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To Publish Articles & Advertisement Contact 96194 27411 • Mussadif S. Modak - Chief Editor

Mumbai Within 59 Minutes In Sight Due To Rapid Infrastructure - CM Fadnavis

KTR / Mumbai

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Wednesday said rapid infrastructure development through BMC has brought the concept of 'Mumbai in 59 Minutes' within sight.

The CM inaugurated three flyovers online from Varsha residence - the Vidyavihar railway flyover connecting LBS Marg and RC Chemburkar Marg, the Sion railway flyover, and the Ratnagiri Junction to Chitragari flyover under the Goregaon-Mulund Link Road (GMLR) project.

Fadnavis said all three bridges are strategically important and will make Mumbaikars' travel easier,



ensuring seamless North-South and East-West connectivity.

The Vidyavihar bridge will cut travel time between East and West from 30 minutes to 10 minutes and reduce load on the Ghatkopar flyover. The Goregaon East flyover at Ratnagiri Hotel Junction will ease traffic congestion.

The 112-year-old unsafe Sion bridge has been rebuilt at a cost of Rs 65.13 crore - Rs 33.51 crore for the railway portion and Rs 31.62 crore for approach roads. The 54.5-meter-long bridge was completed four months ahead of schedule.



Paneer Production Continued Despite Suspended Licenses!

FDA Conducts Night Raid; Case Against Six

KTR / Panvel

A case has been exposed in the Taloja MIDC area where the business of milk storage and paneer production was being continued even after licenses were suspended. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) conducted raids on three establishments on Friday night. During this operation, milk and ready-made paneer were destroyed, and a case has been registered against six people at the Taloja Police Station.

During a previous inspection, it was found that milk was being stored and paneer and other dairy products were being manufactured in unhygienic conditions in three establishments



in the Balaji Industrial Park area of Taloja MIDC. However, after receiving information that the business was being operated at night, the FDA took action again.

During this raid, business was found to be operational in two establishments. Assistant Commissioner Ajay Maitre gave this information. In this case, a case has been registered against Basdev Mohan Yadav, Sanjay Shankar Yadav, Narayanlal Ganeshlal Dangi, Asha Sanjay Yadav, Radheshyam Ramkabal Yadav and Santosh Baburao Thakur. It has come to light that the accused are associated with Savariya Milk & Product, Mateshwari Foods and Royal Foods establishments.



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Traffic Police Crush Seized Silencers with Bulldozer to Curb Noise Pollution

KTR / Panvel

In a drive against two-wheelers fitted with modified, high-noise silencers, Panvel City Traffic Police destroyed 111 seized silencers in public on Tuesday evening, on the occasion of Vijayadashami.

The silencers were placed on



a replica of Ravana, which was then crushed using a bulldozer at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Chowk in Panvel. The drive was conducted in the presence of Dr Rahul Khade, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Navi Mumbai Police.

Traffic police had noticed that riders in Panvel city, New Panvel and the Palaspe Circle area were using two-wheelers with unauthorised modifications to their original silencers. These modifications generated excessive noise, causing inconvenience to residents, particularly during the early morning and night hours.

Between January 2025 and September 2026, police seized 111 modified silencers from two-wheelers during enforcement operations.

Officials pointed out that excessive noise pollution can affect people living near hospitals, schools and residential areas, particularly senior citizens and children.

The traffic police conducted the drive by imposing fines on violators and confiscating modified silencers.

Woman Stabbed Multiple Times Outside Nerul Railway Station; Boyfriend Arrested

KTR / Navi Mumbai

A 21-year-old woman was seriously injured after her boyfriend allegedly stabbed her multiple times outside the eastern entrance of Nerul railway station on Tuesday morning, October 20. The attack reportedly stemmed from his suspicion that she was involved in a relationship with another man. The accused, who fled after the incident, was arrested by Nerul police within a few hours.The woman, identified as Sadia Jahir Shaikh (21), works as a ground staff employee at Navi Mumbai International Airport. The accused has been identified as Danish Mohammed Ansari (27). Both reportedly reside in the Antop Hill area of Wadala, Mumbai, and had been in a relationship for four years. They had also informed their families of their intention to marry.According to the police, disputes had arisen between the couple over the past few months. Danish allegedly suspected that Sadia was involved with another man. He had reportedly assaulted her twice earlier, following which complaints were filed against him in connection with incidents near the airport and at Antop Hill police station.Due to the alleged repeated harassment, Sadia had decided to distance herself from him.On Tuesday morning, Sadia travelled by local train from GTB Nagar to Nerul to go to work. The accused allegedly followed her to



Nerul.At around 6:45 am, near a bus stop outside the station's eastern entrance, he allegedly attacked her with a knife, inflicting five to six wounds to her back, abdomen, neck and chest before fleeing.Police rushed the injured woman to a hospital in Vashi, where she is receiving treatment in the intensive care unit of the municipal hospital. Police said her condition was stable. Nerul police have registered a case against the accused under Sections 109(1), 351(2) and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), relating to attempted murder, criminal intimidation and intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of peace, respectively. The daylight attack outside a busy railway station has raised concerns about public safety. The incident has also highlighted the need for timely preventive action in cases where earlier complaints indicate a potential risk of further violence.The investigation is being conducted by Sub-Inspector Bipin Tuturwad under the guidance of Senior Police Inspector Ajay Kamble.



