Spy in every blink

Eye Secrets

Daily

www.eyesecretdaily.com

Rangareddy Vol No. 1 Issue 148 Date:Tuesday, 27-10-2026 Price:2/- Pages: 8

Maharashtra CM agrees to consider Telangana's request on Tummidihatti Barrage

Hyderabad, Oct 26 Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has responded positively to consider a request by Telangana to give the nod for construction of Tummidihatti Barrage with a height of 152 metres, the Telangana CMO said on Monday.

A Telangana delegation led by Chief Minister Revanth Reddy met Fadnavis in Mumbai and discussed construction of the Tummidihatti Barrage across the Pranahita River on the Telangana–Maharashtra border, including the proposed enhancement of the barrage height, water availability, submergence implications, and other technical aspects.

According to the Telangana Chief Minister's Office (CMO), Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Chief Secretaries of both states, and senior officials of the Irrigation Departments participated in the meeting.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister expressed his willingness to revisit Telangana's request.

However, he emphasised that several technical, environmental, and administrative steps would have to be completed before reaching a final conclusion.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister stated that if the project did not adversely affect Maharashtra or its people, his government would have no hesitation in supporting Telangana in meeting its water requirements, in the larger spirit of national interest.

Uttam Kumar Reddy made a detailed presentation highlighting the historical significance, cultural heritage, social conditions, and economic backwardness of the erstwhile Adilabad district.

He elaborated on why the 2016 agreement, which provided for a barrage height of 148 metres, would not adequately address the irrigation requirements of the region.

The minister emphasised that the present challenges relating to energy requirements, power costs, environmental concerns, climate change, and long-term operational sustainability made it necessary to explore solutions that maximise the use of gravity for water conveyance.

He presented the technical and operational advantages of constructing the Tummidihatti Barrage at a height of 152 metres, describing it as the most viable solution for meeting the region's water requirements.

The minister further conveyed that the



Telangana government is willing to compensate farmers in Maharashtra for agricultural land affected by submergence, in accordance with the land acquisition guidelines and compensation policies applicable in Maharashtra.

CM Revanth Reddy observed that the proposed barrage could serve as a physical bridge connecting the two states, strengthening connectivity and economic cooperation between communities on both sides of the border.

The Maharashtra Chief Minister proposed the constitution of a joint committee of officials headed by the Principal Secretaries of the Irrigation Departments of both states.

The committee would examine the proposed barrage height, water availability, submergence implications, affected agricultural lands, compensation requirements and other technical matters.

It would also examine the assessments and concerns of both states regarding the extent of submergence and the possible impact on land and local communities, including alternative approaches where necessary.

The Chief Minister suggested that officials and technical experts from both states work together to prepare a clear timeline and roadmap for further discussions and necessary action.

The subsequent meetings, technical consultations and the way forward would be worked out by the officials and experts of the two states.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy invited his Maharashtra counterpart to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held on December 7, 8, and 9 at Future City in Hyderabad.

Austria's Foreign Minister to visit India, hold talks with EAM Jaishankar

New Delhi, Oct 26 Austria's Federal Minister for European and International Affairs Beate Meinl-Reisinger will be on an official visit to India from October 27 to November 2, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Monday. During her visit, Reisinger will hold talks with External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Wednesday.

After concluding her engagements in New Delhi, the visiting minister will participate in various events in Jaipur from October 29 to November 2.



Earlier in the day, EAM Jaishankar extended wishes to Beate Meinl-Reisinger and the people of Austria on the country's National Day and expressed commitment to further enhancing the Enhanced Partnership between the two nations.

"Warm felicitations to FM Beate Meinl-Reisinger, the Government and people of Austria on their National Day. Committed to further strengthening our Enhanced Partnership," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

On October 6, Secretary (West) in the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Sibi George met Austria's National Security Advisor Peter Vorhofer, and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between the two nations in security and strategic matters, including counter-terrorism.

"Secretary (West) Sibi George received Dr Peter Vorhofer, National Security Advisor of Austria. They discussed ways to further strengthen India-Austria cooperation in security and strategic matters, including counter-terrorism and exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," the MEA said on X.

On June 11, Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest-serving elected PM of India and stressed that India has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies and very strong partner of Austria and the European Union under PM Modi's leadership.

"Congratulations Prime Minister Narendra Modi on becoming the longest serving, elected Prime Minister of India. During your leadership of the world's largest democracy, India has emerged as one of the world's fastest growing economies and a very strong partner of Austria and the European Union," Stocker posted on X.

In response, PM Modi thanked Chancellor Stocker for his warm wishes and recalled his recent visit to India. PM Modi stated that he looked forward to working with Stocker to further strengthen ties between India and Austria.

BRS demands withdrawal of Telangana Hate Speech Bill

Hyderabad, Oct 26 Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) has urged the State Legislature's Select Committee to withdraw the Telangana Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2026, terming its provisions vague, disproportionate and liable to be misused against the Opposition, media and lawful criticism.

In a memorandum submitted to the Select Committee, BRS Legal Cell in-charge and General Secretary Soma Bharat Kumar said the party supported firm action against genuine incitement to violence and hatred, but argued that the proposed legislation went beyond what was necessary and raised serious constitutional concerns.

The BRS said existing laws, including provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the Information Technology Act and Supreme Court directions, already provided a legal framework to deal with hate speech. It argued that the primary gap was in enforcement rather than the absence of legislation.

The party particularly objected to provisions making offences cognizable and non-bailable and prescribing punishment of up to seven years for a first offence and 10 years for repeat offences. It claimed that defining a repeat offender merely on the basis of an earlier charge could undermine the presumption of innocence and expose individuals to immediate arrest.

The BRS also questioned terms such as "injury", "disharmony", "enmity" and "ill-will", saying they were undefined and could potentially cover political speeches, satire, investigative journalism and criticism of public institutions. It warned that such provisions could have a chilling effect on the media and political dissent.

The party further opposed the proposed executive powers to order content removal, arguing that take-down decisions should instead be subject to judicial oversight and procedural safeguards.

If the Bill is not withdrawn, the BRS urged the committee to fundamentally redraft it by introducing clear definitions, protecting fair reporting and criticism of governments and political parties, restoring the presumption of innocence and ensuring judicial oversight over content blocking.

It also sought wider public consultation, open hearings and an extension of the memorandum submission period by at least 30 days before the Bill is considered further.

Nepali gang arrested for murder of retired IPS officer's wife in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 26 (More than five months after Tanuja Ranjan, wife of retired Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Ray Vinay Ranjan, was brutally murdered at their residence in Hyderabad, police on Monday arrested four Nepalese.

Those arrested include the domestic worker, Dharma Tiruwa alias Kalpana, who had worked at the victim's residence.

The arrests were made following a five-month-long investigation spanning several states and the India-Nepal border.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V. C. Sajjanar announced the arrests at a press conference.

A Special Investigation Team (SIT), probing rising property offences committed by Nepali gangs across the three Police Commissionerates, arrested four accused near Nampally Railway Station on Monday (October 26).

Dharma alias Kalpana, 26, is from Surkhet district in Nepal. Ganesh B.K. alias Ganesh Bishwakarma alias Dinesh Thapa, 31, is a labourer who was residing in Pune; Chandra Bahadur Tamang alias Ranjeet Thapa alias Shanker Chandra Lama alias Kancha, 44, a cook whose listed Indian address is in Gurugram, Haryana; and Ganesh Bahadur Shahi, 37, a watchman who was residing in Pune.

Police said two other accused remained absconding and that teams were continuing efforts to trace them. The police had earlier arrested two other accused in the case.

Police said the accused entered the house in Prashasan Nagar on the night of May 7–8, restrained Tanuja Ranjan and smothered her. They allegedly escaped with 225 grams of gold jewellery and other valuables.

The police investigation revealed that Dharma came to Hyderabad in June 2025 through a relative and began working as a domestic help at the Jubilee



Hills residence for a monthly salary of about Rs 20,000. During her employment, she allegedly remained in contact with Bikas, a Nepal national based in Pune, who repeatedly asked about her employer, the household's assets and the valuables inside the house. He eventually proposed a robbery in return for a share of the proceeds. In April 2026, Dharma travelled to Pune to visit her ailing father and came into contact with other members of the alleged gang.

On May 4, when her employer left for Bengaluru, she allegedly alerted the group. The police account says Ganesh Bahadur Shahi, Shanker Chandra Lama and Sunil Pariyar met at Kalamboli in Raigad district, Maharashtra, on May 4 and travelled to Pune in a hired Maruti Ertiga. The next day, they met other alleged accomplices, including Ganesh B.K., before setting out for Hyderabad.

On the morning of May 7, Ganesh B.K. and Suresh Shahi allegedly met Dharma near her workplace, surveyed the premises and discussed how the group could enter the house. Two groups allegedly carried out the operation.

According to police, the gang assembled at Ravindra Bar near the Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station area on the evening of May 7.

BJP to launch month-long padyatras to counter INDIA Bloc's Nov 1 rally

New Delhi, Oct 26 As the INDIA Bloc plans to organise a mega rally on November 1, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is launching a month-long counter-offensive starting the same day with synchronised 'padyatras (foot marches)' led by top political figures.

This campaign is being organised to counter the INDIA Bloc's scheduled 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' mega rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on November 1.

Top Ministers and Chief Ministers from the BJP-ruled states will be deployed across the country to participate in the 'padyatras'.

BJP National President Nitin Nabin is likely to participate in some of the events.

Additionally, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is likely to participate in a 'padyatra' in Hyderabad on November 2 and in Haryana on November 5.

The INDIA Bloc has announced the mega gathering to protest against the Election Commission of India (ECI) over the alleged irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. The Opposition leaders have also demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over the allegations of "vote chori".

Earlier, Delhi Police issued a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) clearing the security and traffic coordination for the event from October 25 to November 3.

However, the scheduled event has triggered a massive row. The BJP is heavily targeting the Congress-led Opposition alliance by pointing out that November 1 marks the anniversary of the 1984 anti-Sikh violence in Delhi.

Additionally, the Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has written to Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi, urging them to postpone the rally until after November 10, given the festive season.Kharge has acknowledged that some traders had submitted a memorandum regarding the matter and clarified that a final decision on the next steps would be taken only after consultations with the Congress party and its allies in the INDIA Bloc.

Maharashtra man sentenced to 20 years in prison for rape, sexual abuse of 5-year-old



The court pronounced the judgment on September 22 in the case registered at a Pimpri-Chinchwad police station in April this yearThe court pronounced the judgment on September 22 in the case registered at a Pimpri-Chinchwad police station in April this yearA special court in Pimpri Chinchwad has sentenced 40-year-old man to 20 years of imprisonment for the rape and sexual abuse of a five-year-old girl in Pune.

The court pronounced the judgment on September 22 in the case registered at a Pimpri-Chinchwad police station in April this year. The convict was prosecuted under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. According to the police, the case was registered on April 3, following which the investigation was completed and a chargesheet was filed before the court within 30 days. The prosecution had sought an expedited trial, following which the special court completed the hearing and delivered its verdict on September 22.

The court sentenced the convict to 20 years' imprisonment under BNS Section 64(1) (rape) and Section 65(2) (rape of a woman under 12 years of age), with a fine of Rs 10,000 under each section. He was also sentenced under BNS Section 74 (assault or use of criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty) and Section 351 (criminal intimidation), with a three-year sentence under each. Under the POCSO Act, he was sentenced to 20 years under Section 4 (penetrative sexual assault) and Section 6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault), and five years under Section 8 (sexual assault), along with fines. All the sentences are to be served concurrently.The prosecution examined witnesses and presented evidence before the court to establish the charges. A special public prosecutor represented the prosecution, while a court liaison officer assisted with coordination during the proceedings. Police officials said the case was investigated with priority given to the safety and protection of the minor victim.

He came to Delhi to start a new life. His life ended over Rs 1,000



What is the price of a thousand rupees in Delhi? In this case, a life. The life of a 30-year-old man whose body was dumped by the roadside at Naraina in the national capital. He was murdered simply because he could not pay his taxi fare.The tragedy, however, didn't end with his murder. His killer was identified and arrested before his identity was even known to the police. For around two weeks, his body lay in a morgue as an anonymous victim while his grieving family searched for him across the NCR (national capital region).For those two weeks, no one knew his story. His only marker of identity was a distinctive heart-shaped tattoo etched on his left forearm, featuring the names "ANAND" and "RENU" on either side. Thus, the police assumed his name might be Anand, and that Renu was his wife or lover. These names could even be his children — a boy and a girl.It was around 7 am on August 17. The Delhi Police control room received a call that a body of a naked man was found on a pavement at Naraina Chowk, near the wall of the Sewa Bharti NGO.A team from the Naraina police station reached at the spot and found he "looked no more than 30".He had a deep injury on the right side of his head and several other wounds on his body. It appeared that he had been beaten with a brick and a broken earthen flower pot — both items were found nearby. There were stains of blood on them.Police personnel searched for an identity card or a phone and came up empty. There was nothing to help identify him.

However, once they scanned his body, they found the heart tattoo with an arrow etched on his left forearm.This, a police officer said, was the only clue they found. Police personnel checked with local residents to ascertain the identity of the body too. Nobody recognised him.Sleuths from the Crime Branch and Forensic Science Laboratory arrived within an hour. The body was subsequently shifted to Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital in Hari Nagar, around 5 km away. A murder case was registered at Naraina police station.

With the identity of the victim unknown, investigators turned to footage from CCTV cameras around the spot.During the analysis, investigators noticed a grey van moving suspiciously around the area around 1.30 am, hours before the body was first reported to the police.

"The vehicle's registration number was initially unclear. Investigators analysed successive CCTV recordings to reconstruct its route before and after the crime. After examining footage of around 500 cameras and conducting field verification simultaneously, police identified the vehicle as a Maruti Eeco van. Its registration number was DL-8CU-7367," Deputy Commissioner of Police (West) Hareshwar Swami said.The vehicle's owner was identified as 59-year-old Rajinder Kumar alias Annu. He was immediately traced and picked up for questioning. He lived with his wife and children in Naraina village, the officer said.

On August 16, he said, he was returning home after dropping off a passenger in Bhiwadi, Rajasthan, when he spotted two men near IFFCO Chowk in Gurgaon. It was around 11.15 pm, he told the police.Those two men were looking to travel to Safdarjung Enclave in Delhi, approximately 24 km away. As it was late at night and the men were drunk, they agreed to pay Rs 1,000 as fare.According to Rajinder's statement, one of the passengers asked to be dropped off near the gate of Safdarjung Hospital and told him that the other passenger would pay the fare.

The victim, Rajinder said, wanted to be dropped at Chattarpur, which would have required the driver to travel back approximately 10 km.

An argument then broke out between the two, Rajinder told investigators. The victim also refused to pay the fare, saying he didn't have any money or valuables with him. The passenger, according to Rajinder, subsequently told him to drop him wherever he could.Furious, Rajinder drove towards his home. When they got near Naraina Chowk, around 700 metres from Rajinder's residence, he pressed for the fare. Now he wanted Rs 1,500.The victim didn't have any money and wasn't even carrying a mobile phone.

Rajinder stopped his car and the two men got out near the Sewa Bharti NGO. He told investigators that he picked up whatever he found and attacked the passenger.The man collapsed. Rajinder removed his clothes with the intention to sell them.Then Rajinder, who was also under the influence of alcohol, called his wife Kamini Makhija and their 28-year-old son Lakshya to the spot. They arrived within minutes on Lakshya's scooter. Together, Rajinder told the investigators, they dumped the body on the pavement and left.All three were arrested subsequently.Police said the deceased's clothes and shoes were recovered from the Paschim Vihar drain where Lakshya had dumped them, while Kamini led police to the Maruti Eeco. Kamini had driven the car back home, while Rajinder rode the scooter.

Rajinder, police said, is from Inderpuri, a neighbourhood 3 km away. He had subsequently moved to a rented home in Naraina with his wife and two children.His daughter is married. Kamini worked in a factory while Lakshya worked as a courier for a private company.The murder case was solved within hours. But the police had another problem. They still didn't know who the victim was.Identifying the mystery victim

Police continued efforts to establish the deceased's identity.A mugshot of the victim and a photo of the tattoo was sent to police stations around Naraina and uploaded on the Zonal Integrated Police Network (ZIPNET) — the police database meant to help match missing persons with unidentified bodies in eight member states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh, and Himachal Pradesh.There was no information.Police also took Rajinder to IFFCO Chowk and enquired around the area. They visited Safdarjung Hospital gate and checked CCTV cameras around it to track the victim's companion. They couldn't find anything.Police also published a mugshot of the victim and a photograph of his tattoo in some newspapers, appealing for any information. Police printed posters featuring his face and circulated them to nearby police stations and Gurgaon.Two weeks later, on September 1, a Gurgaon Police Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) approached Naraina police station looking for the investigating officer (IO).He told the IO that a missing person's complaint they'd received contained a photograph similar to the man in the poster. The missing person complaint had been registered at Gurgaon Sector 29 Police Station.

