

Delhi Assembly polls: Can Kejriwal bathe in Yamuna, asks UP CM Yogi Adityanath

Yogi further criticised the AAP for creating "false narratives" and focusing more on spreading lies than addressing the public's needs.



7,500 crore for the Maha Kumbh, generating over Rs 2 lakh crore for the state's economy and creating thousands of jobs.

New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath took aim at Arvind Kejriwal and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) during his first public address in the Delhi Assembly election campaign on Thursday.

the Sangam in Prayagraj. Can Arvind Kejriwal and his team bathe in the Yamuna? The person who turned Yamuna into a dirty drain should not be forgiven by the people.

drinking water crisis. The people of Mathura and Vrindavan are also suffering due to Kejriwal's mismanagement.

Ajit Pawar Attends Meet, Rearranges Seating For 'Distance' From Sharad Pawar

Pune. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar on Thursday attended the annual general body meeting of Vasantdada Sugar Institute (VSI) for the first time since the NCP split in 2023 but sat at an arm's length from NCP (SP) chief and the institute's chairperson Sharad Pawar.



NCP MLA Dilip Walse Patil. Asked about his absence from the annual general body meetings of VSI over the past two years, Ajit Pawar attributed it to his work commitments, adding in a lighter vein that he was "busy thinking about how to get the maximum number of my members elected".

cooperation, and energy departments, all of which are closely associated with the sugar sector, he pointed out. NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar said "the two captains coming together for a discussion must be welcomed".

AAP vs BJP Over Punjab Cops' Security Cover For Arvind Kejriwal

The Delhi Assembly election will be held on February 5 and results for the city's 70 seats will be announced three days later - on February 8.

New Delhi. The Aam Aadmi Party and the Bharatiya Janata Party went head-to-head Friday with the Delhi Assembly election less than two weeks away. The clash, though, wasn't over public infrastructure, education, health services, or cost of living in the national capital; it was over the Punjab Police withdrawing additional security cover for AAP boss Arvind Kejriwal.



officers, including a pilot, escort teams, an inner ring of guards, and search-and-frisk units. In addition, 15 uniformed personnel from the Central Armed Police Forces, or the CAPF, are deployed for his protection. The Punjab Police's escort was over and above this security detail.

parties. The BJP has accused the AAP of "making an issue out of nothing" and has asked, "Are Delhi cops incapable of providing security?" The AAP, meanwhile, has accused the BJP - which controls the Union Home Ministry, to which office the Delhi Police answer - of having "forcibly removed" Arvind Kejriwal's security.

Prove I had non-veg on sacred hill or quit, Muslim League MP dares Annamalai

IUML MP from Ramanathapuram Navas Kani challenged Tamil Nadu BJP chief K Annamalai to prove allegations of consuming non-vegetarian food at Thiruparankundram Murugan temple or resign.

New Delhi. An Indian Union Muslim League MP, accused of eating non-vegetarian food atop a hill housing the famous Thiruparankundram Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu's Madurai district, dared the state BJP chief K Annamalai to prove the charge or resign.



"He (Annamalai) made false accusations. He said that I went to Thiruparankundram temple and ate biryani. I never went to the hill or ate non-vegetarian (food)," Navas Kani, the MP from Ramanathapuram said. The IUML MP asserted that he was being falsely accused.

Massive blast at ordnance factory in Maharashtra's Bhandara, 6 critical

As a result of the blast, a roof collapsed with 12 people stuck inside. While two have been rescued, ten people are still stuck inside, according to district officials.

Mumbai. A powerful explosion was reported at an ordnance factory in Maharashtra today. According to initial reports, at least 6 people have been critically injured.



The blast took place at 10 am in Maharashtra's Bhandara district. According to initial reports, the blast took place at the factory's RK Branch section. As a result of the blast, a roof collapsed with 12 people stuck inside. While two have been rescued, ten people are still stuck inside, according to district officials.

help of JCB," a district official told news agency. Several ambulances and firefighters have been rushed to the site. Fire department personnel, police officials, the land revenue officer, and other administrative officials reached the spot of the blast. The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) has also been deployed. Reacting to the ordnance factory blast, Maharashtra Congress chief Nana Patole said, "This is the failure of the Modi government."

Gujarat private school gets bomb threat via mail, holiday declared

A private school in Vadodara on Friday received an email at 4 am threatening to blow up the campus, police said.



Vadodara. A private school in Vadodara on Friday received an email at 4 am threatening to blow up the campus, police said. After receiving the bomb threat, school authorities immediately informed the parents and declared a holiday for students and staff to ensure their safety.

N Biren Singh slams Congress for criticising his handling of Manipur situation

Imphal. Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Thursday slammed the Congress for its criticism of his government's handling of the present crisis in Manipur, and for also raising its fingers at Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Singh accused the Congress of indulging in unnecessary politics and said the party failed to prioritise Manipur's interests when it was in power in the state.

Speaking at a media briefing at the Chief Minister's Secretariat on Thursday, he questioned the sincerity of the opposition. "We want a concrete resolution to the ongoing conflict. This is not a mere political issue. It's a chronic problem created by Congress. They are the ones who caused these issues and are now blaming us. Not just



God, even people won't forgive them," Singh claimed. Commenting on remarks made by Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, the Chief Minister Singh noted that not everyone is fully aware of the complexities of the state's situation. He emphasised that those closely dealing with the issue, such as Union Home Minister Amit Shah, understand the realities on the ground. N Biren Singh described Rijiju's comments as his personal opinion and a general observation. Last week, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju said the problem in Manipur was not an uprising against the BJP-led centre but ethnic clashes between two dominant groups - Meiteis and Kukis.

NEWS BOX

BMRC fare hike likely by February 1

BENGALURU. Though the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRC) continues to treat the impending fare hike as a highly confidential matter, state government sources have confirmed that the fare hike is set to happen from February 1 and it would be 41 per cent over the present fare. Metro token fare ranges between Rs 10 and 60 now with a 5 per cent discount on Metro cards. A reliable source told, "The committee formed to revise the prices has issued a Fare Determination Order which proposed a 41 per cent hike. Under the Metro Railways (Operation and Maintenance) Act 2002, the order issued by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC) is binding on the specific Metro Rail. Hence, the BMRC Board has given its nod for the move.

A nod from the chairman of the Board Srinivas Katikithala, who is the Secretary of the Urban Development Affairs is equivalent to getting a nod from the Centre. The hike cannot be stopped now by anyone," he said. Apart from the 5 per cent discount during travel during off-peak hours, the usage of the National Common Mobility Card will also be given a 5 per cent discount, similar to that of Metro smart cards, he added. BMRC was supposed to hold a press briefing but chose to postpone it. It will be held next week before the hike comes into effect, said a Metro official.

Another official said that one option that BMRC could consider would be to emulate the Delhi Metro. "In 2017, its minimum fare was hiked by Rs 2 and the maximum fare was doubled from Rs 30 to 60. It implemented the fare hike in two phases.

Pudukkottai farmer, female drone pilot invited to President Murmu's tea party in Delhi on Republic Day

TIRUCHY. Two individuals, including a farmer from Pudukkottai district, have been invited to attend a tea party hosted by President Droupadi Murmu in Delhi on January 26 to mark Republic Day. Ponnaiya (41), the president of the Parambur Big Tank Water User Association, and M Amutha (47), a female drone pilot, have been recognised for their exceptional contributions to agriculture and water management. Parambur village, located in the Annavasal block of Pudukkottai district, is home to the Parambur Big Tank Water User Association. Established in 1978, the association comprises 281 farmers who have been efficiently utilising rainwater to irrigate 268 acres of farmland.

The association also facilitates the sale of produce through a government-direct paddy procurement centre without any commission, ensuring transparency and fair trade for its members. In a bid to ensure proper water management, the association uses CCTV cameras to monitor water levels in the Parambur Big Tank. Their efforts were nationally recognised in 2023 when the central government nominated them for a national award for water management. In October 2024, Ponnaiya received the award from President Droupadi Murmu. Now, as an extension of this recognition, the association has been invited to the prestigious tea party. Speaking about this honour, Ponnaiya expressed, "It is a moment of great pride for all of us at the association to receive such recognition at the national level." Similarly, M Amutha from Manappatti in Ponnamaravathi block has been making strides in modern farming techniques. As the first female drone pilot in the region, she received a drone free of charge from IFFCO through her Women's Self-Help Group. She has been using the drone to enhance her farming practices, setting an example for others.

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Hyundai Creta Electric: Old charm, new charge

KOCHI. With a multitude of electric vehicle (EV) models unveiled at the Bharat Mobility Expo 2025, it's evident that India is on the brink of an EV revolution. So far, brands like Tata Motors, Mahindra, MG Motor India, and BYD have dominated the EV landscape, while automotive giants such as Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai have been notably absent from the mass EV market. However, this is about to change. Now, Hyundai has unveiled the electric version of its mid-size SUV king, the Creta, and Maruti Suzuki is gearing up to launch the e-Vitara. Last week, I got to check out the Creta Electric in Chennai, ahead of its official debut at the auto expo 2025. Here are my first impressions. First and foremost, the Creta Electric retains the quintessential DNA of its petrol/diesel predecessor. Hyundai has preserved everything that makes the Creta a beloved mid-size SUV — its iconic shape, size, spacious cabin, and performance. Fans of the traditional Creta will find themselves naturally drawn to this electrified avatar. A panoramic sunroof and light-coloured upholstery brighten the interior. Storage is abundant in the centre console and door panels. Wireless charging and multiple ports enhance convenience. Boot space is a generous 431 litres, complemented by a spare tyre tucked underneath.

The variant I tested featured the 51.4 kWh battery. Using Nickel-Manganese-Cobalt (NMC) cells, the battery offers higher energy density compared to the more common



Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries. Manufactured at Hyundai's Chennai plant, the battery comes with an impressive 8-year/160,000 km warranty. The top-end model I tested offers a comprehensive suite of features with all the bells and whistles, making it an excellent choice for those seeking a premium electric SUV. Overall, with its blend of practicality, performance, and styling, the Creta Electric is set to make waves in the EV market. The all-new Kia Syros was unveiled in Kerala at the Incheon Kia Showroom in Kochi on Thursday. Designed for tech enthusiasts and urban drivers, the new model boasts an array of advanced features. The Syros features a dual-pane panoramic sunroof and Level 2 ADAS with 16-autonomous safety features. Key interior highlights include a 76.2 cm (30") trinity panoramic display panel, a wireless

charger, a digital instrument cluster, and 64-colour ambient mood lighting.

Sliding, reclining, and ventilated rear seats. In terms of safety, the Syros is equipped with six airbags, hill-start assist, front and rear parking sensors, lane-keeping assist, and a 360-degree camera with a blind-view monitor. Additionally, the Syros introduces over-the-air software updates — a segment first — allowing customers to receive the latest software and features automatically, without the need to visit a dealership. Price will be

announced on February 3. The recently concluded Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 in New Delhi was a landmark event, attracting nearly 10 lakh visitors and cementing its position as the world's largest automotive exhibition. Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the expo showcased a plethora of vehicles, mobility solutions, and cutting-edge technologies. Here are some of the key highlights: The much-awaited e-Vitara debuted with two battery options (49 kWh and 61 kWh), offering a range of over 500km. This 'Emotional Versatile Cruiser' combines hi-tech features with bold SUV styling. JSW MG Motor India's newly launched luxury brand channel, MG Select, showcased the premium offerings MG Cyberster (featuring India's first-ever 'Electric Scissor Doors') and the first-ever electric MPV MG M9.

Telangana to auction open plots to fund Old City Metro-land acquisition

HYDERABAD. The state government will raise Rs 600 crore by auctioning open plots in the Uppal Bhagayat Layout to fund land acquisition for the 7.5 km Old City Metro corridor, from Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) to Chandrayangutta. For 1,100 properties, the total cost of land acquisition is estimated at Rs 1,000 crore, which includes Rs 525 crore for land acquisition — Rs 150 crore for rehabilitation and resettlement and Rs 325 crore for structural compensation. In addition to the land acquisition costs, another Rs 175 crore will be required for other expenses such as demolition of structures (Rs 40 crore), utility shifting (Rs 60 crore) and road widening (Rs 75 crore). The state government has allocated Rs 500 crore

in the Budget for the Old City Metro Rail project. The remaining funds will be generated through the auction of open plots in Uppal Bhagayat by the Hyderabad Metropolitan



Development Authority (HMDA). The auction is expected to commence soon. Sources said the Old City Elevated Metro Corridor, initially

planned as part of the first phase, faced numerous delays due to alignment disputes and challenges in acquiring properties. The 7.5 km extension will connect Shalibanda, Falaknuma and Chandrayangutta. Road widening works for the extension began this week, including the demolition of structures, primarily shops, in Moghalpura and Kotla Ali Jah on Tuesday. Land compensation was initially set at Rs 60,000 per square yard but increased to Rs 81,000 per square yard following a request from Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi. To preserve over 100 religious, heritage and other sensitive structures along the proposed route, the HMRL has devised engineering solutions to avoid any impact on these structures.

Andhra Government sanction Rs 275 crore for roads to connect tribal areas

VIJAYAWADA. The State government has granted administrative sanction for the construction of 76 road works, benefiting 90 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) habitations, with an estimated cost of Rs 275.07 crore. Principal Secretary (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Shashi Bhushan Kumar issued the relevant orders on Thursday. Of the total Rs 275.07 crore, the Central government's contribution is Rs 163.39 crore, while the State government will extend the remaining Rs 111.68 crore under PMJANMAN (Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan) Batch-1 for the year 2024-25. Approval has also been granted for an additional Rs 18.76 crore for maintenance during the five-year Defect Liability Period (DLP), which begins after the completion of work, subject to adherence to scheme guidelines and



Department Codes. Of the 76 roads, 71 will be constructed in Alluri Sitarama Raju district, two in Eluru, and the remaining three in Kakinada district.

Four of 16 dead Naxals in Odisha, Chhattisgarh were top rank, forces alert over retaliation

Out of the 16 Maoists, security forces confirmed the identities of at least seven so far.

BHUBANESWAR. As police forces of both Odisha and Chhattisgarh remain vigilant against possible retaliatory attacks by the banned CPI (Maoist) following the Gariaband encounter, identification of the 16 neutralised Naxals reveal that four of them were top cadres. Out of the 16 Maoists, security forces confirmed the identities of at least seven so far.

They include central committee member Chalpathi who was carrying a bounty of Rs 1 crore, a divisional committee member and two area committee members. Sources in the State Police Headquarters said it is not the numbers of the red ultras killed but the quality of the top leaders who were eliminated in the operation which is a setback for the outlawed outfit.