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Move Deals Setback to Ganesh Naik; Projects in Vashi and Ghansoli Get Green Signal

KTR / Navi Mumbai

The Maharashtra Urban Development Department, led by Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, has lifted the stay on five major cluster redevelopment projects in Vashi and Ghansoli, dealing a setback to Forest Minister Ganesh Naik and his supporters, according to a reportThe BJP-led



ruling group in the Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation had passed a resolution opposing approvals for cluster projects until a scientific assessment was conducted to determine their impact on the city's infrastructure. The Urban Development Department has now cleared the way for projects that had been awaiting approval.The decision has added another chapter to the ongoing political differences between Shinde and Naik in Navi Mumbai. Although the BJP secured control of the municipal corporation with Naik's support, Shinde's Shiv Sena won 42 corporator seats in the civic elections. Tensions between the two camps have continued over decisions concerning the civic body.Cluster redevelopment projects covering more than 125, 000 square metres in Vashi and Ghansoli had been awaiting approval for several months. Three projects had already received clearance from a high-powered committee chaired by Municipal Commissioner Dr Kailash Shinde, while others were at various stages of the approval process.The BJP-led group subsequently passed a resolution calling for a halt to all cluster projects until their impact on roads, public services and other infrastructure was scientifically assessed.

Two Children Drown While Retrieving Coins from Vashi Pond After Navratri Immersion



KTR / Navi Mumbai

Two children drowned in the Kopri village pond in Vashi while attempting to retrieve money thrown into the water during the immersion of Goddess Durga idols and Navratri kalash, triggering grief in the locality and raising fresh questions about safety arrangements at the pond.The deceased have been identified as Golu Mansoori (10) and Ganesh Gupta (12). According to preliminary information provided by local residents, the two boys entered the pond along with their friends to collect coins and money that had been thrown into the water during the immersion rituals. However, they reportedly misjudged the depth of the water and drowned.Police personnel and fire brigade teams rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident. During the rescue operation, the bodies of both children were recovered and taken to Vashi Hospital for further procedures, fire brigade officer Rohan Kokate said.The issue of children entering the Kopri village pond for swimming and jumping into the water had reportedly been raised earlier. Local villagers had repeatedly demanded the deployment of security guards at the site.Following the deaths, questions have once again emerged over whether adequate safety measures are in place, whether security personnel are deployed and whether arrangements exist to prevent people from entering the water.Crowds at immersion sites increase during festivals, making supervision and preventive measures essential to avoid accidents.



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₹47.70 Crore Proposal to Remove Encroachments in Panvel

Three-Year Tender to Be Discussed at General Body Meeting

KTR / Panvel

The Panvel Municipal Corporation (PMC) administration has placed a proposal before the General Body to spend ₹47.70 crore over the next three years to remove encroachments, unauthorised constructions and dangerous structures within the municipal limits. The proposal to invite tenders for manpower, machinery and vehicles under Prabhag Committees A, B, C and D had been discussed twice earlier but could not receive approval following criticism from ruling BJP members. The proposal will be discussed again at the General Body meeting scheduled for Friday, October 23.

According to the proposal,



the estimated annual expenditure is ₹15.90 crore. This includes ₹52.50 lakh per month for 175 workers and ₹80 lakh per month for machinery and vehicles, including JCBs, dumpers, breakers and tempos. The annual expenditure on manpower is estimated at ₹6.30 crore, while machinery and vehicles are expected to cost ₹9.60 crore. The total expenditure over three years is estimated at ₹47.70 crore.

At the October 6 General Body meeting, the issue was postponed after BJP member Paresh Thakur presented photographs of encroachments and questioned the administration's action. He alleged that the administration was slow to remove encroachments and demanded strict action against ward officials. He also sought the suspension of the ward superintendents of the Kamothe and Panvel ward committees.

Following the allegations, Municipal Commissioner Mangesh Chitale issued show-cause notices to three officials concerned. The officials have submitted their explanations to the administration.

At the October 6 meeting, members also raised concerns about contract workers in the encroachment department, including the absence of uniforms and allegations that some workers were not reporting for duty. Suggestions were made to appoint Maharashtra Security Force personnel instead of contractual workers at equivalent pay scales, introduce biometric attendance to monitor workers' performance, and avoid hiring workers and machinery for night shifts, citing the lack of encroachment-removal operations during those hours.

However, the latest proposal does not mention these alternatives, making them likely topics of discussion at the upcoming meeting.

The administration is also expected to present details of encroachment-removal drives conducted over the past 15 days and the explanations submitted by officials who received show-cause notices. The decision on the tender will depend on the position taken by the members.

Amid criticism of the civic administration, removal drives have reportedly intensified over the past 15 days in Panvel, New Panvel, Khandeshwar and Kamothe. At the October 6 meeting, BJP members had presented photographs showing encroachments by street vendors, stall owners and handcart operators.



Navi Mumbai Launches 59 Urban Health and Wellness Centres Offering Free Primary Healthcare

KTR / Navi Mumbai

Residents of Navi Mumbai can now access primary healthcare services closer to their homes, from treatment for minor illnesses to screening for diabetes and high blood pressure. The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC) inaugurated 59 Urban Health and Wellness Centres on Tuesday at a ceremony held at Municipal School No. 94 in Koparkhairane.he initiative is expected to make free primary healthcare more accessible.

Trader Arrested for ₹44 Crore Customs Duty Evasion in Walnut Imports

KTR / Navi Mumbai

Deepak Kakadiya, a trader operating in the Mumbai Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC), has been arrested for alleged customs duty evasion amounting to ₹44 crore in walnut imports. The Customs Department's Central Intelligence Unit (CIU) arrested him from his shop in the Spice Market on Thursday night after searching for him for several days. He was expected to be produced before the Panvel court on Friday.Kakadiya is accused of undervaluing walnuts imported from Chile to evade customs duty. According to the available details, around 3, 630 metric tonnes of walnuts were imported. Although the actual price was reportedly $2.70 per kilogram, invoices issued through an intermediary company in Dubai allegedly declared the price as $1.50 per kilogram. The alleged under-invoicing is estimated to have resulted in customs duty evasion of approximately ₹44 crore.The Customs Department's affidavit reportedly refers to financial transactions involving five companies: Deepak Trading Company, Akash Enterprises, ABC Enterprise, Best Deal Traders and Swastik International.According to the affidavit, approximately ₹5.44 crore was transferred from Deepak Trading Company to Akash Enterprises, while around ₹4.20 crore was transferred from Akash Enterprises to Swastik International.Investigators have also alleged that some companies were established in the names of workers and used to carry out import transactions.