The victim was finally identified. He was Anand Ram and Renu was his wife. Now the mystery behind the tattoo too was solved.Anand's family had lodged a missing person's complaint on August 19 after he failed to return home.Only a few days earlier, Anand had arrived in Delhi from his hometown, Almora in Uttrakhand, along with his wife and two children. They were staying in the Safdarjung Enclave area with a relative.Police also identified his companion in the car that night as Sonu, a friend of Anand's cousin.

According to police, Anand, his cousin and Sonu had gone to Sahara Mall in Gurgaon on August 16. They had spent their evening drinking.Anand's cousin took his phone and kept it with him for safekeeping. "As he was new to the city, I was apprehensive that he may lose his phone," he told the police. Around 11 pm, the three men were heavily drunk and decided to head home.Anand's cousin told them he would stay back in Gurgaon. From Sahara Mall, Anand and Sonu walked towards IFFCO Chowk in search of a lift to Delhi when they spotted the Maruti Eeco van.

The Gurgaon Police already questioned Sonu. He had told them he didn't know where exactly the Eeco cab driver took Anand afterwards.Sonu told police that because he was drunk, he didn't realise Anand may not have any money with him. Rajinder, his wife Kamini and son Lakshya are now lodged in Tihar jail.Anand's wife Renu, along with their six-year-old son and two-year-old daughter, have returned to Almora after his cremation on September 2. The family said he used to drive his own taxi in Uttarakhand, but sold it after suffering losses. He came to Delhi hoping to find work in a hotel, where his cousin was already employed.

Police file cases. Courts rarely convict. Can technology change that?



Technology may help the police identify and respond to risks faster, but gaps in reporting, investigation, prosecution and institutional support remain key challenges to women's safety, speakers said at a national conference in Bengaluru The first day of the two-day National Women's Conference brought together police officers, lawyers, researchers and technology companies to examine the full chain of response to crimes against women — from preventing offences and improving emergency response to protecting victims and witnesses, strengthening prosecutions, and ensuring safer working conditions for women police personnel.The third edition of the conference, themed "Gandhiji Revisited: Women's Safety & Security in Free India — Deepening Sensitivities", was held at the Senior Police Officers Training and Research Centre in Bengaluru.From reporting to conviction

A key panel examined what happens after a crime is reported, focusing on the gap between registration of cases, investigation, and eventual conviction. Speakers pointed to victim and witness protection, lack of awareness, and gaps in coordination between agencies as continuing challenges.Public Prosecutor Shailaja Nayak said police file charge sheets in nearly 75-85 per cent of cases, but the conviction rate during trial is often only 15-20 per cent. Citing her experience, Nayak said she had handled around 60 sexual assault cases, of which only three ended in conviction, two lapsed, and the remaining cases were still on trial.She said victims can face pressure during the legal process and stressed the need for measures to protect survivors while balancing those safeguards with the right to freedom of speech.Lawyer Pratima Jagadeesh said the challenge was not necessarily the absence of laws, but limited awareness of them and poor coordination between departments."The law exists, but awareness does not," she said, calling for greater institutional integration.Anjali Ramanna, a lawyer specialising in women and minor rights, said violence against women cuts across professional and social backgrounds. Responding to a question on whether women feel safer because they are more empowered or because society itself has become safer, the founder of Astitva Legal Trust said 13 of the 18 dowry-harassment cases handled by her organisation involved IT employees.

During a separate discussion on police reforms for women's safety and security, S Savitha, Additional Commandant General, Home Guards, presented data on crimes against women in Karnataka. Molestation was the highest among the major categories cited, followed by cruelty by spouse, violations under the Dowry Prohibition Act, rape and dowry deaths.Taken together, the discussions pointed to the need to strengthen the entire response chain — from prevention and reporting to investigation, prosecution and protection of victims and witnesses.The women policing women's safety

The conference also turned inward, with women police personnel raising concerns about their working conditions.They spoke about access to basic facilities, dedicated restrooms, safe transport during night duty, periodic health check-ups, mental health support, and protective equipment. Concerns were also raised about harassment faced by women personnel while handling public-order situations and within police stations."Women police personnel from the constable to inspector level are the first responders and the last-mile link between the police department and the public. Therefore, the issues they face in the field, including the need for restrooms, transport during night shifts, health check-ups, mental health support and safety at their workplaces, need to be addressed institutionally. If we want them to respond effectively to women's grievances, we also have to ensure that they have a safe and supportive working environment," retired DGP Raghavendra H Auradkar said.

Responding to the concerns, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said several measures, including mental health counselling, mobile toilets and health check-ups, were already in place, while the remaining concerns would be examined.Karnataka Police officers also highlighted preventive and emergency-response mechanisms, including the 112 emergency response system, technology-enabled policing platforms and initiatives such as Akka Pade aimed at improving women's access to assistance and protection.Bengaluru Police officers also spoke about strengthening welfare and counselling mechanisms for women personnel.Technology can help, but is not the whole answerA significant part of the discussions focused on using technology to make policing more preventive. Startups and researchers presented emergency alert systems, wearable devices, missing-person tracking tools, drones, surveillance technologies, and other solutions that could assist police personnel on the ground.

The presentations explored how these tools could be adapted for policing and potentially developed through collaboration between technology companies, police departments and other stakeholders.But speakers also stressed that technology alone cannot address gaps in women's safety. They identified better infrastructure, faster emergency response, coordination between agencies, and stronger support systems for women personnel as equally important.Senior police officers, including Karnataka Director General and Inspector General of Police M A Saleem, Criminal Investigation Department DGP Pronab Mohanty, Seemant Kumar Singh, Raghavendra H Auradkar, and Jija Madhavan Harisingh, along with legal experts, researchers, and technology-sector representatives, attended the conference"s first day.

Andhra Pradesh reports 31 election-related incidents during nomination filing

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh reported 31 election-related incidents across 13 districts on Thursday during the filing of nominations for the Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) elections, including clashes, attacks on candidates and destruction of nomination papers.Calling the destruction of nomination papers a direct attack on a citizen's right to contest an election, Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta warned that those involved in violence and intimidation would face criminal action irrespective of political affiliations.According to a statement from the DGP's office, 22 incidents involved violence, clashes or public-order disturbances, while nine were separately reported incidents involving the snatching or tearing of nomination papers.Across the incidents, 16 instances of nomination papers being snatched, torn or destroyed were recorded.Anantapur reported the highest number of incidents at eight, followed by Annamayya, Kadapa, Prakasam and Tirupati, with three each.

Chittoor, Sri Sathya Sai and Palnadu reported two incidents each, while Nellore, Kurnool, Markapuram, Nandyal and Eluru reported one each.Across the reported incidents, including cases in which nomination papers were destroyed during clashes, there were 16 instances of nomination papers being snatched, torn or destroyed.Six incidents involved stone-pelting or attacks with stones and sticks.Four vehicles, including two cars and two motorcycles, were set on fire.Two residential houses were attacked or damaged, including one that was demolished using an earthmover.One incident of firing in the air was reported.A police vehicle escorting candidates was damaged in a stone-pelting incident, and one police Constable sustained a grievous head injury.Two persons, including a contesting candidate, were reported to be critically injured.Several people sustained injuries in three clashes, while three incidents involved road blockades, sit-ins or traffic obstructions.Those targeted included candidates belonging to the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP) and Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M), as well as an independent candidate."The law makes no distinction between political parties. Every offender, whether associated with the ruling party, the Opposition or any other group, will face the law with equal firmness. No one can claim immunity from criminal action by invoking a party's name," it said.Sixteen cases, including counter-cases, have been registered, while cases relating to 11 further incidents are being processed.At least 54 people have been named as accused, and four were apprehended at the spot.Police used cane charge on three occasions and fired two tear-gas shells to disperse a mob attacking a police vehicle.The DGP said that CCTV footage, videos and photographs were being examined to identify more accused.Police have been directed to register pending cases, arrest offenders and strengthen security at sensitive nomination centres.He said that people can report threats, obstruction or violence immediately by dialling 100 or 112 or contacting the nearest police station."

Maharashtra SIR challenged in Bombay High Court, pleas seek restoration of deleted voters



After The Indian Express reported that two Election Commissioners had objected to decisions taken during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, two writ petitions were filed in the Bombay High Court on Thursday challenging the SIR process in Maharashtra.The pleas seek several directions to the Election Commission of India (ECI), including placing on record 14 decisions concerning the SIR, criteria for polling station rationalisation and ECINET specifications. They also seek restoration of every voter deleted during the SIR process in Maharashtra, or quashing of the SIR directions for the state and a stay on forthcoming Assembly elections until the electoral rolls are made "legally compliant".

One of the pleas seeks the appointment of an independent judicial committee to "investigate the data deletions and software blockages implemented during the current SIR process".A writ petition filed by four Maharashtra residents and registered voters through advocate Asim Sarode before the Kolhapur circuit bench cited the Express investigation and claimed they were "aggrieved by the systematic erosion of constitutional norms governing the management of electoral rolls", which they said directly affected their fundamental rights.The plea is likely to be mentioned on Monday, September 28.The petition also claimed that the action was "contrary" to past Supreme Court judgments, alleging that the CEC and ECI had exercised their powers in a manner "detrimental to the democratic perspective and against the interest of the general public".The four petitioners have sought quashing of the 14 "unilateral administrative orders" and modifications, disclosure of recorded dissents, restoration of all deleted voters and formation of an independent judicial committee to probe the deletions.The plea also seeks a direction to put on hold all forthcoming Assembly elections across the country "until fresh, untainted, and legally compliant electoral rolls are approved".Another writ petition, filed through advocate Hitendra Gandhi by two Mumbai residents, raised concerns over the "collection of documents during enumeration and exclusion based on uncollectible status".The petitioners have sought directions to the ECI to publish the reasons for the SIR, the methodology used for the Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate (ASDD) electoral rolls, and ECINET specifications. They have also sought action on their April 2026 representation to the authorities and quashing of the SIR-related directions for Maharashtra.The plea further seeks a direction to the ECI that no voter be excluded without statutory notice, an opportunity of hearing and a reasoned order, among other reliefs.

Mivi One 5G launched in India with 6,000mAh battery, Snapdragon 4 Gen 2

Hyderabad: Mivi, India's homegrown consumer technology brand, on Thursday announced the launch of the Mivi One 5G. Designed for consumers seeking dependable performance, long battery life and a smooth everyday experience,

Maharashtra declares 265 talukas drought-affected, announces relief measures



Mumbai: The Maharashtra government on Saturday declared 265 of the state's 358 talukas drought-affected, announcing a slew of relief measures, including crop loan restructuring, land revenue concessions and power bill subsidies.Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed district collectors to initiate crop-damage assessments immediately and assured that farmers remain at the centre of the government's relief efforts in the drought situation.According to a government resolution issued late on Friday, 265 talukas spread across 32 districts account for 74 per cent of the state.Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar said the actual financial assistance to farmers will be decided after the ground-level assessment.The state government has activated 'Trigger-1' under the Drought Management Code 2016, updated in 2020, to declare drought conditions and initiate relief.

Trigger-1 is the first stage in the state's drought framework, activated by a rainfall deficit of more than 25 per cent combined with a prolonged dry spell of 21 days.A report submitted by the Agriculture Commissioner found drought-like conditions in the 265 talukas across 32 districts due to rainfall deficit and other factors since June.

As per the report, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar division has the highest number of 74 drought-affected talukas, followed by Amravati with 56, Nashik with 49, Nagpur with 39, Pune with 35 and Thane with 12.The Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar division includes Jalna, Beed, Latur, Dharashiv, Nanded, Parbhani and Hingoli districts, while Buldhana, Amravati, Akola, Washim and Yavatmal districts come under Amravati division.

The Nagpur division includes Wardha, Nagpur, Bhandara, Gondia, Chandrapur and Gadchiroli.As many as 49 talukas in Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Nandurbar and Ahilyanagar districts, and 35 talukas in Pune, Solapur, Sangli, Satara and Kolhapur districts have been declared drought-affected.At least 12 talukas in the Thane revenue division, including one in Raigad, three in Ratnagiri and eight in Sindhudurg, have been included in the list."Farmers, agricultural labourers and workers are at the centre of our relief efforts in the drought situation. All possible efforts will be made to provide them relief," the Chief Minister's Office said, quoting Fadnavis.The government has directed district collectors to begin crop-loss assessments in the affected talukas and collect photographs and GPS coordinates of the surveyed areas to document crop conditions. The reports are to be submitted to the government through the Agriculture Commissioner.The government has announced a slew of relief measures, including land revenue concessions, restructuring of crop loans, postponement of recovery of agriculture-related loans and concessions in electricity bills of agricultural pumps.

The GR stated that electricity bills of agricultural pumps up to 7.5 horsepower had already been waived, and the newly announced concession would apply to pumps above that capacity in the affected areas.The measures also include a waiver of examination fees for school and college students, relaxation of norms under the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme to enable maximum works, deployment of water tankers wherever necessary and ensuring uninterrupted power supply to agricultural pumps in villages affected by water scarcity.Arrangements will also be made to ensure foodgrains for farmers and labourers dependent on agriculture and adequate fodder for livestock.Water conservation works and arrangements for drinking water for people and livestock will also be undertaken, the government stated.A government order on Saturday said that a separate GR will be issued on financial assistance for crop losses suffered by farmers in the 265 drought-affected talukas after completion of the prescribed procedure.The Opposition parties, meanwhile, slammed the state government for delaying the declaration of drought, claiming that the situation on the ground was much worse.Congress spokesperson Atul Londhe said that Fadnavis had earlier accused the Opposition of politicising the drought issue, but had now officially declared it under Trigger-1, when the situation on the ground was already worse than what is prescribed under Trigger-3.Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray said the state government must now focus on implementing relief measures and ensure that every affected farmer gets assistance.Thackeray, who is on a tour of drought-hit areas in Marathwada, said his party had been demanding the declaration of drought for some time and that the decision should have been taken earlier.The Kisan Sabha stated that the government order lacked adequate measures to provide direct relief to affected farmers.It demanded that farmers affected by two consecutive failed kharif seasons be provided concrete financial assistance, including loan waivers and compensation based on crop insurance coverage.

'Look what happened to govt schools, telecom': Gurugram power staff on strike

Outside the power department's office on Gurgaon's MG Road on Friday, Sushil Sharma joined thousands of electricity employees protesting the entry of a private power distributor in Gurugram and Nuh.An assistant foreman (technical) in the drawing department and state secretary of the All Haryana Power Corporation Workers' Union, Sharma fears the move could threaten government jobs and leave consumers at the mercy of a private company.

"Through privatisation, they are finishing government departments and jobs," he said amid slogans of "Haryana sarkar muradabad (Down with the Haryana government)" and "Parallel licence nahi chalega (A parallel licence will not be tolerated)."'Look at what happens when the private sector enters education and health — the common man can no longer afford them. This is our worry here, ki voh apne manmaani se salary aur rate teh karenge (that they will decide wages and tariffs on their own). The masses will be affected," he said.Amid outages, thousands of electricity employees across southern Haryana are on a three-day strike to protest the Haryana Electricity Regulatory Commission's grant of a 25-year parallel distribution licence to Eleven Power Private Limited for Gurugram and Nuh.Rakesh Yadav, city president of the Haryana State Electricity Board (HSEB) workers, and a technical department employee of the discom, voiced fears over public infrastructure. "They will use our infrastructure to charge the public exorbitantly. Once consumers shift substantially, they will hike rates, which will make the government discom poorer and subject to possible employee cuts," Yadav claimed.The widespread participation of field staff followed weeks of internal outreach across 300 divisions to explain the implications of the licence to employees.Sudip Datta, General Secretary of the Electricity Employees Federation of India (EEFI), told "We have educated our employees. Not all linemen or gangmen may not know the entire thing, but they have a broad idea. That is why the strike has become so successful."Datta said employees also recognised the potential consequences for their jobs if the public discom lost ground. "If the company goes down, its area of operation shrinks, then obviously there will be an impact on employees," he said.Gurugram accounts for around 40% of the revenue generated by the Dakshin Haryana Bijli Vitran Nigam (DHBVN), according to employees. Datta argued that losing this hub would leave the state discom more dependent on "subsidised, loss-making rural areas", putting further strain on its finances and potentially paving the way for more privatisation.