As it is a major blow to the Naxals, Odisha and Chhattisgarh police forces are wary the red ultras may be desperate to



launch a counter-attack as soon as they get an opportunity. To discuss their further strategy, senior officers of Odisha and Chhattisgarh police held detailed discussions on Thursday, first time after the operation was launched on January 19 night in neighbouring state's Kularighat reserve forest area in Gariaband district, which is only five km away from Nuapada border.

During the discussions, it was decided to remain on alert to thwart any counter-attack or infiltration bid by the Naxals. At the same time, operations will be intensified in the coming days along the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border, said police sources. "With Centre's determination

to end Naxalism by early 2026 and the menace being mostly wiped out from Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand, it is important Odisha and Chhattisgarh police do not lower their guards and simultaneously step up the anti-Naxal operations," said a senior police officer. As part of their strategy, senior officers started visiting company operating bases (COBs) of the Central Reserve Police Force and Border Security Force in Nuapada along the bordering areas of Chhattisgarh.

Sources said the security personnel are being briefed to carry out vigorous area domination exercises and sanitise the forested regions thoroughly.

People of eight panchayats of Umerkote in Odisha join hands, seek new block status

A memorandum was submitted to the collector for establishment of a new block.

UMERKOTE. The demand for a new block comprising eight panchayats under Umerkote block in Nabarangpur district is gaining momentum. On Thursday, a meeting of 500 representatives was held at

Podagarh village where block chairperson Sushila Majhi and vice chairperson Shyamal Sarkar were present. Later, a memorandum was submitted to the collector for establishment of a new block. The villagers said the state government should open a new block office in Podagarh for the development of these panchayats. Their demand stems from the backwardness of the cluster villages where basic amenities of health, education, drinking water, and transportation have remained absent. There are 26 panchayats in the Umerkote block and natives of Bhandariguda, Sinsari, Mundiguda, Rajpur, Neura, Benara, Karagaon and Torenaga



panchayats have rallied together seeking their areas be clustered and carved out of Umerkote as a new block. The total population of these eight panchayats stands at 75,000. Currently, the block headquarters is about 40 kilometers from these

panchayats and majority of the residents belong to poor, tribal and oppressed communities. The villagers who took part in the meeting said basic services are absent, while irrigation has become a dream for the people of the eight panchayats. For higher education, students have to go to its nearby towns like Dhodra, Umerkote, Jhariaon and Dabugaon. They said, due to lack of educational institutions, more than half of the students drop out of school. Due to absence of income-generating opportunities and irrigation, people from these panchayats are forced to migrate to other states for work.

Melur smiles brighter than tungsten light

CHENNAI. The cancellation of auctioning of tungsten mining block in Madurai district has been welcomed by all parties in the state. While all of them attributed the cancellation to the tireless protests of the people of Madurai district, most of them took credit for the cancellation as well.

AIADMK General Secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami in a post on X said the victory is a testament to the relentless protests of the people of Melur in Madurai. He, however, added that it was also the result of the AIADMK's initiatives, including the protests by the party MLAs inside the Assembly. He reiterated his allegation that the ruling DMK adopted double standards on the issue. He said the cancellation of the tungsten mining auction by the Union government, by understanding the sentiments of the people and acting in accordance with their wishes, is a victory for people's power. "BJP state president K Annamalai, on behalf of the people of Melur and Tamil Nadu, extended thanks to Prime Minister Modi. In his social media post, through X, he added by cancelling the mining auction, the PM has once again reaffirmed his deep concern for the welfare of farmers. The announcement of cancellation came a day after



Annamalai accompanied a delegation of farmers from Madurai to meet Union Minister of Coal and Mines G Kishan Reddy in Delhi to highlight their demand for cancellation of the mining project.

VCK president Thol Thirumavalavan said the cancellation was a victory of people and there was no need to discuss who else should it be attributed to. Similarly, CPM, which strongly backed the protests in Madurai, CPI, DMDK, and NTK stated that the abandonment of the project was a direct result of the tireless and voluntary.

2 cattle smugglers held after 5km chase on Delhi-Mumbai away

Gurgaon: Two suspected cattle smugglers were arrested after cops in Ferozpur Jhirka intercepted a truck carrying 24 cows — eight of them dead — following an intense 5km chase on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway around Wednesday midnight.

Over the past few years, cattle smuggling has often led to communal tension and vigilantism in Haryana, Rajasthan and other neighbouring states. According to police records, Haryana reported over 200 cases of cattle smuggling in 2022, marking a 15% increase from the previous year.

Police investigation revealed Tariq and Zafu were repeat offenders in cattle smuggling cases. An FIR was registered against them and the owner of the vehicle under relevant sections of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and provisions of the Haryana Gauvansh Sanrakshan and Gausamvardhan Act, 2015.

"This operation demonstrates our unwavering commitment to preventing cattle smuggling. We are investigating possible links to larger trafficking networks operating in the region," a police spokesperson said.

Multiple checkpoints set up on Delhi-Gurgaon away ahead of R-Day trigger long tailbacks

Gurgaon. Multiple checkpoints on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, installed to divert Delhi-bound heavy commercial vehicles ahead of Republic Day celebrations, caused daylong traffic congestion on NH-8 on Thursday. Travel times increased significantly, with typical 20-minute journeys taking over an hour during non-peak hours.

Declaration about criminal case (As per the judgement dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme court in WPC (Civil) No.536 of 2011 (Public interest Foundation & Ors Vs Union of India & Anr) Name and address of candidate, ROHIT CHOUDHARY 466, JAT CHOWK, NANGLOL, NCT OF DELHI 110041

Table with 4 columns: SI No., Name of Court, Case No. and dated, Status of Case(S), Section Concerned and brief description of offence(s)

Table with 4 columns: SI No., Name of Court & date(s) of order(s), Description of offence (S) & punishment imposed, Maximum Punishment imposed

Haryana sets up 8-member panel to monitor Aravali Zoo Safari project

Gurgaon. The Haryana govt has formed an eight-member committee to oversee various matters pertaining to the proposed safari in the Aravali region of Gurgaon and Nuh. The committee, headed by the principal chief conservator of forests and chief wildlife warden (Haryana), will supervise the firm that will undertake the detailed project report (DPR) with design and requirement of funds.

The Aravali Zoo Safari, inspired by UAE's Sharjah Park, was initially announced in Sept 2022. The Aravalis zoo safari is part of the Nicobar swap. The safari has been permitted on forest areas as the Union environment ministry's directive in June 2022 had indicated that zoos will be considered forestry activity.

MCG sets 4-month deadline to process waste at Bandhwari

Gurgaon. After waste treatment stopped over two months back, the Haryana govt has selected two agencies to process 14 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste at Bandhwari landfill. The Rs 90.1-crore project assigns 9 lakh metric tonnes to one agency at Rs 645 per tonne and 5 lakh metric tonnes to another at Rs 642 per tonne.

stated that around 8.8 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste — which was supposed to be cleared by Dec 31 last year — remained untreated. The civic body's action plan, submitted on Dec 16, mentioned that fresh waste processing would continue at Bandhwari until alternative solutions, including a torrefied charcoal plant, were implemented.



Dec 17 order. NGT said MCG's affidavit lacked crucial information, including analytical evidence confirming the safety of bio-soil distributed among farmers and that used in low-lying areas.

provide specifics about expenditure on waste remediation and the extent of land freed after removing trash. Meanwhile, the municipal corporation plans to engage a private contractor for services including design, engineering, procurement, construction, installation, testing, and commissioning of the two DTRO units.

Gurgaon's CO level 100 times higher than safe limits, reveals CPCB data

Gurgaon. Carbon monoxide (CO) concentrations in the city have surpassed permissible thresholds by over 100 times during the past 23 days, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Between Jan 1 and 23, CO levels fluctuated between 110µg/m³ and 170µg/m³, substantially exceeding the acceptable limit of 1.7µg/m³.

encompassing numerous offices and court complexes and in proximity to the Delhi-Jaipur Highway, registered 90 hourly exceedances of the Indian NAAQS limit of 4 mg/m³, establishing



it as a prominent CO pollution hotspot. Sector-51 and NISE Gwalpahari documented 12 and 9 exceedances, respectively, while Teri Gram recorded none, said Manoj Kumar, air analyst at centre for research on energy and clean air (CREA).

substantially exceeding other locations. These elevations stem from local factors and weather patterns. Morning temperature inversion traps CO groundward, while evening traffic and commercial emissions amplify CO levels," he added.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE SMM/ETD/GZB acting for and on behalf of President of India invites E-Tender against tender no. 44255010. The details are as under: 1. Description of Item : MAIN COMPRESSOR WITH MOUNTING ACCESSORIES ALONG WITH MOTOR (WOUND WITH CORONA RESISTANCE WIRE) AS PER RDSO SPEC NO RDSO/2018/EL/SPEC/0137 REV.0 AND RDSO SPEC NO E-10/3/09 (MOTOR) WITH AMENDMENT NO 01 to 06 FOR THREE PHASE LOCOMOTIVES

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PUBLIC NOTICE FOR DELHI VIDHAN SABHA ELECTION 2025

Name address of candidate - Punam Pandey, D – 182 A, Near Neki Ram Scgool, Raj Nagar Part – 2 Palam Village, Bijwasan, Kapashera, South West, Nct Of Delhi – 110045, Name of political party – Rashtravadi Loktantrik Party (India) Name of Constituency – Bijwasan(36) and Matiyala(34), Legislative Assembly Constituency of Delhi (state), election 2025

Table with 5 columns: Sl.No., Name of Court, Case no. and dated, Status of cases (s), Section(s) of Acts concerned and brief description of offence(s)

More than 250 Bangkok schools close over air pollution

THAILAND. More than 250 schools in Bangkok were closed on Thursday due to pollution, authorities said, as officials urged people to work from home and restricted heavy vehicles in the city. Seasonal air pollution has long afflicted Thailand, like many countries in the region, as colder, stagnant winter air combines with smoke from crop stubble burning and car fumes. Level of PM2.5 pollutants — cancer-causing microparticles small enough to enter the bloodstream through the lungs — hit 122 micrograms per cubic metre. The World Health Organization recommends 24-hour average exposures should not be more than 15 for most days of the year. Bangkok authorities said earlier this week schools in areas with elevated levels of PM2.5 could choose to close. And by Thursday morning, 194 of the 437 schools under the Bangkok Metropolitan Authority had shut their doors, affecting thousands of students. Since 2020, when all schools under BMA authority closed over air pollution. Another 58 schools out of the 156 under the Office of the Basic Education, a central government body, had also decided to close by Thursday.

There are several other schools in the capital under different authorities, and private establishments, but figures for them were not available.

Children are especially vulnerable to the impacts of air pollution, but rights advocates warned that closures disproportionately affect the most vulnerable students.

After Trump withdrawal order, UN says US to exit WHO by January 2026

World. The United States will leave the World Health Organisation on January 22, 2026, the United Nations said on Thursday, after being formally notified of the decision by President Donald Trump, who has accused the agency of mishandling the pandemic and other international health crises. Trump announced the move on Monday, hours after he was sworn in for a second four-year term. The WHO said on Tuesday that it regretted the move from its top donor country. Trump must give a one-year notice of US withdrawal from the Geneva-based body and pay Washington's dues under a 1948 joint resolution of the US Congress. The United States is by far the WHO's biggest financial backer, contributing around 18% of its overall funding. WHO's most recent two-year budget, for 2024-2025, was USD 6.8 billion. It was not immediately clear how much the US owes.

"I can confirm we have now received the US letter on the WHO withdrawal. It is dated January 22, 2025. It would take effect a year from yesterday, on January 22, 2026," said deputy UN spokesperson Farhan Haq. The US departure will likely put at risk programs across the organisation, according to several experts inside and outside the WHO, notably those tackling tuberculosis, the world's biggest infectious disease killer, as well as HIV/AIDS and other health emergencies. The withdrawal order signed by Trump said the administration would cease negotiations on the WHO pandemic treaty while the withdrawal is in progress.

Living in a cage': Checkpoints in Israel-occupied West Bank proliferate after Gaza ceasefire

TAYBEH. Father Bashar Basiel moved freely in and out of his parish in the occupied West Bank until Israeli troops installed gates at the entrance of his village Taybeh overnight, just hours after a ceasefire began in Gaza.

"We woke up and we were surprised to see that we have the iron gates in our entrance of Taybeh, on the roads that are going to Jericho, to Jerusalem, to Nablus," said Basiel, a Catholic priest in the Christian village north of Ramallah.

All over the West Bank, commuters have been finding that their journey to work takes much longer since the Gaza ceasefire started. "We have not lived such a difficult situation (in terms of movement) since the Second Intifada," Basiel told AFP in reference to a Palestinian uprising in the early 2000s. He said he was used to the checkpoints, which are dotted along the separation barrier that cuts through much of the West Bank and at the entrances to Palestinian towns and cities.

Progress made on massive fire north of Los Angeles as new blazes ignite in southern California

LOS ANGELES. Evacuation orders were lifted Thursday for tens of thousands of homes in the Palisades Fire north of Los Angeles, which was more than three-quarters contained, and the Eaton Fire was 95% under control Thursday. The two fires have killed at least 28 people and destroyed more than 14,000 structures since they broke out Jan. 7. Rain was expected to start Saturday, according to the National Weather Service. Officials welcomed the wet weather, but crews also were shoring up hillsides and installing barriers to prevent debris flows as residents returned to the charred Pacific Palisades and Altadena areas.

The California fires have overall caused at least \$28 billion in insured damage and probably a little more in uninsured damage, according to Karen Clark and Company, a disaster modeling firm known for accurate post-catastrophe damage assessments. On the heels of that assessment, California Republicans are pushing back against suggestions by President Donald Trump, House Speaker Mike Johnson and others

that federal disaster aid for victims of wildfires should come with strings attached. The state Legislature approved a more than \$2.5 billion fire relief package Thursday, in part to help the Los Angeles area recover from the fires.

Trump plans to travel to the state to see the damage firsthand Friday, but it isn't clear whether he and Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom will meet during the visit. Thousands of firefighters with air support slowed the spread of a huge wildfire churning through rugged mountains north of Los Angeles, but new blazes erupted in San Diego County, briefly triggering more evacuations. Southern California is under a red flag warning for critical fire risk through Friday.

The area has been facing constant challenges in controlling the fires, as dangerous winds gained strength again Thursday. The Hughes Fire broke out late Wednesday morning and in less than a day charred nearly 16 square miles (41 square kilometers) of trees and brush near



Castaic Lake, a popular recreation area about 40 miles (64 kilometers) from the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires that are burning for a third week. Crews made significant progress by late afternoon on the Hughes Fire, with more than one-third of it contained. Two new blazes were reported Thursday in the San Diego area. Evacuations were

ordered but were later lifted after a brush fire erupted in the late afternoon in the wealthy enclave of La Jolla near the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine.

