

Erosion of integrity plagues state police forces

A couple of weeks ago, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of the Kolkata rape-murder case and transferred its investigation to the CBI. It was rape and murder most foul that shocked the nation to its core. Spontaneous anger and anguish found expression in violent and non-violent agitations, especially in the community of doctors who struck work throughout the country. The quick results expected from the CBI have not come. Following this intervention, many heinous crimes like rapes and murders have taken place in the country. But they have not received the same attention of the courts or social groups.

The apex court's intervention in earlier cases has failed to prevent rapes and other crimes. And this intervention is not likely to stop such crimes in future either. The transfer of this case to the CBI, although fully justified, set my mind on a different train of thought — why have the Supreme Court and the high courts lost faith in the professionalism and integrity of the state police forces? Why have the people lost faith in the state police and police station or, for that matter, the state governments and the lower judiciary? Did it happen overnight or has it come as a gradual process that has snowballed because of the politician becoming all-powerful with the help of criminal elements inside and outside the police and the government? Looking back, at first, only very important cases of corruption were transferred to the CBI by the courts or the state and Central governments. Officers in the state used to take offence at such transfer of cases because they thought it cast a poor reflection on them. The CBI also got good results because it was not overstretched as it had started out as a specialised agency to tackle high-level corruption. Because of continued strengthening of the political arm and its accompanying moral decline and loss of integrity, people started approaching the courts directly for the transfer of cases. The Central and state governments also took recourse to this remedy to achieve their desired results because the overall decline in the body politic has adversely affected the CBI as well. Officers were specially brought in so that a more pliable structure could be created. The CBI also expanded and opened offices in most of the states. However, this only whetted the appetite of the Central Government, and a new agency was born — the National Investigation Agency (NIA); its purpose was also to investigate, but with greater stress on terror activities with interstate ramifications. Here also, it was the discretion of the Centre to assign cases. There have been frequent statements from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) that NIA offices would be opened in all states. We already have the Narcotics Control Bureau and a freshly empowered Enforcement Directorate armed with extensive countrywide powers, as also the Intelligence Bureau and R&AW (Research and Analysis Wing). We also have the paramilitary forces (PMFs), which have a national remit. The PMFs are there to tackle law and order situations that are considered to be beyond the state police forces. The state can also ask for these forces from the MHA or the ministry can directly inject them into the state with nominal approval of the state government. The CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, etc., have been in some states for decades without a break. They work under the command of the state police. But otherwise, they are independent in their day-to-day functions. What about the state governments and the fact that law and order is a state subject under the Constitution? The police station and the district SP are the cornerstones of the edifice of the police department. Again, because of extra-departmental intervention, both have been rendered as adjuncts of the ruling party. This has come at the cost of the professionalism of the state police and led to its decline, especially at the cutting edge, that is, the police station and the district SP. These remain points where the police and public interact. But the interactions leave a lot to be desired. This is not an interaction in which the citizen has confidence that he will get justice. Rather, he goes as a client or a supplicant.

Research funding needs a clear pathway

The ANRF or the govt should have a blueprint on how private sector funding would be raised

LAST week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the first meeting of the governing body of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), a new research funding agency. When it was announced by the Central Government in 2019, it was conceived as an umbrella organisation to 'fund, coordinate and promote' research in thrust areas relevant to national priorities as well as fundamental research. Now, the government has described it as "an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research" in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP). The prevailing national research system faces multiple challenges — bureaucratic delays in the release of funds, a lack of transparency in the award of grants, restrictive procurement rules, taxation issues, problems in international collaboration, etc. The biggest hurdle is dwindling or stagnating levels of funding. Could the SERB and other funding agencies have been reformed before superseding them with an umbrella, centralised body? Is the ANRF a solution to all this? Ideally, a critical evaluation of the SERB in advancing scientific research in India should have preceded the creation of a body that supersedes it. The government has also not clarified how far social science research would be covered under the ANRF when dedicated research councils are functional for social science and historical research. This clarity is needed because the governing body decided to establish Centres of Excellence to support interdisciplinary research in humanities and social sciences and a representative of the Indian Council of Historical Research attended the board meeting. The elephant in the room is the level of funding required for scientific research. The government has repeatedly been saying that the ANRF would get funding of Rs 10,000 crore a year with the caveat that 65 per cent of it would come from the private sector. If this is so, the ANRF or the government should have a blueprint on how private sector funding would be raised. The first board meeting had hardly any industry representation and the official version of the meeting makes no mention of any discussion on the ways to make the private sector cough up Rs 6,500 crore every year for funding research in public institutions and universities. All that the Prime Minister had to say on funding was that "the scientific community of the country should have faith that there will be no dearth of resources for their endeavours".

Often, the US National Science Foundation (NSF) is cited as a model for research funding; the ANRF is said to be inspired by it. A former head of the NSF, Subra Suresh, has been made a member of the ANRF governing board. Incidentally, the current head of the NSF, Sethuraman Panchanathan, is also a scientist of Indian origin. While the NSF is an important source of research funding in America, it is not the sole one. Multiple government



agencies fund research — the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) and now there is the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). While the NSF focuses on basic research and some applied research, the NIH is dedicated to translational medical research and technologies. Other agencies fund defence and energy-related applied research. It is not a perfect research ecosystem but has adequate levels of transparency, accountability and external review.

Borrowing just the NSF model without attendant checks and balances is not a good idea. Instead, we should strive for a heterogeneous research funding system, building on our strengths. For example, India followed a diverse research council system to promote sector-specific research — agriculture, medical, industrial research etc. This system needs to be revived and nurtured to make it responsive and serve national needs, instead of replacing it with a monolithic, centralised and opaque structure.

We also need to evolve new criteria for measuring research output. For a long time, scientists have followed the dictum of 'publish and perish'. This is so because grants,

promotions and awards are linked with the number of research papers published. The same goes for another important matrix — patents. It's no use gathering more patents if they have no economic value. Now there are 'altmetrics' which reflect media coverage and social media buzz around one's research. Publications, citations and patents are important measures, but they give an incomplete picture of the quality and usability of research. Artificial intelligence, storage technologies, solar energy, advanced materials, etc. are often cited as areas Indian funding agencies and researchers should focus on. The ANRF should cut through such generalities and identify niche areas where India needs to develop research and technological capacity in short, medium and long terms — areas that need a major leap or just incremental improvements, technologies that require substantial and sustained funding, and areas not covered by ongoing academic efforts in research institutes or industrial firms. Such clear mapping of critical areas across sectors is a prerequisite to serving the twin objectives of deploying scientific research for societal needs and attaining technological capability.

Delhi's new CM

Atishi has her work cut out, so does Kejriwal

OUT on bail in the excise policy case, AAP chief and outgoing CM Arvind Kejriwal has entrusted party leader Atishi with the onerous task of putting Delhi's governance back on track. Welfare schemes and development works have been in limbo in the national capital for almost six months following Kejriwal's arrest by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). The growing public discontent with the AAP government has prompted him to step down and throw the ball in the voters' court.

With the Assembly elections just five months away — unless they are held ahead of schedule — he is seeking a 'certificate of innocence' from the people of Delhi.

It will be a race against time for CM-designate Atishi to ensure that various pending projects are expeditiously completed and the flagship schemes cover all intended beneficiaries. New promises will have to be announced in a bid to retake control of its



populist narrative. Considering Kejriwal's many run-ins with the Lt Governor, it is too much to expect that Atishi will have a cordial relationship with the Centre's

appointee. Another big challenge will be to carve a niche for herself and dispel the notion that she is a rubber-stamp CM under her mentor's control. Kejriwal would be well advised to focus on revitalising his party, whose 'politics of honesty' has been severely undermined by the accusations levelled against him and other AAP leaders by the ED and the CBI. AAP, which was accorded the status of a national party last year, is trying to gain a foothold in Haryana after drawing a blank in Delhi and winning only three out of 13 seats in Punjab in this year's Lok Sabha elections. The strategy of playing the victim card and accusing the BJP-led Centre of political vendetta has to be complemented by earnest efforts to redress people's grievances in Delhi as well as Punjab. AAP's emphasis, now more than ever before, should be on corruption-free governance and hassle-free delivery of services.

Two assassination bids, a different Trump each time

The real winner in the wake of the second go at Trump's life is the Secret Service. It's like Christmas come early for them.

THE two assassination bids on Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump are now hot campaign news in the US. When his ear was nicked in the first attempt on July 13, he defiantly pumped his fists in the air and left the stage unfazed. At that time, a non-threatening Joe Biden was his opponent, so Trump didn't care much to accuse or implicate him when this happened. When Trump addressed a rally after that narrow escape, he was gracious all over. He thanked people for their support and said he would recount that event just once and never again, for it was too painful. He even praised his security detail, but nowhere did he accuse Biden, directly or indirectly, for what happened. Trump also said at the time that he felt safe as "I had God on my side". He could have added that Biden, too, made him feel safe. All that seems like long ago, especially after Trump's loss to Kamala Harris in the debate. This still rankles, for Trump also took a shot at ABC News for being partial to Kamala, the 'Marxist'.

That was then and this is now. When the second attempt took place, though no bullet was fired, Trump reacted differently. Short of putting on war paint, his demeanour was aggressive all the way. He blasted Kamala and the 'radical lefts' by her side and said that on their account "bullets are flying and it will get worse." Very ominous, indeed!

It is clear that Trump is missing Biden, who was like a tethered bait bleating to be killed. Instead, he now has a feisty and very credible challenger before him. Kamala is no Biden and could plausibly steal the presidency from him. Predictably, Trump did not take kindly to this and scattershot every barb he could summon at Kamala. Biden, though, gets a free pass.