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European Roller Spotted for the First Time in Kharghar; Hoopoe and Indian Roller Sightings Increase

KTR / Panvel

Seven European Roller birds were spotted together in Sector 1 of Kharghar last week, marking the first recorded sighting of the species in the area, according to birdwatchers. Bird enthusiast Pradeep Chaudhari photographed the birds and documented the sighting.

During the same period, a higher-than-usual number of Hoopoe birds were observed in Sector 4. The Indian Roller, considered auspicious during the Dussehra festival, was also



spotted in the area.

Kharghar's surrounding hills and wetlands provide a habitat for a wide variety of bird species. According to Chaudhari, around 125 rare bird species have been recorded in the region so far. The sighting of seven European Rollers together in Sector 1 is considered a significant observation for local birdwatchers.

The Hoopoe, also known as the Eurasian Hoopoe, visits Kharghar every year. Previously, it was mainly spotted in Sectors 1, 16 and 25. This year, however, a larger number of these birds were observed in Sector 4 as well.

On October 13, at around 8: 30 am, former Kharghar deputy sarpanch Sanjay Gharat spotted a flock of birds while jogging on a ground near Bharati Vidyapeeth, close to Belpada village. On October 15, bird enthusiast Pradeep Chaudhari also spotted the European Roller.

The Indian Roller visits Kharghar every year in October and remains in the area until April. It is commonly seen in Sectors 1, 8, 17, 25 and 35, with around five birds sometimes spotted together in Sector 1. The bird is considered auspicious during Dussehra.

Birdwatchers say the hilly areas and wetlands around Kharghar attract several bird species that travel thousands of kilometres in search of food.

Gym Owner Arrested for Extorting ₹38 Lakh from Business Partner by Threatening to Release Objectionable Videos

KTR / Navi Mumbai

A gym operator from Ghansoli has been arrested for allegedly extorting ₹38 lakh from his female business partner by threatening to circulate objectionable videos of her. The accused, identified as Vivek Patil, allegedly established physical relations with the woman without her consent and later used the videos to threaten and blackmail her. A court has remanded him to two days of police custody.

According to police, the accused and the woman had been business partners since 2021 and worked together in the gym business in Ghansoli. The woman alleged in her complaint that Patil misused their business relationship, established physical relations with her without her consent at various locations, and recorded objectionable videos during those encounters.Police said the accused allegedly threatened to circulate the videos and damage her reputation unless she paid him money. Fearing that the videos would be made public, the woman reportedly paid him money on several occasions. The total amount allegedly extorted from her reached ₹38 lakh. Despite receiving the money, the accused



allegedly continued demanding more. Unable to meet the repeated demands, the woman approached Rabale Police Station and lodged a complaint.

Following the complaint, police registered a case and arrested Patil. He was subsequently produced before a court, which granted two days of police custody for further investigation.

Investigators are examining when and under what circumstances the videos were recorded, how the alleged threats were made, and the nature of the financial transactions involving ₹38 lakh. Police are also seeking further information about the alleged extortion during the accused's interrogation.

Senior Police Inspector Balkrishna Sawant of Rabale Police Station confirmed the arrest and the two-day police custody remand. He said further details would emerge as the investigation progresses.



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Gujarat Government's Land Decision Sparks Controversy

Vadodara : The Gujarat government's decision to allot a disputed plot of land in Vadodara to former Indian cricketer and Member of Parliament Yusuf Pathan has sparked political controversy.

The ९७८-square-metre plot is located next to Pathan's family home in the Tandalja area. Under the approved proposal, ५०० square metres will be allotted to him free of cost, while the remaining ४७८ square metres will be offered at ५५% of the assessed market value, providing a ४५% concession.

Pathan had sought the land in २०१२. The dispute continued for



years, and the Vadodara Municipal Corporation issued him an encroachment-removal notice in २०२४. He challenged the matter in court and later withdrew his appeal in August २०२६.The timing of the government's decision has attracted attention because Pathan, elected to the Lok Sabha from Baharampur in २०२४ on a Trinamool Congress ticket, subsequently left the party and joined the NDA ranks. The Gujarat government has defended the allotment, saying it followed the applicable rules and procedures. The decision has also prompted calls for an investigation into the land transfer.

Air Pollution Rises in Navi Mumbai; AQI Deteriorates for Three Consecutive Days

KTR / Navi Mumbai



Air quality has once again become a concern in Navi Mumbai, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) rising for three consecutive days before recording a decline on Monday. The city's AQI reached 147 on Sunday, October 18, before dropping to 123 on Monday, October 19. However, readings in Mahape and Koprigaon in Vashi remained relatively high, raising concerns about vehicle emissions, construction dust and possible industrial pollution.

After the monsoon, roads begin to dry out, allowing dust to rise into the air due to vehicle movement. Ongoing construction activities, transportation of building materials and vehicular exhaust are also contributing to deteriorating air quality. Seasonal atmospheric changes and slower wind speeds after September may cause pollutants to remain concentrated in certain areas, resulting in hazy conditions during the morning and night.

The city's AQI was recorded at 117 on October 16, 134 on October 17 and 147 on October 18, marking a rise of 30 points over three days. It subsequently fell to 123 on October 19. Despite the decline, the continued presence of AQI readings above 100 has raised concerns about the need for effective pollution-control measures.

