Pawan S/o Mr. Anant Ram, for the said Flat No. SF-107, Second Floor. My client is absolute owner of the said Property which is free from encumbrance. The said property neither falls under acquisition nor falls under any litigation in any court of law. On date, being the absolute owner of the said property, my client Mr. Pawan S/o Mr. Anant Ram, is going to Sale the said Flat to Mr. Rakesh Kumar S/o Mr. Rajendra Singh, The same is going to be financed by PNB Housing Finance Ltd., branch Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) has/have any objection regarding the above said property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 7 days from the date of the Notice in writing to undersigned or the said Bank/FI. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned/bank by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail. Failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

Rupesh Kumar Roushan
Advocate
D-803, Nandgram,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh 201003

Public Notice

Information is given to general public at large that our client MR. DARSHAN VIRMANI is the owner of one shop with an area measuring 260sq.ft. Approx. on ground floor, and One shop in front side on ground floor (adjoining pro. No.625) area 22.296 sq. meters, without roof/terrace rights, and Back Portion of Ground Floor only without roof/terrace rights area 44.584 sq. meters, built up property bearing No.624, total land area 160 sq. yards, situated at Dr. Mukherjee Nagar, Redevelopment Scheme of Kingsway Camp, Delhi-110009, from Mr. B.R. Arora by virtue of Sale Deed dated 13.07.2005 as Doc. No. 24744, & (1) Shri Sushil Kumar Garg, (2) Shri Ram Gopal Sahni & (3) Shri Surinder Kumar Satija, AND Sale Deed dated 18.01.2017 as Doc. No. 529, & Sale Deed dated 31.03.2017 as Doc. No. 3323, (SRO-VIA, Delhi) Original Sale Deed dated 05/07/2016 executed by Mr. Bhushan Kakkar in favour of Mr. Sushil Kumar & others, Doc. No. No.8678, and Sale Deed dated 12.04.2005 in favour of Mr. B.R. Arora as Doc. No. 13093, in respect of above mentioned property documents has been lost by my client and our client intend to mortgage the same against the financial assistance from Bajaj Finance Limited. (BFL) To comply the requirements of BANK/NBFC, we give this public notice that if any person(s) having any objection/claim/rights regarding ownership and/or creating mortgage of the said property is/are hereby requested to intimate in writing to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

Vinayak Law Associates
Advocates & Consultants
11-A, Second Floor, G.T. Road,
Katori Mill, Mohan Nagar,
Ghaziabad, UP (Pin-201007)
Mobile No. 8827791054,
9891522694

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mrs. Mansi Bidia and Mrs. Poonam both intend to purchase Entire Third Floor without roof rights, Property Bearing Municipal No. 1430, Gali No. 98, Ganesh Pura, Tri Nagar, New Delhi 110035, from Mrs. Radha Rani W/o Late Mr. Yogesh Chander Sharma and she was owner of property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 06.09.2014 executed by Mr. Manish Sharma S/o Late Mr. Yogesh Chander Sharma, as Doc. No. 10082, in Book no. 1, Vol. no. 5325, on Pages no. 29 to 32, on dated 08.09.2014, in SR-VIA, New Delhi and after death of Mr. Yogesh Chander Sharma owner of vide Notarized Exchange Deed dated 26.12.1990 executed by Mr. Yogesh Chandra Sharma S/o Mr. Nanak Chand Sharma (become the Owner of House No.1430, old No.921), in favour of Mr. Dinesh Chandra Sharma S/o Mr. Nanak Chand Sharma (become the Owner of Plot No. B-55, Krishna Vihar Colony, Poothokalan, Delhi) in respect of entire property. The proposed purchase of the aforesaid property is to be financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Limited, Branch Office: Ghaziabad. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail. Failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

[ASHWANI KUMAR] Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound,
Ghaziabad, U.P.
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE

I, Shan Mohd S/o Mohammad Taslim R/o H.No.217, Street No.7, Kardampuri Extn, Shahdara, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Shan Mohammad.

NAME CHANGE

I, Tasleem S/o Abdul Karim R/o H.No.217, Street No.7, Kardampuri Extn, Shahdara, Delhi-110094 have changed my name to Mohammad Taslim.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as URMILA Alias IMLA W/O SUBHASH CHAND R/O 95-A, Ghondly Village, Krishna Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi - 110051 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as URMILA.

Public Notice

It is for general information that I, KARTIK S/o MUKESH, R/o E-52/128, Aradhak Nagar, Shahdara Bardar, Jhilmil, East Delhi, Delhi-110095, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as KARTIKE in Aadhaar No.80342493345. The actual names of mine is KARTIK respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Tahira W/o Mohd. Tayyab is the Owner in respect of Residential Entire Floor, Property No. E-2/622, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 321/1, situated in the area of Village Mustafabad in the Abadi of Gali No. 11, Nehru Vihar Illaqa Shahdara Delhi, by virtue of Regd. Irrevocable GPA dated 24.01.2005, duly registered as Doc. No. 29421, Book No. 4, Vol. No. 1820, Pages No. 182-184, registered on dated 24.01.2005, SR- IV (North East - Seelampur), ATS & Will, executed by Mrs. Shakuntla Devi W/o Mr. Chander Bhan and said property to be sold to Mohd. Naushad and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/tie in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot no. 20, Koushambhi
near HDFC Bank, U.P.
E-MAIL:
sgassociatespl@gmail.com,
Ph: 8130309204

NAME CHANGE

I, ANJALI D/O SANTOSH SINGH R/O 1620, T/F FRONT SIDE, ULD-HANPUR NAVEEN, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANJALI SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I VINOD TIRKEY S/O JAMES TIRKEY R/O H NO-77, ZAMRUDPUR, GRATER KAILASH PART-I, GRATER KAILASH. SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110048 declare that name of mine and my wife have been wrongly written as BINOD TIRKEY and SUSANA TIRKEY in my minor son namely VIRAJ TIRKEY aged 14 years in his school Records. The actual name of mine and my wife are VINOD TIRKEY and SUSANA KUJUR respectively which may be amended accordingly

Public Notice

I, hitherto known as LAL BABU SINGH S/o M. L SINGH R/O F-26A Block M-2nd Gali No-6, Sangam Vihar, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, PO- Pushpa Bhawan, Dist-South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as LAL BABU MAHTO. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. DEE-TRS-GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against Tender No. 230-TRS-GZB-2025-26-39-RT. The details are as under:

1. Name of the work: PU (Polyurethane) Painting of WAGS, WAP7 & WAPS Electric Locomotives at Electric Loco Shed-Ghaziabad.
2. Approx. cost of work: ₹80,20,627.89
3. Earnest Money to be deposited: ₹1,60,400.00
4. Last Date & Time of Submission of tender bid of tender: 19.11.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)
5. Date & Time of opening of tender document: 19.11.2026 (After 15:00 Hrs.)
6. Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen: www.irops.gov.in

Note: (i) The tenderers must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e., www.irops.gov.in, for participating in e-tender system. (ii) For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. (iii) No manual offers are acceptable. (iv) Cost of Tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

No. 230-TRS-GZB-2025-26-39-RT Dated: 27.10.2026 3808/26

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER, 2026 OF LUMDING DIVISION

The e-auction programme for sale of Railway Scrap materials under the jurisdiction of Lumding Division for the month of November, 2026 is hereby fixed as under:-

SN	MONTH	Date Fixed
1	NOVEMBER, 2026	06-11-2026, 18-11-2026 & 26-11-2026

Interested bidders are advised to bid through IREPS website (www.irops.gov.in) for registration, training, participation in e-auction.

Sr. DMM, Lumding
Serving Customers With A Smile



मौ महामाया सहकारी शक्कर कारखाना मर्यादित, अम्बिकापुर ग्राम-केरता तहसील-प्रतापपुर, जिला-सुरजपुर (छगण)

"रिक्त पदो पर संविदा नियुक्ति/भर्ती हेतु विज्ञापन"

मौ महामाया सहकारी शक्कर कारखाना मर्यादित अम्बिकापुर ग्राम-केरता के गन्ना पेराई क्षमता 2500 TCD हेतु निम्नांकित कुल 06 रिक्त पदों पर संविदा नियुक्ति/भर्ती की जानी है। रिक्त पदों पर "मुख्य गन्ना विकास अधिकारी (Chief Cane Development Officer), सहायक अभियंता (विद्युत) (Assistant Engineer Electrical), मुख्य रसायनविद (Chief Chemist), उप मुख्य रसायनविद (Dy. Chief Chemist), एवं विनिर्माण रसायनविद (Manufacturing Chemist)"

अब आवेदित अभ्यर्थियों को सूचित किया जाता है कि आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत करने की प्रारंभिक तिथि 01/11/2026 से अंतिम तिथि 14/11/2026 के शाम 05.00 बजे तक रजिस्टर्ड डाक/ई-मेल/व्यक्तिगत मौ महामाया सहकारी शक्कर कारखाना मर्यादित, अम्बिकापुर, ग्राम-केरता, पोस्ट-खडगवौकला, तहसील-प्रतापपुर, जिला-सुरजपुर (छगण) 497223 के पते पर प्रस्तुत किया जाना है, दिनांक 17/11/2026 को पात्र/अपात्र सूची संस्था वेबसाईट पर जारी किया जावेगा, पात्र अभ्यर्थियों का वॉक-इन-इंटरव्यू (WALK-IN-INTERVIEW) दिनांक 20/11/2026, सुक्रवार को मौ महामाया सहकारी शक्कर कारखाना मर्यादित, अम्बिकापुर, ग्राम-केरता, पोस्ट-खडगवौकला, तहसील-प्रतापपुर, जिला-सुरजपुर (छगण) (प्रशासनिक भवन सभाकक्ष) में समय प्रातः 10.30 बजे आयोजित किया जावेगा। पात्र अभ्यर्थी समस्त शैक्षणिक योग्यता एवं अनुभव प्रमाण पत्रों के मूल दस्तावेजों के साथ साक्षात्कार में उपस्थित होंगे। उक्त विज्ञापित पद से संबंधित विस्तृत जानकारी हेतु कारखाना के वेबसाईट www.mahamayasugar.com में अवलोकन कर सकते हैं।

प्रबंध संचालक

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, AJEET KUMAR S/o RAJENDRA SINGH R/o Chandener, PO: Bahadurgarh, DIST: Hapur, Uttar Pradesh - 245208 declare that the name of my mine and my wife has been wrongly written as AJEET CHAUHAN and SHIKHA CHAUHAN in my minor daughter ADITI CHAUHAN aged 17 years in her 10th class Education Document. The actual name of mine and my wife is AJEET KUMAR and SHIKHA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal wife of Mr. V.S. Agarwal is the Owner in respect of Built-up Double Storey, Portion of Plot No. 61, area measuring 65.4 sq. yards out of Total 165 sq. yards, out of Kharsa No. 411, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 04.10.2000, duly registered as Doc. No. 58801, Book No. 4, Vol. No. 7373, Pages No. 101-102, dated 04.10.2000, SRO - Delhi, ATS & Regd. Will, executed by Mr. I.J. Chaudhary son of Mr. Vasudev Chaudhary thereon, Mr. V.S. Agarwal expired on 09.09.2011, and Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal expired on 04.10.2018, Since the SMC of Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal not available and Thereafter, Relinquishment Deed dated 02.01.2020 executed by Ms. Sunita Agarwal daughter of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mr. Raj Rani Agarwal, Mrs. Veena Manglik daughter of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal & Mr. Ruchien Singhal son of Mr. Devendra Kumar, Grandson of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal in favour of Mr. Yesh Singhal son of Mr. Devendra Kumar, Grandson of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal, vide regd. as, Doc No. 79, It is hereby stated and confirmed that the following are the only legal heirs of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal, and that they have no other legal heirs Mrs. Sunita Agarwal daughter of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal, Mrs. Veena Manglik daughter of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal & Mr. Ruchien Singhal son of Mr. Devendra Kumar, Grandson of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal and Mr. Yesh Singhal son of Mr. Devendra Kumar, Grandson of Late Mr. V.S. Agarwal and Late Mrs. Raj Rani Agarwal, who became owner of Built-up Property Bearing No. H-61, area measuring 65.4 sq. yards, i.e. 54.68 sq. mtrs, out of Kharsa No. 411, situated in the area of Village Nawada, colony known as Mohan Garden, Block-H, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi-110059, and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/tie in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 15 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot no. 20, Koushambhi
near HDFC Bank, U.P.
E-MAIL:sgassociatespl@gmail.com,
Ph: 8130309204

Four killed, 11 injured as helicopter with EU force crashes in Bosnia

SARAJEVO.(Agency)

A helicopter with the European Union peacekeeping force in Bosnia crashed Thursday in the country's north, killing four personnel on board and injuring 11, according to a statement from the force.The Italian CH-47 Chinook crashed during routine training in an area around the town of Brcko. The EU force, or EUFOR, said the injured are currently in stable condition and receiving medical treatment.The Klix news portal carried photos of the wreckage showing a largely destroyed helicopter on a lawn.EUFOR said a “thorough and complete” investigation was underway and more information will follow later. It added that “no civilian infrastructure, property, or vehicles were damaged, and there were no injuries to civilians.”EUFOR's 1,200-soldier mission took over from NATO in 2004 to help maintain security and oversee the military provisions of a peace agreement that ended the 1992–95 war. It operates under a U.N. Security Council mandate.