Trump actually praised him for the concern he showed when news of the second failed assassination became known. "Biden was very nice," Trump said, "he called up to make sure I was okay... couldn't have been nicer." Without Biden in the race, Trump's campaign has become more difficult.

First Elon Musk and then JD Vance, the Republican vice-presidential nominee, went for overkill and damaged Trump's chances to leverage the aborted assassination. They loudly wondered why Kamala and Biden were so far unharmed and not in the crosshairs of somebody's rifle. This kind of veiled insinuation upset many. The slight bump in Trump's ratings after the second assassination bid soon levelled out because of Vance and Musk. Worse, encouraged by Trump and his allies, following the second foiled attempt on his life, right-wing militias, led by a group called the Proud Boys, started patrolling the streets of Springfield, Ohio, and threatening migrants. So far, there have been about 30 bomb threats there, creating a pall of imminent violence. Even though Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, a Republican like Trump, has said there is no evidence of Haitian migrants eating pet dogs and cats, 80 per cent of Trump's supporters believe they do, because he said so in his debate against Kamala. Many of those who call themselves the



Proud Boys were also involved in the Capitol Hill insurrection nearly four years ago. They were the hammer heads of the wrecking crew that went berserk that day. Soon after, for the record, Trump pardoned one Roger Stone, a Proud Boys mentor, who was convicted for stoking the mob on Capitol Hill.

Trump's ability to command and control his crowd is primarily because he speaks a language that tugs at sentiments bereft of deliberation. He spouts a mother's milk ideology that harks back to fixed stereotypes that seem to comprehensively explain away complexities. His credibility with his followers

is of cultish proportions. The more he alleges that Kamala's left rhetoric kindled violence, the more he points at migrants eating pets or Democrats killing babies, the stronger his base gets. Inversely, such statements also firm up the opposing side for they find Trump too bold and brazen.

This is why in the coming elections, there will be no waverers. Trump has made sure of that; you either love him or hate him, nothing in between. So, whether the election is held today or in November, the outcome will be the same. Of course, neither side can let go, because you need energetic supporters to pull the lethargic ones to come out and vote.

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Biden from the White House, Kamala and Trump in between stump speeches, are all asking for more money and resources for this establishment. For the bosses of the Secret Service, it's a dream come true. There is, however, a wrinkle which Trump's current aggressive stance gives us a foretaste of. He has also said that should he lose, there may even be a 'bloodbath'. In all likelihood, this is protein shake talk for cosmetic muscle bulk and nothing really dramatic will happen. On the other hand, the race is so even, Trump may well win. In which case, will gangs like the Proud Boys be out of work?

Western Carriers IPO allotment: Step-by-step guide to check status

NEW DELHI. The initial public offering (IPO) of Western Carriers India Limited saw decent subscription numbers before closing for bidding on Thursday. Western Carriers Limited was subscribed 31.69 times overall. The retail portion saw a subscription of 26.92 times, while the QIB category was subscribed 28.81 times, and the NII segment received 46.68 times the bids. Investors who have bid for Western Carriers Limited can check their allotment status online. They can log in to either the BSE website or the website of Link Intime India Private Ltd, the registrar for the issue. The latest Grey Market Premium (GMP) for Western Carriers (India) IPO is Rs 20, as of September 20th, 2024, at 10:01 AM. With a price band of Rs 172, the estimated listing price for the IPO stands at Rs 192 (cap price plus the current GMP). The anticipated gain or loss per share is around 11.63%.

The IPO shares of Western Carriers (India) are expected to debut on the BSE and NSE on Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Should you buy Vodafone Idea shares after 20% fall UBS shares new target price

NEW DELHI. Shares of Vodafone Idea Ltd (VIL) took a sharp hit on Dalal Street, falling close to 20% after a legal setback. The Supreme Court on Thursday dismissed the company's curative petition, which sought a re-computation of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) dues. This decision came as a major blow for the company, as it had hoped for some relief regarding its hefty financial liabilities. With the court's ruling going against the telecom firm, Vodafone Idea's share price tumbled, prompting many investors to reconsider their positions in the stock. Vodafone Idea, along with other telecom companies, has been embroiled in a long-running legal dispute over AGR dues. In 2019, the Supreme Court ruled that telecom operators owed billions in dues to the government, based on a broad definition of AGR. Since then, Vodafone Idea has been struggling to cope with the massive financial burden. On Thursday, the company's hopes for relief were dashed when the Supreme Court dismissed its request to reconsider the 2019 judgment. This means Vodafone Idea will have to pay the full amount of AGR dues, estimated at Rs 70,300 crore. The news triggered a steep sell-off, with the stock plunging by 20%. Following the share price collapse, several brokerages have weighed in on the stock's prospects. Opinions are divided, with some recommending a cautious approach and others seeing potential buying opportunities.

Nuvama Institutional Equities: 'Hold' recommendation

Nuvama Institutional Equities said that the Supreme Court's decision was a significant blow to Vodafone Idea but added that the stock's 20% correction already reflects the impact of the increased liability. Nuvama adjusted its target price to Rs 11.50 from Rs 16.50, factoring in the full AGR dues liability. However, the brokerage reiterated a 'Hold' recommendation, suggesting that investors should keep an eye on key operational metrics like subscriber losses, tariff hikes, and capital expenditure.

10th round bidding for oil, gas assets under OALP to be held early next year



NEW DELHI. The 10th round of bidding for oil and gas assets under the Open Acreage Licensing Programme (OALP) will be held in early next year, said a senior official of the petroleum and natural gas ministry.

Bidding for 28 oil and gas blocks in the ninth round is set to close on September 21, with preparations for the 10th round already underway. The official noted that the Oil (Regulations and Development) Amendment Bill, aimed at reforming the oil and gas exploration sector, is expected to be passed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament. These reforms are anticipated to take effect for the 10th round. "OALP round nine closes the day after tomorrow, and we are already in advanced stages of preparing for OALP round 10. We are hopeful that the ORD Act will pass in the winter session, which will facilitate our efforts," said the official. The next round is likely to include areas that were previously designated as 'no-go' zones, where exploration and production of oil and gas were restricted for strategic reasons. To boost India's oil and gas production, the government has recently opened up more than 1 million square kilometers for exploration and production operations that were formerly categorised as 'no-go' areas. India is the third-largest importer of oil and gas, relying on imports for approximately 85% of its energy needs.

Efforts to enhance domestic production are critical for ensuring energy security. In FY24, India imported 233.1 million metric tons (mmt) of crude oil, compared to 232.7 mmt in FY23. The OALP rounds are essential for India to raise domestic crude oil and natural gas production. Currently, India imports more than 85% of its crude oil needs and roughly half of its gas requirement. In the previous eight OALP rounds, 144 exploration and production blocks comprising a total area of 242,055 sq km have been awarded. The government introduced the OALP in 2017 to attract oil and gas firms to develop India's upstream sector. The OALP guarantees marketing and pricing freedom with a revenue-sharing model, apart from offering reduced royalty rates. Oil Regulations Bill could be passed in winter session. Bidding for 28 oil and gas blocks in the ninth round is set to close on September 21, with preparations for the 10th round already underway. The official noted that the Oil (Regulations and Development) Amendment Bill, aimed at reforming the oil and gas exploration sector, is expected to be passed in the upcoming winter session of Parliament.

iPhone 16 in 10 minutes: Quick commerce steals spotlight from e-commerce giants

Blinkit announced its partnership with Unicorn Stores, an authorised Apple reseller, to deliver the latest iPhones in key cities like Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru.

New Delhi Quick commerce platforms are changing the way people shop, and their latest target is the premium smartphone market. Blinkit, a leading player in the quick commerce space, has begun offering the all-new iPhone 16 series for delivery within just 10 minutes, posing a challenge to traditional e-commerce giants. Sales of the new iPhone 16 series began today and on this occasion, Blinkit announced its partnership with Unicorn Stores, an authorised Apple reseller, to deliver the latest iPhones in key cities like Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and

Bengaluru. This move could disrupt the dominance of established e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart, which typically offer delivery times ranging from 1 to 2 days for such high-demand products. Albinder Dhindsa, Founder and CEO of Blinkit, shared the news of this service on social media, saying, "Get the all-new iPhone 16 delivered in 10 minutes! We've partnered with @UnicornAPR for the third year in a row, bringing the latest iPhone to Blinkit customers in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru (for now) — on launch day!" What makes this move even more attractive to customers is that Unicorn is offering additional discounts for select credit card holders, along with EMI options, making the purchase of a premium smartphone more flexible and affordable. Dhindsa also shared the overwhelming demand for the new iPhones and said, "We started delivering iPhones at 8 AM — and we're going to cross the 300 mark in a couple of minutes. Today is going to be one crazy day." Challenge for traditional e-



commerce This new development is set to disrupt the traditional e-commerce model. Quick commerce platforms like Blinkit have built their reputation on speed and convenience. Customers who used to wait for 1-2 day deliveries from platforms like Amazon and Flipkart now have the option to get their new iPhone in just minutes, thanks to Blinkit's super-fast service. For traditional e-commerce sites, which rely on a more extensive supply chain and delivery process, competing with a 10-minute delivery window will be a huge challenge.

The very nature of quick commerce is based on hyperlocal deliveries from warehouses or dark stores located within close proximity to customers, enabling them to fulfil orders much faster than conventional logistics chains. While platforms like Amazon and Flipkart can offer discounts and EMI options, the speed of delivery is a key differentiator that could shift customer preferences towards platforms like Blinkit, especially for high-demand products such as the iPhone 16.

