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Revanth Sets Nov. 1 Deadline for STPs



Hyderabad, Oct 28

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to ensure that Hyderabad does not face a drinking water shortage under any circumstances and ordered all sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the Core Urban Region Economy (CURE) limits to operate at 100 per cent capacity in view of the El Nino conditions and future water requirements.

At a review meeting on drinking water supply, STP construction and treated water utilisation at the MCRHRDI on Wednesday, the Chief Minister asked officials to closely monitor water levels in reservoirs and remain alert to meet the city's drinking water needs. He stressed the need to maximise the use of treated wastewater for non-drinking purposes to conserve freshwater supplies.

Revanth Reddy directed officials to ensure that treated water was used for maintaining greenery at the Secretariat, Chief Minister's Office, Outer Ring Road, Metro Rail facilities and other government offices. Treated water should also be used for maintaining public parks and cleaning roads. He made it clear that the rule mandating the use of treated water in building construction must be implemented strictly.

The Chief Minister called for encouraging private STPs and directed officials to supply treated water to data centres as well. He also asked senior officials of the Renewable Energy Development Corporation (REDCO) to explore the possibility of using solar power to operate STPs, thereby improving energy efficiency and reducing operating costs.

Emphasising that water quality should not be compromised, Revanth Reddy instructed officials to adopt the latest technological standards for wastewater treatment. A dedicated officer should be appointed at every STP, and all plants should be connected to the Command Control Centre for continuous monitoring. He directed HYDRAA to monitor the functioning of the treatment plants on a real-time basis.

The Chief Minister also called for introducing a tracking system for tankers supplying treated water and launching a widespread public awareness campaign to promote its use. A dedicated toll-free number should be established to facilitate access to treated water, he said.

Directing officials to ensure that the measures concerning STP operations and treated water utilisation came into force from November 1, Revanth Reddy stressed the need for coordinated action by all concerned departments to implement the directions without delay.

During the meeting, Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) officials informed the Chief Minister that treated water was currently being supplied through green tankers from 26 STPs. Consumers were being charged only transportation costs, while the treated water itself was being provided free of cost.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, CMO secretary K. Manicka Raj, School Education director E. Naveen Nicolas, Cyberabad Municipal commissioner G. Srijana, Malkajgiri Municipal commissioner T. Vinay Krishna Reddy, HMWSSB managing director K. Ashok Reddy, TGSPDCL managing director Jitesh V. Patil, Pollution Control Board member secretary G. Ravi and I&PR special commissioner G. Mukunda Reddy, among others, attended the meeting.

Naidu Seeks Central Team To Assess Arnab Damage

Vijayawada, Oct 28

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the phone and sought immediate central assistance and deputation of a team to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh.

He briefed Shah on the extent of the devastation and urged the Centre to extend support for relief, rehabilitation and restoration works. A letter was also sent to the central leaders to this effect.

Naidu explained the situation in cyclone-affected districts of Visakhapatnam, Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna and Anakapalli. According to preliminary estimates, crops spread over more than 70,000 hectares had been inundated, while horticultural crops across another 10,500 hectares suffered damage.

The cyclone has also damaged houses, roads and electricity poles in several areas, adding to the difficulties faced by residents.

The CM apprised the Centre of the precautionary measures taken by the state government to minimise loss of life and property and sought urgent intervention to ensure timely assistance to the affected people.

In his letter, Naidu said the government had deployed 16 NDRF and 11 SDRF teams across 14 districts to carry out rescue and relief operations. More than 28,000 people had been evacuated from vulnerable and cyclone-hit areas and shifted to rehabilitation centres.

The government, he reported, had taken advance precautionary measures, including the evacuation of people from inundated and vulnerable locations to safer shelters. No loss of life had been reported so far, due to the "preparedness steps" undertaken ahead of the cyclone.



The chief minister said control rooms and the state emergency operations centre were functioning round the clock to monitor the situation, coordinate emergency response efforts and facilitate relief operations. The government, he said, was giving priority to providing relief to affected families and restoring essential services, particularly electricity and drinking water supplies, in areas hit by the cyclone.

Naidu informed Shah that preliminary estimates of the damage were being sent to the Centre. A comprehensive report covering the damage to agriculture, horticulture, houses, roads and power infrastructure would be submitted after a detailed assessment.

He requested Shah to arrange the visit of a central team to assess the cyclone damage in AP at the earliest and facilitate release of assistance. He also sought continued support from the NDRF and other central agencies for the relief and rehabilitation operations. Naidu thanked the central government for its continued support to the state.

SC to take up Delhi-NCR pollution, stubble burning, green crackers today

New Delhi, Oct 29 The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday matters concerning rising pollution in the Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR), stubble burning and the sale of 'green' firecrackers ahead of the Diwali festival.

The hearing comes amid concerns over deteriorating air quality in Delhi-NCR and the measures required to control pollution during the festive season. The court is expected to consider issues related to firecracker manufacturing and use, along with other steps aimed at curbing pollution in the region.

Under an earlier Supreme Court order issued to address air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the manufacturing, storage and use of all types of firecrackers remain completely prohibited.

The restrictions were imposed as part of efforts to tackle the region's pollution crisis and limit activities that could further worsen air quality.

During the previous hearing, however, the Supreme Court had indicated the possibility of granting a limited relaxation in the restrictions. It allowed firecracker manufacturers to produce 'green' firecrackers for the Delhi-NCR region, while making it clear that permission to manufacture these products would not automatically allow their sale.

The court had specifically clarified that although production of green firecrackers could be permitted under the proposed relaxation, their sale would not be allowed at that stage. The issue of permitting their sale is therefore expected to remain an important aspect of the proceedings ahead of Diwali.

The Supreme Court had also directed the Central Government to consult all relevant stakeholders and work towards formulating a balanced policy on the manufacturing and use of firecrackers in Delhi-NCR.



Earlier, the apex court had also stated that public awareness and voluntary participation would be more effective in addressing the problem of firecracker-induced air pollution in Delhi-NCR than imposing restrictive orders that could be difficult to enforce on the ground.

HM Amit Shah calls on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan

New Delhi, Oct 28 Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah on Wednesday called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The President's office shared photographs of the meeting on social media, confirming the interaction between the two leaders.

"Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation Shri Amit Shah called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the President of India's X handle posted this message.



However, no official details regarding the agenda or the subjects discussed during the meeting were released.

Photographs shared by the President's office showed Shah presenting a bouquet to President Murmu.

The meeting marked a formal interaction between the Union Home Minister and the President. Such meetings provide an opportunity for senior members of the Union government to interact with the country's constitutional head on matters of governance and national importance.

Shah, who heads the Union Home Ministry and the Ministry of Cooperation, oversees key areas of governance, including internal security, border management, Centre-state relations and the development of the cooperative sector.

The latest meeting comes amid continuing political activity in the country, with electoral issues and opposition mobilisation remaining part of the national political discourse.

However, there has been no official indication that these matters, or any specific political or administrative issue, were discussed during the meeting.

The interaction took place at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence and workplace of the President of India. The President's office has not issued any further statement on the nature or outcome of the meeting.

Meanwhile, HM Shah recently chaired a high-

Nitin Nabin to chair key meeting of BJP's General Secretaries today

New Delhi, Oct 29 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President Nitin Nabin will chair a meeting of the party's General Secretaries on Thursday to discuss the current political situation, the Opposition's protests over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and preparations for upcoming elections in five states.

The important meeting is scheduled to take place at 10 a.m. at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi.

Party leaders are expected to deliberate on the ongoing protests by the opposition INDIA bloc against the SIR process and the Election Commission, along with the political developments surrounding the issue.

The meeting will also focus on chalking out strategies and reviewing preparations for upcoming election-related programmes in five states -- Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa.

The party is expected to discuss its organisational approach and plans as it prepares for political activities in these states.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Nitin Nabin led a march through Delhi's Chandni Chowk as part of the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' campaign.



The march was held amid escalating political tensions over the SIR exercise and allegations of "vote theft" raised by the Congress and other opposition parties.

The ruling party has sought to counter the opposition's campaign by mobilising its own leaders and workers.

EDITORIAL

Politics of India-US trade ties — can strategic convergence survive economic friction?

The India-US economic relationship has evolved into a geopolitical quagmire, especially for India. Over the past one and a half decades, bilateral economic relations between the two nations have been seen as an extension of the broader strategic framework in which their ties have developed. Key areas such as defence, investment, trade, technology and the movement of skilled professionals have become increasingly interconnected.

However, ties between the two nations have continued to face significant friction. The primary reasons include differences over tariffs and market access, agricultural protection, digital regulation, and intellectual property. In simple terms, differences in industrial policies have cast a shadow over the overall strategic partnership.

In February 2026, the two countries announced a framework for an Interim Agreement following trade negotiations that began in February 2025. This was a significant development in bilateral economic ties. The negotiations not only addressed customs duties but also reflected differing understandings of what constitutes a fair trading relationship, as well as competing economic priorities.The Trump administration emphasised reciprocity, pressing India to reduce its tariff and non-tariff barriers, and expand American access to the Indian market. India sought greater access for its exports while attempting to protect sensitive domestic sectors and preserve policy space for development-related priorities.

This shows that the politics of bilateral ties extends beyond trade negotiations and agreements. It also highlights how two large democracies seek to balance domestic economic interests with geopolitical objectives. However, this raises a fundamental question: can strategic convergence between the United States and India withstand their many disagreements over trade and economic policy?

The transformation of India-US bilateral ties since the early 2000s has been remarkable. The US perception of India moved from the Cold War-era suspicion to a strategic partnership encompassing defence, technology, energy and commerce. Arguably, the bilateral economic ties have become one of the key foundations of this transformation.The combined trade in goods and services between the two reached an estimated $239.6 billion in 2025. Trade in goods stood at around $149.1 billion, while services amounted to about $90.4 billion. During the same time, the US recorded a goods trade deficit of $58.4 billion with India.

These numbers show why trade has become a politically sensitive issue in Washington. The US increasingly views its ties with India through the lens of reciprocity. In 2025, US trade policy placed an emphasis on large and persistent goods trade deficits, tariff disparities, and non-tariff barriers. India's relatively high average import tariffs became a focus of US trade policy.

From India's perspective, tariffs were not merely instruments of protectionism. Historically, they have served several purposes, including protecting key industries, promoting domestic manufacturing and preserving a degree of policy flexibility for the government. As a result, tariff reductions also have implica-

Bombay HC steps in to rescue student after her social media post on Operation Sindoor



The Bombay High Court on Tuesday, October 27, quashed an FIR registered against a 20-year-old Pune engineering student over her last year's social media post on Operation Sindoor, observing that a "youthful error of judgment cannot automatically be equated with a deliberate criminal act."Justice Milind N Jadhav also observed that the prosecution lacked a "sufficient factual foundation" to prove its case.A single-judge bench was hearing the student's criminal application, seeking quashing of the FIR, contending that she had merely reposted an Instagram post and deleted it within two hours.Following the controversy, the Sinhgad Academy of Engineering in Pune rusticated the engineering student.In the FIR, the Pune Police had said that the student had "shared a post on her Instagram account on May 7 regarding the war between Bharat and Pakistan, which had allegedly caused tension between two different religions and was likely to adversely affect public peace."

The HC also accepted advocate Farhana Shah's arguments for the student, mentioning that the FIR did not disclose substantial material establishing her criminal intention and that no actual incident of communal disturbance or unlawful activity attributable to the applicant's repost was recorded.Emphasising her "prompt deletion of the post" and the apology, Justice Jadhav observed, "This is a chance required to be taken by the Court because trial and punishment have to be believed to be inflicted for a reformative result rather than being punitive in nature, especially when the Applicant is a young student. It is widely believed that education can transform lives and generations.""In my opinion, the circumstances indicate that the Applicant did not persist in her said conduct and rather corrected herself. A youthful error of judgment cannot automatically be equated with a deliberate criminal act in the absence of material establishing the ingredients of the alleged offences," the judge added.The HC, allowing the plea, noted the prosecution could not disclose sufficient material to prove offences against her and held it was "unable to accept that the continuation of the criminal proceedings would serve any legitimate purpose."Earlier, on May 27 last year, a vacation bench of Justices Gauri V Godse and Somasekhar Sundaresan had granted bail to the student, pulling up state authorities and the Institute for "absolutely shocking" arrest and rustication.Another bench led by Justice Makarand S Karnik in June last year set aside the rustication letter issued to her.

'Kill six': Chaimar gang's trail from UP to South Delhi



On October 25, Delhi Police arrested Savan, 53, the alleged leader of the Chaimar gang, in a shootout while he was allegedly scouting a farmhouse to rob in South Delhi.An offshoot of the Kachha Baniyan gang, the Chaimar gang takes its name from the phrase "kill six" — a term, which police said, refers to a leader linked to at least six murders.

Police said Savan had allegedly been linked to six murders before he and three other gang members robbed a family's home in Mathura in 2016, killing a 17-year-old girl. The four were arrested that year and sentenced to life imprisonment in 2023, but were granted bail by the Allahabad High Court in 2025.

Around 1 am on August 28, 2016, a family was asleep inside its shuttered grocery shop-cum-home in Mathura's Pathak Nagar area. Gopal Sharma and his father, Randev, were sleeping in a room just behind the shutters. Gopal's mother and sister, Kusumlata, were in the verandah.Police said four men — Savan, Akbar, Salim and Harun — were allegedly moving through the neighbourhood with sticks, looking for a house to rob. They were dressed in boxers and vests, with oil smeared on their arms.The four reached Railway Road, where the Sharmas lived, and targeted their home.According to Uttar Pradesh Police records, they entered the premises from the back. Kusumlata, 17, woke up and saw them. When she and her mother screamed, the men allegedly began beating them up. Gopal and his father rushed in after hearing the screams, but were beaten too.

"The robbers fled; Kusumlata died from the injuries. This was allegedly the seventh murder by the group," said a senior police officer."They had committed two similar robberies in 2014: One in Jaunpur, where they killed a man while robbing his house, and another in Punjab's Mansa, where they entered with four other people and killed five members of the same family," said a senior police officer.After the Mathura incident, police had sketches of the four men made and circulated them across several North Indian states. Savan's sketch was recognised in Mansa and Jaunpur, where the group had allegedly carried out earlier robberies.According to police, the Chaimar gang originated in Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh before spreading to other parts of the state and to Haryana.Police officers said members of these gangs often move from one city to another with their families, and that members are usually from the same clan. They settle on the outskirts of cities in makeshift jhuggis, then move around as labourers or even beggars to scout potential targets.

A police officer investigating Savan's case told The Indian Express that his family was among the more notorious groups. "His brother, Fati, was arrested after an encounter last year in Mathura. He had 17 cases lodged against him," the officer said.After their release, police said Savan and the other three allegedly moved their families from Uttar Pradesh to Ambedkar Nagar in Alwar. They then began making frequent visits to Delhi.In July this year, police said the group allegedly identified a farmhouse in Mehrauli as a potential target. They entered the premises but could not reach the house and left, a police officer said.On October 25, the Delhi Police alleged, Savan was scouting South Delhi farmhouses in the Maidan Garhi area of Saket when police received a tip-off about his presence.

"At 6.25 am, the suspect arrived on a motorcycle from Bass Gaon Road and was identified by a secret informer. When the police team attempted to intercept him, he allegedly opened fire using a country-made pistol. Sub-Inspector (SI) Narendra Kumar fired three warning rounds. The suspect subsequently took out another country-made pistol and allegedly fired again, with a bullet striking the bulletproof jacket of SI Kumar," said DCP (South) Anant Mittal.Another police officer on the team then fired at Savan, hitting him in the right calf. He was taken to AIIMS and will soon be questioned in detail, said police.Police also alleged that Savan previously ran with another Kacha Baniyan sub-set called the Bawaria gang.