ChatGPT Made "President-Elect"

Error In Flavio Bolsonaro's Post, Says Ally

Brasilia.(Agency)

A close ally of Brazilian Senator Flavio Bolsonaro on Thursday said AI chatbot ChatGPT was responsible for language in a letter briefly posted on social media by the right-wing lawmaker describing himself as Brazil's rightful "president-elect," while insisting the mistake did not alter Bolsonaro's view that the election was illegitimate.Bolsonaro stunned Brazil's political establishment on Wednesday by making the claim and alleging without evidence that Sunday's runoff election, which he lost to leftist President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva by more than 4 million votes, had been marred by fraud. Roughly an hour after sharing the document, the senator deleted it from his accounts and published a revised version, replacing the term "president-elect" with "leader of Brazil." As Brazilian media and political observers speculated about the abrupt change, one of Bolsonaro's closest allies suggested that the explanation for the mistake was not political, but technological: the use of OpenAI's ChatGPT.

Five Ways Out of Israel's Political Deadlock, Most Are In Netanyahu's Favour

Tel Aviv.(Agency)

The final results of the 2026 Israel election are out, and no single party has a decisive lead to form the government for the 26th Knesset. The Jewish nation faces weeks, possibly months, of political limbo to reach the required 61-seat majority to form a government in Israel's 120-seat parliament. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and far-right parties won 53, with his Likud party remaining the largest faction with 27 seats. The opposition bloc, led by centrist Gadi Eisenkot, secured 48 seats.The results from the Central Elections Committee also cemented the emergence of the Arab party groupings Raam and the Joint List as potential kingmakers, with the two winning a combined 19 seats.The fragmented outcome sets the stage for difficult negotiations to form a government that could last weeks, as deep-rooted political and ideological divisions make any seemingly straightforward coalition almost impossible.

North Korea's Kim calls for rapid expansion of drone technology and observes weapons tests

Acquiring advanced drones is a top priority for Kim, who now wants to beef up both conventional and nuclear capabilities.

SEOUL.(Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for rapidly expanding the country's drone technology and observed tests of various weapons, state media reported Friday, as his nation remains embroiled in a standoff with rival South Korea along their heavily fortified border.Acquiring advanced drones is a top priority for Kim, who now wants to beef up both conventional and nuclear capabilities. Experts say his troops dispatched to Russia to support its war against Ukraine have likely

gained valuable expertise on drone warfare from Russian forces and related battlefield experiences.The North's official Korean Central News Agency said that Kim on Thursday visited an exhibition of a variety of attack and other drones that show recent achievements in the field of unmanned aeronautical technology.In a speech at the exhibition, Kim stressed the need to seize “the absolute superiority in the drone technology” and announced unspecified steps needed to “rapidly expand and strengthen the unmanned aeronautical technology,” KCNA said.To mark the event, KCNA said that North Korea later conducted test-launches of various drones, missiles and weapons from the 600 mm-caliber ultra-precision multiple rocket launchers. KCNA photos showed Kim watching soaring weapons or him clenching his fist while his teenage daughter was clapping her hands beside him. South Korea's spy agency assesses that the girl, reportedly about 13, is likely Kim's heir.South Korea's

military earlier said it detected the launches of about 10 short-range ballistic missiles from North Korea's eastern coastal town of Wonsan on Thursday. They were North Korea's first ballistic weapons firings in 17



days.Tensions between the two Koreas are running high since last month's land mine blasts at their border that wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul accused North Korea of burying the mines south of the military demarcation line and demanded an

apology. But Pyongyang has denied responsibility for the explosions and warned of retaliation if provoked.Last week, North Korea threatened to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts and place new weapons systems along the border. North Korea has pulled out of talks with the U.S. and South Korea after Kim's high-stakes diplomacy with U.S. President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. In recent weeks, North Korea has dialed up weapons testing activities in a likely attempt to boost its leverage in potential diplomacy with the U.S. after Trump expressed his eagerness to restore talks with Kim.On Saturday, Kim made a surprise visit to a Chinese border town via a newly opened bridge and vowed to develop bilateral ties. Kim has recently taken steps to cement ties with China, North Korea's economic pipeline, after years of prioritizing ties with Russia, including by supplying thousands of troops and ammunitions likely in return for economic and military assistance.

Netanyahu's Likud party finishes ahead in Israel vote, but well short of majority

JERUSALEM.(Agency)

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's camp finished ahead of the opposition but remained well short of a majority, final results from Israel's general election showed Friday, setting the stage for tough coalition talks or potentially another vote.Netanyahu's coalition of right-wing and far-right parties won 53 of the Knesset's 120 seats, with his Likud party remaining the largest faction with 27 seats. The opposition bloc, led by centrist Gadi Eisenkot, secured 48 seats. The results from the Central Elections Committee also cemented the emergence as potential kingmakers of the Arab party groupings Raam and the

Joint List, with the two winning a combined 19 seats.The fragmented outcome sets the stage for difficult



negotiations to form a government that could last weeks, with no single bloc able to reach the 61-seat threshold needed and the prospect of another

election remaining if talks fail.

The final tally came after Netanyahu's camp spent Thursday amplifying unproven allegations that Arab-Israeli groups received foreign funding to influence the vote, accusations rejected by both Arab-majority lists and Qatar. Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service said it was investigating suspected irregularities, but stressed the probe was not intended to "cast aspersions or place blame on an entire sector that went out to vote in a democratic and lawful manner".The electoral commission also sought to calm tensions, with its acting director general Dean Livne saying any suggestion of widespread issues was "entirely groundless".

Tanker Attacked With Explosive Devices In Strait Of Hormuz, Crew Safe

world.(Agency)

A tanker transiting the Strait of Hormuz was attacked with two explosive devices attached to its hull by a small boat, triggering a fire in the engine room and temporarily disabling the vessel, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said.According to UKMTO, the incident occurred on Thursday at around 2212 UTC, approximately 25 nautical miles northeast of Khasab, Oman.In an update issued on Friday, UKMTO said it had received a verified report confirming that all crew members were safe and

there was no environmental impact. “The report indicates that the tanker was approached on the port side by a small boat which attached two explosive devices to the hull above the waterline,” UKMTO said.It added that the subsequent blasts caused a fire in the engine room, temporarily disabling the vessel."The fir is now reported as extinguished and the vessel is continuing to its next port of call," the maritime security agency said.UKMTO initially received a report that an outbound tanker was on fire, with the cause of the incident, the status of the crew, damage assessment and

environmental impact unknown at the time.Following the latest update, UKMTO advised vessels transiting the area to exercise caution and report any suspicious activity."Vessels are advised to transit with caution and report any suspicious activity to UKMTO, whilst authorities investigate," it said.The incident comes amid heightened tensions over maritime traffic through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, with Iranian military authorities asserting control over the waterway and warning commercial vessels against transiting through areas they consider restricted and unsafe.

"You Look Like Hell": Trump Body-Shames Reporter Who Asked About His Health

Washington.(Agency)

US President Donald Trump body-shamed a journalist and made personal remarks when questioned about cancelling his election campaigns in two US states where Republicans are facing tough competition. He asked the journalist to put himself in "shape" when inquired about health and well-being. "Oh, you're sick to ask that question. You are sick," an angry Trump said when reporters questioned if his decision to cancel rallies was linked to him not feeling well. The US



president has been travelling to multiple states for weeks for the midterms election campaign that will decide the course of his government for the remaining two years.However, when the reporter clarified he was checking on the President's health, this further infuriated Trump, who then commented on the journalist's physical appearance."Look at this guy. He's way out of shape...you've been

following me for two weeks. I feel perfect," Trump said while asserting that his health was fine and he was not going to Kansas because he doesn't "feel like going there"."You are disgusting. Put yourself in shape. You look like hell," Trump concluded.The president's confrontation with the journalist came as he cancelled his planned weekend campaign appearances in Kansas and Iowa. His campaign funding group, MAGA Inc., said it would organise a series of tele-rallies featuring the President in at least 19 states, including Kansas and Iowa, before Election Day.

Trump's Repeated Remarks On Physical Appearance This is not an isolated instance when President Trump has commented on someone's body and how the person looks. During his entire election campaign in the run-up to the US midterms, he has praised Republican candidates and their looks, including hands, legs and a.During his Michigan rally, he was accompanied by pop star Nicki Minaj, who claims to be his "number one fan". In his various praises for "Anaconda" singer, Trump said, "By the way, I looked at a beautiful a** before: Nicki Minaj. That's hard to miss." He then asked her to "stand up". Minaj rose from her seat and waved. Trump then did a bit of a face-saving, "I hope Nicki wasn't insulted, but we love Nicki. She's been with us for a long time."In a similar instance in Kentucky, he boasted of Republican candidates' handsomeness to further their cause in the midterms.

India Pins UN Security Council Seat Hope On AI-led Maritime Security Pitch

world.(Agency)

Maritime security and artificial intelligence (AI) will be central to India's bid for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2028-29, according to the Indian envoy to the United Nations. Addressing a high-level debate at the council, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Harish Parvathaneni, emphasised that technology must enhance human security and make shared maritime commons safer, rather than more contested. India also stressed the need for developing nations to gain access to necessary technology and training to participate in governance. "India has identified AI (artificial intelligence) and maritime security as important priorities for its candidature to the Security Council for 2028-2029. Our objective is clear: technology must strengthen human security, not undermine it; it must expand opportunity, not inequality; and it must make our shared maritime commons safer, not more contested," Parvathaneni said.India is contesting the election next year for a non-permanent Council seat with a two-year term starting in 2028, polling for which will be conducted in June next year, where India and Tajikistan will compete for the sole seat in the Asia-Pacific Group category. The Indian envoy highlighted the threat of cyber vulnerabilities and the importance of safeguarding freedom of

navigation against attacks on commercial shipping. He also stressed that technological advances must not deepen existing disparities.Developing countries require access to technology, training and institutional capabilities to secure their maritime infrastructure and participate meaningfully in shaping technological governance," Parvathaneni said. Parvathaneni underscored the need to safeguard freedom of navigation and maritime commerce, saying recent attacks against commercial shipping have demonstrated how disruptions at critical maritime chokepoints can have consequences far beyond their immediate geography. They threaten seafarers, disrupt supply chains and disproportionately affect developing countries through higher costs and economic uncertainty," he said, reiterating India's strong condemnation of attacks against commercial vessels. He recalled that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Greece's Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis had co-chaired a high-level discussion last month on AI and maritime security and said this was an opportunity to build on it.The Council debate took place on a day when Iran's Navy said three oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz had hit sea mines and were ablaze, highlighting the maritime perils.On the debate topic-- "Emerging Technologies and Maritime Security: Implications for Peace and Security" -- he said.