Changing consumer preferences The rise of quick commerce also reflects changing consumer preferences. Today's buyers, particularly those in urban areas, value speed and convenience more than ever. Blinkit's decision to offer iPhones for instant delivery aligns perfectly with this trend. People no longer want to wait for days to receive their purchases — they want their products now, and Blinkit's 10-minute delivery option fulfils that need. Quick commerce platforms also add an element of excitement to the shopping experience.

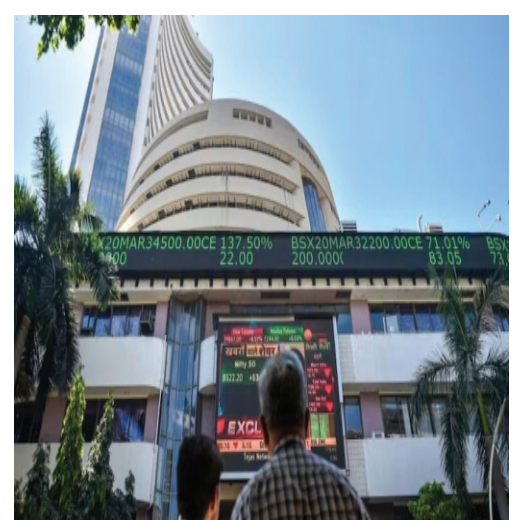
Elliott Hill's 32-year journey at Nike from intern to CEO goes viral

NEW DELHI Nike has announced that Elliott Hill will take over as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the global sports brand, effective from October 14, 2024. In a regulatory filing, Nike also revealed that Hill's annual base salary as CEO will be \$1.5 million. Hill, who has spent over 32 years at Nike, started his journey as an intern and will now be leading the iconic company. His inspiring career progression has caught the attention of many, and his LinkedIn profile has gone viral, highlighting his steady rise within the company. Hill's journey with Nike began in 1988 when he joined as an Apparel Sales Representative intern. Over the years, he climbed the corporate ladder, working in various sales and management roles across different regions and divisions of the company. Now, after three decades of dedication and hard work, he has been chosen to lead Nike as its CEO. Elliott Hill's career at Nike is nothing short of remarkable. Starting as an intern in 1988, he held that position for two

years before moving into sales roles. From 1990 to 1991, he worked in Sports Graphics sales, followed by a three-year stint in Team Sales from 1991 to 1994. His ability to excel in these roles led him to a Sales Representative position, which he held for another two years until 1996. Hill's leadership skills were soon recognised, and he transitioned into management roles. He worked in Sales Management from 1996 to 1998 before becoming the Director of the Team Sports Division, a position he held for two years. This period marked the beginning of Hill's rapid ascent in the company. In 2000, Hill took on an international role as Vice President of EMEA (Europe, Middle East, and Africa) Sales and Retail, where he spent three years. After that, he returned to the US market as Vice President and General Manager of USA Retail for a year, followed by a role as Vice President of USA Commerce from 2004 to 2005. Hill's career continued to flourish, and from 2006 to 2010, he served as Vice President of Global Retail. He then

became Vice President and General Manager of North America, where he remained for three years, from 2010 to 2013. As Hill took on more senior roles at Nike, his responsibilities grew. In 2013, he became President of Geographies & Sales, a role he held until 2016. He was then appointed President of Geographies & Integrated Marketplace, serving in that position until 2018. From 2018 to 2020, Hill served as President of Consumer & Marketplace, overseeing Nike's operations globally. Now, Hill is poised to take on the top job as CEO, after three decades of working his way up the company. His rise from intern to CEO has made headlines, and his career path is being celebrated as an example of dedication, hard work, and loyalty. Elliott Hill's promotion to CEO has been welcomed by Nike's Executive Chairman, Mark Parker, who has worked with Hill for over 30 years. Parker praised Hill's deep understanding of Nike's industry, customers, and partners, calling him the right person to lead.

Sensex surges 500 points, Nifty gains momentum; JSW Steel jumps 3%



Benchmark stock market indices opened Friday's trading session on a positive note as the US Federal Reserve's rate cut has boosted the risk appetite among investors. The S&P BSE Sensex was up 415.45 points to 83,600.25 at 10:16 am, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 135.80 points to trade at 25,550.90. Most of the other broader market indices that weakened yesterday have gained momentum today, providing a boost to smallcap and midcap stocks. Major sectoral indices such as Nifty Bank, Nifty Financial Services and Nifty Auto gained, but Nifty IT was in the red due to profit booking in information technology stocks.

The top 5 gainers on the Nifty50 were JSW Steel, Coal India, HDFC Life, M&M and Maruti. On the other hand, NTPC, Grasim, Cipla, TCS and Tata Motors. Among other individual stocks, Rites gained over 7% as its shares trade ex-bonus and ex-dividend from today.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, said, "The Dow and S&P 500 setting yet another record highs yesterday is indicative of the strength of this ongoing global bull run led by the mother market US." "The good labour market data from the US indicates that it is only slowing, not deteriorating. With inflation under control, this means the US is set for a soft landing under a declining interest rate scenario. This is positive for global equity markets," he added. "A significant trend in India is the outperformance of Bank Nifty which is up two percent this week against Nifty's rise of 0.2%. Weakness in the broader market on valuation concerns is another important trend. These trends are likely to continue."

Relief for importers as Gujarat HC revises ruling in Cosmo Films case

NEW DELHI. In a major development for Indian importers, the Gujarat High Court has reviewed and amended its earlier decision in the Cosmo Films vs. Union of India case. This move comes in response to concerns about the application of a key rule related to the Goods and Services Tax (GST).



The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had been investigating Indian exporters, alleging they improperly benefited from both exemption on Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) and a rebate on exports. The central issue revolved around Rule 96(10) of the Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Rules, which underwent major changes in 2018, leading to confusion over its application and prompting legal battles across the country. In its initial ruling, the Gujarat High Court upheld the constitutionality of Rule 96(10).

However, following a review petition filed by lawyer Abhishek A Rastogi, the court agreed to reconsider its decision. The review identified eight

significant errors in the original judgment. In the revised order, the court clarified that Notification No. 54/2018, which was initially interpreted to apply retrospectively, will now only be applied prospectively. This change protects exporters from facing unfair charges related to past transactions. Additionally, the court corrected its earlier statements regarding interest on IGST, further relieving importers from

potential liabilities. Recent changes made during the 54th GST Council meeting, which removed Rule 96(10), now enable importers to reassess their bills and rectify any previous import issues.

While this ruling brings positive news for Indian exporters, the ongoing debate regarding interest charges remains unresolved, and Rastogi has indicated plans to challenge the rule's validity in the Supreme Court.

RITES shares rise 8% but why railway PSU stock may be showing 48% slide

Despite this positive momentum, many investors were caught off guard, seeing what appeared to be a 48% slide in the stock price on their trading apps.



NEW DELHI. Shares of RITES Ltd, the state-owned railway PSU, rallied sharply during Friday's trading session, hitting a day's high of Rs 383.35 on the Bmbay Stock Exchange (BSE). At 10:45 am, the shares of the railway PSU were up 7.43% at Rs 363.90. The surge came as the stock began trading on an ex-dividend and ex-bonus basis, following the company's 1:1 bonus share issue and a final dividend of Rs 5 per share, both announced earlier this year. Despite this positive momentum, many investors were caught off guard, seeing what appeared to be a 48% slide

in the stock price on their trading apps. This significant drop, however, was purely due to price adjustments post the bonus issue. RITES shares, which had closed at Rs 682.45 on Thursday, opened lower at Rs 362.95 on Friday as the bonus issue effectively halved the share price in line with the 1:1 ratio. The bonus issue, which grants shareholders one additional share for every share held, increases the number of outstanding shares while

proportionally reducing the share price. As a result, investors witnessing the unadjusted price may have been alarmed by the seeming 48% dip, but on an adjusted basis, the stock actually rose 8%, reaching an intra-day high of Rs 362.45. Bonus issues, like the one from RITES, are often used to improve liquidity by making shares more affordable, though they also reduce a company's reserves. RITES is no stranger to bonus issues,

having also turned ex-bonus in August this year with a 1:4 ratio. The current 1:1 bonus issue further highlights the company's shareholder-friendly stance. RITES has delivered strong returns, up 46.17% in the past year, and continues to perform well technically, with its stock trading above key moving averages. Alongside RITES, several other companies also turned ex-date for their bonus issues today, including Phoenix Mills, Axita Cotton, MINDTECK (India), and Ujaas Energy. These stocks saw upward momentum, with Axita Cotton soaring 6.10% post its 1:3 bonus issue. For RITES shareholders, the eligibility for both the bonus shares and the Rs 5 dividend is determined by today's record date, with dividends expected to be paid by October 12. While the price adjustment may have caused confusion for some investors, RITES continues to maintain its strong position as a multi-disciplinary engineering and consultancy firm in the transport infrastructure sector, particularly in the railway industry.

Will never happen again: Rajiv Memani on EY missing funeral of employee

-Ernst and Young India chairperson Rajiv Memani has expressed regret on no one from the company attending the funeral of its employee, who died allegedly due to excessive work pressure.

NEW DELHI. Ernst and Young India chairperson Rajiv Memani has expressed regret at no one from the company attending the funeral of its employee, who died allegedly due to excessive work pressure, calling it "alien to our culture". In a post on LinkedIn, Memani, who has faced massive backlash on social media over an alleged toxic work culture, said he was deeply saddened by the tragic demise of Anna Sebastian Perayil. "I have conveyed my deepest condolences to the family, although nothing can fill the void in their lives. I truly regret the fact that we missed being present at Anna's funeral. This is completely alien to our culture. It has never happened before; it will never happen again," Memani said. It has always been very important to us to create a healthy workplace, and we attach the highest importance to the well-being of our

people. I would like to affirm that the well-being of our people is my top-most priority and I will personally champion this objective," he said.