3 of a family killed in Lucknow parking feud: 2 cops suspended after protest

A day after three members of a family were shot dead in broad daylight in Lucknow, Police Commissioner Tarun Gauba Tuesday suspended the Station House Officer (SHO) of Saadatganj police station and the in-charge of the Kashmiri Mohalla police outpost for negligence in the discharge of their duties.The action came after family members of the victims and local residents staged a protest, accusing the two officials of failing to act on repeated complaints against their neighbours.Gauba confirmed the suspensions to The Indian Express. SHO Santosh Kumar Arya and Sub-Inspector Ajay Chaurasia, in-charge of the Kashmiri Mohalla police outpost, have been suspended, and a departmental inquiry has been ordered into the charges against them.Parking dispute turns fatalOn Monday, Rishabh Shukla, 34, who reportedly works with the Merchant Navy, allegedly opened fire on his neighbours in Lucknow's Old City area, killing Shivaji Tiwari, 63; his brother Shivendra, 54; and Shivaji's son Suyash, 29. Shukla was arrested at the scene. Police said he allegedly used an illegal pistol.Police personnel inspect the site where three people were killed in a firing incident following a clash over a parking spot in Saadatganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Monday, Oct. 26, 2026. (PTI Photo) Police personnel inspect the site where three people were killed in a firing incident following a clash over a parking spot in Saadatganj, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, Monday

Gauba told The Indian Express that the incident began after a member of the Tiwari family parked a car in front of their house, which Shukla objected to.According to an eyewitness, the argument between neighbours snowballed. At one point, Shukla ran into his home and returned with a pistol. He allegedly opened fire on the neighbours, continuing to fire till the gun's magazine was empty.

'Police ignored repeated complaints'The protest began after the bodies of the three victims arrived at their home on Tuesday morning. Family members and local residents staged a dharna on the road, alleging that the two police



officers had failed to act on repeated complaints lodged by Shivaji and Shivendra against Shukla and his family.Shivendra's wife, Ruchi, alleged that Shukla, his uncle Rajesh and other members of their family had been harassing them for a long time, picking fights over minor issues and getting into physical altercations.The dispute had intensified over the past two months after the local corporator began constructing a concrete enclosure around an old banyan tree in front of the houses. Locals gather there daily to offer prayers to the tree. While the Tiwaris supported the construction, the Shuklas opposed it, police said.An officer said local police had intervened twice in disputes between the families and issued warnings. Construction of the enclosure had also been halted for the past few weeks amid the dispute.Residents alleged that the police had failed to take adequate action despite repeated complaints. They said timely intervention could have prevented the killings.Police said Suyash ran an electrical hardware business and was to get married on December 5. His father, Shivaji, was a retired Secretariat official, while his uncle worked as non-teaching staff at Lucknow University.

CCMB, NIN, MDRF studies show heredity is not destiny

Hyderabad: For years there has been an unwritten rule! If parents and grandparents had high cholesterol or heart ailments, then you could invariably expect to inherit the same fate. It meant that if your genes were stacked against you, severe health issues were only a matter of time.

However, path-breaking population and nutritional research from multiple Hyderabad-based research agencies and other parts of the country have consistently indicated that for Indians, bad genes, passed on from generation to generation, are not a life sentence.Pioneering work from premier city-based laboratories has long laid the groundwork for this paradigm shift. Researchers at the Hyderabad-based Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) have extensively mapped population genomics and non-coding genetic variations across South Asian groups.The research by geneticists at CCMB has consistently shown that even if your DNA sets a certain baseline, what actually happens inside your body depends far more on your daily habits like how you eat, move, and live.

In fact, another top research institute in Hyderabad, the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition (NIN) has in a separate study highlighted that Indians possess a distinct metabolic phenotype, making our bodies exceptionally responsive to dietary shifts.NIN's landmark studies show that simple changes such as cutting down on white rice and refined flour and moving back to traditional, fibre-rich foods, can effectively stop bad genes from acting up, protecting you from the health problems that have traditionally been common in the family.Apart from CCMB and NIN, another top research group from Chennai has recently published a comprehensive multi-institutional study (PLOS ONE), led by Madras Diabetes Research Foundation (Mdrf) and University of Reading, UK, which provided solid proof that a healthy lifestyle actually works and can beat genetic predispositions.

The research team set out to answer whether good food can protect individuals with a genetic history of chronic ailments in the family. They tracked South Asian adults and found a clear answer. If you eat junk and poor food, your bad genes will kick-in, and your cholesterol shoots up but if you lead a healthy lifestyle, stick to a balanced diet, that risk completely disappears.

In fact, the results showed that for individuals who ate clean, healthy food, there was practically no difference in cholesterol levels between those with 'bad genes' and those with 'good genes'. Simply put, eating junk food triggers your body's hidden weak spots, while eating clean acts as a solid shield. Genetics are not final destiny as bad genes from parents are not permanent life sentences for Indians Lifestyle matters as it dictates internal biology far more than DNA CCMB and NIN research shows South Asian bodies are exceptionally responsive to dietary changes Impact of bad genes can be stopped by adopting traditional fiber rich foods

Among the first to move High Court in Ankita Bhandari case, journalist called to Delhi for CBI questioning

Independent journalist and Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (Democratic) leader Ashutosh Negi, who was among the first to approach the High Court seeking a CBI investigation into the 2022 murder of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, has been summoned by the central agency in connection with the case. He is currently in Delhi for questioning.Negi was asked to appear before the CBI's investigating team at its headquarters on Lodhi Road on Tuesday.

The development comes amid renewed scrutiny of the alleged VIP angle in the murder, following the circulation of an audio clip by actress Urmila Sanawar that purportedly refers to a powerful individual in connection with the case. Sanawar was arrested on Monday in connection with a separate case.The CBI is investigating allegations concerning the possible involvement of the unidentified "VIP", even as three men have already been convicted in the murder case.The investigation gathered pace following a protest by Ankita's parents in Delhi a couple of weeks ago where they were joined by Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi seeking that the appointment of senior BJP leader Dushyant Kumar Gautam as the Governor of Sikkim be kept on hold.Earlier, Gautam had claimed that some social media posts falsely portrayed him as the "VIP" in the case. The former Uttarakhand BJP in-charge filed a defamation petition against the Congress, the Aam Aadmi Party, Sanawar, and others, for allegedly accusing him of being involved in the murder case.Who is Ashutosh Negi?Negi is an independent journalist and has also been associated with the Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (Democratic) – a registered, although unrecognised, political party in the hill state.He emerged as one of the prominent voices questioning the investigation into Ankita's murder and demanding accountability beyond the three accused arrested by the Uttarakhand Police.In October 2022, Negi approached the Uttarakhand HC seeking a CBI investigation into the case. His petition alleged that the police and the Special Investigation Team (SIT) had withheld crucial information. Among the concerns raised was the non-publication of Ankita's autopsy report and the demolition of the room at the resort where she had worked.Ankita's parents, Virendra Singh Bhandari and Soni Devi, subsequently joined the petition as petitioners.In December 2022, the High Court rejected the plea to transfer the investigation from the SIT to the CBI, expressing satisfaction with the state police's investigation at that stage. The state government had argued that the SIT was functioning independently and that there was no reason to doubt its work.The demand for a CBI probe, however, continued among Ankita's family members and sections of the public, particularly over allegations that a VIP had sought sexual favours from her



and that the circumstances surrounding those allegations required further investigation.Arrested in 2024Negi was arrested by Uttarakhand Police on March 5, 2024, following a complaint lodged by a resident of Pauri Garhwal. The FIR included provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.His arrest drew criticism from the Opposition, which alleged that the action was intended to silence those seeking justice for Ankita. The BJP rejected the allegations, maintaining that the case against Negi was unrelated to the murder investigation.Then Uttarakhand Director General of Police Abhinav Kumar questioned Negi's activities, alleging that they appeared to be part of a conspiracy to create unrest. The police maintained that they would take action if evidence emerged.Negi's arrest also drew international attention. The Committee to Protect Journalists called for the charges against him to be dropped, saying authorities should ensure that journalists could report without fear or interference. He was later released on bail.The case and the unresolved VIP questionAnkita worked as a receptionist at the Vanantra resort near Rishikesh, managed by Pulkit Arya, son of former BJP leader Vinod Arya. She went missing in September 2022, and her body was recovered from the Chilla canal six days later.The state police's SIT investigated the case and found that Ankita had been pressured to provide sexual services to guests, which she resisted. In May 2025, a court in Pauri Garhwal convicted Arya and his two associates, Ankit Gupta and Saurabh Bhaskar, and sentenced all three to life imprisonment.The convictions established the criminal responsibility of the three men in Ankita's murder. However, allegations concerning a possible VIP remained a separate issue.In December 2025, Sanawar released purported audio and video recordings involving former BJP MLA Suresh Rathore, whom she claimed was her husband.

Kompally sanitation officials allegedly create ruckus at dhaba after drinking



Hyderabad: A group of sanitation officials from Kompally Circle allegedly created a ruckus at Friendly Dhaba in Kompally while under the influence of alcohol.The incident, which reportedly took place on Sunday night, came to light later.According to information available, DEE (Deputy Executive Engineer) Tirupathi of the Kompally sanitation department, along with Environment Department In-charge Raghavachari, a supervisor and their friend Pradeep, visited the dhaba around 10 pm. They allegedly introduced themselves as officials of Kompally Circle and consumed alcohol at the establishment.The group reportedly stayed at the dhaba until around 11.30 pm and ordered butter chicken. After eating two pieces, they allegedly complained that the food was not good and began abusing the dhaba owner.When the restaurant management's staff attempted to intervene and stop the argument, the officials allegedly abused them as well. They also reportedly threatened the management with action to get the dhaba closed.Following the altercation, police took both parties to the Pet Basheerabad police station. The issue was reportedly settled between the two sides at the police station.

Human rights abuses in PoK, PoGB by Pakistani authorities raised at UNHRC



Geneva: The United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) drew international attention to the deteriorating human rights situation in Pakistani-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Pakistan-occupied Gilgit-Baltistan (PoGB) during the ongoing 63rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva.Addressing the UNHRC session on Monday, Sardar Shaukat Ali Kashmiri, Representative of the African Development Association (ADA) and Chairman of the UKPNP, expressed grave concern over reports of escalating repression by Pakistani authorities in PoK since 5 June 2026.

He cited deaths, injuries, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, restrictions on peaceful assembly, communications blackouts and the increasing militarisation of civilian life in the occupied territory. He called for an immediate, independent and impartial investigation into reported violations and urged the international community to press Pakistan to ensure accountability and protection for civilians exercising their fundamental democratic rights."Peaceful dissent is not terrorism, and demanding rights is not a crime," Shaukat Ali told the Council. He called on Pakistan to immediately end the use of force against peaceful demonstrators, release all individuals arbitrarily detained, establish the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, and restore unrestricted internet and mobile communications throughout PoK.

Speaking about PoGB, the UKPNP Chairman highlighted longstanding concerns regarding political representation, land ownership and the rights of local communities over natural resources. He also called on the Council to establish independent monitoring mechanisms to examine reported abuses, protect civic space and promote accountability in the occupied territories.Last week, human rights violations and socio-economic deprivation in the PoK were raised at the 63rd session of the UNHRC in Geneva.Activists called for an independent international probe into the crackdown on protesters in the region. In an oral statement, social activist Harleen Kour said that the people in PoK have been on the streets for months demanding food, electricity, employment, better infrastructure and political representation.

She said these peaceful protests have been met with excessive force, arbitrary detentions, communication blackouts and the use of anti-terror laws against peaceful groups."This Council cannot remain silent while fundamental human rights are violently suppressed," she told the Council, alleging extrajudicial killings and mass detentions.She also said that resources extracted from the region benefit external interests while locals face acute inflation, unemployment and poor infrastructure.Kour urged the UNHRC to set up an independent fact-finding mission on civilian deaths, unlawful detentions and use of excessive force. She also called for an immediate end to security crackdowns, restoration of full communications and digital access, and protection for political activists and local leaders facing harassment.

FBI adds Goldy Brar to Ten Most Wanted List, announces $1 million reward

EMS News Agency, Oct 27

Washington: The FBI has placed Satinderjeet Singh, also known as Goldy Brar, on its Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list and offered a reward of up to $1 million for information leading to his arrest.The FBI said Singh is wanted over his alleged role in the Lawrence Bishnoi organised crime group, which it linked to killings, extortion and drug trafficking across the United States and Canada. He is based in the US and is alleged to lead the group's operations in North America.

Singh has been charged in federal court in Los Angeles with racketeering conspiracy, conspiracy involving extortion and conspiracy to distribute controlled substances. The charges are allegations. He has not been convicted in this case.The FBI described Singh as armed, extremely violent and dangerous. It said he is known to reside in California and parts of Canada, and warned the public against approaching him.His addition to the list puts a prominent fugitive in an investigation into crimes that US authorities say have had a particular impact on the Indian diaspora. The FBI said the group used shootings, kidnappings, assaults and threats to spread fear, while also trafficking drugs and weapons.The Canadian government designated the Bishnoi group a terrorist entity in September 2025, according to the FBI.In one of three indictments unsealed earlier this year, prosecutors alleged that Singh helped direct the Bishnoi group's activities worldwide. According to the FBI's account of the indictment, Singh spoke for Lawrence Bishnoi, who is imprisoned in India, and helped direct other members and associates.Investigators alleged that Bishnoi and Singh ordered the June 18, 2023, assassination of an Indian political and religious figure living in Canada. The victim identified in court documents as "H.S.N.", was shot as he left a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia.Investigators also allege that members of the group stole about 520 kilograms of cocaine from rival drug trafficking gangs in the greater Los Angeles area between March 2024 and July 2025.The latest announcement follows Operation Hardball, a federal investigation whose results were announced on July 7. Three indictments charged 37 defendants connected to three India-based transnational organised crime groups. Twenty-four defendants had been arrested or were already in custody at the time.The FBI said four more fugitives have since been captured and one has been found dead. Singh is among five defendants still being sought in that operation."His addition to the FBI Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list speaks to the collective resolve to capture him," said Lisa Moreland, deputy commissioner of federal policing for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. "The RCMP is committed to continue working with partners in the FBI to bring Goldy Brar to justice."Singh is the 543rd person added to the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list. Anyone with information can contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI, submit a tip at tips.fbi.gov or approach a local FBI office or the nearest US embassy or consulate. The agency said information can be provided anonymously.The FBI established its Ten Most Wanted Fugitives list in 1950. According to the agency, 28 people who committed or were alleged to have committed crimes in the Los Angeles area have been placed on the list.The case is being investigated by the FBI's Los Angeles field office, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, with other domestic and international partners. Prosecutors from the US attorney's office for the Central District of California are handling the case.

INS Sahyadri, Kulish participate in 2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise in Philippines

Manila: In a significant boost to maritime cooperation between India and ASEAN, Indian Naval Ships Sahyadri and Kulish, along with BRP Jose Rizal, BRP Tarlac and RSS Justice from ASEAN member states, are participating in the second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) in the Philippines on Tuesday.According to the Indian Embassy in the Philippines, the exercise is co-hosted by the Indian Navy and the Philippine Navy, bringing together navies of ASEAN Member States and India to strengthen mutual understanding, cooperation and interoperability at sea.

The exercise will feature subject matter expert exchanges on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), maritime domain awareness, logistics, and women, peace and security. These will be followed by sea drills off the coast of Zambales province, including boarding operations, helicopter cross-deck landings and medical evacuation.The latest engagement builds on the inaugural ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise, held in Singapore in 2023.