INDIA bloc parties likely to meet on September 30 over EC row, SIR



New Delhi: Opposition INDIA bloc parties are likely to meet in New Delhi on September 30 to discuss concerns over the Election Commission and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, besides other issues, sources said.The proposed meeting comes amid increased coordination among opposition parties over the Election Commission following reports of differences within the poll panel over aspects of the SIR exercise.The parties have been in touch with each other on the issue and are discussing a joint response, sources added.

The CPI(M), CPI and CPI(ML)-Liberation have demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and an immediate halt to the SIR, while the Congress has also stepped up its attack on Kumar.The Congress Working Committee is scheduled to meet on September 29 to discuss its strategy on the issue.The developments have also brought West Bengal's bitter political rivals, the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC and the CPI(M), on the same page on the Election Commission issue.CPI(M) general secretary M A Baby wrote to the INDIA bloc and other opposition leaders seeking a meeting over the developments, and subsequently spoke to Banerjee, who agreed that the situation warranted coordinated action.

Opposition parties are working on a fresh removal notice against CEC Kumar, which is likely to be submitted in both Houses of Parliament after being vetted by legal experts. It would be the third such attempt by the opposition.The opposition's latest mobilisation follows an Indian Express report that Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi raised objections on several occasions over decisions and orders regarding the SIR.The Election Commission has said that differing views and observations are a normal part of institutional deliberations and asserted that its orders have full legal sanction and follow statutory procedures.Earlier, 23 political parties and an Independent MP jointly approached the Chief Justice of India over the SIR process and other election-related issues, underlining the broader opposition coordination on the issue.

IOC expands Xtreme Weather Grade diesel supply to Army's Eastern Command

New Delhi: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOC) has flagged off the maiden rake of its Xtreme Weather Grade high-speed diesel for the Indian Army's Eastern Command, expanding supplies of the specialised fuel beyond the northern frontier, the company said on Saturday.Xtreme Weather Grade (XWG) high-speed diesel, launched in July 2026 by the Chief of Army Staff, has been developed to meet the Army's requirements in extreme cold and high-altitude conditions.The fuel is designed to offer enhanced low-temperature performance and reliable operation of military vehicles and equipment in challenging terrain.

Fuel performance at low temperatures is critical for military operations in high-altitude regions, where conventional diesel can face problems related to cold-weather operability. Specialised grades such as XWG diesel are designed to address these requirements and improve the reliability of vehicles and equipment deployed in extreme climatic conditions.The rake was flagged off from IOC's Panipat Marketing Complex by Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha, Director General Supplies & Transport and Senior Colonel Commandant at IHQ of the Ministry of Defence (Army), the company said in a statement.The move makes IOC the first public sector oil company to position XWG diesel in the eastern region, enabling a dedicated supply chain for the Army's requirements in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.With the latest dispatch, IOC's XWG diesel supply footprint now covers both the northern and eastern frontiers.

"XWG is a potential game changer for operational preparedness and readiness in high-altitude and extreme-weather areas," said Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha.He highlighted that, for the first time, this specialised fuel is being extended beyond Ladakh to support operations in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.He emphasised the need for a predictable, scalable and responsive supply chain, with the right fuel at the right place and time. He also acknowledged IOC's partnership in transforming XWG diesel from an operational requirement into an operational reality in the eastern region.K John Prasad, Country Head (Institutional Business), IOC, said, "The Indian Army operates in some of the most demanding terrains and climatic conditions, where dependable fuel performance is critical to operational mobility. Extending XWG HSD supplies to the Eastern Command strengthens our ability to support the Army across another strategically important geography.""In line with its core corporate value of Nation-First, IOC remains committed to developing indigenous, fit-for-purpose energy solutions for our Armed Forces and contributing to the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat."The development builds on IOC's earlier efforts to develop specialised fuels for the armed forces, including Winter Grade Diesel in 2019, and All Weather Grade HSD and Low Sulphur Low Aromatic Superior Kerosene Oil in 2022.IOC said the latest dispatch further strengthens its long-standing partnership with the Army by combining indigenous product development with its nationwide fuel distribution network to support military operations in remote and strategically important locations.

Court lifts interim restraint on retired HC judge from publishing or sharing material

A district court in Chandigarh on Friday lifted "interim restraint" on retired judge of the Punjab and Haryana High Court Justice Ranjit Singh, which had prohibited him from publishing or sharing material related to an alleged Rs 5-crore bribery demand, observing that a person approaching the court must come with "clean hands".On September 8, the court had restrained Justice Ranjit Singh, who heads the Punjab Human Rights Organisation (PHRO), SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia, and Congress MLA Sukhpal Singh Khaira from publishing, circulating, or making any "unverified defamatory content" over an alleged bribe demand by Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann's wife Gurpreet Kaur to secure the release of an accused in a rape case.

Civil Judge (Junior Division) Dr Prikshit of Chandigarh District Court had passed the order on a suit filed by Gurpreet Kaur on September 8 after the retired High Court judge — in a TV programme — and others made comments about the alleged Rs 5 crore bribe demand by Kaur. Gurpreet Kaur had alleged that Justice Singh, Majithia and Khaira made baseless and defamatory allegations against her and circulated them on social media, damaging her reputation.Justice Singh subsequently challenged the order, arguing that the complete context of his remarks had not been placed before the court.

Challenging the order, Justice Singh's counsel Charanjit Singh Bakshi told the court that Justice Singh had not independently made any allegation against Gurpreet Kaur at the press conference, and that he had only referred to allegations contained in proceedings before the High Court.The counsel placed before the court the complete video of a press conference held on August 20, along with a relevant Punjab and Haryana High Court order.After watching the complete press conference, the court found that Justice Singh was not claiming personal knowledge of any alleged demand of Rs 5 crore, and was rather referring to allegations made in a petition pending before the High Court.The court, thus, observed that Justice Singh, as the chairman of a human rights organisation, was dealing with an issue concerning alleged human rights violations and referring to the matter in that context.The court also noted that the petitioner had not disclosed certain material facts, while seeking the ex-parte relief. "A petitioner, who conceals important facts from the court, cannot question the conduct of another person, the court observed.The Rs 5 crore bribery allegation stems from an alleged abduction and rape case in Amritsar, in which the survivour's father approached the High Court, alleging that attempts were being made to get the FIR cancelled.The High Court's July 20 order recorded allegations in pleadings that "a person allegedly close to Gurpreet Kaur was involved and that a demand of Rs 4-5 crore had been made for securing cancellation of the FIR". Gurpreet Kaur, however, denied the allegations as false and defamatory.Justice Singh later referred to these allegations at a press conference, making it clear that he was referring to what had been stated in the High Court pleadings and was not making the allegation from his personal knowledge.While transferring the investigation to a senior police officer, The High Court specifically said it was not determining the truth of the allegations at that stage.



CJI Surya Kant says judiciary will protect students' right to peaceful protest



Patna: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Saturday asserted that the judiciary is committed to "protecting" students' fundamental right to hold peaceful protests and that courts will not look the other way when there is an infringement.The CJI made the statement at the Chanakya National Law University (CNLU) in Patna, where he engaged in an "unfiltered interaction" with students, making it clear that he "preferred to have a frank question-and-answer session".According to a CNLU statement, a girl student asked about the "police response to peaceful students' protests".

The allusion was to the Jantar Mantar protests in Delhi against alleged NEET exam paper leaks, spearheaded by the Cockroach Janata Party, which, incidentally, began as a satirical online campaign following a remark made by the CJI in the Supreme Court, though he later claimed that his utterances had been reported out of context.The CJI told the questioner that "courts will not look the other way" when faced with cases of alleged brutal repression by the police and "unequivocally reaffirmed the judiciary's commitment to protecting students' peaceful right to protest".Another student sought to know "why dissenting opinions within the collegium were recorded but never made public".The CJI replied, "Disclosure, however well-intentioned, risks placing the individual under consideration in an untenable position".Noting that "transparency has its limits when personal dignity is at stake", the CJI asked, "How can a chief justice or a judge continue to work if a negative observation about him is included in the collegium's minutes?"According to the CNLU statement, the CJI visited the campus along with Patna High Court Chief Justice V Kameswar Rao, who is also the Chancellor of the university."In the light of recent opposition to the CJI in NALSAR, Hyderabad and NLSIU, Bangalore, the event had great significance," the CNLU statement said.The CJI also lauded as "a new, welcome idea" a proposal

6 months, 4 slain Punjab police officers, and a supply chain police can't crack

A covert threat looms on law enforcers in Punjab as four Punjab Police officials have been shot dead in cold blood and one left injured in the past six months. With a few of the perpetrators 'neutralised' and others arrested, some police officials claim that "handlers based in Pakistan" are behind these attacks, allegedly using an already laid out supply chain and smuggling network.Police sources say that these handlers target local drug addicts and unemployed individuals to carry out the attacks — supplying them with weapons and asking them to record the act — in return for financial gain.The series of killings began on February 22, when Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Gurnam Singh and Home Guard Ashok Kumar were shot at close range in Gurdaspur — barely a kilometre from the zero line between India and Pakistan. Police were quick to claim the involvement of Pakistan's ISI, alleging that local men had been recruited and paid to carry out the killing. Three suspects were identified. Two — Dilawar Singh and Inderjit Singh — were arrested. The third, Ranjit Singh, was killed in a police encounter.Only Inderjit Singh had a previous police record. Dilawar and Ranjit — were working in Delhi — were lured by the promise of quick money. Later, police named Sukhjinder Singh, alias Heera — a local businessman — as the financial conduit for the operation, accusing him of routing Rs 8 lakh on the instructions of a handler abroad and charged him under UAPA's terror-financing provisions.By the time the final chargesheet was filed on June 8, police had reversed course — stating no evidence had been found against him and seeking his discharge — even as internal records reportedly indicated investigators had built a detailed evidentiary trail. The supply of the weapon used in the killing was never explained.Three months later, on May 24, ASI Joga Singh, a 54-year-old traffic officer with 35 years of service, was intercepted and killed by two motorcycle-borne shooters on the Fatehgarh Churian–Majitha road. No arrest has been made in the case.DGP Gaurav Yadav later claimed that the accused had been identified; however, no information was made public.

EDITORIAL

India's undersea cable security gap—what China got right

The world has become seamlessly connected through the internet. It is often described as cloud-based, wireless, and weightless. However, beneath this seemingly intangible digital world lies a physical infrastructure comprising more than 1.5 million kilometres of undersea cables crisscrossing the ocean floor.Subsea cables carry 99 per cent of the global data traffic, more than 90 per cent of the world trade, and financial transactions worth $10 trillion daily, along with the transmission of sensitive government information. Their strategic importance has prompted the United Nations to designate them as "critical communications infrastructure". This infrastructure is fragile, undergoverned, and is increasingly becoming the latest battleground for geopolitical contestation. India and China, which together represent a population of 2.8 billion, are deeply affected by these vulnerabilities.

India accounts for roughly 20 per cent of global data consumption but is connected to only 3 per cent of the world's submarine cables. Cables crisscrossing the Indian Ocean region, connecting South Asia and Southeast Asia, are projected to surpass $4 trillion by 2030. These cables face threats ranging from accidental damage caused by dredging, trawling, and anchor dragging—this has become a particularly concerning method because it can cause extensive damage while appearing accidental — and seabed mining to deliberate grey zone operations and coercive strategies of state or non-state actors.The concentration risk for India is particularly stark. Thirteen of India's 18 cables land within a six-kilometre stretch at Versova beach in Mumbai. This creates a potential single point of failure for India's westward traffic to West Asia, Africa, and Europe. A failure affecting multiple cables at this node could cut off the bulk of India's international bandwidth for months, not hours.The repair situation compounds the problem. India currently has no cable repair vessels that are Indian-flagged, Indian-owned, or permanently stationed within its maritime zones. When a cable breaks, India depends on foreign repair fleets mobilising from locations such as Singapore or the UAE. Though the government is encouraging industry to develop repair capabilities, dependence on foreign vessels hampers the sovereignty of the country.In contrast, China's first domestically designed cable-laying vessel, Tianyi Linghangzhe, was commissioned in July 2026, with a reported maximum load capacity of 8,000 tonnes for undersea communication optical cables. Without state-backed repair capabilities, a country's ability to restore cables during a conflict, disaster, or hybrid attack could be severely constrained.On average, approximately 200 subsea cable faults occur every year. Improved geophysical surveys, better-armoured cables, deeper burials, greater public awareness of cable routes and a stronger emphasis on reliability in system design have helped reduce cable incidents. Yet, strategic threats are on the rise.State-backed sabotage has emerged as a preferred grey zone tactic. Between 2022 and June 2026, ten undersea cables in the Baltic Sea were reportedly cut, with seven incidents occurring within a single 60-day period. The 2022 Nord Stream gas pipeline explosion also demonstrates the vulnerability of underwater infrastructure.

Slapped for rejecting torn Rs 10 note, Delhi delivery worker dies by suicide

A delivery executive, who allegedly consumed a poisonous substance after he was slapped for not accepting a torn Rs 10 note from a customer, died on Tuesday — a day before his 24th birthday — police said. The customer and his neighbour who allegedly assaulted the youth have been arrested, they said.The alleged incident occurred on October 4, when Sameer Hussain, who worked with Flipkart Minutes, went to deliver an order — a Bru coffee jar — to Rampal Singh, 65, in east Delhi's Vinod Nagar. Police said that Hussain allegedly recorded some videos and recounted the incident. The clips were later found on his phone, they said.

"When I reached, I asked him whether he would make the payment in cash or UPI. He started putting together currency notes. I waited for 15 minutes, because he was an elderly man," he says in one of the clips. He says that Singh gave him a torn Rs 10 note, and when he asked him to exchange it, he misbehaved."He told me to either take it or leave. I said, 'If you don't have money, why do you place an order?' He started bragging about his political connections and threatened to beat me up," Hussain alleges in the clip.According to Hussain, another man, later identified as Singh's neighbour, Rakesh alias Bunty, 30, then came and slapped him three-four times, and passed comments about his "middle-class status". "I then filed a police complaint. I don't know what will happen," he says in the clip.Hussain is then seen taking out a bottle from his bag that he says is a "medicine"."If I don't get justice in the next 24 hours, I will drink it. My self-respect has been shredded to pieces. Then there will be justice," he says.

Addressing his mother, Hussain says: "Your son is very strong, but this society won't let him live."In another purported video that Hussain recorded, he can be seen holding a bottle containing a liquid, and proceeds to consume it. "I will die," he adds.Hussain's uncle, Mohammad Shamim, said the youth consumed poison on October 5. "His parents and I live in Khadda Colony (in Jaitpur area of South Delhi). On October 5, we got a call and were informed that he had been rushed to Lal Bahadur Shastri Hospital as he had consumed rat poison. We reached there, and found that he was critical," he said."His father Zakir was sick. That's why he took the job. He wanted to save money for his studies," the uncle added.The youth died in the hospital on Tuesday, police said.DCP (East) Rajeev Kumar said, "We filed an FIR immediately after receiving the complaint.

Rs 2,004 crore, 19,000 people, 0 deliveries: Earth Infra's Gurgaon, Noida buyers have life savings stuck



R K Kapoor, 76, starts his mornings by logging on to the court website for an update on his case, hoping for some positive development. But each time he checks, he said, the uncertainty remains.Kapoor, who used to run a business, put his life savings into a commercial shop in the TechOne project on the Yamuna Expressway, hoping for a regular income and financial independence in retirement.earth infra 19,000 buyers together invested around Rs 2,004 crore into nine projects of Earth Infrastructures Ltd (EIL) across Greater Noida, Gurgaon, Lucknow and Delhi-NCR.

