

sed during a recent meeting

# Onion rates touch ₹100/kg in city, traders fear further rise

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**Noida:** Onion prices have spiked after Navratri due to a demand-supply gap. Retail shops are selling onions for Rs 80-100 per kg from Rs 40-50/kg two to three days ago.

Retail sellers blamed the crisis on higher prices at the mandis and transportation costs, while the mandis reported a shortage in supply from states like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Every year, the prices of onions usually increase in October and November as the Rabi crop stock falls and the Kharif crops are about to arrive in the city.

**TOI** found Laxman Poddar, a vegetable seller, selling onions at Rs 80 per kg at Indira Market in Sector 27.

"Onion from Ghazipur mandi is currently costing us Rs 60/kg. We are selling that onion at Rs 80/kg. We do not know the exact reason, but the demand for onions was low during Navratri and spiked soon after, which may be leading to this crisis," he said.

Another man, selling onions at Rs 100 per kg near Podar, said, "There is a gap in demand and supply due to which the prices have increased. Three days ago, onions were going for Rs 50 per kg."

Deepak Kumar, a vegetab-



Retailers blamed high transport cost for the rise in onion prices

## VEGETABLE SELLER

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le seller in Sector 12/22 market, said that in his store, he has priced the onions at Rs 80/kg. "I feel the prices will further increase due to the festive season and a supply shortage," he said.

Sanjay Kumar, Noida Phool mandi secretary, reported a shortage in onion supply.

"Noida gets onions from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. However, there is a

shortage, reflected in the prices at retail shops. We hope the prices stabilise in the next 10-15 days," he said.

Vijeta Pandey, a resident of Greater Noida West, said onion is an essential ingredient in kitchens.

"We just got relief from bleeding tomato prices, and now, onion prices are soaring. It is the festive season, so there is more cooking in houses. Our kitchen budgets and bills are soaring," she said on Monday.

An official with the National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) assured that they would sell onions from NCCF vans at subsidised rates of Rs 25/kg from Tuesday.

The prices of other vegetables are the same as they were last week.

# Mob storms Russian airport to 'catch' Jewish flyers from Israel

## 20 Injured; 60 Held; Moscow Blames Kyiv



Videos from the airport at Makhachkala, the capital of predominantly Muslim Dagestan region, showed the rioters waving Palestinian flags, breaking down glass doors and running through the airport on Sunday

Moscow on Monday accused Ukraine of staging a "provocation" after hundreds of rioters in Russia's predominantly Muslim Dagestan region stormed an airport to "catch" Jewish passengers on board a flight from Tel Aviv.

Kyiv said it had nothing to do with the unrest, which left at least 20 people injured.

Videos obtained by Reuters from the airport at Makhachkala, showed the rioters, mostly young men, waving Palestinian flags, breaking down glass doors and running through the airport on Sunday shouting "Allahu Akbar" or "God is Greatest". One group was seen trying to overturn a police patrol truck, while another video showed rioters on the tarmac surrounding a Red Wings aircraft which had arrived from Tel Aviv. One placard brandished by rioters in an unverified social media post said: "There is no place for child killers in Dagestan." Another said: "We are against Jewish refugees."

The mob converged on the airport after a message on the Telegram messaging app urged Dagestanis to meet the "uninvited guests" in "adult fashion" and to get the plane and its passengers to turn aro-

## Cornell Jewish Center under guard after online threats to Jewish students

Campus police at Cornell University, in Ithaca, New York, were guarding the university's Center for Jewish Living on Sunday after online posts threatened violence against Jewish students, according to a statement by Cornell President Martha Pollack. The posts, which appeared on an online discussion forum about fraternities, included threats to shoot Jewish students and encouragement to others to kill them. They also called for the Jewish center to be torn down. "We will not tolerate antisemitism at Cornell," said Pollack. "Threats of violence are absolutely intolerable, and we will work to ensure that the person or people who posted them are punished to the full extent of the law." NYT

und and fly somewhere else.

The message, posted on the "Utro Dagestan" Telegram channel, did not use the word "Jew" but referred to the plane's passengers as being "unclean." "We need to wait for them on the street outside the airport and catch them before they go their separate ways," the message said. Police said they had arrested 60 people in connection with the unrest and identified 150 of the most active participants. The

passengers on the plane were safe, security forces said. Makhachkala airport resumed normal operations on Monday, Russia's aviation authority said, flights from Israel would temporarily be redirected to other cities in Russia. President Vladimir Putin will hold a meeting on Monday to discuss how the West is trying to use the crisis in the West Asia to divide Russian society, said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov. REUTERS

# Female Israeli soldier freed in Gaza during ground op, says army

An Israeli soldier was freed from Hamas captivity in the Gaza Strip during the military's ground operation, the military and Shin Bet intelligence agency said on Monday. The military said the soldier, Ori Megidish, had been kidnapped by Hamas on October 7. It said she had since undergone medical checks and was "doing well" and has met with her family. It did not elaborate on the circumstances of her release.