Anna Sebastian Perayil, who joined E&Y in March, died on July 20. The incident came to light earlier this week after her mother Anita Augustine's open letter to the company, alleging that Anna succumbed to "work

pressure", went viral. Augustine claimed that no one from the company attended her daughter's funeral. "After her funeral, I reached out to her managers, but I received no reply. How can a company that speaks of values and human rights fail to show up for one of its own in their final moments?" she wrote in the letter. Memani faced criticism on social media after he denied the claim that "work pressure" was behind the death of the Pune woman, according to an Indian Express report. As the issue gained momentum, the Centre launched a probe into the circumstances that led to the death of Anna. On Thursday, Minister of State for Labour Shobha Karandlaje said a thorough investigation into the allegations of an unsafe and exploitative work environment was underway.

Teen Delhi University Student, Returning Home After His Birthday Party, Dies In Car Crash

The victim was returning from Gurugram after celebrating his birthday with his four friends, who were also injured when the guardrail pierced through their vehicle.

New Delhi: A 19-year-old Delhi University student died after his car crashed into a guardrail near Rajghat in Delhi on Thursday. The victim, Aishwarya Pandey, was returning from Gurugram after celebrating his birthday with his four friends, who were also injured when the guardrail pierced through their vehicle, a Hyundai Venue. Pandey, a first-year BA student of Deshbandhu College, was admitted to LNJP Hospital where he was put on ventilation support. He died late on Thursday. According to sources, the students were under the influence of alcohol. "It was Pandey's birthday on Wednesday. He threw a party for his friends and had rented a car. While returning to Delhi, he gave the keys to his friend



Aishwarya Mishra to drive," the news agency PTI quoted a senior police officer as saying. He was sitting behind the driver and suffered serious injuries. Pandey, a resident of Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, was living in a hostel in east Delhi's Laxmi Nagar. Both his parents are dead. "He lost his father, who worked for a private company, due to an illness, and his mother, a teacher, died in a road accident," a relative said. Mishra, who also hailed from Etawah, suffered critical injuries and was admitted to a private hospital in Delhi. Deputy Commissioner of Police (North Delhi) MK Meena said a case under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125(a) (causing hurt by act endangering the life of personal safety of others) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita had been registered and a probe is underway from all angles to ascertain the actual cause of the accident.

Armed robbers attack man inside shop in Punjab, flee with cash, mobile

At least four to five armed robbers entered a medical shop and attacked a man with sticks and sharp-edged weapons in Punjab's Moga district before fleeing away with cash and a mobile phone.

NEW DELHI. A man was critically injured in Punjab's Moga district after at least four to five armed robbers entered a medical shop and attacked him with sticks and sharp-edged weapons, before fleeing away with cash and mobile phones. The incident happened on Wednesday, September 18, in the Moga's Duncle area when the man, identified as Rajesh Kumar, had gone to meet his friend Shamsber Khan. After meeting Kumar, Khan asked him to sit in the shop as he went out for some urgent work. Four to five masked men then entered the shop and attacked Kumar with sticks and sharp-edged weapons before fleeing with cash and a mobile phone. A CCTV footage of the incident shows the men attacking Kumar with sticks, swords, and other sharp-edged weapons as he tries to resist them. After the attack, when Kumar lost consciousness, the attackers took away the cash and his mobile phone. Later, Kumar was rushed to a private hospital in Punjab where he received treatment for his injuries. "Four to five people came on two motorcycles and their faces were covered. They attacked me with sticks and swords. They also abused me and then fled away with money and my mobile phone. I have received 19 stitches on my head and I want action against the accused," Kumar said. A case has been filed against the unknown attackers under the relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and a probe has been launched to arrest them. Speaking about the case, a senior official of the Moga Police said, "We are investigating the case based on the complaint filed by Rajesh Kumar at the City Police Station. Several teams have been formed and all the accused will be arrested soon".

Don't Wait In Line, Get Your iPhone 16 Delivered In Minutes

New Delhi: You don't have to wait in line to buy an iPhone anymore. Starting today, order it on quick-commerce platforms like Blinkit and BB Now it will be delivered to your doorstep within minutes. Albinder Dhindsa, the co-founder and CEO of Blinkit, informed in a social media post on Friday that the company will deliver the iPhone 16 in Delhi, NCR, Mumbai, Pune, and Bengaluru on the very launch day of the iPhone. "Get the all-new iPhone 16 delivered in 10 minutes! We've partnered with @UnicornAPR for the third year in a row, bringing the latest iPhone to Blinkit customers in Delhi NCR, Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru (for now) -- on launch day! P.S - Unicorn is also providing discounts with select credit cards and EMI options are available too," said Dhindsa. Blinkit, known for delivering groceries and other essential items within minutes, is expanding its offerings to cater to the high-demand tech market. The company has collaborated with key Unicorn Stores and Apple retailers, to ensure the iPhone 16 is available to its users immediately on release. Meanwhile, long queues were seen outside the Apple store in Delhi's Saket and the flagship store in Mumbai's BKC. A customer Akshay says, "I came at 6 am. I purchased the iPhone 16 Pro Max. I liked iOS 18 and the zoom camera quality has become better now, I came from Surat." Another customer Ujjwal Shah said "I have been standing in the queue for the last 21 hours. I have been here since 11 AM yesterday and I will be the first one to enter the store today at 8 AM. I am very excited today...The atmosphere in Mumbai for this phone is absolutely new...Last year, I stood in the queue for 17 hours." Apple launched the new variants of the iPhone 16 during the second week of September, and the phone will be available for starting today Friday, September 20th. The price of the base variant of the iPhone 16 with 128 GB memory is ₹ 79,900. To ensure timely deliveries, the companies has optimized its network of micro-fulfillment centres, positioning stock in strategic locations across major cities.

Union Minister claims madrasas are threat to national security, foster terrorism

Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar claimed that madrasas provide training to their pupils in making AK-47 rifles with the help of broomsticks.

Amravati. Union Minister and BJP leader Bandi Sanjay Kumar sparked controversy on Wednesday by making allegations against madrasas for fostering terrorism and posing a grave threat to national security. He made these remarks while unveiling a new hostel block for girls at Sri Vidyanarayana Avasa Vidyalayam in Telangana's Karimnagar district. He claimed that madrasas provide training to their pupils in making AK-47 rifles with the help of broomsticks. He slammed the state government for providing funds to such institutions, who are using the money to promote extremism. Addressing the gathering, the Union Minister stated, "In places like Hyderabad, Siddipet, or Karim

Nagar, some madrasas are said to offer small sums of money, ranging from Rs 10 to 100, to their students. But what happens inside these madrasas? If you



look at many of the wrongdoers in the world — the so-called 'bad guys'— when asked where they learned such things, many will point to a madrasa. Whether it's a bomb blast in America, Mumbai, or London, there's often a

connection to teachings from such institutions." "Yet, what does the government do? Instead of addressing this, it provides funds for these madrasas, under the guise of developing new technologies and educational programs," he added. Earlier in July, a row erupted in Uttar Pradesh after the opposition leader stated that the government did not honour meritorious students studying in madrasas as it did for toppers of Sanskrit and state board schools. JP leader Mohsin Raza, in response to opposition demands, stated that no awards are given for "progress in religious education." "If such an award is to be given, then go to Saudi Arabia and get the award from there," Raza said.

How Can You Say...": Top Court Scolds CBI Over Bengal Post-Poll Violence Plea

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rebuked the Central Bureau of Investigation over the wording of a plea asking that cases related to violence after the 2021 Bengal election be heard outside the state. The CBI had filed a petition in December to transfer these cases citing concern over the possible intimidation of witnesses. However the language of that petition - which included references to a "hostile environment prevailing in the courts (in Bengal)", irked the top court. A bench of Justice Abhay S Oka and Justice Pankaj Mishra took exception to the federal agency casting aspersions against the "entire judiciary in Bengal". "... you are talking as if there is a 'hostile environment' in the whole of Bengal..." the court told Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the federal agency. "Mr Raju, what kind of grounds are taken in this plea?" "How can you say this... how can you say 'hostile atmosphere prevails in Bengal courts'? Your officers may not like the judicial officers but don't make such statements," the CBI was told. The agency was warned of



contempt of court proceedings but after Mr Raju apologised, and acknowledged the petition had been "loosely drafted", the court allowed its withdrawal. A fresh petition will be filed, Mr Raju told the court. The CBI had been mandated by the Calcutta High Court to

investigate, with help from a special police team, "heinous crimes of rape and murder" and other complaints of violence after the results of the 2021 election were declared. The Assembly poll saw Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress retain power despite a strong challenge from the Bharatiya Janata Party, but the election period and that after were marred by shocking reports of violence across the state; multiple videos and images of atrocities, that each party claimed had been perpetrated by the other, flooded social media. The High Court, in its directions, had criticised the state police for not filing complaints when presented with possible major crimes, such as rape or murder, and sometimes displayed a "predetermined mindset to take a case in a particular direction", apparently to favour the accused who, in many cases, were identified as workers or supporters of the ruling party. The BJP has welcomed the judgment, calling it "historic" and a vindication of its claims, while the Trinamool expressed unhappiness over the CBI being summoned.

Tirupati Laddoos Row Explained: Who Said What, Where Ghee Came From

Tirupati Temple Laddoo Row: The Tirupati temple is devoted to Lord Venkateswara, a manifestation of Lord Vishnu.