Thirteen years on, he has neither the shop nor the assured return he was promised. "We have spent these precious years pursuing justice through Tis Hazari Courts, NCLT, NCLAT and finally the Supreme Court," he told The Indian Express.The strain of endless litigation, he said, makes him feel as though he has already crossed 80.Kapoor is among more than 19,000 buyers who together invested around Rs 2,004 crore into nine projects of Earth Infrastructures Ltd (EIL) across Greater Noida, Gurgaon, Lucknow and Delhi-NCR. All nine projects had stalled by 2015, with none completed or delivered.This month, the Enforcement Directorate, represented by standing counsel Rahul Tyagi, challenged the bail granted to Atul Gupta, one of the company's founding promoters. The appeal will be heard in the Delhi High Court in the last week of October.For buyers, it is another court hearing in a wait that, in some cases, has outlasted their lives."Children have grown up, families have postponed important milestones, retirement plans have collapsed — precious years that should have been spent with loved ones have instead been consumed by uncertainty," Kapoor said.

'Will I live long enough to see justice?'

More than 10 years ago, Uma Ahuja and her husband paid Rs 60 lakh for two shops in Earth Sapphire Court in Greater Noida, hoping the investment would provide them with a regular income in their old age.Her husband did not live to see the shops delivered. At 72, Uma is still waiting, dependent on her Haryana government pension."At my age, I should be spending my remaining years peacefully, not trying to understand insolvency proceedings, court orders, legal appeals and the names of different builders," said Uma, a retired professor of genetics from Haryana Agricultural University in Hisar. "I am not a lawyer, I invested in a shop, not in a lifetime of litigation.""My Rs 60 lakh is stuck. What more am I expected to sacrifice? Will I ever see my money again? Will I live long enough to see justice?" she asked.

Raj Kumar, 72, is a civil engineer with an MBA who spent his career in real estate project management. He booked an office space with EIL for Rs 28 lakh, hoping to open a consultancy office after retirement. The office was meant to mark the beginning of his second innings.Instead, it took away everything he had. "My wife and I worked hard to earn a livelihood, all our life savings were invested in this office space… everything dried up," said Kumar.As the wait continued, buyers began organising to pursue their claims. Kumar said investors, many of them from a military background, formed the Earth Buyer Association for Justice, headed by a retired Director General of Police (Central-CBI), to fight for justice."Several investors have died in these years of waiting, after investing all their savings," Kumar claimed.M L Verma, a 70-year-old retired government servant, also invested in an office space in the TechOne project, hoping he'll have a "tension-free retirement". He has been waiting since 2012."At this age, I have endless mental and financial strain and it seems there is no end… My retirement corpus has already vanished in court proceedings, fees of advocates, legal expenses and other court expenses. All my dreams and retirement plans have collapsed," he said."It is my humble submission to give us justice while we are still alive to experience it," Verma added.

Legal proceedings against Gupta began in 2016-17, when the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) registered five FIRs for cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal conspiracy. Chargesheets filed in 2017-18 covered more than 1,500 victims and losses exceeding Rs 550 crore.Gupta spent more than three years in jail before securing bail in the EOW case on June 10, 2021.

The ED began its money laundering probe on April 1, 2022, and arrested Gupta under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on June 1, 2026, alleging that Rs 336.26 crore of buyers' money had been diverted for purposes other than construction.On September 29, Principal District and Sessions Judge (Central) Anju Bajaj Chandna granted Gupta regular bail. Judge Chandna accepted that the ED had shown foundational facts of money laundering, but pointed to the agency's delay in acting after registering its case.With the prosecution complaint filed, four months already spent in custody, and a trial involving thousands of documents and 71 witnesses, the court held that continued detention "would result in an unwarranted and disproportionate restriction upon his personal liberty without any demonstrable necessity".The ED called the order legally untenable, arguing that the trial court ignored the stringent mandatory twin conditions for bail under Section 45 of the PMLA.It alleged that Gupta kept laundering money between January 2022 and June 2023 after his bail in the EOW case, including by routing Rs 4 crore through a paper company that returned cash, in land sales by a struck-off group firm, and through land deals involving his wife.EIL is currently undergoing the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) and has been under insolvency proceedings before the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) since mid-2018.

Delhi HC refuses to restore water, power connections of Race Course Masjid



The Delhi High Court, on October 15, refused to restore electricity and water connections to Race Course Masjid, a Waqf-notified property and a Grade II heritage structure notified in 2009, after the utilities were disconnected on October 7.The masjid is located inside the Race Course Club. The club, spread over around 53 acres near the Prime Minister's residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, and the slums around it are facing eviction following multiple rounds of litigation. The Centre has cited "national security" to justify taking possession of the area.However, sources in the Government said on Thursday that no eviction notice had been sent to the mosque.

The masjid's imam, Mohd Haroon, who lives in a 'hujra' on the premises, moved HC on October 12 after the utility connections were disconnected.On October 8, the Delhi Waqf Board had written to the NDMC executive engineer seeking the restoration of the utilities, stating that the same had been disconnected without "any prior notice or apparent valid reason" despite all dues being paid. The Board also said the connections had been in place lawfully for decades.On October 15, NDMC refused to restore the utilities. It said that "since demolition work is still going on" in the area, which involves demolition of the jhuggi structures, "and there is an element of public harm involved, the electricity connection cannot be restored".Also, according to NNDMC, the Land and Development Office (L&DO), the authority overseeing the demolition and set to take possession of the land, had not been made a party to the petition.While the masjid was not a party to the litigation concerning the eviction of around 700 slum dwellers and the Race Course Club, the NDMC's counsel orally told the court that the masjid's premises were "covered" by a HC judgment dated August 25.The August judgment had paved the way for the eviction of slum dwellers living near the Prime Minister's residence on Race Course Road. They have since been rehabilitated in Savda Ghevra, nearly 50 km away.

Justice Saurabh Banerjee dismissed the imam's petition on October 15, citing the NDMC's submissions and other factors. The court noted that the Waqf Board, described as the "original occupant" of the premises, had not challenged the disconnection of electricity. It also observed that Haroon, as an imam appointed by the Board, had no right to the premises and thus could not claim a violation of his fundamental rights on account of the disconnection.The Delhi Waqf Board has not been reconstituted since its elected body's tenure lapsed in August 2023. Bureaucrats appointed by the Lieutenant Governor took charge of the Board in January 2024 and have continued to run it in the absence of an elected body.In its order, the court said the petition raised "serious disputed question of facts", particularly concerning the petitioner's right, title or interest in the premises and whether the property fell outside the scope of the August 25 judgment."All these are way beyond the scope for this court to adjudicate in the present writ petition," the court recorded in its order while dismissing the plea.

Telangana plans one-time settlement scheme for industrial power dues

Hyderabad: The Congress government in Telangana will soon roll out a One-Time Settlement (OTS) scheme to help closed industries clear their pending electricity dues, enabling power distribution companies to recover long-pending arrears amid growing fiscal challenges. Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to prepare proposals for the scheme.During a review meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday, Bhatti Vikramarka asked the chairpersons and managing directors of TGSPDCL and TGNPDCL to coordinate with the managements of closed industries and explain the applicable rules and settlement options. He also directed the Finance department to initiate steps to recover outstanding dues owed to Singareni Collieries Company Limited, GENCO, TRANSCO and other power sector organisations by various government departments.The meeting also focused on preparations to prevent power shortages during the Rabi season and summer, amid the possibility of reduced hydel generation due to El Niño and rising electricity demand. Bhatti Vikramarka set a target of increasing daily



thermal power generation to 140 million units.Officials said average daily thermal generation reached 90.97 million units in the current financial year as of October 21, against 76.46 million units in 2025-26. Generation touched 118 million units on October 16.To strengthen coal supplies to two units at the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant, an alternative arrangement with Coal India Limited has been made, with supplies expected to begin in November.

Amitabh Bachchan, Diljit Dosanjh get threats; sender warns of 'suicide attack'

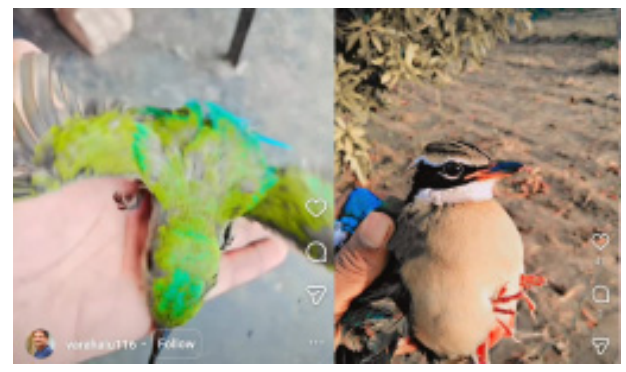


Actors Amitabh Bachchan and Diljit Dosanjh on Friday, October 23, received a threat email, prompting an investigation by the Mumbai Police. The threat email was received at the office of the Mumbai civic body, in which the sender threatened an attack on Amitabh Bachchan's house and a suicide attack at Diljit Dosanjh's concert in Mumbai scheduled for November 27.Besides, schools in Mumbai and Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde's office have also been threatened in the email.

The email, sent by a person identifying himself as Smith Johnson, carried the subject line 'Mumbai Bombay Bolega Khalistan Zindabad'. The sender claimed that Bachchan's house would be targeted with a grenade on October 31, threatening retaliation in the name of "khoon ka badla".Present scenario at Amitabh Bachchan's house in Mumbai after the threat email. (Express Photo Anurag Ahire) Present scenario at Amitabh Bachchan's house in Mumbai after the threat email.The email also warned of attacks on schools, without specifying any particular institution, and threatened to target Mumbai Mayor's office at 3.11 pm.It further mentioned a "suicide attack" at Diljit Dosanjh's Mumbai concert at the Mahalaxmi Racecourse on November 27."There is a concert organised by Daljit, there will be a suicide attack there," the email mentioned.The email also referred to the Khalistan National Army and listed the names of individuals allegedly associated with the organisation, including Eng. Gurnank Singh and Dr. Gurnivair Singh.It also mentioned Babbar Khalsa, with references to individuals identified as Prof. Gurakaal Singh and Prof. Gurangaar Singh, alongside locations including Shahwala, Khan Rajada, Khem Karan and Jandiala Guru.

The message contained references to Khalistan-linked organisations and made threats against other targets, prompting the police to conduct checks at the BMC office and other premises.Following the receipt of the email, police personnel reached the BMC office in Mumbai and carried out security checks at the premises. However, no suspicious object or material was found during the searches."A threat email was received at the BMC office. Checking has been done and nothing suspicious has been found," said Maneesh Kalvaniya, Deputy Commissioner of Police, South Zone I.The police are now examining the email and its contents to establish the identity of the sender and determine the credibility of the threats. "We are investigating the matter, as of now we request people not to panic," the police said.

Dasara bird poaching puts Indian Pittas, kingfishers at risk



While the Forest Department and wildlife conservation organisations across Telangana focused on preventing the poaching of Indian Rollers ahead of Dasara, they also came across people capturing White-throated Kingfishers and Indian Pittas,

Sangareddy: The close resemblance of the Indian Pitta and White-throated Kingfisher to the Indian Roller has also put the former birds at risk during the Dasara festival, as poachers have captured them and put them on display at various places.

The belief that sighting an Indian Roller brings good luck during Dasara has also contributed to the decline in the population of the Indian Roller, the state bird of Telangana, Karnataka and Odisha.Amid the continued decline in the Indian Roller population, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) listed the bird in the "Near Threatened" category in 2025, moving it from the "Least Concern" category.

While the Forest Department and wildlife conservation organisations across Telangana focused on preventing the poaching of Indian Rollers ahead of Dasara, they also came across people capturing White-throated Kingfishers and Indian Pittas, which also migrate to southern India around October.Several people had posted pictures on social media showing Indian Pittas, colourful passerine birds that breed in the Himalayan foothills and regions of Pakistan and Nepal, in captivity.Wildlife activist and founding member of the Animal Warriors Conservation Society (AWCS), Santoshi Pradeep, said Indian Pittas became exhausted after flying for hours from northern India to Telangana.

"These birds were crashing into high-rise building balconies after hitting glass facades, while people were keeping them in captivity to watch them during the Dasara festival," she said.Several people made reels featuring Indian Pittas on Dasara and posted them on social media. The Forest Department must track these posts and initiate action against those responsible.

33 years after last campus vote, Maharashtra moves to revive student elections



Maharashtra moves to revive student elections, Maharashtra student elections, campus elections Maharashtra, student union elections, Maharashtra colleges, student politics, NEET paper leak protests, Lyngdoh Committee, Maharashtra Public Universities Act, campus politics, student protests, youth politics, Mumbai University, Indian expressThe committee has now been tasked to address concerns that have kept elections suspended while also working out a system that can bring them back without external political interference. (File)Students in Maharashtra last took part in a campus election in 1993. Thirty-three years later, the state government has taken a fresh step towards bringing back student elections, setting up a 12-member committee to examine how campus polls can be held across higher education institutions.

The Higher and Technical Education Department issued a Government Resolution (GR) on Thursday appointing the committee, headed by former Mumbai University Vice-Chancellor Prof Suhas Pednekar. It has been given a month to submit its report.The committee will consult stakeholders and recommend measures for peaceful, transparent and inclusive elections, with safeguards against external political interference and commercialisation of the process.

It will also examine the management and audit of student council funds, orientation and training of elected representatives, and the use of digital systems for nominations, scrutiny and grievance redressal.Why Maharashtra's campuses have gone 30 years without a student vote NSUI activists staged a demonstration at vice Chancellors office at Mumbai University. (Express archive photo by A Srinivas 30.5.2000)Representation will also be examined, including mechanisms for women, students from all reserved categories and those involved in the National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), sports and cultural activities.The committee comprises former vice-chancellors and pro-vice-chancellors, principals, a senior law officer and university officials.Maharashtra's student elections were banned in the early 1990s following a series of incidents of campus violence, including the 1989 killing of NSUI student leader Owen D'Souza outside a Mumbai college during campaigning. The Maharashtra Universities Act, 1994, subsequently barred direct, competitive student elections, bringing an end to a system that had allowed students to elect their representatives on campuses.The first formal attempt to revive student elections came in 2016, when the Maharashtra Public Universities Act provided for elected Students' Councils in universities, colleges and departments.

Why Maharashtra's campuses have gone 30 years without a student vote NSUI activists burnt the effigy of AP Pradhan, Pro VC of Mumbai University, in protest against centralisation of admission by government at University campus. (Express archive photo by Vinayaka Prabhu)Detailed rules were framed in 2018, and universities prepared to hold elections in 2019. The state cabinet, however, deferred the polls citing law-and-order concerns and their proximity to the Assembly elections. The elections were never held.The issue remained dormant through the Covid-19 pandemic.It returned to focus after the recent Gen Z protests, which saw significant participation by young people across Maharashtra. The Indian Express reported in August on the renewed demand for student elections, as youth and student organisations stepped up membership drives after the protests.Why Maharashtra's campuses have gone 30 years without a student vote Members of ABVP demonstrating in front of Mumbai University demanding resignation of Vice Chancellor on 7.4.99. (Express archive photo by Vinayaka Prabhu)The latest move is therefore the first formal exercise towards revival since the 2019 postponement.The committee has now been tasked to address concerns that have kept elections suspended while also working out a system that can bring them back without external political interference.

Surat medical college PG student 'dies by suicide'



Surat medical college suicide, Surat medical college student dies by suicide, Surat medical college PG student dies by suicide, Ahmedabad news, Gujarat news, Indian express, current affairsOn August 9, a 30-year-old student identified as Harsh Pandya allegedly died by suicide at his hostel room.A 28-year-old postgraduate student at the Government Medical College in Surat allegedly died by suicide by slitting both his hands on Thursday afternoon, police said.

Dr Yogendra Prajapati, who was a third-year student in the anatomy department, allegedly injured himself at the dissection hall of the department, the Khatodara police added. This was the second such incident at the Surat medical college in under two months."Dr Prajapati had been in the dissection hall since morning and was involved in the undergraduate students' examination. His own third-year exams had concluded last week, and he was completing some remaining terms," in-charge Medical Superintendent Dr Parul Vadgama was quoted as saying by PTI.

Dr Prajapati lived with his wife, four-year-old son and parents at the college's hostel quarters.Police sources said Dr Prajapati, a resident doctor at New Civil Hospital, had been at the dissection wing since the morning. When alone after his colleagues left in the afternoon, he allegedly used a sharp object to cut blood vessels near the elbows of both his hands, they added.The reasons for his extreme step were not clear, the officials said.Dr Prajapati was found unconscious on the floor by one of the students. Dr Vadgama, Dean Dr. Jayesh Brahmabhatt and the police control room were then informed.The police said a case of accidental death had been registered against the incident and that they spoke to the family members.Khatodara police inspector N V Bharwad said, "We have not found any suicide note. The reason behind him taking such a drastic step is not yet known. This year was his last of his MD in anatomy. At present, it is difficult to say anything, but we are probing the case."On August 9, a 30-year-old student identified as Harsh Pandya allegedly died by suicide at his hostel room.A probe found that the first-year student of the microbiology department had faced verbal abuse and humiliation, and four senior resident doctors were subsequently booked in a criminal case and suspended.