Meanwhile, India Ambassador to the Philippines Harsh Kumar Jain attended the opening ceremony of the second AIME at Subic Bay as the Guest of Honour."In his address, Ambassador Jain noted that the seas have long connected India and Southeast Asia. He underscored that maritime security and prosperity are a shared responsibility, in line with India's vision of MAHASAGAR, and reaffirmed India's steadfast support for ASEAN centrality and the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific," the Indian Embassy in the Philippines posted on X on Tuesday.Highlighting the exercise's theme, "Anchored in Trust, United at Sea," Jain observed that trust forged through training together becomes a vital operational capability in times of crisis.He



also congratulated all participants and thanked the Philippines for co-hosting the exercise as ASEAN Chair during the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation 2026, the Indian mission said.Ambassador Jain also visited the Indian Navy's indigenous stealth frigate INS Sahyadri and missile corvette INS Kulish at Subic Bay. Both ships recently participated in the ADMM-Plus Maritime Security exercise at Subic Bay and are now taking part in AIME2026.Ambassador Jain interacted with the officers and sailors, appreciating their dedication and hard work while deployed far from home, and their important role in strengthening India's maritime partnerships with ASEAN. The Commanding Officers briefed him on the ships' capabilities, technological readiness, and crew welfare during long overseas deployments," the Indian embassy posted on X.

Indians faced average 346-day wait for US visitor visa interview: Audit

Washington: Applicants in India waited an average of 346 days for a US visitor visa interview in fiscal 2025, more than eight times the 42-day average before the pandemic, according to a federal audit released on Monday (US local time).The Government Accountability Office found that demand had outpaced consular staffing in India. The 346-day figure is a historical average for obtaining an interview. It does not describe the time taken to decide an application after an interview or the wait facing someone who applies today.

According to the federal audit, India received an estimated 1,455,255 applications for nonimmigrant visas in 2025. The State Department had 68 consular officers working on such visas in the country, which makes it about 21,401 applications per officer. Those figures cover several temporary visa categories, while the 346-day wait refers specifically to visitor visa interviews, it said.The comparison with other large visa markets was stark. The average visitor visa interview wait was 34 days in China and 32 days in Brazil. Mexico, which had a similar number of applications per officer to India, recorded a 283-day wait. India was seventh among the 10 countries with the longest average waits.

The auditors visited New Delhi, along with Mexico City, Beijing and Sao Paulo. State Department staff in India and Mexico said high demand and too few officers after the pandemic had hampered their ability to clear backlogs. Across the four countries, officials identified staffing relative to demand as a principal factor behind interview delays.Space was another constraint. The audit said there were too few



interview windows in New Delhi for the number of officers needed to handle demand. Auditors also saw hundreds of applicants waiting outside the US embassy and in secondary waiting areas. A planned move to a new building on the embassy compound would leave the number of windows unchanged, the report said.Officials also cited the work involved in assessing some applications and the role of paid visa agents. Some agents reserve appointment slots as they become available and sell them to clients, according to State Department officials interviewed by the auditors. The department has changed its scheduling system to counter that practice.The State Department has tried other ways to ease the pressure. In fiscal 2024, a Washington-based unit remotely handled 80.6 per cent of New Delhi's visitor visa cases eligible for an interview waiver. Staff in New Delhi also worked extra Saturdays to process applications.

Singapore sentences Indian IT vendor for endangering State Courts' data



Singapore: An Indian national has been sentenced to 28 weeks in jail for compromising the safety of more than 18,000 files belonging to Singapore's State Courts while working as an IT vendor, officials said.Janarthanan Tamil Kovan, 42, pleaded guilty on Monday to endangering the safety of documents belonging to the State Courts and the Government of Singapore under the Official Secrets Act and making an unlawful modification to a government-managed laptop issued to him, local media reported. A third charge was taken into consideration.Although he had granted an acquaintance remote access to the laptop, no files were transferred during the session.

In June 2024, Janarthanan, a service delivery manager with Lenovo PCCW Solutions, was attached to the State Courts as an external IT vendor. He was a team leader of the State Courts' cloud system team, which manages various systems and applications of the courts.Janarthanan was issued with a Lenovo ThinkPad laptop, a government-managed device governed by GovTech's acceptable use policy and Lenovo's own policy. Both policies prohibit unauthorised access and modifications to the laptop.On August 4, 2025, Janarthanan decided to use the laptop to take an examination for an international professional association focused on information technology governance, to be certified as a certified information security manager. His own laptop was faulty.

When he could not operate the security-protected laptop, Janarthanan reached out to a person he knew as Hari Balan, whom he had communicated with previously on WhatsApp about IT-related courses. Balan had an IP address in India, Channel News Asia reported, citing court documents.At the time of the connection, 18,016 files belonging to the State Courts were stored on Janarthanan's laptop. All but one of the files were classified as restricted and non-sensitive. The remaining file was classified as restricted and sensitive (high).The files contained login credentials, secret keys and network architecture details of the State Courts' network.On August 14, 2025, a representative from the Corporate Services Division of the Singapore judiciary lodged a police report about the unauthorised installation of the remote desktop application.Janarthanan was investigated by the Technology Crime Investigation Branch of the Criminal Investigation Department.While the files themselves did not contain any sensitive case-specific information, the files contained information that could potentially be used to gain unauthorised access to systems that had sensitive and confidential information, such as case information and judges' notes.Janarthanan, in September 2025, admitted that his actions endangered the safety of the files, which could have been transferred or stolen when the remote connection was established.Deputy Public Prosecutor Matthew Choo sought seven to nine months' jail, saying Janarthanan had been entrusted with a laptop containing sensitive information."He ought to have known better, as a team leader of the State Courts' cloud system team, to not allow unauthorised accesses to and make unauthorised modifications to the laptop," the Channel quoted Choo as saying. "Ironically, he did so to take an examination for information security."Defence lawyers S Balamurugan and A Ravidass sought three to four months' jail instead. Balamurugan said his client has two children back in India with his wife and his family is facing financial difficulties.District Judge Lorraine Ho noted, however, that the risk of harm was great as there could be a systemic attack causing possible public alarm and fear. He also noted the offender had allowed an unknown foreign entity to have unauthorised access to data on his laptop.

Gunners Soldierathon Hyderabad draws 6,610 runners

Hyderabad: The second edition of the Federal Bank Gunners Soldierathon Hyderabad, organised by Fitistan – Ek Fit Bharat, witnessed an overwhelming participation of 6,610 runners at the Artillery Centre, Golconda. The event brought together Armed Forces personnel, veterans, families, fitness enthusiasts and citizens to celebrate fitness while honouring the courage, commitment and sacrifice of India's Gunners.The event marked the 200-year legacy of the Regiment of Artillery, bringing its rich history and traditions closer to the public through the spirit of sport, endurance and community participation.

Anthropic's IPO prospectus shows sweeping AI vision, surging costs



Anthropic is making a massive bet that AI will transform the global economy more profoundly than ?industrialization, electricity and the internet, according to its IPO prospectus seen by Reuters.But the cost to get there will be staggering. Anthropic reported a net loss of $42 billion ?in 2025, and plans to spend $518 billion on cloud, computing and infrastructure obligations in coming years, according to the prospectus.Get a look at the day ahead in U.S. and global markets with the Morning Bid U.S. newsletter. Sign up here.The prospectus details how the company has grown sharply in the last year — while also posting wider losses. Revenue grew 12-fold in 2025 to nearly $4.6 billion, even as the company lost more than $8 billion on an operating basis, excluding writedowns of various liabilities mostly tied to previous fundraising, according to the documents, reported here for the first time.The public sale, ?which could value it at more than $2 trillion, would capitalize on the rapid rise of the AI startup lab that only came into existence five years ago, and establish it ?as a benchmark for how Wall Street values AI's leading companies, including rival OpenAI.The plans come as Anthropic confronts evidence from its own research that increasingly ?autonomous AI models can behave in unexpected and potentially harmful ways, including sabotaging code, assisting fraud and manipulating information in controlled tests.These reports have broken into the wider public sphere, igniting fears over ?how companies can keep the increasingly powerful systems under control as they race to deploy them commercially.Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei has called for the global AI community to slow the pace of releasing new ?capabilities to address those concerns. Still, Anthropic rolled out its new Opus 5.5 model last week to counter OpenAI's momentum since its launch of GPT-6 Astra, ahead of its own expected IPO.The AI lab spent $7.33 billion on compute and infrastructure last year, a threefold surge from 2024, accounting for more than half of its $12.65 billion in total operating expenses.Anthropic's public market debut is likely to be pushed to after the November US midterm elections, Reuters previously reported, citing ?sources. The sale would bring public investors into an AI race that has been until now underwritten by venture capital firms, sovereign wealth funds and Big Tech companies.Anthropic's ?expected valuation target is more than double its own estimated valuation of $965 billion in May.The near-$42 billion net loss included a roughly $34 billion accounting charge that reflected an increase in the estimated value of financing that could eventually ?turn into Anthropic ?shares, rather than money the company spent running its business.People visit an Anthropic booth at Moscone Center during the Dreamforce 2026 technology summit in San Francisco, California, US, September 17, 2026. REUTERS/Carlos Barria Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tabAnthropic said nearly a quarter of its revenue came from two customers last year, and as part of its risk factors, warned that many of its largest clients were not locked into long-term contracts and could cut or stop spending.Anthropic had cash, cash equivalents and short-term investments totaling $20.28 billion as of December 31, the prospectus shows.That company's shares surged 19% in their June 12 debut to $160, but currently trade at around $147 -- above where the IPO sold at $135 apiece.That performance could give ?investors pause as they assess the still-lofty valuations for ?high-growth companies. AI and chip stocks have ?sold off recently, and Anthropic's sale will further test whether enthusiasm for the AI trade can withstand greater scrutiny, given its ambitious growth projections.Still, the listing stands to cap one of the strongest years for US IPOs since 2021, despite elevated interest rates, economic uncertainty and valuation concerns.THE TRILLION-DOLLAR AI RACEAnthropic's ?biggest challenger remains OpenAI, as the two firms fiercely compete for business customers, talent and influence in Washington. OpenAI confidentially filed for an IPO in ?June. The ChatGPT maker is ?expected to list by early 2027, according to media reports.Anthropic was founded by researchers who left its rival after disagreements over governance and AI safety. It released its first large language model in March 2023, competing directly with OpenAI.Analysts expect the first company to go public to establish valuation benchmarks for the AI industry and attract investors who have waited ?years for ?a pure-play way to bet on the technology.and Google were two of Anthropic's early key strategic partners. Both companies ?have invested billions of dollars into the startup while simultaneously supplying cloud infrastructure needed to train and deploy Claude models.Anthropic and CEO Amodei have clashed with the White House over the use of its tools, which led to the Pentagon temporarily blacklisting Anthropic, ?a move blocked by a US judge in August.Reporting by Echo Wang in New York and Manya Saini in Bengaluru; Writing by Sayantani Ghosh;

Tukaram Mundhe on Sanjay Raut's extortion charges: 'Show me'



Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe has responded to the extortion charges levelled by Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut against the food safety regulator's officers, saying the charges are generic and lack specifics.Tukaram Mundhe also said that his office has not received any letter from Sanjay Raut on his allegations that food safety officials were extorting hoteliers, restaurants and quick commerce businesses. According to several media reports, Sanjay Raut reportedly wrote a letter to Tukaram Mundhe, alleging that "this industry of collecting money by threatening and blackmailing hoteliers has now started with more vigour than before.""FDA Designated Officers (DOs), Assistant Commissioners (ACs) and Food Safety Officers (FSOs) are openly collecting large amounts of money from hotels, restaurants and quick commerce businesses by threatening to suspend their licences. It is being said that before Mundhe became FDA Commissioner, the rate for closing notices was Rs 10,000–12,000. After Mundhe created panic, the same rate went up to Rs 75,000 to Rs 2 lakh," the letter reportedly states.

Responding to the allegations, Tukaram Mundhe told The Indian Express: "I haven't received any copy of the letter. I have also read about it in media reports. I am really thankful to him (Sanjay Raut). My request is that if he has details, please share them with me or with the Anti-Corruption Bureau, whoever he trusts."Mundhe also said he wanted all licensees who had been asked for money, or had paid it, to reach out to him with details of the officer and the transaction.

Asked about fears among small and mid-segment restaurateurs, hoteliers and quick commerce operators that complaining against an FDA officer would invite further harassment, he said, "You have to have faith in somebody. Even on my complaint portal, we mask the name. Nobody knows who filed the complaint. Similarly, if you reach out to me, I won't reveal your identity to my officers. What I need is just evidence. If any of my officers is doing anything corrupt, please bring it to my notice with all the details."Tukaram Mundhe took charge as Maharashtra FDA commissioner on May 25, and until August, the food safety regulator had conducted 12,083 inspections, issued 5,269 improvement notices, and suspended 603 licenses.

Manoj Jarange warns Maharashtra government against delay



Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar: Activist Manoj Jarange on Monday claimed that efforts were underway to discredit him during the 90-day period he has given the Maharashtra government to accept the demands pertaining to the Maratha quota.Addressing a press conference at a private hospital here, Jarange, however, said the Maratha community would defeat all such efforts to corner him and those associated with him.Jarange also said he would soon reveal the connections behind such efforts and those involved in them.

"The Maratha community has understood that inquiries will take place and it shows how much people (associated with the quota stir) are being troubled. We will bear everything but we will not surrender. If they want to send us to jail, I will go," Jarange asserted.Jarange said the names of experts proficient in reading the Modi script would be submitted to the state government and that they should be given the power to identify and upload names from records across Maharashtra."We are going to give the names of the Modi script experts to the state government. The subcommittee and the government should give power to these experts to find names and upload them too so that they can work across the state," he said."We will not give a single day more than the 90-day period we have given to implement Hyderabad and other gazettes, revoke cases and give aid to those who lost their lives in the fight for Maratha quota," Jarange asserted.

Jarange said Maratha political leaders were more interested in themselves than members of the community. However, the Maratha community was keeping an eye on this, he added.The Maharashtra government must have the capacity to face criticism and fulfil the quota demands of the community, Jarange said.Taking a swipe at his detractors, Jarange said the more they spoke, the more the Maratha community would awaken. People from the community would understand that these leaders and political parties would not come to their help, he added.He also said his Dussehra rally at Narayangad in Beed district would be held on a small scale due to the prevailing drought situation.On September 17, Jarange called off his 20-day-old fast and warned the Maharashtra government that he would take the protest to Mumbai if his demands over Maratha reservation were not considered within three months. He has been demanding reservation for the Marathas under the OBC category based on Kunbi caste genealogy.

BJP rigged EVMs for Chandra Shekhar Aazad's win in 2024 Lok Sabha polls

Mayawati AazadBSP chief Mayawati on Monday accused the BJP of manipulating electronic voting machines to help Chandra Shekhar Aazad win the Nagina Lok Sabha seat in 2024.Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati alleged Monday that the BJP manipulated electronic voting machines (EVMs) to help Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) chief Chandra Shekhar Aazad win the Nagina Lok Sabha seat in Uttar Pradesh in 2024.Speaking ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, Mayawati also demanded an immediate end to EVMs and called for a return to ballot papers.