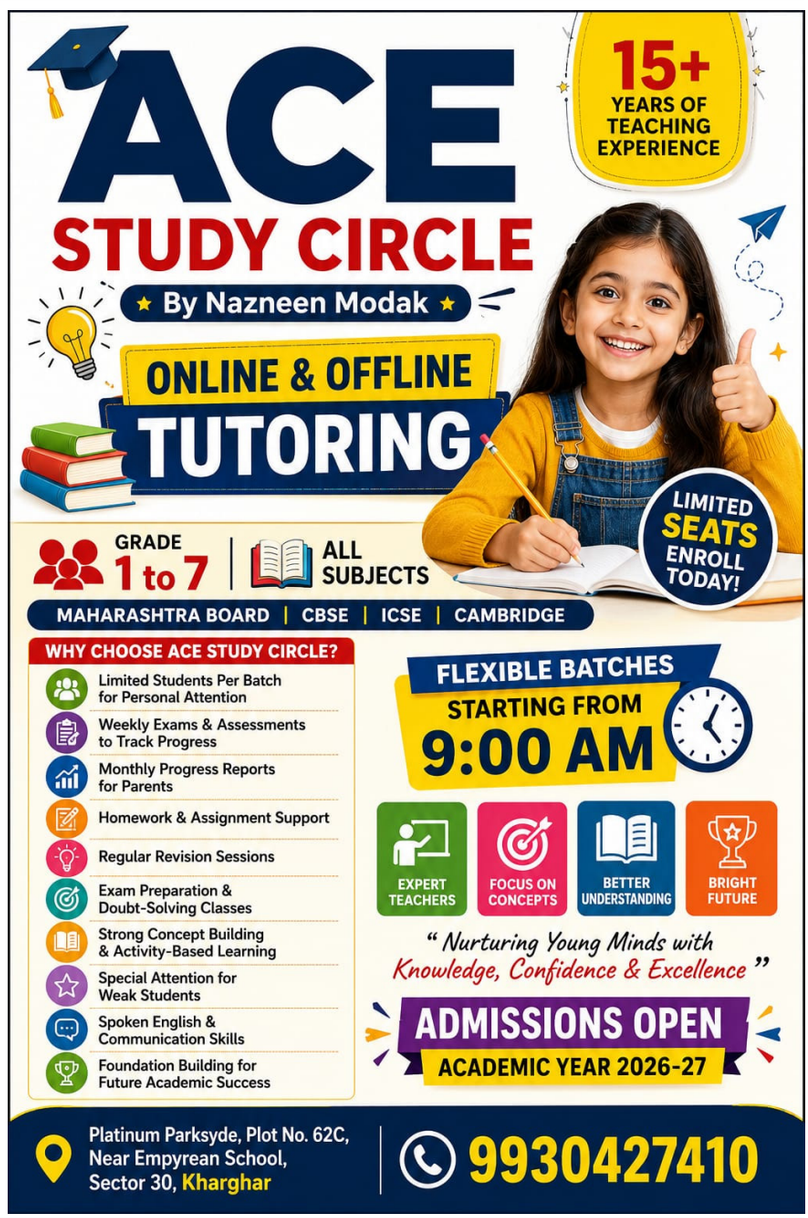
Attempts to contact Maharashtra Pollution Control Board officials in Navi Mumbai for information about measures being taken to control pollution did not receive a response.

Residents of Vashi, Koprigaon, Koparkhairane, Bonkode and Ghansoli, particularly areas near the Turbhe and Pawane MIDC industrial zones, have reported strong and unpleasant odours during the night and early morning.

Commuters travelling on the Pawneshwar flyover in Vashi have also reported encountering the smell during the day. Some residents described it as resembling the odour of burning chemicals, prompting calls for an investigation into possible industrial emissions.

Dust generated by development work along Palm Beach Road in Sanpada has also raised concerns. Handling soil, cement and other construction materials can release dust into the air if adequate precautions are not taken.

Residents believe the municipal corporation should inspect construction sites to ensure that dust-control measures are being implemented. Regular road cleaning, covering construction materials and taking steps to prevent dust from spreading could help reduce pollution.



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Navi Mumbai Mayor's Cup Ganeshotsav Competition Awards Ceremony on October 24

KTR / Navi Mumbai

The Navi Mumbai Municipal Corporation (NMMC), through its Sports and Cultural Department, will organise the prize distribution ceremony for the Navi Mumbai Mayor's Cup Public and Household Ganeshotsav Competition 2026–27 on Saturday, October 24, at 3 pm at Vishnudas Bhave Natyagriha in Vashi.

Navi Mumbai has consistently performed well at the national level in cleanliness and is widely recognised as a liveable city. The municipal corporation regularly promotes public participation through various initiatives. In keeping with this approach, the Mayor's Cup Ganeshotsav competition has been organised in public and household categories to encourage mandals, institutions and citizens who celebrate the festival responsibly while preserving cultural traditions.

The competition is being conducted under the guidance of Mayor Sujata Patil and Municipal Commissioner Dr Kailas Shinde. It aims to recognise and encourage initiatives that promote cleanliness, environmental protection, health awareness, social responsibility and other public welfare causes.

Focus on Eco-Friendly Celebrations

Through the competition, public Ganeshotsav mandals were encouraged to adopt eco-friendly idols, maintain cleanliness, organise plastic-free celebrations, promote water conservation, spread health awareness and communicate meaningful social messages.

Citizens were also encouraged to follow environmentally responsible practices during household Ganeshotsav celebrations.

Winners to Receive Cash Prizes and Certificates

A panel of judges appointed by the municipal corporation evaluated the entries by visiting festival venues and examining video clips and documents submitted by participating mandals.

The winners will be honoured with cash prizes, mementoes and certificates of appreciation

The prize distribution ceremony will recognise the winning public Ganeshotsav mandals and household participants in the 2026–27 competition.