IIT Bombay rethinks disciplinary action, mentor support after Sahil Wakode's suicide

Days after Sahil Wakode's suicide at the IIT Bombay hostel after being allegedly caught using his mobile phone for answers, the newly formed committee at the institute has proposed ways to handle such cases — which include allowing students to speak to their mentors before a disciplinary action is taken against them. Among other things is listing consequences for exam malpractice on the first page of answer sheets. The proposals are part of a planned overhaul of how such cases are handled at IIT Bombay.These are among the measures being discussed by a newly constituted committee at IIT Bombay that will frame student-friendly Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for invigilators and review the manner in which incidents of suspected academic misconduct are dealt with.

The committee will have equal representation of faculty and students, a move that comes days after students included greater representation in decision-making bodies among the 18 demands in a charter submitted to IIT Bombay director on September 20.The move comes days after the death of Sahil Wakode, a second-year BTech student, who was allegedly found with a mobile phone inside an examination hall during the mid-semester examinations. IIT Bombay's initial statement had said he was allegedly found using an AI platform to seek answers to questions.The institute has also further postponed the remaining mid-semester examinations. The papers, earlier rescheduled for September 26 and 27 after being postponed on September 18, will now be held on October 10 and 11, according to a communication from the Dean Academics Programmes (AP) to students.A separate email from the General Secretary (Academics) informed students about the constitution of the new committee.

The postponement allows time for the newly constituted committee, which has equal student representation, to prepare a clear and student-friendly Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for invigilators, along with revised rules regarding academic misconduct. The aim is to ensure fair and consistent conduct of examinations, with due consideration for students' concerns," the email said. It added that student stakeholders had been consulted before the changes to the examination schedule.The committee is also expected to lay down clear, step-by-step procedures for invigilators dealing with suspected academic misconduct, including the action to be taken at each stage. The revised SOP and rules will be placed before the Senate for approval before they are implemented, the email said.According to sources, the



institute is reviewing the rules on disciplinary action for academic malpractice notified in July 2026. While those rules lay down the consequences of various forms of misconduct, the new committee is expected to focus on how these rules are implemented, with an emphasis on ensuring that the process does not unnecessarily add to the stress faced by students.

One proposal under discussion is allowing a student caught allegedly copying or committing another form of examination malpractice to speak to their student mentor before appearing before a disciplinary committee."Every fresher at IIT Bombay is connected with a student mentor, who is essentially a senior student who has spent three to four years on campus. Getting caught copying, particularly when it can lead to serious consequences, can cause considerable mental stress. Speaking to a mentor can help reassure the student that it does not necessarily mean the end of their IIT journey. They can be shown examples of students who have faced similar situations and bounced back. This could help the student relax, reflect and avoid isolating themselves," said a source.

Another proposal is to print the rules and possible consequences of examination malpractice on the first page of the answer sheet."Many students are still unaware of the consequences of examination malpractice. As a result, they may either overestimate or underestimate its impact on their academic journey at IIT Bombay. Having the consequences clearly stated on the answer sheet will give students greater clarity and can also act as a deterrent," said a source.Faculty members have also stressed the need for clear instructions for invigilators on conducting examinations and handling suspected cases of academic misconduct, the General Secretary (Academics) said in the email.

At IIC today, a film on how a Husky from Pune took his human to the snow



Oslo: Tail of Promise, film on how a Husky from Pune took his human to the snow, The Farm, Protecterra Ecological Foundation, National Defence Academy (NDA), Pooja Bhale, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairsDuring one shoot, with the cameras positioned for Oslo's first encounter with snow, a group of goats decided to tag along. Oslo simply bypassed the snow and took off in the opposite direction, leaving the crew in splits.

"Private: Farm Residents Only. Basically dogs, cats, animals, witches and angels may enter."A notice board with these words, mounted in an enclosure of bamboo, boards, nets and creepers near Pune's National Defence Academy, sets the tone for 'The Farm', a flagship project of Protecterra Ecological Foundation, an environment advocacy organisation founded by Pooja Bhale, a Pune-based conservation biologist. "We have 20 cats, 11 dogs and, as of 2026, 11 goats," says Bhale.Recently, a new mud structure has come up on the campus – dedicated to Oslo, a Siberian Husky who died after living with Bhale for 13 years. Draped over it are his blue towel, woollen socks he collected as arthritis stiffened his limbs, and the charpoy on which he used to sprawl.On Friday, Oslo: Tail of Promise, a documentary about the dog and Bhale, will be screened at the India International Centre in Delhi.

Oslo: Tail of Promise, film on how a Husky from Pune took his human to the snow, The Farm, Protecterra Ecological Foundation, National Defence Academy (NDA), Pooja Bhale, delhi news, India news, Indian express, current affairs The film, she hopes, will help spread awareness.Directed by Pune-based Isha Pungaliya and produced by actor John Abraham, Minnakshi Das and Amey Gosavi, the documentary follows Bhale and Oslo on a 5,000-km journey from Pune to the Himalayas.It is, says Pooja, about a promise. "The promise that I made to Oslo or he made to me is that we will go to the snow every year, that he belongs in the snow," says Bhale.Oslo came into Bhale's life when he was five-and-a-half months old. By then, he had already moved through six houses. His blue eyes reminded Bhale of the Northern Lights, so she named him Oslo. "The word Oslo, in ancient Norse, also means the stream by the bottom of a mountain. It also means God of the mountains in ancient Norse cultures," says Bhale.

From 2014, the two travelled to the snow every year. The idea for the documentary came during a 2022 trip."On one of the trips, while we were stuck in a traffic jam, Oslo was cranky and put his head out of the window. Immediately, all the windows around me rolled down and people started talking and children were giggling. I thought that we must document this impact that he has on people, how he makes people happy, and that became this incredible film," says Bhale.In 2015, she moved to The Farm full-time, living in a tent. "I felt that I was hypocritical by living in a swanky penthouse in the city. I can't talk about sustainability and consciousness and living with the earth if I did not walk my talk. The tent is my only home," she says, pointing to the tent that holds a bed and work table, among other basic necessities.There are few locked doors at The Farm. "We don't have boundaries at The Farm. Animals can go in and out, wild animals can come in and out. I don't own any keys except my car key. I have not locked a door for a long time. I am dating a woman. I am divorced. I prefer the company of nature to anything else. But, I am true to myself. The person that I see in the mirror is happy," she says.The documentary carries three messages – 'Shared Planet', 'Adopt, Don't Shop' and 'Nature is Sentient'.It was shot in May 2023 and January 2024. Pungaliya was firm that they were "not going to even consider making an animal perform because it's unethical and problematic"."As filmmakers, we have to be watchful and observant. Visiting The Farm helped me see patterns before the shoot," she says. The film uses archival material as Bhale had been recording her trips.During one shoot, with the cameras positioned for Oslo's first encounter with snow, a group of goats decided to tag along. Oslo simply bypassed the snow and took off in the opposite direction, leaving the crew in splits.

Bhale says that Huskies are among the most abandoned breeds because people don't understand what they require. "Everybody thinks that it has to do with weather and air-conditioning. Of course, they don't belong to the climate of the plains but the greater challenge is that Huskies are working dogs who require high-energy activity. Their brain has evolved to traverse thousands of kilometers through snow pulling sleds," says Bhale.

Husband was 'in shock' as wife sat in jail. Then he was arrested

Kanpur murder, Vineet Minocha murder, Kanpur pharma businessman murder, Vineet Minocha murder case, Subrat Minocha arrested, Kanpur Kalyanpur murder, Ratan Orbit complex Kanpur, SM Qasim Abidi DCP Kanpur, Kanpur crime news, contract killing framed wifeShalu and Subrat got married in 2020.For nearly three weeks, Shalu's family believed she had been wrongly accused of her father-in-law Vineet Minocha's murder. They had publicly demanded a fair investigation and tried repeatedly to speak to her husband, Subrat.On Thursday, they were stunned to learn that Subrat had been arrested for allegedly plotting the crime."We always believed Shalu was innocent, but we never expected Subrat could be involved," said her elder brother, Dheeraj Arora, a businessman who lives in Lucknow."We had publicly demanded a fair investigation from the Kanpur police. But today's revelation has left us shocked — that it was entirely Subrat's plan," he said.Vineet, 63, a pharmaceutical businessman, was found dead in his first-floor flat at Ratan Orbit Apartments in Kanpur on September 6. He had been stabbed 26 times.The two men who allegedly killed him — Vishal Gautam and Raj Kishore — had entered the flat using a duplicate key while Subrat, Shalu and their five-year-old son were at a 'kitty party'.The day after the murder, police arrested Shalu and the two men. Vishal, a former employee at Vineet's pharmacy on Birhana Road, told police that Shalu had allegedly hired him for Rs 6 lakh to kill her father-in-law.Shalu had denied the allegation during questioning.The case took a turn during the police custody remand of the three accused, when investigators confronted Subrat with the others. After several rounds of questioning and cross-examination, police said Subrat admitted to his role.Police now allege that Subrat had paid the two men to kill Vineet and had instructed them to pin the blame on Shalu if they were caught.'Arranged marriage'Shalu, 30, is the youngest of three siblings. Her family runs a bakery business in Lucknow. She holds a B.Ed degree.She and Subrat got married in 2020 in an arranged marriage, Dheeraj said. After the wedding, she moved into her in-laws' flat in Kanpur.The family had considered it a good match. Vineet was among Kanpur's leading pharmaceutical businessmen, with a retail and wholesale medicines business, while Subrat worked for his father.Shalu had never told her family about facing any problems at her in-laws' house.

Followed by men who tried to pull me, friend into car: Hindu College student alleges



Amid growing concerns over women's safety in the Capital, a postgraduate student of Delhi University's Hindu College has alleged that a group of men in a car followed her and her friend, while also attempting to pull them into the vehicle in Mukherjee Nagar, police said.The incident took place around 9:30 pm on Wednesday. Police said the car allegedly involved in the incident has been traced and that an FIR has been registered at the Mukherjee Nagar police station.As per a video posted on social media by the complainant, the first-year master's student said she and her friend were walking when a white car approached them.

The men inside allegedly passed comments at the two women. When they objected, the men allegedly abused them and began following them, she said. As per police, the car was being driven by one Naman, a Delhi University student, and two to three other people were accompanying him at the time of the alleged incident.The student further alleged that when she and her friend stopped to record the incident, the men also stopped their vehicle and attempted to pull them inside.The men fled after her friend began recording the car, she claimed. The student also alleged that the two women approached three police stations over nearly four hours before their complaint was registered. They were initially told that the matter did not fall under the jurisdiction of the police station concerned, she alleged.Police said they are looking into the allegation regarding the delay and the women's visits to multiple police stations."Police… traced the car allegedly used in the incident," DCP (Northwest) Akanksha Yadav said.The FIR has been registered under sections 78 (stalking), 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) and 3(5) (common intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is underway, police said.

Telangana sets up TG-TMARS bureau for traffic management, road and rail safety

Hyderabad: The State government has ordered the establishment of the Telangana Traffic Management, Road and Rail Safety Bureau (TG-TMARS) as a specialised wing of the State Police to bring traffic management, enforcement, highway patrolling and road crash investigation under a common framework.

The order said the existing Traffic Wings in commissionerates and districts lacked a common command for standards, technology, training, analytics and review.Headquartered in Hyderabad with jurisdiction across Telangana, TG-TMARS will be headed by an officer of the rank of Additional Director General of Police or Inspector General of Police, designated as Director.The Bureau will function under the administrative and disciplinary control of the DGP, while implementing decisions of the State Road Safety Council.

The new bureau will have two principal wings — Traffic and Road and Rail Safety.

Trump Effect : Opportunities for internationalisation of Indian universities



As per the Government of India, the number of Indian students pursuing higher education in foreign universities has gone up steeply by 47% in the last two years, from about 907,000 in 2022 to 1,330,000 in 2024. In the last three months, however, policy measures taken by the U.S. President Trump administration are discouraging students to go to the U.S. for higher studies.Governments at destinations like the U.K., Australia, and Canada placing restrictions on student visas and caps on admission of foreign students presents an excellent opportunity for India to attract more foreign students, besides retaining some Indian students back home. This article analyses the factors affecting international students' mobility and opportunities for internationalisation and suggests strategies to tap the emerging market by Indian universities.

U.S. and Canada, attractive destinations for higher studies for Indian students

According to Government of India statistics on Indian students studying abroad in 2024, Canada comes on top, with 427,000 Indian students, followed by the U.S. with 337,630, the U.K. with 185,000, Australia with 122,202, and Germany with 42,997. The U.S. and Canada have been the hot spots for higher studies because of the quality of education, fee waivers offered, availability of career opportunities, post studies and exposure to global work environment.Canada's popularity surged due to easier Permanent Residency (PR) pathways and work permits. The students that go to the U.S. on student visa (F1) are allowed to work full-time or part-time in the U.S. for a limited period of time as a part of the Optional Practical Training (OPT) scheme. In study fields like Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), needed by IT industry, OPT could be extended for an additional 24 months, from one year. This enables the students to pay back the loans availed for the studies during this period. Subsequently, they could secure regular jobs, after obtaining H1B Visa and build a lucrative career there. U.K. saw good growth in foreign student enrolments, after reintroducing the Post-Study Work Visa (Graduate Route) in 2021.

About 40% of the students who go to the developed countries for higher education pursue post-graduation in Engineering, followed by 25% in Management. It is estimated that over 75,000 Indians study MBBS in East and Central Asian countries like China, Russia, Georgia, Uzbekistan, the Philippines, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine (before the war with Russia), as it is recognised worldwide, more affordable and easier to get admission .Radical policy shift in the U.S. higher education

After the re-election of Donald Trump as the President of the United States, in January 2025, things have changed. Trump's administration introduced significant policy changes in higher education, particularly in the realms of immigration, visa issuance, and revoking student visas. Federal funding support was drastically cut to major U.S. universities for research and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives, thereby reducing the scholarships and hiking the program fees steeply.The 24-month extension for STEM OPT is likely to be removed. It is proposed to set a cap on international student visas at top public universities to prioritise domestic students. With more U.S. employers preferring to recruit locals, job opportunities for international students are expected to come down steeply. Recent visa withdrawals and suspension of international students in some of the U.S. universities have created uncertainty on security and safety of the students. On May 12, 2025, the U.K. Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, announced measures to cut migration, including restrictions on skilled worker visas and tightening citizenship rules. Canada, Australia, and some European nations are also in the process of tightening visa restrictions and setting enrolment caps for international students, including Indian students, citing concerns on immigration growth, housing shortages, and other social and economic factors. These changes will limit the influx of international students, seeking to study abroad in these countries. Diplomatic standoff between Canada and India, coupled with new student visa regulations introduced in 2024, witnessed a 41% drop in students going to Canada in the last year. The decline was about 27% for the U.K. and 12-13% for the U.S. and Australia, as per the Bureau of Immigration data.

This presents a good opportunity for Indian Universities to scale up international admissions. Several Indians who wanted to pursue higher education abroad earlier are now keen to stay back. Considering the huge global demand for IT professionals, India, with its large IT industry, coupled with the capacity for quality engineering education, is well placed to attract foreign students in IT and allied disciplines.Besides, areas like Indian Traditional Knowledge Systems, like Yoga, Ayurveda, Vedic Literature, and Buddhist studies, are of interest to some of the international students. Indian HEIs can offer quality education at 25% of the cost of comparable institutions in the west, with home comforts and good industry exposure. Salary levels in India are comparable to the ones abroad, when compared on Purchasing Power Parity (PPP). As per the OECD study on international students' mobility (March 2025), affordability, university reputation, language, cultural ties, research excellence, and employment prospects are key factors in attracting international students. A survey, conducted in April 2025 of 27,400 prospective students, representing over 195 countries, revealed that for the first time, China has emerged among the top 10 global destinations for international students and is ranked overall eighth, third for university rankings, and twelfth in the world for achieving career goals.It is estimated that currently, over 450,000 foreign students are studying in China, including over 50,000 from South Korea, 23,000 from India, and 21,000 from the US. Programs preferred in China include Medicine, AI, Data Sciences, FinTech, Luxury Management, International Business, China studies (Chinese Law, Chinese Culture, China Global affairs etc).