Malviya Nagar inferno fallout: Fire safety overhaul planned for Capital

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has moved to tighten fire-safety requirements for buildings, prescribing a minimum six-metre right of way for fire engines and bringing a wider set of safeguards, from automatic alarms and sprinklers to dedicated firefighting water storage and automated fire-control rooms, into its minimum standards. The Home Department notified the Delhi Fire Service (Amendment) Rules, 2026 on Friday, amending the Delhi Fire Service Rules, 2010. The notification, issued under Section 63 of the Delhi Fire

Service (DFS) Act, 2007, lists 18 broad categories of fire-prevention and safety requirements. The move comes against the backdrop of deadly fires in the Capital and concerns over whether densely built neighbourhoods have adequate infrastructure for emergency response. The Malviya Nagar blaze in June killed 21 people and exposed serious fire-safety deficiencies, including a single staircase and sealed windows that, according to a fire officer, allowed smoke and heat to rapidly spread through the building. The wider problem was highlighted by a The Tribune ground report from

Delhi's urban villages. In Munirka, Ber Sarai and Katwaria Sarai, narrow lanes, parked vehicles, utility

puts a minimum six-metre right of way for fire engines up to the premises among the first of the pre-



poles and overhead wires have left emergency access severely constrained. DFS Deputy Chief Fire Officer AK Malik told The Tribune that there was "no chance" of a fire vehicle entering such areas and accepted on record that narrow streets could make rescue operations time-consuming. SubscribingTo Newspapers Against this backdrop, the revised Rule 33

scribed fire-safety standards. The rules also require, depending on the building's height and occupancy category, safeguards including fire-check doors or pressurisation, fire and smoke barriers, smoke-management systems, fire extinguishers and first-aid hose reels. Automatic fire detection and alarm systems, public-address or voice-evacuation systems, automatic sprinklers, inter-

nal and yard hydrants, fire pump houses and captive water storage for firefighting are also included. Emergency power has been specified for critical systems where provided, including fire pumps, smoke-venting and pressurisation systems, fireman's lifts, emergency lighting, fire alarms and public-address systems. The framework also covers fire-check floors, refuge areas, fire towers and fire lifts, as well as fire control rooms with automated continuous monitoring systems. A significant change is the replacement of the existing Form J, used by fire-safety auditors. The revised inspection format requires auditors to record the width of access roads, gate width and internal access roads around buildings, alongside checks on fire exits, smoke management, hydrants, sprinklers, pumps and firefighting water storage. The form provides for recording the status at site and whether each requirement is met. However, the notification carries an important holding, the amended rules do not come into force immediately. They will take effect only from the date the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) notifies the amended Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL), 2016, under Section 57(1) of the Delhi

Development Act, 1957. Pending applications will continue to be dealt with under the provisions applicable on the date of application. Thus, while the six-metre access requirement has now been formally incorporated into the fire-safety framework, its practical enforcement will depend on the DDA's notification of the amended UBBL-2016. The real test will be whether the new standard can be implemented in Delhi's densely built urban villages, where firefighters have already warned that getting emergency vehicles to the site can itself become a life-threatening challenge. It must be noted that the notification carries an important caveat. The amended rules do not come into force immediately. They will take effect only from the date the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) notifies the amended Unified Building Bye-Laws (UBBL), 2016, under Section 57(1) of the Delhi Development Act, 1957. Pending applications will continue to be dealt with under the provisions applicable on the date of application. Thus, while the six-metre access requirement has now been formally incorporated into the fire-safety framework, its practical enforcement will depend on the DDA's notification of the amended UBBL-2016.

MCG rolls out plan to light up 19 roads across Gurugram

Gurugram: To reduce the risk of accidents and inconvenience caused by poor visibility on Gurugram's roads at night, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has drawn up a plan to install 2,480 streetlights on 19 roads. In the first phase, 2,050 lights will be installed along footpaths and 430 on central verges. The corporation claims that the initiative will provide better lighting for both motorists and pedestrians at night. Installation work on the footpath along Medanta Road has already been completed. The plan covers several major roads in the city. Footpath lighting will be installed on the stretch from HUDA City Centre to Signature Chowk, Golf Course Extension Road and Bakhtawar Singh Chowk. Lighting will also be provided on the stretch from Bakhtawar Chowk to the Medanta traffic signal, from Hero Honda Chowk to Bakhtawar Chowk, on the road connecting Mayfield Garden and SPR Road, on Sohna Road from Park Hospital to Mayfield Garden, and on Dharam Marg. At the same time, lights will be installed on the central verges of Sector Dividing Roads 45-46, 45-53, 51-52-57, 53-56, 44-52, 51-52, 45-48, Gurugram University Road and 51-46. The Municipal Corporation has appealed to residents to identify roads that require streetlights but are not included in the first-phase list. Based on the suggestions received, the remaining roads will be considered for inclusion in the second phase.

Gurugram man arrested for killing wife after dispute over cooking

Gurugram: A dispute over cooking dinner allegedly led to the murder of a woman by her husband in Gurugram, with the police arresting the accused after a post-mortem report revealed that she had been strangled. Cooking & Recipes The accused, Dinesh, had initially told police that his wife, identified as Talmi, died after consuming excessive alcohol. However, the post-mortem examination later revealed that the cause of death was strangulation and suffocation. According to police, the woman was found dead on July 16 in a shanty located near the Badshahpur vegetable market. After receiving the information, police arrived at the scene, took possession of the body and sent it for examination. During the initial inquiry, Dinesh told police that both he and his wife consumed alcohol and that she had died after drinking heavily. Police kept the investigating pending and awaited the post-mortem report. A senior investigating officer said the report revealed death due to strangulation. Subsequently, police detained Dinesh. During questioning, he allegedly admitted that an argument had broken out between the couple over cooking while he was under the influence of alcohol, and the dispute escalated into violence. "The accused is originally from Lucknow and was living with his wife in a rented shanty in the Badshahpur area. He has been arrested and further investigation is under way," said the officer.

Agra woman kills husband, buries body in bathroom

Agra: Agra Police on Friday arrested a woman for allegedly killing her husband and burying his body beneath the bathroom floor, officials said, adding that the accused also filed a missing person's complaint for the victim. TravelGuides & Travelogues The body of Surendra Sharma (45), who was missing for around 45 days, was recovered after police dug up the bathroom floor at the couple's house in Renuka Dham Colony under Sikandra police station limits. Assistant Commissioner of Police Amisha said Sharma was allegedly murdered by his wife, Ruby Sharma, who buried the body beneath the bathroom floor before covering it with concrete to conceal the crime. The officer said the breakthrough came after police questioned Ruby following a complaint regarding her husband's disappearance. During the investigation, police uncovered the alleged murder and recovered the body. Ruby has been arrested and is being interrogated to ascertain the motive behind the killing, the police said. A neighbour, Gaurav Dixit, said the couple frequently quarrelled and that Surendra, a native of Bharatpur, had been living in Renuka Dham Colony for about nine years. He said neighbours had repeatedly asked Ruby about her husband's whereabouts after he went missing, but she allegedly kept evading their questions.

Indian parents send 20 kg parcel of 'love and aamras' for daughter in Canada

Chandigarh: A 20 kg parcel sent by parents from India their daughter in Canada has gone viral on social media after she describes it as a package "filled with love." The video, posted on Instagram by Himani Mistry, captures her unboxing the large carton packed with food, gifts and personal items. Among the contents were containers of aamras, theplas and other home-made treats, along with clothes, accessories and gifts for both her and her husband. In the caption, Himani said that Indians living abroad would instantly relate to the joy of receiving such a parcel. She wrote that her parents had sent much more than gifts — they had packed their warmth, affection and a small piece of home. History Himani said she could imagine her parents visiting different stores, carefully selecting each item and handpicking the best mangoes so she could continue enjoying the flavours of home.



Railway's Commitment Safe & Speedy Connectivity






Indian Railways plays a pivotal role in connecting our nation. It is truly the lifeline of our progress.

- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister






Flagging off of

Varanasi – New Delhi Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

Banaras – Prayagraj – Rambagh Train & Banaras – Raja Talab Train

Benefits



Safe and Comfortable Overnight Journey



Boost to tourism and pilgrimage



Automatic doors & wider and sealed two layered gangways between coaches for easy and safe movement inside the trains



CCTV surveillance cameras



On-board infotainment GPS-based LED display and announcement system



Ergonomically designed sleeper berths with enhanced cushioning for superior comfort



Disinfectant technology to maintain high sanitation



Advanced safety with Kavach & emergency talk-back system

by

Yogi Adityanath

Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Minister of Railways

In the august presence of

Keshav Prasad Maurya

Dy. Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Nand Gopal Gupta "Nandi"

Minister of Industrial Development, Export Promotion, NRI and Investment Promotion, Uttar Pradesh

Anil Rajbhar

Minister of Labour and Employment, Co-ordination, Uttar Pradesh

Ravindra Jaiswal

Minister of State (IC) for Stamp and Court Fee & Registration, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Dayashankar Mishra "Dayalu"

Minister of State (IC) for Ayush, Uttar Pradesh

Hansraj Vishwakarma

Minister Of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Uttar Pradesh

Ashok Tiwari

Mayor, Varanasi

Ujjwal Raman Singh

M.P., Prayagraj (Allahabad)

Rai Dharmendra Singh

MLC

Shyam Narayan Singh

MLC

Harshvardhan Bajpai

MLA, Prayagraj (Allahabad) North

Dr. Sunil Patel

MLA, Rohaniya

Dr. Neelkanth Tiwar

MLA, Varanasi South

Tribhuvan Ram

MLA, Ajagara

Dr. Awadhesh Singh

MLA, Pindra

Saurabh Srivastava

MLA, Varanasi Cantt.

Neel Ratan Singh

MLA, Sevapuri

Saturday, 31st October, 2026 **15:30 Hrs.** **Banaras Railway Station**

www.indianrailways.gov.in

INDIAN RAILWAYS

Follow us on     /Railminindia

World craving for a third voice to fill yawning gap

In Davos earlier this year, Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney tried to rally the “middle powers” around by warning that “if we’re not at the table, we’re on the menu”. It was a reaction to Trump’s huge pressure on Canada. For Carney, middle powers essentially meant Western middle powers (and possibly a few non-Western ones who think like them) getting together to protect Western values, liberal order and, most importantly, status quo.

Without entering into the thicket of defining middle powers, suffice to say that these are countries that are big enough to influence geopolitics globally or regionally and also willing to use that power to do so. Hence, it combines capability with the will to use it.

After the Second World War, the Cold War blocs—the US and Soviet Union, which wanted the world order to be moulded in their own image—provoked the middle powers of that time—India, Yugoslavia, Egypt, Indonesia and Ghana—to found the Non-Alignment Movement, where the developing countries took this “third path”. Now history has come a full circle, though the world looks very different. It is the US and China pushing for their own vision of the future. There is now space—in fact, a need—to have a third voice or voices. But how can Canada or larger European countries be that fulcrum for a third voice when all they want is to preserve the status quo of the old order from which they have hugely benefitted? Middle powers like France and Italy are also being severely challenged from within. Japan and Australia may think more independently, but they have not yet come out of their Western alliance mindset.

Even motivations are different. The West wants a buy-in from middle powers like India, Brazil, South Africa and Indonesia to strengthen multilateralism and the UN facing severe headwinds, especially from the US. But for the Global South, strengthening multilateralism means deep structural reforms and disrupting status quo. Dangling big power status in front of the Global South middle powers by including them in non-inclusive plurilateral bodies, even if it is as influential as G20, is merely sidestepping the central question of reform of the UN, WTO or IMF. The agenda of the forthcoming G20 summit in the US promises to be even less focused on the Global South.

Logically, it is only Global South middle powers, caught as they are between the US and China, which can shake-up status-quoists. For that they have to coalesce and lead, not merely be bridges to both sides or remain neutral. However, Global South middle powers are highly heterogenous with serious differences. For example, some middle powers in the expanded BRICS are at war with each other. Consequently, leadership can only come from those who not only have the capability and willingness to use it positively, but also create synergies with other like-minded middle powers. After the dwindling American security umbrella in West Asia, we see the nascent realigning of middle powers in that region with Mecca defence pact between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye. They have now reached out to Iran, thereby signalling a willingness to talk to their adversary. More such realignments are bound to happen, especially encouraged by China and Russia to loosen Western hold over the Global South. In the face of the shrinking role of the US and European powers, the Global South is coming together to protect their immediate interests, security or economic, rather than having a grand design to stabilise the world order. India is much bigger than almost all the middle powers and is rising. That’s probably why we are very touchy when the country is called a middle power, preferring it to be called a “rising power” or “civilisational power”.

Litmus test of economic resilience

As buffers thin and inflation broadens, new challenges are arising

RESILIENCE has been the defining feature of the global economy over the past year. Despite heightened geopolitical tensions and supply-side disruptions, economic activity has consistently outperformed expectations. Reflecting this strength, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised its global growth forecast to 3.1% for 2026 and expects growth to improve to 3.4% in 2027, while cautioning that downside risks remain dominant. India has mirrored this resilience. Real gross domestic product (GDP) growth was a stronger-than-expected 7.7% in fiscal 2025-26 despite tariff-related uncertainty and global volatility. The economy expanded by 7.8% in the first quarter (April-June) of the current financial year, and high-frequency indicators point to sustained momentum in the second quarter. Not surprisingly, the IMF has revised India’s growth forecast upward to 7% from 6.6% for 2026-27. While growth has remained resilient, inflation is beginning to re-emerge as a concern. Global inflation is projected to rise to 4.7% in 2026 from 4.1% in 2025. Inflation is expected to exceed central bank targets in many inflation-targeting economies. In India, we expect inflation to rise to 5.3% this financial year from 2% in the last fiscal, with risks tilted to the upside. Several factors explain the surprising resilience of global growth. Foremost among them is the powerful investment cycle driven by artificial intelligence (AI) in the US. The rapid expansion of AI infrastructure has stimulated investment directly while generating spillovers for economies supplying semiconductors, electronics and other critical inputs. AI-related investments are expected to account for nearly 3% of US GDP in 2026. The benefits of this investment boom, however, have not accrued evenly. India has gained little directly because it is not a significant manufacturer of inputs used in AI infrastructure. Instead, economies such as Taiwan, South Korea and Vietnam, which are deeply embedded in AI-related supply chains, have emerged as key beneficiaries. The relatively modest increase in crude oil prices despite severe disruption to energy infrastructure and the temporary closure of the Strait of Hormuz has helped, too. The energy shock f2026 is widely regarded as one of the largest on record, yet oil prices have remained well below what doomsayers anticipated. For India, the impact was mitigated by the diversification of crude sourcing and timely policy interventions. Households were largely shielded from higher energy costs as the government and oil companies absorbed a substantial portion of the increase.