Further south, near the U.S.-Mexico border, another blaze was quickly spreading through the Otay Mountain Wilderness, home to the

endangered Quino checkerspot butterfly and other unique species.

In Ventura County, a new fire briefly prompted the evacuation of California State University Channel Islands in Camarillo. Water-dropping helicopters made quick progress against the Laguna Fire that erupted in hills above the campus of about 7,000 students.

The evacuation order was later downgraded to a warning. Rain is forecast for the weekend, potentially ending Southern California's months-long dry spell. Winds are also not as strong as they were when the Palisades and Eaton fires broke out, allowing for firefighting aircraft to dump tens of thousands of gallons of fire retardant.

That helped the fight against the Hughes Fire in the Castaic area north of Los Angeles, allowing helicopters to drop water, which kept it from growing, fire spokesperson Jeremy Ruiz said. "We had helicopters dropping water until around 3 a.m. That kept it in check," he said.

'Blatantly unconstitutional': Federal judge blocks Trump's executive order redefining birthright citizenship

Decision prevents Trump administration from taking steps to implement executive order for 14 days. Meanwhile, parties will submit further arguments about merits of Trump's order.



SEATTLE. A federal judge on Thursday temporarily blocked President Donald Trump's executive order redefining birthright citizenship, calling it "blatantly unconstitutional" during the first hearing in a multi-state effort challenging the order. The 14th Amendment to the Constitution promises citizenship to those born on U.S. soil, a measure ratified in 1868 to ensure citizenship for former slaves after the Civil War. But in an effort to curb unlawful immigration, Trump issued the executive order just after being sworn in for his second term on Monday. The order would deny citizenship to those born after February 19 whose parents are in the country illegally. It also forbids U.S. agencies from issuing any document or accepting any

state document recognizing citizenship for such children. Trump's order drew immediate legal challenges across the country, with at least five lawsuits being brought by 22 states and a number of immigrants rights groups. A lawsuit brought by Washington, Arizona, Oregon and Illinois was the first to get a hearing. "I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one is," U.S. District Judge John Coughenour told a Justice Department attorney. "This is a blatantly unconstitutional order." Thursday's decision prevents the Trump administration from taking steps to implement the executive order for 14 days. In the meantime, the parties will submit further arguments about the merits of Trump's order. Coughenour scheduled a hearing on Feb. 6 to decide whether to block it

temporary restraining order when it would expire before the executive order takes effect. The Department of Justice later said in a statement that it will "vigorously defend" the president's executive order, which it said "correctly interprets the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution." "We look forward to presenting a full merits argument to the Court and to the American people, who are desperate to see our Nation's laws enforced," the department said. The U.S. is among about 30 countries where birthright citizenship — the principle of jus soli or "right of the soil" — is applied. Most are in the Americas, and Canada and Mexico are among them. The 14th Amendment was ratified in 1868, in the aftermath of the Civil War, to ensure citizenship for former slaves and free African Americans.

Massive LA wildfires slow down after days of devastation

World. Evacuation orders in Los Angeles were lifted for thousands of residents on Thursday after firefighters succeeded in slowing down the spread of massive fire. The hilly region still remains under a red flag warning for critical fire risk until Friday, with strong winds challenging containment efforts. The Hughes Fire, which erupted near Castaic Lake on Wednesday, quickly engulfed a vast green patch of almost 41 square kilometres of trees and brush.

Firefighters had made significant effort by Thursday afternoon, containing about a quarter of the blaze. The lake, a popular recreation spot situated at the distance of 64 kilometres from the sites of the weeks-old Palisades and Eaton fires, also remains under threat. Meanwhile, two new fires broke out in San Diego County on Thursday. A blaze in La Jolla, near the University of California, prompted temporary evacuations before being

brought under control.

Another fire near the US-Mexico border spread rapidly through the Otay Mountain Wilderness, home to endangered species like the Quino checkerspot butterfly. Rainfall, which is forecasted for the weekend, has ignited hopes of relief from the months-long dry spell. "We had helicopters dropping water until around 3 a.m., which kept the fire in check," said fire spokesperson Jeremy Ruiz.

While nearly 54,000 residents in the Castaic area remain under evacuation warnings, no homes or structures have been reported damaged.

Among those affected was Kayla Amara, a nurse from Valencia. She rushed to a friend's home in Castaic's Stonegate neighbourhood to retrieve belongings but found herself hosing down the property as the fire grew.

"It's been stressful with those other fires, but now that this one is close to home it's just super stressful," she said. The Palisades Fire is now

almost 75 per cent contained, while Eaton Fire is 95 per cent under control. These two devastating blazes, which began earlier this month, have claimed 28 lives and destroyed more than 14,000 structures. California officials are preparing for potential debris flows as rain approaches, particularly in the Pacific Palisades and Altadena areas, where damage is extensive.

Statewide, the fires have caused an estimated \$28 billion in insured damage, with additional losses likely uninsured, according to disaster modelling firm Karen Clark and Company. In response, the California Legislature approved a \$2.5 billion fire relief package on Thursday to assist recovery efforts in Los Angeles and other affected areas. President Donald Trump is set to visit the state on Friday to assess the damage, though it remains unclear whether he will meet with Democratic Governor Gavin Newsom during the trip.

Syria's economic pains are far from over despite Assad's ouster

DAMASCUS. Samir al-Baghdadi grabbed his pickaxe and walked up a wobbly set of stairs made of cinderblocks and rubble. He is rebuilding his destroyed family house in the Qaboun neighborhood near Damascus.

The traditional building, which once housed his family, parents and some relatives, had a courtyard decorated with plants and tiled floors where guests were received. But the house, like scores of others nearby, has been reduced to heaps of rubble during years of civil war. Al-Baghdadi can't afford to hire workers or rent a bulldozer to clear the debris and fix the house. He makes just about enough money as a mechanic to feed his family. But he's desperate to rebuild it because he is struggling to pay skyrocketing rent for an apartment.

"Economic opportunities are basically nonexistent," al-Baghdadi said, sitting on a pile of rubble and debris where the house's entrance used to be. "So we're going to slowly rebuild with our own hands." Although Syrian President Bashar Assad was toppled last month in a lightning insurgency, the country's dire economic conditions that protesters decried have not changed. The economy has been battered by corruption and 13 years of civil war. Coupled with international sanctions

and mismanagement, inflation skyrocketed, pulling some 90% of the country into poverty.

Over half the population — some 12 million people — don't know where their next meal will come from, according to the UN World Food Program. With no sign of a full-scale withdrawal of international sanctions and continuing caution among potential overseas investors, the honeymoon period for the country's new rulers could be short-lived.

Qaboun, just a stone's throw away from the city center, and other eastern Damascus neighbourhoods became rebel strongholds in 2012, when the country's mass protests against Assad spiraled into all-out war. It suffered government airstrikes and artillery fire, and at one point Islamic State group extremists. In 2017, government forces reclaimed the neighbourhood, but when al-Baghdadi tried to return in 2020, security forces kicked him out and forced him to sign a pledge to never return, saying it was a security zone that was off limits. After Assad's fall, al-Baghdadi was finally able to return. Like many, he was euphoric and hoped it would pave the way for better times despite the many challenges that lay ahead, including rampant power cuts and fuel shortages. For years, Syrian

families have relied on humanitarian aid and remittances from family members living abroad to survive. n top of the gargantuan costs of rebuilding the country's destroyed electricity, water and road infrastructure,



money is needed to restore its battered agriculture and industrial sectors to make its hobbled economy productive again. The United Nations in 2017 estimated that it would cost at least \$250 billion to rebuild Syria. Some experts now say that number could reach at least \$400 billion. Wealthy Gulf countries have pledged to build economic partnerships with Syria's new interim rulers, while Washington

How Microsoft powered Israel's war machine in Gaza: Report

World. Leaked internal documents reveal Microsoft's role as a major purveyor of cloud services and artificial intelligence (AI) technology to the Israeli military, with its support picking up pace after Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel ignited the Gaza conflict. A joint investigation by the Guardian, +972 Magazine, and Local Call details how Microsoft bolstered its relationship with Israel's defence establishment following the unprecedented Hamas assault, signing deals worth at least \$10 million. These agreements reportedly provided thousands of hours of technical support, alongside expanded computing and storage services. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF), facing increased demand for computing power after launching its offensive in Gaza, turned to tech companies to scale its infrastructure, triggering a "gold rush". As firms vied for military contracts, Microsoft offered steep discounts to edge out rivals. According to one military commander who spoke to the Guardian, this marked a shift toward "the wonderful world of cloud providers." The documents, first obtained by Drop Site News, show the IDF's reliance on Microsoft, Amazon, and Google for data storage and intelligence analysis grew sharply. Between June 2023 and April 2024, Microsoft's cloud storage usage within the military surged by over 155 per cent, peaking before the Rafah offensive in May 2024. Microsoft's Azure platform and ChatGPT-maker OpenAI's language model tools accounted for nearly 75 per cent of the IDF's usage. These services supported combat and intelligence activities, including projects with Unit 8200, the IDF's elite surveillance division, and Unit 81, which develops advanced spy technology. The tech behemoth was frequently involved in sensitive and highly classified projects. It played a role in maintaining "Rolling Stone," a system that tracks the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. During the military operation in Gaza, Ofek, an air force unit responsible for managing databases of targets for strikes, relied on Microsoft's communication and messaging systems. The leaked files also detail Microsoft's provision of AI tools like Lavender, which reportedly analysed data on 2.3 million Gaza residents to identify potential Hamas connections. The system flagged about 37,000 Palestinians as suspects, according to Tel Aviv-based +972 Magazine. The revelations come as Google also ramped up its support to Israel's Defence Ministry, offering increased access to its AI technologies.

NEWS BOX

Domestic aide, friend awarded life term for kidnapping child in 2019

CHENNAI. A mahila court in Chennai on Wednesday sentenced a domestic aide and her male friend to life imprisonment for kidnapping a three-and-a-half-year old child the worker was taking care of in 2019 from her house in Aminjikarai police station limits. The child was rescued from the convicts identified as Kaleemullah Sait (30) and M Ambika (24) within 24 hours after she was kidnapped. The girl was kidnapped soon after her return from school right in front of her mother's eyes in the western part of the city. The parents of the child, a doctor and an IT professional, received a ransom call for Rs 60 lakh with a threat to kill the child. The ransom was reduced to Rs 30 lakh but it eventually wasn't paid as the child was rescued by the police. A few clues proved to be vital in solving the case and securing the conviction. One was a red car owned by Kaleemullah which was used to transport the child to a resort on East Coast Road. The second was tracking of the contact number through which the ransom call was made by Sait. The number and the phone was being used by Ambika and on the day of the incident, it was recovered from Sait. The court was convinced with the prosecution's evidence to prove that Sait and Ambika had booked a room in the resort, where they kept the child till her rescue. When confronted by the police, Ambika had claimed that the child's mother had asked her to take her to the resort, which was deemed to be false. Detailed call data record entries and location histories of the accused helped prove the case in court. Convicting the duo under Section 364A of the IPC which deals with kidnap, the court sentenced.

Jail staff may face PC Act for Darshan's special treatment

BENGALURU. In fresh trouble for jail officials of Bengaluru Central Prison, the police have proposed invoking the Prevention of Corruption Act (PC Act) against them for allegedly extending preferential treatment to actor Darshan Thoogudeepa and his associates who were lodged there in connection with the Renukaswamy murder case. Police officers investigating the case revealed that the probe established the role of jail officers, including medical staff, in giving special treatment to the actor and others. "The investigation revealed that 13 jail officers, including jail doctors, were involved in providing preferential treatment to Darshan, rowdy-sheeter Naga and other inmates by supplying mobile phones, cigarettes and other items to them. While an FIR is already registered against them, we have proposed to invoke the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act against some of them," a senior officer said. Meanwhile, the police have written to the government seeking sanction of prosecution against 13 officials, including two superintendents and six assistant superintendents. Once prosecution sanction is accorded, the police will submit a chargesheet against the accused officials.



While a source said that prosecution sanction has already been issued, no official sources confirmed the same. It may be recalled that three FIRs were registered at Parappana Agrahara police station after a photo of Darshan smoking a cigarette.

Kakatiya University students protest PhD admission delay with petrol bottles

HANAMKONDA. Tension prevailed on the Kakatiya University (KU) campus on Thursday as students protested in front of the Vice-Chancellor's chamber holding petrol bottles over the delay in the PhD admissions notification. The students alleged that the V-C and KU authorities had been deliberately delaying the PhD admissions for the past four months. They accused the V-C of intentionally dragging out the process of allocating seats, leaving many students in limbo. Frustrated by the administration's attitude, the students demanded immediate action to resolve the issue. Upon receiving information about the protest, KU Campus police rushed to the scene, removed the petrol bottles from the students and took them into custody. Speaking to the media, a student M Naresh demanded that KU authorities increase the number of PhD admissions. He alleged that while the university showed a significant number of vacant seats in its notification, these were not being filled. Naresh urged the administration to provide opportunities to students who were losing their chances of admission.

Every effort counts in saving our environment: Ridhima Pandey

Thiruvananthapuram. Ridhima Pandey began her fight for climate protection when she was a child. Growing up in I've been part of various campaigns since 2019, including efforts to reduce plastic pollution and ban single-use plastics. One of my key campaigns, 'Saal Bhar Saath', focused on maintaining an air quality index (AQI) of 60 in Delhi and other cities. It saw the participation of over 12 cities, though getting a government response was a challenge. I've also been part of the Save Thano Forest protest in Dehradun, where we successfully stopped the expansion of Dehradun airport by preventing the destruction of the Thano forest.