In the 2024 elections, Chandra Shekhar Aazad won the Nagina constituency by defeating BJP candidate Om Kumar by a margin of 1.51 lakh votes. BSP candidate Surendra Pal Singh finished fourth, securing just 1.33 per cent of the total vote share.Repeating that the BSP has consistently opposed EVMs, Mayawati said her party's supporters believe their votes are redirected to non-BSP candidates due to machine manipulation, eroding public trust in the electoral process.In a press note in Hindi, she said,"A primary example is the Aazad Samaj Party MP (Chandra Shekhar Aazad), who has no base in the Nagina (SC-reserved) constituency. Yet, through a conspiracy specifically aimed at damaging the BSP, the BJP got him elected by manipulating the EVMs, a view shared by local residents there."Reacting to Mayawati's allegations, Chandra Shekhar Aazad said, "I am glad that Behanji has acknowledged Aazad Samaj Party (Kanshi Ram) as a major force."In a Hindi post on X, he said Nagina people elected him in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections with 5.12 lakh votes. "Raising questions about the election process and transparency of EVMs is every citizen's right in a democracy. I myself have consistently demanded maximum transparency and use of ballot papers in the election process. But linking the mandate with which Nagina people elected me as their representative with any conspiracy hurts the sentiments of voters who cast their vote with conscience.""Wherever



Behanji's written press note may have come from, I am pleased that those who once used to say, 'Who is Chandrashekhar?', have now been shown by the people of this country who Chandrashekhar is—the one who fights for us, the one who struggles on the streets," he added.

Mayawati targets BJP over EVMsMayawati said that elections used ballot papers for five decades before the Election Commission introduced EVMs. She recalled that when the Congress was in power at the Centre, the BJP itself had heavily opposed EVMs, arguing that electronic devices with installed chips could easily be hacked.The BJP even published a book on the topic and accused the Congress of winning elections by misusing EVMs," she said. "Because of such security concerns, most countries do not use EVMs and rely on ballot papers instead. BJP leaders previously demanded an end to EVMs, yet it is surprising that after coming to power at the Centre, they continued using them for voting and counting. As far as the BSP is concerned, we have opposed EVM voting from the very beginning."The BSP supremo concluded by stating that stopping the use of EVMs and restoring ballot papers is essential to re-establishing voters' faith in free and fair elections.

NCP merger still on? Sharad Pawar shuts down all rumours, says not going anywhere

The merger talks between the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) and the NCP (SP) may have cooled off in the past few weeks, but the buzz around the two parties coming together has not died down. When Sharad Pawar was asked about the NCP merger at an event in Mumbai, the NCP-SP chief said that his party wouldn't go anywhere. Sharad Pawar also said that other parties can merge with his party if they want.

Addressing the district presidents of the NCP-SP and affiliated organisations in Mumbai's YB Chavan center, Sharad Pawar said, "While discussing politics, our state president used a phrase and mentioned in a passing remark that various discussions and rumors were going around.""As the party head, I want to clarify that whatever discussion is taking place, it is about making the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar) powerful under the present leadership in Maharashtra," Sharad Pawar said.

Other organisations or individuals are telling us that they came close to us, but no one came close to us. If anyone wants to come, they must merge with us on our terms; we will not go to anyone, and I am making this stand very clear as we proceed to take our decisions," he said.Recalling how two robots greeted him at an institute in Baramati, Sharad Pawar spoke about the dangers of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, which has now come under heavy criticism after the Express investigation.Sharad Pawar said, "We just heard our colleague Jitendra Awhad explaining to us about the wrongdoings in the SIR process. I fear that these robots and the tools of Artificial Intelligence will be used to decide and change election results.""That is why I have advised our state president that this is a completely new technical method. After reviewing information from Russia, America, Europe and other countries, it is clear that artificial intelligence comes with both benefits and drawbacks," he said.



'We're struggling': Minister's viral remark bares Karnataka's financial strain

Karnataka Municipal Administration Minister H C Balakrishna's comments about the state government's guarantee schemes have gone viral, highlighting the financial strain brought about by the initiatives implemented to fulfil the Congress's election promises.While receiving petitions from disabled people at Ramanagara in Bengaluru, the minister said on September 26, "We understand your problems. But you know how things are. There are constraints. Want it or not, we have given guarantees."

Balakrishna said farmers were also expecting relief because of the drought situation. "We have to provide relief for people. They protest if we don't. Those receiving guarantees also protest (if money is not debited). We are struggling after getting stuck in this problem," he said, raising concerns about the government's fiscal challenges."If there were no guarantees, these issues would not have been a major problem. Everything could have been sorted out easily. We too have to run the government. Everything should be done as per budgetary allocation. It's not that we don't want to help you," he told a delegation of disabled people.

The comments attracted criticism from the JD(S), which said the minister "publicly acknowledged that the state government has gone bankrupt". The Opposition party contended that the treasury was empty and developmental activities had come to a standstill in the state.This is the second time in as many weeks that Karnataka government finances have come under the scanner. During the special session of the legislature, the D K Shivakumar-led government found itself in a spot of bother after a Cabinet note revealed that new big-ticket announcements were not feasible due to financial constraints.



Delhi winter pollution plan: Construction banned, double parking fee, 50% WFH

Delhi will see a complete ban on construction-demolition activities from December 10-January 20 to combat winter pollution, said Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Monday while outlining pollution-control measures.The government has also mandated that petrol, diesel and CNG or LPG retail outlets across Delhi supply fuel only to vehicles with a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUCC) throughout the year. It has separately announced an enforcement drive against vehicles with invalid PUCCs from October 1.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta attended the meeting along with Sirsa and senior officials from various departments. The meeting reviewed major sources of pollution in the Capital, ongoing mitigation measures and ways to strengthen monitoring and coordination between departments.The discussions came as the Delhi government prepares to implement a set of restrictions that will come into force annually from November 1 to February 28.The measures, notified on June 23, would operate parallel to the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP), under which restrictions are imposed by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) depending on prevailing air quality.Under this framework, Delhi, for the first time, will see several measures made mandatory in advance during the winter pollution period rather than GRAP measures that kick in depending on air quality forecasts.

Among the key measures is a ban from November 1 to January 31 on motor vehicles registered outside Delhi that do not meet BS-VI emission standards. CNG and electric vehicles, emergency services and other specifically exempted categories will be excluded.MCD offices will operate from 8.30 am to 5 pm and Delhi government offices from 10 am to 6.30 pm during the November-February period.3. Work from home mandate-From November 1 to January 31, government and private offices will be required to operate with no more than 50 per cent physical attendance, with the remaining employees working from home.-Essential services, including hospitals, public transport, power, water supply, sanitation, disaster management and pollution-control agencies are exempt.-Private entities have been advised to adopt staggered working hours and measures such as car-pooling, ride-sharing and common buses to reduce vehicular movement.4. Parking fee to increaseParking charges at authorised parking sites will be doubled between November 1 and February 28, although parking facilities owned and managed by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation would be exempt.5. Phased construction curbsConstruction and demolition activity will face progressively stricter restrictions.-From November 1 to January 31, dust-generating demolition and open civil construction activities will be prohibited, except for essential public infrastructure projects.-A complete ban on construction and demolition, barring urgent government and emergency works, will apply from December 10 to January 20, officials said.

-Vehicles carrying construction material such as sand, stone, bricks, cement and debris will also be barred from entering the city during the period, subject to exemptions for projects of national importance, essential public infrastructure and emergency works.6. Other measures-Anti-smog guns or mist systems at large commercial buildings and construction sites of specific sizes have to be deployed.-Residents' welfare associations, housing societies, institutions, contractors and other establishments have also been made responsible for preventing the burning of waste, biomass, leaves, garbage and plastic within areas under their control.Under the existing framework, Stage I is triggered when the Air Quality Index (AQI) is in the 201-300 range, Stage II at 301-400, Stage III at 401-450 and Stage IV when AQI is above 450. The measures become progressively stricter as air quality deteriorates.



At Monday's meeting, the Delhi government reiterated that pollution control would be treated as a year-round exercise rather than being limited to the winter months.Gupta said the guidance and suggestions shared by Yadav would further strengthen the government's action plan, while Sirsa said the government was working on pollution control throughout the year through technical and scientific measures.The meeting also sought to strengthen on-ground monitoring and coordination among departments, said senior officials with the government saying the objective was to address major pollution sources through enforcement and continuous monitoring.

Supreme Court declines urgent hearing on Bengal SIR appeals

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Monday declined to advance the hearing of pleas concerning the pendency of appeals arising from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal.Bypolls in Rejinagar and Nandigram Assembly constituencies in the state will be held on October 6.A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana said the matter would be taken up on October 5.

The matter was mentioned for an urgent hearing after the court was informed that the case, earlier expected to be heard on September 29, was now tentatively listed for October 5.Seeking an earlier hearing, the lawyer said more than 18,000 appeals against the exclusion of names from the electoral rolls were still pending before appellate tribunals constituted pursuant to the Supreme Court's directions."There are more than 18,000 appeals pending



which have not been disposed of. These people did not take part in the first elections," the counsel said, adding that the affected voters could miss out on exercising their franchise for a second time.The counsel pointed out that the October 6 bypolls were scheduled immediately after the proposed October 5 hearing and urged the court to take up the matter earlier.

Death toll rises to four in Mancherial

Mancherial: The death toll in the tragic Naspur road accident has risen to four, with two more women succumbing to their injuries while undergoing treatment here on Monday.Police said the deceased women were identified as Aggu Soundarya, Laxmi, Soniya and Sumalatha, all hailing from different villages in Mandamarri and employed at a shopping mall in Mancherial town.

Soundarya and Laxmi were killed instantly, while five others sustained serious injuries after a truck rammed into an auto-rickshaw in Naspur on Monday morning. Soniya and Sumalatha later died while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Mancherial town. The condition of three other passengers remains critical.The victims were on their way to work when the mishap occurred. Negligence on the part of the three-wheeler driver was suspected to have caused the accident. The driver reportedly made a sudden U-turn after reaching Naspur. A lorry coming from the opposite direction collided with the auto-rickshaw, leading to the fatal crash, eyewitnesses said.

Fake drug racket suspect who fled to Azerbaijan held on arrival in Bengaluru



A Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Bengaluru police investigating a fake medicine racket arrested its alleged kingpin at Kempegowda International Airport soon after his arrival from Sharjah, UAE, on Monday morning.A lookout notice was issued for the accused, Prashant Rajanbabu, after he reportedly fled to Azerbaijan. He had been missing since August 18, when authorities seized suspected counterfeit medicines worth around Rs 5 crore, along with fake bills, injection-filling equipment, and counterfeit labels during raids in the Bidadi and Dodderi areas of Bengaluru South district.

Investigators suspect the network supplied counterfeit cancer drugs, other life-saving medicines, and ICU injections to more than 90 hospitals and clinics in Bengaluru, allegedly offering them at discounts of around 50 per cent.An SIT official said that Rajanbabu's arrest and interrogation would be crucial in the case.

Karnataka's Food Safety and Drugs Administration (FSDA), which continued its raids on September 20, cancelled the licences of 16 retail and wholesale pharmaceutical firms across Bengaluru and suspended those of eight others, including a depot of global pharma major Pfizer, for their alleged role in selling or supplying spurious products.According to the FSDA, preliminary investigations suggest that the racket procured cheaper medications from neighbouring states and refilled them into new vials and relabelled them to counterfeit expensive life-saving brands of multinational corporations, specifically imitating imported Pfizer products.To deceive buyers and maximise illicit profits, the counterfeit labels featured QR codes that the FSDA found to be non-functional when scanned.These counterfeit drugs lack active medicinal ingredients and may contain harmful substances, posing a serious threat to public health, the agency noted.

Delhi records second-coldest September night in 25 years, coldest in 2 years



Delhi recorded its second-lowest night temperature in September in 25 years, with the Safdarjung Observatory recording a minimum of 21 degrees Celsius.Settling three notches below the seasonal normal, the plunge also gave Delhi its coldest September night in two years, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).The last time the city saw a colder September night was in 2008, at 20.8 degrees Celsius. In 2024, it had dropped to 21.1 degrees, recording the third-lowest minimum temperature recorded in September since 2001.

As per IMD, the dip in temperature was even more pronounced across other parts of the Capital. The Palam observatory clocked 19.2 degrees Celsius, 4.7 degrees below normal, while Mayur Vihar stood at 19.5 degrees. The coolest pocket in the city was the Delhi Ridge station, where the minimum plunged to 16.8 degrees Celsius, marking a steep seven-notch departure categorised as "markedly below normal" by the IMD. Neighbouring stations such as Lodhi Road and Ayanagar recorded minimums of 21 and 21.2 degrees, respectively.Similarly, at 29.2 degrees, the maximum temperature on Sunday was also five notches below normal.

IMD officials attributed Sunday's low to various factors. "The low-pressure area over central Uttar Pradesh was drawing moisture into the region, while a Western Disturbance was also active over North India. This led to increased cloud cover and rainfall over Delhi-NCR. The cloud cover reduced day-time heating, while the wet ground and strong North-Northeasterly winds triggered increased cooling," an IMD official explained.On Saturday, Safdarjung recorded 4.9 mm of rainfall, while Ridge recorded 6.8 mm. Parts of Noida received 26.5 mm of rainfall. Gusts blowing at up to 33 kmph were also reported at Palam, as North-Northeasterly winds blowing at 20-25 kmph were logged through the day, IMD said.According to the IMD's seven-day forecast, Monday will see partly cloudy skies, while the rest of the week will witness "mainly clear" conditions. Day temperatures are expected to climb to 35 degrees Celsius, and night temperatures are likely to be around 25 degrees.

Online rummy app owners scammed users, diverted funds to buy villas: ED

The Enforcement Directorate's Bengaluru zonal office has provisionally attached movable and immovable properties worth Rs 442.35 crore in connection with a money laundering case involving the RummyCulture app and associated entities, the agency said Sunday.The agency launched the investigation after multiple FIRs were registered in Telangana earlier this year, and raids began in May at the companies' office premises and the residences of their directors. Ramesh Prabhu, former group chief financial officer of RummyCulture's operator Gameskraft Technologies, was previously booked for allegedly siphoning off Rs 250 crore from the company, most of which he reportedly lost in options trading.



Search operations conducted in May and June led to the seizure of several incriminating documents, digital devices, and electronic records, which served as crucial evidence during the investigation.The agency said the newly attached assets include fixed deposit balances, commercial shops, a luxury villa, multiple residential properties registered in family members' names, private family trusts, and entities associated with Gameskraft Technologies shareholders.Prior search operations froze movable assets worth Rs 495 crore, along with Rs 11 lakh in cash and 2.30 kg of gold and diamond jewellery/bullion. A previous provisional attachment order had already secured properties valued at Rs 1,906 crore. With the latest action, the total value of assets attached, frozen, and seized by the agency in this case stands at Rs 2,843 crore.The agency claims that Gameskraft Technologies and Rummy Time Technologies operated online real-money games, specifically online rummy platforms and tournaments, via mobile applications, including RummyCulture, RummyPrime, Playship, and RummyTime.

The platforms accumulated a user base of approximately 3 crore players across the country. A significant portion of these users were located in states where online real-money gaming is legally banned, including Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu. The companies generated substantial revenues by charging platform commissions ranging from 10 per cent to 15 per cent on user wagering and staking deposits.Despite assuring players that the gaming environment was fair, transparent, and free of automated players, the companies allegedly deployed BOTs (automated algorithms) against unsuspecting users without their knowledge or consent. This setup caused heavy financial losses for players while generating vast criminal proceeds for the platforms.To recruit and retain players, the entities allegedly spent approximately Rs 1,035 crore on marketing, luring users with sign-up bonuses, referral rewards, free entries, and promotional incentives.To restrict user payouts, the platforms allegedly implemented restrictive withdrawal policies such as a 5-10 per cent levy on withdrawal requests. They also allegedly encouraged users to convert withdrawable funds into non-withdrawable 'Game Cash' through 'Super Booster' offers.The agency claims that they targeted inactive or dormant players through SMS, push notifications, and telemarketing calls to induce re-engagement. It says the proceeds of crime generated through these practices were laundered via dividend payments and share buybacks. They allegedly concealed the funds by investing in mutual funds, bonds, convertible notes, equity shares, movable assets, and high-value real estate properties through family trusts and shell entities.