Global demand dynamics also helped contain the rise in crude prices. Significant inventory drawdowns, particularly in China, and rapid electric vehicle adoption

moderated crude oil demand and prevented a sharper increase in prices. This provided important relief for India, which imports more than 85% of its crude oil requirements. India’s downstream refining sector provided an additional buffer. Higher crude prices were accompanied by a sharper rise in refined petroleum product prices, partly because refinery disruptions elsewhere curtailed supply. As a result, petroleum exports grew strongly in the first half of this fiscal, easing pressure on oil companies and narrowing the oil trade deficit. That cushion, however, is beginning to weaken. Crude oil prices have moved higher again as supply



disruptions have outpaced demand moderation and global inventory buffers have thinned. As a result, crude oil prices may remain elevated for longer, increasing risks. Global trade has also displayed remarkable adaptability by rerouting supply chains and diversifying export markets, which has kept trade activity robust, particularly across Asia. India’s merchandise exports saw healthy growth in the first half of this fiscal (April-September), supported not only by petroleum products but also by electronics, engineering goods and chemicals. This helped contain the deterioration in the trade balance.

Domestic demand has also remained supportive. The impact of goods and services tax (GST) rate cuts in 2025 was particularly visible in the automobile sector, while income tax relief boosted household purchasing power. Passenger vehicle and two-wheeler sales grew strongly in the first half of this fiscal, and credit growth remained in the high single digits. Even so, India’s growth is likely to moderate in the second half of this fiscal as some of the factors that supported activity begin to fade and new domestic headwinds emerge. The boost from the GST

cuts would ease as firms increasingly pass through higher input costs to consumers. Weather-related risks have become a key concern. The monsoon season ended with rainfall 13% below the long-period average and significant temporal and spatial imbalances. According to the India Meteorological Department, 40% of India’s districts are facing deficient rains, raising concerns about agricultural output and food prices. The risks extend beyond the kharif season as a weaker monsoon can reduce soil moisture and reservoir levels, affecting rabi production as well. These domestic risks coincide with a deteriorating global food outlook. Rising agricultural input costs and an intensifying El Niño are placing upward pressure on food prices worldwide and increasing the likelihood of weather-related disruptions to agricultural production across regions.

For India, this can create a double challenge: weaker domestic farm output and firmer imported food prices. The risks are particularly acute in edible oils, where high import dependence and rising global prices have already pushed inflation in the category close to double digits.

Since food accounts for a larger share of expenditure among lower-income households, sustained food inflation can have a disproportionate impact on household budgets and complicate inflation management. Moreover, inflationary pressures are no longer confined to food. Alongside rising food prices, costs of key industrial inputs such as metals and energy have also increased sharply. This is reflected in wholesale price inflation, which rose to 11.4% in September. When input costs rise amid healthy demand, producers tend to pass them on to consumers, broadening inflationary pressures across the economy.

Against this backdrop, the Reserve Bank of India has recalibrated its policy stance to preserve price stability. Following the 25-basis-point increase in the repo rate in October, we expect another increase of similar magnitude in December. Unlike the last fiscal, when policy rates were reduced and financing conditions remained accommodative, higher interest rates are likely to raise borrowing costs. Ultimately, an economy’s resilience depends on the strength of its buffers relative to the magnitude of the shocks it faces. Those buffers are beginning to thin. Elevated crude oil prices, El Niño and a weak monsoon warrant close monitoring in the near term.

Over the medium term, strengthening energy security, securing supply chains, creating productive employment opportunities and advancing structural reforms will be essential for sustaining higher and more durable economic growth.

Law needs to protect both individual rights and press freedom

Exercise of legislative privilege in the case of certain provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 can threaten journalistic confidentiality in the digital space

The Digital News Publishers Association has challenged India’s data protection law, raising a pressing question: could its requirements make it harder for journalists to investigate wrongdoing by requiring them to seek consent from those under scrutiny? The body representing the digital wings of major news organisations—including this one—seeks declaring certain provisions of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023, and the DPDP Rules, 2025 unconstitutional. Its counsel told the court on Tuesday that the requirements could “shut down the newsroom”. Chief Justice Surya Kant responded: “You are the best person to suggest... how you will ensure there’s no misuse.” The court issued notices returnable on November 17. The 724-page petition argues that without a specific exemption for journalism, newsrooms could struggle to meet the Act’s requirements. The petition notes that earlier versions of the proposed law, from 2018 to 2021, included exemptions for journalistic purposes. The 2022 draft and 2023 legislation dropped it, leaving the government to provide for exemptions. DNPA argues that its omission threatens freedom of speech. Seeking consent



before investigating suspected wrongdoing could alert those under scrutiny, putting evidence and sources at risk. Section 12, which provides for the correction, updating and erasure of personal data, raises concerns that journalists could face demands to alter or remove published reports. Section 36’s broad information-gathering powers could threaten confidential sources. The National Campaign for People’s Right to Information and

others have also challenged the law’s implications for the RTI Act, government exemptions and regulatory independence. Section 44(3) of DPDP Act changes the RTI Act’s rules on personal information. The earlier provision allowed personal information to be withheld in certain circumstances but permitted disclosure when a larger public interest justified it. The new provision exempts personal information without setting out those conditions. Exercise of legislative privilege can come into conflict with press freedom. In 2003, the Tamil Nadu Assembly sentenced journalists and executives associated with The Hindu to imprisonment over critical reporting, before withdrawing the resolution in July 2004. In October 2026, the Supreme Court disposed of the proceedings as infructuous. However, larger questions surrounding freedom of expression remained unanswered. Privacy matters, but it cannot be used to prevent legitimate scrutiny of public misconduct. Protecting individuals and allowing journalists to question those in power should not be competing goals. The law needs to uphold both.

All accountable in stampede nation

We must learn lessons from deadly stampedes like the recent one in Kolkata during Durga puja. Rather than blaming crowds, organisers must stop celebrating massive turnouts. We should not allow repeated narrow escapes to convince us that the risks were never serious

Nineteen people who went out to celebrate Durga Puja on the evening of October 17 never returned home. The crowd crush at Chorbagan in Kolkata left the city grieving and many uncomfortable questions unanswered. Someone I knew was among those who lost their lives, making the tragedy painfully personal. Yet, I wonder why it should take a familiar face for us to feel the full weight of such a tragedy. India has witnessed this horror before. At religious gatherings, railway stations, sporting celebrations and political rallies, ordinary occasions have repeatedly ended in extraordinary grief. The settings change. The stories of those left behind do not. We mourn, demand answers and promise it must never happen again. Then another crowd gathers, another warning goes unnoticed and another tragedy takes us by ‘surprise’. Are these disasters really so unpredictable? Or have we simply grown accustomed to living dangerously? What happens when lakhs of people gather in one place? We tend to look at others for reassurance. If everyone is moving towards an entrance, we assume it must be safe. Excitement spreads easily, but so does

fear. In a dense crowd, even a small disturbance can trigger confusion. Yet it would be unfair to dismiss such tragedies as mere panic or irrational mob behaviour. Beyond a certain density, people lose control over their own movements. They may be pushed forward without intending to. Someone who falls may be impossible to reach to help. The pressure of bodies alone can make breathing difficult and turn fatal within minutes. Children, older adults and those with physical limitations are particularly vulnerable. What appears from outside to be a reckless crowd may actually be hundreds of frightened individuals struggling to say upright. Understanding this distinction matters. It shifts our attention from blaming people for panicking to asking why they were allowed to become trapped in the first place.

The danger often begins long before the crowd assembles. We have gradually turned public celebrations into competitions for attention. A temple gathering, a cricket victory, a concert or a festival becomes an event that simply cannot be missed. Social media amplifies the excitement. Viral videos, relentless publicity and the fear of being left

out draw people in numbers that the venue may never have been designed for.

Organisers celebrate record attendance. We proudly share photographs of overflowing streets. Rarely do we ask whether those thousands can leave as safely as they entered.



There is nothing wrong with devotion, celebration or collective joy. The trouble begins when popularity becomes more important than capacity. We have become remarkably good at creating excitement, but not nearly as thoughtful about its consequences. The warning signs are hardly new. In 2024, more than 120 people died at a

religious gathering in Uttar Pradesh’s Hathras. The Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj witnessed another deadly crush in 2025. Months later, celebrations following Royal Challengers Bengaluru’s IPL victory claimed 11 lives. Each tragedy brings investigations, public anger and promises of better arrangements. But how much really changes? Part of the problem lies in how easily we become accustomed to danger. When thousands squeeze through a narrow passage and nothing goes wrong, we call it successful management. The next time, we allow even more people through. Repeated escapes from disaster gradually convince us that the risk was never serious. Our collective memory is equally short. Today’s outrage becomes tomorrow’s forgotten headline. We remember the death toll but rarely the conditions that made those deaths possible. And so the same mistakes return, often disguised as the excitement of another grand occasion. Accountability, therefore, cannot end with blaming the crowd or identifying a few individuals after a disaster. In the Chorbagan incident, questions have emerged about crowd regulation

Competing weather systems bring cyclone to a standstill off AP coast

VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)

For a few hours on October 28, Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Arnab remained almost motionless over the west-central Bay of Bengal, even as it carried winds of up to 125 kmph and threatened the Andhra Pradesh coast with destructive winds, torrential rain and storm surge. Its pause, according to a retired ocean scientist, may have been the result of competing weather systems interfering with the cyclone's forward movement. Dr K.S.R. Murthy, retired scientist from the National Institute of Oceanography, attributed the prolonged stationary phase to a complex atmospheric setting involving strong westerly winds, another developing low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal and a developing cyclone in the Myanmar region moving in the opposite direction.

"Generally, this happens when the track of a cyclone is resisted by opposing forces," he explained, noting that the interaction of these systems could have pushed Arnab backwards or restricted its movement. The India Meteorological Department on October 28 captured the unusual situation. Arnab was reported to be practically stationary over the west-central Bay of Bengal, near latitude 16.4°N and longitude 82.0°E, around 30 km east of Narsapur, 45 km south-southwest of Yanam and 70 km south-southwest of Kakinada.

Another wallet shock: Bus fares in Karnataka could see steep hike

BENGALURU.(Agency)

First milk, now your bus ride. With the State government expected to take a final decision on bus fare revision next week, the Public Transport Fare Regulatory Committee (PTFRC) has recommended a 45 per cent hike for Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTCL) and a 28 per cent increase for three other state-run transport corporations. Speaking after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Transport Minister Byrathi Suresh said a meeting with senior officials of all four transport corporations would be held on November 3, following which a final decision would be announced on November 4. Suresh said the fare revision proposal was discussed in detail. The Chief Minister had sought the views of Cabinet colleagues before entrusting the department with the responsibility of taking a decision on fare revision, the minister said. TNIE accessed the recommendations of the panel, which reveal that the committee's proposals are based on a Modified Annual Revenue Requirement (ARR) framework that assesses operational costs, non-fare revenue and assured government support to determine the amount to be recovered through passenger fares.

GSI had flagged Burliyar landslide risk before fatal TNSTC bus mishap

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

Ahead of a massive landslide striking Burliyar in the Nilgiris on October 23 that buried a TNSTC bus and left its driver dead, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) had flagged the risk of such an incident, raising questions over disaster preparedness and the implementation of safety recommendations in the vulnerable hill region. According to information accessed by TNIE, the GSI issued a rainfall-induced landslide forecast bulletin at 2 pm on October 23, identifying Burliyar among several locations where isolated landslides could occur. The bulletin, valid from 2.30 pm on October 23 to 2.30 pm on October 24, indicated a moderate possibility of landslides in Udhagamandalam, Kotagiri and Coonoortaluks.