Globally, I've participated in the Save the Children movement. I also worked with the Youth Advisory Council at COP26 and engaged with international working groups advocating for climate action. These experiences have strengthened my belief in the power of collective action. Uttarakhand, she witnessed the devastating effects of flash floods and landslides, which inspired her to act. At the age of nine, Ridhima sued the Union government for failing to uphold its climate commitments under the Paris Agreement and filed complaints with the United Nations (UN) to hold global leaders accountable. In an interview with TNIE, the 17-year-old advocate for environmental justice speaks about her aspirations. Uttarakhand is a serene and idyllic

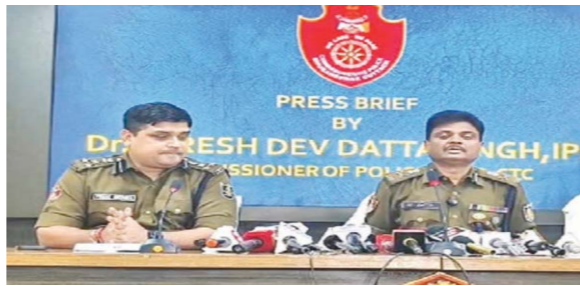


place where people value simplicity and genuine connections. Living close to the Rajaji National Park gave me a first-hand understanding of the importance of wildlife and forest conservation. My father worked for the Wildlife Trust of India, while my mother with the state forest department. Both of them instilled in me a strong sense of environmental stewardship. I was five or six when the Kedarnath flash floods occurred. The visuals I saw on television — of stranded people, suffering animals, and immense destruction — left a deep impression on me. I started asking my mother about the causes of such disasters, and as I grew older, I understood how human actions like deforestation and poor environmental policies, contribute to such tragedies. That traumatic experience motivated

me to take action. Filing a public interest litigation with the National Green Tribunal was my way of pushing for systemic change. You were part of the UN initiative when Greta Thunberg delivered her famous speech. What was that experience like? I was 11 years old when I attended the event at the Unicef headquarters as one of the youngest petitioners in a group of 15. Standing among such passionate young activists was empowering, but what truly stood out was Greta's speech. Her words were incredibly powerful, and her determination was evident. It was a defining moment for me. Vandana Shiva's boldness, audacity, and clarity in her speeches are qualities I deeply admire. I also draw inspiration from the activists of the Chipko Movement, like Gaura Devi and Sunderlal Bahuguna. I've also learned a lot from Shashi Tharoor's speeches, which have helped me improve my own public speaking skills. I want to pursue a degree in environmental sciences. For many, environmental activism is a hobby or a side activity, but for me, it's my purpose. By gaining formal education in the field, I hope to enhance my credibility and ensure my work is taken seriously. I've been part of various campaigns since 2019, including efforts to reduce plastic pollution and ban single-use plastics.

Bhubaneswar city police commissioner's ultimatum to drug peddlers: Reform or face action

BHUBANESWAR. In a stern message to drug peddlers, Police commissioner S Dev Datta Singh on Thursday said stringent action would be initiated against those selling illegal products near educational institutions. The caution came after Singh directed the cops to launch a massive drive against sale of tobacco products and drugs in the last two days. "Shopkeepers selling tobacco products near educational institutions are spoiling the future of students and younger generation. They are warned to immediately stop their illegal businesses or face strictest of action," said Singh and urged them to start some other business or work under various schemes of the government. Singh's strongly-worded caution is also seen as a move against shopkeepers



pushing drugs to youngsters. On the day, police carried out simultaneous raids across the city and its outskirts.

Balianta police arrested four drug peddlers and seized 260 gm brown sugar worth '26 lakh as well as a car from them. Maitri Vihar police arrested five drug peddlers and seized 42 kg

ganja valued at Rs 4 lakh. At least 30 betel shops running near educational institutions also faced the raid and 16 persons were detained and gutka along with cigarettes laced with ganja seized from their possession. Bhubaneswar DCP Pinak Mishra said three top priorities of police are to curb the sale of drugs, reduce road accidents by taking action against reckless and drunk drivers/manage traffic congestion, and to launch a crackdown against anti-socials committing street crimes like snatching of valuables. Senior officers have also directed the police stations to carry out robust patrolling and blocking. They instructed to enhance police visibility in the city and asked the IICs to lead the various enforcement drives actively.

Rs 350-crore contract signed to develop Chennai Central Tower

CHENNAI. Chennai Metro Asset Management Limited (CMAML), a special purpose vehicle jointly formed by Chennai Metro Rail Limited and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation, has signed a contract to develop Chennai Central Tower at a cost of '349.88 crore. A release said the landmark project symbolises Chennai's transformation into a global metropolis and multi-modal hub. Strategically located near the Chennai Central Railway Station, this 27-storey structure intends to seamlessly integrate connectivity, modern amenities and sustainability. The letter of acceptance, based on a tender process, for constructing the structure was issued to Renaatus Projects Private Limited last month. The State Environment Impact Assessment Authority recently



cleared the project. The contract was signed in the presence of Chairman of CMAML MA Siddique by CMAML director T Archunan, and S Manoj Pooappan, Managing Director of Renaatus Projects Private Limited. Designed to meet international green building standards, the tower will incorporate eco-friendly construction materials, energy-efficient systems, renewable energy and water conservation measures.

MoEFCC raises concerns over Odisha Mining Corporation's plan for drilling near Khandadhar

BHUBANESWAR. The Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has flagged serious environmental concerns on the Odisha government's proposal for exploratory drilling in Khandadhar sub Block-B iron ore mining area in Sundargarh district by Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC). Deferring its decision to grant approval for diversion of forest land for exploration by core drilling, the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) of the ministry has asked the state government for a detailed scientific study to ascertain the impact of mining on the eco-sensitive area and also obtain the views of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA). The state government

had sought the approval of the Centre under the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 for exploration/prospecting in 0.779 ha of forest land within the total prospecting lease area of 432.8 ha covered under prospecting license in favour of OMC in Sundargarh district. While the entire area granted for the prospecting lease is forest land and no non-forest land is involved in the proposal, a total of eight bore holes of four-inch diameter up to 70-metre depth have been proposed to be drilled in the forest land. The experts committee has asked the state government to conduct a scientific study to ascertain the impact of ongoing mining activities in Bonai forest division



and its impact on the water regime of the area along with flow of water in the waterfall in its catchment. Since the area proposed for prospecting is an elephant habitat and the presence of tiger has been noticed in recent times, the committee also sought the comments of the NTCA in this

regard. Besides stating that fresh construction activity is visible within the area of prospecting lease as per decision support system (DSS) analysis, the FAC asked the state to revisit the proposal and submit well-reasoned comments on the issues that have been raised. The proposed exploration area is in the vicinity of the Khandadhar waterfall, which is the lifeline of the tribal and local communities. They depend on the waterfall for cultivation, livelihood, tourism, cultural practices. It is considered as an important natural heritage of the state. During the site inspection by the forest officials, it was observed that the proposed area comes under a very dense forest category. "

Kadinamkulam murder: Accused held in Changanassery

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The accused in the murder of Athira in Kadinamkulam was arrested from Kurichi, Changanassery, on Thursday. Johnson Ouseph, from Dalavapuram, Kollam, who had been working as a carer at the house near the Kurichi panchayat office for a month, had reportedly stabbed her to death. The accused, who was Athira's Instagram friend, reportedly left his place of occupation on January 7 to return on Thursday. Based on a tip-off, police arrested him from Kurichi. He was admitted to Kottayam Medical College Hospital on suspicion that he had consumed poison. Athira, 30, a native of Venjaramoodu, was found murdered at her husband's house in Kadinamkulam at 11.30 am on Tuesday. The investigation team's preliminary assessment was that financial dealings were behind the murder. Police said the two had been in an affair for a year and that Johnson had insisted that Athira run away with him. However, Athira was not ready to do so. Officers said that this led to the murder. Athira was allegedly killed after being drugged. Johnson, who had been staying in a rented house in Perumathura, went into hiding after the murder. The police obtained CCTV footage of him leaving the rented house with a knife on the morning of the incident. The accused returned on Thursday to collect his clothes. In Kurichi, Johnson was taking care of Radhakrishnan. After January 7 he did not respond to phone calls. He reached his client's house in Kurichi around 3 pm. Despite being alarmed, Ramya, Radhakrishnan's daughter, who had seen the accused's photo in the news, kept her calm. The accused proceeded to ask Ramya to loan him Rs 1,000. He promised to return the money the next day. Ramya managed to relay the information to panchayat vice president K R Shaji, a neighbour. On Shaji's suggestion, Ramya delayed the accused on the pretext of getting the money. In the meantime, on being alerted by Shaji, Chingavanam SHO Anilkumar, ASI Abhilash.

Women face nasty encounters with predators in Kodigehalli

BENGALURU. A 50-year-old woman, a grandmother who works as a maid in an apartment in Rajiv Gandhi Nagar in Kodigehalli, was groped when she was heading out at 5.45 am Tuesday. The perpetrator fled the spot after she raised an alarm. Sexual harassment is a regular experience for women of all ages in this area, and they dread stepping out in the mornings and nights, say residents. Men flashing on railway tracks which women use to cross over from Railway Parallel Road to 12th Main Road is just one example.

"Most of the women work as maids or cooks in the four apartment blocks in the area, and have to report for duty at odd morning hours. They leave late in the evenings," said a resident. Having come to Bengaluru from Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, they have little support in the city, and refrain from approaching local police stations too, she said. They share their experiences with their employers but are unwilling to pursue the matter legally. The harassment has become frequent now, with two new bars opening up on Railway Parallel Road, said a resident.



"It was only one bar earlier. Drunkards and drug addicts prowl the area," she said. Earlier this week, two teenage girls from a posh apartment were touched inappropriately by a harasser on a two-wheeler, which then raced away. "The girls have not even told their parents as they fear they will not be permitted to step outside their homes in future," she said. Young men performing wheelies often try to snatch mobiles from young girls. "If the women resist, they slap them on their back or grope them and speed away," said an employee at one of the apartments. "I have chased these

boys sometimes on my scooter but they ride at great speed and escape. Molesting women and getting away with it gives them some kind of thrill," he added. "They also do stunts with wheelies creating much noise and it alarms the elderly walking around," he said.

After the incident involving the elderly woman on Tuesday (January 21), a group of residents visited the Kodigehalli police station to brief them about the situation on Wednesday. "A hosaala visited the area late at night and five rounds of patrolling was done by the cops on the 12th Main Road and surrounding areas," said an apartment resident. An apartment owner confided what her maids had told her, "Men sometimes stand nude on the tracks. What can they do but bend their heads and cross."

"MLA Krishna Byre Gowda had visited the area a few months ago and assured residents that CCTV cameras would be installed for overall safety, but it never happened.

Our Constitution an ode to consensus

During times of peace, it is relatively easy to be democratic; the test arises when we are faced with social and political turmoil.

By the end of 1948, rocked by the Partition and the ensuing communal violence, anxieties about social fragmentation and separatism were tangible within the Constituent Assembly and outside it. In this demanding situation, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel set a new benchmark for what a democracy is and should aspire to be. As the chairman of the special sub-committee set up to re-examine political safeguards for religious minorities, he said: "I was anxious that the representatives of the minorities on the Committee should have adequate time both to gauge public opinion among their people, and to reflect fully on the amendments proposed, so that a change, if affected, would be one sought voluntarily by the minorities themselves", and "not imposed on them by the majority community". Patel's words echoed the framers' commitment to democracy. A high-powered committee, with Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, KM Munshi and BR Ambedkar as its members, had recommended the withdrawal of separate representation for religious minorities. The Sikh representatives were reluctant to accept this recommendation and wanted more time to consult and reflect on the proposed changes. The political stature of the members of the sub-committee should itself have elicited compliance. But this did not happen. There was political urgency to settle the issue. Yet, Patel, along with the committee members, did not force a consensus. They heard and respected the wishes of even this small group of representatives. To give Sikhs more time, he adjourned the meeting.

The majority of the representatives, including members of other minorities, had accepted the recommendations of the special sub-committee. Even most of the Muslim representatives agreed that separate representation for religious minorities be abandoned. It was the need of the hour. Under these conditions, the sub-committee could easily have ignored a few Sikh voices. After all, numbers were on their side. They could also have appealed to national interest. But this did not happen. Despite the extenuating circumstances and the weight of the numerical majority with them, Patel offered a political reasoning that defined what it means to be democratic. He did not want a major decision to be imposed upon a community. This was a spectacular lesson in what democracy entails. Today, democracy is associated with elections and rule by elected representatives. For analysts, leaders and students of political science, elections are the peg around which democracies are anchored. A few other elements — separation of powers, rule of law, respect for human rights — are thrown in for good measure, but it is winning or losing elections that matters the most. Probably because we believe that winners decide the course of things to come; they determine the policies that will be formulated. The future rests in their hands.

Against this myopic vision of what democracy is, Patel and the leadership of the sub-committee presented a grand alternative. They did not simply espouse an ideal of deliberation, they stood by it and acted upon it; showed us that democracy requires the willingness to trust and walk the mile to meet those who disagree. The moral power of this gesture compelled the other side (the dissenting voices) also to take the committee's reasoning seriously, and they too agreed to accept the recommendations. Eventually, the sub-committee on minorities voluntarily accepted the decision to withdraw separate representation for religious minorities. The members of the Constituent Assembly functioned with exemplary patience in a situation of extreme political urgency. They listened to each other, to similar, and at times, the same arguments, being presented again and again, in a sub-committee, then in the larger body, when specific provisions were being discussed, and again when the entire draft of the Constitution was discussed. In doing so, they taught the world what it means to live in a democracy and live by the idea of democracy. The issue before the special sub-committee was political safeguards for minorities. Hence, in his statement, Patel alluded to religious minorities.

Bangladesh's resilience amid turmoil

Policymakers, basking under the success of the twin pillars of garments and remittances, have delayed serious economic reforms for the last 15 years.

