



# FREE PRESS



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## Sports

Sachin to inspire young athletes, sports fans in Texas **P.10**

## MONEY

Avg airfares around Diwali drop 20-25% on many routes



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Pet Care

## fp Briefs

### BHOPAL Four IPS officers transferred

Four IPS officers, including three SPs, have been transferred by the state government late on Sunday night, said the officials here. SP Sehore Mayank Awasthi has been appointed as AIG at PHQ, SP Vidisha Deepak Kumar Shukla is the new SP of Sehore. Commandant 29th SAF Datia, Manohar Singh Mandloi, is the new SP of Tikamgarh and SP Tikamgarh Rohit Kaswani is the new SP of Vidisha.

### BHOPAL Shah, Yadav appointed observers

BJP Parliamentary Board has appointed Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Mohan Yadav as the observer for the election of Leader of party legislature squad on Sunday. Notably, CM Yadav had done a whirlwind tour of Haryana during assembly election and BJP had won election on most of the seats where he had done canvassing.

### NEW DELHI IMA's 24-hr hunger strike

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has announced a 24-hour nationwide hunger strike on October 15 to support doctors in West Bengal, seeking justice for the young doctor who was raped and murdered at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

### UDHAM SINGH NAGAR 'UCC not to harass anyone'

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Sunday reiterated that the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) will be implemented soon and the law is not meant to harass anyone.

### GUWAHATI Drugs worth ₹4.5 cr seized

Drugs worth nearly Rs 4.5 crore have been seized and four persons were arrested from Karimganj district of Assam on Sunday, a senior official said. According to Karimganj Superintendent of Police Partha Protim Das, who led the operation, a vehicle coming from Mizoram was intercepted at the Chewali Beel area after getting a tip-off from a source.



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**KHAN LINKS** | Gang member said they targeted Siddique because of his close ties with Bollywood actor Salman Khan

## Bishnoi gang claims Baba Siddique murder

### 'WHOEVER HELPS SALMAN...'

The post by gang member Shubuu Lonkar Maharashtra wrote, "Salman Khan, we did not want this war but you made our brother lose his life. The reason for his death was

his linking of Dawood and Anuj Thapan to Bollywood, politics, and property dealings." The writer goes on to say in the post, "We have no enmity with anyone. However, anyone who helps Salman Khan

or the Dawood gang should be prepared. If anyone gets any of our brothers killed, we will definitely respond. We never strike first. Jai Shri Ram, Jai Bharat, salute to the martyrs."

### FIANS / PTI NEW DELHI



The 66-year-old NCP leader Siddique was waylaid by three persons at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area just outside his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office and shot at on Saturday night. He was rushed to the Lilavati Hospital where he was declared dead.

### THE KILLING DETAILS

#### Online report

■ The three accused received their weapons 15 days before the shooting through a human courier, according to sources.  
■ The shooters were staying in a rented house in Kurla for the past 25-30

days, for ₹ 14,000 per month.

■ The shooters were paid ₹ 50,000 each.

■ The three accused arrived at the shooting spot in an auto rickshaw and waited for a while before the shooting took place

### SHOCKING: OPPN

The opposition parties in Maharashtra on Sunday said the murder of NCP leader and former minister Baba Siddique was shocking and shameful for the state and claimed there was anarchy in Mumbai. If a leader from the ruling alliance is not safe, how can the government keep the common man safe? NCP (SP) state president Jayant Patil questioned. The Congress demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Eknath Shinde over Siddique's murder.

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### SIX ROUNDS OF BULLETS FIRED

In a latest development in the case of the killing of Baba Siddique, Mumbai Crime Branch on Sunday said that a total of six round of bullets were fired at Sid-

dique, out of which three hit him. Meanwhile, Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde announced that Siddique would be cremated with full state honours.

### Salman Khan cancels Bigg Boss shoot

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan cancelled his shoot for Bigg Boss 18 on Saturday night after hearing the news of the NCP leader

and his close friend Baba Siddique's tragic death. arrived at the house of the slain politician Baba Siddique on Sunday amid heavy security.

## WHAT A 'CATCH'

SpaceX pulled off a feat of remarkable technical expertise on Sunday. It not only flew a 233-foot rocket booster back to its launch site, but also caught it out in the air with two giant mechanical arms. The 400-foot space-craft blasted off at sunrise from close to the Mexico border before successfully landing on metal 'chopsticks' - a pad with mechanical arms - for the first time. Elon Musk's company has thus not only built and flown the largest and most powerful rocket, it has also demonstrated a key technology needed to make the vehicle completely reusable and able to fly again and again, more like a jetliner than a rocket.

The feat followed four unsuccessful attempts by other Starships which ended up being destroyed, either soon after liftoff or by ditching into the sea. "The tower has caught the rocket!!" SpaceX founder and CEO Elon Musk said via X as the spacecraft made the dramatic touchdown. Company employees screamed with joy as the booster slowly lowered itself into the launch tower's arms.



## Israel asks UN troops to evacuate

### FPJ NEWS SERVICE BEIRUT

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday urged the United Nations to evacuate its troops stationed in the peacekeeping pocket in Lebanon. Netanyahu called on the UN chief to move peacekeepers deployed in south Lebanon out of "harm's way", saying Hezbollah was using them as "human shields".

UN peacekeepers in Lebanon have, meanwhile, reported that Israeli tanks breached a gate to enter a Blue Helmet position on the Lebanese side of the border on Sunday, following an incident the previous day that blocked their movement. According to UNIFIL, "At around 4:30 am, while peacekeepers were in shelters, two IDF Merkava tanks destroyed the position's main gate and forcibly entered the shelter" in the Ramia area, before departing 45 minutes later. This occurred after Israeli soldiers had previously halted a crucial UNIFIL logistical movement near Mais al-Jabal, preventing its passage.

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### PTI KOLKATA

Over 75 senior doctors at West Bengal's Kalyani JNM Hospital have threatened a mass resignation, seeking justice for the RG Kar hospital victim, and expressing solidarity with junior medics on a fast-unto-death to press for their demands.

A total of 77 doctors of the medical facility have informed the Registrar of West Bengal Health University via email about their decision to stop work, starting October 14.

They cited "mental devastation" and "inability to work in the current state of mind" among the reasons behind the move.

In their communication, the doctors said they stand in solidarity with the junior medics on a fast-unto-death, whose health is deteriorating. They also expressed concern over the "apparent lack of visible effort from the state government to resolve the issue".

The agitators have been demanding justice for the RG Kar hospital medic who was raped and murdered, immediate removal of Health Secretary N S Nigam, workplace security and other measures.

The Kalyani JNM Hospital doctors have given authorities time till October 14 to take steps towards resolving the problem, failing which they plan to formally submit their mass resignation.

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## FP Follow Up

In a significant operation, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) Indore Zonal Unit uncovered an illegal mephedrone manufacturing unit in the Industrial Area of Meghnagar, Jhabua district. Acting on specific intelligence, DRI officials launched a search at the premises early on October 12 and discovered the factory engaged in the production of the psychotropic substance. A total of 36.1 kg of dry mephedrone and 76 kg in liquid form were seized during the operation. The estimated international market value of the confiscated drugs is approximately Rs 168.15 crore. Representative samples from the seized material were sent to the Directorate of Forensic Science Laboratory in Gan-

dhinagar, where tests confirmed the presence of mephedrone.

In addition to the drugs, raw material and equipment used for production were also confiscated, and the factory premises were sealed. Four individuals, including the factory's director, were arrested for their in-

volvement in the illegal manufacture and storage of the banned substance, in violation of the NDPS Act, 1985.

Notably, Free Press was the first to break the news of this major bust, publishing an exclusive report in its Sunday edition. Investigations are ongoing to trace the larger network involved in the illegal operation.

### RG KAR HORROR

## 77 docs at Kalyani JNM Hosp threaten mass resignation



Protesting doctors in Kolkata

File pic

## This time patient's relative is beaten up at Kolkata hospital

### FPJ News Service KOLKATA

Amid ongoing protests by junior doctors and members of the public regarding safety and security in hospitals, a patient's relative was brutally attacked by unknown assailants at SSKM Hospital on Sunday morning. Armed with hockey sticks and cricket stumps, the attackers inflicted serious injuries on the victim.

Eyewitnesses reported that a group of 10 to 15 masked individuals arrived on motorbikes and stormed the trauma care centre of SSKM Hospital, the largest government hospital in West Bengal. They targeted Sourav Modak, the son of a patient from Bankura, who was set to be discharged that day. The mob violently assaulted him, leaving him lying in a pool of blood.

Witnesses also noted that the police officers present at the scene appeared inactive during the attack. In the aftermath, law enforcement officials erected guard rails outside the trauma care centre to prevent unauthorised entry. The police later stated that they were reviewing CCTV footage to identify the perpetrators.

The protesting doctors gathered at Esplanade expressed their outrage, asserting that their ten demands were not only for their safety

but for the protection of all hospital staff and patients. "This incident highlights the administration's empty assurances regarding hospital security. If they cannot ensure the safety of a patient's family, how can they guarantee the security of doctors?" they argued. "While we have been told that steps are being taken to address our demands, the reality tells a different story."

In a related development, Anustup Mukhopadhyay, one of the doctors on hunger strike, was admitted to Kolkata Medical College after experiencing severe abdominal pain. Medical staff reported that although Anustup's condition is stable, he will be closely monitored in the CCU for the next few days. Notably, he is among four doctors, including two in Kolkata and one in North Bengal, who have been hospitalised due to their hunger strike.

Meanwhile, many citizens abstained from cooking on Sunday to support the junior doctors' cause, with large crowds gathering in the Esplanade area in solidarity. The Indian Medical Association's network in Delhi has written to Union Health Minister JP Nadda, urging swift action to resolve the escalating situation.

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## screenwriting

## Kishore Kumar Samman for Hirani

### Our Staff Reporter BHOPAL

Film director Rajkumar Hirani was feted with the 'Rashtriya Kishore Kumar Samman' for the year 2023 for screenwriting on Sunday.

The felicitation ceremony was organised by the culture department at the Police Parade Ground in Khandwa to mark the

death anniversary of legendary singer and actor Kishore Kumar.

The Rashtriya Kishore Kumar Samman is given by the Madhya Pradesh government to recognise contributions to Hindi cinema.

Minister Vijay Shah felicitated Hirani, who is known for films such as 'Munna Bhai MBBS', '3 Idiots' and 'PK'. His last film was 2023 social drama 'Dunki'. He is

the recipient of several accolades, including four National Film Awards and 11 Filmfare Awards. He is referred to as one of the most successful filmmakers of Indian cinema. His movies are often lighthearted but revolve around significant societal issues with humour and emotional intelligence.

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Minister Vijay Shah felicitating Rajkumar Hirani with 'Rashtriya Kishore Kumar Samman' in Khandwa





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TRAGIC | Four lose life in three accidents

# Nondriver gets behind steering wheel, kills sleeping colleague

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

A nondriver, who is a fuel filler, took the life of his colleague resting on a bench at the fuel pump under Vijay Nagar police station limits on Sunday early morning.



Deceased

According to the police, the deceased was identified as Rohit Singh Thakur (30), a resident of Mechanic Nagar, Sukhliya. He was a fuel filler at the CNG pump. The shift-in-charge of CNG Pump Akash Kumar said that the incident occurred around 5:30 am at the CNG pump situated near Rasoma Square when the fuel filler Dhruv of Hira Nagar, who did not know how to drive, took the steering of a vehicle registered under MP Logistic which came for refuelling and ran over his colleague Rohit



The bench on which the deceased was resting and trapped between the wall and car after the accident

resting on a bench around 10 feet away after finishing his shift.

The driver of the logistics company vehicle allowed Dhruv to sit on the driver's seat and he was sitting next to him.

Dhruv, suddenly started the vehicle and pressed the accelerator and ran over Rohit. The vehicle finally stopped after hitting the

wall, trapping Rohit between the vehicle and the wall. The entire incident happened in a matter of seconds.

The injured Rohit was rushed to MY Hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries during treatment. The police launched a probe into the case to ascertain the exact circumstances surrounding the incident.

## Vegetable vendor killed as luxury car rams into bike

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

A 55-year-old vegetable vendor was killed after being hit by an overspeeding luxury car on Sunday. The accident occurred on the service road of Kanadiya Bypass when he was going to purchase vegetables

from the Mandi on his motorcycle. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

According to the police, the deceased was identified as Kailash Meena, a resident of Bicholi Mardana. The driver fled from the spot and police began a search for him.



## Speeding mini truck mows down couple

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

In a tragic incident, a speeding and recklessly driven mini truck crushed a couple riding a motorcycle in Dakachya under Kshipra police station limits on Saturday. The impact of the accident was so severe that the husband died on the spot,



while the wife succumbed to her injuries on the way to MY Hospital. The truck driver managed to flee the scene after the accident. However, the police have registered a case of negligence leading to death against the driver and seized the vehicle.

According to police, the deceased were identified as Dilip

Dhakad (24) and his wife Neha, a native of Shivpuri district and living in the city. The family members said that the couple was on the way to Kshipra River for Durga idol immersion when the mini truck struck them from behind around 12 pm. Dilip was thrown a few feet away along with the bike, leading to his death on the spot,

while Neha fell to the side, sustaining fatal injuries. Dilip worked as a security guard for a private company. Neha was five months pregnant and the couple had married in May last year.

The police registered a case against the errant driver under sections 281, 125(a) and 106(1) of the BNS.

## Insecticide sprayed at various places

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

In order to prevent seasonal diseases, the corporation malaria department sprayed larvicidal and insecticide medicines at various places in the city including back line, drain, empty plot, chamber and other areas on Sunday. Along with this, fogging was done with smoke machine in every zone area.

Larva killing medicine/crude oil was sprayed in several areas which included Panchvati Garden, Maharana Pratap Nagar Committee Hall, Chhatribagh, Goyal Vihar Colony, Amar Tekri, Mangal Murti Nagar, Paraspar Colony, Sitar Park Colony, Tamboli Bahal, Ahilya Pura, Scheme Number 54, Jabaran Colony, Prakash Ka Bagicha, Rajmahal Colony, etc.

## Now, BEd, MEd students to cancel their own admissions online

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

In a first, the Department of Higher Education (DHE) has introduced an option for students who had taken admission in teacher education courses to cancel their enrollment if they no longer wish to continue. This new initiative, aimed at addressing student grievances, allows students to easily withdraw their admissions in online mode through the MP Online portal.

Students, who wish to cancel their admission need to log onto the portal, select the course they enrolled in, and provide their application number and date of birth. Once the cancellation request is submitted, the admission will be officially revoked. The

last date to apply for admission cancellation is October 30.

Like previous years, admissions to teacher education courses such as BEd, MEd, BPED, and MPED were conducted via a centralised online counselling system managed by the DHE. With six rounds of counselling offered, nearly all available seats in colleges across Indore were filled.

However, after the admission process concluded, the DHE received complaints from students who expressed dissatisfaction with the colleges they were allocated. In response, the DHE, for the first time, has given students the flexibility to cancel their admission, offering relief to those who had concerns about their assigned institutions.



### major concern

The RTO road remains in a terrible condition even after the monsoon has ended, with large potholes causing major issues for commuters. Photo by: Pintu Namdev



### INDORE Musical tributes paid to Jagjit Singh

A programme to pay tribute to Jagjit Singh on his death anniversary was organised at Abhinav Kala Samaj on Sunday. Ghazal singer Santosh Agnihotri paid tribute to Jagjit Singh by performing some of his iconic ghazals. The event was a heartfelt remembrance of the legendary singer, celebrating his timeless contributions to the world of music.



### RAJSHANTI AASHIYANA Agarwal Samaj organises event at old age home

Unlike traditional Dussehra celebrations, the Agarwal Samaj Women's Wing organised a unique event as part of their 'Love You Zindagi' series on Sunday at Rajshanti Aashiyana Old Age Home, near the Aerodrome. The group members spent time with around 70 elderly residents, engaging in activities like dance, singing, poetry and heartfelt conversations. The women also offered gifts such as sweets, new clothes, and books, fulfilling small needs and receiving blessings in return. Led by president Pratibha Mittal, the gathering focused on spreading joy to the elderly.



### SWASTIK FASHION INSTITUTE Makeup workshop organised

A makeup workshop was organised to teach different makeup techniques at Swastik Fashion Institute. The workshop was conducted by makeup artist Anamika Sitlani, where students were taught makeup techniques for both traditional and western dresses. The session was highly interactive with participants gaining valuable insights into professional makeup styles.

## 50,000 volunteers participate in RSS path sanchalan

### Procession starts from 373 places

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

Discipline was at its best as the Vijaydashami procession of the Sangh was taken out in the city on Sunday. The procession started from multiple places and more than 50,000 volunteers participated

The procession of the Sangh started from 373 places in Indore. People gathered to welcome the volunteers marching in discipline. People showered flowers on them at many places. People also reached with their families to see the enthusiasm and zeal of the volun-



teers. Children also showed enthusiasm and showered flowers on the procession from the roofs and windows of their houses. During this, the volunteers marched with discipline on the sound waves coming from the procession.

Early in the morning between 8 and 9 o'clock, processions of all the branches of

the city started from different places, passing through the internal routes of the local settlements. More than 50 thousand volunteers participated in all these marches in full uniform. Volunteers from all the four districts of the city and rural Mhow also participated in it. This march covered a total of 1350 km.

The march of Badrinath

district started from Keshav Vatika and Ekeshwar Dham temple, and three marches of Jagannath district also met at the designated place. The main officials of the Sangh addressed the gathering at the main places. During this, the speakers said that in the centenary year, the entire focus of the Sangh will be on Panch Parivartan. The Sangh will work more effectively for the upliftment of the society. The speakers expressed their views on civic discipline. They told the volunteers to reach out to as many societies, families and people as possible. During this, it was decided that the focus will be on five points. These include social harmony, family management (family system), environment, Swadeshi and civic discipline.

## Teen girl falls to death from third floor

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

A 16-year-old girl accidentally fell to death from the third floor of her house in Kanadiya late on Saturday night. The incident happened when she was putting wet clothes on a rope while standing on a drum and fell from there after losing balance.

The deceased was identified as Payal, daughter of Rameshwar, a resident of Bhuri Tekri. She worked at a school. The



incident occurred around 12:30 am and police were informed around 5 am about the incident.

Her brother-in-law Praveen said the family had returned home around 10:30 pm from Omkareshwar following the immersion of idol Durga. As it was raining at night, her clothes were wet and she was putting them on a rope for

### She was trying to scare brother

One of the girl's relatives said that the girl fell from the third floor when she was trying to scare her brother. An argument broke out between them after her brother asked her money for intoxicants

and her mother refused to give. Following that, the girl had an argument with him and she went to the balcony to scare him and accidentally fell from there after losing balance, the relative added.

drying while standing on a drum. She lost her balance and fell from the third floor. The family members came to know about the incident when

the neighbours saw her lying on the ground. The police have launched a probe to ascertain the exact circumstances surrounding the incident.

### | Sindoor Khela |

## Citizens bid tearful farewell to Goddess Durga

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

Sindoor Khela is a vibrant and traditional Hindu celebration that generally takes place on the last day of Navratri, this year the women bid farewell to Goddess Durga on Sunday morning with teary eyes.

A deeply emotional atmosphere filled the Bengali Club premises this morning as the women of the community first adorned Goddess Durga with vermilion (sindoor) and then applied it to each other before tearfully bidding her farewell.

During the sindoor khela married women apply vermilion to the cheeks of God-



Women applying sindoor during the Sindoor Khela before bidding farewell to Goddess Durga. Selfie time at Bengali Club on Sunday Photo By: Anand Shriv

dess Durga and forehead with betel leaves first and then to each other, symbolising the bond of matrimony, while also wishing for the wellbeing

and longevity of their spouses. The women celebrate the festival joyously with unity, love and sisterhood.

Treasurer of the Sarbojanin



Durga Puja Committee, Pradeep Bhadra, Apurva Chaudhary and Samik Maity, said that when Goddess Durga arrived on the day of Shashthi,

the entire environment was filled with joy and celebration. However, as we all bid farewell to her, everyone's eyes welled up with emotion.

There is a religious belief that on the first day of Navratri, Goddess Durga comes to her maternal home on earth and stays here for nine days. On the tenth day, she leaves for her in-laws house. This departure is celebrated as Sindoor Khela. The feeling behind this is that the daughter is leaving her home, may her marriage and happiness continue.

After the Sindoor Khela ceremony, the immersion procession for Goddess Durga took place in the afternoon, followed by the distribution of sacred water and sweets in the evening. The 96th Shradotsav of the Bengali club concluded with the Vijay Sammelan.



FLYOVER DAY | CM to inaugurate bridges today

# City to get 4 flyovers as ‘Diwali gift’

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

Finally! Motorists of the city can hope for a smoother driving experience as the four newly-built flyovers in the city will be opened for traffic today. Two of them Bhawarkuan and Phooti Kothi would be fully operational while only one arm each of the Khajrana and Luvkush flyovers would be opened for traffic as their construction was delayed due to delay in removing religious places. The remaining side of these flyovers will be opened for the public in upcoming months.

All the flyovers would be inaugurated by Chief Minister Mohan Yadav. It will be the first time that four flyovers will be started on a single day.

The chief executive officer of IDA RP Ahirwar said that CM Yadav will inaugurate the bridges built by the Indore Development Authority at the Phooti Kothi Square, Bhawarkuan Square, Khajrana Square and Luvkush Square.

These flyovers will provide ease of traffic to at least 5 to 7 lakh people, and at the same time, the traffic pressure on various routes of the city would be reduced. He said that the main ceremony will be held near Dayal Guru Gate at Phooti Kothi Square. At the remaining places, the flyovers will be made operational by unveiling the plaque and performing Pujan.

## BHAWARKUAN



The length of this flyover is 625 meters and has been constructed along the sides of the BRTS at a cost of around Rs 47.27 crore. With its construction, the traffic going from Khatiwala tank to Khandwa road at Tantya Bhil Square (Bhawarkuan Square) will be able to go straight underneath the flyover while vehicles travelling from Bholaram Ustand junction towards Holkar College and vice-versa will use the flyover.

## KHAJRANA



The length of this flyover will be 650 meters and it has two arms (3-lane each). About Rs 41.18 crore has been spent on its construction. The traffic coming from the flyover will be able to go directly to Ring Road towards Bengali Square.

## PHOOTI KOTHI



The length of this flyover is 610 meters and its width is 24 meters. About Rs 55 crore has been spent on its construction. The traffic coming from the flyover will be able to go directly to AB road. Under it an obligatory space of about 45 meters has been kept through which the traffic coming from Mhow Naka can go straight towards Phooti Kothi and its adjacent colonies.

## LUVKUSH



A six-lane bridge built at Lavkush Square connecting the Super Corridor and MR 10. This bridge was constructed at a cost of Rs 56.67 crore.

## TIMELINE AT A GLANCE

### November 21, 2022

CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan lays foundation stone of Khajrana Square Flyover and Bhanwarkuan Square Flyover

### November 24, 2022

Work starts on both flyovers

### December 29, 2022

Work on the Bhawarkuan Square flyover delayed by 15 days. IDA starts work after the IMC finishes developing a road at Teen Imli Square and traffic passing through Bhawarkuan Square is diverted towards the Rajiv Gandhi Square via Khandwa Road and towards Teen Imli Square

### February 12, 2023

Bhoomi Pujan of Phooti Kothi Flyover performed

### March 10, 2023

1313 trees cut and transplanted in nearby forest areas and other places.

# Light showers turn city cool following hot day

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

The trend of unpredictable weather continued on Sunday as the city witnessed three different weather conditions throughout the day.

The day started with a clear sky but the day temperature increased by three degrees Celsius in the last 24 hours i.e. over 32 degrees Celsius, turning it hot and humid.

However, light showers in many parts of the city coupled with stormy winds changed the weather conditions in a totally opposite direction from where the day started.

The change in weather turned the city evening pleasant with cool breeze blowing across the city.

Meanwhile, officials of the meteorological department said that the fluctuation in weather conditions would continue throughout the week as the temperature and weather conditions would remain the same like hot and humid day but rain in the evening.

Winds were blowing at speeds of 20 kilometres per hour and sudden rainfall and thundering gave a tough time



City receives light showers on Sunday evening

## Day temp shoots up by three degrees Celsius in 24 hours, evening experiences cool winds

to the commuters going home from work.

The well-marked low-pressure area over east central and adjoining west-central Arabian sea with the associated cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8 km above mean sea level persisted over the same region. It is likely to move west-northwestwards and intensify into a depression over the central Arabian Sea. The upper air cyclonic circula-

tion over southwest Bay of Bengal now lies over north interior Tamil Nadu and extends upto 3.1 km above mean sea level tilting south westward with height. Met officials said.

Under the influence of these conditions, isolated light rainfall activity with thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds (speed 30-40 kmph) is very likely over Madhya Pradesh from Oct 26 to 30, Met officials added.

The maximum temperature on Sunday was recorded at 32.6 degrees Celsius which was normal while the night temperature was recorded at 23.2 degrees Celsius which was four degrees Celsius above normal.

# Bike-borne miscreants vandalise 10 vehicles

Our Staff Reporter  
INDORE

Two individuals on a two-wheeler vandalised about 10 vehicles parked on the road under Palasia police station limits late on Saturday night. The incident occurred with cars parked in Ravindra Nagar around 2:30 am. The miscreants fled the scene after causing the damage. Residents were awakened by the noise and found the destruction. They rushed outside to find the cars damaged. They im-



mediately called the Dial 100. ACP Tushar Singh said that two individuals on a two-

wheeler were captured in CCTV installed near the spot in which one of them was riding the vehicle and other was vandalising the cars. The accused have not been identified yet and at least eight cars were damaged. The police have registered a case against the unidentified accused under section 324(4) (whoever commits mischief and thereby causes damage shall be punished with imprisonment upto two years with fine) of the BNS and started a search for them.



श्री नरेंद्र मोदी  
मान. प्रधानमंत्री



इंदौर शहर को एक साथ  
चार फ्लाया ओव्हर की सौगात

**डॉ. मोहन यादव**  
मान. मुख्यमंत्री म.प्र. शासन

के कर कमलों से होने वाले  
लोकार्पण कार्यक्रम में

**आप सादर आमंत्रित हैं**



डॉ. मोहन यादव  
मान. मुख्यमंत्री

-दिनांक-  
**14 अक्टूबर 2024**  
-समय-  
**सायं : 5.00 बजे**

**कार्यक्रम स्थल**  
-----  
**फूटीकोठी  
फ्लाया ओव्हर**



भंवर्कुआ



खजराणा



लवकुश



फूटीकोठी

इंदौर विकास प्राधिकरण













Overheard

Tides have turned

The maxim – times are changing – has become part of the dialogue of bureaucrats in the state these days. Most of the files sent to the Big Ma'am by the officers before her retirement were approved. Now that a Sahib has come in place of the Ma'am, there is a shift in the tide. He has sent back many files with comments: Discussion. Some of the files were connected to transfers. These files with the tag – top priority – were sent from the CM's Secretariat. The Sahib, however, sent them back to the departments concerned with the comments: Please discuss. He has clearly told the officers to send transfer-related files to his office, citing proper reasons for shifting any officer. What he means is that the paper work must be error-free. The return of the transfer-related files from the office of the Sahib without his approval has made many officers think lest there should be any problem for them. On the contrary, a few officers think such a scrutiny of the files will at least stop the blunders that crept into the crucial notes written during the tenure of Ma'am as head of the state bureaucracy.

Two-fold setback

There is a two-fold setback for the officers of a department. During the Lok Sabha election, the minister of the department mounted pressure on them to meet his poll expenses. So, money was taken from them during the parliamentary election. Those who were working in the field were given a target for collecting funds. Just as the officers heaved a sigh of relief after the Lok Sabha election. A minister is again forcing them to give money. There are reports that the officers have been told to part with a certain amount of dough for a particular election. But as they are reluctant to give money, a close aide of the minister threatened to transfer them. Fed up with this threat, when the officers narrated their tale of woes to the higher-ups, they, too, kept away from the issue. About this department, it is said that the officers make money through back-hand deals. Ergo, the ministers who take charge of the department only find ways to harvest carrots.

Ma'am is tense

A madam, who held an important position, is uptight these days. She expected that no sooner had she retired, she would be rehabilitated in an organisation. Even on the day of her retirement, she met the head of the state, hoping that he would inform her about her appointment to the organisation. But he threw cold water on her hopes, saying when she was in office, she did a good job, and bade her goodbye. During their conversation, the head of the state never mentioned that she would be rehabilitated in any organisation. There are reports that the Sahib has decided to appoint someone to the organisation only after deliberations. He is mulling over some other names for appointment to the organisation. Before retirement madam was confident of getting the position, but as the

government is taking time to issue an order appointing the Ma'am, her chances of getting the job are becoming dim. Now, she is trying to get the order issued through her clout.

Good days

A few officers in the state bureaucracy feel their good days are ahead. They are posted in such departments as are not considered important, but now, after the change in the administration, they think they will get important positions. As some of them are using their influence to get plum postings, they are trying to please the Bade Sahib. Immediately after meeting the Bade Sahib, one such officer started praising him. Nevertheless, the Bade Sahib had to talk the officer out of singing in his praise. Similarly, another officer is trying to make the Bade Sahib happy by all means. In the state, there are many such officers as the Bade Sahib has never come across. So, he is collecting info about them. A few of them are looking for officers, close to the Bade Sahib, to get important postings.

High connections

An action, initiated by the government in a case, has scared some officers. They are acquainted with a man arrested for a serious offence. There are reports that the law-breaker has interacted with these officers over phone. Now, after taking the person into custody, the police are inquiring into his call details which are set to disclose the interactions the officers had with the wrongdoer. These officers know if their names are revealed, they will be in trouble. Several officers, belonging to different categories, have got benefits from the person in the past few years. He presented these officers with gifts as well as provided them with other services. After the man has fallen into the police dragnet, these officers are taking feedback on the progress of inquiry. But as the centre, inquiring into the case, is not in the state, these officers are not getting any information about the investigation.