New Delhi: Laddoos, specifically those offered as 'prasadam', or devotional offerings, at the temple town of Tirupati are the battleground de jour in Andhra Pradesh, after a lab in Gujarat indicated the presence of animal fat in the ghee used to make them. Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and his Telugu Desam Party have ripped into his predecessor YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and his YSR Congress Party over the

"desecration" of the temple, a religious landmark that holds pride of place among practicing Hindus in the state and across India. The Chief Minister - who declared the temple would be "sanitised" - also accused his rival of corruption in negotiating tenders for buying the vast quantities of "adulterated ghee" needed for an estimated three lakh laddoos daily, and having insulted "one of the most revered Gods". The board of the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, or TTD - the government trust that manages the Tirumala Venkateswara Temple and others in the state - has not commented on the row as yet, but has formed a four-member committee to submit a report about quality standards in preparing the food item. It is important to note that it was the TTD board itself that had asked for the lab report, citing multiple complaints from the public about the quality of the laddoos, in recent weeks and months. **What Is Tirupati Laddoos Row?** The TTD board buys an estimated five lakh

kilograms of ghee annually, or 42,000 per month. This is purchased via an e-tender floated every six months. In addition, the TTD also requires around 22,500 kg of cashew nuts, 15,000 kg of raisins, and 6,000 of cardamoms to make the laddoos,



which are made by in-house cooks. According to the Karnataka Milk Federation the TTD used to purchase the ghee from them, but supply was discontinued four years ago, reportedly over pricing issues. Reports suggest they were unable to offer ghee at prices low enough for the TTD as the Karnataka

government - ruled by the Congress - ordered a ₹ 3 per litre increase in milk prices. Their contract, they have said, was renewed only after Mr Naidu's TDP returned to power. In the meantime, reports state the temple board turned to a supplier from Tamil Nadu's Dindigul, in whose ghee there was allegedly traces of the animal fat. Tirupati laddoos have a 'Geographical Indication' tag, which is a name or sign that identifies a product as originating from a specific geographical location or origin. The tag is a form of intellectual property right (IPR) that protects the product and ensures that only authorised users can use the name. **What Gujarat Lab Report Said** A July 17 report from the Centre of Analysis and Learning in Livestock and Food, or CALF, lab at the centre-run National Dairy Development Board in Gujarat, released Wednesday, said it found animal fat in ghee used to make the famous Tirupati laddoos when the YSRCP was in power.

News box

Gaza ceasefire deal unlikely before end of Joe Biden's tenure: Report

World A ceasefire deal between Israel and militant outfit Hamas in Gaza is unlikely before the end of US President Joe Biden's term in January, the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) reported. The 11-month war in Gaza has already killed over 41,000 Palestinians and displaced over 100,000. US officials said no deal was "imminent". "I am not sure if it will ever get done," an official was quoted as saying by WSJ. The remark came even as US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently said that 90 per cent of the ceasefire deal had been agreed upon. "I can tell you that we do not believe that deal is falling apart," Pentagon spokesperson Sabrina Singh was quoted as saying by news agency Reuters on Thursday.

However, the US officials quoted by WSJ cited two main reasons for the ceasefire deal not going through anytime soon.

Firstly, the ratio of Palestinian prisoners that Israel should release in exchange for Hamas-held hostages. The second sticking point has been Hamas making demands and then refusing to sign the final outcome despite the US and Israel accepting them.

Several critics have also accused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of sabotaging the negotiations, trying to appease the right-wing coalition parties in the country. The pager and walkie-talkies explosions targeting strongholds of Lebanese terror group Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, has further complicated the negotiations. While Israel has not commented on the unprecedented incident, a case of supply chain attacks, Lebanon has blamed the Benjamin Netanyahu-led government for the incident that has left over 30 dead. "There's no chance now of it (ceasefire deal) happening," an official from an Arab country was quoted as saying by the WSJ, after Israel attacked Hezbollah. He further said that everyone was in a "wait-and-see mode" until after the elections.

"The outcome will determine what can happen in the next administration," he was quoted as saying.

Scientists in South Africa say they have identified the first known outbreak of rabies in seals

CAPE TOWN, South Africa. Scientists in South Africa say they have identified an outbreak of rabies in seals that is believed to be the first time the virus has spread in sea mammals. At least 24 Cape fur seals that were found dead or euthanized in various locations on South Africa's west and south coast had rabies, state veterinarian Dr. Lesley van Helden said. Rabies, which affects mammals and can be passed to people, is almost always fatal once symptoms appear. Rabies spreads via saliva, usually through bites but also sometimes when animals lick and groom each other. The virus has long been seen in wild animals such as raccoons, coyotes, foxes, jackals and in domestic dogs. But it had never been recorded spreading among marine mammals, van Helden and other experts said this week. The only other known case of rabies in a sea mammal was in a ringed seal in Norway's Svalbard islands in the early 1980s. That seal had likely been infected by a rabid arctic fox, researchers said, and there was no evidence of rabies spreading among seals there. Authorities in South Africa first discovered rabies in Cape fur seals in June after a dog was bitten by a seal on a Cape Town beach. The dog became infected with rabies, prompting rabies tests on brain samples from 135 seal carcasses that researchers had already collected since 2021. Around 20 new samples also were collected and more positives have come back on subsequent tests. Scientists are trying to work out how rabies was passed to the seals.

Python attacks, squeezes Thai woman for two hours before rescue

World Arom Arunroj, a 64-year-old woman, was attacked by a large python while doing her dishes at her home near Bangkok, Thailand, on Tuesday. The incident occurred when Arunroj felt a sudden pain in her thigh and saw a python biting her.

The python, measuring approximately 13 to 16 feet long, constricted her and forced her to the kitchen floor. Arom attempted to grasp the snake by the head, but it tightened its grip.

Unable to free herself, the woman called out for help, but it took around an hour and a half before a neighbor heard her and alerted authorities. "I was just about to scoop some water when I sat down, and it bit me right away," Arom said, according to Thai newspaper. "When I looked, I saw the snake coiling around me." In Thailand, encounters with snakes are common. In 2023, 26 people were killed by venomous snake bites, and 12,000 people were treated for bites from venomous snakes and other animals. Larger pythons may hunt animals like pigs, deer, and domestic pets. Despite being bound by the python for almost two hours, Arom only received minor bites. In videos recorded shortly after the incident and shared on social media.

Addressing Lankan democracy deficit, graft as important as economy

COLOMBO. Sri Lanka's economic crisis is directly linked to its governance crisis, and unless accountability issues, including corruption and democracy deficit, are addressed, the island may not be in a position to overcome its current challenges, subject experts say.

As Sri Lanka goes to polls on September 21, poor governance remains a key concern.

To restore public trust and to change the country's trajectory, a few measures must be taken in the first 100 days of a new presidency, including the abolition of executive presidency, steps to return to a parliamentary system and create the post of independent public prosecution, says Dr Paikiasothy Saravanamuttu, internationally renowned rights advocate, Executive Director of the Colombo-based Centre for Policy Alternatives and Co-Convenor of the Center for Monitoring Election Violence. Addressing governance concerns are as critical as economic reforms and relief to the people, he says. "The 2024 presidential election is not about selecting the best formula for economic revival. The IMF diagnostic report and a Sri Lankan civil society study have both identified systemic corruption as a significant malaise. The 2022 people's movement was not just a reaction to the economic crisis but more of a



reaction to the governance crisis. People called for an end to corruption, to drive corrupt politicians home, to create a meritocracy. Curbing corruption is at the centre of any future solution," adds Dr Saravanamuttu. Saliya Peiris, PC, former president of the Bar Association of Sri Lanka, says, democracy and governance are tied to sustainable development.

Sri Lanka goes to polls on Sept 21, poor governance remains a major concern

"There are those who claim that economic development must be given priority over democracy and governance. They argue that

for the sake of the economy, democracy and the rule of law may be sacrificed. Those who believe these claims are willing to ignore the rampant corruption of politicians at the highest levels costing the public billions of rupees, cronyism, violation of orders of the highest courts, attacks on the judiciary, the weakening of independent institutions, the intolerance of dissent, appointments of corrupt and unsuitable persons to highest offices," says Peiris.

"However, the reality is that democracy and governance are tied to sustainable economic development of a nation. Long-term

economic stability is linked to the respect for democracy, the rule of the law, governance, and the rights of people," he adds.

The democracy agenda is going to be key to the success of the next administration. The IMF diagnostic also identified systemic corruption as a contributor to the crisis we find ourselves in. Corruption and lack of accountability were significant drivers of Aragalaya, the 2022 people's movement. People felt the urge to protest, demand accountability, force the Rajapaksa family to step down and end family rule, all because their names were linked to grand corruption. "Addressing accountability issues of all kinds and prioritising governance will be key to success," says Manjula Gajanayake, Executive Director of Institute of Democratic Reforms.

Adds Imran Furkan, a geopolitical risk analyst: "For Sri Lanka to overcome the current economic crisis, it is critically important to create conditions conducive for foreign direct investment. Nobody wants to invest in a country notorious for corruption with no systems in place."