Cash-on-delivery order, chilli powder, and a robbery: 2 sisters arrested in Delhi

Around 7.20 pm on September 25, a delivery worker was waiting outside a home near Hanuman Mandir in Rohini Sector 5 with an online order. The woman who had placed it, Nancy Singh, 26, came out to collect the parcel.But instead of taking the delivery, police alleged, Nancy tried to snatch several parcels from the worker's delivery bag. When he resisted, she allegedly threw chilli powder into his eyes and grabbed the bag.Moments later, her younger sister Gracy Singh, 20, arrived on a scooter and allegedly knocked him down from behind.The sisters then fled with several parcels.A case was registered at Budh Vihar police station under charges of committing or attempting to commit robbery while voluntarily causing hurt.



Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rohini) Shashank Jaiswal said a team comprising Assistant Sub-Inspector Ramesh, head constables Rajesh, Kuldeep, Rajesh and Rashmi, and constables Vijay and Sweety was formed to investigate the case.Within 15 hours, the sisters were arrested from Rohini's Budh Vihar area.According to police, the sisters live in a rented home in Karol Bagh. Nancy had completed a course in fashion designing and was unemployed, while Gracy is a Class 12 dropout. Their parents live in Rohini Sector 5, police said.Their father had previously worked in a private company, according to police, while their brother works for a private company. An officer privy to the investigation said the family was facing financial difficulties and the sisters appeared to have committed the alleged robbery in an attempt to overcome them.Investigators said Nancy had placed orders for women's clothing and beauty products through an e-commerce platform on a cash-on-delivery basis. Police suspect the sisters planned to take away the parcels and sell them for money.Robbery that initially raised suspicionThe incident initially led investigators to suspect that it could have been staged or that the delivery worker himself might have been involved, police said. However, CCTV footage and other technical evidence subsequently indicated that the robbery had taken place.When the police team reached the spot, they found the delivery worker with chilli powder on his face and shirt. He was subsequently medically examined and was found to have sustained an injury to his leg.During questioning, the sisters allegedly told police that they carried chilli powder for their own safety. Police said the claim was still being verified.Police said three of the allegedly stolen parcels, along with the scooter and a mobile phone purportedly used in the crime, were recovered.The sisters were initially taken into police custody for two days before being sent to Tihar Jail.

Gurugram's groundwater plunges to 50 m, levels fall across 6 of 7 sites



Six of seven monitoring stations in urban Gurugram recorded an annual decline, with the sharpest fall of 2.34 m at Baliawas, stated a Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) report submitted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

Gurugram is facing a water paradox: its groundwater is dipping even as parts of the city continue to flood during the monsoon.A Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) report submitted to the Punjab and Haryana High Court shows groundwater levels fell at six of seven urban monitoring points over the past year, with the deepest reading at 50.30 metres below ground (mbgl).The affidavit was placed before a bench comprising Chief Justice Ashwani Kumar Mishra and Justice Rohit Kapoor in a long-pending writ petition addressing the city's unchecked subsoil extraction and environmental degradation.The court had on September 22 cautioned that the Millennium City faces a progressively "grim" future unless aggressive remedial measures are taken to halt aquifer depletion and address the recurring paradox of monsoon waterlogging.

According to the data submitted by Vidya Nand, Scientist and Head of Office at the CGWA's North Western Region office, depth to water level (DTWL) observations across Gurugram Urban during the pre-monsoon seasons of 2025 and 2026 revealed widespread depletion and substantial spatial variation.Depth to Water Level measures how far down from the ground surface one has to dig or drill before hitting underground water. A higher DTWL number means the water table has dropped deeper, signaling that local groundwater reserves are depleting and getting harder to reach.Across the urban limits of Gurugram, water levels ranged from 2.5 mbgl to 50.30 mbgl.

Out of seven urban monitoring wells assessed by the agency, four recorded groundwater levels deeper than 20 mbgl. The deepest water level in the urban belt was recorded at Kherki Daula at 50.30 mbgl, the affidavit recorded.-Six monitoring wells also recorded a fall in groundwater levels over the past year. The declines ranged from 0.08 metres to 2.34 metres, with the sharpest fall recorded at Baliawas. Only one monitoring station at the Cell Office recorded a rise of 1.34 metres.The CGWA informed the court that the integrated findings demonstrate an overall decline in groundwater levels across urban Gurugram, punctuated by only localised pockets of recovery.Across the wider Gurugram district, data collected by the Ground Water Cell, Haryana, and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) showed groundwater levels ranging from 1.0 mbgl to 50.3 mbgl during the pre-monsoon period in 2026.

In 2025, the range was 1.3 mbgl to 49.6 mbgl during the pre-monsoon period. The deepest level was observed at Tatarpur at 49.6 mbgl, while Kheri Daula recorded the district's deepest point at 50.3 mbgl.The data also showed sharp differences between individual locations.The maximum annual water level rise was registered at Khawaspur, where levels improved by approximately 4.23 metres. Conversely, the steepest drop in the district occurred at Karola, where the water table plummeted by 5.41 metres.The authority said the localised declines warranted continued regulatory monitoring and targeted artificial recharge measures. It also submitted that groundwater regulation within the state is statutory governed by the Haryana Water Resources Authority (HWRA).The CGWA report was submitted in compliance with an order issued on August 19 by the High Court bench, which has been hearing a cluster of petitions originally filed in 2008 by Sunil Singh and joined by entities such as the Qutab Enclave Residents' Welfare Association.The litigation, active for nearly two decades, challenges rapid real estate expansion, including projects such as DLF Cyber City across Sectors 24, 25, and 25A, alleging construction proceeded without commensurate water supply networks, functional drainage, or requisite environmental checks, driving heavy reliance on unmetered private tubewells.During the September 22 hearing, the bench had pointed out that Gurugram is caught in a stark urban contradiction: the city suffers from dwindling freshwater reserves and severe subsoil depletion, yet is paralysed every monsoon due to urban inundation because authorities fail to channel storm runoff into subsoil aquifers.The judges had noted that natural water bodies have drastically diminished, sustaining channels remain blocked, and sewage treatment plants operate below capacity, failing to supply treated wastewater to ease freshwater demands.

In Karnataka job fraud case, probes show paper leaks may be only one part

Investigations into the alleged Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) veterinary doctors' recruitment exam paper leak have uncovered indications of corruption beyond the leaks, including alleged manipulation of candidate shortlists after the exam.The Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Karnataka Police Criminal Investigation Department (CID) findings emerged during the investigation into Gyanendra Kumar Gangwar, 41, an IAS officer and former controller of KPSC examinations.



CID arrested Gangwar on August 29, and ED took him into custody on September 18, over the January 2026 veterinary doctors' exam paper leak.ED, which searched 21 properties linked to alleged KPSC recruitment frauds, including those linked to the Commission's chairman Shivashankarappa S Sahukar and member Shantha Hosamani in August, told a special court last week that it had seized material indicating illegal practices by a KPSC official.According to ED, rough diaries recovered from a KPSC official contained notes suggesting that selections were manipulated at the shortlisting stage for eligible candidates for posts including veterinary officers, assistant engineers in various departments, and motor vehicle inspectors over the past two years.

The notes allegedly listed candidates who appeared in the initial 1:3 eligibility lists, with monetary figures recorded against some names."During the searches conducted at the residence of a KPSC official, certain materials were seized, and analysis of the materials shows involvement of KPSC officials in collecting illegal gratification from candidates appearing in recruitment examinations conducted by the KPSC, on the assurance of final selection," ED told the court.CID and ED are investigating allegations that she shared 13 phone calls with a candidate, who was selected, before their interview for the recruitment of 384 gazetted probationers, or Karnataka Administrative Service (KAS) officers.The recruitment has since been put on hold; more than two lakh aspirants had appeared for the preliminary examination.Gangwar told investigators during custodial interrogations that several KPSC officials collected bribes from candidates while preparing final merit lists for recruitments, according to the agencies.ED told the court that it is investigating the total amount allegedly involved in the KPSC "bribes-for-jobs" scandal.In the veterinary doctors recruitment, CID and ED allege that 20 of the roughly 1,400 candidates who appeared for an exam for 400 vacancies paid more than Rs 2 crore to middleman Basavaraj Kannale to obtain the leaked questions. Kannale allegedly charged between Rs 20 lakh and Rs 40 lakh per candidate.Investigators allege that Rs 52 lakh of the proceeds was subsequently transferred to Gangwar and used to buy expensive jewellery in Bengaluru for his girlfriend.The Karnataka High Court on September 21 ordered the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Karnataka Police to probe the KPSC scam.The state government has not yet constituted the SIT, as it is considering challenging the High Court's order in the Supreme Court.

1908 Musi flood victims remembered at Hyd memorial

Hyderabad: Tributes were paid to the victims of the 1908 Musi River floods at a memorial programme held on Monday beneath the historic tamarind tree on the Osmania General Hospital (OGH) premises.The memorial, organised by the Forum for a Better Hyderabad, brought together historians, students, and civil society members to remember the tragedy and advocate for sustainable urban planning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of the Forum for a Better Hyderabad, Manikonda Vedakumar, said that the natural flow channels and catchment areas of the Musi River must be fiercely protected."Saving the Musi means saving Hyderabad. Musi River and its natural flow channels must be given due importance in the future planning of Hyderabad. As the city continues to expand today, it is essential to protect the river's catchment areas, lakes and natural stormwater channels," he said.

During the event, a book titled 'Eyewitness Accounts on River Musi Floods of 1908', authored by Dr Dyavanpally Satyanarayana and published by the Deccan Heritage Academy Trust, was unveiled.Dr Satyanarayana, on the occasion, said that contemporary writings, archival newspaper reports, and oral narratives remain deeply relevant to modern-day flood management.On the occasion, Parashar presented a traditional Musi Flood Lavani performance, recounting the harrowing firsthand experiences passed down through generations.Dignitaries urged that such historical accounts and local oral histories related to Musi floods must be shared with younger generations through modern documentation, maps, and visual media to ensure public safety and river conservation go hand in hand.

Iran insists on diplomatic solution after Trump rejects peace plan



WASHINGTON/UNITED NATIONS/DUBAI, Iran insisted on Sunday that only diplomacy can solve its conflict with the ?United States and Israel, after US President Donald Trump said he rejected an Iranian proposal to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and end fighting."Our conditions are clear, and any move toward reopening ?the Strait of Hormuz is contingent on these conditions being met," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi posted on social media. "Only a negotiated solution can get them out of this deadlock."

Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here.Iran announced a peace proposal last week at the UN General Assembly in New York, saying it had been transmitted to the Americans via Qatari mediators. Trump said on Saturday he rejected the plan, and argued that desperation was driving the Iranians' push for an agreement on the key waterway."They want to make a deal to open the Hormuz Strait immediately because they're losing ?so badly," Trump told reporters at the White House.Keeping the door to diplomacy open, however, Trump told Axios in a phone interview on Sunday that he expected US negotiators to engage in more talks this ?week.Araqchi said mediators facilitating Tehran's talks with Washington had not officially relayed a US rejection of the plan.

"We are waiting for the mediators to convey the definitive views ?to us, and we will make a decision based on them," Araqchi posted.The US has imposed an economic blockade on Iran to put pressure on Tehran to stop Iranian attacks on vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, which ?have drastically reduced shipping through the area even as Trump repeatedly asserts that the US controls the waterway.The commander-in-chief of Iran's army, Amir Hatam, said the war was at a critical and decisive stage, adding that Tehran would not accept ?a situation in which it was unable to trade while foreign powers used the region's strategic waterways."If Iran cannot trade, if Iran cannot live, no one will be able to trade or live," he said, in comments reported by state media.SAUDI ARABIA DRAWN DEEPER INTO WARPrevious attempts at diplomacy have failed to end the war, which began on February 28 with US and Israeli strikes on Iran.Since then it has alternated between pauses and renewed strikes, killing thousands while degrading the conventional forces of Iran and damaging its already ?ailing economy.Iran and its allies have responded by extending the conflict throughout the region. Iran has struck US allies in the Gulf with drones and missiles, while its Houthi allies in Yemen have hit Saudi interests.

Saudi Arabia, the ?largest of the Gulf states, has been drawn deeper into the war this month as Houthi fighters have advanced in Yemen, routing forces of the Saudi-backed government and threatening Saudi oil exports through the Red Sea.The Iran-backed Houthis have repeatedly fired into Saudi ?Arabia and, ?in a possible sign of further escalation, parents in Riyadh received notices from schools on Sunday saying classes would shift to remote learning for the week, according to people who received the messages.The notice did not give a reason for the decision. Saudi authorities did not immediately respond to a request for comment.Yemen's Houthi-run health ministry, meanwhile, said seven people were killed and 40 wounded, including children, in a strike on shops at a market at the Mawiya junction in Taiz province, in the southwest.Later, Yemen's internationally recognised government said its forces had targeted a Houthi military camp and vehicles at the same junction.CONFLICT HAS DISRUPTED OIL FLOWS, HARMED GLOBAL ECONOMY

The Iranians also engaged their Saudi rivals regarding the ?Strait of Hormuz during the brief flurry of diplomacy in ?New York, underscoring the stakes of a seven-month-old ?conflict that has disrupted oil flows through a critical shipping lane and taken a toll on the global economy.Araqchi told reporters at the UN on Friday the proposed deal would trigger a seven-day countdown to reopening the strait and a pause in regional fighting."If there is seriousness on the US side to come to a deal and reopen the Strait ?of Hormuz, everything is now prepared," Araqchi said. If the US were to agree, the warring parties could start wider talks "on mutually agreed subjects."That could potentially include ?discussions of Iran's nuclear programme. Trump ?has cited preventing Tehran from ever acquiring a nuclear bomb as a key goal, along with ending its ability to attack its neighbours and creating conditions for Iranians to topple their leadership.

US envoy to the United Nations Mike Waltz said on Sunday in an interview with CNN's State of the Union that Trump had rejected the Iranian proposal because it required the immediate lifting of sanctions and release of frozen assets."So the bottom line is they were asking for everything up front with ?a promise that ?they would then talk," Waltz said. "The president's just not confident that the Iranians are coming in good faith and that they will truly ?negotiate the end of their nuclear programme."Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, in an interview with the CBS show "Face the Nation", said Tehran was ready for talks on its nuclear programme and other issues, but would not accept "bullying or coercion"."Iran is not seeking war, but will defend itself against ?pressure, threats and attacks," Pezeshkian said, adding that it had already agreed that "we're not supposed to develop nuclear weapons".Adds Trump expects more talks this week in paragraph 5

Trump and Xi's 'stalemate' summit was a glitzy gift to China



President Donald Trump hoped his pomp-filled summit with Xi Jinping in Washington last week would showcase the strength of his personal relationship with the Chinese ?leader.Instead, the limited outcomes showed just how far apart Washington and Beijing remain on key issues, and reinforced a view among analysts that Xi sees little reason to grant ?Trump major political victories ahead of November's midterm elections.Make sense of global markets with the Trading Day newsletter. Sign up here."The US-China relationship has settled into a managed stalemate," said Craig Singleton, senior director for China at US-based think tank, the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

"The elaborate pageantry matters precisely because there is still relatively little substantive progress to showcase."Both sides said they reached consensus on lowering tariffs for a $60 billion batch of non-sensitive goods, but there was no timeline for adoption. At the same time, a deadline for a broader trade accord ?was pushed into next year.The absence of a Chinese CEO delegation accompanying Xi also highlighted the challenges of overcoming US suspicion of Chinese investment, casting doubt on the viability of a ?two-way investment scheme the leaders unveiled at a Beijing summit in May, analysts said."The Trump-Xi summit created a positive political atmosphere but did nothing to ?narrow differences, or reduce mutual suspicions," said Drew Thompson, a senior fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.White House officials had tempered expectations before the summit, pointing ?out that the leaders would also meet at international forums in Shenzen and Miami before year end.But while the uneventful meeting capped off a diplomatic week that exposed the limits of Trump's powers, Joe Mazur, geopolitics ?analyst at Beijing-based consultancy Trivium, said it served as a "PR win" for China, said .From the outset, Trump went out of his way to fete Xi - the leader of a country he has previously said is "killing America" with unfair trade practices.He broke protocol to greet him at the airport, the first time a US president has done so for a world leader in 11 years.Later, addressing a coterie of top government officials and tech magnates assembled for a lavish state ?banquet in his honour, Trump said they "had never gotten along better".