RATNAGIRI TO GET KONKAN'S FIRST RAILWAY COLD STORAGE FACILITY

KTR / Ratnagiri



In a major boost to Konkan's agricultural and fisheries sectors, the Konkan Railway Corporation has taken an ambitious step towards establishing a modern railway cold storage facility in Ratnagiri. The proposed facility, with a storage capacity of 2, 000 metric tonnes, aims to help preserve perishable products such as the region's world-famous Hapus mangoes, fresh fish and other agricultural produce while opening up wider domestic and international markets.

The project is being planned in collaboration with the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) under a revenue-sharing arrangement. It is expected to provide much-needed support to farmers, fruit growers and fishermen who frequently face losses due to inadequate cold storage and transportation facilities.

Cold chain gap hits farmers and fishermen

Konkan is renowned for its premium-quality Alphonso mangoes, a variety of fruits and its rich marine produce. However, the lack of adequate cold storage infrastructure and an efficient cold chain has often forced producers to sell their goods at lower prices to avoid spoilage.

The proposed facility is expected to address this long-standing challenge by enabling producers to store their perishable goods under suitable conditions for longer periods. This could help reduce post-harvest losses, improve price realisation and give local producers greater flexibility in deciding when and where to sell their produce.

Konkan Railway to provide land

Under the proposed revenue-sharing model, Konkan Railway will make the required land available for the project, while the Central Warehousing Corporation will undertake the construction of the modern cold storage facility and provide the necessary investment.

The partnership is aimed at combining railway infrastructure with specialised warehousing facilities to strengthen the transportation and storage network for perishable commodities originating in the Konkan region.



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In Short

India Rejects UN Description of Dawood Ibrahim's Gang

India has objected to the United Nations describing Dawood Ibrahim's criminal organisation, D-Company, as "India-based." India's representative, Raghoo Puri, raised the objection during a meeting of the UN General Assembly's Third Committee. The intervention reflects India's concern over how the international organisation characterises the network and its links to cross-border crime.

Donald Tusk to Meet PM Modi, Defence Cooperation on Agenda

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk is scheduled to meet Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the two countries explore opportunities to strengthen bilateral relations. Poland's defence industry is looking at potential partnerships with India, opening possibilities for cooperation in defence manufacturing and technology. The discussions come amid India's efforts to expand domestic defence production and diversify international partnerships.

IndiaAI Announces Fellowship Support for Students

IndiaAI has announced fellowship support for undergraduate and postgraduate students as part of efforts to strengthen artificial intelligence education and research in the country. According to reports, eligible undergraduate students may receive support of up to ₹1 lakh, while postgraduate students may receive up to ₹2 lakh. Applications are open until November 30, 2026.

From Taloja to the Nation: RIFAH Gives Kharghar-Taloja Businesses a Platform to Connect and Grow



 # RIFAH Navi Mumbai Chapter Pre-Launch Event held in the Kharghar-Taloja Region

 # 60+ business owners from six cities come together for the chapter's Pre-Launch Networking Meet

Taloja : On a Tuesday afternoon in Taloja, a library became a marketplace of ideas. More than 60 business owners and professionals from Navi Mumbai, Mumbai, Pune, Thane, Panvel and Vasai gathered at Darul Uloom Islamia Arabia for the Pre-Launch Networking Meet of the RIFAH Navi Mumbai Chapter, with one shared purpose: to build stronger businesses by building stronger connections.

The three-hour meet, held from 2:30 PM to 5:30 PM on 20 October, began on a note of faith and reflection with the recitation of the Holy Quran with translation by Ayan Mubarak Khan, a student leaning Hifz at the venue sponsor Darul Uloom Islamia Arabia. Chapter President Mubarak Khan then welcomed the gathering and set the tone for the afternoon.

Mufti Danish of ILANNOOR Foundation addressed the question of why the community needs good businessmen, reminding the room that enterprise is not only about profit but also about responsibility, service and uplifting society. State President Sahil Shaikh followed with an overview of what RIFAH does, introducing the six core services the chamber offers to its members.

Then came the heart of the meet: the Ask & Give round. One by one, every participant stood up, introduced their business, and said two things plainly: what they need, and what they can offer. The round produced 46 entries, 46 openings for a new partnership, a new customer or a new solution. It was networking at its most direct and most generous.

Vice President (Maharashtra) Dr. Awab Habib Fakih then spoke on the power of networking, urging entrepreneurs to see every conversation as a potential opportunity. The sponsor session followed, with Akhtar Khan presenting Villazio, Irfan Shaikh presenting NexGen 360, and Mubarak Khan, a sponsor himself, presenting the company profile of Muhandiz.

A room full of first-timers

Perhaps the most encouraging number of the day: of the 46 participants registered on the RIFAH event app, 32 were guests, entrepreneurs meeting RIFAH for the first time, alongside 14 existing members. By city, 27 came from Navi Mumbai (including Kharghar), 12 from Mumbai, two each from Pune, Thane and Panvel, and one from Vasai.

The sectors in the room were as diverse as the region itself: IT and software, real estate and construction, training and education, shipping and trading, e-commerce, and electrical and engineering services.

Opportunity beyond the city

For the businesses of Kharghar-Taloja and Navi Mumbai, RIFAH offers a valuable opportunity to connect with one another locally and to step beyond the local market to reach fellow entrepreneurs across the country. Through the chamber's network, business owners can connect, collaborate and grow, finding new partners, customers and ideas wherever they are. Entrepreneurs and professionals from the region are warmly encouraged to join RIFAH and be part of this growing community.