Caste equation

Caste equation among police officers is being discussed in the corridors of power. An officer, who was in queue for the most important post in the police department, was considered Kshatriya. But, some time ago, he revealed that he belonged to the OBC category. The Sahib called himself OBC, and some politicians, belonging to his caste, recommended his name for the top job in the police department. Same issue with another IPS officer. As he was close to a Kshatriya leader, people thought he belonged to the same caste, and because of his closeness to that politician, he got plum postings. The Sahib's name is doing the rounds for an important assignment, but there have been discussions for the past few months that the officer belongs to the OBC category, and that too, to a special category of OBC. After the revelation of these officers' caste, there are discussions that one never knows when the caste of an officer changes with the change of time.

■ Nitendra Sharma

TRACING HISTORY | As per the folklore, during the Dwapar Yug, Lord Krishna visited Jamgarh of Raisen district

# Experts to explore Jamvant Gufa for historical links

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

The ambitious 'Krishna Gaman Path' project is poised to become more extensive and elaborate as the government intends to identify and incorporate every possible place in Madhya Pradesh having connections with the life and journey of Lord Krishna.

As per the folklore, during the Dwapar Yug, Lord Krishna

## To gather facts to support Lord Krishna's visit to this site

visited Jamgarh of Raisen district and had a fierce fight with Jamvant at the latter's cave. The fight lasted for 27 days continuously day and



night, non-stop. After getting defeated, Jamvant handed over the 'Syamantak Mani' to Lord Krishna. He even married his daughter Jamvanti to Lord Krishna.

The action plan of Krishna Gaman Path is going to cover the Jamvant Gufa and gather as much evidence related to Lord Krishna's visit here.

The director of Vikramaditya Shodh Peeth, Shriram Tiwari told Free Press that folklore is that Jamvant Gufa of Raisen district has a connection with Lord Krishna. "Therefore, based on the folklore and hearsay, we are going to examine the Jamvant Gufa and will try to gather facts to support Lord Krishna's visit to this site," said the officer, stressing on the need to examine the folklore.

The committee overseeing the Krishna Gaman Path has come to know about another location in Khategaon that is associated with similar folklore and this too will be examined.

## Survey yet to begin

Under Krishna Gaman Path action plan, the survey of places connected with Shri Krishna is proposed. The teams are yet to kick start the survey work and even a final approval from the government is awaited in this regard. It is expected that after Diwali, the work of surveying places connected with Lord Krishna will get accelerated. As per the religious scriptures, Lord Krishna visited Sandipani Ashram of Ujjain apart from some other voyages in the state. All such places will be documented based on religious scriptures and folklores. Krishna had also visited Janapav near Indore and received the Sudarshan Chakra.

## National Apprenticeship Fair from today at govt ITIs

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

The 'National Apprenticeship Fair 2024' will be held on Monday at the Government ITI, where young people will have the chance to showcase their skills and connect with various industries. The fair will offer new skill development and employment opportunities for the youth in Bhopal, Gwalior, and Sagor divisions.

The event will take place across several districts, including Bhopal, Vidisha, Sehore, Mandideep, Rajgarh, Narmadapuram, Harda, Betul, Gwalior, Guna, Shivpuri, Ashoknagar, Datia, Bhind, Morena, Sheopur, Sagor, Damoh, Chhatrapur, Panna, Tikamgarh, and Niwari. Here, the candidates can not only register themselves but also connect with employers and explore job opportunities. Additionally, employers will have the opportunity to identify and recruit a skilled workforce for their businesses. Candidates can register at the link [bit.ly/4dyTLMo] [bit.ly/4dyTLMo], while employers can register at [bit.ly/4gTwYOB] [bit.ly/4gTwYOB].

## DPI releases schedule

The DPI has also released the schedule for new accreditation, upgradation, and renewal for CBSE and ICSE board schools for the 2026-27 session. Online applications must be submitted by December 30, 2024, and applications with a late fee of Rs 20,000 will be accepted until January 30, 2025. Inspections by the teams formed by the divisional joint directors will be completed by February 10, 2025. The commissioner of public instruction will resolve the first appeals for new accreditations and renewals by March 31, 2025.

can file their first appeal with the CPI by February 10, 2025. The Commissioner will resolve the appeals regarding new accreditations and renewals by March 10, 2025. For Madhya Pradesh Board schools, the accreditation fee is set at Rs 32,000 for high schools and Rs 40,000 for higher secondary schools. The accreditation will be valid for five years.

## Physical verification mandatory for schools seeking accreditation and its renewal

## Pvt schools must submit applications by Nov 25, while CBSE and ICSE board schools have Dec 30 deadline

## This year, the accreditation of 4,000 schools is due for renewal

and ICSE board schools have a deadline of December 30. This year, the accreditation of 4,000 schools is due for renewal.

After the inspection is conducted by the team formed by the DEO, the findings must be submitted online to the Divisional Joint Director (JD) via a mobile app by December 10. The JD will resolve the accreditation applications by January 10, 2025.

If any school's accreditation is cancelled at the JD level, they

## BMC sprays water to settle dust, smoke after Ravan Dahan

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

Bhopal Municipal Corporation used sprinklers to spray water on Ravana-Dahan site after torching effigies this year and took the measurement of

Air Quality Index. BMC conducted this experiment at 25 places this year and saw the drastic improvement after Ravan Dahan. Twenty one sprinklers machines were deployed in all over city to settle dust and smoke.

## Air Quality Index

Place	Reading	Year
Collectorate	119.9	2023
Paryavaran Complex	93.7	2023
TT Nagar	111.4	2023
Collectorate	78.5	2024
Paryavaran Complex	63.7	2024
TT Nagar	71.9	2024

# 1,670 idols immersed in 3 days at notified ghats

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

Around 1670 idols of Goddess Durga have been immersed over the last three days at various notified ghats in Bhopal.

Immersion started from Friday and still underway at notified ghats. Around 663 idols were immersed at Prempura Ghat, while 87 idols were immersed at Shahpura, 101 idols at Khatlapura, 196 at Rani Kamalapati ghat, 303 at Bairagarh, 69 idols at Malikheddi, and 251 idols at Hathaikheda.

BMC commissioner Harendra Narayan Singh has deployed the BMC assistant engineers at all these 7 notified ghats for smooth immersion.

Cranes, motor boats, divers and other equipment deployed at 7 ghats—Prempura, Shahpura, Khatlapura, Ranikamlapati, Bairagarh, Malikheddi, and Hathaikh-



Devotees take out procession for immersion of Durga idol in Bhopal on Sunday.

heda. Proper lighting, drinking water arrangements have also been made at the ghats.



Durga Idol being immersed at Khatlapura

## 2 BMC engineers suspended for absence at ghats

Our staff reporter

BHOPAL

Two assistant engineers of Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC) have been suspended as they were absent at notified ghats during immersion of Durga idols. During the inspection, orders were given to

## Expect more light rain in state



Bikers riding amid rain in Bhopal on Sunday

## Bhopal receives light rain

Our staff reporter

BHOPAL

Light rain occurred in Bhopal on Sunday evening as the weather remained cloudy. Throughout the day, it was cloudy on Sunday. The monsoon has withdrawn from Bhopal.

According to meteorological department, moderate thunderstorm with lightning and rain are likely to continue in Ujjain, Dhar, Sehore, Agar Malwa, Alirajpur in next 24 hours. Moderate thunderstorms with lightning is likely to occur in north Dhar, Barwani, Jhabua, Shajapur, Betul, Chhindwara, Damoh.

Light thunderstorm with lightning is likely to occur in Bhopal, Vidisha, Raisen, Sanchi, Narmadapuram, Harda, Khargone, Ratlam, Indore, Dewas, Mandasaur, Rajgarh, Seoni, Pandhurna, Balaghat, Sagor, Dindori, Anuppur, Guna, Shivpuri, Sheopur-

Kalan.

A low-pressure area is seen over east Arabian sea with associated cyclonic circulation. It is very likely to move west-north-westwards and intensify into a deep low pressure area over Arabian Sea during next 12 hours. Cyclonic circulation is active over north Tamil Nadu. A trough extends from Arabian Sea and adjoining coast in the east to the northern Comorin across south Kerala, Tamil Nadu. Cyclonic circulation is active over western Uttar Pradesh.

Low-pressure area is likely to come up on the other side of the coast. As a precursor, a cyclonic circulation is likely to form over south Bay of Bengal. Under favourable sea conditions, it is expected to manifest as a low-pressure area. A rapid intensification is quite likely in 48 hours.

Another weather system is coming up over the central parts of Bay of Bengal. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh will be the preferred areas to absorb the impact of the system.

## Over 2,800 met watery grave in last four years

Our Staff Reporter

BHOPAL

In the last four years, more than 2800 people lost their lives in various water bodies across the state, said officials here on Sunday. The State Disaster Emergency Response Force (SDERF) played a crucial role in saving the lives of more than 47,000 people from drowning between 2021 to October 9, 2024.

SDERF, DIG Manish Agarwal told Free Press that the SDERF jawans have been given a 40-day training in Pune to prepare them to handle any challenges they may face during rescue operations. The jawans have been given high quality training in national level training institutes to enhance their capacity and upgrade their skills for rescue work in case of flood, heavy rainfall and disaster. The jawans are getting



training here in motorboat handling, swimming, deep diving, other techniques used during floods and other natural calamities, the DIG said.

He further added that the divisional commandants, senior officers and office heads of all the divisions of the state to remain alert at all times regarding the pre-preparations to deal with heavy rains and floods. A State Command Centre has been established to deal with floods and disasters. Apart from this, helpline numbers have been issued for the safety and convenience of the citizens.

Year	People rescued	Bodies fished out	Rescue/ Search Op
2021	9343	450	560
2022	9342	644	1111
2023	18698	1003	1236
2024	2409	776	1173
Jan-Oct 9			

## BMC deploys cranes, divers, motor boats to avoid any mishaps and smooth immersion





RATLAM

### Kavi Sammelan held

A Kavi Sammelan was held on the ninth day of the ten-day-long Shri Kalika Mata Navratri fair organised by the municipal corporation. Poet Laxman Nepali, from Kathmandu, Nepal, recited his poems. Renowned poets and poetesses from all over the country, including Ashok Nagar, Nisha Pandit, Dheeraj Sharma, Siddharth Deval and others participated in the Kavi Sammelan. Mayor Prahlat Patel, corporation commissioner Himanshu Bhatt and others welcomed them with garlands and bouquets.

PIPLIYA MANDI

### Blood donation camp organised

On the 25th remembrance day of Acharya Shri Natesh and Padrohan Diwas of Acharya Ramesh, Jain Samta Yuva Sangh organised a blood donation camp at Jain Sthanak Bhawan on Saturday. Sandeep Kumar Garg of Digambar Jain Samaj commenced the blood donation. Blood donors were honoured and certificates were distributed. Sangh president Manoharlal Jain, Parsmal Bhandari and others were present.



KASRAWAD

### 5k devotees take part in Kanya Bhoj

As many as 5,000 devotees participated in the Kanya Bhoj organised on the concluding ceremony of Navratri festival at Badi Mata Mandir situated on Mandleshwar Road. The event began with Kanya Pujan in the morning and food was served to girls. People from nearby rural areas also came for the prasadi. On the occasion, the temple premises were decorated exquisitely.



KHETIA

### Mega blood donation camp held

On the call of Akhil Bhartiya Sadhumargi Jain Shri Sangh, a mega blood donation camp was organised by Samta Yuva Sangh, Khetia on the Padrohan Diwas. The camp began in Samta Bhawan after Mangalpath of Mahasati Shrisanyati Shreeji. The camp was inaugurated in the presence of national working committee member of Shri Sadhu Marg Jain Sangh Mukesh Sancheti, Shri Vardhman Sthanakvasi Jain Sangh, Khetia president Rajendra Tatia and others. Pansemla MLA Shyam Barde also visited the camp and interacted with blood donors.

MAHIDPUR

### Good rainfall for rabi crops

The good amount of rainfall has brought increased chances for sowing Rabi crops even in the non-irrigated areas of the town. After harvesting soybean, preparations are being made to sow gram, wheat and mustard seeds. Approximately, 80% of the soybean crop is ready to be harvested. However, out of the remaining 20% of soybean crop, 10% is estimated to be damaged due to incessant rainfall.



MANDSAUR

### Rangoli competition organised

As part of Diwali festival, Winner Club Matrishakti Vahini, on Sunday, organised Swami Vivekananda Rangoli competition at Agrasen Manglik Bhawan Narsinghpura. Around 16 candidates have participated in the competition, showcasing their talent in Rangoli-making. Bharat Vikas Parishad national project member Rekha Porwal, Bharat Vikas Parishad Sanskar Pramukh Dipti Vyas and others were present as special guests. Guests garlanded the picture of Bharat Mata and Swami Vivekananda and lit ceremonial lamps.

## FESTIVAL OF COURAGE | Shastra Puja, effigy burning & spectacular fireworks mark Vijayadashami

# Victory of good over evil celebrated with pomp

Ravan Dahan attracts large crowd

FP News Service  
MANDSAUR

On Vijayadashami, Rajya Sabha member Banshilal Gurjar, MLA Vipin Jain and municipal president Ramadevi Gurjar participated in Ravan Dahan in Khanpura, Mand-  
saur.

The event attracted a large crowd of residents and digni-



ties, showcasing a vibrant display of gymnastics followed by the burning of ef-

figies of demon king Ravan accompanied by spectacular fireworks. Gurjar emphasised

that the Dussehra festival symbolises the triumph of good over evil.

## Get-together organised



Dhar: Vijayadashami celebration and get-together were organised by Hindu Utsav Samiti at Vijay Mandir, Dhar, where a grand procession started from Dhanmandi and passed through the main roads in the city. Mahant Shri 108 Hariharanand Bajji Omkar Parvat was welcomed by Hindu Utsav Samiti presi-

dent Babulal Gehlot and vice president Jagdish Rathore. The event emphasised the importance of unity and national interest. A grand aarti of Lord Ram was performed and prasad was distributed. The programme was attended by various dignitaries, including district officials and local leaders.

## Ravan effigy finally meets flames

Kasrawad: The Ravan effigy in the city was finally set on fire after a lot of effort, as it had become moist due to rain during the day. Raju Nandlal Patel, along with his family, worshipped the Shami tree and burnt Ravan in a grand procession. The municipal council organised attractive fireworks earlier, which was enjoyed by thousands of city dwellers. However, the large crowd caused traffic congestion, affecting pedestrians and drivers. Social workers have urged the police administration to make proper arrangements for traffic management to avoid such issues in the future.



## 51-ft tall Ravan effigy burnt



Alot: Ravan Dahan, organised by the municipal council was celebrated with grandeur and fireworks in the Dussehra Maidan on Saturday. Residents, in large numbers, gathered to witness the dahan (burning) of the effigy of 51 feet tall effigy of Ravana. Following the yearly tradition, the tableau of Lord Anadi Kalpeshwar also reached the location to provide blessings, marking the commencement of the programme. After dahan, everyone wished each other Happy Dussehra.

## RSS calls for united Hindu community

Kasrawad: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), on Saturday, took out a procession. The procession traversed the main streets of the town, giving a message of a united Hindu community. "It has become necessary for Hindus to unite to save the culture and society", said Sangh district chief Mohan Prajapat while addressing the volunteers in Madhav Basti at Bhavani Mata Chowk. The procession was welcomed with flowers at various places in the town.



## Sangh takes out path sanchalan



Seetamau: RSS took out a path sanchalan with drums and show on Saturday. Dussehra celebration programmes were organised at various places including Shri Ram Vidyalaya in Keshav

Basti, Adyashakti Jagdamba temple and Garba pandal in Ambedkar Basti. A weapon worship was also performed. After offering prayers to Bharat Mata, the 'path sancha-

lan' (procession) of RSS began with slogans. Tehsildar Manohar Lal Verma, naib tehsildar Pratibha Bhabhar and other officers were deployed for security arrangements.



## Dussehra celebration unites community

Bagh: The city celebrated Dussehra with traditional fervour, culminating in the burning of a 31-foot tall Ravan effigy at Devi Mandir ground. Following the worship of the Shami tree, a grand procession featured youth dressed as Shri Ram, Laxman and Hanuman, led by society president Thakur Tej Bahadur Singh Pawar. The vibrant procession moved through key areas, showcasing community spirit. As night fell, the effigy was set ablaze amidst fireworks, captivating hundreds. The new demonic costume of Ravana drew attention, symbolising the triumph of good over evil. Local families also held their own Ravan Dahan, enhancing the festive atmosphere.

## MLA Sonkar, civic body prez torch Ravan effigy

Pipalrawan: The 51-feet-tall effigy of Ravan, installed on Lalita-Pushpadevi Mata temple premises was torched by MLA Dr Rajesh Sonkar and civic body president Sharma on Saturday. The programme was attended by former district general secretary Bahadur Singh Pilwani, janpad panchayat vice president representative Madan Singh Dhakad, Prabhushankar Rathore and others as special guests. The guests were welcomed by tying turbans and garlands. Citizens enjoyed the spectacular show of fireworks and wished each other Happy Dussehra.



## Vijayadashami celebrated with gusto

Khetia: On the festival of victory of good over evil, Vijayadashami, was celebrated with pomp and show in the town. A large number of citizens thronged the Krishna Upaj Mandi Samiti to witness the Ravan Dahan organised by the municipal council. The picturesque fireworks grabbed everyone's attention. Children dressed as Lord Shri Ram, Lord Laxman, Lord Hanuman and Goddess Sita arrived with drums. Citizens then visited the houses of their relatives and close ones to receive blessings.



## Tehsildar, CMO participate in Shastra Puja

Unhel: Tehsildar Ramvilas Vaktalia, municipal council CMO Kailashchandra Verma, police station in-charge Ashok Sharma and Patwari Sunil Chauhan participated in the weapon worship (Shastra Puja) at the police station on Saturday. The vehicles were also worshipped and prayers were offered to Goddess Durga, wishing for the prosperity of the town. Madanlal Ninama, Mangilal Malviya and others were present.

# Authorities intensify efforts against drug traffickers

Afzalpur police register case against kingpin Premsukh Patidar

FP News Service  
MANDSAUR

In a significant breakthrough in the ongoing Bhopal drug haul probe, Afzalpur police, on Saturday, registered a case against kingpin Premsukh Patidar, who was arrested

two days back and being hospitalised due to bullet injuries on his leg.

The arrest took place on Friday afternoon after a week-long extensive raids and investigations aimed at apprehending the crucial figure in the drug operation. However, Patidar was admitted to the district hospital for treatment for two days after sustaining a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the leg at the Afzalpur police station.

According to station in-

charge Samarth Sinam, police teams have been interrogating Patidar's contacts and relatives. They have been warned against providing shelter to any wanted individuals associated with the case.

Patidar remains under medical care and police were awaiting clearance from doctors to conduct a thorough interrogation.

SP Abhishek Anand stated that police surveillance has been intensified. A case involving the Arms Act, along

## BHOPAL DRUG HAUL

with charges of forgery and fraud, has also been filed. Investigations were ongoing into the circumstances surrounding Patidar's injury. Bhopal drug haul, involving an estimated Rs 1.814 crore, has raised alarms about the drug trade's expansion in the state.

Reports indicate that Patidar facilitated the distribution of over a quintal of

drugs across several states, including Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Local citizens have expressed their outrage over the escalating drug problem, leading to protests in Suwasra town, where markets were shut down in demand for effective action against drug trafficking.

The case has garnered political attention as well with local political leaders such as district Congress president and Mandsaur MLA Vipin Jain has vowed to address

these issues in the assembly and emphasised the urgent need for police and government intervention to combat the drug crisis affecting families and youth in the region.

In a contrasting response, the BJP leaders have called for stringent action against Patidar and those involved in drug activities.

# Hospice & Palliative Care Day observed

FP News Service  
RATLAM

District Hospital observed World Hospice and Palliative Care Day on Saturday, under the leadership of Civil Surgeon Dr MS Sagar.

The event featured a comprehensive programme aimed at raising awareness about the importance of palliative and hospice care.

Surgeon Dr Gopal Yadav emphasised that palliative care

is designed for patients in the advanced stages of illness, providing symptom-based treatment alongside ongoing medical care. In contrast, hospice care focuses solely on symptom management, ceasing curative treatments for patients with a life expectancy of less than six months.

During the event, Dr Sagar highlighted the hospital's commitment to palliative care, noting that four beds in the NCD ward are specifically reserved

for palliative care, along with two beds dedicated to cancer chemotherapy. He assured attendees that adequate medication and resources are available for patients requiring these services.

The celebration also included a health camp, with 32 patients availed benefits. It was attended by several esteemed medical professionals, including Dr BL Taparia, Dr Nirmal Jain and various nursing officers.



## Thieves target online centre, make off with goods worth Rs 80,000

FP News Service  
BAGH

Thieves broke into a shop, Shan Online Money Point, at Mahesh Nagar Bus Station, Bagh on Saturday night, making off with goods worth approximately Rs 80,000.

The centre's operator, Manan Pathan, reported that the thieves climbed onto the roof from a nearby graveyard wall, removed the sheet and entered the shop by cutting the

hinges of an iron door and the lock of the channel gate.

The stolen items included a small inverter, two mantra devices, an SBI Micro APM machine, a tablet from SBI Bank and the whole set of equipment.

This is the third time the centre has been targeted by thieves. The incident came to light when the centre was opened on Sunday morning, with goods found scattered and strewn about.

## PANCHANG 14.10.2024 (DAKSHINAYAN)

Saka 1946	Samvat 2081
Month : Ashwin Shukla 11+12 Monday 6:42 A.M. & 3:43 A.M.	
Nakshatra : Satabhisag 12:43 A.M. then Pu-Bhadrapad	
Yoga : Gand 6:01 P.M. then Vriddhi	
Karan : Bhav 5:16 P.M. then Kaulav	
Moon : Kumbh	
VEN 7	6 SUN
VEN 8	6 SUN
9	3 MARS
10 PLU	2 JUP
11 SAT	11 SAT
12 RAHU	12 RAHU
13 KETU	13 KETU
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16	16
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NEW DELHI

## Jio seeks Min's intervention to ensure level-playing field

Reliance Jio has sought Union minister Jyotiraditya Scindia's intervention to get regulator Trai issue a revised consultation paper on a proposed spectrum allocation rule to ensure a level-playing field between terrestrial and satellite players. Reliance Jio, in its letter to telecom minister Scindia, referred to the Supreme Court's judgement in 2G case and indicated that Trai's failure to incorporate questions on level-playing field may lead to legal tussles. The letter came after Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) rejected Jio's request for incorporating questions around the level-playing field between terrestrial network players that provide mobile phone services using towers installed on ground and those seeking to offer satellite-based communication services.

MUMBAI

## Kinetic Engg to invest ₹30 cr in subsidiary

Kinetic Engineering Ltd will invest Rs 30 crore in its subsidiary Kinetic Watts and Volts as it looks to focus on expanding research, development, and manufacturing capabilities of the new venture, the company has said. Pune-based auto component maker Kinetic Energy had in 2022 announced the setting up a subsidiary company to manufacture electric vehicle components.

NEW DELHI

## Macrotech net debt rises 14% in Sep quarter

Realty firm Macrotech Developers Ltd's net debt rose 14 per cent to Rs 4,920 crore during the second quarter of this fiscal year as it looks to invest more on land acquisition and construction. Mumbai-based Macrotech Developers, which sells its projects under the Lodha brand, is one of the leading developers in the country. According to its latest operational update, the company's net debt stood at Rs 4,920 crore as on September 30, 2024.

CHENNAI

## IOB opens Retail Loan Processing Centres

Indian Overseas Bank has unveiled retail loan processing centres in multiple cities aimed at streamlining the loan approval processes and reduce turn around time, a top official said. A Retail Loan Processing Centre was inaugurated in physical mode in Chennai while seven others were launched in virtual mode across cities, the bank's Managing Director and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said.

NEW DELHI

## BigBloc arm to install 800 KW solar rooftop power project

Starbigbloc Building Material Ltd, a material subsidiary of BigBloc Construction Ltd, has recently placed order for installation of rooftop solar plant of 800 KW solar rooftop power project at its Kheda Unit. Additionally, a 1350 KW solar rooftop system will be installed at the newly established facility under the joint venture.

## Due to geopolitical crisis, 'sell India, buy China' trend

# FPIs take out ₹58,711 cr from equities in October

PTI

NEW DELHI

Foreign investors turned net sellers in October, withdrawing shares worth Rs 58,711 crore in the month so far owing to escalating conflict between Israel and Iran, a sharp rise in crude oil prices, and the strong performance of the Chinese market.

The outflow came following a nine-month high investment of Rs 57,724 crore in September.

Since June, Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs) have consistently bought equities, after withdrawing Rs 34,252 crore in April-May. Overall, FPIs have been net buyers in 2024, except for January, April, and May, data with the depositories showed.

Looking ahead, global factors such as geopolitical developments and the future direction of interest rates will play a crucial role in determining the flow of foreign investments into the Indian equity markets, Himanshu Srivastava,



Associate Director, Manager Research, Morningstar Investment Research India, said.

According to the data, FPIs made a net withdrawal of Rs 58,711 crore from equities between October 1 and 11.

"Escalating conflicts, particularly in the Middle East between Israel and Iran, have increased market uncertainty, leading to risk aversion among global investors. FPIs have become cautious and pulling

out money from emerging markets," Vinit Bolinjar, Head of research at Ventura Securities, said.

The geopolitical crisis has also led to a sharp rise in Brent crude oil prices from USD 69 per barrel on Sep 10 to USD 79 per barrel on Oct 10, which poses inflationary risks and increases the fiscal burden for India, he added.

V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, believes

## Glenmark arm recalls products in US for mfg issues



PTI

NEW DELHI

Drug firm Glenmark is recalling two products in the US due to manufacturing issues, according to the US Food and Drug Administration.

New Jersey-based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc, USA, a unit of Mumbai-based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals, is recalling 45,504 bottles of Ryaltris (olopatadine hydrochloride and mometasone fluorate) Nasal Spray.

The company is recalling the affected lot due to "defective delivery system", the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) said in its latest enforcement report.

"The dip tube is clogged causing the spray not to work," it added.

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals Inc, USA, initiated the nationwide (US) Class II recall on September 24 this year.

As per the USFDA, a Class II recall is initiated in a situation in which use of, or exposure to, a violative product may cause temporary or medically reversible adverse health consequences or where the probability of serious adverse health consequences is remote.

The US health regulator said the drug firm is also recalling a generic medication to treat certain fungal skin infections.

## ONGC looks at mini-LNG plants

PTI

NEW DELHI

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is looking to set up mini-LNG plants to evacuate natural gas from wells located in areas that are not connected with pipelines.

The firm has identified five sites in Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and Gujarat for setting up mini plants at well-head that will convert the gas pumped out from under the ground into LNG by super-cooling it to minus 160 degrees Celsius. This LNG will be loaded on cryogenic trucks and transported to the nearest pipeline where it will be reconverted into its gaseous state and pumped into the network for supply to users like power plants, fertilizer units or city gas retailers.

## Avg airfares around Diwali drop 20-25% on many routes

PTI

NEW DELHI

Air passengers might have a reason to smile this Diwali season as average airfares on many domestic routes have dropped 20-25 per cent compared to the year-ago period, according to an analysis.

Increased capacity and the recent fall in oil prices are considered to be among the factors for the fall in air ticket prices. The analysis by travel portal ixigo showed that average airfare on the domestic routes have declined in the range of 20-25 per cent.

The prices are for one-way average fare on a 30 days APD (advanced purchase date) basis. For 2023, the time period considered is November 10-16 while it is October 28-November 3 for this year. This is the time around Diwali.

The maximum decline of average airfare is 38 per cent for a Bengaluru-Kolkata flight to Rs 6,319 this year from Rs 10,195 last year, as per the analysis.

The ticket price on Chennai-Kolkata route has fallen 36 per cent to Rs 5,604 from Rs 8,725.

The average airfare for Mumbai-Delhi flight has dropped 34 per cent to Rs 5,762 from Rs 8,788. Similarly, there is a 34 per cent decrease in ticket prices on Delhi-Udaipur route to Rs 7,469 from Rs 11,296.

The decline is 32 per cent on Delhi-Kolkata, Hyderabad-Delhi, and Delhi-Srinagar routes.

"Last year, airfares around Diwali had surged due to limited capacity, primarily driven by the suspension of Go First airline. However, this year we've seen some relief as addi-



## An airline without call centre

After taking to the skies nearly seven months ago, FLY91 is on a steady flight path and that too with a difference. The regional carrier does not have a call centre for passengers. Focused on being a "digital native" company, the Goa-based carrier prepared a list of priorities before commencing operations and decided to do away with certain things that are traditionally done by the airlines. "We consciously wanted to go down that path (of not having a call centre)...," FLY91's Chief Technology Officer Prasanna Subramaniam said.

tional capacity has been added since then, leading to a 20-25 per cent YoY (year-on-year) dip in average airfares across key routes for the last week of October," ixigo Group CEO Alok Bajpai told PTI.

According to him, the decline in oil prices, down 15 per cent this year, may have also contributed to this downward trend, offering travellers more affordable options during the festive season.

## Pranav Mishra's Huemn Label presented by R|Elan creates a stir at Lakmē Fashion Week

Through their ongoing partnership, Reliance Industries Limited's R|Elan Fabrics 2.0 and Lakmē Fashion Week x FDCI have consistently presented pathbreaking shows, featuring renowned designers that have captivated audiences worldwide. This season, R|Elan announced its collaboration with ready-to-wear homegrown label HUEMN for a unique collection. The R|Elan x HUEMN collection will merge HUEMN's distinctive design ethos with R|Elan's state-of-the-art fabric technology, combining creativity and innova-



tion in an extraordinary showcase. As part of the collaboration, HUEMN has embraced eco-friendly fabrics like R|Elan GreenGold, made from recycled PET bottles.

## Wipro board to mull bonus share issue on Oct 17

PTI

MUMBAI

IT firm Wipro on Sunday said its board of directors will consider the issue of bonus shares at a meeting scheduled to be held on October 16-17, 2024.

Wipro is set to announce its Q2 FY25 results on October 17, 2024.

"The board of directors of the company will be considering a proposal for the issue of bonus shares, in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 (including the rules and regulations framed thereunder), the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Issue of Capital and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2018, at its meeting scheduled to be held over October 16-17, 2024," a regulatory filing said.

The Bengaluru-headquartered firm posted a 4.6 per cent year-on-year increase in its consolidated net profit in the June-ended quarter at Rs 3,003.2 crore.