How did China make it happen?

Over a period of time, China was able to ramp up foreign students studying in its institutions through a combination of policy interventions, enhancement of quality of education, branding, industry linkages, and post-studies employment. Over 50,000 students are admitted through fully funded seats annually by way of Belt and Road scholarships.Besides, universities are paid an incentive of $3,000 per foreign student enrolled. Digital platforms like Alibaba are used to recruit students. Over 500 global centers of Confucius Institutes are used as feeder systems. Companies like Huawei Tech offer guaranteed internships for top students. Automatic work permits are given in Free Trade Zones like Shanghai to foreign students that graduate in China.Foreign students in India – current status

In the last two years, the number of foreign students in India grew by 35% from about 48,000 in 2022 to about 65,000 in 2024. Out of them, 40% are from Nepal, with the balance being from Afghanistan, Africa and Middle East. Over 32% of the students are studying Engineering (including Computer Sciences), 31% Medicine and 14% Business Management. There is an immense potential to double the number of foreign students in the next three years.Policy initiatives by Government of India to attract foreign students

The New Education Policy 2020 advocates for the internationalisation of education in India through various measures. During May 2022, the UGC formulated regulations for academic collaboration between Indian and foreign Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes.Twinning is an arrangement whereby students enrolled with an Indian HEI may undertake their studies partly in India and partly, typically a semester, abroad. In a joint degree programme, the degree is awarded jointly by the Indian university and the foreign university. In a dual degree programme, the degrees is conferred by the two universities, separately and simultaneously, upon completion of requirements of both the institutions. HEIs are allowed to create up to 25% additional seats for international students, over and above of their sanctioned seats.

What is being done by Indian HEIs?

As of now, 13 Indian universities (Three public – IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, and IIM Ahmedabad, and 10 private) have set up campuses abroad, 11 of them in the Middle East and two in Africa. It is expected that 20 more HEIs will join them in the next 12 months. Three foreign universities (Two from Australia - Deakin and University of Wollongong and one from the U.K. University of Southampton) already set up campuses in India.Two more from the U.K. (Queen's University Belfast and University of Surrey) are planning to set up their Indian campuses by January 2026. It is significant to note that four of the above five universities preferred GIFT City in Gujarat, which is emerging as India's first international education hub, with world-class facilities, favourable legislation, and tax breaks.A number of Indian HEIs, which include IITs as well as private universities like Ashoka University, ISB, Manipal, Shiv Nadar University, Chitkara, OP Jindal, and more, signed joint ventures for academic collaboration with foreign universities in Australia and U.S. and have been offering joint programs, with semesters abroad.Four Indian business schools, IIM Calcutta, IIM Indore, ISB Hyderabad, and SPJIMR hold the distinction of "Triple Crown" of international accreditations from AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS, whereas over 25 B-Schools have at least one of the three accreditations.Challenges to attract international students

Regulations, though liberalised to some extent in the recent past, continue to be a constraining factor for signing up with foreign universities and introducing joint programs. International students look for physical infrastructure befitting their lifestyles so that they feel at home. Besides quality education, the students expect post studies work opportunities.

What more can be done?

India signed cross-border education agreements with Australia and the U.K. for mutual recognition of qualifications and promotion of mobility of students. There is a need to sign more such agreements with countries in South Asia. Going by the success of GIFT City, more such education Special Economic Zones may be set up.The student visa regime needs to be simplified and extended to provide post-studies work opportunities in IT companies and GCCs. Besides IT related programs, interdisciplinary programs in emerging areas like Sustainability, Indian traditional Knowledge Systems may be offered. Digital Universities may be set up to offer online programs as well as blended delivery programs for international students.As per the UNESCO, there are over seven million internationally mobile students. India is well-positioned to be the Asian hub for education, as it can be the value leader,

Why laws fall short in combating the surge in cyber-bullying cases



In the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, Himanshi Narwal, the wife of slain Navy Lieutenant Vinay Narwal, issued a heartfelt appeal for peace and firmly rejected the vilification of Muslims and Kashmiris. Soon after, the grieving newlywed became the target of a vicious trolling campaign on X (formerly Twitter). Anonymous accounts hurled slurs at her, questioned her loyalty to her late husband, and even called for the cancellation of her pension.

However, Ms. Narwal was not alone in facing such online vitriol. Following Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's announcement on May 10 that India and Pakistan had reached an understanding to halt military hostilities, his account on Xwas inundated with abusive comments, some of which targeted even his daughter. Mr. Misri was eventually compelled to lock his account, as several diplomats and politicians condemned the toxic trolling culture in unequivocal terms.Emboldened by the anonymity of the internet, faceless trolls have turned into virtual vigilantes, punishing those who dare to question dominant narratives. What regulatory reforms, then, are necessary to ensure that such depravity is no longer met with impunity?

A range of terms has emerged to describe contemporary forms of cybercrime, including cyberbullying, stalking, hate speech, and doxxing. Doxxing, short for "dropping dox" (documents), involves the unauthorised online disclosure of private information, often with malicious intent. This may include home addresses, phone numbers, or sensitive images, leaving victims vulnerable to harassment and tangible real-world threats.Studies show that such abuse disproportionately targets women and minorities, suggesting that these attacks are often driven by organised political motives. The consequences can be severe, frequently escalating to rape and death threats.India lacks a dedicated law specifically aimed at tackling online hate speech and trolling. Instead, a limited number of provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2003, and the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, cover certain aspects of cyberbullying. The BNS contains provisions applicable to electronic communications, such as Section 74 (assault or criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), Section 75 (sexual harassment), Section 351 (criminal intimidation), Section 356 (defamation), and Section 196 (promoting enmity between groups). The IT Act supplements these offences with provisions like Section 66C (identity theft), Section 66D (impersonation fraud) and Section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material electronically).

"The existing regulatory framework is functional but far from complete. No provision squarely criminalises sustained online abuse that does not qualify as 'obscene,' 'threatening,' or 'fraudulent.' Stalking under the BNS is gender-specific—limited to men targeting women—and hinges on intent to engage personally, failing to capture the collective harassment that defines much of online trolling. While cyberbullying may sometimes be shoehorned into offences like criminal intimidation or defamation, these require proof of threat or reputational harm and are ill-suited to counter the rapid, anonymous abuse unleashed by online mobs," Apar Gupta, advocate and founder-director of the Internet Freedom Foundation, t

Moderation or censorship?

Mounting domestic and international pressure to curb disinformation and hate speech has compelled social media giants to moderate and remove harmful content. While many advocate for "self-regulation," where platforms enforce their own community guidelines, this model has largely failed and faces growing scrutiny. Last year, Telegram founder and CEO Pavel Durov was arrested by French authorities for allegedly failing to moderate criminal activity on the platform, including the circulation of child sexual abuse material and fraudulent content. Telegram later amended its privacy policy to permit the disclosure of users' IP addresses and phone numbers to law enforcement upon receipt of "valid legal requests."The challenge is further exacerbated by the gradual erosion of content moderation policies in favour of monetisation. In a damning report released earlier this month, the Centre for the Study of Organized Hate found that X had become a "high-velocity distribution channel" for hate speech and conspiracy theories, particularly targeting British-Pakistani men as well as other South Asian and immigrant communities. An analysis of 1,365 posts generating more than 1.5 billion engagements revealed that the platform played a central role in weaponising the "grooming gang" discourse to scapegoat Muslims in the U.K., despite police data showing that most offenders were white men.In India, Section 69A of the IT Act empowers the government to issue blocking orders on grounds aligned with constitutionally permissible restrictions on speech, such as national sovereignty, friendly relations with foreign States, and public order. Platforms that fail to comply risk losing safe harbour protection under Section 79, which ordinarily shields intermediaries from liability for user-generated content. However, experts have warned that these provisions are increasingly being used as tools for online censorship. In recent years, the Union Government has frequently taken down content without notifying affected users — a practice that contravenes the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in Shreya Singhal v. Union of India. While the court upheld the constitutionality of Section 69A, it underscored that blocking orders must be accompanied by cogent reasons to enable judicial scrutiny.Following the Pahalgam attack, X disclosed that it had been directed to block more than 8,000 accounts in India, but said the government had not specified which posts violated the law in most cases. In March, the company filed a lawsuit in the Karnataka High Court challenging the government's reliance on Section 79(3)(b) to issue takedown orders, arguing that it bypasses the procedural safeguards under Section 69A. Unlike Section 69A, Section 79(3)(b) neither defines what constitutes an "unlawful act" nor provides for any review mechanism.Meanwhile, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting recently informed a Parliamentary Committee that it is reconsidering safe harbour protections for social media platforms in a bid to combat "fake news." X has received executive orders from the Indian government requiring X to block over 8,000 accounts in India, subject to potential penalties including significant fines and imprisonment of the company's local employees. The orders include demands to block access in India to…In February last year, the Delhi High Court directed X to remove tweets revealing the personal and professional details of a woman who had reportedly posted a critical comment about Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The post triggered a wave of online harassment, with details of her workplace, residence, and photographs being widely circulated. Although these disclosures raised privacy concerns, Justice Prathiba Singh ruled that the incident did not constitute doxxing, as the information was already publicly available.

However, the judge acknowledged that while doxxing is not yet a statutory offence in India, it poses a serious threat. She observed that it infringes upon the right to privacy and that courts could invoke tort law to offer redress. Accordingly, X was directed to disclose subscriber information associated with the offending posts.This case highlights the contested nature of what qualifies as public information. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, exempts from its ambit personal data that is made "publicly available", either through voluntary disclosure by the individual or by entities under a legal obligation. However, this exemption is riddled with ambiguity, as the law offers no clear definition for what qualifies as "publicly available data."This lack of clarity may inadvertently enable cybercrimes such as doxxing, especially given the ease with which fragmented data from multiple platforms can be easily aggregated and used for harassment or intimidation.Experts underscored that enforcement, or rather the lack of it, often determines whether victims can access remedies."All laws are only as effective as their enforcement. While posts and accounts are promptly removed when government directives are issued, the same urgency is rarely extended to ordinary users reporting harassment or abusive content," Mishi Choudhary, technology lawyer and digital rights advocate, told The Hindu.She pointed out that for victims of gendered online abuse, legal recourse is typically a last resort. "Survivors are often disbelieved or, worse, blamed for the abuse they face. The lack of awareness and institutional support has a profoundly detrimental impact, forcing many to navigate an uphill battle in their quest for justice," she said.

Is your blood pressure out of control? Understanding resistant hypertension and what can help

High blood pressure is a common concern in India. But what happens when standard treatments don't work? This is the reality of resistant hypertension, a condition requiring specialised care. According to the World Health Organisation, approximately only 1 in 5 adults (21%) with hypertension have it under control.A secondary analysis of the National Family Health Survey-5 data found that almost 36.8% of Indian women and 49.5% of men with hypertension in India don't have the condition under control despite being on medication. This isn't just high blood pressure—it's a resistant form that remains uncontrolled despite standard treatment and requires a more specialized approach.What is resistant hypertension?Resistant hypertension is defined as blood pressure that remains above 140/90 mmHg despite adherence to a regimen of three or more antihypertensive medications, including a diuretic, all at optimal doses. Unlike standard hypertension, which usually responds to medications and lifestyle modifications, in resistant hypertension, the BP remains elevated despite adherence to recommended treatment. Resistant hypertension may affect more people than you think. Despite the growing burden of this condition however, hypertensive disorders are still not looked at with the urgency they deserve. Many people view high blood pressure as a manageable part of life, unlike conditions such as cancer, which evoke far greater concern. This lack of awareness means that many patients continue to live with uncontrolled hypertension for years, risking severe complications such as heart failure, stroke, and kidney damage. The emotional toll can also be significant, with patients feeling frustrated, anxious, or disheartened by their inability to bring their blood pressure under control.For those dealing with resistant hypertension, a diagnosis involves ruling out factors that can mimic resistance, such as inaccurate blood pressure readings or interactions with other medications. Once confirmed, identifying the underlying cause is key. Resistant hypertension is driven by one or more underlying causes. According to the American Heart Association, these can include hormonal imbalances that affect blood pressure, plaque buildup in the arteries supplying the kidneys, and sleep-related disorders such as sleep apnea. Ambulatory BP monitoring, hormonal testing, imaging of the kidneys, sleep studies, and a detailed review of the patient's medication and medical history can all help uncover the root cause of the problem.In recent years, treatment options for resistant hypertension have expanded beyond medication alone. One of the most promising advances is a minimally invasive procedure known as renal denervation (RDN). This technique uses radiofrequency energy to disrupt the overactive sympathetic nerves around the renal arteries. By targeting these nerves, RDN helps reduce and regulate the sympathetic drive that keeps blood pressure elevated in many patients with resistant forms of the condition.While the idea of undergoing a procedure for hypertension may initially seem excessive, especially given how the condition is perceived, this mindset is beginning to shift. RDN is gaining recognition for its potential to provide sustained blood pressure control and reduce the long-term risk of organ damage.

For patients who have exhausted conventional treatment options, RDN offers renewed hope, particularly when combined with ongoing lifestyle support and medical care. According to a study in TheLancet study, it complements both medication and lifestyle changes, but unlike medications, RDN maintains blood pressure reductions consistently over a 24-hour period.Resistant hypertension is not just a more stubborn version of high blood pressure—it is a distinct medical condition that requires deeper investigation, targeted treatment, and a shift in how both patients and clinicians approach it.

MG Motors launch 'Windows EV Pro' with 52.9 kWh battery pack, ADAS

Hyderabad: With the increasing demand for electric vehicles, MG Motor India launches the 'Windows EV Pro,' an upgraded variant of its popular electric MPV that offers enhanced features and improved designs.The newly unveiled Windows EV pro is equipped with a 52.9 kWh battery pack, delivering a claimed range of 449 km on a single charge. This is a significant improvement over the previous 38 kWh battery which offered a range of approximately 331 km.

The Pro Variant which is launched in three new colours Celadon Blue, Glaze Red, and Aurora Silver, retains its signature AeroGlide design but introduces new dual-tone 18-inch alloy wheels. The car's interior enhancements include providing more space with a lighter Ivory leatherette upholstery.



Swiss glaciers show holes reminiscent of cheese



Matthias Huss of the glacier monitoring group GLAMOS offered a glimpse of the Rhone Glacier, which feeds the eponymous river that flows through Switzerland and France to the Mediterranean, shared the observation with The Associated Press this month as he trekked up to the icy expanse for a first “maintenance mission" of the summer to monitor its health.The state of Switzerland's glaciers came into stark and dramatic view of the international community last month when a mudslide from an Alpine mountain submerged the southwestern village of Blatten. The Birch Glacier on the mountain, which had been holding back a mass of rock near the peak, gave way — sending an avalanche into the valley village below.

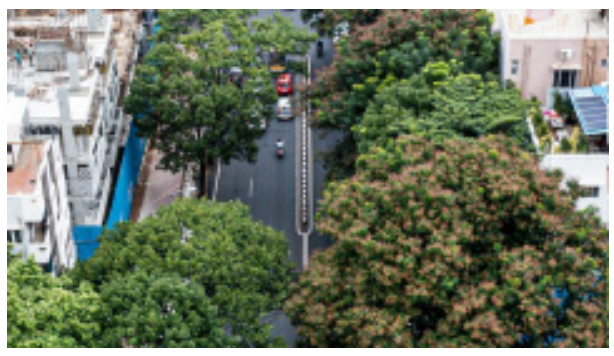
Experts say geological shifts and, to a lesser extent global warming, played a role.Fortunately, the village had been largely evacuated beforehand, but Swiss authorities said a 64-year-old man had gone missing after the incident. Late Tuesday, regional Valais police said they had found and were examining human remains of a person who died in the mudslide.The Alps and Switzerland — home to the most glaciers in any European country by far — have seen them retreat for about 170 years, but with ups and downs over time until the 1980s, he said. Since then, the decline has been steady, with 2022 and 2023 the worst of all. Last year was a “bit better," he said."Now, this year also doesn’t look good, so we see we have a clear acceleration trend in the melting of glaciers,” said Huss, who also is a lecturer at the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, ETHZ, said in beaming sunshine and with slushy ice dripping underfoot.The European Union's Copernicus climate center said last month was the second-warmest May on record worldwide, although temperatures in Europe were below the running average for that month compared to the average from 1991 to 2020.Europe is not alone. In a report on Asia's climate released Monday, the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization said reduced winter snowfall and extreme summer heat last year “were punishing for glaciers” — with 23 out of 24 glaciers in the central Himalayas and the Tian Shan range suffering “mass loss” in 2024.A healthy glacier is considered "dynamic," by generating new ice as snow falls on it at higher elevations while melting at lower altitudes: The losses in mass at lower levels are compensated by gains above.