The meet closed with a vote of thanks from the Chapter President and team to Hafiz Ayan Mubarak, Mufti Danish and ILANNOOR Foundation, sponsors Villazio, NexGen 360 and Muhandiz, Darul Uloom Islamia Arabia for hosting, and every participant, team member and volunteer who made the afternoon possible.The journey continues

The official launch of the Navi Mumbai Chapter will be announced shortly. Meanwhile, the RIFAH network moves to Mumbai for the 100 Cr Club Business Meet on Saturday, 31 October 2026, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM at Kohinoor Elite, Kirol Road, Kurla West. Register at rifah.org/events/100cr-business-club-meet-mumbai.

To join RIFAH or know more about the Navi Mumbai Chapter, contact:

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US Wants India To Expand Venezuela Oil Ties; GTRI Advises Seeking Clear Commercial Terms

New Delhi: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has urged Indian refiners to process more Venezuelan crude and explore oil production there. The move comes as Washington presses India to reduce Russian oil imports, even as the US seeks Russian diesel supplies. A Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) report cautions that India must assess supply reliability, investment risks, pricing and commercial returns before making fresh commitments. Experts say Venezuelan crude could benefit India if it suits its refineries.



According to GTRI, India is already increasing oil purchases from Venezuela and the US, while cutting imports from Russia. The report also says New Delhi must assess three separate decisions before accepting Washington's proposal, of importing more Venezuelan crude, investing in Venezuela's damaged oil infrastructure and reducing reliance on Russian supplies.

Each has different commercial and strategic implications. Rubio on October 20 said in Mumbai that he would encourage Indian refiners, particularly Reliance Industries, to refine more Venezuelan crude and explore oil production in Venezuela to help India diversify its oil supplies.

Data suggest that India's crude imports from Venezuela surged from US$ 255 million in FY2026, to US$ 3.6 billion in just five months, from April to August, 2026. Purchases from the US also increased, from US$ 405 million in July 2026, to US$ 790 million in August. Russia remained India's largest crude supplier, but purchases fell by about 25 per cent, from US$ 7.3 billion in July 2026 to US$ 5.4 billion in August. As a result, Russia's share of India's total crude imports dropped from a peak of 51 per cent in July to 45 per cent in August.

Risks Of Venezuelan Oil

The report further says that with diversification already underway, Rubio's proposal raises a basic question: What additional commitments does Washington want, and what would Indian refiners gain? Reliance's dominance in India's Venezuelan crude purchases explains Washington's focus on the company.

SBI Investigates Possible Data Leak Affecting 3, 897 Customers

Mumbai : The State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest public sector bank, has launched an investigation into the possible leak of personal information belonging to 3, 897 customers on the dark web, following alerts from its threat intelligence service provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).



Karachi's Non-Gujaratis Join Garba Celebrations During Navratri and Weddings

KARACHI: Garba, the traditional Gujarati folk dance associated with Navratri, has become a popular cultural celebration in Karachi, Pakistan, where both Gujarati-speaking communities and people from other backgrounds participate enthusiastically.

In Karachi's Narayanpura, Ranchhor Lane and Keamari neighbourhoods, garba has become a regular feature of the festive calendar. Hindu families organise celebrations throughout Navratri, while Gujarati Muslim communities participate in the dance during weddings and social gatherings.

For some participants, garba is an expression of devotion, while for others, it is a way to preserve their Gujarati cultural heritage across the border. A new initiative is also seeking to bring people from different religions and backgrounds together on the same dance floor.



"There is no difference between garba in Pakistan and garba in India," said Ramesh Mana, 84, a social activist and columnist who has observed the celebrations for decades.

Traditional Gujarati songs such as "Pankhida re udi jaajo" continue to find enthusiastic audiences in Karachi. Popular tracks, including "Umbre ubhi sambhlu re bol," Bollywood favourites such as "Dholi taro dhol baaje," and "Chogada tara" draw participants of different ages onto the dance floor.

The Shree Ratneshwar Mahadev Temple and Swaminarayan Temple are among Karachi's prominent venues for garba celebrations. Like events in Gujarat, the festivities range from neighbourhood gatherings to larger organised programmes featuring traditional attire, music and coordinated dance steps.

Amarshi Bhatti, 46, who works in Karachi's health department, said security arrangements remain essential for such events. Organisers often arrange security personnel, including bouncers. However, he noted that garba celebrations in Karachi have rarely resulted in clashes or tensions.

Hyder Khoja, who leads a movement to preserve the Gujarati language in Karachi, said garba has become more visible over the past decade. Participation has increased, and people from non-Gujarati communities are also showing growing interest in the traditional dance.The celebrations highlight how cultural traditions can transcend religious and social boundaries, bringing communities together through music, dance and a shared Gujarati heritage.

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In Short

India–US Trade Deal Nears Completion

US President Donald Trump indicated that India and the United States are moving closer to reaching a trade agreement. The proposed deal could strengthen economic ties between the two countries and create opportunities for businesses, exporters and investors. Trade negotiations between the two nations have focused on market access, tariffs and expanding bilateral commerce. An agreement could benefit several sectors, depending on its final terms. However, the precise details and implementation timeline will depend on further negotiations and official announcements from both governments.

Amit Shah Sets Drug-Free India Target

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has set December 31, 2029, as the target for making India drug-free. The initiative aims to strengthen the fight against narcotics and reduce the harmful effects of drug abuse on society. The government's efforts are expected to focus on raising public awareness, improving coordination among law enforcement agencies and taking action against drug trafficking networks. Special attention may be given to protecting young people from addiction. Effective implementation will require cooperation among central and state agencies, educational institutions, communities and families.

Bengaluru Blast Under Investigation

Police are investigating a suspected improvised explosive device (IED) blast at a construction site in Bengaluru that reportedly injured two people. Investigators are examining the circumstances surrounding the explosion to determine its cause and establish whether any criminal activity was involved. The injured individuals are reported to have received attention following the incident. Authorities are expected to examine evidence from the site, question witnesses and assess any available surveillance footage.