## SBI plans to enhance threshold limit under instant loan scheme for MSME sector

PTI

NEW DELHI

To ensure easy and adequate credit availability to the MSME sector, the State Bank of India (SBI) is planning to enhance the threshold under the instant loan scheme from the existing Rs 5 crore.

"MSME Sahaj - End to End Digital Invoice Financing", provides solutions ranging from applying for the loan,

## Q2 results, FIIs and CPI data key factors for mkts this week

PTI

NEW DELHI

Quarterly earnings of corporates, trading activity of foreign investors and inflation data are the key factors that are expected to drive the momentum in the equity markets this week, analysts said.

Moreover, markets would also focus on movement in crude oil prices amid geopolitical tensions, experts added.

"In the coming week, the market's direction will largely hinge on corporate earnings, with major companies like Reliance Industries, Infosys, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, and HCL Technologies set to release their results, among others," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

From the macroeconomic front, investors will keep an eye on the CPI (consumer price index-based inflation) and WPI (wholesale price index-based) inflation data for September, scheduled to be announced on Monday.

Investors will also closely track updates on geopolitical tensions, particularly their impact on crude oil prices, and foreign fund flows. Key domestic economic data, including CPI and WPI infla-



tion, are also scheduled for release, which could influence market sentiment, Mishra added.

Last week, the BSE benchmark fell 307.09 points, or 0.37 per cent to close at 81,381.36, while NSE Nifty slipped 50.35 points or 0.20 per cent to settle at 24,964.25.

The markets ended the week marginally lower, marking a pause after a sharp decline. The week started on a downbeat note due to continued selling pressure from foreign investors, but selective strength in heavyweight stocks helped limit the losses in the latter sessions, he said.

Further, the markets will also witness the opening of three initial public offerings (IPOs), one in mainboard and two in the SME segment.

Hyundai Motor India's initial share sale is set to hit the markets on Tuesday and will conclude on Thursday, as the automaker plans to raise Rs 27,870 crore, through an offer for sale.

## Will explore electric vehicle export opportunities: Hyundai Motor India

PTI

NEW DELHI

IPO-bound Hyundai Motor India Ltd will explore opportunities for exporting its upcoming electric vehicles from the country to other similar markets to enhance its position as a production hub for emerging markets, according to a senior company official.

The company is lining up four electric vehicles to be launched in future, including the electric version of its popular SUV Creta by Q4 FY25, in the mass and 'mass premium' segments. "We are a very strong production hub for emerging markets. We are exporting to 80 plus countries. As far as EVs are concerned, it will, of course, depend on the demand but we are always open to look at any product, which we introduce in India,



for exporting it to the other market as well," Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HML) COO Tarun Garg told PTI.

He was responding to a query on whether the company will export its EVs planned to be launched in India in the future.

"In terms of EV (exports) it will depend on the infrastructure. It will depend on the demand. But yes, going forward, we will see what are the opportunities which are being presented," Garg said.

The four EVs, including Creta EV, will be in both "mass as well as in the mass premium segments", which will

## India unleashes major defence orders in Sept'24

ANI

NEW DELHI

The month of September 2024 witnessed a series of significant defence procurement and development initiatives by the Government of India (GoI), aimed at bolstering the country's military capabilities and enhancing its strategic position in the global defence landscape.

One of the key highlights of September was the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approving 10 capital acquisition proposals worth Rs 145 billion.

The approvals include the procurement of FRCVs, which will significantly enhance the Army's mobility and firepower.

In addition to the FRCVs, the DAC approved seven Project 17B stealth frigates for the Indian Navy, at an estimated cost of Rs 700 billion. The frigates will strengthen the Navy's maritime defence capabilities and improve its surface warfare tactics.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) cleared a major contract with HAL for the supply of 240 units of AL-31FP jet engines, valued at Rs 260 billion, for the Indian Air Force's Sukhoi Su-30MKI aircraft.

be made in India, he added.

"These products are primarily for the Indian market...the strategy has always been to make products central to the Indian markets to get good economies of scale as well," he said, adding like the company has done in the past, it would look to tap emerging markets that have similar customer preferences like India.

"Normally, all the products which we produce in India are very suitable for emerging markets like Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Central America, Asia. So, it becomes a very natural fit for us (to look at exporting the EVs from India)," Garg said.

He said bringing the Creta EV would be the right entry into the volume segment.

HML is not simply launching the EVs but is also developing the entire ecosystem, he said.

core. Anybody walking into our MSME branch has to give only their PAN and approval for sourcing GST data, we can give approval in 15-45 minutes," SBI Chairman C S Setty told PTI in an interview.

Simplification of the MSME credit is something that the bank is emphasising on and making lending cash flow based backed by the CGTMSE guarantee, he said.

This reduces the need for

collateral, which would enable a lot of people to come into the formal MSME borrowing system, he said.

"We still have a large number of MSME customers accessing the informal credit. We would like to bring them to the banking fold," he said.

As far as network expansion is concerned, Setty said SBI is planning to open 600 branches across the country in the current financial year.

## 7 global finalists dazzle with their collection during Sustainable Fashion Day at Lakmē Fashion Wk



Rkive City by Ritwik Khanna from New Delhi won the 6th R|Elan Circular Design Challenge National, October 11th 2024: The 6th edition of R|Elan Circular Design Challenge in partnership with the UN in India unveiled seven finalists who dazzled the audience with their immense creativity during

Sustainable Fashion Day at Lakmē Fashion Week in partnership with FDCI. The finalists for the season included EU: Wenyan Xu & Meng Wang; APAC: Tsang Fan Yu; UK: Silvia Acien; India: Gautam Malik, Ritwik Khanna and Chandini Batra. Rashmick Bose & Drishti Modi joined as the wildcard entry from India.



np Briefs

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Guv and CM at loggerheads

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan hit back to chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan over his remarks on gold smuggling and accused the CM of keeping him in dark. "If I come to know that certain activities which are prejudicial to the security and integrity of the country are going on- Is it my duty to report to the president or not? And when the source of this information is the chief minister himself then is it not proper on my part to write to him and ask him why he has not shared this information with me and why he has kept me in dark and provided all the information? Now he is saying that he has never said there is any anti-national activity," Governor Khan said.

BALLIA

3 hurt in clash over playing DJ music

Three people were injured after two groups clashed over playing DJ music during the burning of effigies at a village in Ballia district on Dussehra, police said on Sunday. The clash broke out at Kharoni village in the Bansdih police station limits on Saturday night between two groups of people over playing DJ music during the Dussehra festivities. The police had to intervene to bring the situation under control.

BALLIA

SI killed in road mishap

An Uttar Pradesh Police sub-inspector returning home from duty was killed in a road accident in Etah district, police said on



Sunday. The incident took place on Saturday night when an unidentified vehicle hit Naresh Pal Singh (60) riding his motorcycle near the Natha village on the Bareilly-Agra highway. Singh was rushed to a local hospital which referred him to the Aligarh Medical College where he succumbed to his injuries.

BABA SIDDIQUE’S MURDER: Yasin belongs to Jalandhar city with a criminal record of seven cases

Shooter Gurmail Singh has Hry connection

Rajesh Moudgil  
CHANDIGARH

While one of the two shooters, Gurmail Singh nabbed by the Mumbai police, in the sensational murder of NCP leader Baba Siddique, has a Haryana connection, it has identified another accused as Yasin Akhtar, who is a native of Punjab’s Jalandhar district.

While the two shooters already arrested by the Mumbai police are Gurmail Singh from Haryana and an Uttar Pradesh native Dharmaraj Kashyap; another accused Shiv Kumar is on the run. The Mumbai police has also identified another accused, Yasin Akhar, who is a native of Jalandhar district of Punjab.

According to Haryana police, Singh, has a prior criminal history, including a murder case against him; A native of village Narhar in district Kaithal, Singh had murdered one Sunil, brother of his



Police personnel gather outside the residence of NCP leader Baba Siddique where his body being brought in Mumbai on Sunday

friend Ashok in 2019 by stabbing him over 50 times with a sharp-edged weapon. He was caught and was sent to Kaithal jail where he got in touch with several gangsters; he was learnt to have run away to Mumbai after getting bail in 2022. Singh was close to gangster Rohit Godara, who was a close associate of notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.

According to police Singh’s parents had passed away; his other family members said that the family had disowned him 11 years ago. Media reports also quoted his grandmother as saying that he meant nothing to the family and that the family did not need him whether he lived or died. It had been over four months that the family had

Baba Siddique’s native village in Bihar mourns his death

Dheeraj Kumar  
PATNA

A pall of gloom has descended on NCP (Ajit faction) leader Baba Siddique’s native village in Gopalganj district of Bihar following his murder in Mumbai on Friday.

Siddique, a former Maharashtra minister, was born on September 13, 1958, in Sheikh Toli village of Manjhagarh block, Gopalganj.

While mourning the murder of Siddique, residents of Sheikh Toli village raised concerns about the law and order situation in Maharashtra.

Nephew of Baba Siddique, Ahmed said, "I want an unbiased probe into this. Shockingly, he was murdered even though he was part of the ruling party...I demand a probe committee be formed...the culprits must be given the strictest punishment possible"

"If such a big political leader can be shot dead, what will be the condition of common people? I demand punishment for the culprits," remarked a resident of Siddique's village.

Siddique spent 35 years in Congress before joining NCP eight months ago.

Despite living a busy life in Mumbai having strong connections with Bollywood top actors including Salman Khan and Sanjay Dutt, he regularly visited Gopalganj and oper-



A visual of Baba Siddique's native place in Gopalganj

ated 40 institutions after his father, Abdul Rahim Siddique' name.

Villagers recalled his commitment to social work and support for the community while condoling his death.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Siddique visited Gopalganj and distributed relief supplies, including sanitisers, masks, and PPE kits

His maternal cousin, Mohammad Jalaluddin's family, still resides in Sheikh Toli village.

Baba Siddique was the son of a watchmaker's son as his father took along with him to Mumbai when he was five.

Residents of his ancestral village took pride in his success in politics. Siddique also used to honour top-performing students in government schools. In 2018, he announced scholarships for 110 students.

The 66-year-old leader had close relationship with Bihar's

prominent leaders, including RJD chief Lalu Prasad, chief minister Nitish Kumar, and state Congress president Akhilesh Prasad Singh. There were even speculations over his nomination to the Rajya Sabha or Bihar Legislative Council via the RJD quota.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav commented on 'X', "The news of the murder of senior Maharashtra leader Baba Siddiqui is extremely sad. I pray to God to give the deceased a high place in heaven and give patience and courage to the family. What name will you give to such criminal incidents that are continuously happening in Maharashtra under the NDA rule?"

Congress leader Tariq Anwar said, "Siddiqui was a senior leader of Congress. Then he joined Ajit Pawar's faction. He was a grounded leader. His murder shows the law and order situation in Mumbai and Maharashtra...

This attack shows that Mumbai is once again in the hands of the underworld..."

Bihar Congress chief Akhilesh Prasad Singh, "I pay my tribute to Baba Siddique, his departure in this manner is a personal loss for me. He was not only a skilled politician but also a simple-natured person and my best friend.

His brutal murder on Saturday is a question mark on the law and order situation in Maharashtra."

heard from him, she said.

Meanwhile, according to information, Yasin, a native of Punjab's Jalandhar city, also had a criminal history with seven cases registered against him. He was also arrested and was lodged in Patiala jail where he made contacts with other gangsters who were members of Bishnoi gang. He had come out on bail in June this year. More details about him are awaited.

It may be recalled that Baba Siddique, 66, was waylaid and shot at by three men Saturday night at Kher Nagar in Mumbai's Bandra area his MLA son Zeeshan Siddique's office; he was rushed to the Lilavati Hospital where he was declared brought dead.

The Mumbai police has launched a probe into the sensational killing of the former Maharashtra minister from various angles including a possible contract killing, business rivalry or threat over a slum rehabilitation project;



seeking blessings

Children offers prayers during the Vidyarambham ceremony at the Saraswathi Devi Temple, in Thiruvananthapuram, on Sunday

Cab driver attempts rape of Manipuri student

PTI  
NEW DELHI

A 19-year-old Delhi University student from Manipur has accused police officials here of handling her harassment complaint against a cab driver with leniency and offering the man an "easy path to bail".

She claimed that the driver associated with an online cab aggregator company held her hostage and drove to an isolated place with an intent to rape her but she somehow managed to escape.

GatiShakti adds speed to Viksit Bharat goal: PM

NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded completion of three years of the government's transformative initiative PM GatiShakti National Master Plan and said it was adding speed to fulfil "our vision of a Viksit Bharat" and encouraging progress, entrepreneurship and innovation.

Sharing on X, a post by Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and a thread post by MyGov, the Prime Minister wrote:

He also made a surprise visit to the PM GatiShakti Anubhuti Kendra at Bharat Mandapam here on the third anniversary of PMGS-NMP.

The Anubhuti Kendra showcases the key features, achievements and milestones of PMGS-NMP which was launched on October 13, 2021, to provide multimodal connectivity infrastructure to various economic zones.

In a post on X, Modi said, "PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has emerged as a transformative initiative aimed at revolutionizing India's infrastructure.

It has significantly en-

hanced multimodal connectivity, driving faster and more efficient development across sectors." The seamless integration of various stakeholders has led to boosting logistics, reducing delays and creating new opportunities for several people, he said.

"Thanks to GatiShakti, India is adding speed to fulfil our vision of a Viksit Bharat. It will encourage progress, entrepreneurship and innovation," the prime minister said.

As he visited the PM GatiShakti Anubhuti Kendra at Bharat Mandapam, Modi appreciated the strides made in planning and execution of projects across the country due to the impact of PM GatiShakti.

The PM GatiShakti has redefined how India plans and executes large-scale infrastructure projects.

By harnessing geospatial data from 44 Central Ministries and 36 States/UTs, the platform has significantly improved inter-ministerial coordination and streamlined project execution, linking with more than 1600 data layers to create a crucial tool for planning and executing infrastructure projects.

Maha people eager for political change: Pawar

PTI  
MUMBAI

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar on Sunday said the people of Maharashtra are eager for a political change and expressed confidence that the sentiment will be reflected in the outcome of the upcoming state assembly polls.

Addressing a press conference here along with leaders of the other Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) constituents, Pawar claimed that the state administration, which was considered the best in the country, was demoralised under the Mahayuti regime.

"We want to make people free from the present government and I am confident they will support us," he said.

The Mahayuti comprises the Shiv Sena led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, BJP and Ajit Pawar's NCP.

Shiv Sena (UBT) president Uddhav Thackeray said there is a difference of only 0.6 per cent in the vote share of the Congress and BJP in the recently held Haryana assembly polls, still the BJP got more seats.

Ex-DU Professor Saibaba's body to be donated to hosp

PTI  
HYDERABAD/NEW DELHI

The body of former Delhi University professor and rights activist GN Saibaba who passed away in Hyderabad, will be donated to a hospital as he wished, said a statement issued by his family on Sunday. Saibaba, 58, was released from the Nagpur Central Jail after 10 years of incarceration after the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court set aside the life sentence given to him by a trial court, in an alleged Maoist links case in which the stringent Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was invoked.

Miscreants desecrate Ram Vilas’s statue in Gaya, probe launched

Dheeraj Kumar  
PATNA

In a shocking incident, some miscreants have desecrated the statue of LJP founder and former union minister Ram Vilas Paswan near Dharam Bagaha Tola under Neemchak Bathani police station limits in Gaya district.

Sources said that the local people found the statue desecrated on Saturday morning as they suspected that miscreants might have done so on Friday night. Leaders of LJP (Ram Vilas) and workers have

Ram Vilas’s son and union minister Chirag Paswan who is presently on an official tour to France is yet to react to the incident

registered an FIR with the police station concerned in this connection.

Ram Vilas’s son and union minister Chirag Paswan who is presently on an official tour to France is yet to react to the

incident. Ram Vilas’s son-in-law and LJP (RV) MP from Jamui Arun Bharti condemned the desecration of the statue and demanded immediate action against the culprits.

He said that late Paswan always fought for Dalits and oppressed sections of the society and insult to his statue was intolerable. The desecration of Ram Vilas’s statue only reveals the caste hatred in the society, he added.

Meanwhile, Gaya Police said that a small portion of the statue suffered damage and it had also been repaired.

High stakes for BJP, Cong in Rajasthan

Manish Godha  
JAIPUR

After the elections in neighboring Haryana, the BJP and Congress have started focusing on the by-polls of seven assembly seats in Rajasthan. BJP's core group meeting held in Jaipur on Sunday while the Congress is about to start booth management training camps for its workers in all the by-polls board assembly segments.

The core group of BJP in its meeting chaired by CM Bhajan Lal Sharma discussed the party's campaign and feedback

ASSEMBLY POLLS

reports of the districts regarding the names of the candidates.

"This was the first meeting if the core group regarding the by-polls. Many issues were discussed, including the ground reports of the assembly seats. Now the core group will meet the party high command to share these reports and the names of the candidates would be announced from Delhi," said a senior leader of the party.

The dates of the by-polls on seven assembly seats of the

state namely Dausa, Deoli - Uniyara, Jhunjhunu, Salumbar, Chourasi, Kheinvsar and Ramgarh are likely to be announced in the coming week.

The stakes for BJP are not very high in the by — elections as the party has to save only one seat of Salumbar from where it's sitting. MLA Amrit Lal Meena passed away recently, but as the party is ruling the state and particularly after the unexpected win in neighboring Haryana, the party is now pressured to perform well.

However the party looks energized after the Haryana results.

The party president Madan Rathore said, "Haryana is our neighboring state and the results have energized our workers which will impact the by-polls in the state,"

On the other hand, stakes for Congress are very high as among the rest of the six seats, Dausa, Deoli - Uniyara, Jhunjhunu and Ramgarh are of the Grand Old Party, while Kheinvsar and Chourasi are with two local parties Rashtriya Loktantrik Party (RLP) and Bhartiya Adiwasi Party (BAP) who both were in alliance with Congress in Lok Sabha elections.

3-member technical team suspects sabotage after site inspection



PTI  
NEW DELHI

A three-member technical team of senior railway officials from the Signal & Telecom, Engineering and Operations department raised serious apprehension of sabotage after inspecting the accident site at Kavarappettai Railway Station in Tamil Nadu, railway sources said.

On October 11, train No12578 Mysuru - Darbhanga Bagmati Express collided with a stationary goods train at around 8.30 pm at Kavarappettai Railway Station in Chennai Rail Division, Tamil Nadu, causing injuries to nine passengers.

"The team of senior officials have found that the mechanical parts of the interlocking system were opened. Normally, these parts get broken

after an accident due to the heavy impact of the locomotive and coaches," a source, close to the inspection team, said.

"It looks like the miscreants, who interfered with the interlocking system, gained knowledge from some well-trained person and tried doing it elsewhere earlier for experience," he added.

The Railway officials said that some cases were reported earlier from different places near Kavarappettai Railway Station where the miscreants tried to subvert the interlocking safety system but couldn't do it.

"Perhaps they gained experience by doing that elsewhere and finally implemented their plan successfully in Kavarappettai. The interlocking system was

subverted within a few minutes as the previous train which crossed the said interlocking point was four minutes before the Mysuru-Darbhanga Express," the source said.

The Railway officials said that after examining the con-

TRAIN MISHAP

dition of the site, it seemed that there was no defect in the signalling system or any error on the part of the signalling department.

"Initially, it looked like the signal was given for the main line but the interlocking was done for the loop line due to which the passenger train entered the loop line and rammed into the stationary freight train. However, now the shreds of evidence observed at the site suggest something else," a railway official said.

"Now it seemed that as the interlocking point was subverted, there is a strong possibility that the train derailed first at the interlocking point and then due to its high speed headed towards the freight train and collided with it."

कार्यालय नगर परिषद सोनकच्छ, जिला देवास ( म.प्र. )

क्रमांक/लौनि/अमृत 2.0/ज.प./2024/1101

सोनकच्छ, दिनांक 04/10/2024

ई-निविदा सूचना

निम्नलिखित कार्यों हेतु केन्द्रियकृत प्रणाली में पंजीकृत ठेकेदारों से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा का विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाइट <https://mptenders.gov.in> पर देखा जा सकता है।

S. NO.	E-Tender No. & Start Date	Name of work	Probale Amount (Inlacs) & Period of Completion (Rs in lacs)	Cost Of Bid Document's & EMD	Last Date for Submission of bid
1	2024_UAD 374190_1 05.10.2024 10:30	Survey, Soil investigation, Design and Construction of a) Providing, laying, jointing, testing, commissioning of Feeder main having length of 1913 m of dia. 150 mm of DIK-7 pipe, including excavation, refilling, road cutting/dismantling, restoration, providing valves, special and fittings all complete. b) Construction of one no. of overhead reservoirs having capacities of 800 KL near School staging (01) height of 20 m along with boundary wall. c) Providing, laying, jointing, testing, commissioning of distribution network having length of 10098 m of dia 110-355mm HDPE PN6 and 400 DI K-7 pipe and including excavation, refilling, road cutting/ dismantling, restoration, providing valves, specials, and fittings all complete. d) Providing house service connections of 500 NOS e) PLC-SCADA for monitoring and controlling of water supply system. (IIRd call)	296.81/- 18 Months (including rainy season.)	15000/- 148402.75/-	21.10.2024 11:30

नोट:- निविदा से संबंधित किसी भी प्रकार के संशोधन का प्रकाशन ऑनलाईन <https://mptenders.gov.in> की वेबसाइट पर किया जावेगा पृथक से समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशन नहीं किया जावेगा।

मुख्य नगर पालिका अधिकारी  
नगर परिषद सोनकच्छ



From  
front page

## Bishnoi gang claims Baba...

"Police have set up 15 teams which are fanned out of Maharashtra and investigation is on to identify who provided logistical support to the shooters. Two pistols and 28 live rounds were recovered from the accused," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (crime branch) Datta Nalawade.

He clarified that Siddique was provided a non-categorised security and was allotted three police constables. "These constables work in three shifts. At the time of the incident (on Saturday night), one policeman was accompanying Siddique," Nalawade told a press conference. Police have so far arrested two persons. The involvement of more persons is suspected. Speaking on the investigation, the DCP said 15 teams have been set up which are working out of Maharashtra. We are also taking help from the local police to ascertain who provided logistical support to the accused shooters.

The crime branch is trying to identify the location where the assailants had stayed after arriving in Mumbai and who helped them. "After the shooting incident, Assistant Police Inspector Rajendra Dhabade and a constable nabbed both shooters," he added.

A Facebook post, purportedly by a gang member, said that the murder was due to Siddique's ties with Bollywood actor Salman Khan and underworld figures -- Anuj Thapan and Dawood Ibrahim.

## Shocking: Oppn...

The incident has prompted the opposition to question the law and order situation in the state, where the assembly elections are expected to be held next month. Patil said Siddique's murder is "shocking and shameful" for the state. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, in a post on X, said the tragic demise of Siddique is shocking beyond words.

"In this hour of grief, I offer my deepest condolences to his family, friends and supporters. Justice must be ensured, and the present Maharashtra Govt must order a thorough and transparent investigation. The culprits must be brought to book at the earliest. Accountability is paramount," he said. All India Congress Committee in-charge of Maharashtra Ramesh Chenni-

thala claimed Siddique's murder shows there is "complete anarchy in Mumbai." "The rule of law is gone. CM & Dy CM must resign immediately, taking responsibility," he said in a post on X. Leader of Opposition in the assembly Vijay Wadettiwar said the murder has proved that the law and order situation in the state has reached its nadir.

In a letter to the Mumbai police commissioner, the Congress leader claimed Siddique had received a threat to his life 15 days ago, and his killers are 19 to 20 years old.

"Who is the mastermind? Some days ago, there was a firing outside the house of a film star. Is there any connection between Siddique's murder and the firing?" he wrote.

## Israel asks UN troops...

In a separate statement, Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz also declared UN Secretary-General António Guterres persona non grata, barring him from entering Israel.

UN peacekeepers, in turn, have asked for explanations from the Israeli army over what they said were "shocking violations" against their force. Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has told her Israeli counterpart that attacks on UN peacekeepers in Lebanon are unacceptable.

## 77 docs at Kalyani...

Several doctors from state-run hospitals have already submitted collectively signed "resignation" letters to the West Bengal government over the issue in the last few days.

The state government had on Saturday said the mass resignation of doctors was not valid and it must be submitted individually, according to service rules.

## This time patient's...

Additionally, starting Monday, several doctors from private hospitals across the state plan to strike for 48 hours in support of their colleagues on hunger strike.

## Kishore Kumar Samman...

Besides, a special musical tribute to Kishore Kumar by singer Neeraj Shridhar was held under 'Kishore Night' which captivated the audience. Director Culture NP Namdev and other officials of the culture department were present.

# Hooda's stubbornness sank Congress in Haryana: Tikait

**IAN S**  
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Kisan Union spokesperson Rakesh Tikait said on Sunday that former chief minister Bhupinder Hooda's stubbornness sank Congress after the party fell short of the majority mark to form government in Haryana.

Reacting to the statement by farmer leader Gurnam Singh Charuni, he said, "There was resentment among the farmers. It is not that the farmers did not go with other parties. The farmers voted for every party. There is resentment among the people who joined the movement. Those who did not join the movement are with the government."

"Elections are fought party basis, religion basis and caste basis. People will vote in favour of like-minded parties. The person who is a farmer, a labourer or a shopkeeper will vote for the party whose faith he has. They (farmers) all live together in the organisation. If a person starts considering the people of the organisation as being in his favour, then he is wrong," he added.

The BKU leader also raised

questions on the veracity of EVMs. "You did not understand mathematics. The public has voted...but they (BJP) are the ones who win... Like sugarcane committee elections are being held in UP, their (BJP) direct game here is to cancel the nominations of the people of the other party and win without election," he told IANS.

"BJP people have become masters of elections... by fighting with sticks, with intellect, or by making people fight with each other, they will win the elections," Tikait said.

"There was definitely something wrong in this election (Haryana), we had said this earlier also. EVMs are kept somewhere and then when elections are held somewhere else. Are the EVMs shown to any party before they are sent to booths... the engineers do all the programme setting... yes, it is all a game of EVMs. You press any button...votes will go to them (BJP) only..." he further said.

Earlier in the day, Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU) chief Gurnam Singh Charuni blamed former CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda for the party's defeat in Haryana.

# 'Aurora in Ladakh validates space weather monitoring efforts'

**HANLE**



Deepa Anglukh X

New Delhi: Ladakh's recent sightings of aurora, marked by reddish or greenish light in the night sky and usually observed in the far northern regions, is a validation of our efforts in space weather monitoring, a team of astrophysicists that predicted the activity about 48-72 hours prior said.

The appearance of intense red-coloured light rays in the sky on the intervening night of Oct 10-11 was the latest in a series of recent auroral sightings — previous ones occurred on those of May 11 this year, and Nov 5 and May 10 of 2023.

All-sky cameras of the Bengaluru-based Indian Institute of Astrophysics at Hanle and Merak in Ladakh captured the aurorae throughout the night. Dibyendu Nandi, head of the Centre of Excellence in Space Sciences India at the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research Kolkata, said, "The aurora sightings are a validation we are on the right track. It boosts our confidence to predict extreme weather events in space that can potentially endanger all kinds of satellite based services on Earth, bringing modern society to a standstill."

## SILENT STIR | Several detained near Ladakh Bhavan as cops dub gathering unauthorised

# Wangchuk: Blot on democracy



A cop speaks to climate activist Sonam Wangchuk during his protest in New Delhi on Sunday

—PTI

**PTI**  
NEW DELHI

Delhi police on Sunday detained several people from outside the Ladakh Bhavan where climate activist Sonam Wangchuk has been leading an indefinite hunger strike since October 6 to press for their demand to include Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

According to one of the protesters, the detainees have been taken to the Mandir Marg police station.

Earlier police said Sonam Wangchuk was among those detained, but later the New Delhi DCP clarified the climate activist was not among the detainees. "We have detained some students from outside the Ladhak Bhavan. Sonam Wang-

chuk is not among them," deputy commissioner of police (New Delhi) Devesh Mahla said.

Meanwhile, Wangchuk said in a video message the Delhi police detained several of their supporters, as he questioned why Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which prohibits unauthorised gatherings is permanently enforced in New Delhi. "Many people came here today to observe a silent protest. It is really said they were detained by Delhi police. It is sad because in world's largest democracy, we can't even hold a silent protest," Wangchuk said in the message.

"We have been told Section 163 has been enforced... It is sad the mother of democracy has such a restriction imposed all through the year. This section is usually enforced temporarily only where there is a chance of law and order getting disrupted," Wangchuk said.

## Sibal: EC must clarify on questions raised by Cong

**PTI**  
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal on Sunday said the Election Commission must clarify on the questions raised by the Congress about EVMs in the recently-concluded Haryana Assembly polls.

Sibal asserted he is of the opinion that misuse of EVMs does take place in the elections.

The Congress had on Friday submitted more complaints to the Election Commission alleging discrepancies in the electronic voting machines

during counting of votes for the Haryana Assembly elections.

The Congress candidates from 20 assembly constituencies, in their written complaints to the Election Commission (EC), have alleged that the batteries in some of the EVMs were charged at 99 per cent during counting on October 8.

The complaints follow the Congress' shock defeat in the assembly elections after the party failed to win a simple majority even after 10 years of the BJP rule in Haryana.

## Gas cylinder found on tracks in Roorkee

**PTI**  
HARIDWAR

A gas cylinder was found lying on the tracks of the Roorkee-Luxor railway route, police said on Sunday.

The guard of the BCN goods train spotted the cylinder on the second railway line near Dhandhera railway station at around 6.45 am on Saturday, police said.

Laksar GRP in-charge Sanjay Sharma RPF and police teams reached the spot and took the cylinder in their possession. The cylinder was empty, he said.

## India slams attacks on UN peacekeepers

**PTI**  
UNITED NATIONS / NEW DELHI

India has backed a joint statement by the UNIFIL-contributing countries that "strongly condemned" the recent attacks on the UN peacekeeping force in Lebanon and said such actions must stop immediately.

The joint statement, initially co-signed by 34 countries, came after at least five United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) peacekeepers were wounded in recent days as Israeli troops launched attacks in southern Lebanon as part of its campaign against Hezbollah.