"The extraordinary courtesy the Americans extended to Xi Jinping met and far exceeded China's expectations," said Shen Weizhong, a former Chinese foreign ministry official ?and vice president of Beijing-based think tank Global Governance Institution."The Chinese do not feel that a visit necessarily has to result in a specific number of agreements, or in tariff reductions or other such outcomes ... The mere fact ?that they meet, ?nod to one another, and shake hands speaks volumes."Xi is also in no rush to make concessions, analysts say.China's dominance in production of rare earths, minerals critical for sectors from tech to autos and defence, gives it a powerful source of leverage, while its trade with the world has surged despite Trump's tariff threats.Trump did not come away completely empty-handed, however.China has proposed cutting tariffs on a range of US agricultural goods, from corn to dairy, a commerce ministry list showed on Monday. In return, the US will reduce levies on Chinese imports such as toys, fireworks and Christmas ornaments.That will be welcome news for American ?farmers, who form one of Trump's key voting blocs, ?ahead of midterm elections that look challenging ?for his Republican party.But commodity analysts were also quick to add that soybeans, one of the US' largest exports, did not feature on China's list, leaving those purchases potentially hostage to any deterioration in ties.

BUYING TIME ON TAIWANChina also gave little indication it is willing to help Trump end the war in Iran ?that has dragged the US president's approval rating to the lowest in his political career.Shortly after Xi's departure, Chinese Vice President Han Zheng pushed back ?against the US on ?Iran and its threats against Cuba at a UN General Assembly meeting in New York.The Chinese leader also did not shy away from pressing Trump on thornier topics such as US support for Taiwan, the democratically-ruled island claimed by Beijing.Trump avoided the subject in his public comments, in a stark contrast with the May summit, at which he called apending, opens new tab$14-billion package of arms sales to Taiwan a "negotiating chip" with Beijing.Washington has cast the busy ?summit schedule with ?Xi as important to keeping ties on even keel between the world's two biggest economies.But frequent interactions of the leaders ?also buy Beijing time on unwanted US actions such as the arms sales to Taiwan, said Jeremy Chan, a senior analyst at political risk consultancy Eurasia Group."That's a major strategic win for the Chinese and a major loss for Taiwan and a lot ?of US allies and partners in the region," said Chan, a former US diplomat in China.

UK police say five arrested at airbase are British nationals



LONDON, British police said on Monday the five men ?who were detained near the Fairford ?airbase used by the US to attack Iran were all British nationals ?who live in London.The police ?said that the five men, who were ?arrested on Sunday on suspicion ?of terrorism and explosive offences, ?were all in their mid-twenties.Get a look at the day ahead in European and global markets with the Morning Bid Europe newsletter. Sign up here.

Item 1 of 2 Armed police officers work on a road outside the perimiter of the RAF Fairford airbase, after police declared a major incident at the base after several men were arrested on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act, in Fairford, Gloucestershire, Britain, September 27, 2026. REUTERS/Toby Shepheard[1/2]Armed police officers work on a road outside the perimiter of the RAF Fairford airbase, after police declared a major incident at the base after several men were arrested on suspicion of offences under the Explosives Act, in Fairford, Gloucestershire, Britain, September 27, 2026. REUTERS/Toby... Purchase Licensing Rights, opens new tab Read more"At this time, we are working to establish the full ?circumstances of the activity of ?those arrested, their knowledge and any motivation ?behind ?this incident," Counter Terrorism Police said in the statement."I am very aware of the levels of ?speculation about ?the motivation ?behind this incident, and the geopolitical questions that ?are being raised. However, I ?ask ?that at this time, Counter Terrorism Policing are given the space ?to ?work carefully and ?clearly."

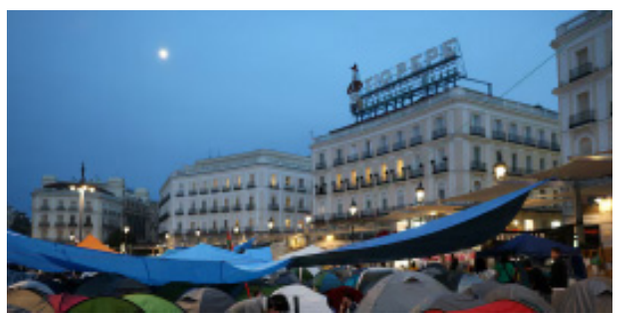
Nvidia unveils Open Agent Safety Platform to prevent AI agents from going rogue

United States: Nvidia on Monday unveiled a new security platform that the chipmaker said can prevent artificial intelligence agents from going rogue.The company said its Open Agent Safety Platform includes software that "sets boundaries for agents" and follows a series of revelations from top AI companies about their models escaping and breaking into other organisations.The disclosures have sparked a fierce debate about the safety of advanced artificial intelligence systems, including self-improving models that some fear could race out of human control.Nvidia executives said in a media briefing that the new system could have prevented a recent incident involving a swarm of OpenAI agents that autonomously hacked into AI startup Hugging Face.



"From what we know, this new security platform could have stopped the breach if it was being used in frontier labs for model evaluation early on," said Justin Boitano, the company's vice president of enterprise AI, referring to companies at the forefront of AI.It was a high-profile breach that intensified concerns about AI, followed by similar incidents involving OpenAI's models, including one in which an Australian health department website was breached.Anthropic and Meta have also disclosed that their AI systems hacked into other organisations on their own.Nvidia's software, called OpenShell, is open source and lets developers "formally verify an agent has enough authority to do its job and no more," Boitano said.The platform also includes a separate security layer called Sentry that runs onboard a chip to constantly monitor AI agent activity and can "intervene instantly" if an agent starts trying to move beyond its target, the company said."OpenShell governs the agent's actions, and then Sentry independently monitors and contains suspicious behavior," Boitano said.More than 100 companies are using the system at its launch, including Microsoft, Perplexity, Accenture and JPMorgan Chase.

Protesters demand Spanish government limit evictions after pensioner forced out



MADRID, Protesters camped outside the Madrid regional government's headquarters for a third day on Monday to object to the eviction of an octogenarian and demand stronger protection for tenants in ?the face of a housing shortage and soaring rents.Protests boiled over last week after police evicted 87-year-old Maricarmen Abascal on ?a stretcher from her Madrid home of more than seven decades because of an eviction order secured by the investment fund that bought her apartment.Get a look at the day ahead in European and global markets with the Morning Bid Europe newsletter. Sign up here.Hundreds of people outside her building clashed with police, while the Socialist-led central government condemned the centre-right regional administration for not preventing the eviction.By Monday, hundreds of ?tents filled the central Puerta del Sol square, echoing the protests of 2011 when it was occupied for ?a month by activists demonstrating against austerity measures adopted during the global financial crisis.Prime Minister Pedro ?Sanchez said on Sunday the government was working to enact a housing decree in parliament by Tuesday that would bring ?immediate relief for tenants.Unlike in the financial crisis, when many evictions were linked to mortgage defaults after a property bubble ?burst, a growing share are now related to rent disputes, reflecting a shortage of properties. Rents have on average doubled over the past decade, far outpacing salaries.

TENS OF THOUSANDS MARCH THROUGH MADRIDOn Saturday, some 30,000 people marched through Madrid to object to the treatment of Abascal and others forced ?from their homes by investment funds.Marchers shook keys and bore banners with slogans including "Speculators go home" and "Housing is for living".As ?night fell on Puerta del Sol, home to the office of Isabel Diaz Ayuso, centre-right president of the Madrid region, dozens of activists ?put up ?tents, and their number has steadily grown since.Blanca, a student, said young Spaniards were struggling to move out of their parents' homes."Politicians not only do nothing but make it worse," she said. "We've decided to put our foot down, so let's hope they hear us."

Further protests were set to take place across Spain on Monday, according to the Tenants' Union, which has been ?co-ordinating the protests.From her hospital ?bed in Madrid, Abascal ?said she could not join the demonstration and urged protesters to keep fighting."Be brave, fight, defend what is yours and, please, take care of yourselves; keep camping there for as long ?as your bodies can hold out and as long as you wish to. Let's hope ?all this comes ?to a successful conclusion tomorrow," she said in a video distributed by the Tenants' Union.Spain has a deficit of 750,000 homes, according to the central bank, which has said that figure could rise to over 1 million by 2028. Only about 120,000 are built ?each year, ?a sixth of the rate before the 2008 financial crisis.Ayuso said the protests were ?an attempt to "change the rules of the game" on existing contracts and asked whether the activists thought there should be age limit for paying rent.Adds pensioner's comment in paragraphs 13-14; Madrid regional leader's comments, 17

Bangkok floods recede slowly after heavy rain; 7 lakh residents affected



Bangkok: Floodwaters in Thailand's capital were slowly receding on Monday after continuous rainfall over the weekend, although some neighbourhoods and major roads remained inundated.Rain continued intermittently, but Bangkok city officials said conditions had improved enough to accelerate drainage efforts. Water levels in four main canals had risen too high over the weekend to take in runoff from surrounding communities.

More rain was forecast across much of Thailand, although Bangkok was expected to receive less.The weekend flooding affected 3.29 lakh households, or about 7 lakh people, the Bangkok Flood Control Centre reported, according to Deputy Gov. Tavida Kamolvej.

Gov. Chadchart Sittipunt declared a flood emergency on Saturday across all 50 city districts, although some were relatively unscathed. He said authorities were prioritising assistance for vulnerable residents, including older people and those with disabilities, by delivering supplies or evacuating them. City officials said nearly 7,000 people were staying in shelters.Neighbourhoods in eastern Bangkok were hit hardest. Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul donned white rain boots on Sunday night to inspect a heavily flooded housing estate in Bang Kapi district and help distribute relief supplies.Water was about knee-deep on Monday near a train station and shopping mall in Bang Kapi. Despite intermittent downpours, shoppers waded through the water carrying bags, backpacks and boxes of groceries. Some travelled to and from the station in a small boat provided by the mall.For Naowarat Supanikorn, a 55-year-old maid who shares a single-storey house with three dogs and six cats, the flooding was more than an inconvenience.She said she realised at about 1:30 am on Saturday that water was seeping into her home.'I'm worried about my pets'"I had to take my dogs and cats out," she said. "I had to leave them with my neighbour. I have taken them back today because they said the sun would come out, but it looks like the rain will come back."She said the flooding in her neighbourhood reached above her hips at its highest and had since dropped to about knee level. She said the bigger problem was that she had lost her job working at a condominium."My workplace also said if I can't come to work, they're happy to take my resignation. So I thought, that's fine, I'll quit."To try to generate some income, she bought supplies to make food that she could sell on the street, but business was slow in the flooded conditions."It's stressful. If the bills come, I'd be cooked, because I don't have work now. If I have to pay for water or electricity now it would be bad," she said. "I'm not worried about me but I'm worried about my pets. I've lived with them my whole life. They're my priority. It's OK if I don't have work and starve myself, but I'd like help for my pets."The flooding also had knock-on effects, including panic buying of food, disrupted supply chains for food and other items, and staffing problems at various enterprises whose employees were unable to get to their jobs.

Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport said baggage from arriving and departing flights was piling up because of "insufficient staffing to support ground handling operations" and problems with some baggage carts.The disruptions delayed some departures and forced arriving passengers to wait longer than usual for their luggage, with baggage from several flights still undelivered, the airport said.The government declared special holidays on Monday and Tuesday for state offices.

India to have 'new training squad' for next season, men's hockey coach Fulton says



In the climactic scene of a big ensemble film, the characters from different storylines often converge at a symbolic place. For Indian hockey, that place is Jalandhar, home to almost half-a-dozen players from the current team.As the Asian Champions Trophy brings international hockey back to Punjab for the first time since January 2009, the tournament comes with a subplot of its own: could the otherwise meaningless tournament be the swansong for some of the senior players in the Indian team?Chief coach Craig Fulton isn't commenting on that speculation. But his plans for the months ahead suggest that the composition of the team is up for review, with a younger group set to travel to New Zealand after the tournament, and a new training squad to be finalised ahead of the Pro League in February.The timing is significant. India's contrasting performances at the World Cup and Asian Games have left questions about the team's personnel, even as the latter offered evidence that the existing group can still deliver. At the World Cup in August, India failed to make the semi-finals as Germany, Argentina and Spain broke into the last four. Belgium and England, despite their pedigree, missed out too — underlining how little separates the leading teams. "We had our chances and we didn't take them," Fulton told The Indian Express. "The competition in the men's tournament is really, really tight at the moment, which is exciting."India responded at the Asian Games, producing a consistent campaign and finding a way through the difficult knockout games, including a Pakistan scare in the semifinals, to win gold. "I think we played a really good tournament at the Asian Games. We were quite consistent, and the semifinals are always difficult games. I'm glad we found a way to get through it, and that's all credit to the guys," Fulton said.The two results offer different readings of the same group. The World Cup exposed India's inability to convert opportunities against the best; the Asian Games showed the value of its experience. The question now is how to retain that experience heading into the LA Olympics while making room for the next generation.

Senior players such as Sumit, Mandeep Singh, Amit Rohidas and Jarmanpreet Singh are part of that conversation. Their futures cannot be read going by the coach's comments in isolation, but the World Cup has sharpened the scrutiny of India's established personnel and the need to build depth in key positions.Fulton pointed to the unusual scheduling of the two tournaments as one complication. India had to name their Asian Games squad 60 days in advance, before the World Cup could inform selection. "It was a very unique situation, having the World Cup and then, three weeks later, your biggest tournament," he said. "In hindsight, you might select the Asian Games team on the back of the World Cup performance, but that wasn't possible because we had to name the team 60 days before the Asian Games."The next phase will not, however, be a simple changing of the guard. "It's not easy to just remove your experience in key positions and expect the next group of players to pick it up exactly where you left off," Fulton said. "You're looking at experience and youth together."After the Asian Champions Trophy, India will select a younger group for three matches in New Zealand. The squad will then come together for the Hockey India League, with the group for the Pro League in India in February — facing Argentina and Germany — to be finalised afterwards. "A lot of the senior guys will be given a rest, and we'll choose a younger squad to go through to New Zealand," Fulton said. "Then everyone comes together for the Hockey India League, we choose our squad, and we play the Pro League in India in February with the new squad."That is a roadmap, not a retirement list. But it creates an opportunity for younger players to press their claims while the established core gets a break.With no major tournament apart from the Pro League in 2027, Fulton also wants to use the year to give the team more match practice and sharpen its combinations. "My main objective is to get a lot more games in 2027. There are no tournaments except for the Pro League, so we need to fill that gap with training games," he said. "We need to get back to doing the basics well, reinforce the way we want to play, give opportunities to different players and see if we can put the right combinations together and still get the right outcomes."In Jalandhar, the immediate business is to win the Asian Champions Trophy. But with the next phase of selection already taking shape, the tournament also brings India's present and future into the same frame.