Keralam Police Probe Lawrence Bishnoi Link In Ernakulam Synagogue Arson Case

Ernakulam: The Keralam Police are probing a possible link of Abin B Paul, the prime accused arrested in connection with the arson attack near the Kadavumbhagam synagogue in Ernakulam, to the notorious gangster Lawrence Bishnoi.



The accused Paul was arrested by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) from a rented house in Puthencruz after the fire incident outside the synagogue on October 12.MEDIA has learnt from sources that the accused is an active member of a Telegram group operating under the name 'Bishnoi'. In light of these findings, the police are actively investigating whether the Lawrence Bishnoi gang played any role behind the synagogue attack. Moreover, the Telegram chats have explicitly revealed that the accused executed these crimes based on the strict instructions of an unidentified individual referred to as 'Boss'.It is understood that the investigation team is currently verifying whether the accused was involved in similar offenses or faced disciplinary actions during his time as a BSc Interior Design student at Symbiosis International University in Pune.

Jantar Mantar Protest Case: CJP Leaders Released

New Delhi: The Delhi Police Crime Branch has summoned Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) activists Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka and Ajinkya Shinde for questioning in connection with the October 13 "trespassing" at Jantar Mantar after it was denotified as a designated protest site.



The CJP leaders have been asked to appear at the Crime Branch office in Rajouri Garden at noon on Thursday.

The summons came a day after a Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) court ordered Das and Ranka's release from judicial custody. The two leaders walked out of Tihar Jail on Wednesday night after spending around a week in custody.

Earlier this week, Delhi Police transferred the cases registered against the CJP leaders at Parliament Street police station to the Crime Branch for further investigation.

The cases relate to the October 13 protest against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, during which the protesters also raised slogans demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Police alleged that the CJP members entered Jantar Mantar, which had been denotified as a designated protest site, through private premises and violated conditions imposed to maintain peace. Police also accused the protesters of entering the area without permission, breaching barricades, and obstructing security personnel.

Subsequently, Das, Ranka and Shinde, along with 11 others, were detained. While Shinde was released on a bail bond, Das and Ranka remained in judicial custody.

During Wednesday's proceedings, SEM Ritu Raj directed Das and Ranka to furnish personal and surety bonds of Rs 50, 000 each until the inquiry concludes. They were also asked to appear on every hearing date and comply with the conditions specified in their bonds and written undertakings.

In their undertakings, the two leaders promised not to breach the peace or disturb public tranquillity.

Rahul Gandhi Targets BJP Over Epstein-Puri Photo

New Delhi: The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, launched a scathing attack on the BJP and the RSS on Wednesday, citing foreign policy, national security, and international revelations. Following recent revelations and political events, Gandhi linked the visit to Mumbai of Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State, and photographs released by the United States Department of Justice depicting Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with Jeffrey Epstein, a convicted sex offender.



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Indian National Among 2 Killed In Attack On Airport In Saudi Arabia's Dammam

New Delhi: An indian national was among the two killed in an attack targeting King Fahd International Airport in Dammam in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday evening, officials said.

The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, in a post on X, said that the Saudi authorities have informed it that one Indian national was among two people who unfortunately lost their



lives in the attack. It added that two other Indian nationals were among those injured.

"We are ascertaining further details and contacting the affected families. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and loved ones of the deceased, and we wish speedy recovery of the injured, " the post said.

According to an official statement released by Saudi's GACA earlier in the day, the injured, with severity ranging from minor to critical, have been taken to the hospital for medical care. In a statement posted on X, GACA said, "The General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) announces that King Fahd International Airport in Dammam was targeted by an attack on the evening of Wednesday, October 21, 2026, corresponding to 10 Jumada Al-Awwal 1448 AH."

7 Indians Arrested In Sri Lanka For Attempting To Smuggle Kendu Leaves

Colombo: Seven Indian nationals were arrested by the Sri Lankan Navy for attempting to smuggle 2, 400 kg of kendu leaves into the island nation, the Navy said on Thursday."The operation was mounted based on credible information received by the Western Naval Command. The interception was made after having spotted 2 suspicious Indian dhows that had entered island waters, along with 2 local dinghies located in the area, " the Sri Lanka Navy said in a statement.Seven Indian nationals



aboard the dhows and four Sri Lankan nationals on the dinghies were taken into custody on Wednesday off the coast of Udappuwa in Puttalam district during a surveillance operation, it said.A search of the boats led to the recovery of about 2, 400 kg of kendu leaves packed in 60 sacks, the Navy said. The suspects, seized boats and kendu leaves are to be handed over to the Customs Preventive Office in Colombo for further legal proceedings, the Navy said.Kendu leaves, used to make bidis (traditional hand-rolled cigarettes), are valued for their durability and are widely used as wrappers for tobacco. The leaves are smuggled into Sri Lanka to meet demand for cheaper bidis amid high prices of commercially manufactured cigarettes.

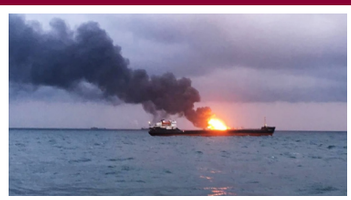
US Postal Service Releases Postage Stamp Featuring Diwali

Washington: The US Postal Service (USPS) has released a postage stamp commemorating the festival of Diwali, featuring an intricate rangoli pattern created by Sangita Bhutada, a Houston-based artist. India's Ambassador to the United States Vinay Mohan Kwatra, USPS Senior Vice President Shibani Gambhir and Bhutada unveiled the stamp at a function at the Indian embassy here on Wednesday evening.The USPS described rangoli as a vibrant floor pattern traditionally made from materials such as coloured rice powder, chalk and flower petals, and believed to bring good luck.