As a warming climate pushes up the melting to higher altitudes, such flows will slow down or even stop altogether and the glacier will essentially become “an ice patch that is just lying there,” Huss said.“This is a situation we are seeing more and more often on our glaciers: That the ice is just not dynamic anymore," he said. "It's just resting there and melting down in place.”This lack of dynamic regeneration is the most likely process behind the emergence and persistence of holes, seemingly caused by water turbulence at the bottom of the glacier or air flows through the gaps that appear inside the blocks of ice, Huss said.“First the holes appear in the middle, and then they grow and grow, and suddenly the roof of these holes is starting to collapse," he said. "Then these holes get visible from the surface. These holes weren’t known so well a few years ago, but now we are seeing them more often.”Such an affected glacier, he said, "is a Swiss cheese that is getting more holes everywhere, and these holes are collapsing — and it’s not good for the glacier.”Richard Alley, a geosciences professor and glaciologist at Penn State University, noted that glacier shrinkage has wide impacts on agriculture, fisheries, drinking water levels, and border tensions when it comes to cross-boundary rivers.“Biggest worries with mountain glaciers may be water issues — now, the shrinking glaciers are supporting summertime (often the dry season) flows that are anomalously higher than normal, but this will be replaced as glaciers disappear with anomalously low flows,” he said in an email.For Switzerland, another possible casualty is electricity: The Alpine country gets the vast majority of its power through hydroelectric plants driven from its lakes and rivers, and wide-scale glacier melt could jeopardize that.With a whirr of a spiral drill, Huss sends ice chips flying as he bores a hole into the glacier. Then with an assistant, he unfurls a jointed metal pole — similar to the basic glacier-monitoring technology that has existed for decades — and clicks it together to drive it deep down. This serves as a measuring stick for glacier depth.“We have a network of stakes that are drilled into the ice where we determine the melting of the mass loss of the glacier from year to year,” he said. “When the glacier will be melting, which is at the moment a speed of about 5 to 10 centimeters (2-4 inches) a day, this pole will re-emerge.”

Reaching up over his head — about 2.5 meters (8 feet) — he points out the height of a stake that had been drilled in in September, suggesting that an ice mass had shrunk by that much. In the super-hot year of 2022, nearly 10 meters of vertical ice were lost in a single year, he said.The planet is already running up against the target cap increase of 1.5 degrees Celsius in global temperatures set in the Paris Climate Accord of 2015. The concerns about global warming that led to that deal have lately been overshadowed by trade wars, conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East and other geopolitical issues.

“If we manage to reduce or limit global warming to 1.5 degrees, we couldn’t save this glacier,” Huss said, acknowledging many Swiss glaciers are set to disappear in the future. As a person, Huss feels emotion. As a glaciologist, he is awestruck by the speed of change.“It’s always hard for me to see these glaciers melting, to even see them disappearing completely.

When cities have trees that don’t belong, the birds notice



Rapidly increasing heat due to climate change and the concomitant reduction in green cover have together significantly affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in tropical countries. These effects are more pronounced in rapidly urbanising cities. India’s cities are setting new temperature records with each passing year.In a study published recently in Ecological Applications, researchers Ravi Jambhekar, Dilip Naidu and Jagdish Krishnaswamy from the Indian Institute of Human Settlements (IIHS), Bengaluru, studied the growing impact of heat and declining tree cover on birds. The study focused on the bird diversity of Bengaluru, a rapidly growing city. Nestled near the Western Ghats, the diverse habitats within the city include urban parks, open grasslands, wetlands, lakes, and forests. Together, they host more than 350 avian species.

Using publicly available bird records from the online community eBird, the researchers examined how growing urbanisation and the associated heat stress affected the occurrence and distribution of birds in the city. They also sourced satellite data to model the distribution of heat in the city and how that might correlate with green cover and bird occurrences.The team found that biodiversity is clustered more in areas with less heat, while heat islands had lower diversity. (Heat islands are parts of the city much warmer than their surroundings.)Older research has already found higher temperatures have multiple consequences for the natural history of birds. For example, controlled trials have found evidence that birds’ reproductive success drops because they lay eggs with thinner shells. “??Warming temperatures can also indirectly affect birds’ food resources, sometimes even more directly than they could affect the birds themselves,” Anusha Shankar, a physiological ecologist at the Tata institute of Fundamental Research, Hyderabad, said. “Imagine insects, plant nectar or other small prey that could be immediately susceptible to hot temperatures.”This said, the researchers found that not all species depend positively on green cover. Birds of open habitats like grasslands and savannahs as well as those that depend on human activity fared better when tree cover declined.This is contrary to the findings of studies in Dehradun, for one, where green cover was found to be a strong predictor of biodiversity. Monica Kaushik, an urban ecologist at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru, conducted long-term bird surveys across different green spaces in the city. The data revealed a positive relationship between bird species richness and the tree species richness. They also showed that larger green spaces hosted a greater diversity of birds.So does this mean that the only way to protect urban biodiversity and reduce heat stress is to plant trees? The answer is complicated.

When trees aren’t the answerCities are being increasingly afforested as part of efforts to mitigate the effects of heat and for aesthetic purposes. But many cities in India have historically had alternative habitats, such as open ecosystems and wetlands, in addition to forests and tree cover.“Bengaluru originally had a mix of open habitats, agriculture, human made irrigation tanks and some gardens apart from the built areas,” Krishnaswamy, the senior author of the paper and dean of the School of Environment and Sustainability at IIHS, said. Considering the historical land-use type of a city is an important — but often ignored — aspect when planning restoration of habitat and biodiversity. Simplistic mitigation moves such as tree plantations, as the study finds, don’t always improve biodiversity. Unscientific tree plantations that aim to simply improve green cover often focus on non-native and invasive species of trees. Trees such as Jacaranda or Tabebuia, which often line the streets of cities with their beautiful blooms, are not native to the Indian subcontinent, are detrimental to local biodiversity, and affect human health. Currently, 77% of Bengaluru’s tree cover is exotic species.Habitats such as savannahs and wetlands are some of the worst hit in urban biodiversity planning. As cities expand, these non-forested habitats become refuges for species that depend on them. Further fragmentation and loss of such habitats finally lead to the local extirpation of species.“We need native grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees all to be part of ecological restoration and planting strategies in urban spaces,” Krishnaswamy said.“It’s high time that we plan the green cover for the entire city based on historical legacies,” Kaushik added. “Our first task should be to have biodiversity goals at the city levels, where separate land uses become important pieces to fulfil that goal.”Pune, a city nestled in the Western Ghats, once had forests with patches of savannah that still persist on hillstops around the city and are important for open habitat birds. “In the last couple of centuries, Pune district has been a mosaic of secondary regeneration forest, farmland, urban sprawl, and scrubland. An important question is: what is the most effective way to reclaim land back into photosynthetic capacity,” Gurudas Nulkar, director for the Center for Sustainable Development at the Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, asked. “And then the answer is not just afforestation but also reclaiming wetlands and grasslands.”Ecological and social inequity go hand in hand, especially in megacities like Bengaluru, with the poorest and most marginalised groups suffering the highest effects of increasing heat and decreasing tree cover. Biodiversity conservation in cities must reconcile with growing societal needs to reduce heat and heat-induced ailments that are increasing today.“Urban heat mitigation using green spaces may require a mix of approaches from small home gardens and individual trees in strategic locations to larger green spaces

Ancient voyagers brought rice across 2,300 km of Pacific Ocean

Canberra: In a new study published in Science Advances, the earliest evidence of rice in the Pacific Islands was uncovered – at an ancient cave site on Guam in the Mariana Islands of western Micronesia. The domesticated rice was transported by the first islanders, who sailed 2,300 km of open ocean from the Philippines about 3,500 years ago.The discovery settles long-standing academic debates and satisfies decades of curiosity about the origins and lifestyles of early Pacific peoples. The case of the Marianas, located more than 2,000km east of the Philippines and northeast of Indonesia, is especially intriguing.These islands were the first places in Remote Oceania reached by anyone, in this case inhabited for the first time by Malayo-Polynesian-speaking populations from islands in Southeast Asia. For nearly two decades, scholars debated the timing and the overseas source of these first islanders, the ancestors of today’s Chamorro people.

How did they come to Guam and the Marianas?

Archaeological research has confirmed settlement in the Mariana Islands 3,500 years ago at several sites in Guam, Tinian and Saipan. In 2020, the first ancient DNA analysis from Guam confirmed what archaeology and linguistics had suggested: the early settlers came from central or northern Philippines. Further ancestral links trace them back to Taiwan, the homeland of both their language and their genetics.A well-planned journey with rice onboardWas this epic voyage intentional or accidental? What food source allowed these early seafarers to survive? Today, Pacific islanders rely mostly on breadfruit, banana, coconut, taro and yams. Rice, though a staple food in ancient and modern Asian societies, is challenging to grow in the Pacific due to environmental constraints, including soil type, rainfall and terrain.Rice was originally domesticated in central China about 9,000 years ago and was spread by Neolithic farming communities as they migrated to new regions. One of the most remarkable of these expansions began in coastal southern China, moved to Taiwan, and spread through the islands of Southeast Asia into the Pacific.The migration laid the foundations of the Austronesian world, which today comprises nearly 400 million individuals dispersed across an expansive area stretching from Taiwan to New Zealand, and from Madagascar to Easter Island.For more than a decade, scientists searched for evidence of early rice in open archaeological sites across the Mariana Islands, but found nothing conclusive. This study marks the first clear evidence of ancient rice in the Pacific Islands.

It also confirms renowned American linguist Robert Blust’s hypothesis that the earliest Chamorros brought cultivated plants with them, including rice. How we identified the rice Our research took us to Ritidian Beach Cave in Guam.To confirm what was found in the cave were rice remains, researchers used phytolith analysis. Phytoliths are microscopic silica structures formed in plant cells that persist long after the plant has decayed. Once our initial results confirmed the presence of rice, a more detailed analysis revealed we had found the traces of rice husks preserved on the surfaces of ancient earthenware pottery.Next, a detailed microscopic analysis was done



to figure out whether these husks had bee mixed into the clay to keep it from cracking when it dried (a tempering technique commonly used by ancient potters) or had arrived by other means. We also analysed the sediment to rule out that the husks were deposited at the site later than the pottery.The findings showed the rice husks were not used for manufacturing the pottery. Rather, they came from a separate, deliberate activity using the finished pottery bowls.

Ritual use in sacred caves?

The setting of the discovery – a beach cave – gives us another interpretive perspective. In Chamorro traditions, caves are sacred places for important spiritual practices. According to records of 1521 through 1602, the Chamorro people in the Marianas grew rice in limited amounts and consumed it only sparingly, reserved for special occasions and critical life events, such as the impending death of a loved one.Rice became more common after the intensive Spanish colonial period, after 1668. In this context, the ancient islanders more likely used rice during ceremonial practices in or around caves, rather than as a staple food for daily cooking or agriculture.

A greatest journey in history

This study provides strong evidence that the first long-distance ocean crossings into the Pacific were not accidental. People carefully planned the voyages. Early seafarers brought with them not only the tools of survival but also their symbolic and culturally meaningful plants, such as rice. They were equipped, prepared and resolute, completing one of the most extraordinary voyages in the history of humanity.

Six-member committee begins probe into RIMS-Adilabad tragedy

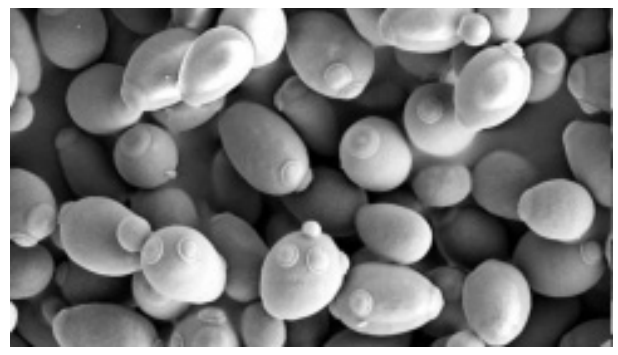
Adilabad: An inquiry by a six-member committee constituted by the government to probe the tragic explosion of ACs at the Special Neonatal Care Unit (SNCU) in RIMS-Adilabad began on Thursday, with the committee visiting the institute. The explosion, supposedly caused by an electric short circuit, claimed the lives

Yeast shows physics can give rise to multicellular life sans mutations

By the time Nishant Narayanasamy joined Shashi Thutupalli’s lab at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bengaluru in 2019, the lab had a new guest: a yeast colony that had seemingly grown way beyond its expected size.The snowflake yeast had been shipped from William Ratcliff’s laboratory at the Georgia Institute of Technology in the U.S. Regular yeast — the same organism that makes bread fluffy — grows as a single cell. When it reaches a certain size, a small bump appears on its surface. The yeast’s nucleus, the compartment that holds its genetic material, splits into two and moves into this bud. The bud grows until it reaches a certain size and eventually falls off from the parent, making new yeast.

But a small change in snowflake yeast’s genetic composition prevents the bud from falling off. As newer buds appear, the yeast clusters in the shape of a snowflake. And as the cluster grows, in about 12 hours it becomes a large blob visible to the naked eye.Snowflake yeast has been used to study how lifeforms first became multicellular. Multicellular organisms can grow much larger than those with only one cell — as long as they can deal with the other effects of largeness. For example, how does the organism ensure all cells in its body receive the nutrients they need to grow?This is why most animals and plants evolved specific structures to transport nutrients. Blood and blood vessels do this job in humans.Snowflake yeast has no such facility, however, which means at some point the yeast should stop growing. Any further increase in size would cause at least some of its cells to not get enough nutrients. However, defying expectations, the snowflake yeast in Thutupalli’s lab continued to grow — that too at an exponential rate. How the yeast attained this feat was a mystery.Narayanasamy and Thutupalli, along with a team from Georgia Tech, reported in the June 2025 issue of Science Advances a mechanism by which the yeast can ensure all its cells receive nutrients, even when the cluster is big. In the absence of a biological structure, the yeast continue to grow thanks to a simple physical process, the authors wrote in their paper.The implications of the work go beyond how yeast grows. The work “offers support to an unconventional view of how major changes are initiated in evolution,” Vidyanand Nanjundiah, an evolutionary biologist and a professor at the Centre for Human Genetics, Bengaluru, said. He wasn’t associated with the study.The consensus among scientists is that multicellular organisms evolved billions of years ago when mutations accumulated over time. But Narayanasamy’s and Thutupalli’s work suggests physical and chemical phenomena alone could have helped unicellular organisms evolve into multicellular ones before genetic changes came into the picture.Flowing into multicellularityIn a lab, yeast can be grown in either a solution or a jelly-like substance that contains all its nutrients. Narayanasamy and Thutupalli observed that large clusters of snowflake yeast continue to grow exponentially only when kept in the solution. It seemed being surrounded by a fluid was crucial.

Diffusion is one way in which nutrients move through a fluid: the particles moving from a place in which their concentration is higher to one where it’s lower. But Narayanasamy and Thutupalli knew from previous work that diffusion alone couldn’t account for the size of large



snowflake yeast clusters. Per their estimate, diffusion can explain the growth of these clusters only up to a size of about 50 micrometers (μm) whereas their clusters could grow up to 20x larger.So they hypothesised that a different process is at play: advection, when the fluid itself moves around, carrying with it the dissolved nutrients. To test their hypothesis, they added to the solution small particles coated with a dye that glows in blue light. Using a microscope to trace how these particles moved in the solution could help them visualise the flow of the fluid.They added a snowflake yeast cluster to this solution and let it grow. The duo observed that as the cluster expanded, the solution around it moved inside the cluster from its sides, then escaped from the top.A natural motorSome unicellular organisms can make fluids flow using specialised hair- or whip-like structures called cilia or flagella. Snowflake yeast have neither. This is where physics becomes important.When snowflake yeast clusters grow, they consume glucose from the solution. This reduces the density of the solution in places where it surrounds the yeast. The cluster also produces alcohol and carbon dioxide, both of which are less dense than the solution, according to the paper.Fluids that are less dense — in this case the surrounding solution depleted of glucose and enriched with alcohol and carbon dioxide — rise above the rest of the solution. The team reasoned the flow it observed resulted from the same principle: as the cluster consumed the sugar and produced alcohol and carbon dioxide in the solution, the solution’s density dropped. This fraction spontaneously moved upward, generating the flow that kept the yeast cluster alive and growing.To confirm this, the duo checked whether flows were present around clusters that are dead and not actively consuming sugar. They didn’t find any, and concluded the living clusters metabolising sugar from the solution created the flows.Biologists have used snowflake yeast clusters as a model to study how multicellular organisms evolved from unicellular ones. Contrary to the view with genetic changes, the new study supports the idea that “multicellularity could originate and be maintained initially solely on the basis of physics and chemistry, with no genetic change,” Nanjundiah said. “A later genetic change could then have made multicellularity inevitable in the … living beings of today,” he added.The next step for him is to check if such a change subsequently occurs in the yeast, rendering multicellularity a part of its biological blueprint.Gautam Menon, a professor of physics and biology at Ashoka University in Sonepat, called the study “fascinating” and the alternative model “temptingly attractive”.