"We consider UNIFIL's role as particularly crucial in light of the escalating situation in the region. We therefore strongly condemn recent attacks on the UNIFIL peacekeepers. Such actions must stop immediately and should be adequately investigated," said the joint statement posted on X by Poland's mission to the UN on Saturday.

India, initially not mentioned among co-signatories, on Saturday said it aligns itself fully with the joint statement.

## Kerala CM accuses Guv of vilification campaign

**PTI**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The ongoing row between the Kerala Governor and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan escalated further with the Marxist veteran on Sunday accusing Arif Mohammed Khan of unleashing "intentional personal attacks" on him and carrying out a "vilification campaign" against the state.

The CM also took a dig at Khan by saying that the Supreme Court has frowned upon the "habit" of sitting on bills passed by the legislature. Vijayan, in a strongly-worded

## Why life of one soldier is not same as another: Rahul

**PTI**  
NEW DELHI

After the death of two Agniveers in Nashik during training, leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday demanded answers from PM Modi and defence minister Rajnath Singh on why the life of one soldier is more valuable than the other.

### AGNIPATH SCHEME

He asked why the families of the two soldiers, who died as 'Agniveers' would not get the same pension and benefits as other martyred soldiers and said he would keep fighting against this "injustice".

"The death of two Agniveers Gohil Vishwaraj Singh and Saifat Sheet during training in Nashik is very tragic. My deepest condolences to their families.

"This incident once again raises serious questions on the Agniveer scheme, which the BJP government has failed to answer. Will the families of Gohil and Saifat receive timely compensation that is equivalent to the compensation for any other martyred soldier?" Gandhi asked in a post in

Hindi on X.

"Why will the families of Agniveers not get the benefits of pension and other government facilities? When the responsibilities and sacrifices of both the soldiers are the same, then why this discrimination after their martyrdom?" he asked.

The Congress leader said the Agniveer scheme is an "injustice" to the army and an "insult" to the martyrdom of our brave soldiers.

"The prime minister and the defence minister should answer why the life of one soldier is more valuable than that of another soldier," Gandhi said.

"Let's stand together against this injustice. Join our 'Jai Jawan' movement today to remove the BJP government's 'Agniveer' scheme and secure the future of the country's youth and army," he said.

Agniveers Gohil and Saifat died during a field firing exercise in Nashik, Maharashtra.

Several people paid their last respects to Agniveer Vishvaraj Singh Gohil, whose mortal remains were received at his native Anchvad village in Gujarat's Rajkot district.

## Dengue in Manipur: four killed, 1360 positive cases reported so far

**IAN S**  
IMPHAL

Amidst the ethnic troubles, at least four people were killed in Dengue and the number of positive cases due to the vector-borne diseases recorded 1,360 in Manipur so far this year, health officials said on Sunday. Health and Family Welfare Department officials said that the state government has intensified preventive and containment measures in affected districts. According to the officials, 1,360 positive Dengue cases have been reported so far this year with four people dying from vector-borne diseases.

Of the four dengue deaths reported this year, three were in the Imphal West district and one in the Bishnupur district. Out of 16 districts in Manipur, the most affected districts are Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur and Thoubal, which are all valley districts. Imphal West district reported the highest number of 938 Dengue-positive cases so far this year.

## Temporary relief to Shivakumar

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday granted temporary relief to Deputy Chief Minister and State Congress President D. K. Shivakumar by quashing CBI's plea seeking to continue the probe against the leader in connection with the disproportionate assets case.

## Nationwide shutdown call by FAIMA from today

**IAN S**  
NEW DELHI

The Federation of All India Medical Association has called for a nationwide "shutdown of elective services" on October 14 (Monday) in support of doctors in West Bengal, seeking justice for the young medic who was raped and murdered at R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

This comes after the Indian Medical Association (IMA), earlier in the day, announced a 24-hour nationwide hunger strike on October 15, even as the fast-unto-death agitation by junior doctors in Kolkata entered the ninth day, with three hospitalised.

The doctors' body called for

the shutdown in an open letter addressed to all National Medical Associations, State Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs), and Resident Doctors' Associations (RDAs) from various State Medical Colleges and Institutes of National Importance (INIS).

The letter noted that since August 9, FAIMA has "stood united in demand for justice for our colleague Abhaya, and for the fundamental right to a safe and secure working environment for all healthcare professionals across our nation". The letter, however, "requested all RDAs and associations to keep emergency facilities open 24x7, since patients who need our urgent service must not suffer."



‘GADDARANCHA PANCHANAMA’ | ‘It is not just me and Sharad Pawar betrayed by traitors but Maha itself has faced betrayal. This is the biggest sin of Mahayuti’

# MVA puts ‘chargesheet’ against Mahayuti in ‘people’s court’

Kalpesh Mhamunkar  
MUMBAI

Leaders of the state's Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Sunday released a booklet titled 'Gaddarancha Panchanama' (panchanama of traitors) detailing the alleged corruption and lapses of the Mahayuti government during its two-and-a-half-year tenure. The programme was held at Taj Lands End at Bandra West, and was attended by MVA leaders including Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray, NCP chief Sharad Pawar and Congress leaders Nana Patole, Sanjay Raut and Varsha Gaikwad.

Thackeray said each move of the state government is looked upon with suspicion — like the two arrests made in the murder of Baba Siddique



## TALLY OF TRAITORS

**Farmer Suicides:** Accusations against the Shinde-Fadnavis administration for failing to support distressed farmers.

**Misappropriation of Nirbhaya Fund:** Claims of financial misconduct in the handling of funds meant for women's safety.

**Rs 10,000-crore scam in Jalyukt Shivar Scheme:** Allegations of large-scale corruption in this water conservation initiative.

and even the killing of Badlapur sexual assault case accused Akshay Shinde in a police shootout.

“It is not just me and Sharad Pawar betrayed by traitors (a reference to the

splits in the Shiv Sena and NCP) but Maharashtra itself has faced betrayal. This is the biggest sin of the Mahayuti,” Thackeray said.

He added that the MVA's panchanama was not just

that, it was a chargesheet against the Mahayuti government in the people's court. “Unemployment in the state has reached such a level that graduates are now applying for the job of

sweepers. Modi and Shah have stolen the jobs of Marathi people,” he said.

NCP (SP) chief Sharad Pawar while criticising the Mahayuti said that in the last three months only decisions had been taken, but what about their implementation? When will people get the actual benefits, he asked. “The government is making a mockery of the people and they as well as the administration want it to be changed,” he said.

Congress leader Nana Patole alleged that Mahayuti government is favouring Gujarat, and must be changed. Referring to the killing of Baba Siddique, Patole said, “Not just common citizens but ruling party leaders are also not safe. Now the time has come to pull this government down.”



FPJ Political Bureau  
MUMBAI

The BJP did not win the Haryana election; the Congress lost it. However, due to the mistakes made there, the Congress is no longer overconfident in Maharashtra, and the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is benefiting from this, NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar has said.

In a freewheeling discussion at FPJ Dialogue, Pawar said the MVA will continue the Ladki Bahin scheme after coming to power; leaders of the ruling Mahayuti were trying to confuse voters by saying that the scheme would be discontinued, he said.

People in Haryana were against the BJP. However, the Congress lost due to confusion in ticket distribution and no connection with the ground realities. Besides, lack of coordination among the party's three senior leaders seemed to have cost them badly, said the grand-nephew of Sharad Pawar.

Asked about the state's economy, Pawar said that on the one hand, the Mahayuti government refuses to release arrears worth Rs40,000 crore owed to contractors; on the other, it allocates new contracts generously.



“By creating the Maharashtra State Infra Development Company, the state has made PWD almost jobless”

The state has now made the PWD almost jobless by creating a new entity, the Maharashtra State Infrastructure Development Company (MSIDC), and clubbing it with district road works, which was earlier taken care of at the local level. Road works to the tune of Rs40,000 crore have been allocated to the cartels of contractors, he alleged.

“The National Highways Department headed by Union Minister Nitin Gadkari allocates works normally 30% to 40% below the estimated cost. Here we are allocating road contracts above 40% of the estimated cost, allowing a few to pocket taxpayers' money, alleged Pawar.

Projects such as the Pune Ring Road, he said, estimated to cost Rs16,000 crore, were allocated for Rs22,000 crore.

The revised cost has now been fixed at Rs40,000 crore, he said.

Giving another example, he said the basic cost of the Samriddhi Highway was Rs28,000 crore but shot up to Rs35,000 later. A substantial amount was said to have been diverted for Gujarat elections, Pawar alleged. According to him, the assets of the ex-managing director of MSRDC, Mopalwar, was around Rs3,000 crore. “I have given a letter to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) in this case and will follow it up after coming to power,” said the MLA.

A new venture that has gained momentum was that of purchasing land parcels near big-ticket projects. People close to the higher-ups purchase those at a nominal rate and later sell, pocketing the benefits of a huge compensation price.

“I won't let it happen in my constituency Karjat-Jamkhed,” he said, adding that he has asked farmers not to sell their land to agents as those will soon be requisitioned for a new highway connecting Ahmedabad to Chennai. “They will get a good price for the same,” he said.

Pawar-led Baramati Agro Ltd has been facing an inquiry by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). When asked about its status, he said the probe was on by the Delhi office. “Had I made a mistake, I would have panicked. I have documents that could get the ED in trouble. Pawar Saheb had also received a notice. I faced them,” Rohit said. “I have asked them to call me again but they haven't.”

## HC slams state over deaths, poor facilities at Ashram Shalas

Urvi Mahajani  
MUMBAI

Taking a serious note of several unnatural deaths of children in Ashram Shalas (schools) in Maharashtra, the Bombay High Court questioned the state over its accountability. A bench of Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya and Justice Amit Borkar also expressed concern over the poor conditions of these schools and said that the schemes meant for their welfare never reach them.

While hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) by Ravindra Umakant Talpe, the court was informed that about 80 unnatural deaths had occurred in the Ashram Shalas in the last one year.

State runs Ashram Shalas in remote areas to impart education to tribal children. At present, there are 497 government ashram schools and 544 aided ashram schools run by private institutions under the Tribal Development Department of Maharashtra.

A chart was submitted to the court on October 9 which said that in 2023-24, 78 children died in government-run schools while 60 died in aided schools. Between 2019 and 2024, 493 children died in government schools and 318 in aided schools.

The bench asked state's advocate Prajakta Shinde to visit these schools and look at their conditions. “You have given them the name of an ashram school and see their plight,” the bench said.

“There is a problem of their assimilation into society; there is a problem with their education and clothing. Go to any one of these schools..., and then you will be in a better position to impress upon the secretary of the department,”



**State claims**  
The Tribal Development Department has undertaken initiatives for development and enhancement of the quality of learning in the Ashram Schools.

The department is partnering with UNICEF in developing a child protection system. The service provider will be responsible for establishing child protection system.

Department has taken steps to improve transparency and efficiency in the inspection process for Ashram Schools by introducing the E-Nirikshan App.

the judges remarked.

Talpe filed the PIL in 2013 alleging that inadequate public utilities in these schools have led to many deaths.

Petitioner's advocate Uday Warunjikar submitted that the figure of 80 unnatural deaths was given a few years back, and has remained the same. Warunjikar pointed out that recommendations from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) to improve safety in these schools have not been implemented by the government.

The bench directed the state and the petitioner to file respective affidavits in two weeks providing details of the gap between TISS' recommendations and the actions taken by the state. The HC has kept the PIL for hearing on November 14.

## ‘Make Mumbai walkable’: Citizens draft manifesto

‘Human-centred agenda must be a key poll plank’

Dhairya Gajara  
MUMBAI

As the state poll nears, a citizens welfare group has come up with a pedestrian manifesto, aiming to “make Mumbai walkable”. Walking Project, which advocates for a safe and joyful walking environment across the city, underlined that walking is the most common mode of transportation in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. However, there is a dearth of basic utilities needed to make the city pedestrian-friendly, argued the group.

The manifesto especially focuses on the need to develop the Swami Vivekanand (SV) Road in the western suburbs and Lal Bahadur Shastri (LBS) Road in the eastern suburbs; which are two of the longest continuous arterial roads in Mumbai. Underscoring the urgent need to develop them into world-class pedestrian-friendly corridors, the manifesto suggested improvements in footpath width, designated hawking area and high-quality signage among other guidelines listed by the Indian Roads Congress.

The manifesto puts forth eight demands, ranging from the establishment of non-motorised transport (NMT) cells to making footpaths accessible for the specially-abled. NMT refers to modes of transport powered by human power rather than other forms of energy. Walking Project primarily seeks the



### Key demands

Establishment of non-motorised transport cells in populated areas

Develop SV Road, LBS Road into world-class pedestrian-friendly corridors

Comprehensive policies to tackle hawking, on-street parking menace

Retrofitting footpath kerbs for convenience of specially-abled

establishment of NMT cells in all urban administrative subdivisions with a population of over one lakh. “The cell, including urban planners, architects and other permanent staff members, will be responsible for designing and overseeing the implementation of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure enhancements,” the group proposed.

The manifesto also covers the problems of illegal hawking and on-street parking, seeking comprehensive policies to address the vexed issues. Walking Project also demanded “pedestrianising” the surroundings of transit hubs like railway and Metro stations, and bus depots. “Improving walkability within a 300-metre radius of these transit hubs through wider

footpaths, channelised pick-up and drop-off zones, standardised signage and high-quality surfaces can significantly elevate pedestrians' experience,” said the group. Other demands include retrofitting of footpath kerbs for convenience of the specially-abled and expansion of tree cover to reduce surface temperatures on footpaths.

Vedant Mhatre, Walking Project programme coordinator, said, “We have invested heavily in capital expenditure on Metro projects, but far less on improving and maintaining the walkability in the city. Politicians need to recognise the importance of this human-centred agenda. Our pedestrian manifesto provides a clear vision for the future.”

## Leakage leaves city areas dry

Shefali Parab-Pandit  
MUMBAI

Despite having sufficient water stocks to last until the next monsoon season, several areas in Mumbai are experiencing water shortages. The BMC has received complaints from Dongri, Memon Wada, Mumba Devi, Dadar, Bandra West, Santacruz-Kalina, Andheri East, Kandivali and Deonar. A civic official attributed the shortfall to underground leakages.

Last month's heavy rainfall has provided relief to Mumbai, with the city's lakes now at 99% capacity. Despite this, some areas are still experiencing water shortages due to low water pressure. Locals in Sewri held a 'Dhol Morcha' and 'Handa Morcha' in F South ward last Monday to draw attention to the ongoing water crisis.

“The water problem in Sewree has been resolved after a major leakage in the underground pipeline was

### Water woes

Supply to city

3950 MLD

Demand

4,463 MLD

Non-revenue water

1,343 million litres

Total water required in seven lakes for whole year -

14.47 lakh million litres

(on Oct 1)



### Leakage complaints

2002

31,447

2023

23,700

### September

City 500

Eastern suburbs

955

Western suburbs

972

repaired by cured-in-place pipe technology. The B ward, which was facing a water shortfall, has had its supply increased to 108 million litres per day (MLD). The hydraulic engineering department is addressing complaints from other areas, and solutions are expected soon,” said a senior civic official.

The BMC supplies 3,950 MLD, while the demand has reached up to 4,463 MLD.

Around 34% of water is lost due to leakages, evaporation, pilferage and theft. The civic body provides water to the city from lakes located in Thane and Nasik districts through a pipeline network of approximately 5,000 km that spans the city. To prevent leakages and contamination, the BMC has laid down a tunnel network of 95 km, with work on another 20 km currently in progress.

## Shinde Sena camp throws hat in ring

MIRA-BHAYANDAR

Suresh Golani  
MIRA BHAYANDAR

Amidst the fine-tuning of seat-sharing, Shiv Sena (Shinde) unit has thrown its hat in the ring for the Mira-Bhayandar assembly constituency which is currently held by Mahayuti-backed Independent legislator Geeta Jain. Apart from Jain, two others, including former BJP legislator Narendra Mehta and former city chief Advocate Ravi Vyas, are already entangled in a fierce competition by staking their claim to bag the BJP candidacy.

Meanwhile, office-bearers of the local unit unanimously

passed a resolution staking claim over the seat and proposing the name of Vikram Pratap Singh, who is considered to be a close confidante of Pratap Sarnaik. The resolution has been sent to Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

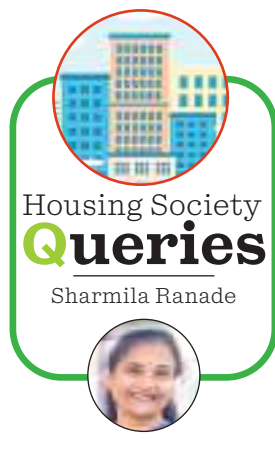
To justify their claim, the resolution signed by main office-bearers state that owing to the successful implementation of a slew of big-ticket projects under the leadership of Sarnaik in the twin-city and various citizen friendly schemes floated by the Shinde-led government, the influence of Shiv Sena has significantly increased among the masses in the past three years. The resolution further exudes confidence of victory if the seat is wrestled by the Shiv Sena.

## ‘No confidence motion must be passed by 2/3rd majority’

**Q. Can the general body remove the office-bearers & the entire managing committee by moving 'no confidence motion' against it? Is there any provision of no confidence motion under MCS Act or Rules or Bye-laws? If such no confidence motion is passed or if the entire committee resigns, what is the process to elect/appoint the new committee? Manmeet Singh, Sion**

**A.** According to Bye-law 125, there is a provision for moving a “no-confidence motion” against the office-bearers of the society by the managing committee in a special committee meeting presided over by the registrar or their deputy. The motion can be initiated by a notice from 1/3rd of the committee members and must be passed by a 2/3rd majority of those present. If the motion fails to secure the required 2/3rd majority, another motion of “no-confidence” against the same office-

bearers cannot be moved until six months have passed from the date of the preceding motion. Additionally, Bye-law 131(e) addresses the situation where the entire managing committee wishes to resign. In such cases, the resignations are presented to the general body, and the resignations become effective from the date of acceptance by the general body. When the entire managing committee resigns, the outgoing office-bearers are required to inform the Registrar about the resignation. The Registrar, in turn, may take necessary actions as outlined in Section 77A of the Maharashtra Cooperative Societies (MCS) Act. However, the existing committee will continue to handle the routine functions of the society until the registrar makes alternate arrangements for the management of the society. Refer Bye-law 141(e). The Registrar, either on their own or upon application by any member of the society, may issue an order to appoint a member/s



of the society as a member/s of the managing committee or constitute a three-member managing committee, or appoint an authorised officer to manage the day-to-day affairs of the society. Before passing such an order, the registrar is required to publish a notice on the society's notice board, inviting objections and suggestions regarding the proposed order within a specified period. However, if the registrar deems immediate action is necessary, the order may be passed without issuing

such a notice. The committee or authorized officer so appointed will serve for a maximum period of twelve months from the date of assuming office and must take necessary steps to form a new managing committee within that time frame.

**Q. We appointed a developer and signed a Development Agreement (DA) in 2015. However, the developer could not initiate the redevelopment so far. Now we wish to terminate the DA and appoint another developer. Are we required to comply with the 79A procedure again? Harshada Godbole, Vile Parle**

**A.** Your society must terminate the Development Agreement (DA) with the developer. Any earnest money or other advances given by the developer to the society/member should be dealt with according to the terms of the DA. Regarding the consent given by the members in favour of the

developer, the general body must appoint a new developer. The Managing Committee is required to follow the process outlined in Section 79A, ensuring that the consent of the members is obtained in the presence of the Registrar or an official deputed by them. Please ensure that the process is conducted in accordance with the guidelines by the Maharashtra Government's GR dated 4.7.2019.

**Q. We have 4 shops in our society. The shop owners are using the common area in front of their respective shops to either display their products or some hoarding advertising the products they sell. The society has written letters to these owners twice to remove their products/display but they do not listen. What action can be taken by the society? Prakrut Samant, Nerul**

**A.** Common spaces within the society are the property of the society and cannot be

leased, let out, or used by members for personal purposes. If shop owners have encroached upon the open area, they must vacate the space. If they fail to do so, they will be liable to pay a penalty equivalent to five times the monthly maintenance charges for the duration of the encroachment. The managing committee is authorised to address this issue and levy the penalty on the shop owners' bills if they have not responded to letters sent by the society's secretary. This penalty can be applied retrospectively for the period during which the violation occurred. If the shop owners have made any structural changes without obtaining prior permission from the society and the BMC, the society has the right to file a complaint with the BMC for illegal alterations.

The questions are answered by Sharmila Ranade, a legal expert associated with Mumbai Grahak Panchayat. The questions, in brief, may be sent to fpjchs@gmail.com



**SMOKEY CITY** | After the FPJ’s report on the issue of garbage dumping on NH48, the waste was burned on Thursday night, the residents of neighbouring areas alleged

# Garbage burns, people gasp

**Indu Bhagat**  
PUNE

Days after residents complained about the garbage flooding the service road in the area, thick white smoke due to the burning of the garbage from NH-48 (Mumbai-Bengaluru Highway) irked local residents. According to members of nearby housing societies, the burning of garbage occurred on Thursday night. The smoke from the burning garbage quickly spread to various housing societies nearby, causing difficulties for motorists commuting through it for a few minutes.

In a conversation with The Free Press Journal (FPJ), activist Raja Subramani alleged that this practice of burning garbage violates the civic body's solid waste management rules. Subramani pointed out that the garbage burning is a result of the failure to collect waste at the source and highlighted that multiple complaints from residents could bring attention to and help resolve the issue. "For example, in Lohegaon, small grocery outlets do not give their trash to the collection agency as the service is not free. They choose to burn it. The Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) also has manpower issues when it comes to imposing penalties. Furthermore, whenever



there is an issue with vehicles, the sweepers assigned to remove the roadside trash choose to burn it," Subramani highlighted.

"While PMC officers have taken action against their sweepers, the practice continues to foul the air and worsen the AQI. These days, while cycling around Lohegaon, I request people to stop burning trash by asking whether they have Rs30-40 lakh for cancer treatment. It does have an impact on some who understand," Subramani told the FPJ. Chaitanya Ket, a Kothrud resident, took to X (formerly known as Twitter) and wrote, "Why is there thick smoke on the highway near Baner? It turns out the source is garbage being burned along the roadside.

After scavenging anything valuable, scrap vendors often resort to burning the remaining trash, as it's deemed worthless (sic)."

Ashish Kotkar, another resident of Bavdhan, said, "Despite the directions issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB), rampant open garbage burning continues in our area. The issue is frequent, and several complaints have been made to the PMC. There are small children and elderly citizens with health issues who daily breathe this toxic smoke. There is no fresh air to breathe. If we open the windows, the rooms fill with smoke." Meanwhile, Sandip Kadam, head of the PMC's

Solid Waste Management Department, stated, "We deployed a team to clear the garbage spot near the highway, and it has been cleared, but burning garbage is illegal, and we will take strict action against the violators."

This comes days after the FPJ reported about the garbage flooding service roads. The NH-48, or Mumbai-Bengaluru highway, has become a garbage dumping spot, with the entire stretch from Wakad to Chandani Chowk being an eyesore filled with all kinds of waste like torn pillows, dirty stained mattresses, stale food items, abandoned TV sets, two-wheelers, broken mirrors, and furniture dumped along the roadside. The garbage problem is severe in the

We deployed a team to clear the garbage spot near the highway, and it has been cleared, but burning garbage is illegal, and we will take strict action against the violators.

**Sandip Kadam**  
Head, Solid Waste Management Department, PMC

city, especially in recently merged villages and along the highway where waste collection remains inadequate. Areas such as Dhayari, Wagholi and Mahalunge have been notably affected. Recently, residents from 32 merged villages in the Pune district publicly declared their villages "for sale" by displaying banners in key locations. This bold statement has ignited significant discussion and concern throughout the city, as villagers voice their frustrations over ongoing issues. After the FPJ reported the issue, the JCBs were sent to clean the garbage, however, now the garbage burning in the area has once again highlighted the mismanagement of the garbage issue in the city.

## PMC’s tree-cutting plan angers NIBM Annexe

**Indu Bhagat**  
PUNE

Pune residents are fuming over the Pune Municipal Corporation's (PMC) plans to cut down fully grown trees outside Sufi Cafe, Ganga Kingston, NIBM Annexe area. These residents wrote a letter to the Tree Department seeking action against those responsible for cutting down fully grown trees. They demanded that the civic body have brazenly flouted the law, causing irreparable harm to the environment and ecosystem, and requested the authorities to immediately take action against the culprits.

Jaymala Dhankikar, a resident of NIBM Annexe, said, "One tree was axed, and two to three fully grown tree branches were pruned. I wrote an email to PMC on Oct 11, and I haven't received any response. The branches were cut on Friday morning, and they didn't have any permission from the PMC. The



trees were not causing any kind of hindrance to the public."

Danish Khan, a resident of Mohammadwadi, NIBM, said, "We, the residents of Mohammadwadi, NIBM, are deeply concerned and distressed regarding the relentless cutting of trees in our area. This unchecked deforestation is not only depleting the green cover but also adversely affecting oxygen

levels. We respectfully request that immediate action be taken against those responsible for this environmental degradation. We urge the authorities to stop further tree cutting."

The complaint letter to PMC mentions key violations such as the Tree Protection Act, 1975, unauthorised cutting of protected trees, environmental damage, loss of biodiversity and increased pollution. The residents request PMC to register an FIR against those responsible for tree cutting, identify and prosecute the culprits, and plant new trees in the same location.

Ashok Ghorpade, Chief Garden Superintendent, PMC, said, "To my knowledge, we haven't granted any permission for the pruning of branches, but the PMC is decentralised, and the NIBM area comes under the Hadapsar ward office, so I'll check with them if they gave the permission. We will take action against the violators."

## Gang rape case: Court remands accused to PC

**PTI**  
PUNE

A court on Saturday remanded a 28-year-old man arrested in the Pune gang rape case to police custody till Oct 15. The man was arrested on Friday morning, eight days after a 21-year-old woman was allegedly raped by three men on the night of Oct 3 in the Bopdev Ghat area on the outskirts of the city during an outing with a male friend. The assailants beat up her friend too.

"The man was remanded in police custody till Oct 15 after he was produced before the court today. We are conducting further investigation," a

police official said. The accused, originally from Madhya Pradesh, lives in the Undri area of Pune city. A history-sheeter, he has multiple cases of robbery registered against him in Pune district, according to police. Police are yet to trace two other men, who also had a criminal record in theft cases, involved in the gang rape.

About 700 police personnel were deployed to identify and trace the culprits, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis said while congratulating police for the success. Police have declared a Rs10 lakh reward for information about the suspects.

## Azad Hind Exp composition changed

**Staff Reporter**  
PUNE

Railways have decided to change the composition of the Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Express with LHB Coaches from Feb 15, 2025, for 12129 Pune-Howrah Azad Hind Express, and from Feb 17, 2025, for 12130 Howrah-Pune Azad Hind Express.

According to the railways, the revised composition will have two AC-2 tier coaches, six AC-3 tier, seven sleeper class coaches, and five general second class coaches, including one guard's brake van, an AC pantry car and a generator van.

## fp Briefs

### PUNE Man lynched in Dhayari

A man was lynched with stones and sticks in the Dhayari area of the city following a fight at a bar. The deceased in the lynching has been identified as Aaditya Ghorpade (23). The complaint regarding this crime has been registered at the Sinhagad Road Police Station on Sunday. The incident took place at around 1:15pm on Oct 13. The complaint was filed by the mother of the victim. Further investigation is being conducted by Police Inspector Atul Bhos.

### PUNE Body identified

The man, whose dead body was found in a cardboard box, dumped amid roadside garbage near Visarjan Ghat, Hingne Mana, in the jurisdiction of Hadapsar Police Station, has been identified as Imran Yasin Patel (24). An FIR has been registered in the case at the Hadapsar Police Station by the brother of the deceased. According to the complaint, the deceased was hit with some weapon and then killed. His body was subsequently wrapped in plastic and packed in a cardboard box. Until Friday, the body was unidentified; however, after a search in the area, the identity of the deceased has now been confirmed. The body was wrapped with wire and packed in a box. When a rag-picker went about his daily routine, he found the dead body on Friday around 3pm.

### PUNE Vehicle vandalism

A gang vandalised an auto rickshaw and a few two-wheelers in the Sahakar Nagar area of the city on the night of Oct 12, between 9:15pm and 9:30pm. They terrorised the locals, brandishing weapons and calling themselves "bhai" of the area. A complaint regarding this incident was registered on Sunday at Sahakar Nagar Police Station. API Vishal Pawar is investigating the case.

## Believe in hard work, Inamdar tells aspiring kabaddi players

**IAN S**  
PUNE

In the Taklibhan village of Maharashtra's Ahmednagar, a young boy's passion for kabaddi has blossomed into a remarkable success story that embodies the transformative power of sport. Aslam Inamdar, the current captain of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) team Puneri Paltan, shares his inspiring journey from humble beginnings to becoming a champion in the world's top kabaddi league.

Inamdar's tryst with kabaddi began in 2010 when he was just a school student in third grade. However, the path was far from easy. "My brother used to play kabaddi, and seeing him, I started. Our family's financial condition wasn't good. I worked wherever I got the opportunity to earn

money, but I never stopped playing kabaddi," Inamdar recalls, highlighting the determination that would later become a key part of his career.

The advent of the PKL in 2014 revolutionised the sport in India, offering players like Inamdar a platform to showcase their talents. For him, the opportunity came in season 7. "My life changed completely when I came to PKL in season 7. Now, I'm able to fulfil most of the dreams I had."

Inamdar's success has had a ripple effect in his village. "There are many boys on my ground already practising. Many good players are also from my village. Now, three Pro Kabaddi players are playing for one team from my village, which is a matter of great pride, he says. The India international player's journey is

intertwined with the success of his team, Puneri Paltan, which has taken a unique approach to nurturing talent.

"In season 7, our owner Jay Kotak and our mentor Ashok Shinde sir had a meeting. They decided to start an academy in Mumbai for young players," he explained. This academy system has been a game-changer for Puneri Paltan. "Puneri Paltan was the first to start this concept in Pro Kabaddi. We kept 12-15 players for practice throughout the year," says Inamdar. The results speak for themselves: "We qualified for the final in season 9, and became champions in season 10, so that proves that this system works."

Inamdar's message to aspiring kabaddi players is clear: "Just dedicate yourself completely to your hard work. Have faith in your hard work".