Energy minister Israel Katz, a member of Israel's security cabinet, said on X: "I want to send strength and congratulate the soldiers and commanders of the IDF (Israel Defense Forces) and Shin Bet for the bold operation."

PM Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed her home in a brief statement, saying "our forces" had freed her from Hamas. He said the "achievement" by Israel's security forces "illustrates our commitment to free all the hostages." Hamas and other militant groups are believed to be holding some 240 captives, including men, women and kids. Netanyahu has faced mounting pressure to secure their release. Hamas, which has released four hostages, has said it would let the others go in return for thousands of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, including many implicated in deadly attacks on Israelis. AGENCIES



Soldier Ori Megidish (centre) with her relatives in an undated pic

## Hamas releases clip of 3 women hostages to send msg to Bibi

Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu condemned as "cruel psychological propaganda" a video released on Monday by Hamas that shows three of the hostages seized by the Islamist movement on October 7. The video shows three women — identified by Netanyahu as Yelena Trupanob, Danielle Aloni and Rimon Kirsht — sitting side by side against a bare wall, with Aloni addressing an angry message to the PM. Accusing Netanyahu of failing to protect Israeli citizens during the deadly Hamas attack and failing to get them back home, she called for an agreement to secure their release in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. "You were supposed to free all of us," she said. In a statement, Netanyahu repeated a pledge to make every effort to bring the hostages home. REUTERS

# 'Indian women have been working for over 70 hrs per week for decades'

NEW DELHI, Oct 30 (IANS)

INFOSYS founder Narayana Murthy's advice to youngsters in India, urging them to work 70 hours a week to boost the country's overall productivity, has sparked a heated debate on social media.

While some people support Murthy's view, arguing that India needs to improve its work culture in order to compete with other countries, others have criticised the same.

MD and CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund, Radhika Gupta, has now weighed in on the issue, saying that many Indian

women have been working for more than 70 hours a week to build India and the next generation. "Between offices and homes, many Indian women have been working many more than seventy-hour weeks to build India (through our work) and the next generation of Indians (our children). For years and decades. With a smile, and without a demand for overtime," Gupta wrote on X (formerly Twitter) on Sunday.

"Funnily, no one has debated about us on Twitter," she added. Gupta's post sparked a flurry of reactions on social media.

**SUDHA MURTY DEFENDS HUSBAND:** DEFENDING Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy's recent comment that Indian youth should work for 70 hours a week to boost the country's overall productivity, wife Sudha Murty has now come up saying, "he has worked 80 to 90 hours a week".

Speaking to News18, Sudha Murty, the author and head of Infosys Foundation, said that "he has worked 80 to 90 hours a week, so, he doesn't know what less than that is. He believes in real hard work and he lived like that. Hence, he has told what he felt".

## China, Russia take aim at US at Beijing forum

**Beijing:** Chinese and Russian military chiefs targeted the US for criticism at a security forum in Beijing on Monday, even as China's second most senior military commander vowed to boost ties with Washington.

The lack of regular communications between the US and Chinese militaries has been a worry for Washington as tensions rise over various issues and given the risks of an accidental clash in the South China Sea or near Taiwan. Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu warned the West that its involvement in the Ukraine war created grave danger.

Zhang Youxia, vice chairman, under President Xi, of China's central military commission, delivered veiled criticism of the US and its allies, accusing "some countries" of trying to undermine China's government. He stressed for improving military ties with US. REUTERS

# Modi, Hasina to open cross-border rail link tomorrow

**Agartala:** PM Narendra Modi and his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina will virtually inaugurate on Wednesday a key cross-border railway project that officials said could cut the Kolkata-Agartala travel time from 31 hours to 10.

“Tripura CM Manik Saha will also attend the programme virtually from here at 11.30 am,” state transport secretary UK Chakma said Monday. TNN

# Deportation of Af refugees in line with law: Pak to UN

Omer Farooq Khan | TNN

**Islamabad:** Pakistan has rejected UN agencies' warnings against expelling Afghan refugees and other illegal immigrants, saying the move was compliant with international norms and principles.

Foreign office spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch reiterated that the repatriation plan applies to "all illegal foreigners, irrespective of nationality and country of origin". "The decision is in exercise of Pakistan's sovereign domestic laws," Baloch said. The deadline for voluntary exits of such people is October 31.

UN agencies had warned that the expulsion of over a million "undocumented" Afghans risked triggering a "human rights catastrophe".

According to UNHCR, about 1.7 million Afghan refugees are deemed to be in Pakistan illegally. UNHCR and the International Organisation for Migration report nearly 60,000 Afghans have returned home since October 3 when Pakistan announced its deportation deadline.