The warning preceded the landslide on the night of October 23, when a TNSTC bus heading towards Coimbatore from Coonoor was buried under mud, rocks and uprooted trees on the Mettupalayam-Coonoor ghat road at Burliyar. Burliyar had recorded 25 cm rain in the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on October 24. Further, the GSI had in its warning separately documented a history of slope failures along the approximately 5-km Burliyar stretch of National Highway 181, recording 14 landslides, most involving

Signs MoU with IIT Roorkee to Develop Advanced Crack Detection and Residual Fatigue Life Assessment Methodology for Railway Steel Bridges

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 30th October: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee, on 27th October 2026 for the "Development of Hybrid Crack Detection Methodology including Assessment of Residual Fatigue Life in Railway Steel Bridges." The initiative aims to strengthen the scientific assessment of ageing steel bridges through a combination of conventional inspection techniques, non-destructive evaluation (NDE), artificial intelligence (AI), material testing and advanced structural analysis. The initiative assumes significance in view of the ageing steel bridge infrastructure across Indian Railways, including bridges on NFR that have been in service for more than 50 years. Increasing train speeds, heavier loads and repeated movement of trains has warrant for fatigue analysis and accordingly all the welded joints, holes and other vulnerable parts of a bridge will be studied in details by IIT Roorkee. Although regular inspections are carried out

as per established railway standards, conventional visual checks and testing methods may not always detect very small or hidden cracks. The project aims to

identify cracks and other signs of damage at an early stage. These findings will be combined with suitable Non-Destructive Evaluation (NDE) techniques, which help

inspections and instruments will help verify the computer-based models and assess the remaining fatigue life of the selected bridge. Laboratory tests will examine the



NFR MoU with IIT Roorkee

strengthen existing inspection practices through a combination of visual inspection, advanced testing and AI-based technology. The project will focus on two key areas: improving crack detection if any and assessing the remaining service life of steel bridges. High-resolution images captured during inspections will be analysed using InfraDocT, an AI-based tool developed by the project team, to help

identify defects without damaging the structure. The project will also use computer-based modelling and laboratory tests to identify vulnerable parts of steel truss and girder bridges and understand how different types of steel and welded joints respond to repeated loading. High-resolution images, including those captured using 4K cameras mounted on drones, will also be used. The information collected from these

strength and fatigue behaviour of steel, including its base material, welded joints and the areas affected by welding. The study will assess how factors such as corrosion, temperature changes, humidity and repeated loading affect the development and growth of flaws. These findings will be used to develop a scientific model to estimate the residual fatigue life, or the remaining service life of bridge compo-

nents under repeated loading. This will help provide a better understanding of how ageing and deteriorating steel structures respond to continued use. The project also aims to develop a real-time fatigue damage assessment system with an alert-based decision-support mechanism. By bringing together inspection results, laboratory findings and data collected from the bridge, the system will help assess the gradual build-up of damage and provide alerts to support timely maintenance decisions. This is expected to help railway authorities identify vulnerable areas, prioritise inspections and plan maintenance more effectively. Through this collaboration with IIT Roorkee, Northeast Frontier Railway aims to strengthen bridge inspection and maintenance through research, AI-based technology and scientific assessment. The initiative is expected to supplement existing inspection practices, improve the early detection of flaws and support better assessment of the condition and remaining service life of steel bridges, contributing to the long-term reliability and safety of railway infrastructure.

Cluster officer 'attacked' while recording farm fire in Kang

During his field inspection, he came across and recorded five fire farms for videographic evidence. This documentation is mandatory for reporting compliance to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR).

Amritsar.(Agency)

A cluster officer on Thursday was allegedly brutally attacked and left unconscious while overseeing paddy stubble-burning management and videographing farm fires in Tarn Taran's Kang village, officials said. Sub Divisional Officer Khadoor Sahib Sanjeev Sharma confirmed the incident. The victim has been identified as Maninder Singh, a cluster officer working under the Soil Conservation and Water Department. Singh was assigned to oversee anti-stubble-burning operations across multiple villages in the area, including Kang, Hothian, Hansawala, Khakh, and Goindwal Sahib. Officials said Singh visited Kang to oversee farm fires and document violations. During his field inspection, he came across and recorded five fire farms for videographic evidence. This documentation is mandatory for reporting compliance to the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) in the National Capital Region (NCR). During the recording, Singh was confronted by a man who reportedly possesses criminal antecedents. Although no weapons were used, the attacker — described as a tall and stout individual — physically assaulted Singh, subjecting him to severe blows. The officer said, "He (the attacker) was about to kill him (Singh)... He went into such a deep state of shock... he collapsed unconscious in the



fields." Singh's turban also came off during the violent confrontation, the officer said. Upon receiving the information, locals and the village sarpanch reached the site. When Singh was rushed to the Guru Nanak Hospital, the doctors said he was unconscious with his eyes fixed and unresponsive. He was subsequently shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

SDM Sharma said no FIR has been formally registered yet. Police said they were thoroughly verifying the suspect's identity and details before filing charges. While the CAQM Act explicitly states its provisions do not apply to farmers, the accused for

attacking the official will be subjected to the sections for physical assault and obstruction of public duty, and severe injuries inflicted on the officer will attract rigorous criminal prosecution, an official said. Based on the data provided on stubble-burning enforcement in Tarn Taran up to October 28, 2026, 318 cases were reported by October 27, 2026. Following ground-truthing inspections, 157 of those cases were found to have no actual burning, while fires were confirmed in 161 instances. To curb the practice, authorities imposed and collected challans totaling 8.25 lakhs, alongside registering 161 FIRs and Red Entries.

Azam Khan to walk out of jail as Allahabad High Court grants bail in dual PAN card case

Duo to be released from jail upon completion of formalities.

Lucknow.(Agency)

The Allahabad High Court on Thursday granted bail to senior Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan and his son Abdullah Azam Khan. The said prayer(s) thus stand dismissed. The grounds for bail While hearing the bail plea, the bench also noted the years of incarceration of both the leaders, as ordered by trial and appellate courts in different cases. Maximum punishment awarded to Azam Khan is 10-year rigorous imprisonment (RI), and 7-year RI to Abdullah, the court stated. The bench of

find it a fit case for grant of stay of conviction to the revisionists Mohd. Azam Khan and Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan. The said prayer(s) thus stand dismissed."

The grounds for bail

While hearing the bail plea, the bench also noted the years of incarceration of both the leaders, as ordered by trial and appellate courts in different cases. Maximum punishment awarded to Azam Khan is 10-year rigorous imprisonment (RI), and 7-year RI to Abdullah, the court stated. The bench of



Justice Gopal ordered, "Looking to the nature of occurrence, period of detention of the accused/revisionists, the fact that the case in hand is for a fixed term of sentence, the present case is a fit case where the accused/revisionists- Mohd. Azam Khan and Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan be enlarged on bail. Let both the revisionists - Mohd. Azam Khan and Mohd. Abdullah Azam Khan be released on bail in the aforesaid case." The Special Judge (MP/MLA)/Court, Rampur, had convicted and sentenced Azam and Abdullah on November 17 last year, which was further upheld and their sentences enhanced by the appellate district court.

Secret lab in UP village, Rs 200-crore haul: Mephedrone unit busted

Two arrested in joint operation in Orai area; seized drugs and precursor chemicals estimated to be worth over Rs 200 crore.

Amritsar.(Agency)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), in a joint operation with the UP Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), busted an illegal mephedrone manufacturing unit in Uttar Pradesh's Jalaun district on Thursday and seized 1,102.88 kg of drugs and precursor chemicals valued at over Rs 200 crore, officials said. Two men have been arrested. The operation followed a tip-off about a large drug manufacturing unit operating in a village in the Orai area. After verifying the information, the DRI sought assistance from the UP ATS to raid the premises, located in a remote, densely populated area, an official said. The team, accompanied by ATS commandos, launched the operation in the early hours of Thursday and searched the premises, where it found a functional laboratory for manufacturing synthetic drugs. Officials seized around 184 kg of semi-finished drugs, along with 582.2 kg (gross weight) of precursor chemicals and equipment

from the unit. The team then searched the residential premises of one of the accused, recovering 15.44 kg of finished mephedrone, 152.94 kg (gross weight) of chemicals and a machine used in the manufacturing process. A further search at the premises of another accused led to the seizure of 168.3 kg (gross weight) of precursor chemicals. The DRI said the



total seizure of drugs and precursor chemicals amounted to 1,102.88 kg, with an estimated international market value exceeding Rs 200 crore. The two arrested men have been identified as Hemendra Kushwah, 27, and Santosh, 37. Officials said they would be questioned to establish the wider network involved in manufacturing and trafficking the drug.

Try these Quirky summer concoctions to beat the heat

It's summer time and we have found a cool way to deal with the heat wave. Bringing their creative culinary side to the fore, they are preparing some refreshing summer coolers to stay hydrated. Some of the season-battered souls share their beat the heat drinks with us...

Magical mango-kokum mocktail

Necessity is the mother of all inventions says advertising professional, Sei Deshpande. She narrates how she invented a mocktail mixing aam panna and kokum sharbat when her mother's friends arrived at their home one day. "It was an impromptu effort as we had limited aam panna at home. I added cumin powder and chaat masala to enhance the flavour. It was loved by all and my mother was really proud," explains she and adds, "It is surely a refreshing change from those regular drinks and fruit juices. I make it regularly now on popular demand."

Wonderful watermelon mojito

Come summers and watermelons make their way to everyone's kitchens. An engineer Satyajit Mittra loves to experiment with this seasonal fruit every summer and this season he has perfected the watermelon mojito. "I tried some fruit beverages when I was in the US. Now, whenever there is a get together at our home I don a chef's cap and come

out with some amazing mocktail for them. This year, it is my watermelon mojito recipe that has garnered me a good feedback. This is one drink which kids also enjoy. I garnish it with pudina as for me the presentation is of utmost importance."



Mint Sharbat

Family members of homemaker Nikita Malu are smitten with the soothing Mint Sharbat

solkadhi at home. "I first had this cool Konkani beverage while travelling to Goa. It was so tempting that I wanted to try it at home for my family. Though I do not cook regularly, I was glad when it turned out well. Solkadhi refreshes me to the core after the tiring day at work and I usually have it post dinner. Though I use actual coconut milk, one can use coconut power available in city super markets for quicker preparation."

Beneficial sattu sharbat

Another fantastic summer cooler that many we are enjoying is sattu sharbat. Chartered accountant Anjali Divecha says, "My husband is a foodie and this inspires me to experiment with innovative summer drinks. While I do make a variety of summer beverages, one drink which I always prepare is sattu sharbat which is good for digestion. In this crazy heat, it keeps the summer stroke at bay."



t that she prepares these days. "Add a lot of mint, sugar syrup, soda and the refreshing sharbat is ready. It is a great coolant and a must have. It is more of an indianised form of mojito and is a quick preparation. I make it every alternate day."

Soothing Solkadhi

A young professional Neha Jain who is a self-confessed foodie makes



Recipe: Paneer Veg Rolls

Adelicious and easy to make lunch box dish or as a evening snack.

Paneer Veg Rolls

Image via YouTube video

Ingredients:

- Chapati - 8, readymade or premade
 - Paneer - 200 gms, grated
 - Capsicum - 1, finely chopped
 - Onion - 1, finely chopped
 - Spring Onions - 4, finely chopped
 - Cumin Powder - 1 tsp
 - Red Chilli Powder - 1 tsp
 - Dry Mango Powder - 1/4 tsp
 - Carrot - 2 tblsp, grated
 - Corinader Leavess - little, finely chopped
 - Oil as required
 - Salt as per taste
- Method:



- Heat oil in a pan over medium flame.
- Saute the onions for a minute.
- Add capcisms, carrot and saute for another minute or two.
- Add paner and stir well.
- After a minute add cumin powder, red chilli powder and salt.
- Mix well.
- Add coriander leaves, mango powder and stir again.
- Warm the chapatis and place them on a flat surface.
- Add 1 or 2 tblsp of the prepared filling mixture in the center.
- Spread if desired.
- Sprinkle spring onions and roll them tightly.
- Serve at once or pack it for lunch.

Are you drinking the Right water?

Has sparkling water something to do with sparkling wine? Is RO water same as distilled water? What is mineral water? Is flavoured water healthy? There are so many questions that accost us when we come across these various types of water in our day today life. Here is an attempt to clear some of the doubts around the

water we drink on various occasions. Infused water: Also known as detox water, it is one of the most popular drinks these days. Chopped fruits, vegetables and herbs are placed in a jar to which chilled water is added. It not only tastes delicious but is also super

healthy and is said to detoxify the body and aid weight loss.

Tonic water: Often used as a drink mixer for cocktails, Tonic water has a bitter flavor that comes from the quinine added to it. Initially it was used as a medical tonic. It was originally carbonated water laced with a large quantity of quinine that was intended for consumption in tropical regions where Malaria was prevalent. Now the quantity of quinine has come down and tonic water has found a place in bars and is popular with drink mixers.

Mineral water: Natural water from springs and fountains that are rich in minerals, salts and sulphor compounds is known as mineral water. In older days, people visited these 'springs' for a cure, but now these waters are mostly bottled and sold.

Flavoured water:

Flavoured water can be both DIY and artificially manufactured. To make it at home, place herbs and fruits in a jar and muddle with spoon. Add water and drink. It will have an amazing flavor. The ones manufactured have added artificial flavours.

Sparkling water: Sparkling water is a type of mineral water which has dissolved gases in natural form. But those manufactured artificially are basically carbonated water, but healthier because they do not have added sugar. Replacing regular water with sparkling water is not advisable because there are controversial reports on its health implications. They are said to leach calcium from bones and cause IBS if taken in large quantities.

RO water: Reverse Osmosis or RO as it is called uses high pressure to force water through a semi permeable membrane. It removes some dissolved salts, organics, bacteria and pathogens. However as the RO membrane ages in the filter it cannot be relied on removing all types of germs, especially viruses.