Dilrukshi Handunnetti

Award-winning journalist and lawyer, founder and director of the Colombo-based Center for Investigative Reporting (CIR)

Trump says God saved him, promises to bring back religion in US

World I believe that we are at the onset of a new phase in this war, and we need to adapt," Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said as a series of pager and walkie-talkie blasts in Lebanon further pushed the Middle East to the brink of a full-blown regional war. The latest development has the potential of escalating the war on many fronts, engulfing Lebanon, Iran, Yemen and the broader region, as the Israel-Gaza conflict nears a year. Even though the intensity of the hostilities has waxed and waned, there is no sign of a pause in the year-long war in Gaza after terror outfit Hamas's attack on Israel on October 7, 2023. However, the war's centre of gravity is now shifting towards northern Israel, which shares a border with south Lebanon. Lebanon's southern part is the stronghold of the Hezbollah terror group, which has been exchanging daily fire with Israel since the Gaza war started in solidarity with Hamas. On Thursday, Israeli warplanes destroyed 100 rocket launchers as its military targeted Hezbollah sites. Cross-border strikes were also reported near the border.

ISRAEL-LEBANON WAR ON CARDS?

Israel has already started diverting its forces and resources towards the Lebanon border after multiple explosions of pagers and walkie-talkies of Hezbollah members killed over 30 and left nearly 3,000 injured. The blast, believed to be a supply chain attack carried out by Israel's sophisticated spy agency Mossad, has ratcheted up tensions with Lebanon after weeks of an uneasy calm. While Lebanon has described the attacks as a "serious violation of Lebanese sovereignty", Hezbollah has been more blunt,



threatening a "just punishment" for Israel. In fact, it has already started rocket attacks on Israeli artillery positions. The apparent

Worldsabotage attack came after months of targeted assassinations by Israel against senior Hezbollah leaders, including the group's top commander, Fuad Shukur. The assassination was believed to be in retaliation for the killing of 12 children in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights in a Hezbollah drone strike.

However, Hezbollah, Iran's most powerful proxy in the Middle East, will be no pushovers and is considered to be more formidable than Hamas in the region.

Elon Musk's X goes offline again in Brazil after court order: What is the spat all about

World. Elon Musk's X social media platform was once again inaccessible in Brazil on Thursday, merely a day after it had resumed service in violation of a judicial ban, according to internet providers. Earlier in the day, Brazil's Supreme Court had mandated X to suspend access to the platform, determining that the company had "unlawfully, persistently and intentionally" disregarded judicial rulings and would face a daily fine exceeding \$900,000 for non-compliance. Last month, the former Twitter was banned in Brazil, but access to the phone app was restored on Wednesday, which the government condemned as a deliberate breach of the suspension. X said that the restoration of its service was "inadvertent and temporary." On Thursday, the ABRINT

association of internet providers reported that the network went offline again "just before 4 pm" local time and was once again "blocked." In a court order on Thursday, Judge Alexandre de Moraes referred to X as "recalcitrant" and instructed the state telecommunications agency Anatel to take the necessary steps to block access to the network once more. The high-profile judge has been engaged in a prolonged dispute with South African-born billionaire Musk as part of his efforts to combat disinformation in Brazil. His suspension of X last month occurred after Musk refused to remove dozens of right-wing accounts accused of spreading fake news and failed to appoint a new legal representative in the country as directed. Moraes has also frozen the assets of X and.

Iconic Churchill photo stolen in Canada now found in Italy set to return

Canadian police said the portrait was stolen from the hotel sometime between Christmas 2021 and Jan. 6, 2022, and replaced with a forgery.

ROME. Canadian and Italian dignitaries on Thursday marked the successful recovery of a photo portrait of Winston Churchill known as "The Roaring Lion," stolen in Canada and recovered in Italy after a two-year search by police. At a ceremony at the Canadian Embassy in Rome, Italian carabinieri police handed over the portrait to the Canadian ambassador to Italy, Elissa Goldberg, who praised the cooperation between Italian and

Canadian investigators that led to the recovery. The 1941 portrait of the British leader taken by Ottawa photographer Yousuf Karsh is now ready for the last step of its journey home to the Fairmont Château Laurier, the hotel in Ottawa where it was stolen and will once again be displayed as a notable historic portrait. Canadian police said the portrait was stolen from the hotel sometime between Christmas 2021 and Jan. 6, 2022, and replaced with a forgery. The swap was only uncovered months later, in August, when a hotel worker noticed the frame was not hung properly and looked different than the others.icola Cassinelli, a lawyer in Genoa, Italy, purchased the portrait in May 2022 at an online Sotheby's auction for 5,292 British pounds. He says he got a phone call from the auction house that October advising him not to sell or otherwise transfer the portrait due to an investigation into the Ottawa theft. Cassinelli, who attended Thursday's ceremony, said he thought he was buying a regular print and quickly agreed to send the



iconic Churchill photograph home when he learned its true story. "I immediately decided to return it to the Château Laurier, because I think that if Karsh donated it to the hotel, it means he really wanted it to stay there, for the particular significance this hotel had for him, and for his wife too," Cassinelli told The Associated Press.

The famous image was taken by Karsh during Churchill's wartime visit to the Canadian

Parliament in December 1941. It helped launch Karsh's career, who photographed some of the 20th century's most famed icons, including Nelson Mandela, Albert Einstein and Queen Elizabeth. Karsh and his wife Estrelita gifted an original signed print to the Fairmont Château Laurier in 1998. The couple had lived and operated a studio inside the hotel for nearly two decades. Geneviève Dumas, general manager of the Fairmont Château Laurier, said on Thursday she felt immensely grateful. "I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everybody involved in solving this case, and ensuring the safe return of this priceless piece of history. Police arrested a 43-year-old man from Powassan, Ontario, in April and have charged him with stealing and trafficking the portrait. The man, whose name is protected by a publication ban, faces charges that include forgery, theft over \$5,000 and trafficking in property obtained by crime exceeding \$5,000.

Hezbollah chief says Israel will face 'tough retribution and just punishment' for device blasts

World Lebanon's Hezbollah chief said Thursday that Israel had dealt an "unprecedented" blow to his group, crossing all red lines with device explosions that killed 37 people and wounded nearly 3,000 over two days. He warned Israel that it will face "tough retribution and just punishment" for the blasts. Delivering a speech after the attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday, which plunged Lebanon into panic, Nasrallah struck a defiant tone and warned of retaliation. Describing the attacks as a possible "act of war", he said Israel would face "tough retribution and just punishment, where it expects it and where it does not." The attacks were a "massacre" that "could be a war crime or a declaration of war," he said, accusing Israel of having wanted to "kill no less than 5,000 people in two minutes". Nasrallah also vowed to keep up Hezbollah's fight against Israel until a



ceasefire in Gaza is reached. "The Lebanese front will not stop until the aggression on Gaza stops" despite "all this blood spilt," he said. Nasrallah announced the launch of an internal probe into the attacks, which experts and some Israeli media have said bear all the hallmarks of Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. Just minutes before the Hezbollah chief delivered his remarks, the

Israeli military traded new strikes over the border. Israeli war planes flew low over Beirut and broke the sound barrier, sending birds flying in panic and people in their houses and offices rushing to open the windows to avoid the glass shattering. Lebanon's Hezbollah chief said Thursday that Israel had dealt an "unprecedented" blow to his group, crossing all red lines with device explosions that killed 37 people and wounded nearly 3,000 over two days. He warned Israel that it will face "tough retribution and just punishment" for the blasts. Delivering a speech after the attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday, which plunged Lebanon into panic, Nasrallah struck a defiant tone and warned of retaliation. Describing the attacks as a possible "act of war", he said Israel would face "tough retribution and just

punishment, where it expects it and where it does not." The attacks were a "massacre" that "could be a war crime or a declaration of war," he said, accusing Israel of having wanted to "kill no less than 5,000 people in two minutes". Nasrallah also vowed to keep up Hezbollah's fight against Israel until a ceasefire in Gaza is reached. "The Lebanese front will not stop until the aggression on Gaza stops" despite "all this blood spilt," he said. Nasrallah announced the launch of an internal probe into the attacks, which experts and some Israeli media have said bear all the hallmarks of Israeli intelligence agency Mossad. Just minutes before the Hezbollah chief delivered his remarks, the Israeli military traded new strikes over the border. Israeli war planes flew low over Beirut and broke the sound barrier, sending birds flying in panic and people in their houses and offices rushing to open the windows to avoid the glass shattering.

NEWS BOX

Virat Kohli, Chepauk applaud R Ashwin after 113 in Chennai Test

New Delhi R Ashwin received a standing ovation from his hometown crowd and a special applause from Virat Kohli after his brilliant 113 on Day 2 of the first Test between India and Bangladesh on Friday, September 20. Ashwin had scored his 6th Test hundred to save India on Day 1 of the Test as the hosts had found themselves in a precarious position. Ashwin and Jadeja had stitched together a 199-run stand to ensure India was in control of things heading into Friday's play.

The Ashwin-Jadeja stand would end quickly as Taskin Ahmed got rid of the southpaw to end his stay at 86. This meant that Ashwin was left with the tail and he was looking to play his shots and get as many runs as possible. The all-rounder got some support from Akash Deep, who scored an exciting 17 runs. Ashwin started the day with a streaky boundary and once Akash Deep fell, decided to go into full aggressive mode. However, Taskin bowled a well-disguised knuckle ball, which made



Ashwin hit the ball in the air and was caught by Najmul Shanto. As Ashwin was walking off after his fine knock, the whole of Chepauk stood up to appreciate the effort from the hometown hero. As soon as Ashwin reached the pavilion, he was applauded by everyone with Kohli leading the way. Ashwin scored 113 from 133 balls and his innings consisted of 11 boundaries and 2 sixes. India were eventually bowled out for 376 runs.

What Ashwin said about hundred at Chepauk Ashwin talked about his hundred at the end of Day 1 and said Chepauk is a ground that he loves.