Bangladesh has seen a sharp decline in projected economic growth after the recent upheavals stemming from the "Monsoon Revolution", leading to the replacement of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government with an interim administration led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. But the country has not plunged into an economic crisis, which may have surprised some people. Yet, those who have followed Bangladesh's development trajectory know better. Unlike Pakistan or Sri Lanka, which have struggled to maintain economic stability, Bangladesh has some solid sources of economic resilience — garments, remittances and decent social sector delivery mechanisms. The political protests in July and August 2024 and their aftermath have certainly had an impact. The uprising led to repression and violence, internet shutdowns and transport disruptions, among other issues. Communications with buyers were cut off for a while. All this affected the economic activity, with official estimates of the GDP showing a growth of only 1.8 per cent during the quarter July-September 2024. The World Bank, in its latest Bangladesh Economic Update, has reduced its base case GDP growth forecast for FY25 (Bangladesh's fiscal year is July to June) to 4 per cent, down from an annual average of about 6 per cent during the previous three years. The IMF forecast, at 3.8 per cent, is in the same range. While there is much uncertainty about the future, there are also positive sentiments around the firm action taken to repair the financial sector and expectations about other reforms related to governance and the investment climate. Thus, the FY26 growth is expected to bounce back to 5.5 per cent while the IMF projects an even higher 6.7 per cent. Notably, the recent White Paper on the State of the Bangladesh Economy has questioned, among other things, the reported growth rate of the economy in the last 15 years. However, the core arguments of this essay will remain largely unaffected by any resultant corrections that the current or future governments of Bangladesh may undertake. Steady export growth over the last two decades — driven by the garment industry — has been one pillar of the Bangladesh economy. This stands in contrast to Pakistan and Sri Lanka and has helped Bangladesh to preserve macroeconomic stability and lower its vulnerability to external shocks. Within exports, the readymade garments sector stands out, accounting for about 85 per cent of goods exports. Bangladesh remains the world's second largest exporter of garments, with exports valued at \$38 billion in 2023. While the factory closures and communication disruptions did impact exports, the industry seems to be recovering quickly. In fact, over the period July to December 2024, garment exports rose by 13.3 per cent compared to July-December 2023, a number that does not suggest an industry in trouble! Bangladesh has strong fundamentals that enable it to dominate the low-cost apparel segment, including cost competitiveness, the



ability to service large orders and longstanding engagement with global apparel brands. None of these is going to change. As an aside, India or, indeed, other South Asian countries, are not an alternative to Bangladesh in this sector. They simply do not have Bangladesh's factory scale and cost competitiveness. For example, India's apparel exports were a mere \$15 billion in 2023. The other pillar of Bangladesh's economic resilience is its steady flow of remittances, which account for 4.7 per cent of the GDP. Remittances not only help stabilise the balance of payments but also contribute significantly to consumption and poverty reduction. This is especially critical for poor households, given that inflation has hovered around 9-10 per cent over the last two years. Despite the political upheaval or, perhaps, because of it (people send more money to their families when the need arises), remittances continued to grow at a rapid clip, rising 27.6 per cent during July-December 2024. Bangladesh's economic resilience has been accompanied by relatively strong social sector outcomes, where it outperforms India on several counts, including infant mortality, life expectancy, stunting, child immunisation and so on. Much of this performance can be credited to the country's robust non-governmental organisations, starting with BRAC, the world's largest NGO. Of course, this story of economic resilience is one

side of the narrative. Bangladesh has some glaring limitations as well. They are reflected in, among other things, insufficient job creation — the underlying reason for the student protests. Policymakers, basking under the success of the twin pillars of garments and remittances, have delayed serious economic reforms for the last 15 years and more despite clarion calls by economists. Now, for the good of Bangladesh and its people, these reforms should be urgently prioritised.

The policy package needs to promote export diversification, address banking sector vulnerabilities, increase tax collections, encourage foreign investment and improve the quality of education, all underpinned by a concerted effort to improve state capacity. Bangladesh is a resilient economy. It should be able to ride over its current travails and possibly emerge economically stronger if the current dispensation is able to kickstart some of the much-needed economic reforms. But Yunus has a delicate balancing act ahead: initiating some of the economic reforms; setting a timetable for elections, hopefully going back to a more neutral electoral arrangement (like a caretaker government); and doing this while retaining his administration's legitimacy and restoring social harmony. It is in the interests of India, South Asia and, indeed, the global community that Bangladesh navigates this tricky transition successfully.

Trump unfettered

US President hits the ground running

The much-dreaded turbulence has begun, and that too on the very first day of US President Donald Trump's second term. In a tearing hurry to Make America Great Again, Trump bombarded his country and the rest of the world with a slew of executive orders on Monday. He withdrew the US from the World Health Organisation, alleging that the global agency had mishandled the Covid-19 pandemic. His own handling of the coronavirus catastrophe was dreadful — over 3,50,000 deaths were reported in the US in 2020, the final year of his first term — but those glaring lapses are of no consequence to him now. He has washed his hands of international collaboration to combat any future pandemic.

Trump also signed America's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement, whose main goal is to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Last year ended as the planet's hottest on record, and the target looks even more improbable now



with the US jumping ship. But the US President couldn't care less as he is himself adept at turning up the heat on any foe, real or imaginary. No wonder he has warned that

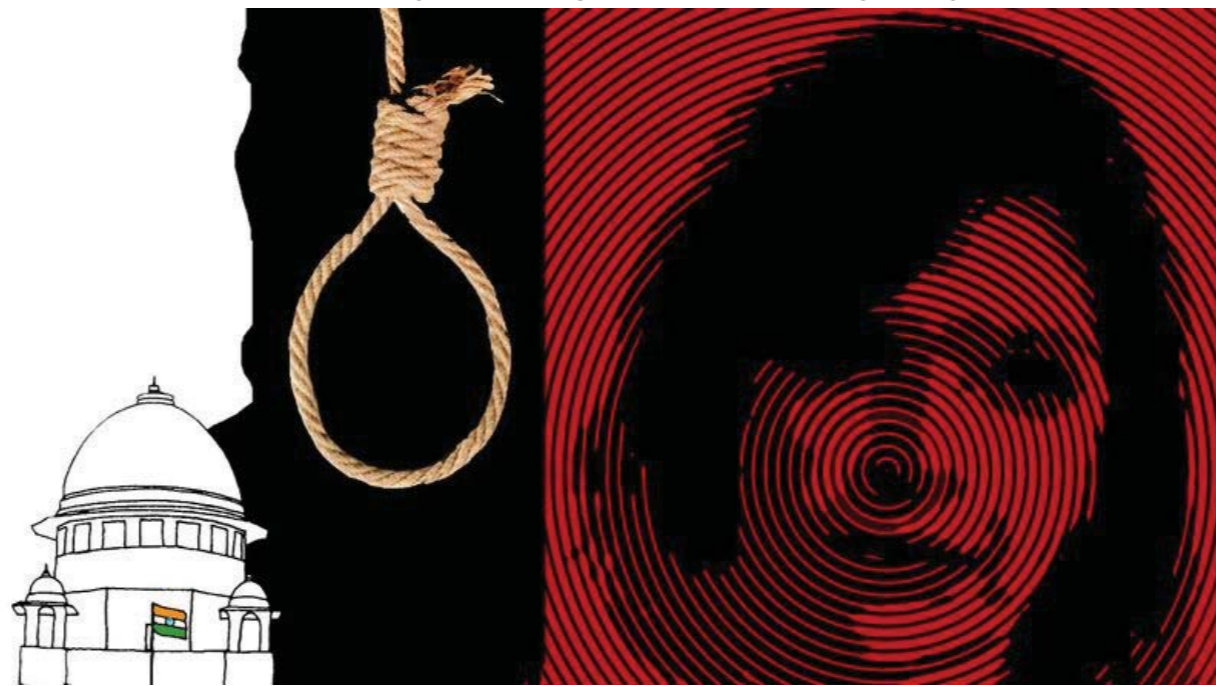
100 per cent tariffs will be imposed on countries of the BRICS bloc, which includes India, if they dare to dump the dollar.

If Trump is to be believed, America's golden age has begun (any resemblance to India's Amrit Kaal is purely coincidental). None will agree with him more than the 1,500-odd protesters who stormed the US Capitol on January 6, 2021, in a bid to prevent lawmakers from certifying his election defeat. The incident was a big blot on American democracy, but the President has chosen to reward his supporters for their loyalty by pardoning them. In stark contrast, there is bad news for those desperate to sneak into the US as Trump has declared illegal immigration at the US-Mexico border a "national emergency". It's America First for him — and the world must brace itself for the worst.

Rarest of the rare: A legal lottery on life and death

From a sessions judge's pen to the hangman's noose, there are many files and procedures that may delay or divert the ultimate execution of a death sentence.

Justice Frankfurter of the US Supreme Court once wrote: "A phrase begins life as a literary expression; its felicity leads to its lazy repetition; and repetition soon establishes it as a legal formula, indiscriminately used to express different and sometimes contradictory ideas." The phrase, rarest of the rare, when applied to capital punishment cases, has suffered the same fate. On the day a court in Kerala ordered the death penalty for Greeshma, who had poisoned her boyfriend, a court in Kolkata ensured that Sanjay Roy, who was convicted of the rape and murder of a young doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, escaped the noose. This brings us to the question of what exactly is a "rarest of the rare" case that warrants the death sentence. The phrase comes from the 1982 judgment of the Supreme Court in Bachan Singh vs Punjab, which upheld the constitutionality of death sentences. Justice RS Sarkaria, writing for the majority, concluded: "A real and abiding concern for the dignity of human life postulates resistance to taking a life through law's instrumentality. That ought not to be done save in the rarest of rare cases when the alternative option is unquestionably foreclosed." In the 40-odd years since the Bachan Singh judgment, the rarest of the rare formula has resulted in what judges have called a lethal lottery in executions. It is a rare sessions judge who resists the local outcry in cases that have attracted media attention. But a sessions judge's verdict of the imposition of the death penalty is subject to confirmation by a high court. Any death sentence so confirmed is invariably appealed to the Supreme Court. Even if such appeal is dismissed by the Supreme Court, the court has, by a judgment in the Mohammed Arif case, bound itself to orally hear for at least half an hour a review petition in open court.



It is only after every court option is closed that executive powers of remission and pardon are invoked. The presidential power of pardon has often been coloured by the incumbent of the office. Presidents APJ Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil were not inclined to reject pleas for mercy and simply refused to clear such files. President Pranab Mukherjee, however, went by ministerial advice and routinely signed clemency files without exercising any personal discretion. The decadal delay in disposing of clemency applications resulted in the Supreme Court interdicting several executions in the Shatrughan Chauhan case of 2014.

Thus, from a sessions judge's pen to the hangman's noose, there are a multiplicity of files and procedures that may delay or divert the ultimate execution of a death sentence. Faced with these vagaries, the Supreme Court came out with a third way in a case that I had argued for the prosecution. In the 2009 case of Swamy Shraddhananda, Justice Aftab Alam, writing for a three-judge Bench, took note of the fact that many life sentences were commuted after 14 years of imprisonment. While a death sentence may not be warranted, 14 years was simply inadequate in particularly heinous murders. The judgment records: "A far more just, reasonable and proper course would

be to expand the options and to take over what, as a matter of fact, lawfully belongs to the Court, ie the vast hiatus between 14 years' imprisonment and death. It needs to be emphasised that the Court would take recourse to the expanded option primarily because in the facts of the case, the sentence of 14 years' imprisonment would amount to no punishment at all." It is in the above background of Supreme Court judgments that one must read and applaud Judge Anirban Das, who ruled, "Given these considerations, it would be inappropriate to accede to the prosecution's request for the death penalty. While acknowledging the immense grief and suffering of the victim's parents, for which no sentence can provide complete solace, the court's duty is to pass a sentence that is proportionate, just and in accordance with established legal principles. In conclusion, this case calls for a carefully considered and appropriate sentence that balances the gravity of the crime with the principles of justice, rehabilitation and the preservation of human dignity. The court must resist the temptation to bow to public pressure or emotional appeals and instead focus on delivering a verdict that upholds the integrity of the legal system and serves the broader interests of justice." Following an announcement by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the West Bengal government has approached the Calcutta High Court, seeking imposition of the death sentence to Sanjay Roy. In the Kerala case, the death sentence awarded to Greeshma will be subject to a reference to the high court. I would be surprised if the life of either accused ultimately ended on the hangman's noose.

But then, the lethal lottery of life and law has its own way of surprising practitioners and petitioners alike.

FORMAT C-2

Declaration about criminal antecedents of candidates set up by the party

(As per the judgment dated 25th September, 2018 of Hon'ble Supreme Court in WP (Civil) No. 536 of201 I (Public Interest Foundation & Ors. Vs. Union of India & Anr.)

Name of the Party : INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

Name of the Election: LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS-2025

Name of the Union Territory: NCT OF DELHI

1 Sr. No.	2 Name of the Constituency	3 Name of the candidate	4 (A) Pending criminal cases		5 (B) Details about cases of conviction for criminal offences		
			Name of the Court, case number, status of the case(s)	Sections of the Acts concerned & brief description of offence(s)	Name of the Court and date of Order	Description of offences punishment imposed	Maximum punishment imposed.
1	2-Burari	Mangesh Tyagi	Ld. JMFC, Central, THC, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 2366/2019- no charges framed	FIR No. 237/2018, Dated 20.05.2018, Police Station Burari, District North, Delhi, State- Delhi, U/S 304A IPC	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. JMFC, Central, THC, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 5701/2021- no charges framed	FIR No. 551/2020, Dated 29.10.2020, Police Station Burari, District North, Delhi, State- Delhi, U/S 341/34/323 IPC			
			Ld. ASJ, Central, THC, Delhi- Cr. Rev No. 588/2023	Criminal revision in court			
2	3-Timarpur	Lokendra Singh	Details not available	FIR No. 815/2020, P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi, U/S 336 of IPC & U/S 25, 54, 59 of Arms Act, 1960	NA	NA	NA
3	5-Badli	Devender Yadav	Ld. JMFC, North, Rohini Courts- Cr. Case No. 940/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 482/2014, P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi, U/S 323, 452, 506, 34, 120-B of IPC & 3, 3(5), 4 of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	NA	NA	NA
4	10-Sultanpur Majra-SC	Jai Kisan	Ld. CMM, North-West, Rohini Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 530255/2016- charges framed	FIR No. 747/2013, Dated 26/11/13, P.S.- Mangolpuri, District-North West, State-Delhi, U/s 323, 509 IPC	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. CMM, North-West, Rohini Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 544592/2016- charges framed	FIR No. 163/2015, Dated 13/02/15, P.S.-Sultanpuri, District-North West, State-Delhi, U/s 323, 341, 342, 506, 509, 34 IPC & 23 JJ Act			
			Ld. CMM, North-West, Rohini Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 7945/2022- charges framed	FIR No. 513/2021, Dated 18/07/2021, P.S.- Raj Park, District-North West, State-Delhi, U/s 188, 34 IPC			
5	11-Nangloi Jat	Rohit Choudhary	Ld. JMFC, Central, THC, Delhi.-Cr. Case No. 289901/2016- charges framed	FIR No. 219/2002, Dated 01.11.2002, Police Station Maurice Nagar, North Delhi, Delhi, U/S 147/148/149/427/186/332/353 IPC	NA	NA	NA
6	17-Wazirpur	Ragini Nayak	Ld. CMM, Central, Tis Hazari Courts, New Delhi- Cr. Case No.289901/2016- charges framed	FIR No. 219/2002, Dated 01.11.2002, PS-Maurice Nagar, District-North, State-Delhi, U/s-147/148/427/186/332 IPC	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. CMM, Patiala House Court, New Delhi- Cr. Case No. 16471/2018- charges framed	FIR No. 155/2015, Dated 07.05.2015, PS-Tilak Marg, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/s-186/188/353/332/34 IPC			
7	18-Model Town	Kunwar Karan Singh	Hon'ble High Court of Delhi-CRL.M.C. 2410/2014- no charges framed	FIR No. 34/2014, P.S. AC Branch, Delhi, U/S 468, 471, 471A, 283, 431, 120B, 34 of IPC	NA	NA	NA
8	19-Sadar Bazar	Anil Bhardwaj	ACJM, North West, Rohini Courts- Cr. Case No. 540628/2016- charges framed	FIR No. 1045/2014, Dated 23.11.2014, PS Netaji Subhash Place, District-North West, State-Delhi, U/S 3 D.P.D.P. Act, 2009	NA	NA	NA
9	20-Chandni Chowk	Mudit Agarwal	Ld. JMFC-06 (C), Central District, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 9107/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 403/2020, Dated 01.10.2020, Police Station Civil Lines, District Central, State Delhi, U/S 188 IPC & 51 D.M. Act & 3 E.D. Act	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. JMFC-06 (C), Central District, Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 6656/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 013/2021, Dated 12.01.2021, Police Station Civil Lines, District Central, State Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
10	32-Uttam Nagar	Mukesh Sharma	Ld. JMFC, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi- Cr. Case 2890/2019- no charges framed	FIR No. 146/2014, P.S. Chanakya Puri, District- New Delhi, Delhi, U/S 188, 186, 353, 145, 147, 149, 341 of IPC & Sec-3 PDPP Act.	NA	NA	NA
11	33-Dwarka	Adarsh Shastri	Ld. District and Sessions Court, West District, Dwarka Court, Delhi- Case No. SC/768/2024- no charges framed	FIR No. 48/2021, Dated 13/06/2021, P.S.- Dabri, District-South-West, State-Delhi, U/s 74 JJ Act, 2000 & 23(4) Care and Protection of Children Act, 2006	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. CMM, South-West District, Dwarka Court, Delhi- Cr. Case No.4999/2020- no charges framed	FIR No. 125/2019, Dated 18/03/2019, P.S.- Palam Village, District-South West, State-Delhi, U/s 3 DPDP Act, 2007			
12	35-Najafgarh	Sushma Devi	Ld. MM. Dwarka Court, Delhi- Case No. 4988784/16-	Defamation Case, U/s 500, 506, 120-B, 34 IPC	Ld. MM. Dwarka Court, Delhi- order dated 25.08.2018	defamation case	Conviction order set aside by Appellate Court, challenge to acquittal pending before High Court.
13	36-Bijwasan	Devinder Kumar Sehrawat	Ld. ACMM, Patiala House Court- DD No. 38A, U/S 127A RP Act, 1951	Details not available	Ld. ACMM, Patiala House Court order dated 14.05.2018	U/S 127A RP Act, 1951	Admonished
14	37-Palam	Mange Ram	Ld. JMFC (Mahila Court), South West, Dwarka Court- Cr. Case 4391/2018- charges framed	FIR No. 481/2017, P.S. Dwarka South, District-South West, Delhi, U/S 323, 354, 354(b), 506, 509, 34 of IPC	NA	NA	NA
15	38-Delhi Cantt	Pradeep Kumar Upmanyu	Ld. JMFC, Patiala House Court, New Delhi- Cr. Case No.2443/2017- charges framed	FIR No. 490/2013, PS-Delhi Cantt, District-South West, State-Delhi, U/s- 354/509/34 IPC	NA	NA	NA