Distilled Water: It is the purest form of water (99.9%) and is obtained by the process of distillation i.e evaporating water to leave the contaminants behind. It is free from germs but also has no healthy dissolved salts.



Recipe: Apple Halwa

A simple, tasty and easy to make halwa with apple. Serve it as a dessert.

Ingredients:

- Apple - 1
- Unsweetened khoya - 1/4 cup
- Sugar - 1/4 cup
- Ghee - 1/4 cup
- Cardamom powder - 1/2 tsp



Cashew nuts - 1/2 tblsp, broken
Almonds - 1/2 tblsp, sliced
Method:
1. Peel and grate the apple.
2. Heat ghee in a pan over medium

- flame.
- Fry the almonds and cashew nuts for 30 to 60 seconds.
- Add the grated apples and reduce flame.
- Simmer for 10 minutes, stirring from time to time.
- Add the khoya, sugar and stir well.
- When it reaches a halwa consistency and starts to leave the sides of the pan, add the cashew nuts, almonds and cardamom powder.
- Remove and store it in an airtight container.
- Serve as a dessert to any meal.

AC Milan and Inter confirm San Siro demolition, reveal new stadium plans

New Delhi.(Agency)

AC Milan and Inter Milan have confirmed plans to demolish the iconic San Siro and replace it with a state-of-the-art shared stadium, bringing an end to an era at one of European football's most recognisable venues. The two Serie A giants have unveiled the design of the proposed 71,500-seat Generali Stadium, with the new ground targeted to open in the 2031-32 season. The project was presented on Thursday, October 29, at Castello Sforzesco in Milan, with the clubs also announcing a 20-year naming



rights agreement with Italian insurance company Generali. The deal, reportedly worth 650 million euros, was described by the clubs as one of the largest stadium naming rights agreements in global sport. The new stadium will be developed by the clubs' respective owners, RedBird Capital Partners and Oaktree, with architects Foster + Partners and MANICA leading the design. Lord Norman Foster and David Manica, who previously collaborated on London's Wembley Stadium, have drawn inspiration from Milan's Duomo for the proposed venue..

Staying in present: Amit Rohidas not thinking retirement, keeps LA 2028 in sight

New Delhi.(Agency)

Heading into the Asian Champions Trophy in Jalandhar and Mohali, one of the biggest talking points was the future of four Indian hockey players. Rumours suggested that the tournament could be the swansong in Indian colours for Mandeep Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Nilakanta Sharma and Amit Rohidas. While Mandeep and Jarmanpreet firmly rejected the claims and made their Olympic ambitions for 2028 clear, Nilakanta confirmed that the ACT would be his final tournament for India, announcing his retirement from international hockey. Amid all the speculation, Amit remained



quiet, letting his performances on the field do the talking. **ACT, INDIA VS CHINA HIGHLIGHTS** At 33, Rohidas has been a rock in India's defence since making his senior international debut in 2013. A first rusher of the highest quality, he has forged a formidable defensive partnership with Harmanpreet Singh and can also step up as a drag-flicker when required. In 259 appearances for the senior national team, Rohidas has scored 55 goals. His trophy cabinet tells its own story, with two Olympic bronze medals, two Asian Games gold medals and two Asia Cup titles to his name. Yet, it is not just the medals or the numbers that define Rohidas. His work ethic and commitment have been central to his journey with the national team. That journey, however, was far from straightforward. Despite making an impression after his debut in 2013, competition for places in defence meant Rohidas was often in and out of the side, struggling to establish himself as a regular.

Uthappa, T Dilip among four new faces in revamped Mumbai Indians coaching setup

Mumbai Indians have unveiled a revamped coaching group ahead of IPL 2027, appointing four new members under head coach Kieron Pollard. Three former MI players return to the franchise, while T. Dilip joins after his stint with India.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mumbai Indians have announced a major revamp of their coaching staff ahead of IPL 2027, appointing Robin Uthappa, Mitchell McClenaghan, T. Dilip and Dhawal Kulkarni to key roles. The four will join head coach Kieron Pollard as the five-time champions look to rebuild after missing the playoffs in 2026. Uthappa has been named batting coach,

McClenaghan will oversee the bowling runs in 14 matches. He later played for department, Dilip takes charge of fielding, Chennai Super Kings in 2021 and 2022, while Kulkarni has been appointed helping them win the title in his first season. three title-winning campaigns as a player, in development bowling coach. Three of the The former India batter finished his IPL 2015, 2017 and 2019, and remained part of the wider squad during the 2020 triumph. Kulkarni, meanwhile, represented MI across two spells between 2008 and 2013 and again from 2020 to 2021. He claimed 86 wickets in 92 IPL matches and was part of the franchise's title-winning squads in 2013 and 2020. His development role will focus on nurturing young Indian bowlers and providing year-round support. **T DILIP JOINS AFTER INDIA STINT** Dilip arrives at Mumbai after the BCCI decided not to renew his contract following his tenure with the Indian men's team. His final assignment was the 2025 tour runs for Kolkata Knight Riders. He was also of England. During his time with India, he was part of the coaching setup for the 2024 squad. McClenaghan was a key member of and 2026 T20 World Cup triumphs and the Mumbai's bowling attack between 2015 and 2025 Champions Trophy victory.



FORMER MI PLAYERS RETURN TO FRANCHISE Uthappa returns to Mumbai nearly two decades after representing the franchise in the inaugural IPL season in 2008, scoring 320

Novak Djokovic falls to Struff in Basel, misses chance to close in on Roger Federer

New Delhi.(Agency)

Novak Djokovic's return to the Swiss Indoors Basel ended in disappointment as the Serbian suffered a dramatic second-round defeat to Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff on Thursday. The 39-year-old went down 6-7 (4), 7-5, 7-6 (5) in a contest lasting two hours and 36 minutes, missing out on an opportunity to add another title to his remarkable collection. The defeat also means Djokovic will have to wait to close



the gap on Roger Federer's tally of 103 career titles. The 24-time Grand Slam champion won his 102nd tour-level trophy at the China Open in Beijing earlier this month. Only Federer, with 103, and Jimmy Connors, who holds the all-time record with 109, have won more singles titles in men's tennis. ng runners-up on

both occasions. There was an added layer of history to Djokovic's Basel campaign. He returned to the tournament for the first time since 2011, having won the title in 2009 by defeating Federer in the final. Federer, who grew up in Basel and lifted the trophy at his hometown event a record 10 times, got the better of Djokovic in the 2010 final. The Serb also reached the semi-finals in 2011. Struff, ranked 47th in the world, produced an impressive performance to knock out the fourth seed. Djokovic took the opening set in a tie-break, but the German fought back to level the match after converting his first break-point opportunity in the second set. The decider went to another tie-break, where Struff held his nerve before sealing the win with his 27th ace, leaving Djokovic with no chance of a return. **DJOKOVIC'S ATP FINALS HOPES TAKE A HIT** The Basel exit is a significant setback in Djokovic's bid to qualify for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin. He had an opportunity to gain crucial ranking points with a title run, particularly after Rafael Jodar's earlier defeat opened up a route into the qualification positions. Following the loss, Djokovic trails the Spaniard by 319 points, with the Paris Masters the final tournament before the ATP Finals. The Rolex Paris Masters, an ATP Masters 1000 event, is scheduled to take place from November 2 to 8. Djokovic is set to return to the tournament after a three-year absence, having won the title a record six times. A strong run in Paris could prove crucial to his hopes of securing a place in Turin.

Virat Kohli sparks airport frenzy in Auckland upon arrival for New Zealand ODIs

Virat Kohli received a rousing reception from fans upon arriving in Auckland ahead of India's five-match ODI series against New Zealand. The former India captain was mobbed for selfies and autographs, with security personnel having to escort him through the airport.

Auckland.(Agency)

Virat Kohli's arrival in Auckland ahead of India's five-match ODI series against New Zealand turned into quite a spectacle, with fans gathering in large numbers to catch a glimpse of the batting superstar. Despite tight security, the former India captain was mobbed for selfies and autographs as he made his way through the airport terminal. Videos circulating on social media showed supporters packed behind barricades, chanting Kohli's name and holding up their phones as he walked towards the exit. Some fans also carried posters wishing him in advance for his birthday, which falls on November 5. Kohli tried to manage the growing excitement by raising his hands and gesturing to the crowd to settle down. One particularly persistent fan continued calling out to him for an autograph, prompting the Indian batter to ask her to calm down before signing her poster. Security personnel eventually had to help him move



through the gathering crowd. The 37-year-old arrived in New Zealand on Friday, October 30, to join the Indian squad ahead of the ODI series, which begins at Eden Park on November 4. His teammate Rohit Sharma had arrived in Auckland a day earlier, while Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill has also joined the squad and stepped up his preparations in the nets. **KOHLI EYES STRONG NEW ZEALAND RETURN** Kohli heads into the series after India's 2-1 ODI victory over the West Indies at home earlier this month. He began the assignment with an unbeaten 139 off 88 balls, becoming only the second batter after Sachin Tendulkar to cross 15,000 runs in ODI cricket. He followed it up with 29 in the second match before being dismissed for a golden duck in the series finale. The former India captain

remains the world's No. 3-ranked ODI batter and has an impressive record in New Zealand, having scored 596 runs in 13 innings at an average of 49.66 and a strike rate of 91.41. His tally includes four half-centuries and a century, a 123 off 111 balls against New Zealand in Napier in 2014. India have announced two separate squads for the five-match series, with Gill leading the side in the first three ODIs and Shreyas Iyer taking over for the final two. Gill, KL Rahul, Anshul Kamboj and Prasad Krishna are among those expected to leave the ODI squad to prepare for the subsequent two-Test series, although Krishna's participation depends on clearing a fitness test. The ODI series begins in Auckland on November 4 before moving to Wellington and Hamilton, with the final two matches scheduled in Mount Maunganui.

Mohammed Siraj and Nitish Kumar Reddy set for India A stints ahead of NZ Tests



New Delhi.(Agency)

India's preparations for the upcoming Test series against New Zealand are gathering pace, with Mohammed Siraj and Nitish Kumar Reddy set to join the India A squad for their respective four-day matches against New Zealand A. The move will give the duo valuable red-ball game time ahead of the two-Test series, which begins on November 19. Siraj will link up with India A for the second four-day match, starting October 31, while Nitish will remain with the senior team's ODI squad for the series opener against New Zealand on November 4. The all-rounder will then join India A for the third and final four-

day fixture. nd that is what we will do," he says. There is also a significant development on the fitness front, with Prasad Krishna likely to return to action in the final India A clash before the Test series. The pacer, who was ruled out of the five-match ODI series against New Zealand due to a hamstring injury, is expected to join the squad for the final four-day match, subject to clearing his Return to Play assessment. The India A fixtures will offer the three players an opportunity to build match fitness and rhythm before the Test series. While Siraj and Nitish will get time in the middle, Prasad's potential return will be closely watched as he works his way back from injury.

Rashid Khan scripts history, becomes first bowler to take 200 T20I wickets

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rashid Khan has made a habit of rewriting records, and the Afghanistan leg-spinner has now reached a milestone no bowler in men's T20I cricket has managed before. The 28-year-old became the first to claim 200 wickets in the format during Afghanistan's second T20I against Zimbabwe at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Thursday. Rashid needed just one wicket to reach the landmark and got there by dismissing Zimbabwe wicketkeeper-batter Tadiwanashe Marumani, who was trapped lbw for two while chasing 222. It was another reminder of the Afghan's remarkable consistency in a format where batters usually call the shots. The milestone came in Rashid's 120th T20I appearance and extended his lead at the top of the all-time wicket-takers' list. He had already become the leading wicket-taker in men's T20Is in September 2025, overtaking New Zealand's Tim Southee. Earlier this year, he also crossed the 700-wicket mark in overall T20 cricket. Since making his international debut against Zimbabwe in October 2015, Rashid has turned himself into one of the most feared bowlers in the shortest format. England's Adil Rashid is his closest challenger on the international list, but the gap between the two is already substantial. **RASHID'S REMARKABLE T20I RECORD** There is plenty more to Rashid's numbers than just the 200-wicket milestone. He has taken 150 wickets in Asia, the most by any bowler in the continent, including 79 in the UAE. He also holds the record for the most wickets against a single opponent in men's T20Is, having dismissed Ireland batters 45 times.



Rupee rises 7 paise to 95.19 against US dollar in early trade

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The rupee gained 7 paise to 95.19 against the US dollar in early trade on Friday supported by a softer greenback and declining US treasury yields, though climbing crude oil prices prevented larger gains. According to forex traders, sustained inflows and an easing of the oil import burden would provide a stronger foundation for rupee appreciation. The immediate operating range for USDINR is 94.75-95.75.At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 95.21, then gained ground and touched 95.19 against the US dollar, registering a rise of 7 paise over its previous close.