"Always special to play in front of a home crowd, it's a ground I completely love. Last time I got a hundred here, you [Ravi Shastri] were the coach. It does feel special. It helps that I'm coming off a T20 tournament, and worked quite a bit on batting and playing shots. I've always been giving the ball a waft," Ashwin said.

Champions League: Barcelona stunned by AS Monaco, Arsenal held by Atalanta

New Delhi FC Barcelona and Arsenal didn't have the best of starts to their Champions League campaign on September 19, Thursday. Barcelona stumbled in their Champions League opener with a 2-1 defeat to AS Monaco on Thursday, a match that quickly unravelled after an early setback due to Eric Garcia's red card. The game took a disastrous turn just 11 minutes in when Garcia was sent off for a foul on Monaco's Takumi Minamoto, who had been put through on goal following a wayward pass from goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Monaco capitalised on their numerical advantage almost immediately, with Maghnes Aklouché netting a low-driven shot to give the hosts a 1-0 lead just five minutes later. Barcelona fought back, leveling the score in the 28th minute thanks



to Lamine Yamal's composed strike from the edge of the box. However, Monaco's pressure eventually paid off in the second half when substitute George Ilenikhena found the back of the net in the 71st minute, securing a memorable victory for the French side in their first Champions League group stage appearance in five years.

David Raya saves Arsenal

Arsenal earned a hard-fought 0-0 draw against Atalanta in their Champions League opener on Thursday, with goalkeeper David Raya playing a crucial role in securing the point. The Spaniard made a brilliant save in the 51st minute, diving to his right to deny Mateo Retegui from the penalty spot. Raya's heroics didn't stop there—he immediately reacted to block Retegui's follow-up header, keeping the match level. Despite relentless pressure from Atalanta inside a lively Stadio di Bergamo, Arsenal held firm defensively while posing occasional threats on the counterattack. Bukayo Saka came closest to breaking the deadlock for the visitors, forcing a strong save from Atalanta keeper Marco Carnesecchi with a first-half free kick. Gabriel Martinelli also had a rare chance after the break but fired over the bar, as Mikel Arteta's side settled for a point in a gritty away performance.

Dinesh Karthik feels Ashwin, Jadeja 'will be valued a lot' after retirement

Former India cricketer

Dinesh Karthik opined that India all-rounders Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will be valued a lot after their retirement.

New Delhi Former India cricketer Dinesh Karthik has hailed all-rounders Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja following their rescue act on Day 1 of the first Test against Bangladesh. Notably, Ashwin joined Jadeja at the crease with India reeling at 144/6.

The duo put up a massive 199-run stand for the seventh wicket and took India to safety. Ashwin registered his sixth Test hundred while Jadeja scored a brilliant 86 to guide India to 376 in the first innings. Commenting on their outstanding batting performance,



Karthik mentioned how the duo has been outstanding for India bringing all their experience into play. "It was outstanding, the way they batted. The experience they have, the way they started, the kind of shots Ashwin played, the backfoot punch first up... Jadeja going over mid-on and getting boundaries. They came in with singles and

odd boundaries, got to their milestones, and got a lot more comfortable. Then they went on to play superb shots," Karthik said on Cricbuzz. Further speaking ahead, the former wicketkeeper mentioned India's large pool of all-rounders and said that both Ashwin and Jadeja will be valued a lot more once they hang up their boots.

"What a set of all-rounders we have. We have Axar Patel not playing, and understandably so. Sometimes I feel people value only when they're not around anymore, and these two people will be valued a lot more when they're done. These two have been phenomenal for India in this format," he added.

Ashwin continues love affair with Chepauk

Ashwin's century marked his second consecutive hundred at his home venue in Chennai as he earlier scored a ton against England as well in 2021. He went on to get level with MS Dhoni and MAK Pataudi in terms of Test centuries for India with all three having six centuries to their name.

Having already scored a hundred in the first innings, Ashwin will be eyeing to take a fifer with the ball and register his fourth instance of a hundred and a fifer in the same Test. The India all-rounder ranks on second spot in the list after legendary England all-rounder Ian Botham who achieved the feat on five occasions in his career.

David Raya makes incredible double save as Arsenal get point vs Atalanta

India vs Bangladesh, Chennai Test: Virat Kohli's return to the India Test side is off to the worst possible start as he was dismissed for just 6 runs in the first innings of the Chennai Test.

New Delhi Arsenal goalkeeper pulled off one of the best double saves in recent memory to help his side get a point in their Champions League opener against Atalanta on September 19, Thursday. Raya pulled off the save in the 51st minute when Atalanta had got a penalty after Thomas Partey was penalised for bringing down Ederson inside the box. There was a big delay as the call from the referee was checked by the VAR.

However, once the dust had settled, Raya was ready for the job and denied Mateo Retegui's penalty by diving to his right. However, the ball would rebound straight into the path of Retegui and the Atalanta striker felt he was



going to give his side the lead. However, Raya jumped up and then dived to his left to claw the ball away from going and saving the day for the Gunners. Arsenal would then hold on to salvage a point in the end.

You can see the video of Raya's save below: Raya's double save got rave reviews from both his manager Mikel Arteta and Atalanta boss Gian Piero Gasperini. Arteta hailed it as the best he had seen in his career. "I witnessed two of the best saves I've ever

seen in my career from David in that moment," Arteta said. Gasperini was equally in awe of the double-save from Raya and said he was agile like a cat. "He's a cat. The first save is good but the rebound is unbelievable.

The goalkeeper has been crucial," the Italian coach said. Raya downplayed his penalty save, attributing it to a bit of luck, while also acknowledging the support of Arsenal's goalkeeping coach,

Inaki Cana. Raya revealed he had consulted Cana during the VAR review of the penalty decision, crediting his guidance for the crucial stop. "It was a long time to decide if it was a penalty so I took the decision to go to the side and I went to speak with the goalkeeping coach about where to go and where not to go," he said. "He helped me a lot in every aspect so credit to him." Arsenal will next play Manchester City in a blockbuster clash on Sunday, September 22.

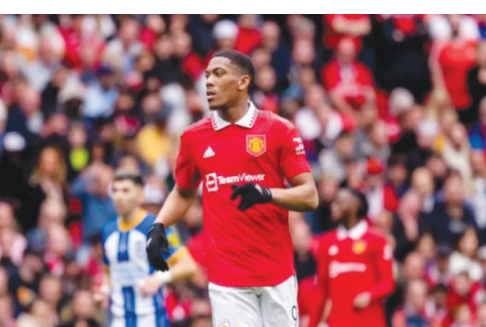
Former Manchester United forward Anthony Martial joins AEK Athens

Former Manchester forward Anthony Martial has joined Greek club AEK Athens on a three-year deal. Martial joins the club on a three-year deal.

New Delhi Anthony Martial has joined AEK Athens on a free transfer after leaving Manchester United in June, ending a nine-year spell with the Premier League side. The Greek club confirmed the signing on Thursday, with the 28-year-old forward penning a contract until 2027 and taking the number 26 shirt at the 13-time Greek champions.

While the financial terms weren't officially disclosed, British reports suggest that Martial will earn £2.5 million (\$3.32

million) annually, making him one of AEK's highest-paid players. During his time at Manchester United, Martial scored 90 goals in 317 appearances across all competitions, contributing to the club's successes in the Europa League, FA Cup,



and two League Cups. However, his final appearance came in December, as injuries often limited his playing time in recent years. Martial was then allowed to leave Manchester United after his contract had expired in the summer. PAE AEK

announces the acquisition of football player Anthony Martial. The international French striker signed a cooperation contract with our team until the summer of 2027," read the statement from the club's official website.

What did Martial say?

Martial commented about his move and said he was very happy to join the Greek club. The French forward said he would give his best to achieve things, win trophies and bring joy to his new side.

"I am very happy. AEK is an opportunity for me and I will give my best to achieve things, win trophies and bring joy to the world of the team," said Martial.

Martial joins an AEK squad that also added former Tottenham and Sevilla midfielder Erik Lamela this summer. The team currently sits atop the Super League Greece table with 10 points from four games as they prepare to face Kallithea on Sunday.

New Delhi. Former Bangladesh opener Tamim Iqbal claimed that R Ashwin is underrated as a batter after his brilliant hundred on day one of the Chennai Test on September 19, Thursday. Ashwin got to his 6th Test hundred on Thursday off just 108 balls as his knock consisted of 10 boundaries and 2 sixes. Ashwin was aggressive with his approach and stitched together an impressive partnership with Ravindra Jadeja to save India from a tough spot.

Speaking ahead of the start of Day 2's play, Tamim was asked if Ashwin was the true all-rounder. The former opener said that Ashwin doesn't look like a tailender when he comes out to bat and looks like a proper batter. Tamim pointed out to some of the shots Ashwin played during his innings and said the balance and bat swing shows Ashwin is a far better batter than he is given credit for.

"Definitely. I think we can talk about his bowling, his records, his achievements all day. We all know how good he is with the ball,



but I personally think he is a very underrated batter. As a batter, he might be averaging 26. But when he comes to bat, he doesn't look like a tailender or a bowler. He looks like a proper batter. The shots that he plays, the balance, the bat swing. I think he's very, very underrated as a batter and he has become a crisis man for India recently," said Tamim.

What Ashwin said about his hundred

Ashwin commented about his hundred and said that it was better go all out on a surface like at the Chepauk hard like Rishabh Pant. Ashwin said he was enjoying himself on Day one.

"On a surface like this, it's better to go hard like Rishabh does. It's an old-school Chennai surface with bounce and carry. When there is width, you can give it a tonk. I love playing when there is bounce and carry. I enjoyed myself today," Ashwin added.