## 3 pharmacies face actions

**Indu Bhagat**  
PUNE

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Pune division, has taken action against three pharmacies between April and October for violating the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. A case has been filed in this regard.

According to FDA officials, drugs for 54 diseases and disorders are prohibited from promoting cures or making claims. The accused firms were found selling drugs claiming to cure diabetes, arthritis and kidney ailments.

The FDA took action against New Maruti Ayurved, Chinchwad, for selling Amruth Noni D Plus with a claim regarding diabetes treatment. It seized items worth Rs36,500. Action was taken against Amit Medico, Sadashiv Peth, for selling Ortho Joint Oil, which claimed to cure arthritis. The FDA seized items worth Rs5,027. Sixteen sachets of an Ayurvedic medicine worth Rs5,000 were seized from Mahalaxmi Ayurvedic, which claimed to cure kidney stones.

"We are investigating the entire matter, the samples have been collected and sent to the laboratory. And we are looking for the manufacturer of these medicines. We are also urging the patients not to self-medicate serious illnesses without consulting a doctor and not to fall prey to deceptive and misleading advertisements," Pune's FDA (Drug) Joint Commissioner Girish Hukare said.

## Leopard kills calf, CCTV shows

**Staff Reporter**  
PUNE

A day before a woman was killed by a leopard in Junnar, another attack had occurred wherein a calf was killed by a leopard, and the incident was caught on CCTV, raising concerns among residents in the Pune district. This incident took place on Tuesday, Oct 8, in the middle of the night at a settlement in Kolwadi in Haveli Tehsil.

A leopard attacked a calf that was tied in a paddock outside a house, killing it on the spot. The leopard then dragged the calf to a nearby sugarcane field. This incident



was captured on CCTV, further alarming the community as leopard footprints are frequently found in the Manjari Kolwadi area.

Residents have reported an increase in leopard activity in Kolwadi and the Manjari area over the past few days. This surge in sightings has created an atmosphere of fear among

local citizens and farmers. Just fifteen days prior, two goats were attacked and killed by a leopard. Additionally, eight days ago, a leopard was spotted near a cowshed, but it was unable to hunt due to the barn being closed. A team from the Forest Department has been dispatched to monitor the leopard's movements.

## | Vijayadashami |

# PBG and KPSS host Dussehra Mahotsav 2024 in Srinagar

**Staff Reporter**  
PUNE

Vijayadashami was celebrated in the Kashmir Valley with pomp and fervour. The Punit Balan Group (PBG) and the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS) organised Dussehra Mahotsav 2024 for the second consecutive year in Srinagar. Huge crowds gathered to witness the burning of Ravana's effigies this year as well.

The celebrations were held

at the Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar. The Kashmir Valley has a glorious historical and cultural heritage. To promote this, the PBG and the KPSS began holding Dussehra Mahotsav last year. The burning of effigies of Ravana, Meghnath and Kumbhkarn conveyed a message of the symbolic victory of good over evil.

This is the only public celebration of the Vijayadashami festival in Kashmir. As a result, many people from all walks of life, including gov-

## It's the only Vijaydashami celebration in Kashmir celebrated by people of all walks of life

ernment servants, gathered in large numbers to witness the function. The effigy burning has become a symbol of a shared cultural heritage between Kashmiri Pandits and Muslims in Kashmir, strengthening the idea of

unity in diversity. The celebrations this year spread the message of communal harmony far and wide.

The PBG, led by young entrepreneur Punit Balan, sponsored the programme for the second consecutive year. The PBG has significantly contributed to the event's success. The KPSS expressed gratitude to Balan, noting that the construction of the huge effigies and the successful execution of the programme were made possible due to Balan's sense of

social responsibility.

Speaking with The Free Press Journal, Balan, the president of the PBG, said, "Vijayadashami symbolises the triumph of good over evil, truth over untruth, and morality over injustice. The Dussehra Festival has been initiated in the Kashmir Valley to promote communal harmony and to boost cultural heritage. Local citizens responded overwhelmingly to the festival. I thank the Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti and all others."





# WHO KILLED SAIBABA..?

T P VENU | HYDERABAD

Former Delhi University professor Prof G N Saibaba died at the Nizam's Institute of Medical Science (NIMS) in Hyderabad on Saturday. He was declared dead by the doctors at 8.36 p.m. He was 57. He was admitted into the ICU on Friday (October 11, 2024) evening due to post-operative complications after a gall-bladder surgery a week ago, informed a family friend.

He was declared dead by the doctors at 8.36 p.m. He is survived by wife Vasantha Kumari and daughter Manjeera.

Dr N Bheerappa, Director of NIMS Hyderabad, stated that the patient was admitted to the hospital 20 days ago for a gallbladder infection, which was treated surgically. While he recovered well for two weeks, he had several underlying conditions, including heart issues and blood clots. "One of these clots may have dislodged, likely leading to his death," Dr Bheerappa explained.

Prof. Gokarakonda Naga Saibaba was arrested from Delhi in 2014 for having alleged Maoist links and subsequently convicted by a Maharashtra sessions court in 2017. Later, in October 2022, the Bombay High Court ordered his release saying legal processes were not followed during the trial. But within 24 hours, the Supreme Court overturned the order stating that the charges

against Saibaba and other accused were 'very serious' and needed a new hearing.

Born in Amalapuram in present-day Andhra Pradesh, Prof. Saibaba had post-polio paralysis since he was five and acquired a wheelchair only after moving to Delhi in 2003 to teach at Delhi University's Ram Lal Anand College. He taught English Literature in the college between 2003 till he was jailed in 2014. He led All India People's Resistance Forum that raised voice against the paramilitary action in tribal regions of central India called Operation Green Hunt.

On March 5, 2024, he was acquitted by the Nagpur bench of Bombay High Court. Mr. Saibaba was released from Nagpur Central Jail on March 7, 2024. He had spent a total of 3,592 days in prison, most of them in the isolation 'and a cell' in Nagpur Central Jail. He lived only for 219 days out of prison. The family members rued the fact that he was not given enough treatment while he was in jail.

## CPM condoles Prof Saibaba's demise

The Telangana State Committee of CPI(M) today condoled the death of former Delhi University professor and noted civil rights activist GN Saibaba and expressed its condolences to his family members.

In a statement, CPM State secretary Thammineni Veerhadram said Saibaba, who

## Family to donate his body to govt medical college

The family members of former Delhi University professor G N Saibaba, on Sunday said his body will be donated to the government medical college here, as per his wish.

The body, which is kept in the mortuary at the NIMS, will be taken to Gun Park on October 14, and from there it will be shifted to his brother's residence here and kept for public homage, the family said adding a condolence meeting will follow.

"That has always been his wish. We have already donated his eyes to LV Prasad Eye Institute (in Hyderabad) and his body will also be donated tomorrow," said Saibaba's daughter Manjeera.

They said his mortal remains would be handed over to the state-run Gandhi Medical College here on October 14.

Saibaba (58) died at a state-run hospital here due to post-operative complications, seven months after he was acquitted in an alleged Maoist links case.

Manjeera said they did not expect this (Saibaba's death). He was recovering from his gall bladder operation.

She recalled that the last time she spoke

with her father was the day before evening and he told that it was going to be fine. "None of us, not even he could have anticipated something like this would have happened."

According to her, the family members were hoping that Saibaba would recover and come back.

"He got COVID twice... his health condition was abysmal in jail. He still could make it. So, we were hoping for another miracle to happen, it did not happen this time. His body had borne too much all these years," Manjeera said.

"I miss him. I still cannot believe he is not with us. I still feel that I will go and open the door and he will be there sitting on his wheelchair telling me to do this and that. I still feel that way. I still feel that he is still with us," she said.

She said they were aware that his condition was severe since Saturday afternoon but at around 8 p.m. the doctors told the family that his heart stopped beating and they were trying to perform CPR on him. They pronounced him dead at 8.30 last night, Saibaba's daughter added.

Spent  
3,592 days  
in prison

The former English professor had claimed that he was "kidnapped" and arrested by the police in order to silence his voice.

A native of Andhra Pradesh, Saibaba had said that he was warned by the authorities that if he did not stop "talking" he would be arrested in some false case.

In March, the Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court acquitted Saibaba and five others in the alleged Maoist links case, noting that the prosecution had failed to prove the case against him. The court also set aside his life sentence.

Following his acquittal, the wheelchair-bound Saibaba walked out of the Nagpur Central Jail after 10 years.

Saibaba had alleged in August this year that he was not taken to a hospital for nine months by authorities despite the left side of his body getting paralysed and was just given painkillers in the Nagpur Central Jail, where he was lodged since his arrest in the case in 2014.

## Social activists demand release of sexual harassment report

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

The demand for the release of High Level Committee-Sub Committee on Study of Gender Bias & Sexual Harassment in Film Industry is growing. The HLC was formed after the GO Rt 948 was issued in April 2019 to uncover the extent of problems and recommend concrete measures to address the alleged sexual harassment in the film industry. The Sub-Committee after a break during Covid has submitted its report in June 2022.

"With a woman at the administrative helm in Telangana state, we expect immediate release of the report from you, as it has been reviewed both by the then Chief secretary office and the High Level Committee-HLC," said Lubna Sarwath, social activist.

Members of the Sub Committee are openly calling for release of the report. They have also cited the difference seen in Kerala due to WCC movements being open in their approach, says Sarwath. Release of Hema Committee Report in Kerala has brought in some transparency and accountability in the Kerala film industry.

It is observed from the above media reports that comprehensive recommenda-



tions have been made suggesting 'ways to ensure women's safety on sets and democratise the work environment, including 'robust mechanism to prevent exploitation' for both film industry as well as for television sectors.

As such, we urge you to release the report that can work towards social and financial transparency and accountability of the Telugu film industry. The functioning of the ICC Internal Complaints Committee to be placed in public domain. We fully trust that every Telugu person locally and globally would appreciate your prompt release of the report while also acknowledging the painstaking efforts put in by the Sub-Committee of the HLC, opined Lubna.

## TIMELINE of Professor G N Saibaba's acquittal

<b>May 9, 2014</b> Prof G N Saibaba was arrested on charges of having Maoist links and remanded him in judicial custody	
<b>March 3, 2017</b> Prof Saibaba and five others convicted under sections of UAPA and Indian Penal Code by sessions court Maharashtra. Sentenced to life imprisonment.	
<b>October 14, 2022</b> Acquitted in Bombay High Court. On same day, Maharashtra Govt approached Supreme Court challenging the decision	
<b>April 6, 2015</b> Sanction to prosecute him under Unlawful Activities (prevention) Act granted by sanctioning authority	
<b>March 29, 2017</b> Appeal filed against conviction and the sentence in Nagpur Bench of the Bombay High Court	
<b>October 15, 2022</b> Acquittal stayed by the Supreme Court	
<b>March 05, 2024</b> The Nagpur Bench of the Bombay HC acquitted all the accused as the prosecution could not prove the case beyond reasonable doubt against them. The Maharashtra Govt has approached the SC challenging the decision again.	



## Telugu actor Chiranjeevi calls on AP CM, donates Rs 1 cr to CMRF

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Telugu film superstar Chiranjeevi on Saturday called on Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Hyderabad and handed over a cheque of Rs 50 lakh as donation to the CM Relief Fund. He also handed over a separate cheque of Rs 50 lakh to the CM on behalf of his actor son Ram Charan.

"I extend my heartfelt thanks to Megastar @KChiruTweets Garu and @AlwaysRam-Charan Garu for their generous contribution of Ra 1 crore towards the Chief Minister's Relief Fund," Naidu said on X.

Chiranjeevi has always been at the forefront of humanitarian efforts, consistently offering his support to impactful causes, he said.

The contributions from Chiranjeevi and Ram Charan will play a significant role in helping us



rebuild the lives of those affected by the floods, the CM added.

## Brahmotsavam concludes with Dhvajavarohanam

METRO INDIA NEWS | TIRUMALA

Nine-day long Srivari Salakata Brahmotsavam at Tirumala concluded with the ceremonial flag-lowering Dhvajavarohanam on Saturday night.

Earlier Bangaru Trichy Utsav was held at 7 pm. The Garda flag was lowered amidst chanting Vedic hymns



and thanking the deities of all the worlds who participated

in the Navahnika Brahmotsavam of Srivaru and enhanced the grandeur. Tirumala Pedda Jeeyar Swamy, Chinna Jeeyar Swamy, TTD EO J. Syamala Rao, Additional EO Ch Venkaiah Chowdary, JEOs Gauthami, Veerabrahmam, CVSO Sridhar and other officers participated in this program.

## Grand Nari Shakti festival attracts woman in Vijayawada

METRO INDIA NEWS | VIJAYAWADA

The two days cultural programme "Nari Shakti Vijayotsavam" commenced with grandeur on the banks of the Krishna River at Punnami Ghat, celebrating the spiritual empowerment of women on Friday and Saturday.

Various cultural programs were organized on the second day of Nari Shakti Vijayotsavam at Punnami Ghat Babburi grounds. Various art forms and cultural programs performed by the artists enthralled people at the function. Tribal traditional Kommu dance performed with drums in tribal attire attracts many women in this function. People were impressed by the artists performing the dances performed by the tribes living in the hills and valleys.

Poturaju's costumes and performance in this function impressed many people in this function. Around 15 folk artists performed folk drum dance in different postures, making a pyramid shape, singing folk songs and devotional songs entertained the people.



People were entertained by playing the folk drum instrument. The women who came here were informed that the performances performed by them were also very amazing. Bhuvaneshwari, wife of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, who was the chief guest extended Dasara festival greetings to Telugu

people both within the state and abroad. She expressed gratitude to the Andhra government for organizing the event, which reflects Telugu culture and traditions. Bhuvaneshwari emphasized that the Dasara festival symbolizes women's power and greatness. She wished for the blessings of Kanaka Durga

to always be bestowed upon the people of the state and described the program as a celebration of women's victories, power, and encouragement. Bhuvaneshwari also performed a ceremonial mark of Kumkum and vermilion on the foreheads of nine courageous women who faced the recent floods with resilience.

## U-16 Chess tourney at Urdu Ghar on Oct 19

METRO INDIA NEWS | HYDERABAD

Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam Welfare Society (APIAKWS) is organizing, All India Under-16 Chess tournament at Urdu Ghar, Mogalpur, near Asra Hospital, Charminar here on October 19 for boys and girls.

In a statement here today, Syed Abdul Hai Quadri, Secretary said Dr A.P.J Abdul Kalam Memorial School Chess Tournament will be held in the Swiss league with the latest tiebreakers. All players can play all the rounds whether they win or lose. Prize distribution will be on October 19 at 7 PM. The Participant Certificates and winners will get Prize Money & Merit Certificate and Medals. Food and Accommodation would be provided for out of Station Players, Parents, and Their Coach, those who are born After 1st January 2010 are Eligible for the Tournament. For more details contact Syed Abdul Hai Quadri Chief Engineer 8500212306 Entry will be given on first cum first basis.





Quick  
Trail

MYSURU

**Police, officials did not control the crowds during Dasara rush**



Mysuru royal family matriarch Pramoda Devi Wadiyar on Sunday blamed officials for the delay of 45 minutes in conducting the Dasara procession on Saturday. She claimed that the golden howdah for the famed procession was handed over to the police at 2.05 pm and there was no delay on their (royal family) part in shifting the golden howdah for the Dasara pushparchane. She also blamed the police for poor crowd management during the procession. Official cars obstructed private buses ferrying Dasara guests, she added.

BENGALURU

**Dead frog found inside 'gutka' packet**

A customer in Bengaluru has claimed that he discovered a dead frog inside a Gutka packet purchased from a shop in Yeshwantpur. The incident came to light when the customer filmed the 'discovery' and shared the video, which quickly went viral on social media. The discovery has raised concerns about the safety and hygiene of packaged Gutka products. Authorities are expected to investigate the matter further following the viral video.

BENGALURU

**5-year-old dies in accident**



In a heart-rending incident, a five-year-old boy was killed after being struck by a goods vehicle in the KG Halli area of Bengaluru. The incident occurred on Saturday night. According to reports, while running on the road, Tahir collided with a parked scooter and fell under the moving goods vehicle. The rear tyre of the vehicle hit him, resulting in severe head injuries. Locals and family members rushed him to the nearest hospital, but doctors declared him dead before arrival. The KG Halli traffic police have registered a case regarding the incident. Bannerghatta police later arrived on the scene and sent the body to the Anekal Government Hospital mortuary.

BENGALURU

**Car driver runs over dog and puppy**

A disturbing incident captured on CCTV shows a car driver running over a dog and a puppy near Sun City Apartments in Bellandur, Bengaluru. The video, which has since gone viral on social media, has sparked widespread public outrage. The footage shows the driver hitting the animals, raising concerns about negligence. The video was posted on X by a netizen, who tagged the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and local police, urging them to take action. A formal complaint has been lodged, and authorities are expected to investigate the matter further.

# State BJP MPs betrayed people of Karnataka, says CM Siddaramaiah

**NT Correspondent**  
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday hit out at the BJP MPs from Karnataka for not raising their voice against the injustice to the state in tax devolution. He appealed to people to rise against the 'injustice' to the state. Addressing reporters, Siddaramaiah said the state has received Rs 6,498 crore while Uttar Pradesh got Rs 31,987 crore, marking a huge difference in the tax devolution between the two states. "People need to raise their voice against the injustice to Karnataka. The BJP leaders supporting the Centre are betraying the people of the state, be it

“ So many MPs have gone from Karnataka. They need to raise their voice, which they have not done. I appeal to people to rise against this injustice.”

Pralhad Joshi or anyone else,” he said. “So many MPs have gone from Karnataka. They need to raise their voice, which they have not done.”

According to the CM, the state has incurred a loss of Rs 60,000 crore in tax devolution in five years. Asked about the next move of the government on this, Siddaramaiah said he would discuss it with his cabinet colleagues. In a statement on this issue on Saturday, Siddaramaiah questioned, “UP, infamous for its poor governance, has been allocated

Rs 31,962 crore; Bihar, Rs 17,921 crore; Madhya Pradesh, Rs 13,987 crore; and Rajasthan, Rs 10,737 crore. Why should the sweat and toil of Karnataka fuel the growth of states that have lagged behind due to maladministration?”

On the cabinet's decision to grant clemency to Hubballi rioters belonging to minority community, Siddaramaiah said several RSS leaders were also released when the BJP was in power. The Congress government in Karnataka on Thursday decided to withdraw a criminal case registered against a mob which had attacked policemen with stones on April 16, 2022 in Hubballi town. This is one of the 43 cases the state Cabinet decided to withdraw at its meeting on Thursday following a petition by the Anjuman-e-Islam to the Home Minister G Parameshwara, official sources said.

## Elderly man fatally stabbed by son



**NT Correspondent**  
BENGALURU

A 76-year-old man, Velayudan, was stabbed to death by his son Vinod Kumar at Janata Colony, Bannerghatta, on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The incident occurred Saturday night following an

argument between the father and son. During the altercation, Vinod reportedly took out a knife and fatally stabbed his father. The Bannerghatta police were alerted on the crime and arrived on the scene, sending Velayudan's body to the Anekal Government Hospital mortuary.

## Severe doctor shortage hits K'taka govt hospitals

**NT Correspondent**  
BENGALURU

Government hospitals in Karnataka are struggling with a severe shortage of doctors, with nearly 2,000 positions vacant. As of June, there are 744 unfilled specialist posts, 613 general duty medical officer vacancies and 558 other medical professional positions. In the dental department, 25 of the 425 positions remain vacant. Health Commissioner Shivakumar K B expressed concern, noting that despite efforts to fill the 1,940 vacancies, the lack of clear policies on the roles, responsibilities and work guidelines for doctors in government hospitals hinders progress.



While efforts are being made to fill vacancies in medical colleges, attracting qualified candidates to the public sector remains challenging as per the Health Department. Doctors in rural health centres must manage both healthcare delivery and administrative functions, including various health programs, which diverts their focus from patient care to management tasks.

This dual responsibility not only affects patient care but also discourages doctors from taking up rural postings, leading to a decline in their medical skills as per media reports. Due to the low interest from medical professionals, hospitals are often forced to hire staff on a temporary basis, further weakening the system. Vani Vilas Hospital reported that doctors are required to work long night shifts after OPD duties, delaying patient care. Patients frequently complain about the unavailability of doctors when needed. Officials attributed this issue to the lack of basic infrastructure and facilities in rural areas.

## Baba Siddique's death shows poor law and order situation in Maha: Kharge

**NT Correspondent**  
KALABURAGI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Sunday said the assassination of Nationalist Congress Party leader Baba Siddique shows the poor law and order situation prevailing in Maharashtra. The people will teach a lesson to the ruling coalition government in the state in the upcoming election, he said. NCP leader and former Maharashtra Minister Baba Siddique was shot by three men in Mumbai on Saturday, following which two of the assailants were arrested. It is quite visible that there is a complete



failure of law and order in Maharashtra because in the broad daylight it happened,” Kharge told reporters in his hometown of Kalaburagi. The district in North Karnataka shares a border with

Maharashtra. According to Kharge, a fortnight ago Siddiqui had shared information with the government that there was a possibility of attack on him.

He even informed the police commissioner expressing his apprehension about whether he would survive or not, the Congress chief claimed. “Why no protection was given to him? Why the situation reached this stage and why the culprits could not be caught? It means law and order has collapsed there,” he said. Kharge alleged that the government is in such a situation where three parties are taking decision and the bureaucrats are puzzled about whom to listen to and whom not to. “Law and order problem has worsened there. People will teach them a lesson in the upcoming election,” he said.

## Fake social media account of BBMP chief surfaces again

**NT Correspondent**  
BENGALURU

For the third time in two years, a fake social media account in the name of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Tushar Girinath was created by alleged fraudsters recently. This prompted the Central Cyber Crime Branch of the Bengaluru City Police (BCP) to register an FIR under Section 66 of the Information Technology Act, 2008. According to the complaint filed by Iranna Bhorawat on October 11, Public Relations Officer of the BBMP, a Facebook account in Girinath's name was created, misusing details and demanded the



account be suspended and deleted. The episode follows two similar instances, one early this year and another back in 2022. Both the instances had cyber frauds demanding money from Girinath's subordinates via gift cards from Amazon.

## Girl attacked by stray dogs in B'luru

**NT Correspondent**  
BENGALURU

A young girl was attacked by stray dogs at the Air Force campus in Jalahalli, Bengaluru, on September 28. The incident, which was captured on CCTV, shows the girl being dragged by the dogs. The incident came to light on Sunday, raising concerns about the increasing stray dog problem in the area. Last month, an elderly woman died in a similar incident. Witnesses note that the dogs initially attacked individually but later attacked in groups. Many residents expressed frustration over the perceived inaction by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). Despite BBMP's assurance

es and initiatives to manage stray dog populations, community members feel the efforts have not addressed the ongoing issue. The girl was bitten on the leg and dragged around ten meters before a nearby resident intervened. In response to the rising attacks, the BBMP has proposed a plan to feed stray dogs to prevent aggressive behavior. However, many residents are skeptical about this approach and whether it will effectively reduce risks to the community. Following the attack that resulted in the woman's death on August 28, BBMP officials visited the area but could not find the culprit dog. Altogether, over 100 dogs have been captured and relocated from Jalahalli.



**Mother, her lover arrested for killing, burying two children**

**NT Correspondent**  
RAMANAGARA

A disturbing incident has come to light where a mother from Ramanagara left her husband in Bengaluru and ran away with her lover after suffocating her children with a pillow, believing they would interfere with her relationship. The woman, Sweety (24), killed her children, Kabila (2) and Kabilan (11), and buried them in a graveyard in Ramanagara. Sweety, originally a resident of Bengaluru, moved to Ramanagara with her two children and her lover, Gregory Francis (27), after abandoning her husband. They lived in a rented house in Manjunath Nagar. As time passed, Sweety realised that Gregory did not take kindly to the presence of her children and neglected them. The couple allegedly suffocated the elder child and buried him in the Ramanagara cemetery. When they noticed that the cries of the two-year-old child were also becoming a hindrance, they killed him as well and buried him in the cemetery, claiming he had fallen ill and died. However, the cemetery staff became suspicious after seeing the two children die within a span of 15 days and filed a complaint with the police. Based on the complaint from the graveyard watchman, the police registered a case. During interrogation, Sweety admitted to killing her two children with the help of her lover. Further probe underway.





## India can count on high growth

The World Bank has revised its growth estimate for India for this fiscal year from 6.6% to 7% on the back of higher public spending in infrastructure and an uptick in household savings going into real estate. However the Bank sounded a cautionary note in its latest report, saying that the country may be losing an already modest global market share in labour-intensive apparel and footwear sectors. Despite the salutary effort to make labour laws pragmatic without in any way jeopardising employees' welfare, unfortunately little forward movement has been made in this regard. It was hoped the formation of four new labour codes replacing 29 existing labour laws would incentivise direct employment as against contractual work. In reality, no progress has been made. As the on-going strike by workers in the South Korean behemoth Samsung Electronics' Tamil Nadu plant underlines, the sticking point is not the wages or other pecuniary benefits, but the fear of militant trade unionism. The Korean company is determined not to grant recognition to its CPI(M)-affiliated union, insisting in principle it is against a workers' union associated with a political party, any party. A fair point, this. Despite the intervention of the DMK government, the stalemate at the Samsung plant near Chennai is proving hard to resolve. The strike was in its second month at the weekend. Given that such prolonged labour protests could discourage foreign companies to invest in India has not persuaded the striking workers to heed the appeal of the State government. It is remarkable that the State Government had to be publicly nudged by the Centre for it to try and resolve the strike since its continuance sent a wrong signal to foreign investors. Yet, the matter remains unresolved.

Now, it cannot be anyone's case that the Korean company is short-changing the workers. No, it is paying them fair market wages. But the employer has a right to shield itself against future militant trade unionism usually associated with CITU. Much is at stake here for the DMK government, especially when a host of marquee global brands are either operating out of Tamil Nadu already or are in the process of setting up their plants there. Given that relatively higher labour costs have made Bangladesh a bigger attraction for labour-intensive readymade garments exports, pandering to the politically inclined trade unions further is bound to exacerbate the environment for a significant growth in Indian apparels exports. Also, the Opposition parties which cry themselves hoarse from the housetops about lack of jobs in order to score brownie points against the Modi government, would prove their worker-friendly credentials if they stopped encouraging the strikers in Tamil Nadu. The anti-DMK parties are egging on the striking Samsung employees only to embarrass the Stalin Government without realising the damage their actions do to the overall investment climate in the country. In several different ways, how the Samsung strike is resolved will hold lessons for foreign investment capital in India.

To come back to the World Bank growth projections, it sees a little slowdown in industrial growth in the coming financial year. Also, it projects a similar slowdown in the services sector in the next financial year largely owing to slowing global economy and rise of protectionist tendencies in the western countries. But the WB report sees a sharp uptick in the agriculture sector, which may register a little above 4% this financial year. Actual granular data about agriculture growth however runs contrary to the popular perception insofar as whatever growth is taking place in recent times it is in the non-cereal, non-field crops. The wheat- and rice-heavy cultivation seems to have reached a near saturation point but farmers in Punjab and Haryana refuse to diversify into more profitable horticulture, livestock sectors. Milk, poultry meat, fish, eggs, etc. do not rely on the minimum support price and yet have registered a healthy growth in recent years. Wheat and paddy, heavily reliant on government support prices, have been laggards when it comes to growth.

Given that the overuse of chemical fertilisers in Punjab and Haryana in particular has contaminated the soil, water, crops, et al, and is said to be a major cause for a higher incidence of cancer in parts of the population in the Malwa region of Punjab, it is advisable that the farmers in the two states gradually diversity into livestock and horticulture which is both environmentally friendly and profitable. Though it is less appreciated, from being milk-deficient in the early decades after Independence, the country has witnessed a virtual milk revolution, exporting milk products world-wide. Farmers in Punjab and Haryana in particular need to diversify away from wheat and paddy, instead of indulging in militant trade unionism over the minimum support price for their crops. No government can guarantee endless support for non-remunerative crop practices. The surprise results of the Haryana Assembly, it should be noted, also marked a setback for the Punjab and Haryana farmers demanding legally guaranteed MSP for their crops.



**Spectrum**

MADAN SABNAVIS

## How should households view the credit policy?

The RBI apparently believes that the worst of high inflation is over. But there is uncertainty on the durability of the present low inflation

As a layman what is one to make of the credit policy? Credit policies are all about deciding on the repo rate which is the benchmark used as part of the toolkit for ensuring macro-economic stability by the central bank. The repo rate, which is nothing but the rate at which the RBI lends to banks on an overnight basis, is the anchor rate. It is just like the Fed rate which is similar in scope. What these anchor rates do is to guide the direction of movement in all other interest rates in the financial system.

As far as banks are concerned the repo rate becomes the anchor to decide on all other interest rates concerning their deposits and lending rates. The lending rates of banks are driven by two sets of factors. The first is what are called external benchmark lending rates where the interest rate is fixed to a benchmark which is normally the repo rate. It could also be the yield on a security or Treasury bill. Therefore any change in the repo rate would automatically tend to move the lending rate for all banks for loans that are tied to this formula. By statute all retail loans and those to MSMEs are

linked to this benchmark.

The second is what is called the MCLR which is the marginal cost lending rate that is a formula-based rate. Here the lending rate is based on the marginal cost of funds which is primarily the deposit cost with other variables being included. This is the minimum rate at which anyone can borrow from a bank and normally there is a spread over the MCLR. Therefore it could be in the range of 50-300 bps and can stretch higher given the risk profile of the customer.

Intuitively it can be seen that what matters here is the deposit rate which is again linked somewhere to the repo rate. The credit policy was eagerly awaited this time because conditions looked seemingly appropriate for expecting some action on the repo rate given that the last two inflation numbers for July and August are less than 4%. The RBI has decided not to change the repo rate which will remain at 6.5%. Therefore, there is no policy push to alter the lending rates as of now.

However, after a long hiatus the stance has been changed to neutral. The stance is something which has been debated for quite some time now. It has been kept as 'withdrawal

of accommodation' ever since the Ukraine war started. It has been interpreted as a position taken when the RBI is waiting for all past actions on repo rate — the increase by 250 bps invoked since 2022, to be transmitted to the deposit and lending rates.