SD/
RAJESH GARG
AUTHORISED SIGNATORY
(CHAIRMAN, BOOTH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE)
DELHI PRADESH CONGRESS COMMITTEE

16	41-Jangpura	Farhad Suri	Ld. MM, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 45521/2016- charges framed	FIR No. 22/1998, P.S. Tuglak Road, District-New Delhi, Delhi, U/S 114, 212, 324, 120-B of IPC	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. MM, South East, Saket Court- CC NI Act no. 6505 / 2018- cognizance taken by court	Case No. 2, 3, 4, 5 pertain to cases of Negotiable Instruments Act			
			Ld. MM, East, Karkardooma Courts- CC NI Act no. 605 / 2018- cognizance taken by court				
			Ld. MM, Shahadra, Karkardooma Courts- CC NI Act. No. 90/2021- cognizance taken by court				
			Ld. MM, Shahadra, Karkardooma Courts- CC NI Act No. 113/2021- cognizance taken by court				
17	42-Kasturba Nagar	Abhishek Dutt	Ld. JMFC-03, South East, Saket Court- Cr. Case No. 4995/2021- charges framed	FIR No. 211/ 2021, P.S. Hazarat Nizamuddin, District-South East, State-Delhi, U/s 188, 269, 270 of IPC & 3 of ED Act, 1897	NA	NA	NA
18	45-Mehrauli	Puspha Singh	Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 54538/2024- no charges framed	FIR No. 0048/2024, Dated 10/08/2024, P.S. North Avenue, District-New Delhi, State- Delhi, U/s 223(A), 3(5) of BNS, 2023	NA	NA	NA
19	48-Ambedkar Nagar- SC	Jay Prakash	Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 5210/2021- no charges framed	FIR No.106/2020, Dated 26/8/2020, PS- Parliament Street, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 6991/2020- no charges framed	FIR No.16/2020, Dated 12/8/2020,PS- South Avenue, District- New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 8839/2022- no charges framed	FIR No.94/2022, Dated 15/6/2022, PS- Tuglak Road, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 7929/2022- no charges framed	FIR No.35/2022, Dated 23/03/2022, PS- Parliament Street, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 4446/2021- no charges framed	FIR No.50/2021, Dated 16/03/2021, PS- Parliament Street, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 9923/2021- no charges framed	FIR No.130/2021, Dated 23/07/2021, PS- Parliament Street, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 2133/2021- no charges framed	FIR No.134/2020 Dated 01/10/2020, PS- Parliament Street, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 7961/2022- no charges framed	FIR No.16/2022, Dated 12/08/2020, PS- South Avenue, District-New Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, New Delhi, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 4453/2021- no charges framed	FIR No.108/2020, Dated 01/10/2020, PS- Parliament Street, District-New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/S-188 IPC			
20	51-Kalkaji	Alka Lamba	Ld. MM, Jaipur Metro 1, Jaipur, Rajasthan- Cr. Case 16096/2024- no charges framed	FIR No. 362/2017, Dated 25/10/2017, P.S – Ashok Nagar, State- Delhi, U/s 353, 147 of IPC	NA	NA	NA
21	53-Badarpur	Arjun Singh Bhadana	Ld. MM, Patiala House Court- Cr. Case No. 8526/2017	FIR No. 56/ 2017, Dated 06.08.2017, P.S. Sagarpur, District New Delhi, State-Delhi, U/s 279 of IPC	Ld. MM, Patiala House Court order dated 06.05.2024	fine of Rs. 1000	disposed off
22	54-Okhla	Ariba Khan	Ld. JMFC, South East, Saket Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 3262/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 150/2022, P.S. Jamia Nagar, District- South East, State- Delhi, U/s 188, 269, 270 of IPC	NA	NA	NA

23	57-Patparganj	Anil Kumar	Ld. JMFC, Shahdara, Karkardooma Court- Cr. Cases 3497/2022 - no charges framed	FIR No. 569/2021, P.S Jagat Puri, District-East, State - Delhi, U/S 269, 188 & 34 IPC	NA	NA	NA
			Ld. JMFC, Patiala House Court- Cr. Cases 3566/2022- no charges framed	FIR No. 42/2021, P.S South Avenue, District-New Delhi, State -Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, Central, Tis Hazari Courts- Cr. Cases 6652/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 166/2021, P.S Civil Lines, District-North State-Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, Central, Tis Hazari Courts- Cr. Cases 6655/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 254/2021, P.S Civil Lines, District-North State-Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, Central, Tis Hazari Courts- Cr. Cases 6656/2023- no charges framed	FIR No. 13/2021, P.S Civil Lines, District North, State-Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, East, Karkardooma Court- Cr. Cases 2917/2022- no charges framed	FIR No. 298/2021, P.S Mandawali, District-East, State-Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
			Ld. JMFC, East, Karkardooma Court- Cr. Cases 6002/2022- no charges framed	FIR No. 204/2020, P.S Ghazipur, District -East, State-Delhi, U/S 188 IPC			
24	60-Krishna Nagar	Gurcharan Singh	Ld. JMFC, East, Karkardooma District Court- Case No. 2917/2022- no charges framed	FIR No. 298/2021, Dated 07/06/2021, Police Station Mandawali Fazalpur, District- East, State- Delhi, U/s 188,34 IPC	NA	NA	NA
25	61-Gandhi Nagar	Kamal Arora	Details not available	FIR No. 0214/2008, P.S. Gandhi Nagar, District- East, Delhi, U/S 3(1) of WBPP Act	Details not available	Details not available	Details not available
			Ld. JMFC, Shahdara, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 3924/2023- no charge framed	FIR No. 215/2018, P.S. Jagat Puri, District East, Delhi, U/S 34, 420,467,468,471 of IPC, 1860	NA	NA	NA
26	65-Seelampur	Abdul Rehman	Ld. ACMM-04, RADC, New Delhi (MP/MLA Court)- CR Cases/4/2023- charges framed	FIR No. 46/2009, PS Seelampur, North-East District, Delhi, U/S 353/506, IPC, 1860	Court of Sh. Harjeet Singh Jaspal, Ld. ACMM-04, RADC, New Delhi (MP/MLA Court) order dated 29.04.2023	was released on probation vide order dated 07/06/2023	NA
			Details not available	FIR No. 699/2019, dated 17/12/2019, P.S. Jafrabad, North-East District, Delhi, U/S 147, 148, 149, 186,353,332,307,427,435,120-B, 34 of IPC, 1860	NA	NA	NA
			Details not available	FIR No. 245/2013, P.S. Jafrabad, North-East District, Delhi, U/S 3 DPDP Act	NA	NA	NA
			Details not available	FIR No. 388/2013, P.S. Jafrabad, North-East District, Delhi, U/S 3 DPDP Act	NA	NA	NA
27	67-Babarpur	Mohd Ishraq Khan	Ld. JMFC, North East, Karkardooma Courts, Delhi- Cr. Case No. 1761/2020- no charges framed	FIR No. 670/2019, P.S. New Usmanpur, District-North East, Delhi, U/S 34, 188, 448 of IPC & 466A of DMC Act	NA	NA	NA
28	68-Gokalpur - SC	Ishwar Singh	Ld. CMM, Karkardooma Courts, New Delhi-DLNE020022382007- no charges framed	FIR No. 237/2007, U/S 3,4 WBDPP Act, 1976	NA	NA	NA
29	69-Mustafabad	Ali Mehndi	Ld. CMM, East, Karkardooma Court, Delhi- Cr. Case 2917/2022 - no charges framed	FIR No. 298/2021, Dated 07/06/2021, P.S - Mandawli Fazalpur, District- East, State- Delhi, U/s 188/34 of IPC & u/s 3 of Epidemic Diseases Act,1897	NA	NA	NA
30	34- Matiala	Raghvinder Singh	Metropolitan Magistrate	FIR No. 79/2014, P.S. Chhawla, Delhi u/s. 3 DPDP Act 2007	13.09.2014	Fined	Rs 5000 fine.

Sensex, Nifty open higher tracking Asian markets; energy stocks gain

New Delhi. Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Friday due to gains in Asia, but modest Q3 earnings have kept the volatility intact on Dalal Street.

The S&P BSE Sensex was up 204.76 points to 76,725.14 at 9:17 am, while the NSE Nifty50 was trading 64.15 points higher at 23,269.50.

The other broader market indices were trading marginally higher as high volatility continued to keep investors on the edge. While most of the Nifty sectoral indices were trading in positive territory, none registered a big gain in early trade. On the other hand, Nifty Pharma was down over 1.5%.

The top gainers on the Nifty50 were BPCL, Powergrid, Shriram Finance, Coal India, NTPC and Tata Steel. Pharma stocks such as Dr Reddy's, Apollo Hospitals, Sun Pharma, Cipla were among the top losers. Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said, "Nifty may face a volatile session today, with a strong chance of closing below the psychological 23000 mark as uncertainty around President Donald Trump's tariff plans persists." "Technically, Nifty is trading well below its 200-day moving average of 23982, and a bearish pattern continues to emerge on the daily charts. Major headwinds include record outflows from Foreign Institutional Investors, amounting to Rs. 66,321.70 crores this January, and ongoing tariff threats," he added.

He advised market investors to keep an eye on key upcoming events, like the FOMC meeting and the Union Budget as they can influence market direction. "Among stocks, UltraTech Cement surged 7% despite a 17% profit decline, while KEI Industries reported strong earnings. Also, watch out for Q3 results from JSW Steel, DLF, and Indigo today," he added. Meanwhile, Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services, indicated that foreign institutional investors (FIIs) will continue to sell, putting pressure on large-cap banking stocks.

Capex allocation may not rise much

NEW DELHI. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Labour and Employment, recently said India must increase allocation for infrastructure spending to Rs 15 lakh crore from the present Rs 11.11 lakh crore.

However, given the fiscal constraints and the likely inability of the government to fully spend the Rs 11.11 lakh crore allocation for capital expenditure (capex) in the current financial year, it is unlikely that the government may hike capex allocation much in the coming budget. Most analysts expect capex allocation to rise by 10-12% over actual capex in FY25. Analysts have projected the capex allocation for FY26 in the budget to be at the same level as was budgeted for the current financial year - Rs 11.11 lakh crore. Some of them have even lowered the capex allocation to below current year's budget target - the reason being sharp fall in Capex spending in FY25 by the central government.

Rating agency ICRA expects the capex allocation for FY26 to be Rs 11 lakh crore, Nomura pegs the capex allocation at Rs 10.7 lakh crore. Morgan Stanley estimates capex allocation in the budget to be Rs 11.2 lakh crore. Aditi Nayar, chief economist, ICRA Ratings says: "...a likely dip in revenue deficit would allow for a capex target of Rs 11 lakh crore for FY26, similar to budget estimate for FY25, albeit 12-13% higher than expected outgo in FY25 (Rs 9.7 lakh crore). Nayar's capex allocation estimate is based on actual capex spends of Rs 9.7 lakh crore against budget target of Rs 11.11 lakh crore. There are reasons for her understating FY25 actual capex spends by Rs 1.4 lakh crore. The government has been slow in spending the amount allocated for capex.

US sanctions start to impact supplies from Russia

NEW DELHI. The US sanctions on Russian oil sector have started to show impact on India's near-term oil flows with state-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) saying not enough cargoes are available from Russia for March 2024.

BPCL Director (Finance) Vetsa Ramakrishna Gupta stated during an analyst call on Thursday that BPCL had booked Russian crude for January and February, but for March, "We are not getting sufficient cargoes." He also noted that Russian oil's share in the company's overall crude oil basket has decreased to 20% in March from 31% in the October-December quarter. At the start of the current financial year in April 2024, Russian oil accounted for 34-35% of BPCL's processed oil. This significant share was primarily due to Russian crude being available at a discount to other internationally traded oil, resulting from the price cap and European country's shunning purchases from Moscow. Gupta mentioned that the discounts on Russian oil have narrowed to \$3-3.2 per barrel from \$3.5-4 at the start of the current financial year and \$8.5 in the 2023-24 financial year.