On Thursday, the rupee consolidated in a narrow range and ended 2 paise higher at 95.26 against the US dollar.

"The Indian rupee opened flat to positive on weak dollar and softening of US treasury yields. However, weak Asian markets and a surge in crude oil prices capped sharp gains. ECB and Bank of Japan kept interest rates unchanged," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst at Mirae Asset Sharekhan.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading at 101.75, lower by 0.27 percent.

India's IT firms hold margins as AI gains offset cost pressures

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's major IT services companies largely maintained or improved operating margins in the July-September quarter, as AI-led productivity measures and tighter cost controls helped offset subdued client spending, pricing pressure and economic uncertainty in key overseas markets.Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) reported an operating margin of 24%, unchanged from the previous quarter, while Infosys held its margin at 21%. HCLTech's margin rose 131 basis points sequentially to 18.2%, Tech Mahindra's increased 40 basis points to 14.8%, and Wipro's climbed 50 basis points to 16.5% in Q2.Revenue growth, however, remained modest at some of the largest firms. TCS reported year-on-year constant-currency growth of 2.8%, while Infosys grew 1.5%. Wipro's IT services revenue was flat sequentially in constant currency and rose 0.6% year on year. HCLTech reported 2.6% year-on-year constant-currency growth, while Tech Mahindra recorded 7.2%.

Reliance's diesel exports hit 541 kbd as global supply tightens

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Reliance Industries emerged as the biggest beneficiary of a global diesel supply crunch, exporting an estimated 541 kbd (thousand barrels per day) in October 2026, the highest level in the 18-month period, according to data from maritime intelligence firm Kpler. Another private refiner, Nayara Energy, was the second-largest exporter, shipping an estimated 39 kbd in October. The supply shortage also boosted India's diesel exports, which rose to 700,000 barrels per day (bd) in October 2026, the highest level since September 2025.

"India's diesel exports hit 700 kbd in Oct'26, the highest since September 2025! Record refinery runs, max distillate yield and strong cracks are driving exports. With runs around 5.6-5.7 Mbd, exports should stay strong, although robust demand will limit upside," said Sumit Ritolia, lead research analyst, refining & modeling at Kpler, in a post on X. The export surge comes as global diesel supplies have contracted sharply following the West Asia conflict. According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) Oil Market Report 2026, global gasoil production averaged 26.4 mbd in the second quarter, down 1.5 mbd year-on-year.

Extreme poverty in India falls to 2.6%, but top 10% earn 13 times more than bottom 10%

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's extreme poverty rate fell sharply to 2.6% in 2023 from 27.1% in 2011, with an estimated 496 million people moving above the lower-middle-income poverty line over the same period, according to the World Bank.However, despite the substantial reduction in poverty, the gap between the country's highest-paid and lowest-paid workers remains wide, with the top 10% earning around 13 times more than the bottom 10%.In its October 2026 Poverty & Equity Brief, the World Bank said the share of India's population living below the lower-middle-income poverty line of \$4.20 a day fell from 57.7% in 2011 to 16.1% in 2023. Extreme poverty, measured using the \$3-a-day line, declined from 27.1% t.The World Bank also reported India's Gini index at 23.0 in 2023, a measure of how evenly or unevenly income or consumption is distributed across the population."Wage disparities, however,

remain pronounced, as median earnings among the top 10 percent of workers were about 13 times those of the bottom 10 percent in 2023," the World Bank said.

EXTREME POVERTY FALLS TO 2.6%

The decline in extreme poverty means that a much smaller share of India's population was living below the \$3-a-day threshold in 2023 compared with 2011.The World Bank uses the \$3-a-day line to measure extreme poverty, while the \$4.20-a-day line is its benchmark for poverty in lower-middle-income countries. Both thresholds are based on 2021 purchasing power parity (PPP), which adjusts for differences in the cost of living.The share of people living below the \$4.20-a-day line fell from 57.7% to 16.1% over the 12-year period. This lifted an estimated 496 million people above that poverty line, the World Bank said.Poverty

also declined across non-monetary measures. The poverty rate measured by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative's

The World Bank put India's Gini index at 23.0 in 2023. The index is used to measure how evenly or unevenly income or consumption is distributed across a population.It

ranges from zero to 100. A score of zero represents perfect equality, where everyone has the same income or consumption. A score of 100 represents the highest possible inequality, where one person has everything and everyone else has nothing.In simple terms, a lower Gini score indicates a more equal distribution, while a higher score points to greater inequality. India's score of 23 suggests a relatively low measured level of inequality in the distribution captured by the World Bank's measure.However, this does not mean that everyone earns similar amounts or that the gap between high and low earners is small. The Gini index looks at the overall distribution across the population.



Multidimensional Poverty Index fell from 53.8% in 2005–06 to 16.4% in 2019–21. The World Bank's own multidimensional poverty measure stood at 15.5% in 2022–23.

INCOME INEQUALITY: INDIA'S GINI INDEX AT 23

Overdraft trap: Promised Rs 16 lakh at 6.5%, man buys insurance but gets no loan

New Delhi.(Agency)

Do you often get calls offering balance transfers, instant loans or overdraft facilities at dirt-cheap interest rates? Are you told that a large credit limit can be made available with minimal paperwork, sometimes with just one condition to fulfil?Beware. The next such call could come with a catch: you may be asked to buy an insurance policy to unlock the promised credit. And the loan or overdraft may never materialise.Delhi-based businessman Parminder Singh Sidhu says he found himself in precisely this situation. He was promised an overdraft facility of up to Rs 16 lakh at an annual interest rate of 6.5%, but was told he first needed to purchase a life insurance policy. He ended up paying Rs 1.90 lakh as the first-year premium for a policy from Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance (SUD Life).

The promised overdraft, however, never came through.In his complaint, Sidhu described the experience bluntly: "Got scammed from an insurance company agents where i was told that i will be getting the Over Draft facility at 6.5% ROI but never got the OD account."The individuals who contacted Sidhu claimed to represent Axis Bank. IndiaToday.in has not independently established their identities or whether they had any association with the bank.

THE CHEAP OVERDRAFT PROMISE

According to Sidhu, the first call came on July 28, 2026, from a woman who introduced herself as Ilma and claimed to represent Axis Bank. She offered him an overdraft facility of up to Rs 16 lakh at an interest rate of around 6.5% a year. Sidhu says he was told that purchasing a life insurance policy was necessary to get the overdraft approved. The policy was presented as a Rs 19-lakh plan, with an annual premium of Rs 1.90 lakh payable for 10 years.He agreed to the



proposal and paid the first premium of Rs 1.90 lakh using his HDFC Bank credit card through BillDesk. SUD Life issued the policy on July 30, 2026. The policy number is 03158100.

Sidhu says another individual, who identified himself as Ashish, contacted him and sought documents, including his Aadhaar and PAN details. A person named Sumit also followed up and allegedly assured him that the overdraft would be arranged in around 20 days.

The callers' actual identities and affiliations have not been independently verified.

PROMISED CREDIT NEVER CAME

WhatsApp conversations shared by Sidhu show the discussions about the overdraft and the insurance purchase. In one message, the initial caller referred to an interest rate of "6.5 rate of interest yearly" and said an approval call would come that day. Another message said, "aapse koi otp nhi liya jyga" — meaning no OTP would be sought from him.In a separate exchange, a WhatsApp number, whose profile displayed the SUD Life logo, asked Sidhu for an OTP. Sidhu says he shared a four-digit code. It is not clear from the material reviewed what the OTP was for or who was operating the number. The display of an insurer's logo on a WhatsApp profile does not, by itself, establish that the number belongs to the company or an authorised representative.

As the promised overdraft failed to materialise, Sidhu began following up with the people who had contacted him. In one message to Sumit, he wrote: "Aaj account khulna tha OD wala" — the overdraft account was supposed to be opened that day.The exchanges show repeated attempts by Sidhu to get an update. On September 12, he said he was still waiting for a call. Later, on September 24, he wrote: "Please let me know clearly agar yeh mere saath fraud hua hai toh I will work accordingly."

Sensex, Nifty trade flat as IT gains counter crude oil concernsude oil remains a concern

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Stock market traded largely flat on Friday, October 30, as gains in IT stocks and select heavyweight shares helped offset pressure from elevated crude oil prices and weakness in broader markets. Investors also remained focused on quarterly earnings from key companies, including Reliance Industries and Sun Pharma, due later in the day.

At around 10.23 am, the BSE Sensex was trading at 74,157.19, up just 6.15 points or



0.01%. The NSE Nifty 50 was at 22,921, down 15.75 points or 0.07%.The benchmarks recovered from a muted opening but struggled to build on the gains made in the previous session, when both indices advanced more than 1% following strong quarterly results from key constituents and the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said,

"The crude oil headwind is getting stronger with Brent rising above \$117. There are reports of the US likely resuming strikes against Iran after the mid-term elections which is due on November 3rd. Even though FII selling has turned weak with occasional buys in recent days, the market construct appears unfavourable for a rally."

IT STOCKS LEAD SECTORAL GAINS IT stocks were among the key supports for the market. The Nifty IT index gained 1.60%, with Infosys rising 1.91%, Tech Mahindra advancing 1.88%, TCS gaining 0.81% and HCLTech up 0.94%.The gains came amid weakness in global AI-linked stocks in Asia, as concerns grew over whether the massive investments being made in artificial intelligence would generate adequate returns. Indian IT companies are being viewed as relatively defensive beneficiaries of this trend, as businesses may increasingly prioritise cost savings, automation and outsourcing over expensive in-house AI investments.

The Nifty Pharma index also advanced 0.77%, while PSU Bank and healthcare stocks traded higher.Trent was among the top Nifty gainers, surging 5.76%, while InterGlobe Aviation, which operates IndiGo, rose 3.34%. Eternal gained 1.84% and Sun Pharma advanced 1.54%.However, selling in several heavyweight stocks limited the benchmarks' gains. State Bank of India fell 1.67%, while BEL declined 1.56%, and Tata Steel lost 1.09%.

Gold slips below Rs 1.42 lakh, silver tumbles further: Is a bigger dip coming?

NEW DELHI.(Ajency)

Planning to buy gold or silver this festive and wedding season? The recent fall in prices may come as good news. After remaining at elevated levels, both precious metals have been losing ground over the past few sessions, offering some relief to buyers who were waiting for prices to cool.On Friday, October 30, at 11.45 am, MCX gold was trading at Rs 1,41,979 per 10 grams, down 0.43%. Silver prices also witnessed a sharper decline, with MCX silver trading at Rs 1,85,900 per kg, down 1.88%.However, the recent correction may not be over yet. Rising crude oil prices, renewed inflation concerns and expectations of another US Federal Reserve rate hike have weighed on gold and silver. So, should buyers make the most of the dip or wait for prices to fall further?

WHY ARE GOLD AND SILVER PRICES FALLING?

Gold and silver have remained under pressure as higher crude oil prices have raised concerns about inflation. Strong US inflation data has also strengthened expectations that the Federal Reserve could raise interest rates again in December.Consumer prices in the US picked up in September, partly due to higher gasoline and other goods prices. This has added to expectations that the central bank may need to keep interest rates higher to control inflation.

Higher interest rates generally make gold less attractive because the metal does not offer any regular interest income. As a result, investors may move towards interest-bearing assets, putting pressure on gold prices.Geopolitical developments have added to the uncertainty. Crude oil prices have risen amid fears that the US could resume military strikes on Iran, increasing the



risk of disruptions to energy supplies. Higher oil prices can push inflation up further and complicate the outlook for interest rates, affecting precious metals. According to Dr Renisha Chainani, Chief Research Officer at Augmont, the Federal Reserve has kept the possibility of another rate hike open as it continues to tackle stubborn inflation.She said, "The Fed has left the door open to a hike before year-end as it tries to tame stubborn inflation. Thursday's data backed that view: the US personal consumption expenditures price index rose 0.5% last month, its biggest jump since March.



Sharvari Wagh

Dances With Madhuri Dixit To Yeh Prem Mol Liya Title Track, Fans Call It 'Iconic'



Filmmaker Sooraj Barjatya is returning to the big screen with Yeh Prem Mol Liya, a musical family entertainer starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari. The film, backed by Rajshri Productions and Mahaveer Jain Films, is set to arrive in theatres on November 27, 2026. Its title track features the lead pair and offers a glimpse into the film’s romantic, music-driven world. Ahead of the release, Sharvari shared a special video featuring none other than Madhuri Dixit, as the two danced to the film’s title track.