A 'neutral' stance can be taken to be interpreted as the central bank being comfortable with the present state of the system where transmission of interest rates is more or less complete and there is reason to look at rolling back rates when the time is opportune. Here, the policy actually blows hot and cold. There is a lot of caution being expressed over the future course of inflation. The high base effects kept inflation low in July and August and the expectation is that inflation will cross 5% in September. Further the forecast for inflation for Q3 of the year is 4.8% which is much higher than what was witnessed in the first two quarters. This gives a sense of caution that a rate cut cannot be in the offing any time soon.

The RBI has highlighted three factors which can be influencing inflation in times to come. The first is the impact of climate which has manifested in extreme heat and rains in different parts of the country. The

potential to affect agricultural output is high, and this is already seen for tomatoes and onions. The second is the geo-political situation which is becoming unstable ever since the Israel issue has resurfaced with Iran getting involved. The potential impact on crude prices as well as logistics costs is sharp and cannot be conjectured at present. Last, there has been a tendency for global commodity prices to rise which will feed into the costs of manufactured goods and increase core inflation.

What does all this mean? It appears that the RBI believes that the worst of high inflation is over. But there is some uncertainty on the durability of the present low inflation and therefore there will be a wait and watch approach. The fact that the stance has been changed to neutral is indicative that a rate cut would be on the horizon, as a stance change prepares the system for a rate change which can be only in the downward direction.

Therefore, one can assume that the era of 'peak interest rates' may have ended. Therefore from the point of view of borrowers the picture is clear. The lending rates will only come down though the timing is hard to guess. But from the point of

view of deposit holders, it may not be very clear. While deposit rates in general are unlikely to increase across all banks and tenures, the downward movement would also not be generalised. This is so as liquidity conditions vary across banks. While system wide liquidity is comfortable, individual banks are using other means of raising funds including raising deposit rates across specific tenures. Hence it is still possible for certain banks to offer higher rates on some deposits.

In a way it can be said that we may be starting on the cycle of lower rates in future. Going by the inflation forecasts of the RBI and the current geo-political situation, a rate cut is possible earliest in February 2025. While this would be good news for borrowers, it should also be mentioned that in this particular cycle of lower rates, the repo rate cuts could sum to 50 bps as 6% repo rate has been the average over the years. Anything lower could at best be temporary, as inflation would always be a variable that would be hard to keep low for all time.

The author is Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda and author of 'Corporate Quirks: The Darker Side of the Sun'. Views are personal



**Dissenters' Corner**

CONRAD BARWA

One of the most alarming concerns surrounding the discourse of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ever since the war on Gaza began has been the pervasive degradation of the transmission of knowledge and critical thinking representations of the conflict. These have severely impacted the ability of many recipients to understand the empirical reality of the conflict, thereby restricting the room for any reasonable debate on this critical issue. This has been systematically done through three broad mechanisms, which have fatally contaminated so much of the discussion on the events succeeding October 7th of last year and making any attempt at an impartial analysis extremely difficult. Language is a key part of the social construction of reality and is one of the most important tools through which we filter information of the outside world to understand it. The perversion of language is a dangerous threat to our ability to do this and can lead to atrocious outcomes; violating Godwin's law, it is pertinent to mention that in my first German lesson, my language teacher wrote on the blackboard "Arbeit Macht Frei" (Work makes one free) the slogan appropriated by the Nazis and placed at the entrance of the detention camp at Oranienburg to house political dissidents and other social undesirables. Later, it was notoriously placed at the

entrance of several extermination camps such as Auschwitz and Dachau. It is this perversion of language that we must guard against and which is being so cynically deployed in this conflict. An understanding of these mechanisms is essential to steer through the distortions being disseminated.

The first mechanism is the abuse and perversion of language to disguise and in more extreme cases, misrepresent the reality on the ground and the effects of various actors involved in the conflict. As the linguist Abdulkader Assad commented "Language is the most powerful tool outside of the battlefield." This goes beyond the usual use of euphemisms to which we have by now become inured for instance using terms like "collateral damage" to describe civilian casualties caused by military strikes reflecting a deeper linguistic move to make the unpalatable palatable and the disturbing more comfortable. Such euphemies have long since become commonplace but this conflict has moved beyond such terms to actual distortions of reality — hence we are told of repeated airstrikes in Gaza "targeted" ignoring the huge numbers of civilians killed in such strikes, ignoring that over 50% of munitions dropped on Gaza are "dumb" munitions which are incapable of precision targeting, ignoring that at least 60% of buildings in Gaza have been destroyed, by some estimates up to 80%.

Use of the passive voice selectively masks the responsibility of those carrying out actions, thus hospitals are "hit by missile strikes", Beirut is "bombed", "lives are ended in Gaza", cameramen are "are shot in Gaza by 'increasingly hostile' forces". But who is launching these missiles, dropping these bombs, ending these lives, and shooting at journalists? This is deliberately obfuscated by performing great feats of grammatical gymnastics to avoid mentioning Israel as the actor that is responsible. In striking contrast, when Israel itself is attacked, as it was by Iranian ballistic missiles, the aggressor country is clearly named.

The second mechanism through which discourse is being distorted is the denial of causation when it comes to violence and faux justification for carrying out disproportionate military action. A clear example of this was the interview with US Senator Lindsey Graham with Britain's Channel 4 on 8th October, where when asked about the 40,000 dead in Gaza he stated that he doesn't "blame Israel" and that it is because "Hamas wants them that way". This is reflective of Israel's justifications for strikes on civilian habitations, hospitals, UN shelters, universities etc. all buildings which are not usually seen as legitimate military targets. The claim is always that such buildings are hiding Hamas fighters or facilities — most markedly observed in the case of both Al Shifa

and Al Ahli hospitals where the bombing were justified by unverified assertions by the IDF that Hamas command and control centres existed underneath the foundations of both hospitals.

Combined with this causative distortion is the delegitimising of any information that could be seen to be challenging the dominant point of view, most clearly illustrated by the way casualty figures were reported by media outlets in Gaza, which were initially cited as those being provided by the Health Ministry in Gaza as was the norm for the earlier five invasions carried out by Israel since its disengagement from the region in 2005. However, quite quickly, media reports started adding the qualifier "Hamas-run" as a prefix to the label "Health Ministry" with the clear intention of casting doubt on the figures as being reliable. This scepticism was sowed by the Israeli authorities to great effect.

The last mechanism by which our understanding how to perceive and discuss the conflict is perhaps the most disturbing. It lies in the very denial and inability to even register any evidence of atrocities as fact or to accept them for what they are. As George Orwell's famous quote says "The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, but he has a remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them."

As the military theorist von Clause-

witz opined "In war everything is uncertain and variable, intertwined with psychological forces and effects, and the product of a continuous interaction of opposites. Theory becomes infinitely more difficult as soon as it touches the realm of moral values." War is the province of uncertainty but that is even more reason, while we may not be able to precisely know and comprehend exactly what is happening, all the more caution should be exercised in discussions and writings on conflicts as they are occurring. Especially, as the involved parties have a clear interest to control the narrative for their own purposes, it has also long been a cliché that "truth is the first casualty of war". However, this makes it even more incumbent on us to try and critically arrive at the best approximation of the truth we can and be wary of the ways that the public discourse can be distorted and manipulated with the intention of having us believe various untruths, many of which are phantasmatic projections, echoing Voltaire's warning that "Anyone who can make you believe absurdities can make you commit atrocities."

**(Read full article at [freepressjournal.in/analysis](https://www.freepressjournal.in/analysis))**

Conrad Barwa is a senior research analyst at a private think-tank, and a senior research associate at the Birmingham Business School

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### GST must be streamlined

In a recent speech, Union Minister for Petroleum Hardeep Singh Puri said he favoured bringing petrol and diesel under the Goods and Services Tax. He added the condition of the 'unanimous support of

the states' apply. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had previously mentioned that the central government intends to bring petrol and diesel under GST; but this can only happen if the states agree to the move. The lack of intention in their

statements is clear. The Centre collects Rs 19.98 per litre of petrol as excise duties and road cess, which is 32.67% of fuel price after processing and commission to pump dealers. Delhi charges 19.4% VAT on fuel cost and

central levies, which works out to 25.63% of the fuel price after processing and commission to pump dealers. Together, they levy 58.3% of the fuel price as taxes under different nomenclatures. Currently, the maximum GST rate is 28%, to be shared equally by the Centre and the State. Further, the budgetary estimate of total receipts from Union Excise Duties for FY2024-25 is a whopping Rs 3.24 lakh crore, which must come from petroleum products. Therefore, it is not logical to think the Central government intends to apply GST rates to petroleum products. Any loss of revenue to any state can be compensated from the GST compensation fund. Or the Centre can adopt CGST of 14%, the 19 BJP/NDA-ruled states can adopt SGST of 14% and the non-BJP states can choose levy of either VAT or GST. The GST Council is empowered to take a decision, guided by a harmonised GST structure.

Haridasan Rajan



MIKA'S MATRIX



HASAN ZAIDI

#### Party games

This refers to the editorial 'Anti-climax in Haryana, climax in J&K' (Oct 9). It was the unsatisfactory performance and corruption of the Congress that made people helplessly choose the BJP. But its outright pro-rich policies are forcing people to look for an alternative and in the absence of a viable national-level party they are again turning to the Congress. The Left parties have not made people recognise them yet as a national-level alternative. The regional parties have no national-level agenda but aspire

to have a place in the Union government and hence they go along with the blowing wind. The very composition of the present government displays this trend. It is time people reject opportunistic regional parties and look for a party with national outlook and the capacity to address the aspirations of the regional blocs also. The repeated message for the BJP is not to prioritise its communal agenda but care for the poor if it doesn't want to be reduced to a dependent on the regional parties.

A G Rajmohan





**RUSSIA**  
**Ukrainian journalist dies in prison**

Viktoriia Roshchyna, a Ukrainian journalist who disappeared in August 2023, in a part of Ukraine occupied by Russian forces, was declared dead by Russian authorities. After her disappearance, it took nine months for Russia to confirm that she had been detained. They gave no reason. This week, her father got a terse letter from the defence ministry in Moscow informing him that Victoria was dead, aged 27. The document said the journalist's body would be returned in one of the swaps organised by Russia and Ukraine for soldiers killed on the battlefield. The death date was given as 19 September. Again, there was no explanation.

**UNITED STATES**  
**1 dead, 9 hurt in firing near univ**

Gunfire erupted near Tennessee State University during homecoming events on Saturday afternoon, resulting in one death and nine injuries. Police reported that the shooting occurred around 5 p.m. between two groups as the crowd was dispersing. Metro Nashville Police Commander Anthony McClain said the gunfire didn't appear to be directly related to University events that had included a parade and other festivities earlier in the day.

**GERMANY**  
**WWII bomb defused**

Several thousand people were forced to leave their homes in Hamburg's trendy Sternschanze district after the World War II-era bomb was discovered. According to dpa, more than 5,000 people were evacuated to safety from the 300-metre exclusion zone, fire officials said. The bomb was found during construction work on the grounds of a primary school. According to a statement from the fire dept, the defusing took only about 30 minutes.

**SECRET DOCUS** | **Militants tried to persuade Iran, Hezbollah to join attack**

# Hamas took yrs to plan strike

**OCT 7 ATTACK**

**Agencies**  
WASHINGTON

The October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel may have appeared sudden and shocking to the international community but plans were afoot for more than two years for the same. Then Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar huddled with his top Hamas commanders and plotted what they hoped would be the most devastating and destabilizing attack on Israel in the militant group's four-decade history. According to a series of reports by international media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, and The Wall Street Journal, Hamas had originally planned the October 7 assault for the previous year. The group delayed the attack to coordinate with Iran and Hezbollah, seeking to strengthen their military capabilities and secure additional funding. These findings, drawn from documents and correspondences between Hamas leaders and Iranian officials, reveal meticulous planning, with ambitions that stretched far beyond the deadly events of October 7.



Pro-Israeli supporters in US on the first anniversary of the October 7 attack - AFP

The documents consist of minutes from 10 secret planning meetings of a small group of Hamas political and military leaders in the run-up to the attack, on October 7, 2023. The minutes include 30 pages of previously undisclosed details about the way Hamas's leadership works and the preparations that went into its attack. The documents, which were verified by

The Times, lay out the main strategies and assessments of the leadership group. Hamas initially planned to carry out the attack, which it code-named "the big project," in the fall of 2022. But the group delayed executing the plan as it tried to persuade Iran and Hezbollah to participate, according to a report by the New York Times. As they prepared arguments aimed at

Hezbollah, the Hamas leaders said that Israel's "internal situation" — an apparent reference to turmoil over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's contentious plans to overhaul the judiciary — was among the reasons they were "compelled to move toward a strategic battle."

In July 2023, Hamas dispatched a top official to Lebanon, where he met with a

senior Iranian commander and requested help with striking sensitive sites at the start of the assault. The senior Iranian commander told Hamas that Iran and Hezbollah were supportive in principle, but needed more time to prepare; the minutes do not say how detailed a plan was presented by Hamas to its allies. The documents also say that Hamas planned to discuss the attack in more detail at a subsequent meeting with Hassan Nasrallah, Hezbollah's leader at the time, but do not clarify whether the discussion happened. Hamas felt assured of its allies' general support, but concluded it might need to go ahead without their full involvement — in part to stop Israel from deploying an advanced new air-defense system. The decision to attack was also influenced by Hamas's desire to disrupt efforts to normalize relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, the entrenchment of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Israeli efforts to exert greater control over the Aqsa mosque compound in Jerusalem.

Hamas deliberately avoided major confrontations with Israel for two years from 2021, in order to maximize the surprise of the October 7 attack.

## Chinese hackers target groups backing Trump

**FPJ News Service**  
WASHINGTON

Chinese hackers have allegedly attacked groups presumably with close ties to Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump. This attack comes close on the heels of an alleged Iranian hacking of the Trump campaign. One of the groups to be attacked is America First Policy Institute (AFPI), a think tank aligned with Trump. Federal authorities said that the group was the target of Chinese hackers, sources familiar with the matter have told ABC News.

AFPI's Chief Communications Officer Marc Lotter said in a statement that "it is not surprising" that "hostile foreign actors" would target AFPI, noting it is a leading Trump-aligned policy group. "The tactics, techniques, and procedures of the threat actor are similar to that

of nation-state sponsored activities we have seen, allowing us to remediate and respond quickly," he added. "Like the America First movement itself, AFPI will not creep at the speed of government but act at the speed of business with the world's leading cyber experts to even further enhance our already robust security," he continued.

AFPI is a policy advisory think tank group that has hundreds of former Trump administration officials, including AFPI board chairwoman Linda McMahon, who has been named co-chair of the Trump Transition Team. Earlier, the Justice Department had unsealed an indictment that charged three Iranians over their alleged involvement in the hack of emails from ex-president Trump's campaign.

## Lawyer team to battle TikTok

**FPJ News Service**  
WASHINGTON

A group of attorneys in the US led by New York Attorney General Letitia James and California Attorney General Rob Bonta have announced a bipartisan coalition of 14 attorneys general in filing lawsuits against the social media platform TikTok.

The lawsuits, filed by each state individually, accuse TikTok of 'misleading the public about the safety of its platform and harming the mental health of young users'.

According to the lawsuits, TikTok violated state laws by falsely promoting its platform as safe for young users, while many were subjected to content that caused them to suffer from "mental health and body image issues which they attribute to the app's addictive features."

Attorney General James said in the lawsuit: "TikTok claims that their platform is safe for young people, but



**The lawsuits filed by each state accuses the app of harming the mental health of young users**

that is far from true. Across the country, young people have died or gotten injured doing dangerous TikTok challenges and many more are feeling sad, anxious, and depressed because of TikTok's addictive features."

The lawsuit has pointed out that TikTok uses an addictive content recommendation system designed to keep minors on the platform for extended periods, increasing revenue through targeted ads.

Attorney General Bonta said: "When we look at the youth mental health crisis and the revenue machine TikTok has created, fuelled by the time and attention of our young people, it's devastatingly obvious: our children and teens never stood a chance against these social media behemoths."

Also in focus were the dangers of viral TikTok "challenges," which have resulted in injuries and deaths among young users. For example, a 15-year-old boy in Manhattan died after participating in the "subway surfing" challenge. The lawsuit also cites the Kia Challenge, which has led to a rise in car thefts and fatal accidents.

The lawsuits have also accused TikTok of violating the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) by collecting and monetizing data from children under 13 without parental consent.

The attorneys general are seeking to hold TikTok accountable for exploiting young users for profit.

## Poland suspends right to asylum for now

**ANI**  
WARSAW

In a significant move, Poland is taking measures to curb irregular migration, driven by escalating tensions with Belarus, by temporarily suspending the right to asylum, according to a report by Al Jazeera.

Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk also condemned the exploitation of the right to asylum by Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and people smugglers. According to Tusk, they are using the asylum system in a way that undermines the right to asylum's purpose.

"One of the elements of the migration strategy will be the temporary territorial suspension of the right to asylum," Tusk said on Saturday.

"I will demand this, I will demand recognition in Europe for this decision," he told a congress held by his liberal Civic Coalition (KO) grouping, the largest member of Poland's coalition government, Al Jazeera reported.

Tusk further informed that he would present the migration strategy at a government meeting on October 15.

Since 2021, migration has

dominated Poland's agenda. Thousands of asylum seekers, fleeing from countries such as Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq's Kurdish region, have attempted to cross into Poland through Belarus.

Notably, with 1,300 km, Poland has the longest border with the former Soviet Republics, namely Russia (Kaliningrad), Lithuania, Belarus and Ukraine.

It is estimated that up to about 15,000 people illegally cross the territory of Poland every year. Two main transit routes lead through the country, according to the European Parliament.

The 'Balkan trail' is used by Romanians, Bulgarians and citizens from former Yugoslavia who enter legally because regulations allow a one-month stay without a visa. The second emigration trail via Poland runs from the Lithuanian border to Germany.

This route, mainly used by Asians, is dominated by citizens from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The number of illegal migrants caught at this border has almost doubled since 1996.

By mid-March, Poland has also recorded close to 1.8 million people displaced by the war against Ukraine.

## Don leads Harris on tackling wars: Poll

**Agencies**  
WASHINGTON

Former Republican President **Donald Trump** has an edge over Democratic Vice-President Kamala Harris on who would better navigate the country through the Ukraine and Middle East wars, a Wall Street Journal opinion poll of seven battleground states showed. In overall support, the poll published on Friday showed Harris and Trump tied across the 7 states that could decide the November presidential election.

The poll showed Harris with marginal 2 percentage points in Arizona,



Georgia and Michigan, Trump up 6 points in Nevada and 1 in Pennsylvania, and the two tied in North Carolina and Wisconsin. The poll of 600 registered voters in each state had a margin of error of 4 percentage points in each state.

The neck-and-neck results echo other polls reflecting a tight race before the November 5 election as Americans grapple with concerns about the economy, immigration, women's rights and the nation's values.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll this week also found Trump and Harris locked in a close race nationally, with Harris marginally ahead 46% to 43%. Surveys of swing state voters can be an important indicator given that state-by-state results of the Electoral College will determine the winner, with the seven battleground states likely being decisive.

Harris will win a narrow

majority in the Electoral College if she captures the states where she holds an edge in the WSJ's poll. According to the WSJ poll, Trump leads Harris in the seven swing states 50% to 39% on who is best able to handle Russia's war in Ukraine. Trump also has a 48% to 33% lead over Harris on who is better suited to handle the Israel-Hamas war.

More voters said they backed Trump on the economy and immigration while more said Harris would do a better job when it comes to housing, healthcare and caring about people like them, the WSJ poll found.

**climate change**

# Rivers faced driest year in 3 decades in 2023

**Agencies**  
GENEVA

River flows around the world fell to all-time lows last year amid record heat, endangering water supplies in an era of growing demand, according to Al Jazeera that cites a United Nations weather agency report.

According to the State of Global Water Resources report published by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), there was "severe stress on global

water supplies, with 5 consecutive years of below-normal river flows and reservoir inflows".

Prolonged droughts cut river flows in large parts of North, Central and South America with the Mississippi and Amazon River basins reporting record low water levels in 2023, said the report, based on data going back 33 years. The Ganges and Mekong River basins also experienced below-average conditions. Overall, 50 percent of global catchment



areas showed abnormal conditions, with most being in deficit and reducing water availability for agriculture and industry.

"Water is becoming the most telling indicator of our time of climate's distress and yet, as a global society, we are not taking action to pro-

## No red line in defence: Iran foreign minister

**Agencies**  
DUBAI

Iran said on Sunday that it has "no red lines" in defending itself, as the Middle East anxiously braced for Israel's response to missile attacks from its arch-foe two weeks ago. Foreign Minister **Abbas Araqchi**'s comments appeared intended to dispel suggestions that Iran would absorb an Israeli strike without a further response, as Tehran did earlier this year when Israel last struck Iran after a volley of Iranian missiles.

"While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araqchi said in a post on X. Iran fired more than 180 ballistic missiles at Israel on October 1 amid an escalation in fighting between Israel and its proxy in Lebanon, Hezbollah. Many were intercepted in flight but some penetrated missile defences, although the only fatality was a Palestinian killed by debris that fell on the West Bank.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has said Israel will hit Iran in a way that will be "lethal, precise and surprising". The Middle East remains on high alert for further escalation in a year of war as Israel battles Iran-backed groups Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza. US officials believe Israel has narrowed down targets in its potential retaliation for the Iranian missile barrage, and would aim to hit military and energy infrastructure, NBC reported on Saturday. It said there was no indication Israel would target nuclear facilities or carry out assassinations in Iran.

The NBC report cited unidentified US officials and added that Israel had not



made final decisions about how and when to act. It also cited U.S. and Israeli officials as saying a response could come during the Jewish Yom Kippur holiday. The holiday ended on Saturday evening without an Israeli strike.

**'Evacuate peacekeepers'**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on the United Nations on Sunday to evacuate troops in its UNIFIL peacekeeping force from combat areas in Lebanon. Netanyahu said the military had asked the UN to evacuate the soldiers repeatedly, adding that their presence in the area made them hostages of Hezbollah.

A total of five peacekeepers have been wounded in Israeli strikes. Hezbollah denies Israel's accusation that it treats the peacekeepers as hostages and says Israel wants them to leave so they cannot serve as a check on the Israeli cross-border campaign.

Israel's military said it continues to operate in southern Lebanon to dismantle Hezbollah infrastructure. "Over the past day, the air force has struck approximately 200 Hezbollah targets deep in Lebanon and southern Lebanon, including terrorist cells, launchers, anti-tank missile posts, and terrorist infrastructure sites," it said.

Israel also said five launches that crossed from Lebanon were intercepted by the air force.

## Israeli strikes kill 29 in Gaza Strip



A destroyed building following an airstrike in Gaza - AFP

**Agencies**  
CAIRO/BEIRUT

Israeli military strikes on Gaza on Saturday killed at least 29 Palestinians, medics said. The Israeli military published new evacuation orders on Saturday to two neighbourhoods on the northern edge of Gaza City, which also lies in the north of the enclave, saying the area was a "dangerous combat zone".

Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry urged residents not to relocate within northern areas of the enclave and also to avoid heading south "where the occupation is conducting continued bombing and killing every day in the areas it claims to be safe".

Nuseirat camp in central Gaza. The toll could rise as many of the wounded are in critical condition, medics said. The Israeli military published new evacuation orders on Saturday to two neighbourhoods on the northern edge of Gaza City, which also lies in the north of the enclave, saying the area was a "dangerous combat zone".

Gaza's Hamas-run interior ministry urged residents not to relocate within northern areas of the enclave and also to avoid heading south "where the occupation is conducting continued bombing and killing every day in the areas it claims to be safe".

Nineteen people were killed in Gaza overnight, and 10 more died on Saturday evening after Israel struck two houses in Jabalia and the

new heat records have been reported. "Very likely this hot, dry weather continues to translate to low river flow," he told reporters. The record heat last year also resulted in the biggest mass losses for the world's glaciers in 50 years. Overall, they lost 600 gigatonnes of water.

Rivers fed by glaciers such as those in Europe and Scandinavia experienced high river flows as a result, said Uhlenbrook, but said this would fall significantly in future years.



sp

Briefs



**MYSURU**  
**Aney clinches Mysore Open**  
Second seeded American Jessie Aney rallied splendidly to beat top-seed Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty in the final to bag the ITF Mysore Open title here on Sunday. Aney, who won the doubles crown on Saturday, defeated Rashmikaa 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (6), in a match that lasted two hours and 33 minutes. "It was really a tough one, but I'm happy that I played solid in the tie-break to come through," said a relieved Aney.

**HYDERABAD**  
**Sundar wins Impact Fielder Award**

India all-rounder Washington Sundar clinched the India cricket team's behind-the-scenes 'Impact Fielder' Award for the just-concluded T20I series against Bangladesh. He edged out Hardik Pandya and Riyan Parag, with India's fielding coach T Dilip hailing Washington's outstanding improvement and noting that he appeared as a "different" player in terms of his fielding. Riding on Sanju Samson's belligerent century, India notched up a record 297 total, clinching a dominant 133-run victory over Bangladesh here to win the T20I series 3-0 and complete a 5-0 sweep of the Test and T20I series.

**TAOYUAN (TAIWAN)**  
**Diksha misses cut**

Swiss golfer Chiara Tamburlini fired a round of 69 (-3) to win the Wistron Ladies Open - Taiwan by four strokes after India's Diksha Dagar missed the halfway cut at Sunrise Golf and Country Club on Sunday. With rounds of 66-73-68-69 she totalled 12-under 276 and beat Yu-Sang Hou (68) of Taiwan by four shots. Perrine Delacour of France (67) was third, Spain's Maria Hernandez (68) and Italy's Elena Virginia Carta (68) were at tied fourth place. Also tied for fourth with them were Nastasia Nadaud of France and South African Nicole Garcia. Dagar missed the cut at the halfway mark.

**NEW DELHI**  
**Bhutia hits out at AIFF boss**

Former India football captain Bhiaichung Bhutia has strongly criticized All India Football Federation (AIFF) President Kalyan Chaubey for his controversial remarks about Northeast players. "He has never played for India, he might have played for junior India somewhere, but he has never played for the national team," Bhutia said.

**NAM DINH (VIETNAM)**  
**'We could have scored another'**

Footballer Farukh Choudhary, who marked the team's turnaround against Vietnam in the 1-1 draw game, said they could have scored another goal, AIFF press release stated. The Senior Indian Men's National Team, left for India late on Saturday few hours after their one-off friendly tie against hosts Vietnam.

**CLINICAL FINISH | World No. 1 overcomes 24-time Grand Slam champion to claim Shanghai Masters**

# Sinner denies Djokovic 100th career title

**ONLINE**  
**SHANGHAI**

World number one Jannik Sinner defeated 24-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic 7-6 (7/4), 6-3 on Sunday to win the Shanghai Masters. Sinner took a crucial break in the fourth game of the second set to defeat the Serb in 1hr 37min and deny him a 100th career singles title. "He was just too good today, too strong, too fast," said Djokovic after the match. Sinner saluted his opponent as a "legend" who kept playing "incredible tennis... year after year". In a nod to former Djokovic rival Roger Federer, who was watching from the stands, the 23-year-old joked: "There are legends everywhere, I just try to keep up a little bit." Facing off before an impassioned crowd, neither



player blinked in the first set, unable to break the other's serve. In the tiebreak Sinner quickly took control, breaking Djokovic's serve on the first point and going 5-1 up. The Serb steadied himself but then netted a volley to bring up set point at 6-3.

Sinner failed to convert initially but didn't miss the second time behind serve. The next key moment came in the fourth game of the second set, when Sinner was up 40-15 on Djokovic's serve. Djokovic saved one break point with a fiery ace, but couldn't stop a superb fore-

hand down the line from Sinner that saw him pull ahead. All that remained was for the Italian to hold his nerve, hitting an ace to finish the match and claim the title. Sinner's triumph caps off a formidable year, in which he has won two Grand Slams and retained the top spot in the rankings since June. But it is also a year that has seen him embroiled in controversy after he twice tested positive for a banned steroid in March. In August, the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) accepted Sinner's explanation that the drug entered his system unintentionally when his physiotherapist used a spray containing it to treat a cut, then provided massage and sports therapy to the player.

## Kotian's five-for leads Mumbai fight back against Baroda

**PTI**  
**VADDARA**

Right-arm off-spinner Tanush Kotian led a brilliant bowling show with a five-wicket haul as defending champions Mumbai made a remarkable fight back by skittling out Baroda for 185 in the home side's second innings on an eventful third day of their Ranji Trophy Group A match here on Sunday. The 25-year-old Kotian (5/61) scalped Baroda's three top-order and two lower-order batters to rock the home side who had taken a 76-run first innings lead on Saturday. Kotian was ably supported by his right-arm off-spin colleague

**RANJI TROPHY**

Himanshu Singh (3/50) as Baroda folded in 60.3 overs after starting the penultimate day at 9/0 made from two overs overnight. Kotian had also taken 4 wickets in Baroda first innings. Twelve wickets fell on Day 3 as Mumbai made 42 for 2 at stumps with opener Ayush Mhatre and captain Ajinkya Rahane batting on 19 and 4 respectively. The other opener Prithvi Shaw failed for the second time in the match as he made 12 from 18 balls, while one-down Hardik Tamore was run out for 6. Shaw had scored 7 in Mumbai's first innings. Mumbai need 220 runs on Monday to win the match. It was a procession of sort to the dressing room for the Baroda batters in the morning session as the home team was reduced to 41

for 6 in the 18th over. After Shardul Thakur accounted for opener Jyotsnil Singh (10) in the fifth over, Kotian struck twice in the next over, removing Raj Limbani (3) and Shashwat Rawat (0), before dismissing Mitesh Patel (1) in the eighth over. That spell from Kotian broke the back of Baroda second innings, only to be revived a bit by the lower-order batters. Captain Krunal Pandya (55) and Atit Sheth (26) stitched 62 runs for the seventh wicket to take the team score past 100-run mark. Later, number 9 batter Mahesh Pithiya made 40 runs to help Baroda reach 185. **SUMMARISED SCORES** **Baroda:** 290 and 185 all out in 60.3 overs (Krunal Pandya 55, Mahesh Pithiya; Tanush Kotian 5/61) vs Mumbai 214. **Himachal Pradesh 1st innings:** 663/3 dec in 164 overs Uttarakhnad 1st innings: 299 all out in 95 overs and 0/0 in 1 over. (Avneesh Sudha 94 batting; Vaibhav Arora 1/21).