Hasan Mahmud becomes 1st Bangladesh bowler to take Test five-wicket haul in India

India vs Bangladesh, Chennai Test: Pacer Hasan Mahmud became the first Bangladesh bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a Test match on Indian soil and rattled India's batting lineup in the first innings of the first Test in Chennai.

Chennai. Pacer Hasan Mahmud etched his name into the history books by becoming the first Bangladesh bowler to take a five-wicket haul in a Test match on Indian soil on Day 2 of the first Test at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai. Mahmud's stellar

performance rattled India's batting lineup on the opening day of the first Test in Chennai, reducing the hosts to 96/4 in the second session. He completed the historic fifer on Day 2 by dismissing Jasprit Bumrah in the first session and bundling out India for 376. It was the second successive fifer for the Bangladesh seamer who also picked up five wickets in Bangladesh's victory in the second Test over Pakistan. He finished with figures of 5/83 and was down on his haunches to celebrate his achievement.

Opting to bowl on a humid Chennai morning, Bangladesh made the most of overcast conditions, with Mahmud proving to be the surprise star. While much of the pre-match focus had been on Bangladesh's express bowler Nahid Rana, it was Mahmud's precision and swing that left India in tatters. His figures of 5/38 marked a career-high and a landmark achievement for Bangladesh cricket. India's innings began on a shaky note



as opener Rohit Sharma (6) was the first to fall, edging a wobbling delivery from Mahmud to Najmul Hossain Shanto at second slip. Rohit's dismissal, after being saved by DRS earlier in the innings, triggered a collapse that saw India struggling at 34 for three within the first 10 overs.

Shubman Gill (0) was the next to go, feathering a down-the-leg-side delivery to wicketkeeper Litton Das off Mahmud's

bowling. The dismissal of Gill, who had played only eight balls, further amplified the pressure on India. Virat Kohli (6) entered the scene to a roar from the Chepauk crowd but was soon undone by a classic fast bowler's delivery. Mahmud pitched one just short of a good length outside off-stump, and Kohli's expansive drive resulted in an edge to Litton, silencing the home crowd as India reeled at 34 for three. India's middle order showed some resilience through opener Yashasvi Jaiswal (56) and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant (39), who added 54 runs for the fourth wicket. However, Pant's dismissal, courtesy of Mahmud again, came at a crucial juncture. After smashing a boundary off Mahmud in the third over after lunch, Pant's attempt to play another aggressive shot saw him edge behind, reducing India to 96 for four.

Nabha Natesh's

Pink Crop Top And Denim Look Is All About Style And Comfort

Actress Nabha Natesh is one of the prominent names in the Telugu and Kannada film industries. She made her acting debut with the 2015 Kannada film *Vajrakaya*. Besides her acting prowess, Nabha is also known for her ethereal fashion sense. She recently dropped a string of pictures on Instagram that left the followers drooling for her. Nabha turned up the heat in a pink crop top with a plunging neckline. She paired it with denim jeans. Nabha Natesh left her hair loose and opted for a glowing base with pink lips. Nabha's adorable smile added allure to the photos. She captioned the photos, "A smile is sunshine for the soul", and attached the track *Hass Hass* by Diljit Dosanjh and Sia. Nabha looks drop-dead gorgeous, flaunting her well-toned figure, in the photos.

She knows how to weave magic with her outfits. Earlier, she shared pictures wearing a floral bralette top, which she paired with colour-coordinated print trousers. Nabha Natesh opted for a no-makeup look and left her hair open. While sharing the pictures online, she captioned, "Wake me up when it's summer". Moments after she posted her pictures online, several social media users rushed to the comment section to praise her looks and fashion sense. One social media user wrote, "Adorable". Another user commented, "Stunning". One social media user also called her,

"Beautiful". Rest users filled in the comment section with heart and fire emojis.

Nabha Natesh is popular for her acting stints in films including *Solo Brathuke So Better*, *Nannu Dochukunduvate*, *Vajrakaya* and *Disco Raja*. She rose to stardom with *iSmart Shankar*, and after that, she acted in many hit films. Nabha Natesh is currently anticipating the release of her upcoming film *Tyson Naidu*, written and directed by Saagar K Chandra. Actor Bellamkonda Sreenivas will play the male lead in this film. Reportedly, the film's production formalities have been underway in full swing for the past few weeks. As per the reports released in August, a portion of *Tyson Naidu*'s shoot was wrapped up already.



Chaithra J Achar Calls For Hema Report Committee-like Body In Kannada Film Industry



The Film Industry for Rights and Equality (FIRE) in Bengaluru has recently reached out to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, requesting the establishment of a committee to investigate any instances of sexual harassment within the Kannada film industry. This move follows the release of the Hema Committee report, which revealed significant systemic injustice faced by women in the Malayalam film industry. FIRE's appeal reflects growing concerns about the treatment of women in the film industry and aims to address these issues in Kannada cinema as well. A meeting was also held on September 16 regarding the formation of a committee in the Kannada film industry. Actress and singer Chaithra J Achar is one of several celebrities who are in favour of a similar committee in Karnataka. Chaithra J Achar has acknowledged that she has herself not been subjected to sexual harassment, she recounted that a junior artist once spoke about her ordeal. Chaithra said that right during the shooting of her second film, a junior artist opened up to her. She said the junior artist was selected for the first round of auditions and was then asked to go on a trip with the casting team in order to bag the role. "It cannot be said that there is no sexual exploitation in the film industry. Saying that there is no exploitation is like saying that there is no theft in the world," Chaithra said. She also said that forming a committee akin to Hema Committee will benefit many actresses who can bring their ordeals to the notice of the committee. Sumalatha Ambareesh was also in favour of forming a committee. At an event where a bronze statue of Dr Ambareesh was inaugurated, she said that while she was supporting the formation of the committee, it should not be misused by artists. She also said that having worked across different film industries including all South languages as well as Hindi, she never experienced harassment of any sort.

Diljit Dosanjh, Neeru Bajwa's Jatt & Juliet 3 Releases On OTT: Here's When And Where To Watch Film



After facing multiple delays, the Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna drama thriller film *The Sabarmati Report* is now expected to be released on November 15. Directed by Dheeraj Sarna and backed by Ektaa Kapoor's Balaji Telefilms, the film is based on the unfortunate burning of the *Sabarmati Express* in Gujarat's Godhra on February 27, 2002. Taking to Instagram, actor Vikrant Massey dropped a new poster of *The Sabarmati Report* and wrote in the caption, "The burning truth will be out on 15th November! Stay Tuned! #TheSabarmatiReportonlyin cinemas!" The new poster depicts a burning train along with a burning mic lying on the ground.

As soon as the 12th Fail actor shared the poster, the comment section was flooded with reactions from the fans. An Instagram user wrote, "Waited so long." Another person said, "Wow this looks fab." *The Sabarmati Report*, announced in January this year, was earlier slated to hit the theatres on May 3. However, it was later pushed back to July and then August 2. Recently, several reports suggested that the makers are planning to release the film in September or October 2024. But now, the film co-produced by Vikir Films Productions will be arriving in the theatres on November 15. Apart from Vikrant Massey, Vikrant Massey and Raashii Khanna, the film also stars Riddhi Dogra in a pivotal role.

Previously, the makers of *The Sabarmati Report* released a teaser of the film which featured Vikram Massey playing the role of a journalist, Samar Kumar, sitting in a studio as he announced the news on February 27, 2002, when the Godhra accident happened. Reportedly, Raashii will be seen playing the role of a reporter while Riddhi will portray a senior news anchor. Meanwhile, Vikrant's thriller film *Sector 36* co-starring Deepak Dobriyal is currently streaming on Netflix. Raashii, on the other hand, was last seen in the Tamil horror-comedy film *Aranmanai 4*.

Shriya Saran's

Backless Bling Dress Is Perfect For Date Nights

Shriya Saran is considered one of the most celebrated actresses in South Indian cinema. She featured in several hits with the leading names of the industry. The actress is not only a formidable presence on screen but she has also amassed recognition through social media. Her latest entry redefines her as a fashion icon. Shriya Saran took to her official Instagram handle to share glimpses from her new photoshoot, where she is seen rocking a sparkly outfit with graceful ease. Shriya has chosen to wear a floor-length shimmer backless dress, designed with sparkly florals and stars on a black base. The sleeveless outfit is tailored with a deep, round neckline, accentuating her fit body. It is accessorised with big pointy earrings, bracelets on her left wrist and matching finger rings and is worn on black stilettos. She has kept her hair sleekly styled to the back and half-open from the bottom. Shriya is captured exuding confidence, posing at various locations. According to the caption, she attended the SIIMA business award night event, opting for the breathtaking look.

Fans share their reactions to the posts in the replies, expressing their love and support to the actress. The first user wrote, "Wow you're looking absolutely stunning and gorgeous." A second user shared, "Dazzling beauty." A third user stated, "You are looking so beautiful." Actress Lakshmi Manchu complimented Shriya and wrote, "You beauty you." A lot of fans have flooded the comments with heart and heart-eye emoticons. Shriya Saran was last seen in the Hindi series *Showtime*, which premiered on Disney Plus Hotstar. It is directed by Mihir Desai and Archit Kumar. The cast includes names like Naseeruddin Shah, Emraan Hashmi, Mahima Makwana, Mouni Roy, Rajeev Khandelwal, Shriya Saran and Vishal Vashishtha. While Karan Johar, Apoorva Mehta, Somen Mishra and Mihir Desai produced the show under the banner of Dharmatic Entertainment and Anand Bhaskar did the music. It premiered on the platform on March 8, 2024.