Sharvari and Madhuri Dixit unite for a dreamy dance video

Calling the experience of dancing with her idol “surreal” and “so special”, Sharvari expressed her gratitude for Madhuri Dixit’s affection. The moment also brought back memories of Madhuri’s association with Barjatya’s Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (1994), one of Hindi cinema’s most celebrated musical romances. In the video, Sharvari and Madhuri are seen dancing together to the title track of Yeh Prem Mol Liya, with the two matching steps in a special moment that brings together two generations of Rajshri heroines. The clip ends with Sharvari hugging Madhuri, visibly celebrating the opportunity to share the dance floor with her idol. While sharing the video on Instagram, Sharvari wrote, “So honoured to receive this much prem from one of the OG Rajshri heroines of Sooraj Barjatya sir.. the one and only Madhuri Dixit ma’am. Getting to dance alongside my idol feels surreal and soooo special. Thankyou ma’am, you are the best! Hum Aapke Hain Kaun #YehPremMolLiya... In theatres 27th Nov 2026." Have a look: Soon after she shared the video, fans were seen going gaga over the two. One fan wrote, “Too much of beauty and grace in one frame.” Another fan wrote, “She is real golden girl and dhak dhak girl actress best actress.” A third fan wrote, “Madhuri ji came for the final 20 seconds and just stole the show... One just can’t take their eyes off her Expressions, Grace, Dance.....THE OG QUEEN.” One of the comments read, “Iconic.” Others were seen dropping red heart emojis. Ayushmann Khurrana also wrote, “Wow,” as he reacted to the dance video.



Janhvi Kapoor

Addresses Peddi Controversy; Alia Bhatt 'Likes' Rashmika Mandanna's Post

Janhvi Kapoor has opened up about the controversy surrounding Peddi, acknowledging the concerns over the film’s portrayal of women. During a recent episode of Koffee With Karan (KWK), the actress reflected on the criticism, her own responsibility and whether she could have done more to address the concerns. Describing her experience during the shoot, Janhvi stated, “It was a violating experience in a way.” She also admitted that she experienced “discomfort throughout shooting”.

Alia Bhatt has caught netizens’ attention after liking Rashmika Mandanna’s social media post defending her marriage to Vijay Deverakonda amid online trolling. Rashmika addressed the backlash following the couple’s appearance on Koffee With Karan Season 9, where Vijay’s remarks about their marriage sparked criticism. In her lengthy note, Rashmika defended her husband, saying she would choose him “a thousand times” and that their relationship was their personal decision. Now, Alia’s gesture is being interpreted by some as support for the couple. Sai Pallavi, who will soon be seen playing Sita in Nitesh Tiwari’s Ramayana, has shared her perspective on the lessons audiences can take away from the epic. The actress



‘Satyam Shivam Sundaram’ actress said that while she embraced her work in cinema, the woman behind the camera-ready persona was quite the opposite — private by nature, somewhat introverted, and happiest when immersed in her work.

Karan Johar Celebrates 10 Years Of Ae Dil Hai Mushkil In Special Post: 'Will Always Be A Personal Story To Me'



Filmmaker Karan Johar took to social media to celebrate 10 years of his romantic drama ‘Ae Dil Hai Mushkil.’ He described the film as a deeply personal story inspired by his own experiences of love, longing and heartbreak. Taking to Instagram, Karan posted a video from the movie and wrote, “Ae dil hai mushkil... will always be a personal story to me... a cumulation of many pieces of my pursuits of love and longing and perhaps also many of my own heartbreaks ... at possibly one of the most vulnerable moments of my life I realised that one sided love did not need remorse or sympathy... it didn’t warrant pain or empathy... all it needed was deep and intense understanding that the power of love is so much larger than the reciprocation of the same...”

“You don’t need to have someone love you back to empower yourself – the feeling itself is so awakening and so so powerful! Loving someone has to be an act of selflessness and we as a community of lovers have to disassociate the “I” in “I love You” Selflessness is where true love truly resides... That feeling made me tell this story,” he added. Karan went on to state, “I do admit that it wasn’t without its flaws and had several polarised responses ... especially to its third act.... BUT truth be told I would have still told it the same way even today, with its flaws... with its perceived imperfections...” “No art can be perfect and all interpretation is welcome but conviction has to trump all logic and sensibility when you want to be an unabashed story teller. I am so eternally grateful to Ranbir, Anushka, Aishwarya and Fawad who allowed me my vision and gave me their glorious and supremely talented interpretation of the same! I thank the cast and crew of ADHM for creating the perfect “Vatavaran” on set... “10 years ago we told a story about unrequited love. The essence of our story was “ek tarfa pyaar” but the love we have towards all the lovers of our love story is unconditional.... Love you all from the bottom of our hearts... Accha chalta hoon... duaon mein yaad rakhna,” he concluded. The video shared by Karan features scenes of Ranbir Kapoor’s character Ayan alongside Anushka Sharma and Aishwarya Rai Bachchan from the film.

'Salman Khan Came To Our Set Without Security, I Got Scared': Nyrraa Banerji Recalls First Meeting



Actress Nyrraa Banerji recently recalled her first meeting with Bollywood superstar Salman Khan, revealing that she was so nervous when he approached her that she started walking in the opposite direction. The actress, who is currently seen in Story TV’s Premkatha alongside Karam Rajpal, shared the memorable experience from the time she was shooting for a film directed by Priyadarshan. Recalling the incident in an interview, Nyrraa said she met Salman long before her stint on Bigg Boss, when the superstar was shooting for Dabangg on a set opposite hers. “I met Salman sir way before Bigg Boss, while I was shooting for Priyadarshan’s film and Salman sir was shooting for Dabangg right opposite us. I got to know that he was shooting next door, and I got so excited that I requested Priyan sir to let me meet him. Salman sir agreed immediately and came without his security towards my set. I went halfway to meet him,” she said. Despite being excited about meeting the superstar, Nyrraa admitted that she became nervous when she saw him approaching her. The actress revealed that she even started walking away, prompting her team to encourage her to speak to him.

“I got so scared that I started walking in the opposite direction. My team told me, ‘Please go and talk to him.’ He spoke to me so politely, wished me luck for my film, and cut to Bigg Boss, where we met again, and he still remembered meeting me,” she recalled. On the work front, Nyrraa is currently seen playing Katha in Story TV’s Premkatha, which also stars Karam Rajpal as Prem. The microdrama blends romance, revenge and unexpected revelations against the colourful backdrop of Gujarat. Nyrraa’s character is the fearless daughter of a dreaded don who falls in love with Prem, a humble truck driver who repeatedly comes to her rescue. Their relationship soon triggers a fierce battle between rival crime families, while secrets surrounding Jai’s true identity threaten to change the course of their lives.



administering tablets) without realizing that they won't last long in the body. What your body needs is constant exposure to microbes that lead to good bacteria in the gut. One way to enable this is by increasing their consumption of raw seeds and vegetables, which will then allow these microbes to enter their gut. Having a bath without soap also retains necessary microbes.

So how can you do it if you don't have access to gardens or clean soil around you? We definitely don't recommend you to let your kid play in the soil, which is contaminated with animal excreta or urine and works more like a dump yard for many. There is an alternative. Luke recommends making a microbe box. Buy organic soil and fill up the box with that soil. Also add some leaves or seeds once a week - not to grow but for it to generate and feed the microbes. The leaves decay and become natural compost.

Allow your child to run his hands in this soil. It is not only healthy for your gut but also therapeutic. Not only your kid, even you should do that 5-10 minutes every day. "Every time I play with the soil, it connects me with nature. It is better than any supplements and makes your child's immunity lot better," he concludes.

We are losing fifth of world food to overeating, wastage



Almost 20% of the food made available to consumers worldwide is lost through over-eating or wastage, 1.08 billion tonnes of according to a new study. The world population consumes around 10% more food than it needs, while almost 9% is thrown away or left to spoil, researchers said.

Efforts to reduce the billions of tonnes lost could improve global food security -ensuring everyone has access to a safe, affordable, nutritious diet -and help prevent damage to the environment, they said. Scientists at University of Edinburgh in the UK examined 10 key stages in the global food system -including food consumption and the growing and harvesting of crops -to quantify the extent of losses.

Using data for 2011 (the most recent date for which the researchers said all required data was available) collected primarily by the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, the team found that more food is lost from the system than was previously thought. Almost half of harvested crops -or 2.1 billion tonnes -are lost through over-consumption, consumer waste and inefficiencies in production processes, researchers said.

Livestock production is the least efficient process, with losses of 78% or 840 million tonnes, the team found. Some 1.08 billion tonnes of harvested crops are used to produce 240 million tonnes of edible animal products including meat, milk and eggs. This stage alone accounts for 40% of all losses of harvested crops, researchers said. Increased demand for some foods, particularly meat and dairy products, would decrease the efficiency of the food system and could make it difficult to feed the world's expanding population in sustainable ways, they said. Meeting this demand could cause environmental harm by increasing greenhouse gas emissions, depleting water supplies and causing loss of biodiversity.

Encouraging people to eat fewer animal products, reduce waste and not exceed nutritional needs could help reverse these trends, the team said. "Until now, it was not known how over-eating impacts the system. Not only is it harmful to health, we found that overeating is bad for the environment and impairs food security," Peter Alexander from Edinburgh's School of GeoSciences said.

Why your kids need dirt to be Healthy

Do you often compare your child to the neighborhood kid who never falls sick? Do you suspect his parents know something that you don't? Probably not. In all likelihood, the fault lies in the fact that you fuss a lot over hygiene and cleanliness. Surprised? Well, don't be.

Nutrition and fitness expert, Luke Coutinho who has authored the globally acclaimed book, 'The Great Indian Diet' with Shilpa Shetty, explains, "A lot of kids have allergies, skin problems like psoriasis, eczema, asthma, skin issues and wheezing problems. In fact, wheezing is growing as a common trend among kids and a lot of this relates back to the way we bring up our children. We are living in a world, which is very clean. We keep our homes so clean, keep our children clean, we keep washing our hands all the time with anti-microbial hand washes, bath soaps and sanitizers." In our attempt to be super clean, we compromise on microbes that are extremely important for our living. Microbes are small organisms that are present everywhere- in air, clothes, on the skin, food and most

prominently in the soil. We need them to maintain good gut health and boost immunity. The microbes in the gut feed your good bacteria. However, by constantly making your kid wash his hands with anti-microbial and anti-bacterial soaps, or sanitisers and preventing your kid from playing in

the garden or soil, you are rapidly depleting the presence of these essential microbes. To increase good bacteria in the gut, we feed our kids on probiotics present in certain foods (or by

The scent of sleep

Is bedtime a troubled time for you? You are sleepy, tired...but the moment you lie down, the ZZZsss bid goodbye? Sleep is the first casualty of everyday stress, but help is only a sniff away. We are talking about essential oils. "Once applied to the skin, essential oils are absorbed in the bloodstream within 3 to 5 minutes. Use just a bit on your ear lobes, wrists and soles to let the aroma lull you to quality slumber," says aromatherapist Nikki Kapoor. Here's a quick primer on what to sniff and sleep well.

Lavender oil for mild headache

This pleasant-smelling popular oil has been anointed as the super sleep oil in many studies and is used in many relaxing products such as aroma candles, bath salts and eye masks. Kapoor's advice: Use it for mild insomnia and a light headache.

Clary Sage for blood pressure

Clary sage oil is renowned for its quality of bringing down blood pressure levels. "Elevated BP leads to sleep troubles and using clary sage helps in controlling it, leading to better sleep," says veteran aromatherapist Blossom Kochhar.

Frankincense for pain relief

A 2016 study conducted on cancer patients found that 64 per cent reported improved sleep after using aroma sticks with frankincense. Kapoor, a two-time cancer survivor, swears by its healing power. A 2004 study said that using this oil reduces pain and anxiety of childbirth. "It has a sedative effect and is an anti-depressant as well," adds Kochhar.

Jasmine oil for confidence

This quintessential Indian essential oil with its sweet aroma works as a confidence booster. "Those who bring back the pressures of work home will benefit by including jasmine oil as it helps one forget trivial worries and induces relaxation," explains Kochhar.

Vetiver oil for arthritis

Vetiver or khus is a cooling oil. Extracted from vetiver grass, its oil is earthy and helps relieve aches and pains. According to Kochhar, "People with a history of arthritis



have difficulty in sleeping because of the pain. A healing oil like vetiver applied on the affected area provides relief."

Make your own sleep mists

1. In a small bowl, mix 3 drops of lavender oil, 2 drops each of geranium and sandalwood oil. Combine this blend with 200ml almond or grapeseed oil.
 2. In a bowl, mix 3 drops of jasmine oil with 1 drop each of patchouli and sandalwood oil. Add this blend to 200ml almond, jojoba or grapeseed oil.
- Now you have two DIY sleep mists. Apply 8-10 drops of either on your skin for good sleep.

How to use

With the exception of lavender, don't use essential oils directly on the skin. Always mix them with other carrier oils such as almond, coconut, grapeseed or cocoa and shea butter. You can also add 2-3 drops to your regular lotion or body cream.

Don't use essential oils on infants under three months. Lavender is best for them. Pregnant women should consult their physician before using essential oils. Create your own customised oil by mixing different essential oils, but be aware of the right quantity.