**In Secunderabad:** Gujarat 1st innings: 343 and 201 Hyderabad: 248. **In Jaipur:** Puducherry 1st innings: 248 and 207/6 Rajasthan 1st innings: 291. **In Nagpur:** Vidarbha: 118 and 366 **Andhra:** 167 and 79/1 in 21 overs. **In Srinagar:** Jammu and Kashmir: 519 for 9 decl vs Maharashtra 312/6 in 86 overs (Siddhesh Veer 127, Ruturaj Gaikwad 86; Rasikh Salam 2/57). **In Delhi:** Services 402 vs Meghalaya 233 all out in 86 overs (Sumit Kumar 87, Balchander Anirudh 69; Varun Choudhary 5/43) and 57 for 6 in 39 overs.

## Ayhika, Sutirtha create history for India

Secure India's 1st-ever women's doubles medal

**ANI**  
**KAZAKHSTAN**

India's top-ranked women's doubles pair of Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee made history, securing a historic bronze medal, the country's first-ever medal in the category, at the Asian Table Tennis Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan on Sunday. Ayhika and Sutirtha have become the first-ever all-India women's doubles pair from India to win a medal at the com-

petition. Back in 1952, Gool Naskiwala secured a gold medal in the women's doubles competition alongside Japan's Yoshiko Tanaka in the inaugural edition

**ASIAN TT**

of the tournament, as per Olympics.com. The Mukherjees, the world number 15th pair in women's doubles rankings, were defeated by the Japan's world number 33 duo of Miwa Harimoto and Miyuu Kihara with a 3-0 (4-11, 9-

11, 9-11). The losing semifinalists are awarded the bronze medals in this competition. Ayhika and Sutirtha did have a four point lead against their opponent in the second game. However, Miwa, who was the part of Japan's silver medal winning Paris Olympics 2024 team and Miyuu, a three-time World Championships medalist, staged a brilliant comeback to deny any further chance of a comeback to India. The Mukherjees made history during the Asian Games last year, by securing India's first-ever medal in their category, a bronze. In Tunis last year, the

duo became the first Indians to win a World Table Tennis (WTT) Contender women's doubles title. India ends the Asian Table Tennis Championships with three medals, all bronze. The Indian women's team opened up the tally with a historic bronze, the country's first in women's team category since 1972 when Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) started organising the competition, following a loss to Japan. It was followed by the Indian men's team repeating the feat and getting a bronze.

## 'India's brand of cricket makes it very difficult for touring teams'

**PTI**  
**STEAD BENGALURU**

Injuries to key players don't affect the India and the brand of cricket they play in their backyard makes it "very difficult" for visiting teams, New Zealand head coach Gary Stead here on Sunday. New Zealand will take on India in a three-Test series, which pacer Mohammed Shami is set to miss. The series-opener will begin here on Wednesday. Stead said the depth in talent in Indian cricket ensures that the national side remains unaffected by the unavailability of players. "If they have an injury it does not seem to affect them like other teams. There is someone else who can come in who is equally adept," Stead told the media here. "They have the mass of numbers they can call, but they are also very skilful and are an experienced team with a lot of Test caps."

## Belarusian Sabalenka overcomes Zheng to win third Wuhan Open title



the season, from seven finals reached. The 26-year-old strengthened her chances of ending the year as the world number one ahead of Iga Swiatek, a battle likely to come down to the wire at the WTA Finals in Riyadh next month. Zheng had never taken a set off of Sabalenka in any of their

previous three meetings, which have all come on the Grand Slam stage and in the last 13 months. But Sunday's final was a different story, with Zheng, the reigning Olympic gold medalist, competing in front of her home fans, in the city where she grew up. In front of a capacity crowd

## Harmanpreet's unbeaten 50 goes in vain vs Australia

**PTI**  
**SHARJAH**

Captain Harmanpreet Kaur struck an unbeaten 54 but India's nine-run loss to six-time champions Australia took her side's fate for a semifin-al spot out of their hands in the women's T20 World Cup here on Sunday. With Australia marching into the semifinals undefeated, the defeat meant India will now have to wait for the outcome of third-placed New Zealand's match against Pakistan on Monday. A win for New Zealand will see them leapfrogging India - who currently have a better Net Run Rate but same points (four) - for the final four. Chasing 152, India were bolstered by Harmanpreet's fifty (54 not out off 47 balls, 6x4s) and her 63-run stand for the fourth wicket with Deepti Sharma (29), but they crumbled under pressure to be restricted to 142 for nine in 20 overs. With 28 needed off the last two overs, India took 14 off the



Harmanpreet Kaur: Disappointed penultimate over. Needing 14 runs from the last over, they lost as many as four wickets to concede the game to Australia, as Harmanpreet was stranded on the other end. India paid the price for sloppy fielding and also leaving it too late in run chase.

**BRIEF SCORES** **India** 142/9 in 20 overs (Harmanpreet Kaur not out 54; Annelab Sutherland 2-22, Sophie Molineux 2-32-2). **Australia Total:** (151/8 in 20 overs (Grace Harris 40,Tahlia McGrath 32; Renuka Singh 2-24, Shreyanka Patil 1-32, Pooja Vas-trakar 1-22, Deepti Sharma 2-28, Radha Yadav 1-14)

## HIL Player Auction: Harmanpreet, Abhishek, Hardik shine on Day 1

**IANS**  
**NEW DELHI**

The Hockey India League (HIL) player auction 2024/25 got underway in thrilling fashion, with all eight franchises spending heavily to acquire Indian men's team core players. Gurjant Singh (Rs 19 lakh) was the first buy while star drag-flicker and Indian captain Harmanpreet Singh (Rs 78 lakh) emerged as the costliest buy in the first half. Both players were acquired by Soorma Hockey Club, owned by JSW Sports. Abhishek became the second-most expensive buy, acquired by Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers for Rs 72 lakh while Hardik Singh went to UP Rudras for Rs 70 lakh. Other notable buys from the first lot included Amit Rohidas (for Rs 48 lakh to Tamil Nadu Dragons), Jugraj Singh (for Rs 48 lakh to Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers), and Sumit (for Rs 46 lakh to Hyderabad Toofans). Meanwhile, among the overseas goalkeepers, Ireland's David Harte was the top buy, with Tamil Nadu Dragons winning the bid for Rs 32 lakh. Germany's Jean-Paul Danneberg (for Rs 27 lakh to Hyderabad Toofans), the Netherlands' Pirmin Blaak (for Rs 25 lakh to Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers), and Belgium's Vincent Vanasch (for Rs 23 lakh to Soorma Hockey Club) were also acquired.



**for your eyes only**  
Kim Astrup (L) and Anders Rasmussen of Denmark in action against Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin of Malaysia (not in pic) during the men's doubles final of the Clash Royale Arctic Open badminton event in Vantaa, Finland, on Sunday

## inspiring hope and dreams

# Sachin to inspire young athletes, sports fans in Texas

**PTI**  
**HOUSTON**

The legendary Sachin Tendulkar is set to inspire young athletes during his much-anticipated visit to Texas, where he will lead a special cricket clinic as part of the National Cricket League finals week-end. The clinic, to be hosted at the University of Texas at Dallas, aims to motivate aspiring cricketers and promote the sport at the grassroots level in

the U.S. "Cricket has given me so much, and now it's my turn to give back," Tendulkar said ahead of the event slated for Sunday morning. "I'm excited to meet these young players and show them that with hard work and passion, anything is possible." In addition to the clinic, Tendulkar, who made waves with his recent appearance at the iconic TX-OU football game, will also be a special guest at the Dallas Cowboys game on

Sunday, further highlighting his high-profile engagement in the U.S. sports scene. NCL Chairman Arun Agarwal emphasised the significance of Tendulkar's involvement: "This is about more than cricket -- it's about inspiring hope and dreams. Having someone of Sachin's caliber mentoring these kids is a game-changer." The NCL's finals weekend is more than just a cricket tournament. Alongside the matches, fans will enjoy cultural celebra-



tions, live Bollywood performances, and nightly

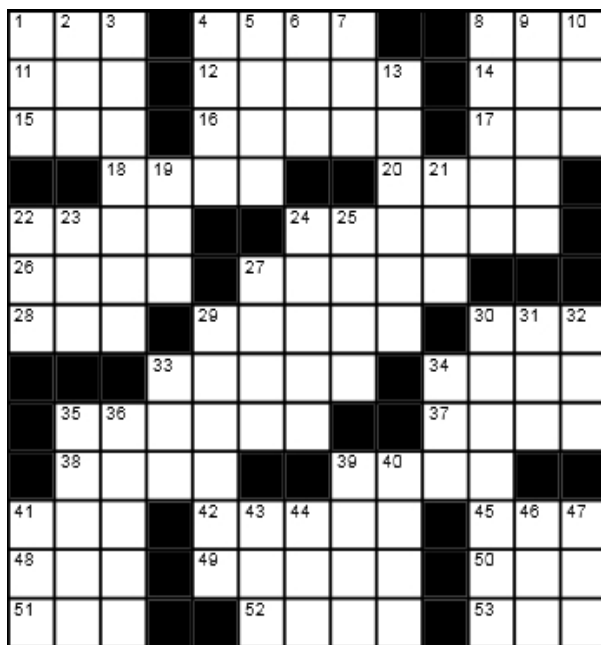
themes, ranging from honoring local heroes to promoting

sustainability. The tournament will conclude on October 14 at UT Dallas. With Tendulkar's participation and the introduction of the innovative 60 Strikes format, designed to engage U.S. sports fans with a fast-paced version of cricket, the NCL is positioning itself as a key player in the growing popularity of cricket in America. The NCL has attracted top cricketing talent, with icons like Sunil Gavaskar, Wasim

Akram, and Sir Vivian Richards mentoring players. This season also features stars like Shahid Afridi, Suresh Raina, Shakib Al Hasan, and Chris Lynn, making the NCL a premier event on the global cricket stage. Headquartered in Dallas, the National Cricket League USA is revolutionising cricket in the U.S. with its innovative 'Sixty Strikes' format. The event is endorsed by the ICC and supported by SEE Holdings.



## Crossword #1291



## Across

- 1 Automobile  
4 P. Simon's '\_\_\_' Rock' (1,2,1)  
8 US soldiers  
11 Uber competitor  
12 A freshwater fish  
14 Universal Disk Format in short  
15 Jewel  
16 Ex-Mrs. Trump  
17 Female ruff  
18 Mexican coin  
20 Information  
22 Poison-bearing tree  
24 St. Paul's birth place?  
26 "Zn" chemically speaking?  
27 Of birth  
28 Integer, in short?  
29 Manages successfully  
30 TV network  
33 A red dye - "noise" anagram ?  
34 Inflamed swelling  
35 Attorney  
37 Affected or pretentious  
38 Bread spread  
39 Lacklustre  
41 Air Transport Indicator  
42 Forbidden  
45 Equal opportunity employer abbr  
48 Time To Go  
49 Precise or correct  
50 Drag  
51 Long time  
52 \_\_\_ a bear with a sore head : very irritable?  
53 Pedro's uncle - "ITO" changed

## Down

- 1 Gear tooth  
2 Brewed beverage  
3 Out of control  
4 Wading bird  
5 Afternoon for the Aussie  
6 \_\_\_ culpa : an admission of guilt  
7 Dilip Kumar and Nadira's love story of 1952  
8 Renowned percussionist Trilok  
9 Notions  
10 Seller-Furnished Equip.  
13 Chennai's old name  
19 PC panic button  
21 Above sea level  
22 Submachine gun  
23 Postal Index No.  
24 Hoglike mammal  
25 Egyptian symbol - "neat" anagram?  
27 We smell with it  
29 Prairie wolf  
30 National park in Uttar Pradesh  
31 Comedian's routine  
32 Wily and cunning  
33 Female sheep  
34 Bleat of a sheep  
35 Sweeps game  
36 Set in rows  
39 Pier  
40 Routine  
41 Took food  
43 Rock musician \_\_\_ Rose  
44 Commonly used term for a woman in our country  
46 French assent  
47 Self-esteem

## YOUR DAY By Vinayak Vishwas Karandikar



**ARIES:** Today, focus on studies and career. **Finance:** Expenses on education, vehicle, property. **Career:** Beneficial for education, automobile, property. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible purchase of property or vehicle. **Health:** Cough, cold, weakness, obesity, or sciatica.



**TAURUS:** Take care of health; successful business deals. **Finance:** Expenses on travel, premiums, repairs, communication, or ads. **Career:** Success in consultancy, communication, or publication. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible family health issues.



**GEMINI:** Work or travel; control your words. **Finance:** Expenses on business, dental care, or travel. **Career:** Success in education, religion, tourism, or insurance. **Domestic & Love Life:** Balance business and family life with help from family. **Health:** Knee, waist, breathing problems.



**CANCER:** Focus on career; expect family issues. **Finance:** Expenses on travel, education, medical needs or business. **Career:** Beneficial for tourism, education, insurance, surgery. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible religious activities or pilgrimage. **Health:** Thigh, muscle pain, headache.



**LEO:** Make wise decisions; expect returns on investments. **Finance:** Expenses on premiums, travel, or career. **Career:** Success in law, construction or medicine. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible family disputes due to workload or illness. **Health:** Muscle pain, bronchitis.



**VIRGO:** Focus on travel, or business; economic growth indicated. **Finance:** Expenses on business expansion, house. **Career:** Success in education, law, or entertainment.



**LIBRA:** Face potential losses or ill health; enjoy family time. **Finance:** Expenses on premiums, health, or entertainment. **Career:** Beneficial for travel, religion, education, communication, medical fields, art, or entertainment. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible family disputes or health issues.



**SCORPIO:** Focus on earning, meditation, or entertainment; study or WFH. **Finance:** Expenses on children, home, or travel. **Career:** Success in speaking, finance, consultancy, or construction. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible family disputes; spend time with family.



**SAGITTARIUS:** Study, take care of health, struggle, and earn. **Finance:** Expenses on house renovation, or business. Expect delayed payments. **Career:** Beneficial for education, consultancy, or speaking. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible family disputes or health issues.



**CAPRICORN:** Travel and receive delayed payments. **Finance:** Expenses on travel, or family needs. **Career:** Beneficial for tourism, communication, banking, or finance. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible foreign travel, family hospitalization, or family enjoyment.

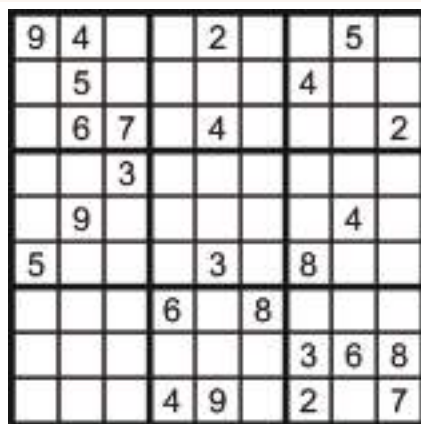


**AQUARIUS:** Study, be with family. **Finance:** Expenses on house, vehicle, medical treatment. **Career:** Success in banking, consultancy, tourism, or pharmacy. **Domestic & Love Life:** Possible visits from maternal relatives; family life may be disturbed.



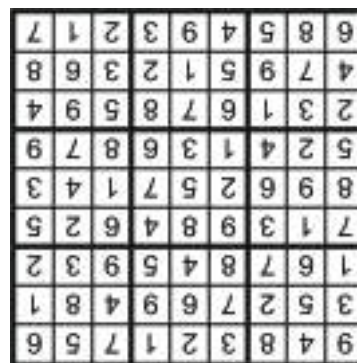
**PISCES:** Take initiative at work, travel, celebrate, or party. **Finance:** Expenses on travel, career, or party. **Career:** Beneficial for education, counseling, travel, or art. **Domestic & Love Life:** Difficulty in finding time for family.

## FPJ - SUDOKU - 182



## Solution

**Across:** 1 Cat 4 I am a 9 6 Gls 11 Oia 12 Bream 14 UDF 15 Gem 16 Ivana, 17 Rea, 18 Peso, 20 Data, 22 Upas, 24 Tansus, 26 Zmc, 27 Natal, 28 Int, 29 Copes, 30 CBS, 33 Eosin, 34 Boil, 35 Lwmye, 37 Ary, 38 Oloa, 39 Dlab, 41 ATT, 42 Taboo, 45 Eoe, 48 TTG, 49 Exact, 50 Tug, 51 Eon, 52 Like, 53 Tio.  
**Down:** 1 Cog, 2 Ale, 3 Rampant, 4 Ibis, 5 Arvo, 6 Mea, 7 Aan, 8 Guntu, 9 Ideas, 10 SFE, 13 Madras, 19 Esc, 21 ASL, 22 Uvi, 23 PIN, 24 Tapir, 25 Aten, 27 Nose, 29 Coyote, 30 Combit, 31 Bit, 32 SLY, 33 Ewe, 34 Baa, 35 Lotto, 36 Align, 39 Dock, 40 Rote, 41 Ate, 43 AXI, 44 Bal, 46 Out, 47 Ego.



**WHAT TO DO:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.

## What are these five arrows of Love?

— Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

The God of Love in Indian mythology is called apanga. Apanga means 'one who has no parts of the body at all'. It is so because love has no parts, no shape, and no form. It is formless. And He has an arch and five arrows. And these five arrows are made up of five flowers or the five senses. He hits you with the five flowers and it is through these five senses you experience something that is beyond the five senses. And deep inside you what gets created is a wave of beauty. It flows like sweet honey inside you!

And when you experience such a wave, your eyes close, you're not in form but you dissolve into the formless. You come back to your nature. When you experience something so great, so wonderful, and so beautiful be it music or a fragrance automatically your eyes shut and you dive into that ocean of beauty. The power, the energy inside you starts moving in a newer direction. This is much like in meditation, there is a feeling of elevation; it gives you more energy, long-lasting joy and long-lasting bliss. There is a feeling of elevation. Like in the spring, the entire creation just springs up. The birds sing, trees blossom, Like that when energy is kindled in you, it creates awe. You spring out of dullness, out of inertia, out of the routine... New life springs up in you.

If this elevation in life is lacking, then you become so dull. And the more you use your senses, you tend to become duller. The creation hits you with five arrows on the five senses to create a sense of beauty deep inside you. If the heart is one, then everything is one in the world. And love symbolises this heart. What type of love? That which is genuine, that which is true, that which is full of energy, full of strength, that love is total, complete.

ARCHANGEL MICHAEL  
MESSAGE FOR THE DAY

Today is a day to overcome the attitude that life is pathetic and to understand all the blessings that life offers you. You need to think outside the box and have a different perspective on your current situation. Let go of what is not serving you and ensure that you're not missing opportunities.

**Tip for the day:** Sit down and think about all the dreams (big and small) of yours that have been fulfilled to date and offer gratitude.



Lots of divine miracles your way, Sheetal Sapan Mhatre.



**WHAT TO DO:** Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Every puzzle has only one correct solution.



## An easy guide for decorating a foyer



Trupti Palav

A foyer area equals the 'impression card' for your home. Simply because that's the first thing everyone notices before entering your home. So it is extremely crucial that you present the foyer zone in such a way that it gives a fair bit of idea about how your home appears or what sort of possesses. What's more? A beautiful foyer defines your individual personality and preferences as well! Here are some easy ways you can elevate the foyer and form a lasting impression:

### Place furniture

Add a size-appropriate side table or console that can serve as the surface to place essential objects. You can place a decor tray, bowl, and more knick-knacks pretty conveniently on it. Your everyday essential objects like house keys, letters, etc can be easily kept in decorative holders. If the space allows you can also place easy seating options like a chair or pouf for waiting or wearing shoes purposes. In-built seating is also a practical option for a spacious foyer zone.

### Hang mirror

Hanging a decorative mirror on the foyer wall serves both functional and decorative purposes. You can check your look for the last time before heading out and it also works as a great decor piece. What's more? Since the mirror reflects light, it creates an illusion of a greater space which works great if the foyer area is small. You can select from amazing decor mirror choices that match the vibe and style of a home. For instance, a sleek metal mirror will make a great choice for a modern, contemporary foyer.

### Let there be light

It is very essential to keep the foyer zone well-lit and illuminating. This practical decor tip allows for enough visibility to enter a home after sunset. An overhead light fixture like a stunning pendant light or chandelier adds to the style quotient of the foyer zone. Attractive wall sconces or table lamps placed on the foyer console are also a good choice to keep the foyer looking amazing.

### Something for the floor

Define the foyer or entryway with an attractive doormat or runner. Opt for sturdy, stain-resistant floor runners that meet the requirement of this high-traffic zone. Possibly go for a colour that does not show dirt marks very easily. A narrow, colorful runner can elevate even the simplest foyer.

### Personalize a bit

A foyer area is very much the interior part of your home and you must feature a "bit of yourself" in this designated zone. Add a photo frame, the art of your choice, or any decor object that says a lot about your personality. Such decor accessories make great conversation starters, and statement pieces too!

### Storage essentials

Add some storage essential pieces like a shoe rack, umbrella holder, and coat rack to keep your everyday essentials organized and handy. Include/ eliminate these functional objects as per your requirement and need. Choose objects in appealing shapes, styles, or colors to double as decor!

### Benefits of blueberry for skin and hair

● Blueberries help prevent signs of aging, such as fine lines and wrinkles, while maintaining the skin's pH balance and providing essential nourishment. They exfoliate the skin, tighten pores, and prevent acne and pimples, making them effective for removing dark circles as well.  
● Blueberries offer several benefits for hair, including cleansing the scalp, promoting hair growth, and adding volume. Additionally, their rich nutrient profile helps prevent premature greying, making them a valuable addition to your hair care routine.



### Blueberries for skin

#### 1 For radiant skin

The antioxidants in blueberries help remove dead skin cells, rejuvenating your skin, while olive oil protects against damage. Aloe vera and honey cleanse and moisturize, leaving your skin healthy and radiant.

**Ingredients:** ¼ cup blueberries, 1 tbsp olive oil, 1 tsp honey, 2 tbsp aloe vera.

**Method of use:** Mash the blueberries in a bowl, then stir in olive oil, honey, and freshly extracted aloe vera gel to create a paste. Apply the mixture to your face and neck, leave it on for 15 minutes, then rinse with water. For best results, use this treatment once a week.

Monika Khajuria

The delectable and inviting blueberries, which are rather rare in our Indian subcontinent, are a powerhouse ingredient that offers equal benefits for our skin and hair. Natural ingredients have become a prime choice for many people around the globe to tackle most of the skin and hair issues. The astounding blueberry is one such natural ingredient. Blueberries are rich in antioxidants that combat free radical damage, promoting skin and scalp health. Their vitamin C content boosts collagen production and improves skin elasticity, helping to reduce signs of aging like fine lines and sagging. Additionally, blueberries nourish hair follicles and protect against damage, while their vitamin A content promotes hair growth. Today, we will look into the benefits of blueberries for skin and hair and how to use them:



### For dark circles

Aloe vera has various vitamins and minerals that benefit the skin. It seeps deep into the skin and helps to reduce pigmentation of skin to treat dark circles.

**Ingredients:** 4-5 blueberries, an aloe vera leaf.

**Method of use:** Mash the blueberries in a bowl to make a paste.

Cut the aloe vera leaf and scoop out the gel.

Add aloe vera gel into the bowl and mix well.

Apply the mixture under your eyes. Leave it on for 20 minutes. Rinse it off later using warm water.

### To tackle oily skin

Oats have anti-inflammatory and antioxidant properties that soothe the skin and protect against free radical damage, making them excellent exfoliants. Honey moisturizes without greasiness, while lemon's citric acid helps control excess oil production. This face mask is perfect for preventing oily skin.

**Ingredients:** 8-10 blueberries, 2 tbsp oats, 1 tsp honey, 2 tsp lemon juice.

**Method:** Blend all ingredients until smooth, apply to your skin, leave on for 15 minutes, and rinse with cold water.

### How to use blueberry for hair

This hair mask combines nourishing ingredients that promote hair growth and cleanse the scalp. Argan oil's antioxidants protect against free radical damage, while yogurt's lactic acid combats harmful bacteria. Honey acts as a natural humectant, moisturizing the scalp and nourishing hair follicles, and lemon juice's acidity helps maintain a clean, healthy scalp.

**Ingredients:** ¼ cup blueberries, 1 tbsp argan oil, 2 tbsp yogurt, 1 tbsp honey, a few drops of lemon juice.

**Method of use:** Mash the blueberries in a bowl, then stir in yogurt, argan oil, lemon juice, and honey to create a paste.

Divide your hair into sections and apply the mixture to your scalp and hair, gently massaging it in.

Cover your hair with a shower cap and leave it on for 30 minutes.

Wash it out with a mild, sulfate-free shampoo, followed by conditioner. Use this remedy twice a month for best results.

## Are food dyes actually harmful?

Chandana Rao

If you're someone who enjoys eating out frequently, especially indulging in pastries, Chinese food, or other visually appealing dishes, chances are you're consuming a significant amount of food dyes. But how safe are these colorful additives? Food dyes, also known as food colorings, are used in various dishes to enhance their appearance, making them more colorful, appetizing, and aesthetically appealing. From the vibrant pinks of pastries to the rich reds and yellows in gravies and pickles, many of these hues come from the addition of food dyes. In recent times, the demand for aesthetically pleasing food has only grown, especially with the popularity of baked goods and Instagram-worthy dishes. However, while some natural ingredients like turmeric can provide color, most commercial food dyes are artificial, created using chemical compounds. This raises a crucial question: how safe are food dyes for consumption?

### What do food dyes contain?

Back in the 1800s, food dyes were made using coal tar, a substance now widely recognized as harmful. Though modern food dyes are considered safer and are subject to regulations, they still contain various chemicals such as: Erythrosine (red dye), Tartrazine (yellow dye), Indigo carmine (blue dye).

While these additives have been approved by regulatory agencies like the FDA (Food and Drug Administration), studies have shown that food dyes may still cause side effects for some people.

### Potential health risks of food dyes

Although food dyes are widely used, they have been associated with several health concerns, especially for certain vulnerable groups, including pregnant women and children. Some of the risks linked to food dyes include:

**Hyperactivity in children:** Studies have suggested a possible link between artificial food dyes and behavioral issues like hyperactivity, particularly in children with ADHD (Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder).

**Allergic reactions:** Certain individuals may experience skin allergies, rashes, or hives after eating foods containing artificial dyes.

**Digestive issues:** Artificial dyes can contribute to stomach discomfort, ulcers, and in some cases, gastrointestinal distress.

### Carcinogenic concerns:

Some food dyes have been scrutinized for their potential cancer-causing effects, although conclusive evidence is still lacking in this area. It's important to note that not everyone will experience negative reactions from consuming food dyes. However, those with sensitivities may be more prone to these effects.

### Should you avoid food dyes?

While food dyes may enhance the appearance of dishes, they do not add nutritional value and may come with health risks. If you are concerned about artificial additives in your diet, consider avoiding foods with synthetic dyes, particularly if you or your family members are prone to allergies, hyperactivity, or digestive issues. Opt for natural alternatives like turmeric, beetroot, spinach, or spirulina to color your dishes without the risks.

While food dyes can enhance the visual appeal of meals, they pose potential health risks for some individuals. It's important to be mindful of what you consume and opt for natural ingredients when possible. Reducing artificial food dyes can lead to healthier choices for you and your loved ones, promoting long-term well-being.

Kripa Chowdhury

Toothpaste is one of the essential items we rely on daily to maintain our oral hygiene. While most mass-market toothpastes promise freshness and whitening, many fall short once the initial aroma fades. Furthermore, some commercial products contain questionable ingredients that may not contribute significantly to dental health in the long run. If you're looking for a more natural alternative, consider this DIY homemade toothpaste with turmeric as its primary ingredient. This natural solution can lead to noticeable improvements in the color and texture of your teeth, while addressing common issues like bad breath and cavities.



### Why try this DIY homemade toothpaste?

If you're still hesitant, here are three best reasons to make the switch:

**Pure and natural:** This toothpaste contains only natural ingredients, free from harmful chemicals like fluoride or triclosan, which are found in many commercial toothpastes. Some of these additives have been linked to potential health concerns, including carcinogenic risks.

**Safe for all ages:** From children to seniors, this DIY toothpaste is suitable for everyone. Its gentle composition ensures it can be used multiple times a day without side effects, unlike some abrasive commercial formulas.

**Quick and easy to prepare:** With only three simple ingredients, it takes just a few minutes to prepare this toothpaste, making it an easy addition to your routine.

## DIY toothpaste for healthy gums and teeth

### Health benefits of turmeric and coconut oil:

Turmeric has powerful anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties, making it highly effective in fighting plaque, bacteria, & gum disease. Its mild abrasive nature can help remove surface stains, contributing to a brighter smile.

Coconut Oil is renowned for its antibacterial properties and is often used in practices like oil pulling to detoxify the mouth and prevent tooth decay. It can soothe irritated gums and act as a natural moisturizer, preventing dry mouth.

**Ingredients:**

- 5 tablespoons of dusted turmeric powder,
- 5 tps of salt,
- 1/2 cup of coconut oil, 1 glass, bowl, and a container.

**Method:** Mix equal parts turmeric powder and salt in a glass bowl, being careful not to overuse either ingredient to avoid staining or abrasiveness. Slowly add coconut oil while stirring to create a thick, uniform paste. Once the paste is ready, transfer it to a container with a lid. No need to refrigerate, but it's best to make small, fresh batches for optimal results.

### Tips for Use:

Brush with this homemade toothpaste twice a day for two minutes. Rinse well after brushing to prevent temporary yellow stains from turmeric. Add a few drops of peppermint oil for better taste and antibacterial benefits.

Amritha K

Alopecia barbae is a specific type of alopecia areata, a health condition which causes hair loss. Hair loss is a very common fact known to all of us. From teenagers to aged people, everybody has faced this problem. However, alopecia barbae is the type of hair loss that is not commonly known to everyone. Hair loss is not just the loss of hair from your head, it can affect any part of your body that has hair. Also, it is not caused by any sort of fungal infections on the skin.