Oil Tanker With 21 Indian Seafarers Struck By Unknown Projectile In Hormuz; All Safe

New Delhi: The Kuwait-flagged oil product tanker M/T Al Dasma, carrying 21 Indian seafarers, was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. All crew members are safe, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said.

The incident occurred on Wednesday, October 21 (local time). The Union Minister said that the authorities are closely monitoring



the situation.

Taking to X, Sonowal said, "On Oct 21, Kuwait-flagged oil product tanker M/T AL DASMA, carrying 21 Indian seafarers, was struck by an unknown projectile while transiting the Strait of Hormuz. All 21 of our Indian crew members, along with the rest of the crew, are completely safe."

"We are continuously monitoring the situation and remain in close contact with the ship management company to ensure the ongoing security and wellbeing of our seafarers, " he added. The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) also tracked the strike at 11 nautical miles west of Bukha, Oman.



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India Shine at Asian Para Games

India delivered an impressive performance at the Asian Para Games 2026, collecting a total of 62 medals. The country's medal tally included 14 gold, 22 silver and 26 bronze medals. The achievement highlights the determination, dedication and sporting excellence of Indian para-athletes on the international stage. Their performances have brought recognition to the country and inspired aspiring athletes. India's success also underlines the growing strength of para-sports and the importance of supporting athletes with disabilities.

Sachin Khilari Wins Gold

Indian para-athlete Sachin Khilari achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the gold medal in the men's shot put F46 event at the Asian Para Games 2026. His outstanding performance highlighted his strength, dedication and consistency in international athletics. India also secured the silver and bronze medals in the same event, completing a clean sweep of the podium. The achievement reflects India's growing competitiveness in para-athletics and brings pride to the nation's sporting community.

Manchester United Suffer Heavy Defeat

Manchester United suffered a disappointing 4–1 defeat against Como in a reported Champions League encounter. The result raised questions about the team's defensive organisation, overall performance and ability to compete at the highest level. A defeat by such a margin can put pressure on players and coaching staff to improve their approach in upcoming matches.

PV Sindhu Wins Thriller

Indian badminton star PV Sindhu secured an exciting victory over Thailand's Supanida Katethong in a closely contested match. Sindhu won the encounter 21–14, 8–21, 23–21, displaying determination and composure under pressure. After losing the second game, the Indian shuttler fought back strongly to clinch the deciding game by a narrow margin.

Samson Sets Up India's Record Chase In First T20I Against New Zealand

Christchurch: Sanju Samson maintained his remarkable consistency this calendar year with a sublime 67 off 33 balls as India pulled off their highest chase in T20 cricket, overcoming a mid-innings stumble for a four-wicket win in the series-opener against New Zealand here on Thursday.

Put in to bat, Finn Allen (45 off 24) and Glenn Phillips (82 not out off 40) fired New Zealand to a steep 225/8, highlighting India's struggles with the ball.

However, Samson ensured a flying start for the visitors before a middle overs collapse made the game interesting.



Eventually, cameos from captain Shreyas Iyer (42) and Naman Dhir (42 not out off 15) helped India get over the line in a tense chase with two balls to spare.

The second T20 of the five-match series will also be played at the Hagley Oval on Saturday. The game looked as good as done with India racing to 94 for one in the powerplay. However, the visiting team faltered against the home spin duo of Mitchell Santner and Michael Bracewell in the middle overs, losing three wickets for seven runs to spice up the contest.From 93 for no loss, India slipped to 122 for four in the 11th over. The long boundaries here also came into play as the likes of Ishan Kishan and Tilak Varma perished trying to clear the ropes. The middle order failed to capitalise on the electric start provided by Samson, who collected eight boundaries and four sixes in his brilliant effort. It was Samson's eighth fifty-plus sore in 26 innings this year, highlighting his consistent run in a high risk format.

Temba Bavuma Breaks Rohit Sharma's Record With Century In Gqeberha

Hyderabad: After winning the first Test of the three-match series against South Africa, Australia were also dominating the proceedings in the second Test as well. They had reduced the opposition to 110/6, but Proteas captain Temba Bavuma wasn't troubled by the situation. Instead, he turned the tables with a knock of 179 runs laced with 18 boundaries, and South Africa declared the innings on 425/9.

En route to his 179, South Africa skipper Bavuma broke multiple records, but the biggest of them was surpassing former India skipper Rohit Sharma in the World Test Championship (WTC) books. He overtook Rohit to become the oldest captain to score a century against Australia in the WTC.

The South African became the oldest batter to score a hundred against Australia in the WTC with a knock of 179 runs in the second Test. At the start of the match, Bavuma was 36 years and 154 days. Previously, Rohit had owned the record when he smashed



a hundred against Australia in Nagpur in 2023 at the age of 35 years and 285 days.Also, Bavuma is the third-oldest captain to score a century in the WTC after Rohit Sharma (36 years, 312 days) and Steve Smith (36 years, 216 days). Bavuma became the first South African skipper to smash a Test hundred at St George's Park in Gqeberha. He overtook the previous highest score of 95 by Kepler Wessels in 1992 against India.Also, he is the third captain overall to rack up a Test hundred at St George's Park in Gqeberha. Only Lindsay Hassett of Australia and George Mann of England had scored a Test hundred in Gqeberha. Hassett scored 167 runs against South Africa in 1950 while Mann scored an unbeaten 136 in 1949 against South Africa.

Former India Teammates To Reunite At Delhi Capitals After Amit Mishra Joins As Spin Bowling Coach

Hyderabad: Some franchises are restructuring their tactics and plans ahead of the auction for IPL 2027, which is likely to be held in December. Delhi Capitals is one of such franchises, and they are rebuilding their coaching staff.