Gupta assured that there is enough oil available in the market and the company would explore alternative sources such as the Middle East to replace the lost volumes from Russia. Russia accounted for just 0.2% of India's total oil imports in the year ending March 31, 2022.

However, India became the second-largest buyer of Russian crude oil after Moscow invaded Ukraine in February 2022, with purchases rising to almost 40% of the country's total oil purchases. The US imposed sweeping sanctions targeting the Russian energy sector on January 10, including sanctions on oil producers Gazprom Neft and Surgutneftegas and curbs on various entities involved in Russian energy exports. This month India has decided to avoid deliveries made by tankers sanctioned by the US in the latest round.

Explained: Why Dr Reddy's share price cracked 6% in early trade

Dr Reddy's Laboratories Stock Price: Dr Reddy's shares tumbled up to 6% in early trade and at 9:46 am, they were trading 4.35% lower at Rs 1,233.25 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

New Delhi. Shares of Dr Reddy's Laboratories fell sharply in early trade as investors turned cautious after the company reported its third quarter results. The pharma company's shares tumbled up to 6% in early trade, and at around 9:46 am, they were trading 4.35% lower at Rs 1,233.25 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The drop in the company's share price came despite earnings managing to marginally beat street expectations. It's worth noting that the concerns largely

centered on declining revenue from Revlimid, which is a cancer drug that has been a strong growth driver for the company in recent years. Revlimid's revenue contribution has slowly started declining, with its patent expiry set for January 2026. This means Dr Reddy's will need to find new revenue streams soon. Another factor that led to today's decline was the drug's shrinking margins. While the management outlined long-term growth strategies, analysts remained divided on their future strategy.

WHAT DO BROKERAGES SAY? Analysts at brokerage firm HSBC said they remain cautious about Dr Reddy's. While the launch of Semaglutide in Canada in early 2026 might provide some relief, HSBC said it may not be enough to fully compensate for the anticipated loss of Revlimid revenue.

The brokerage maintained a 'Hold' rating with a price target of Rs 1,250. Nuvama Institutional Equities shared a more optimistic view, adding that a

1,533. Meanwhile, JM Financial pointed out that the market may be underestimating Semaglutide's potential. With its launch slated for Canada and 18 other markets by CY26, JM Financial sees Dr Reddy's as well-positioned among generic players to capitalise on this opportunity.

The brokerage set a target price of Rs 1,753 on Dr Reddy's stock.

Dr Reddy's Q3 Results

For the October-December quarter, Dr Reddy's reported a 2% year-on-year rise in net profit to Rs 1,413 crore. Revenue surged 16% year-on-year to Rs 8,359 crore. However, operational challenges rose as pricing pressure in the US market and the fall in Revlimid revenue took a toll on margins, with the EBITDA margin shrinking to 27.5% from 29.3% a year ago.



combination of Abatacept and Semaglutide could help the company retain a big chunk of its Revlimid earnings. The brokerage reiterated its 'Buy' call with a price target of Rs

Perplexity AI CEO calls Nandan Nilekani 'awesome' but his AI stance 'wrong'

New Delhi Shares of Cyient tumbled as much as 20% to hit a 52-week low after it reported Q3FY25 results. At around 11:08 am, the IT stock was down 18.54% to Rs 1,427.90 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). A major reason that contributed to the sharp decline in its share price was the resignation of its CEO Karthikeyan Natarajan, which led to greater concerns among brokerages. HDFC Institutional Equities said the resignation of Natarajan as CEO came as a "negative surprise".

WHY DID KARTHIKEYAN NATARAJAN RESIGN? In an exchange filing, the company informed about the resignation of Natarajan and attached his letter addressed to the board of directors. "I am writing to formally tender my resignation after careful consideration as Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company...to explore new challenges and

opportunities that align with my personal and professional goals," Natarajan said. Natarajan said he is proud of the company's achievements

tenure. "I feel it is the right time to hand over the reins for the next phase of growth. I am truly thankful for the trust and support extended to me by the

board, my colleagues, and all stakeholders," he said.

CYIENT Q3 RESULTS

Cyient reported a 16.92% year-on-year (YoY) drop in net profit and a sharper 31.71% decline quarter-on-quarter (QoQ), raising concerns among investors about its financial performance. The IT company's revenue from operations increased marginally by 4.2% YoY to Rs 1,926.4 crore. While operating income rose slightly by 0.81% YoY, it fell 8.37% QoQ, signalling stable year-on-year performance but some amount of quarterly pressure.

Earnings per share (EPS) for Q3 stood at Rs 11.02, marking a decline of 34.29% YoY.



over the last five years, both financially and in the direction of pivoting the company towards "technology solution-led innovation." He went on to say that the company is "stronger than ever before," highlighting the key milestones achieved set during his

Cyient share price falls 20% to hit 52-week low. What triggered Friday's crash

New Delhi. Information technology (IT) company Cyient's share price tumbled sharply in early trade on Friday to hit a 52-week low as brokerages cut estimates after its Q3FY25 results. At around 10:21 am, shares of Cyient were down 17.96% to Rs 1,438 on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). In early trade, shares of the IT company fell as much as 20% to hit a 52-week low of Rs 1,402.25. Today's crash in its share price comes after the company cut its FY25 revenue growth guidance again to minus 2.7%. Its net profit also dropped 32% quarter-on-quarter (QoQ) in the third quarter. The stock was also hit by the resignation of CEO Karthikeyan Natarajan. Following the developments, analysts have also cut earnings estimates and target prices for Cyient. Brokerage firm Nuvama noted that the Cyient management started off

FY25 with a high single-digit revenue growth guidance. However, it has repeatedly cut the guidance, which is now at minus 2.7%. "The weak exit rate also impacts growth prospects for



FY26. We remain negative on Cyient even as inexpensive valuations limit the downside potential," the brokerage said. Nuvama has also cut its FY25 and FY26 earnings per share (EPS) estimates for Cyient sharply by 10.8%

and 4.5%, respectively, citing lower growth and margins. The brokerage firm has revised its target price to Rs 1,660 from Rs 1,700 earlier. HDFC Institutional Equities also raised concerns about the cut in revenue guidance, weak exit margin and CEO's resignation. The brokerage cut its revenue estimate by 2% and earnings per share (EPS) by 5%, citing slower growth and weak margins.

However, the brokerage maintained its 'Add' rating with a target price of Rs 1,790. It may be noted that Cyient shares have been going through a rough patch due to multiple guidance cuts. The share price of the company has fallen over 20% since the beginning of 2025, over 24% in the past six months and over 30% in a year.

NPAs may rise 25% in this and next fiscals over FY24 on rising stress in unsecured retail books

Rapid growth in retail lending in recent years, particularly in unsecured loans, has increased medium-term risks, according to rating agency Fitch.

NEW DELHI. The increasing stress levels in unsecured retail loan books of banks can spiral out of control and create asset quality risks this fiscal to the tune of 25 percent over the past fiscal's level, the international rating agency Fitch has warned. Private sector banks like HDFC Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank among other which have declared their Q3 earnings have reported massive spike in their retail, agriculture and MFI books. "We forecast the banks' impaired-loan ratio to fall by 40 bps to around 2.4% for the current financial year and by another 20 bps next fiscal, despite expecting new bad loans in FY25 and FY26 to be around 25 percent higher than in FY24," Fitch Ratings said in a report Thursday.

Rapid retail lending growth in recent years, particularly unsecured loans, has heightened medium-term risks, the agency said, adding "however, we still expect the impaired-loan ratio to fall in FY25 and FY26, driven by robust loan growth, as well as recoveries and write-offs, which are expected to offset the increase in fresh bad loans."

The Reserve Bank expects the impaired-loan ratio to trough in FY25 before rising to around 3 percent in FY26, from the 2.6 percent in the first half of FY25.

"We believe the difference from our forecast partly reflects variance of opinions on the timing and extent of risk crystallisation, banks' exposure at risks, loan growth and the country's overall economic performance," the agency said. Unsecured personal loans and credit card borrowings grew at 22% and 25 percent, respectively, in each of the past three years to FY24, but slowed to 11 percent and 18 percent, respectively, in the first half of the current fiscal, after the RBI hiked the risk weights attached to unsecured lending by 25 percentage points in November 2023.

Although household debt remains low

compared to many Apac emerging markets, at 42.9 percent of GDP as of June 2024, stress in unsecured retail loans has been rising, making up roughly 52 percent of new bad retail



loans in the first half of this fiscal. The impact of defaults on unsecured loans can be amplified as around 50% of borrowers reportedly hold at least one other, often high-value secured retail loan, such as a housing or vehicle loan, which could also be affected in the event of default, the report said. Currently, lending stress appears to be concentrated in unsecured personal loans of under Rs 50,000. "Large banks' exposure to such riskier loans may be proportionally lower than the system's,

but they are not completely insulated, given their high loan growth appetite and increased digital lending in recent years. Banks may also have indirect exposure through funding to non-banks and fintechs, which are more exposed to low-income borrowers. Low-income borrowers, or those without income disclosure, constitute slightly over one-third of the system's outstanding consumer credit," the report said, adding this fast emerging risks could spill over to the higher income categories in a market downturn, given the correlation between rapid unsecured personal loan growth and increased retail participation in financial markets since FY20.

The report said exposure to unsecured personal and credit card loans banks it rates ranges between 2 percent and 15 percent of total loans. Accelerated write-offs, particularly private banks that are more aggressive lenders to this segment, likely played a role in keeping the bad-loan ratio in this segment muted at 1.7 percent in the first half of this fiscal, compared to the overall retail bad loan ratio of 1.2 percent, which includes lower-risk housing and vehicle loans, the report concludes.

HUL to acquire stake in Minimalist for Rs 2,670 crore; Peak XV bags 10X gains

New Delhi HUL (Hindustan Unilever Limited) announced the acquisition of Minimalist, the D2C skincare brand, for Rs 2,670 crore, making it one of the biggest acquisitions in the country's startup ecosystem.

Mohit Yadav and Rahul Yadav, founders of Minimalist said, "Now, with HUL's robust offline distribution network, we look forward to making our products even more accessible across the country. This partnership also paves the way for our expansion into international markets helping us realise our dream of taking Minimalist to the world". Venture capital firm Peak XV Partners is set to receive a return on investment of ten times, as per various media reports. The VC giant acquired a 27.5% stake in Minimalist in 2019, and is expected to earn a profit amounting to Rs 800 crore from its Rs 80 crore investment in the firm. HUL is purchasing a 90.5% stake in the startup for Rs 2670 crores, valuing Minimalist at Rs 2,955. Further, HUL will invest approximately Rs 45 crore directly into Minimalist.

After the deal is completed in the first quarter of FY26, the startup will see multiple exits.

Minimalist's founders, Rahul Yadav and Mohit Kumar Yadav, Peak XV, and Surge, which provided the seed investment, along with Twenty Nine Capital Partners will exit the startup.

It is expected that the co-founders of Minimalist will sell 57.35% of their stake for nearly Rs 1,500 crore. Also, in two years, the remaining 9.5% of Minimalist would be purchased by HUL. Minimalist's founders will supervise the startup's operations for the next two years.

Minimalist was founded in 2020, and carries out its sales through its own online platform and e-commerce platforms such as Amazon, Nykaa, Flipkart, and Myntra.

"Minimalist has been built on robust fundamentals and has delivered profitable growth since inception. The business has rapidly scaled to cross an Annual Revenue Runrate (ARR) of Rs 500 cr in a short span of 4 years," said HUL.

Rohit Jawa, CEO and Managing Director, HUL said, "We are delighted to welcome Minimalist into the HUL family. This acquisition is another key step to grow our Beauty & Wellbeing portfolio in high-growth premium demand spaces. Mohit, Rahul and the team have created a great brand built on science, product efficacy and transparency."

NEWS BOX

Australian Open: Novak Djokovic retires with injury in semis, Zverev into final

Australian Open 2025: Seventh seed Novak Djokovic retired from his semi-final match against Alexander Zverev at the Rod Laver Arena after losing the first set.

New Delhi On Thursday, Djokovic, reportedly, also cancelled his training session, mostly as a precautionary measure before the all-important semi-final. In the match against Zverev, Djokovic again came in with his leg taped-up. This time around, after he couldn't come up trumps in the first set, he decided to throw in the towel. In the first set, Djokovic got three chances to break Zverev's serve, but could not convert any of them. Zverev dominated him with eight aces and 24 winners, but Djokovic managed to hold his nerve and take the set into a tie-break.

At 6-6, it was even Stevens before Djokovic lost the set after an unforced error. Djokovic was looking for his 11th title in the hard court



major and his 100th win in the Australian Open, but the veteran has to wait for a year to achieve the landmarks. Djokovic has had his fair share of trouble with injuries in the last 12 months. Last year at Roland Garros, he withdrew due to a right-knee injury ahead of his quarterfinal match against Casper Ruud. He also missed the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, due to an injury. As far as Zverev is concerned, he advanced to his maiden final at Melbourne Park. In the summit clash to be held on Sunday, January 26, Zverev will be up against the winner of the second semi-final between World No. 1 Jannik Sinner and USA's Ben Shelton. Back in 2020, Zverev lost to Dominic Thiem in the US Open final. Last year, it was Alcaraz who got the better of him in the grand finale of the French Open. Zverev will be looking to come out on the winning side in his third appearance in a final at Grand Slams.

Ronald Araujo shuts transfer rumours after signing FC Barcelona contract extension

NEW DELHI. Uruguayan centre-back Ronald Araujo has put an end to ongoing transfer speculation by signing a six-year contract extension with La Liga giants FC Barcelona. The deal, which secures Araujo's services until 2031, reaffirms the club's faith in the 25-year-old defender, who has become a key figure in their backline since joining in 2018.

Despite battling injuries that limited his appearances this season, Araujo remains a pivotal part of Barcelona's defensive unit. His performances and leadership qualities have earned the trust of coach Hansi Flick, who has consistently backed the centre-back amidst growing rumours linking him to Serie A side Juventus. "His (Araujo's) winning mentality and supreme defensive skills quickly made him a fan favourite, and he is now regarded as one of the best centre backs in the whole world. Not only that, but he has also proved his worth as a full back too," Barcelona said in their statement. Barcelona's decision not to disclose the exact value of Araujo's release



clause has raised intrigue. Reports suggest that Araujo's representatives pushed for a reduction in the release clause, which had been initially set at a staggering €1 billion. This adjustment underscores the club's willingness to accommodate the player's requests while ensuring his long-term commitment to the team. Araujo's extension comes at a time when Barcelona are looking to maintain stability within their squad amid financial challenges and transfer market uncertainties. The Uruguayan's presence offers reliability and a sense of continuity as the Blaugrana aim to strengthen their defensive solidity in pursuit of domestic and European success. By retaining one of their captains, Barcelona have not only secured a talented defender but also sent a clear message about their intent to build a competitive squad around their key players. Araujo's long-term stay reflects his belief in the club's vision and his desire to contribute to its future triumphs.