Alopecia barbae is the type of hair loss that occurs to men. The autoimmune condition causes men to lose their beard. In some cases, it causes the loss of the whole beard and in others, it causes hair fall in patches. It is similar to alopecia areata, which causes bald spots on the scalp. It appears suddenly and results in the loss of beard hair in circular patches. The condition arises when your body attacks its own hair, assuming it to be foreign.

## Alopecia Barbae: Causes, symptoms and treatment

### Causes of alopecia barbae

The agent that develops the patchy hair loss condition is not definitely known. The hair loss in small circular patches is often viewed along the jawline, and in some cases, can occur on your scalp. Studies have been conducted to understand the underlying reason causing the sudden development of hair loss. However, there is a lack of definite information on the exact factors that cause the condition.

Commonly, stress is regarded as being the primary and central cause of alopecia barbae. Psychological and physical stress is normally linked to the loss of hair (alopecia). Therefore, researchers point out stress as being the major cause of loss of beard hair in men.

One of the other possible causes of alopecia barbae is genetics, that is, an individual who is related to someone with asthma, allergies or alopecia is prone to develop alopecia barbae. Some of the other causes are, having family members with an autoimmune condition which can put you at the higher risk of developing alopecia barbae. The conditions include psoriasis, type 1 diabetes and lupus. It can also be triggered by certain substances, viruses or medications.



### Symptoms of alopecia barbae

The loss of beard hair does not appear gradually, but suddenly. Alopecia barbae does not appear along with any signs or symptoms, it can emerge within a span of a few days or over a period of a few weeks. However, you may understand that the hair loss is due to alopecia when the bald patches develop in

circular spots, almost the size of a coin. Gradually, as more hair is lost, the circles will overlap each other. Hair around the circular patches will be white in colour. Before your beard hair begins to fall, you may have itchy and rough skin. The skin around that area will be sensitive and can cause pain, irritation and inflammation.

### Diagnosis of alopecia barbae

The condition can be identified and analysed by a dermatologist or a doctor. For diagnosing the condition, the medical practitioner will examine the pattern of your hair loss and samples of your hair. The diagnosis may include a scalp biopsy or a blood test. This is done to examine any signs of infection or any other causes such as an underlying medical condition. The diagnosis will also test for the presence of any autoimmune disorders. Some other tests involved in the diagnosis will be to check for the possibility of any thyroid disorders or fungal infections.

### Treatments for alopecia barbae

Being an autoimmune condition, it does not have any cure. However, the condition can be treated and managed. On undergoing the treatments, your beard hair can grow back but there are chances that it may fall out again. The recurrence can go on for longer periods, even years. In some cases, partial growth of beard hair has been reported.

In most cases, the hair will grow back in its natural form. But, in some cases, it can grow back in a different texture and even a different colour. There have been reports of no hair growth in some cases, even after undergoing the treatments. Depending on the individual, the treatments can have varying outcomes. The factors affecting the treatment outcomes are the level of hair loss, age, health etc.



### Medications for alopecia barbae

In order to treat the beard hair loss, you may use various different medications.

**■ Diphencyprone (DPCP):** This medicine can be directly applied on the bald patches. By causing an allergic reaction of sorts, DPCP is asserted to trick the immune system into transporting white blood cells to the surface of your skin, thereby reducing the inflammation and giving life to the hair follicles. The medicine takes up to three months to show effective results.

**■ Minoxidil (rogaine):** This topical drug is used to treat pattern baldness. For alopecia barbae, it is recommended to be applied on the affected area, twice a day.

**■ Corticosteroids:** It is used to suppress the immune system and are anti-inflammatory drugs. Corticosteroids are applied topically or in the form of shots.

**■ Anthralin:** It is an ointment used to treat psoriasis and is applied to the affected area, once a day. By irritating the skin, the medication helps hair growth. Results are viewed within a period of 8 to 12 weeks.

### Home remedies for alopecia barbae

You can treat the beard hair loss from your home as well. Although it is not as effective as the medications, the home remedies can be tried. The results depend on the individual.

**■ Garlic:** The natural healing properties possessed by the herb garlic may improve the symptoms of alopecia barbae. It can be used along with the corticosteroid cream.

**■ Zinc and biotin supplements:** Include minerals and vitamins that are critical for hair growth in your daily diet. Using supplements can improve the levels of biotin and zinc in your body, and can help improve hair growth and reduce hair fall.

Some of the other natural options for the condition are castor, coconut, or almond oil, wheatgrass, aloe vera, fish oil, lavender, rosemary, and geranium essential oils, and probiotics.







A still from *Raat Jawaan Hai*

## Kohrra sei niklei papa

Actor opens up about exploring new genres with *Raat Jawaan Hai*

**Kabir Singh Bhandari**

**F**or those of us who were averse to TV serials, it wasn't *Iss Pyaar Ko Kya Naam Doon* but the psychological thriller *Asur* (2020) and the crime thriller *Kohrra* (2023) that introduced us to the acting prowess of Barun Sobti.

In *Asur*, we saw him in the role of a forensic-expert-turned-teacher who returns to the Central Bureau of Investigation to track down a serial killer. In *Kohrra*, he plays an assistant sub-inspector investigating the murder of a bridegroom two days before the wedding. Now, in *Raat Jawaan Hai*, we find him in a new adventure — raising kids. Not something we expected from Barun.

"I hear what you're saying, but the idea was that I felt the intensity on the Indian OTT space was getting a bit too much. My wife and I were scrolling through television and noticed that everything was so serious. Around that time, this script came my way," Barun tells us over a call.

Released on October 11 on Sony LIV, the series explores the unpredictable

lives of three best friends — Radhika (Anjali Anand), Avinash (Barun Sobti), and Suman (Priya Bapat) — as they embark on a new journey: raising kids. The show offers a humorous glimpse into their journey, where sanity takes a backseat to diapers, careers, and friendships. It has been directed by Sumeet Vyas.

Being a parent himself, Barun reflects on the difference in children nowadays compared to when he was young. "I think kids today are far smarter, and the whole human race is evolving in that way. People are becoming more intelligent but a little less emotional. That's where this show comes in handy—it helps you reconnect with your emotional side and humanity," he says.

We ask him how he compares being a parent now to when his parents were raising him. Is it more stressful? Barun responds that he doesn't know how his parents felt about raising children, but, simply put, he enjoys raising his kids, just as he had fun growing up with his parents.

Fan reactions, too, have evolved. "It's a bit more objective now. Shows like *Asur* and *Kohrra* have such intense writing, delving into the psychology of the human mind. People are excited to discuss the writing when they meet us. Many fans I meet talk about how well-written the shows are and appreciate the subtlety. It's very different from before when people would just ask for a picture. Now, it's far more interactive," Barun explains.



I think kids today are far smarter, and the whole human race is evolving in that way

— Barun Sobti

## War of words

Divya Khossla hits back at Karan Johar's cryptic note after criticising *Jigra* box office

**CJ Desk**

**B**hushan Kumar's wife, Divya Khossla, is making headlines after she accused Alia Bhatt of rigging box office numbers for her latest release *Jigra* and claimed that Bhatt allegedly purchased tickets to fabricate collections. This controversy comes amid Divya's allegation that *Jigra* is copied from her film *Savi*.

While the *Gangubai Kathiawadi* actress has yet to respond, *Jigra* producer Karan Johar shared a cryptic note on his Instagram following Divya's remarks. Johar's note read, "Silence is the best speech you will ever give to fools." Reacting to Johar's cryptic message, Divya posted a response, stating: "When you are so accustomed to stealing what rightfully belongs to others, you will always seek shelter in silence. You will have no voice, no spine."

Earlier, she shared a quote that read, "Truth will always offend fools opposed to it." The feud escalated when Divya posted a photo of an empty theater, alleging that the screenings of *Jigra* were running empty.

Divya wrote: "Went to Citi Mall PVR for the *Jigra* show. The theater was totally empty... All theaters are running empty everywhere. #AliaBhatt mein sach mein bahut #Jigra hai. Khud hi tickets kharide aur fake collections announce kar diye. Wonder why paid media is silent. #WeShouldNotFoolTheAudience #TruthOverLies #HappyDussehra."

Divya also included the hashtags "we should not fool the audience" and "truth over lies."

*Savi* achieved a world-wide gross of Rs 17.81 crore.

*Jigra*, on the other hand, earned Rs 6.50 crore on its second day, taking its total to Rs 11.05 crore, after collecting Rs 4.55 crore on its opening day.



## It's a baby girl

Masaba Gupta and Satyadeep Misra welcome first child

**CJ Desk**

**M**asaba Gupta and her actor-husband Satyadeep Misra are the new parents in town. The couple welcomed their first child - a baby girl. The new parents shared the joyful news on social media. They shared a picture featuring a white lotus and a moon set against a blue backdrop, along with their announcement.

The post read: "Our very special little girl arrived on a very special day. 11.10.2024. Masaba & Satyadeep."

Masaba Gupta actively shared glimpses of her pregnancy journey on social media. On Instagram, she posted adorable photos capturing her pregnancy diaries. In the first photo, she can be dressed in a blue outfit. Another photo features her food bowl. One of the snapshots showed Masaba dealing with pregnancy struggles, including swollen feet.



## Riteish reacts on Baba Siddique's tragic death



**R**iteish Deshmukh has expressed his deep sadness on social media following the tragic death of Baba Siddique. He shared his feelings, saying, "Extremely saddened and shocked beyond words to learn about the tragic demise of Shri #BabaSiddique ji - My heart goes out to @zeeshan\_jyc and the entire family- May god give them strength to brave this difficult time. The perpetrators of this horrific crime must be brought to justice."

Baba Siddique was well-known for his friendships with several well-known Bollywood actors, such as Riteish Deshmukh, Salman Khan, Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra, and many more.

After the news broke, actors Sanjay Dutt and Salman Khan, as well as Shilpa Shetty and Raj Kundra, rushed to Lilavati Hospital for their final appearances.

## Aditi, Shraddha, Dia & Sharvari on the ramp

Lakme Fashion Week X FDCI 2024



Lakme Fashion Week, in partnership with FDCI, was a spectacle of style and innovation as actress Aditi Rao Hydari took to the runway, marking the unveiling of designer Tarun Tahiliani's new sub-brand, OTT. The event was infused with glamour and sophistication as Aditi made a striking entry in a car, its sleek colour perfectly complementing her outfit from the collection. Aditi Rao Hydari, dressed in a stunning blue flowy outfit from the OTT collection, embodied the effortless grace the collection aims to deliver.

Shraddha Kapoor captivated the audience as she took to the runway in style on Sunday. She turned muse for Kalki in a beautiful pastel pink colour lehenga set adorned with intricate heavy embroidery. Shraddha, undoubtedly, oozed oomph in the beautiful ethnic ensemble. For the glam, she chose for bold make-up and styled her hair in soft loose curls. She opted for minimum statement jewellery to slay the look.

Bollywood actress and former Miss Asia Pacific, Dia Mirza, graced the runway for designer Samant Chauhan. Dia showcased Chauhan's much-anticipated bridal collection, "Ethereal Bloom," which brought together the perfect fusion of traditional Indian bridal wear with a modern twist.



Sharvari made her catwalk debut as a showstopper for renowned designers Pankaj and Nidhi. The actress called it a dream come true as she is all set to strut the ramp. Sharvari looked absolutely stunning in an extravagant, adolescently embroidered kimono bomber jacket donned with an infinity loop pattern from Pankaj and Nidhi's newest collection. The ensemble featured a tuxedo yoke, a cord-style bustier top and a satin skirt.



## Shilpa Shetty, Raj Kundra devastated

**B**ollywood actors, including Shilpa Shetty along with her businessman-husband Raj Kundra, Sanjay Dutt, Zaheer Iqbal and Salman Khan, visited Lilavati Hospital in Mumbai to meet the family of former state minister and NCP leader Baba Siddique. One of the viral videos shows a visibly emotional Shilpa struggling to hold back tears as she arrives at the hospital. In the clip, she breaks down in her car before stepping out with her husband, Raj Kundra. Another video captures the couple making their way into the hospital, where Shilpa is again seen emotional and fighting back tears.







A still from Gully Boy

## 'She is always there for you'

CJ Desk

**Actor Nakul Roshan Sahdev shares his experience of working with Zoya Akhtar**



**N**akul Roshan Sahdev, popularly known for his performance in the movie *Gully Boy*, has paved his way to the top through compelling performances in film and television. With a passion for the craft and a keen eye for character, he has made a name for himself in the industry. Having had the unique opportunity to work with acclaimed director Zoya Akhtar, Nakul reflects on that transformative experience and shares his aspirations for future collaborations in this exclusive conversation.

Working with Zoya Akhtar was nothing short of extraordinary for Nakul. He shares, "She is amazing. From the workshop days to every day on set, she is always there for you. I love how well she communicates to get the right

performance out of you."

Furthermore, Nakul recalled a stand-out aspect of Zoya's direction: her signature phrase, "One for love." Talking about it, he shared, "I love how Zoya uses the phrase 'One for love' whenever she wants to go for another take after an okay take. I really appreciated that. On the first day, when you walk on set, you receive a personalised note from Zoya. It's such a beautiful, warm gesture. She makes everyone feel loved and respected."

In addition, Nakul voiced his opinion on Naazy's comment about the film causing him more harm than good: "The film was inspired by his life. He is a talented artist, and his rap has depth. I feel a film like *Gully Boy*, made with so much love and passion by some of the greatest talents in our country, allowed the audience

to really connect with and root for Murad's journey. Additionally, I believe it was more than just a film; it was a music revolution. We have so many amazing rap artists today because of *Gully Boy*."

Film director Zoya Akhtar



## Farhan shares a hilarious post

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**A**ctor and filmmaker Farhan Akhtar took to his social media and posted a picture with his dog Tuffy in which he hilariously pretended as if Tuffy aspires to become a trainer. The post also reads, "Tuffy wants to be trainer.. what say @samir\_jaura?" #indie #ladakh #puppypower. In the picture, Tuffy's sweet expressions and some of his funny behaviour are captured perfectly.

Furthermore, Farhan mentions his friend Sameer Jaura, which very much reveals the added joy of having pets and the great companionship it brings to the cuties and their owners'.

On the work front, apart from acting, Farhan Akhtar is a filmmaker and, along with Ritesh Sidhwani, has owned a film production company, Excel Entertainment, since 1999.

In the year 2001, he debuted in the direction of the movie named *Dil Chahta Hai*, which also earned him the *National Award* for Best Hindi Film along with the *Filmfare Award* for Best Film (Critics).

He made successful ventures like *Lakshya* (2004) and *Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara* (2011), *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag*, which earned him accolades and success, respectively. He is good at storytelling along with colorful pictures; that's why he is regarded as one of the best.



## How Kareena told Karishma about dating Saif

CJ Desk

**K**areena Kapoor once confessed her feelings to her sister and asked Karishma Kapoor to sit on the sofa before breaking important news. Karishma Kapoor narrated an interesting incident on *The Kapil Sharma Show* on Netflix.

On the show, Karishma recalled the day Kareena first opened up about her relationship. Karishma talked about the first time when Kareena opened up about her relationship with Saif Ali Khan.

She remembered she was walking on the streets of London when

Kareena called her and asked "What had happened". Then, she said, "I think I need to tell you something, but I think you should sit down". "What is it? I'm walking on the road, tell me, what is it? Sit on the road," Karishma responded.

Kareena insisted, "No, is there any calm place? I think you should sit on a sofa". Karishma eventually found a sofa where she sat down and urged Kareena "Yeah, hurry up, tell me, I'm in the middle of shopping". Then Kareena revealed her relationship with Saif by saying "See, the thing is that... I'm in love with Saif. and you know, we are together. We are dating." and Karishma was taken aback by the news.



**Taapsee Pannu slams Turkish Airlines for 24-hour delay and non-caring customer service**

## Worst experience

CJ Desk

**T**aapsee Pannu was last seen in *Khel Khel Mein*, which was released in August 2024 and is inspired by the Italian film *Perfect Strangers*. The film starred Akshay Kumar, Ammy Virk, Fardeen Khan, Vaani Kapoor, Aditya Seal and Pragya Jaiswal.

Recently, the 37-year-old actress expressed her disappointment towards Turkish Airlines. Taking to her Instagram story, Taapsee wrote, "#WorstExperience @turkishairlines u have the most 'non caring' customer care service. Or wait, u don't have a customer 'care' service itself especially for passengers who suffer coz of your delay. Left to figure it out yourself. Wow 24 hour delay coz of your airline issue is not passenger's problem to figure out!" Pannu and her athlete husband Mathias

Boe, who have been together for 13 years, tied the knot in an intimate ceremony in Udaipur in March 2024. While several videos were leaked, the actress shared that she will not be sharing her wedding photos on social media.

Speaking to a newspaper, Taapsee said that she is not mentally prepared to share the wedding photos yet. "I knew people who were there, they wanted to be there for me and were not present to judge, that's why I was pretty relaxed. In the future, if I get comfortable sharing about it (wedding details), we will figure out how, what and when I want to release something if at all," she added.



A still from the film



**American actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt shared his experience of watching Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai**

## Hollywood star embraces Gangubai

PTI

**H**ollywood star Joseph Gordon-Levitt revealed on Saturday that he is a huge fan of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, saying the film inspired him to explore Indian cinema more deeply.

Gordon-Levitt, known for films such as *10 Things I Hate About You*, *500 Days of Summer*, and *Inception*, was speaking at a session with Bollywood star Rajkummar Rao at the *IFP (formerly India Film Project) Season 14*. When Rao asked him about his views on Indian cinema, Gordon-Levitt initially couldn't recall the name of his favorite film. He asked the Bollywood actor to remind him of the film featuring Alia Bhatt in a period role.

Rao informed him that it was Bhansali's *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, which was adapted from a chapter in Husain Zaidi's book *Mafia Queens of Mumbai*.

The magnum opus, released in 2022, featured Bhatt in the title role of Gangubai, one of the most powerful, loved, and respected madams of Kamathipura during the 1960s. Gordon-Levitt then praised the movie, calling it "unique, beautiful, and completely different" from anything he had ever seen before.

"It was a very heavy, distinguished genre. At times, it felt like a Scorsese movie; then there were gorgeous musical numbers that felt so sincere and well-crafted. I found myself completely enamored with this film," the actor said.

"It made me want to learn more and more about Indian cinema. It's one of the reasons I wanted to come here. I love what I'm feeling from the culture—a genuine love for movies and artistry. I want to come here and make a movie in India," he added.







The most successful brands don't just adapt to change—they drive it.

**Daniel Lubetzky,**  
Founder of KIND Snacks

# Brands Get Cracking This Festive Season

The festive season is lavish and celebratory, no doubt. But this year, consumers want to know that they're being responsible while being indulgent. Here's how brands across categories are cracking down on that sentiment.

**Tsunami Costabir**

It's mid-October and the festive fever has begun. Diwali has always been a time of rituals, celebration, gifting, indulgence and impulsivity with a lot of shopping happening across platforms. And this year, things are shaping up differently.

Trends dominating our daily lives have penetrated this ancient celebration. The emergence of quick commerce is driving spontaneous sales, unlike the more planned and well-thought-out purchases of previous years. At the premium levels, brands are indulging customers in high-quality, healthy and environment-conscious provisions. And the desire for visually appealing products that make photogenic gifts is picking up in popularity.

Avi Kumar, Chief Marketing Officer at FNP, tells us that there is a projected 20-25% growth in demand, driven by a shift towards more thoughtful and premium gifting. "Compared to previous years, consumers are looking for curated, personalised and memorable experiences." Convenience and speed are also major factors in shaping buying behaviour.

What are the specifics within sectors?

**Beauty & Personal Care**

The festive period sees an increased focus on self-care, gifting and glam looks. The rise in consciousness around ingredient transparency is also driving more demand for clean beauty and sustainable options.

"We're seeing a strong focus on skincare purchases to achieve that flawless festive glow, along with increased demand for colour cosmetics to create bold makeup looks," a spokesperson of Tira tells us.

They are noticing a growing preference for multi-functional products that simplify beauty routines. Customers are gravitating towards serums, tinted moisturisers and hybrid products that blend skincare with makeup. As for festive makeup trends, Rishabh Sethia, Director & Business Administrator at MARS Cosmetics, tells us that the focus is on radiant skin and bold colours — deep reds, shimmering



**Furnishings & Home Decor**

Decor and furnishing account for a big part of festive purchasing as they make for great gifts and homeowners, too, are eager to refresh and enliven their homes. "As people prepare their homes for gatherings and festivities, there's a noticeable shift towards purchasing high-quality, aesthetically pleasing textiles," Navya Khanna, Co-Founder of Sadyaska, tells us.

Key product categories that typically see increased demand include living room furniture such as sofas and recliners and dining room sets to accommodate holiday entertaining. People are also more inclined to invest in accent furniture like coffee tables, pouffes and decorative items to enhance the festive feel of their homes.

For the Diwali period, which is one of the most important



Manan Lodaria, Founder of Darsh Designs, talks about ways brands can strategise sales by leveraging digital tools, such as augmented reality (AR), to help customers visualise furniture in their own homes, reducing hesitation in purchasing big-ticket items. "Flexible payment options like 'Buy Now, Pay Later'

tant buying occasions in the Hindu calendar, CaratLane is set to provide for the demand with their launch of over 400 new designs. The brand even stepped out of their niche of diamond jewellery, adding plain 22-carat gold jewellery to their offerings, Atul Sinha, Chief Operating Officer of CaratLane, tells us.

Shoppers are increasingly seeking items that hold sentimental value — gifts that symbolise personal bonds and celebrate special moments. "In the premium jewellery segment, there is a growing desire for timeless and versatile pieces," says Samir Jain, Founder, Miss Jo Jewellery.

**Confectionery**

Indian festivals and mithai are absolutely synonymous, and over the years there has been a shift in the kinds of indulgences consumers prefer. "Consumers are prioritising premium, healthy products for gifting, with a focus on personalised, elegant and beautifully packaged options," says Hamza Patel, Managing Director and CEO, AP Group (Bateel), whose offerings include gourmet dates and gift hampers.

In the luxury mithai segment, the consumer



and interest-free EMIs can also ease the purchasing decision for higher-priced products," he adds.

"To provide for the growing trend of incorporating nature into urban living spaces, planters have come into a space of high demand," Kapil Vaishani, Founder of Bonasila, tells us. Fibre-reinforced plastic planters are lightweight, durable and aesthetic, making them a long-term resource for beautifying indoor and outdoor spaces.

Another festive demand is a traditional take on contemporary designs, such as motifs and traditional prints in modern avatars. "Consumers are also getting more mindful of the fabrics and materials used — and so sustainable products are moving from niche to mainstream," says Aakanksha Batra, Founder of The Green Collective.



**Travel & Hospitality**

The 15-day festive period sees many Indian tourists travelling everywhere. And while there isn't a specific destination, there are certain destinations that are favourites due to accessibility and value-for-money offerings. Shailesh Patil, Managing Director at Kesari Tours, tells us. "Popular in international travel are destinations in South East Asia like Thailand, Vietnam and Japan; in addition to Egypt, Turkey, Greece and Dubai which are all-time favourites."

Since the season lasts only 15 days, when travellers find the prices of airfare and stay too exorbitant, they choose to travel closer to home. Kerala, Goa, Rajasthan, Ooty and Kodaikanal, in addition to places of religious spiritual significance like Agra, Haridwar, Rishikesh and Mysore, top lists.

RedBus, based on predictive data, is seeing good festive demand both nationally and within states. "Maharashtra and Goa, in particular, are expected to see a 24% growth during Diwali. And we are seeing double-digit growth compared to last year," a spokesperson tells us. The market's move towards premium offerings has required tour curators to upgrade their offerings to luxury hotels and add more destinations to itineraries. Ankita Sheth, Co-Founder at StayVista, tells us about the luxury villa rental platform's strategy, "We see festive time as the perfect opportunity to go beyond just a stay — it's about creating an immersive festive experience." Hospitality brands are taking curated experiences to the next level with personalisation and adding celebratory touches like Diwali delights, festive decor and curated dishes that bring the flavours of the season to life.



**Pet Care**



The post-pandemic boom in pet care hasn't died down. People getting to stay home and spend more time with their furry friends has created growing awareness about their pet's needs. Specialised food, smart toys, health supplements and pet-friendly home designs are burgeoning.

Rashi Narang, Co-Founder of Heads Up For Tails, talks about the heartwarming transformation she's seen with pet owners who've turned into pet parents, embracing their pets as family. "Pets are now part of many festivities at home including weddings, pujas and more. At HUFT, we introduced festive and occasion wear plus pet-friendly la-dos and barfis over 12 years ago as India-first products and now we see that growing," Narang tell us.

# FLEX AROUND THE CLOCK

India is burgeoning with a market of health-conscious individuals from all ages and walks of life. **Vikas Jain** tells us how Anytime Fitness aims to make fitness convenient for all.

**Tsunami Costabir**

Round-the-clock gym access and personalised services give Anytime Fitness an edge over the rest as they work on making fitness more accessible and convenient. The US-based brand originated in 2002 and forayed into India in 2013. Today, they have over 125 operational gyms across the country and 5,500 plus locations around the world.

Vikas Jain, Managing Director of Anytime Fitness India, has witnessed various transitions in the approach Indians have had towards fitness over his two decades in the industry. He tells us all about it in an interview.

*Edited excerpts...*

**Q. How has Anytime Fitness evolved with the changing market needs?**

A. Anytime Fitness was brought into India in 2013 when we opened our first gym in New Delhi. Today, we have over 125 operational gyms within the country. Initially, the USP of the brand was placed around convenience. We offer 24/7 gym access to all the members and global reciprocity, which means that a member of Anytime Fitness can use any of our 5,500 plus spaces, globally.

Over the last 10 years, the brand has graduated and

our USPs have adapted to the new and current needs of customers. The consumer today is more result-oriented, so we brought in an app that they can use to track and monitor their progress, connect with their trainers, get workout routines, nutrition and coaching.

**Q. How has people's approach to health and fitness changed over the years?**

A. Post-Covid, there has been an upsurge in the number of people who want to become part of a fitness regime. They understand the benefits of health and fitness and want to work on bettering their fitness and immunity to improve their chances of surviving another pandemic or catastrophe.

While India is a developing country, people in their late 20s and early 30s have higher disposable incomes. They are more global in their thinking and fitness is climbing up in their list of priorities.

They also understand the importance of recovery. Historically, people would use their gym memberships five to seven days a week to maximise the money they spent. But now people are getting to understand the monumental role recovery plays in seeing gains or benefits. Our workout programs too are designed in that way, combining training, recovery and nutrition.

**Q. Are all Anytime Fitness facilities open 24/7 and how is it viable to keep them running 24 hours a day?**

A. Most of our locations are open 24/7, barring a few that are in malls that don't operate beyond a certain time or in a neighbourhood where it's not safe to be open at night. But even the locations that are not open 24/7, are open from 5 am until midnight.

How it becomes vi-



Historically, people would use their gym memberships five to seven days a week to maximise the money they spent. But now, people are beginning to understand the monumental role recovery plays.

able is because we are catering to a very wide demographic — the youth, working professionals, housewives and elderly. Typically, in the morning, we'll see the businessmen coming in. Later in the day, post 10 or 11, it's the housewives and elderly people. Around 4 pm, the youngsters start coming in. And again, late at night, it's the businessmen and people who work long shifts during the day.

**Q. What are the best sales and marketing strategies that have worked for the brand?**

A. We don't talk about just fat loss or prevention of disease. We talk about making fitness a lifestyle. Gyms are not just places to work out, but also to socialise, make friends and work out in groups because that's what motivates people.

As a brand, we believe in retention and that having the same people come to the gym is more beneficial in the long run,

compared to losing one and gaining a new one. We aim to constantly engage our members and remind them of why they joined the facility in the first place. We believe that if someone has paid us for our services, we must encourage and motivate them.

**Q. What are Anytime Fitness' future expansion plans?**

A. India is a growing market and fitness awareness is continuously growing. The new generation of people, which is 16 plus, all want to look good and fit. Most of our members are in the age group of 25 to 45 and they're also the most engaged because that's the point where one starts to look older. And nobody wants to grow old, we always want to look good, feel good and be healthy. In India, we are well over 125 gyms and aim to reach 350 locations within the next five years at a pace of 40-50 openings a year.

**IN SHORT**



**MX Player merges with Amazon miniTV**

Amazon recently acquired certain assets of MX Player, including the MX Player app, a leading free streaming OTT service in India. With this acquisition, Amazon is merging two of India's most popular free AVOD services — MX Player and Amazon miniTV into one service - Amazon MX Player. In September, over 250 million unique users enjoyed access to thousands of original shows, popular movies and international shows dubbed in local languages on the combined service, making it one of the largest free streaming services offering premium content in India.



**Sirona Hygiene makes largest D2C cash exit**

The Good Glamm Group has finalised the acquisition of Sirona Hygiene for INR 450 crore in an all-cash transaction. This deal is recognised as one of the largest cash exits for a (D2C) startup in India. Following Good Glamm Group's initial investment of Rs 100 crore in 2022, Sirona has tripled its revenues in two years. Co-Founders Deep and Mohit Bajaj had stepped down from their active roles earlier this year and have now resigned as directors as well.



**Quick Heal launches AI fraud prevention solution**

Cybersecurity solutions provider Quick Heal Technologies has announced the launch of India's first fraud prevention solution - AntiFraud.AI. The 'Made in India' solution aims to provide digital safety against the escalating threat of financial frauds. Available across Android, iOS and Windows platforms, its features include fraud call alert, banking fraud alert, fraud app detector, scam protection and dark web monitoring.



**DDB Mudra onboards Priya Shivakumar**

DDB Mudra has appointed Priya Shivakumar as its new Creative Head for the South region where she will collaborate closely with Rahul Mathew, Chief Creative Officer. Shivakumar has a two-decade-long career and her last stint was at Wunderman Thompson (JWT), where she rose from ECD of Chennai to Chief Creative Officer (South). Over her career, she has won numerous accolades including awards at the Cannes Lions, D&AD Pencils and One Show Pencils.



**Uber Pet launches in India**

Uber has announced the launch of Uber Pet in Bangalore, allowing riders to bring their pets along for the ride. Uber Pet offers riders the option to book a ride with their pet — either a dog or a cat — and drivers will be notified that a pet will be travelling. This makes the experience smooth and enjoyable for both the rider and the driver. The feature caters to the growing number of pet owners looking for convenient transportation options without leaving their furry companions behind.



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