After cases of drug, alcohol use by pilots, Air India stresses zero-tolerance, strict compliance



Air India has undertaken additional measures to reinforce compliance among employees performing safety-critical functions, sources said.Air India has undertaken additional measures to reinforce compliance among employees performing safety-critical functions, sources said.After one of its pilots tested positive for drug use and another failed an alcohol breath analyser test just before operating a flight, Tata group airline Air India has made various interventions in recent weeks to reinforce upon pilots the need for professional conduct and regulatory compliance, according to sources in the know. These incidents had raised questions about evident safety-related violations involving pilots. In their wake, the airline has now doubled down on its efforts to strengthen compliance and come down heavily on such transgressions, as per sources.

The pilot-in-command of an Air India Phuket-Delhi flight involved in a sudden altitude loss incident on August 4 tested positive for psychoactive substance, and was sacked after the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) in its preliminary report on September 4 flagged his positive drug test as a serious concern.Then on September 6, an Air India pilot failed a breath analyser test in Zurich before operating a flight to Delhi, and was suspended pending investigation and his final medical report. A similar incident occurred at the Vancouver airport in January.The recent incidents led to a missive to all Air India pilots from the airline's head of flight operations reiterating its "zero-tolerance policy towards the use of prohibited substances and reporting for duty under the influence of alcohol or drugs", according to airline sources. They added that Air India follows a zero-tolerance policy towards any violation of safety, security, or regulatory requirements, and confirmed breaches of rules and protocols are dealt with strict disciplinary action.

In the September 6 incident in Zurich, the pilot was immediately removed from operating duties upon receipt of a preliminary breath analyser test report from local authorities and referred for further medical evaluation. He was then flown to India as a passenger and is currently under suspension. According to airline sources, disciplinary action will be taken based on the findings of the investigation and his medical report."This approach is consistent with Air India's longstanding policy that safety-related violations, particularly those involving alcohol, prohibited substances or conduct that could compromise operational safety, are treated with the utmost seriousness," said a source.In the Zurich case, the issue was identified and reported through Air India's airport team to the airport authorities in line with the airline's internal monitoring and compliance processes, it is learnt. Sources in the airline said that the prompt reporting and immediate operational action in this case demonstrate the effectiveness of Air India's safety oversight and compliance framework. They said that Air India's internal safety management system is designed to "identify, report and address operational deviations and non-compliance proactively".The airline is now working to strengthen safety monitoring and reporting within the organisation. Air India has undertaken additional measures to reinforce compliance among employees performing safety-critical functions, sources said. Some of these include mandatory testing for psychoactive substances, enhanced awareness programmes focused on safety-critical responsibilities, reinforcement of reporting obligations and regulatory expectations, and continued monitoring of compliance trends and operational conduct."Air India enforces internal standards that complement regulatory requirements and maintains a strict stance on any failure to comply with alcohol restrictions, substance abuse regulations, mandatory reporting obligations or other safety-related protocols. Where violations have been established, the airline has taken disciplinary action, including suspension and termination of employment, depending on the nature and severity of the breach," said an airline source."Safety remains the cornerstone of Air India's ongoing transformation journey.

NSE's primary duty is of a regulator, even at cost to business, says Chairman Srinivas Injeti



The primary duty of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) is to ensure a safe and trusted market for investors even if it comes at the cost of business for the exchange, Chairman Srinivas Injeti said here on Friday, amid the ongoing tightening of regulations for derivatives markets which has been a "cash cow" for both the bourse operators, NSE and BSE."We can't be distracted from our primary duty of giving you a market with integrity and a market where investors are protected," Injeti said during a media briefing here, a day after NSE's listing.MD and CEO Ashishkumar Chauhan and other senior management of the bourse operator were also present.

On regulatory tightening in the derivatives segment, Injeti said, "This imbalance, excessive dependence (on the derivatives segment), you know, will have to be reduced. So, I think that is the big picture. And given this, there is no way, there is no jugglery, there is no way in which quarter to quarter you can do some magic."Before this tightening, NSE and BSE were deriving over 90% of their revenues from the derivatives segment at one point.Diversifying revenue streamsNSE's management emphasised the need to take steps to better protect retail investors and diversify its revenue streams going forward."Maybe if this domination in options was unquestioned, they (SEBI) may not have looked at the commodity. They may not have lookedat … what are the small, small things we can do to sort of get data connectivity, some money here, some money there, some data modernisation. All that is happening because of this imbalance, excessive dependence (on revenues from derivatives), you know, will have to reduce," Injeti added.A study by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) last month showed that despite signs of retail participation in India's equity derivatives (F&O) cooling for the first time in at least five years, nearly 9 in 10 individual traders continued to face losses in 2025-26, as the average loss per trader rose 2% year-on-year to Rs 1.17 lakh crore.This was despite steps taken by the regulator such as limiting expiries to one per exchange and increasing lot sizes of derivative contracts, among others.

NSE has considerably reduced its revenue dependence on derivatives, and aims to continue doing so through more focus on the cash market, electronic gold receipts, and the commodity market, among others.In fact, SEBI on Thursday permitted foreign investors to participate in physically ?settled non-agricultural commodity derivatives, a move expected to boost trading volumes in bullion contracts. This will also bring in significant capital for NSE, whose facilities have been used by FPIs for decades to invest in equities, the management said.The NSE chairman also said that the SEBI should allow exchanges to list on their own platforms as the Indian market has matured.While self-listing is permitted across various major markets, like in the US, the Indian market regulator continues to prohibit it, citing conflict of interest concerns."Prior to 2012, even listing was not allowed. A stock exchange or an MII could not list. In 2012, it was allowed," Injeti said, adding that there is merit in aligning the Indian norms with global standards.Similar concerns have also been raised by foreign investors, it added.NSE's shares listed on the BSE on Thursday at a premium of around 1%. The management said it had not yet approached SEBI for approval regarding its shares trading on its own platform through the "permitted-to-trade" route without listing.The "permitted-to-trade" route enables a share to trade on an exchange without listing on it, leaving the regulatory burden to the exchange

Government never agreed to 5-day work week for banks, facts being twisted: Official sources

The government never agreed to a 5-day working week for banks, a finance ministry official has said ahead of the three-day strike announced by the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) from September 28 to 30 because this key demand has not been met."The five-day week was never agreed at the time of the last wage negotiations. It was never a negotiating tool. They (bank unions) are twisting the facts," the official said on the condition of anonymity.

In a letter dated September 22, the All India Bank Officers' Confederation said there had been no response to this demand "which was agreed and signed in March, 2024 under the last wage revision settlement". The letter added that officials from the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) had informed union representatives that the issue of five-days banking is "under consideration by the Government".Currently, bank branches are open on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of every month.The 12th Bipartite Settlement, agreed in March 2024, said that "in terms of an understanding" was reached between the IBA and unions to declare all Saturdays as holidays for banks.

"…IBA has accordingly recommended to the Government. The due changes in the working hours, will be effective after approval by the Government of India and necessary clearances from Government / Reserve Bank of India," the Settlement said.However, the finance ministry official asserted the government had not agreed to a five-day work week, although a lot of other concessions were made.



"The IBA didn't want to go beyond an 11% hike in the wage negotiations, but the government intervened and a hike of 17% was announced. Even on the issue of family pension, the IBA was not keen but the government said that post-retirement, they will be on the other side, and they should not fight it," the source said, adding that the performance-linked incentive (PLI) scheme had been kept on hold for the current financial year following opposition.

Understanding What Health Insurance Actually Pays For



Buying health insurance is an important step towards protecting yourself and your family from rising medical costs. However, having a policy does not automatically mean every medical expense will be covered.Many people discover this only when they file a claim. A hospitalisation is already stressful, and uncertainty about what the insurer will pay, which documents are required, or why deductions have been made can add to the pressure.The key is understanding what your health insurance policy actually covers before you need to use it.

What Does Health Insurance Cover?

Health insurance policies provide coverage based on specific terms and conditions. The sum insured is the maximum amount available under the policy, but it does not mean every medical expense will automatically be paid.Coverage depends on factors such as:

Waiting periods

Hospitalisation requirements

Pre-existing disease disclosures

Deductibles, co-pays and other policy limits

For example, a medical diagnosis does not always mean that every related expense is covered. Depending on the policy, treatment may need to involve hospitalisation or qualify as a daycare procedure.Similarly, emergency room visits can sometimes create confusion. A patient may undergo tests, scans, IV treatment or observation and assume the expense will be covered because the situation was serious. However, claim eligibility depends on whether the treatment meets the conditions mentioned in the policy.Why Understanding Waiting Periods MattersWaiting periods are an important part of health insurance coverage.Pre-existing diseases (PEDs), such as diabetes or hypertension, may have a waiting period before they are covered. Some insurers offer add-ons that can reduce this waiting period for specific conditions.This is why accurate disclosure while buying a policy is critical. If a medical condition is not disclosed correctly, it can lead to questions during claim assessment.How Policy Limits Can Affect Your Claim AmountEven when a claim is approved, the final amount received may not always match the hospital bill.Certain policy features can reduce the final payout, including:

Room rent limits

Co-payment clauses

Deductibles

Non-medical expenses

Sub-limits on specific treatments

For example, if a policy has a room rent restriction and a policyholder chooses a higher room category, the insurer may apply proportionate deductions across the hospital bill.Understanding these limitations before purchasing a policy can help avoid unexpected expenses during a medical emergency.Why Documentation Plays an Important Role During ClaimsDuring a claim, insurers may ask for documents such as medical reports, first consultation records, previous treatment papers, discharge summaries and pre-authorisation documents.

In some cases, additional queries or medical reviews may be required before the claim can be processed.Keeping medical records organised and understanding documentation requirements beforehand can make the claims journey smoother.A Real Claim Shows Why Understanding Your Policy Matters

A 55-year-old policyholder bought health insurance with an add-on to reduce the waiting period for two conditions she'd declared: diabetes and hypertension. That September, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and filed a claim for treatment, at a time when treatment itself was already enough to deal with.The insurer flagged the claim and asked for pre-hospitalisation OPD records, past treatment papers for her hypertension and diabetes, and first consultation records related to cholesterol. During the investigation, they alleged she had an undisclosed cholesterol condition that could void the policy altogether.Working with her son, Ditto Insurance found that hypertension had simply been recorded incorrectly on the proposal form. There was no evidence of a cholesterol condition to speak of, and diabetes was the only pre-existing condition she actually had.The insurer still pushed back, so Ditto Insurance pulled the underwriting records from when the policy was first issued. The medical check-up done at that stage had already tested her total cholesterol, along with a CBC and ECG, and the results were within the normal range.Ditto Insurance used these results to counter the non-disclosure allegation. Since cholesterol had been tested and found to be within the normal range when the policy was issued, the records did not support the allegation that it had been an undisclosed condition.The claim was eventually approved.This case highlights an important point. Buying health insurance is not only about having financial coverage. It is also about understanding what was disclosed, what the policy covers, and how claims are assessed when questions arise.Choosing the right policy is only one part of the insurance journey. Understanding the policy terms, maintaining documentation, and knowing how to respond during a claim can be equally important.An advisor can help you understand: What treatments are covered Which expenses may not be payableHow waiting periods workWhat medical information needs to be disclosed Which documents may be required during claims

Ditto Insurance supports customers beyond policy selection by helping them understand claim-related questions, documentation requirements, and communication with insurers.When a claim involves questions around pre-existing diseases, alleged non-disclosure or policy interpretation, having support can help policyholders understand what is being asked and how to respond.If a genuine claim is rejected, Ditto Insurance can also help customers escalate the matter through appropriate channels, including the insurer's grievance process and, when required, the Insurance Ombudsman or consumer courts. Where legal escalation is required for a genuinely rejected claim, Ditto Insurance bears the associated legal costs.This does not mean every claim will be approved. Instead, the focus is on helping policyholders understand the decision-making process and pursue available options where there are valid grounds.Health Insurance Is About Knowing Your Coverage Before You Need It

Health insurance is designed to provide financial protection during medical emergencies. However, that protection works best when policyholders understand the conditions attached to their coverage.Before buying or renewing a policy, it is important to ask:

What treatments are covered?

Which treatments require hospitalisation?

Which daycare procedures are included?

How do waiting periods apply to my medical history? What deductions could affect the final payout?

Which documents may be needed during a claim?

Reviewing these details in advance can reduce uncertainty when a medical emergency occurs.With Ditto Insurance, the aim is to provide clarity before a claim and support when one actually happens. This includes helping customers understand policies at purchase, supporting them with claim-related documentation, and assisting with escalation routes when required.If you're comparing health insurance policies, you can explore plans and see how they differ in coverage, waiting periods and other important terms

CISCE to bring together 16 lakh students to help shape mental-health guidelines

The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) will organise a three-tier national initiative on student mental health and well-being, involving nearly 16 lakh students from Classes VI to XII, 32,000 teachers and more than 3,300 affiliated schools.The CISCE Student Mental Health and Well-Being Conclave 2026 will begin with school-level discussions in October and culminate in a national conclave in Hyderabad from November 20 to 22. The initiative will coincide with World Mental Health Day on October 10.

The first stage, School-Level Mental Health and Well-Being Dialogues, will be held from October 4 to 31 across CISCE-affiliated schools. Students from Classes VI to XII will take part in weekly classroom discussions on four areas — student stress and academic pressure; emotional well-being, digital life and positive relationships; drugs, substance abuse and healthy choices; and resilience and help-seeking behaviour.

The discussions are intended to collect students' views and experiences on mental health and encourage schools to strengthen mechanisms for listening to students, peer support and access to appropriate help.The second stage will consist of Regional Student Mental Health and Well-Being Conclaves, which will be conducted virtually across 18 regions from November 4 to 14. Selected student representatives and teacher mentors will take part in these discussions. School-level issues and experiences will be discussed at the regional level, following which representatives and mentors will be selected for the national conclave.

The final stage will be held at the CISCE Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad from November 20 to 22. It will bring together 72 students representing 18 regions, 18 teacher mentors, mental health and policy experts, CISCE representatives and partner organisations.A key outcome of the national conclave will be a CISCE Student Mental Health Charter. The charter will set out principles, rights, responsibilities and recommendations for creating supportive and emotionally safe school environments.The initiative will also work towards developing a Student Well-being Index, compiling examples of practices followed by schools, and preparing a White Paper on Emerging Mental Health Concerns among Adolescents.CISCE has said it may later make the Student Mental Health Conclave a biennial initiative, held around World Mental Health Day.



The 2026 programme is designed to take student concerns from classroom discussions to regional and national platforms and use them to develop recommendations for school-level practices and student well-being.

Angad Bedi remembers father Bishan Singh Bedi on his 80th birth anniversary

Mumbai: Actor Angad Bedi has remembered his late father, legendary cricketer Bishan Singh Bedi, on his 80th birth anniversary on Friday. He spoke about his legacy and the changes in their lives since his passing.

Angad shared a video montage featuring his late father from his cricketing days, moments with family, photographs with daughter-in-law Neha Dhupia and hid grandchildren.

Printed at SMILYS ONLINE 6-7-48,VANASTHALIPURAM SHOPPING COMPLEX RANGAREDDY , RANGAREDDY, TELANGANA - 500070
Publisher,Editor: Kasoju Shankara Chary, PRGI NO: TGENG/26/A3169, Ph No: 9949791999, Email Id: eyesecretdaily@gmail.com