A green pitch, a dry surface: Chepauk changes its mind on day one



Heavy rain over the past few days has kept the Chepauk pitch under covers. A green tinge suggested that it could help the seamers in overcast conditions. What lay beneath it was a matter of curiosity for both teams, when it came to choosing the XI and to deciding what to do on winning the toss.For the second match in a row, Tamil Nadu captain R Sai Kishore won it and put the opposition in. On a pitch with plenty of moisture, the seamers did the early damage, Sonu Yadav in particular, and Railways were 7 for 3. The spinners, led by Sai Kishore, had them at 123 for 9. It was much the script of the game against Uttarakhand last week.

If Gurjapneet Singh broke Uttarakhand's back then, on Monday it was the turn of Sonu, a medium-pacer who relies extensively on swing. Overcast skies are a rarity in Chennai. The pitches in the First Division here tend to favour spinners, so seamers have had little to do, and the local conditions have often held back the development of fast bowlers. Playing his first first-class match at Chepauk, Sonu used the help. He took three wickets with the new ball, two of them lbw, and finished with 3 for 46.After that opening, Railways were never going to get away from the Tamil Nadu spinners. The turn was not sharp, but the moisture let the ball rush on and test the edges. Sai Kishore took three wickets for 53, and J Hemchudeshan two in five overs.

Tamil Nadu have struggled for some years to finish the job, and did not finish it here. Once the moisture went and the ball softened, Zubair Ali counter-attacked, making 75 off 121 balls, with Himanshu Sangwan alongside him. He took Railways to 184, which looked too few at first. The stand kept Railways in a game that Tamil Nadu seemed to have in hand.What followed was a twist Tamil Nadu had not expected so soon. They had thought the pitch would show its dry side once the moisture went. With the rain, the groundstaff had been wary of watering it much, and the black soil began to break up. The Railways spinners were in the game earlier than they themselves had expected.Sangwan made the first breakthrough, removing Vimal Kumar, out for a nought for the second innings running. The Tamil Nadu batters had no trouble with the Railways seamers. Then the spinners came on, off-spinner Toufik Uddin Mondal in particular. Tamil Nadu, who had expected to close the day on top, were soon battling to stay in the game.The moisture had gone, but the surface was dry enough that the odd ball stopped. With sharp turn and bounce in play, the conditions set Tamil Nadu a different problem.N Jagadeesan was bowled by an off-spinner for the second innings running. Against Uttarakhand he played the wrong line to a ball from round the wicket and lost his off-stump. On Monday Mondal bowled him through the gate.Mondal was not done. After testing Pradosh Ranjan Paul's edges, he saw the left-hander go for a drive. The slowness of the surface made the shot risky, and Paul gave a simple return catch, which Mondal took.Baba Indrajith and Andre Siddarth saw Tamil Nadu to stumps at 71 for 3. If the conditions stay the same on Tuesday, Indrajith's game against spin could count for a lot. All eyes will be on the strip.

Chennai Super Kings bid farewell to batting coach Michael Hussey, other staff



Michael Hussey Batting Coach of Chennai Super Kings during Match 59 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Lucknow Super Giants and Chennai Super Kings at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow, India, on May 15, 2026.Michael Hussey Batting Coach of Chennai Super Kings during Match 59 of the TATA Indian Premier League 2026 between Lucknow Super Giants and Chennai Super Kings at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow, India, on May 15, 2026. (CREIMAS)

The Chennai Super Kings (CSK) on Monday bid farewell to their batting coach Michael Hussey ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League season and the impending auction. The Australian had been with the franchise since 2018, with his departure ending an association that went over 8 years."From the very first season in 2008, you have been an integral part of the Chennai Super Kings family. Your journey in Yellow has been defined not just by the runs you scored and the players you mentored, but by the dedication, humility, and unwavering commitment you brought to this franchise over the years. Your place in our history will forever remain special, Hussmeister. Once a Super King, always a Super King," the franchise posted on X.CSK also announced the departure of bowling coach Eric Simons, who had already left the club before it was made official on Thursday.

From the very first season in 2008, you have been an integral part of the Chennai Super Kings family. Your journey in Yellow has been defined not just by the runs you scored and the players you mentored, but by the dedication, humility, and unwavering commitment you brought to this franchise over the years. Your place in our history will forever remain special, Hussmeister.An integral part of the Chennai Super Kings coaching setup since 2018, Eric Simons has played an important role in shaping our bowling unit and contributing to the team's success over the years. We extend our sincere gratitude for your dedicated service and contributions. Thank you, Eric Simons. Wishing you the very best in your future endeavours," CSK posted on X.A trusted lieutenant of now England Test coach Stephen Fleming at CSK, Simons is expected to join the Kiwi in the Three Lions setup. Fleming, who stepped aside as the head coach of the IPL giants after a 17-year tenure, has since been replaced by former India pacer Zaheer Khan, who will bring in his own preferred support staff.An integral part of the Chennai Super Kings coaching setup since 2018, Eric Simons has played an important role in shaping our bowling unit and contributing to the team's success over the years. We extend our sincere gratitude for your dedicated service and contributions.Soon after Fleming took over as the head coach of England, he had reached out to Hussey, who again had been with CSK as a batting coach. But the former Australian player declined the offer.On Monday, CSK also announced that Rajiv Kumar, a member of the coaching staff, had left the franchise. "A valued member of the Chennai Super Kings coaching setup, Rajiv Kumar has contributed significantly to the team's preparation, development, and performances over the years. Your dedication to working closely with the players, sharing your expertise, and strengthening the team's foundation has been an important part of our journey. Thank you, Rajiv Kumar. Wishing you all the very best for the future," the 5-time IPL champions posted.

From star-struck trainees to Olympic heroes, Punjab players come a full circle



The 80s-90s hockey kids of Punjab didn't quite win an Olympic medal, but they inspired the next generation to stomp forward to the podium. Be it watching the Punjab Police teams dribble in awe, or noting down Sardar Singh's playmaking moves, or drag-flicking like Jugraj, the newbies never stopped dreaming hockey until they returned India to the Olympic podium.Once more, the Punjab-juggernaut is on its way, as hockey returns with a new generation of heroes, who were once star-struck trainees.

As the Asian Champions Trophy rolls into town, Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh standing under the new canopy at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium, points towards one of the goal-posts on the left side. Over 15 years ago, Harmanpreet had just joined the academy, and would train for hours on the small astro-turf patch behind the goal post, under coaches Avtar Singh Pinka and Gurdev Singh Debi."I still remember the day when my father dropped me off and I began practicing on the small astro-turf patch," the double Olympic bronze medallist recalls. "We would spray water on the turf and just knew that we had to hit the ball with a flick after taking a step. Later I watched Jugrajpaji playing at the stadium for Punjab Police teams. So as I stand here playing for the first time at this ground in an Indian jersey, I can only say, 'I have played in London, Paris and other big cities in the world but to play here is like returning to the lap of one's mother'." The old patch he once trained on, was later renovated to a seating area.

Harmanpreet is on the verge of surpassing triple Olympics medallist Balbir Singh Sr's count of 246 goals for the second spot on the all-time list, behind Dhyan Chand's record of 570 goals. "If I am able to surpass Balbir Singh Sr's record here, it will be super special for me," shares Harmanpreet Singh while speaking with The Indian Express.With centres like Ranchi, Bhuvaneswar and Delhi hosting international matches in recent memory, the Indian national team is playing in Punjab for the first time since 2009. The Asian Champions Trophy sees eight players from Punjab with five including Harmanpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh and goal-keeper Krishan Pathak belonging to the Surjit Hockey Academy.The Asian Champions Trophy at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar and the area behind the goalpost was the astro-turf patch for drag practice. (Special Arrangement) The Asian Champions Trophy at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar and the area behind the goalpost was the astro-turf patch for drag practice. (Special Arrangement)

Forward Mandeep Singh, who too hails from the nearby village of Mithapur, had started hockey at his village academy, before he moved to Surjit's in 2008 living at the hostel there for a couple of seasons. He is the eighth highest goal-scorer for India currently with his tally of 128 goals in 301 matches. "Initially I stayed in the hostel. My brother would drop me to the academy on the motorbike and during the journey, I would dream about playing for India. I became a fan of Sardar Singh and Sandeep Singh paji after watching them play here in Jalandhar," he said.In the first season of HIL in 2013, he turned out for Ranchi Rhinos debuting at Jalandhar with 2008 Olympic winning German captain Moritz Furtse. The German had explained to him that playing at home implied biggest support.

Vice-captain Hardik Singh, who had also trained at Surjit's apart from being a trainee at Mohali Hockey Academy, remembers his time as a ball boy during the HIL in Mohali in 2013. "I can sense how big it will be for the trainees of the academies across Punjab to watch us play. When I was a ball boy in HIL at Mohali, I would note down the moves of Sardar Singh paji in my mind as well as playing like the Indian stars one day. I too am excited to play there," says Hardik.At Village Attari near the India-Pakistan border, hockey trainees are also preparing to watch the village's poster boy drag-flicker Jugraj Singh in action. "The trainees were part of the exhibition matches and are now excited about watching their hero Jugraj Singh and other Indian stars play at Jalandhar," says coach Navjit Singh.

Indian coach Craig Fulton sees similarities to hockey pockets in South Africa. "When I first came, I wanted to find out where the players came from and we did a map of India. And it was incredible to see pockets from where most players came and stories of how these players came through the academy system and how Punjab has a rich Olympic history too. And now to come to Jalandhar, it's the completion of the visual circle. Back home in South Africa too, a rich pool comes from Gauteng or Western Province and I see a lot of similarities here," says Fulton.Manpreet Singh, who is the most capped Indian player at present, was ruled out due to a calf injury on Monday but he too is a Surjit Academy product.Manpreet, who joined the academy in 2005 and later made his international debut for India in the 2011 Asian Champions Trophy, spoke about how he missed a chance with the injury but will be cheering from the stands. "I played as a midfielder as well as defender and right half under coach Jhilmil sir and later Avatar sir and Gurdev Sir. I would often watch videos of Furtse and we also had posters of him in our rooms in the hostel. I went to see the Punjab Gold Cup in Chandigarh in 2009 and became a fan of midfielder Gurbaz Singh," he recalls.During the FIH World Cup in Bhuvaneswar, a girl trainee came to meet him at the stadium and told him he was her mid-field inspiration. "It's unfortunate that I suffered the injury but I am sure there will be many such youngsters from Punjab who will go home taking inspiration from this Indian hockey team," added Manpreet, who has been replaced by Vivek Sagar Prasad.

Farokh Engineer calls for a stand named after James Anderson at Old Trafford



Former India player Farokh Engineer said that retired England pacer James Anderson should have a stand dedicated to him at Old Trafford, the veteran pacer's home ground. Engineer, who was honoured with a stand named after him at Old Trafford last year, said Anderson should be commemorated suitably by Lancashire for his yeoman service to the Red Roses.

"What Lancashire should do, I mean, at the iconic Old Trafford ground, there's a stand named after Clive Lloyd, there's a stand named after me. Now, the third stand should be called the Jimmy Anderson stand. He already has a Jimmy's bar. We all have suites in the Hilton Hotel – Farokh Engineer Suite, Clive Lloyd Suite. Anderson should have a stand in his name as well. I'm sure the day is not far when Lancashire will do that. So, here's signing off, it's Farokh Engineer, all the very best," Engineer said to PTI.Engineer also heaped praises on Anderson, saying that the England pacer was the best when the ball swung. "Lancashire have had a few great opening bowlers over the years – the great Brian Statham, Peter Lever, Ken Higgs, Wasim Akram, you could go on and on. But Jimmy Anderson takes the cake when swing and seam conditions are available," Engineer said."There's no one better than Jimmy Anderson in the world. He can swing the ball either way, and he has so much control over the ball," he added.Last week, Lancashire decided against renewing Anderson's contract for the 2027 season. According to reports emerging from England, the 44-year-old seems to have played his last game, after being told by the County team about their decision to not offer

"What Lancashire should do, I mean, at the iconic Old Trafford ground, there's a stand named after Clive Lloyd, there's a stand named after me. Now, the third stand should be called the Jimmy Anderson stand. He already has a Jimmy's bar. We all have suites in the Hilton Hotel – Farokh Engineer Suite, Clive Lloyd Suite. Anderson should have a stand in his name as well. I'm sure the day is not far when Lancashire will do that.

him a contract for next season.Anderson took a record 704 Test wickets for England, and this summer collected 50 wickets for Lancashire at an average of 17 in Division Two of the County Championship.

Telangana girl Sriteja clinches second gold at junior athletics meet



Sriteja, a native of Kothagudem, was first spotted and mentored by coach Nagender.

Hyderabad: Sriteja Tholem of Telangana clinched her second gold when she won the women's under-20 heptathlon event with 2,033 points at the 41st Junior National Athletics Championship at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Monday.Alfaz Kaur Grewal of Punjab (1,832) and Jaskiran of Uttarakhand (1,840) finished second and third, respectively.

Sriteja, a native of Kothagudem, was first spotted and mentored by coach Nagender. She was later mentored by former SAI athletics coach N Ramesh and Saaji under the Eenadu Lakshya scheme to promote young sporting talent. She currently stays at Gopi Chand Academy. She had earlier won the 100m hurdles event.It may be mentioned here that Sriteja had recently eclipsed a 32-year-old heptathlon record at the South Zone Championship.

Hero Flydubai passenger credits this TV show for helping him save jetliner from crash



Flydubai news: A plummeting plane, an altercation in the cockpit and a hero passenger who drew on his learnings from years of watching a TV show that recreates major air disasters to save the plane that plunged 17,000 feet.The Flydubai flight incident has made headlines worldwide. While Indian pilot Captain Smit Machchhar is being praised for his quick thinking despite being severely injured, social media users are equally intrigued by the story of a 'hero' passenger who reportedly saved the plane from crashing after drawing on something he had learned from watching a TV show, Air Crash Investigation, also known as Mayday: Air Disaster. It's a Canadian documentary series about aviation accidents.

A Canadian docuseries Mayday helped passenger avert air crashThe passenger named Yaniv Hayoun claimed that he rushed into the cockpit after Machchhar opened the cockpit access door despite being injured and confronted the alleged attacker.In a viral video, Yaniv can be seen meeting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and recounting the incident. He said, "In my opinion, the stabbed pilot managed to open the cockpit before he collapsed." He added, "When I went inside, I saw the attacker on the instrument panel between the two seats. There were no pilots in the seats. One was on the floor, one was on the instruments, and someone else had come in with me."Explaining how he helped regain control of the aircraft, Yaniv said, "I grabbed the attacker, put him in a chokehold, and dragged him out first."A curious Netanyahu asked, "What was he doing on those machines?"Yaniv replied, "He was trying to destroy the instruments to disable the plane." He continued, "We got him out. It all happened in seconds and the plane's nose was pitched like this," he said, gesturing downwards to indicate the aircraft diving towards the ground.

He added, "I called out to a bunch of Israelis on board, and two other guys came over. We pinned him down. I jumped back, grabbed the controls and started pulling back the handles."Netanyahu then asked, "You are easing the handles back? Did you know how?"It was at this point that Yaniv revealed that watching the Canadian docuseries had helped him understand what to do. "Yes. I watch Air Crash Investigation, Mr Prime Minister," he said.Yaniv continued, "The plane started to level out a bit, and then the pilot told me he was taking over the controls from there."

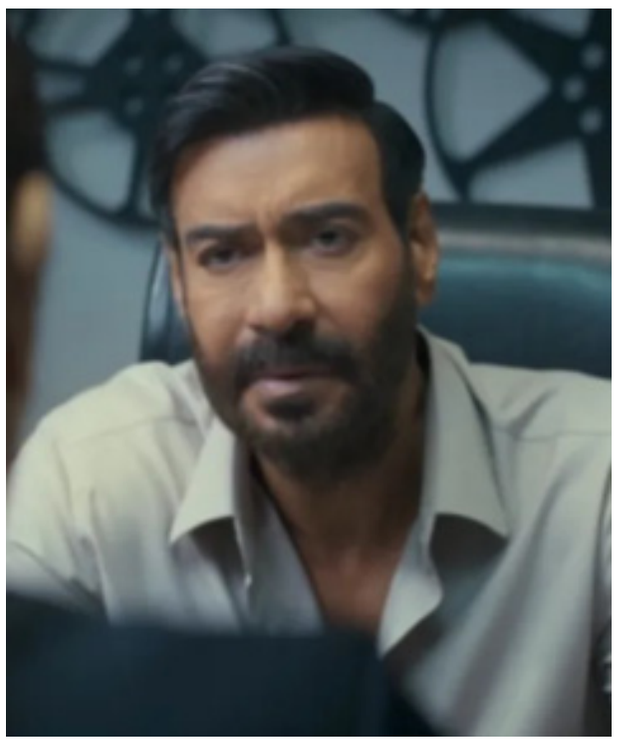
What is Air Crash Investigation?

First aired in 2003, Air Crash Investigation has so far aired hundreds of episodes. The documentary series, produced by Cineflix, examines air crashes, near-crashes, fires, hijackings, bombings and other aviation disasters.The series delves into the events that led to each crisis or disaster, examining their causes as determined by official investigating bodies. It also explores measures that could help prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.The programme uses reenactments, interviews, eyewitness testimony, computer-generated imagery, cockpit voice recordings and official reports to reconstruct the sequence of events behind each incident.

What happened on the Flydubai flight?

Flydubai fight from Dubai to Tel Aviv faced a mid-air emergency when one pilot allegedly attacked the other and apparently tried to crash the plane carrying 174 people. The co-pilot reportedly stabbed Captain Smit Machchhar, who managed to open the cockpit door, allowing crew and passengers to enter the cockpit and bring the situation under control.The plane made an emergency landing in Saudi Arabia.While the identity of the co-pilot who allegedly attacked the captain has not been disclosed, Israeli officials have identified him as an Omani national.

Ajay Devgn film clocks record Rs 38 cr advance booking



Drishyam 3 Movie Review, Rating and Release Live Updates: Ajay Devgn is returning as Vijay Salgaonkar with Drishyam: The Conclusion, the third and final chapter of the Hindi Drishyam franchise, which is set to arrive in cinemas on October 2. Directed by Abhishek Pathak, the film brings back Tabu, Shriya Saran, Ishita Dutta, Rajat Kapoor and Kamlesh Sawant, while Jaideep Ahlawat and Prakash Raj join the cast.The new film picks up the story of Vijay and his family after the events of Drishyam 2. The franchise has revolved around Vijay's efforts to protect his family after an accidental killing and his elaborate attempts to stay ahead of the investigation. The third film introduces another threat to the secret the Salgaonkars have managed to protect, putting Vijay's carefully constructed plans under renewed pressure.

What makes Drishyam: The Conclusion particularly significant is that the Hindi franchise is now moving on a different narrative path from the Malayalam series starring Mohanlal. While the first two Hindi films were remakes of the Malayalam Drishyam films, the new Hindi instalment has its own story.At the trailer launch, Ajay Devgn said the Hindi film has a "completely different script" and is not a version with minor changes. He explained that while the first two Hindi films were inspired by the Malayalam originals, the third instalment takes an entirely different route.He also revealed that he wanted Mohanlal and filmmaker Jeethu Joseph to watch the film and give their approval.According to Sacnilk, Drishyam: The Conclusion has generated nearly Rs 38 crore in advance bookings for the extended opening weekend, including blocked seats, while the figure excluding blocked seats stands at Rs 28.49 crore. For Day 1, advance bookings have crossed Rs 19 crore, with Delhi-NCR among the strongest markets. The film has also recorded more than 11 lakh tickets sold across around 36,000 shows.The film benefits from a national holiday and a solo release, with no major Bollywood film releasing alongside it on October 2. Trade expectations have placed its opening-day potential in the Rs 40 crore-plus range, although the final collection will depend on actual footfalls after release.

Nivin Pauly, Soori's film is a messy, AI-overloaded affair



Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai movie review: Ok, first things first — I think Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai (Seven Seas Seven Hills) can be used by those advocating against the uncontrolled, mindless use of artificial intelligence (AI) to show how blindly dependent people can be on it, diminishing their natural abilities.It would be an understatement to say that director Ram has employed AI-generated visuals in his latest fantasy drama. More precisely, Ram has thoughtlessly interspersed AI-generated visuals in Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai — seemingly without a proper quality check — giving the impression that the director thought he only needed to make so much of the film, and could simply leave the rest for AI to take care of.

On a fateful Diwali night, a man (Soori), returning from Dubai, meets a stranger (Nivin Pauly) in an empty train compartment on his way to his native place. His initial excitement about meeting his son in person for the first time — since he left for Dubai when his wife was pregnant and couldn't get leave for eight years — quickly turns to fear as the "weird" Nivin starts following him.As they talk inside the hurtling train, Nivin reveals that he is 8,822 years old and has been searching for Anjali, his lover from her past "four lives." Meanwhile, Soori realises that his destiny has become intertwined with Nivin's — not because of good luck, but because of bad luck. With nowhere to run and no one to turn to, Soori begins making futile attempts to save himself.A chaotic mix of realism and fantasyYezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai feels like no one involved in the movie, especially Ram, had a clue what they were doing. It isn't that the fantasy drama is bad in the conventional sense, but it's all over the place, and not in a good way.One of the biggest issues with the film is the director's lack of clarity on whether to give it the tone of a fantasy or a realistic drama. If one were to assume that he was aiming for a blend of both, it makes Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai appear even sloppier, like a mediocre mishmash of both styles.

In the scenes set inside the train, Ram mostly gives it the texture of a gritty action drama, whereas when it cuts to the flashback, it becomes slightly fantastical. However, even in moments where he should have gone fully fantastical, Ram maintains restraint, making one feel as if he is haunted by his signature style of highly dramatic realism.Don't Miss | Dorothy movie review: Karthik Subbaraj's film will make everyone uncomfortableAt times, Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai even resorts to Mickey Mousing, almost as if compensating for the lack of humour in its supposedly comedic moments and lines, further diminishing the movie's already limited quality.Deep ideas lost in executionAlthough the film's basic themes of temporal disorientation, slight memory erosion from having lived thousands of years, guilt over the collective sins of one's species, and universal egalitarianism are fascinating and hold immense potential, writer-director Ram is as clueless as one can be and struggles throughout to weave everything into an already fragile story.None of the characters in the film has names. Each of them can be seen as the embodiment of various human emotions and natures. Soori is the one who survives everything, while Nivin Pauly works to bring order, where even a rat gets justice if wronged. Anjali, meanwhile, is the amalgamation of everything nice, beautiful, and sweet, like music.ICYMI | When actor MR Radha shot MGR: How a 1967 assassination attempt reshaped Tamil NaduAt one point, we see the immortal Nivin sleeping through a monstrous thunderstorm, suddenly waking up upon hearing the sound of Anjali's cycle and sensing its light from afar. Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai features several such moments, highlighting the power of love transcending centuries and lives.Even though Ram tries to make it appear similar to the essence of F Scott Fitzgerald's line, "There are all kinds of love in the world, but never the same love twice" from his short story The Sensible Thing, the eternal love in Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai never manages to pull at our heartstrings or even create a slight impact, failing to make us want to root for them.Must Read | Digger movie review: After 30 years of defying gravity, Tom Cruise takes his biggest leapFrom disastrous slow-motion to soulless dialogues, pointless plot devices, and uneven narrations, the movie is marred by poor creative choices. Aside from the metaphors and philosophies, Ram even stuffs in references to Hulk and She-Hulk that add nothing worthwhile.Nivin Pauly and Soori try hard, but no useNivin Pauly's dialogue delivery is as bad as Ram's writing and direction. Although Anjali doesn't have much to do in the film, she at least brightens up the frame every time she appears.Both Soori and Nivin, nevertheless, deserve commendation for the physical effort they put into the movie, as they are almost constantly engaged in some form of action within the confines of an unclean train compartment. However, all those efforts are ultimately wasted on a movie that clearly doesn't know what to do with them.Do you remember that iconic moment from Pranchiyettan and the Saint (2010), where Pranchiyettan (Mammootty) is walking through a painting exhibition and tells his friend, "Did you understand anything? All these (paintings) have big meanings." Even though he is just as clueless as his friends about what any of the works imply, he believes that they carry significant meaning because… well, that's how we have been taught.That's pretty much how I felt watching Yezhu Kadal Yezhu Malai. Ram, or anyone who's going to rave about the fantasy drama for any reason, can make tall claims about the movie, saying it carries deep allegories, metaphors, and philosophies. But if a film can't communicate those properly to viewers of all walks of life and ends up simply boring them, it's done.If people like a work, they will find the inner meanings, ethos, underlying themes, and more themselves. They will formulate theories and build on them by reading or listening to more. But if a movie can't keep them hooked and instead becomes a cinematic endurance test, any expectation that people will explore its subtexts is simply unrealistic.It will definitely sting more when such a work comes from a director like Ram who gave us many memorable movies in the past.

Single mother who runs tiffin service gets Rs 12.5 lakh US president question wrong

KBC 18: Amitabh Bachchan-hosted Kaun Banega Crorepati 18 saw Almas Khan from Jaipur take the hot seat during the show's India Challenger Week in the September 30 episode. A single mother of two, Almas has worked as a teacher and later as an assistant sales manager while continuing her education to support her two sons. She also runs a tiffin service to make ends meet.Unlike the traditional Fastest Finger First format, India Challenger Week features a rapid buzzer round, followed by the Jaldi 5 mini-game. The two fastest contestants compete against each other, with the first contestant to answer five questions correctly earning a spot on the hot seat.Almas Khan emerged victorious in the Jaldi 5 round after answering five questions correctly, securing her place on the KBC 18 hot seat. Since she had already answered five questions in the mini-game, her main game began directly with the sixth question, worth Rs 25,000.Almas had three lifelines available to her — Audience Poll, Sanket Soochak and MahaFlip.Check this space tomorrow to learn more about the toughest question on the latest episode of Kaun Banega Crorepati 18. We will be bringing you the question and the story behind it.

Almas Khan opens up about her strugglesDuring her conversation with Amitabh Bachchan, Almas spoke about the difficulties she had faced while raising her two sons as a single parent. She said she continued her education while bringing up her children and took up different jobs to support the family.She also spoke about running a tiffin service alongside her work.Recalling the difficult phase of her life, Almas said she had travelled extensively by bus for work and would return home at night to prepare food for her tiffin service.She said, "I have travelled in crowded buses and would come home at night to prepare food for my tiffin service. It was very difficult. There was a time when I didn't even have money to buy food."Almas said her children, who are in college and also work as freelancers, contributed money towards her trip to KBC. She said their gesture left her emotional. She told Bachchan that one of her dreams was to buy a house for her family.Almas steadily progressed through the game after starting with the Rs 25,000 question. She used the Audience Poll for Rs 2 lakh question, and went with the answer supported by the audience.For the next question, worth Rs 3 lakh, Almas used her MahaFlip lifeline. She replaced the original question with another one and answered it correctly, taking her winnings forward.She then reached the Rs 5 lakh question, for which she used the Sanket Soochak lifeline. Almas successfully answered the question and secured Rs 5 lakh.She then entered the Super Sandook round.Almas Khan answers Rs 12.5 lakh question incorrectlyDuring the Super Sandook, Almas answered five questions correctly and earned the opportunity to choose a lifeline. Instead of taking the money, she opted for the 50:50 lifeline, giving herself another lifeline for the questions ahead.She later used the 50:50 lifeline for the question worth



Rs 7.5 lakh. After two options were eliminated, she answered the question correctly and continued playing.Almas then reached the 12th question, which was worth Rs 12.5 lakh. The question for Rs 12.5 lakh asked:

What is the first common first name of American President?

The options were:

A. John

B. George

C. William

D. James

Almas chose B. George. However, her answer was incorrect. The correct answer was D. James.As a result, Almas lost the opportunity to take her winnings to Rs 12.5 lakh and ended her KBC journey with Rs 5 lakh.The first name James has been shared by six US presidents, making it the most common first name among American presidents. They are James Madison, the fourth president of the United States; James Monroe, the fifth; James K. Polk, the 11th; James Buchanan, the 15th; James A. Garfield, the 20th; and James Earl Carter Jr., better known as Jimmy Carter, the 39th president. While Carter was popularly known as Jimmy, his given name was James Earl Carter Jr. This makes James the first name of six US presidents, more than any of the other options given in the question.

Bhagyashrii Borse pens heartfelt note for Mohanlal during 'Operation Ganga' shoot

Chennai: Actress Bhagyashrii Borse, who plays the female lead in actor Mohanlal's upcoming film, 'Operation Ganga', has now told the Malayalam superstar that it felt like a blessing to be his co-actor.Taking to her Instagram page to post a picture of herself with her 'Operation Ganga' co-star Mohanlal, she wrote, "Dearest @mohanlal sir, To be your co-actor feels like a blessing. Every day of shoot, I get to see cinema through your eyes and learn from you.. you are truly gifted sir. #OperationGanga #AgentOnDuty."

Sources close to the unit of 'Operation Ganga' said that the crew was in Georgia filming some important sequences for the film.For the unaware, the film, which is being directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Vishnu Mohan, was tentatively being referred to as L367 before being titled 'Operation Ganga'.

'Operation Ganga' refers to India's evacuation mission launched to bring back Indian citizens, including thousands of students, who were stranded in Ukraine following the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine war.'Operation Ganga', which has the tagline 'A Nation's Promise' will be a film on one of the most daring and intriguing operations on international borders by India.Apart from Malayalam superstar Mohanlal and Bhagyashrii Borse, the film will also feature Bollywood star Arjun Rampal and actors Parthiban & Adil Hussain in pivotal roles.The film is directed by National Award-winning filmmaker Vishnu Mohan, who is best known for having directed the devotional blockbuster 'Meppadiyan'.'Operation Ganga' also boasts of an extraordinarily talented technical team. The technical crew includes cinematographer Miroslaw Kuba Brozek, known for having shot the blockbusters 'Pushpa 1' and 'Pushpa 2' and production designer Rajeevan, who is best known for having worked in critically acclaimed films such as 'GOAT', 'Meiyazhagan', 'Amaran' and 'Kathanar'. The film will have its stunts choreographed by action director Sea Young Oh, known for his work in 'Dhurandhar' and 'Kill'. Music composer Shashwat Sachdev, following the success of the pan-Indian film 'Dhurandhar', is scoring the music for 'Operation Ganga'.Produced by Gokulam Gopalan under the banner of Sree Gokulam Movies, Operation Ganga's crew also includes editor Shameer Mohammed and sound designer Bishwadeep Chatterjee, best known for his work in 'Dhurandhar', 'Uri', '3 Idiots' and 'Padmaavat'.VFX for the film is being overseen by K. V. Sanjit. 'Lokah' Costume Director Melvy J is in-charge of costume design for this film and makeup is by Ronex Xavier.The film is produced by Gokulam Gopalan, with Baiju Gopalan and V. C. Praveen as co-producers and Krishnamoorthy as executive producer.



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