Europa League: Fernandes hands Manchester United dramatic victory over Rangers

United move up to fourth in the table with one match of the league phase remaining.

MANCHESTER. Manchester United closed in on a direct passage to the Europa League last 16 thanks to Bruno Fernandes' late winner to beat Rangers 2-1 on Thursday.

The Red Devils looked set to suffer more disappointment at Old Trafford when Cyrille Dessers levelled for an injury-ravaged Rangers in the 88th minute.

But Fernandes spared United's blushes and possibly the playoff round by blasting home in stoppage time. "It was a victory that we truly needed in this moment," said under-fire United boss Ruben Amorim. United move up to fourth in the table with one match of the league phase remaining.

The top eight will qualify directly for the last 16, which may now be beyond Rangers, who slip to 13th. However, the Glasgow

giants battled bravely in the circumstances as coach Philippe Clement had to turn to two teenagers off the bench in the second half as his injury problems mounted.

"I saw everybody gutted in the dressing room that we lost after playing that kind of game," said Clement.

"I am also very proud what the team did today, sticking to the plan with really young players coming on the pitch."

Amorim had blasted United's current crop as the worst in the club's history after a bruising 3-1 defeat to Brighton at the weekend. That was a fourth defeat in five home games and United's nervousness in front of an expectant crowd was clear to see in the early stages before they began to take control.

Alejandro Garnacho has been linked with a move away in the closing weeks of the transfer window as United look to ease their issues with meeting profit and sustainability rules. The Argentine is attracting interest from Napoli and Chelsea and should have signed off with at least one goal if it is to be his final appearance for the club. Garnacho's goalbound effort was deflected



over by Nico Raskin before United had the ball in the net from the resulting corner.

Matthijs de Ligt's towering header was controversially ruled out for a foul on Robin Propper and VAR did not intervene.

Butland's nightmare return

Already shorn of John Souttar, Nerysho Kasanwirjo, Ianis Hagi, Danilo and Oscar Cortes, Rangers had to cope with three more injuries as Leon Balogun and Connor Barron did not appear for the second half and Vaclav Cerny limped off on the hour mark. Clement had to throw on two 18-year-olds with barely any first team experience in Bailey Rice and Findlay

Curtis. Yet, they were ultimately only beaten by a huge error from one of their most experienced players. Jack Butland did not play for United during a spell with the Red Devils in 2023. The former England international goalkeeper endured a nightmare return as he punched Amad Diallo's corner into his own net to break the deadlock. United failed to press home the advantage as Garnacho fired a glorious chance off the post from close range. And they could have been punished as Dessers

smashed home after Harry Maguire got caught underneath a long ball.

Not for the first time this season, Fernandes rode to United's rescue with the one moment of quality in a scrappy game when he cushioned Lisandro Martinez's cross through Butland's legs.

Rangers are still set to at least make the playoff round and have an outside chance at making the top eight if they beat Union Saint-Gilloise at Ibrox next week.

United travel to Romanian side FCSB with a point likely enough to secure place in the last 16.

Don't boo Djokovic: Zverev calls out unruly crowd after Serb retires with injury

New Delhi. German tennis star Alexander Zverev called out the crowd at the Rod Laver Arena and urged them not to boo Novak Djokovic after the Serbian legend retired from their Australian Open men's singles semi-final clash. The unexpected turn of events left the crowd in shock as Djokovic, battling a thigh injury, withdrew after just one set. A section of the crowd expressed their frustration by booing Djokovic, prompting Zverev to speak out during his post-match on-court interview. Zverev defended his opponent, and his good friend, acknowledging Djokovic's efforts and the physical challenges he faced throughout the tournament. Zverev emphasised the importance of respect, urging fans to appreciate the 24-time Grand Slam champion's legacy and dedication to the



sport. "Please, do not boo any player, much less Novak. He has done everything imaginable for this sport, he has tried to compete despite his problems. I know you have paid for a ticket, but he has been giving everything to this sport for 20 years and won this tournament with a torn abdominal muscle. Show a little love... I had to play the best set of the tournament to beat him while he was injured. He is too good," Zverev said.

"There's no guy on tour I respect more than Novak. He's been one of my closest friends. Whenever I struggled, I could always call him. I have nothing but respect for him" he added. The highly anticipated clash had begun with both players showcasing exceptional tennis, with Zverev narrowly clinching the opening set in a tense tie-break, 7-6(7-5). However, the excitement turned to disbelief when Djokovic, visibly struggling with discomfort, walked over to embrace Zverev before retiring from the match. The sight of Djokovic leaving the court stunned the Rod Laver Arena, as fans were left disappointed by the abrupt end to the contest.

Gadecki, Peers win first all-Aussie mixed doubles final in 58 years at the Australian Open

MELBOURNE. Olivia Gadecki and John Peers combined for a 3-6, 6-4, 10-6 victory over John-Patrick Smith and Kimberly Birrell on Friday to win the first all-Aussie Australian Open mixed doubles final since 1967. The two wild-card pairings faced off on Rod Laver Arena to start the action on Day 13 at the year's first major.

Gadecki hit an overhead winner to secure the match and claim her first major title. Peers added to his collection which already included an Olympic gold medal and an Australian Open title in men's doubles, and a mixed doubles title at the 2022 U.S. Open.

"It's so nice to play an all-Aussie final, so



congrats," the 22-year-old Gadecki said during the trophy presentation. To Peers, she added: "Thanks for letting me ride the wave, and just having a great time out there."

Peers responded: "You're a class act — keep going. This is just the start for you." For Smith, the loss coincided with his 36th birthday, something Birrell didn't forget, leading off the singing of "Happy Birthday" during the presentation ceremony. Gadecki and Birrell played women's doubles together at the Australian Open and reached the third round. Later Friday, 10-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic was scheduled to play No. 2 Alexander Zverev in the first of the men's singles semifinals. Defending champion Jannik Sinner faced No. 21 Ben Shelton in a night match

People say I look like Jasprit Bumrah while bowling: Australia's Lily Bassingthwaite



NEW DELHI. Australia's Under-19 fast bowler Lily Bassingthwaite revealed her admiration for India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah and mentioned that people say that she looks like him when she bowls. Bassingthwaite is currently participating in the ICC Women's Under-19 T20 World Cup 2025 and starred with the ball for his team in their opening fixture against Nepal. Recently, the rising star revealed that she's a big fan of Jasprit Bumrah as people often compare her action with the India fast bowler. She also praised the India speedster for his mentality and his ability to get wickets at crucial stages of the game. "I want

to say Jasprit Bumrah because his elbow also hyperextends and mine do that a bit too, so people say that I look like him when I bowl. I just like his mentality as he always finds a way to get wickets. I don't know if it's great when it's against Australia but he's good to watch," Bassingthwaite said in a video shared by the ICC (International Cricket Council) on Instagram. Bassingthwaite was the pick of bowlers for Australia U-19 during their win in the opening fixture against Nepal U-19. The right-arm seamer registered figures of 2/4 in three overs to restrict Nepal to 56/8 in reply to Australia's score of 139/6. Caoimhe Bray was adjudged

Australia's Under-19 star Lily Bassingthwaite has revealed that people often compare her action with India speedster Jasprit Bumrah.

Player of the Match for top scoring for Australia with her knock of 45 (34) in Australia's 83-run win. Bumrah in contention to win ICC Test Cricketer of the Year. Meanwhile, Bumrah is in contention to be awarded ICC Test Cricketer of the year after his phenomenal performance in the format in 2024. The India speedster took 71 wickets from 13 Tests at an average of 14.92 and claimed the top spot in the ICC Test bowling rankings. Bumrah has been nominated alongside Joe Root, Kamindu Mendis and Harry Brook. Meanwhile, India are fretting over the fitness over his fitness ahead of ICC Champions Trophy 2025 after Bumrah injured himself during the fifth Test against Australia in Sydney. The speedster is currently at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru as Indian fans await confirmation on his fitness.

Manoj Tiwary recalls being 'targetted' by former KKR captain Gautam Gambhir

Manoj Tiwary opened up about being unfairly targeted by Gautam Gambhir during their time at Kolkata Knight Riders, detailing strained moments, including a confrontation where Wasim Akram had to intervene.

NEW DELHI. Former Indian cricketer Manoj Tiwary has shed light on his strained relationship with Gautam Gambhir during their time together at Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League. In an interview with Lallantop, Tiwary shared instances of being unfairly targeted by Gambhir, who was KKR's captain during his tenure with the team. Renowned for his determined and fiery personality, Gambhir's leadership style brought KKR great success, including two IPL titles. However, it also led to friction with teammates, including Tiwary,

who described Gambhir's behaviour as unnecessarily harsh and, at times, hurtful. Tiwary revealed that their disagreements often escalated to the point where others had to intervene. He recalled one specific incident when KKR's then bowling coach, Wasim Akram, had to step in to prevent a war of words between the two. "I would get scolded without any reason. I couldn't understand why he would target me. In fact, when I came to KKR in 2010, he and I got along nicely. But then he would lose his cool at me out of the blue. He would use very hurtful words. Then, when I started thinking about it, I realised that out of all the local boys at KKR, I was the one who used to perform consistently. And since I was a promising youngster, the media was giving me attention. So, he didn't react to it well. That is what I believe," Tiwary said on Lallantop. "Once, we had a heated argument about my batting position at the Eden Gardens. I was upset and had gone to the

washroom. He barged in and said 'This attitude won't work. Tujhe kabhi khilaunga nahi (I won't give you a game)'. This and that.



I never liked such words. He was giving me a threat. Aaj ke baad, tujhe kabhi khilaunga nahi. Wasim Akram also came in. He was our bowling coach, so he calmed things down. He said 'You are the captain. Cool down' He understood, he knew what was happening. He had said good things about my talent a

few years ago," Tiwary said. Gambhir, who now serves as India's head coach, has often been a divisive figure in cricket. His no-nonsense attitude and strict approach have drawn criticism from players and commentators alike. Recently, Tiwary openly criticised Gambhir's appointment as head coach following India's Test series defeats to New Zealand and Australia. He questioned Gambhir's credentials for the role, labelling him a "hypocrite" who fails to practise what he preaches. Tiwary argued that Gambhir lacks clarity in his coaching philosophy and has yet to establish a distinctive style that benefits the national team. Gambhir's uncompromising approach has also been evident in his current role as head coach. Reports suggest he recommended the BCCI impose restrictions on family time for players during tours, a move aimed at fostering focus and discipline but one that has sparked debate about maintaining a healthy balance between personal and professional commitments.

Vicky Kaushal

Helps Co-Star Rashmika Mandanna As She Hobbles With Leg Injury At Chhaava Trailer Launch



Rashmika Mandanna arrived at the Mumbai airport this morning, visibly struggling with a leg injury she sustained last month. A video circulating on social media captured the actress limping slightly before she was assisted into a wheelchair. Despite the setback, Rashmika displayed her professionalism by attending the trailer launch of her upcoming film Chhaava alongside Vicky Kaushal in Mumbai later in the day. At the event, Rashmika hobbled on one leg while making her way to her seat, and her co-star Vicky Kaushal stepped in to help, offering her a steady hand and ensuring she was comfortably seated.

Rashmika Mandanna sustained a severe leg injury while she was working out at the gym on January 12, 2025. Despite that, she continues to fulfil her work commitments. Rashmika had earlier taken to her social media handle to share her health update. Sharing photos of herself where she was seen sitting on a chair and propping up her injured feet on a cushion, the actress wrote, "Well... happy New Year to me I guess! (Woman facepalming emoji) Injured myself in my sacred gym shrine (smiling face with tear and smiling face with tear emojis). Now I'm in 'hop mode' for the next few weeks or months or god only knows, so seems like I'll be hopping my way back to sets for Thama, Sikandar, and Kubera! (Heart with an arrow and smiling face with hearts emojis)." "To my directors, sorry for the delay... I'll be back soon enough just making sure my legs are fit for action (or at least fit for hopping) (rabbit face, collision emoji and monkey emojis). In the meantime, if you need me... I'll be the one in the corner doing a highly advanced bunny hop workout. HOP HOP HOP... (rabbit and sparkles emoji)," she added.



Shilpa Shirodkar Shares Heartfelt Instagram Post On Sister Namrata Shirodkar's Birthday: 'I Missed You'



Even though Bigg Boss 18 has ended, Shilpa Shirodkar remains in the spotlight. Her journey on the show had its share of ups and downs, blending resilience, drama, and surprises. Entering as a seasoned actress, Shilpa caught attention for her strong opinions and straightforward approach. Her candidness and strategic moves set her apart, and her composed handling of tricky situations earned her praise from viewers. During Shilpa's Bigg Boss journey, if there was one person who stood by her unwaveringly, it was her sister, Namrata Shirodkar. On Wednesday, which marked Namrata's birthday, Shilpa took to Instagram to share an adorable video — a heartfelt compilation of the sisters' happiest moments together over the years.

In the caption, Shilpa expressed her love and admiration for her sister and also highlighted how much she missed Namrata during their time apart owing to her Bigg Boss 18 journey. "Wishing you a happy, happier, and happiest birthday, @namratashirodkar ?? How I missed you and just simply talking to you over the past 3 months—whether it was a call or just chatting over a cup of coffee. You are and will always be the special one for me!" she wrote. Shilpa continued, "Thank you for being not just an amazing sister, but also my constant source of love, strength, and happiness! Love you so much!"

Shilpa Shirodkar's journey on Bigg Boss 18 concluded in the final week. The actress was eliminated from the contest just days before the finale, leaving Karan Veer Mehra, Vivian Dsena, Chum Darang, Eisha Singh, Avinash Mishra, and Rajat Dalal to fight for the trophy. But the actress' journey in the house was nothing short of dramatic. Shilpa was often seen emotional in the game, and her bond with Vivian Dsena and Karan Veer Mehra remained the highlight.

Saif Ali Khan 'Walking, Waving' After Discharge From Mumbai Hospital Sparks Debate Over Attack



A debate over Saif Ali Khan's attack has broken out, with some political leaders questioning if he was indeed stabbed or he was "acting", while others came out in support of the actor and his bravery. Maharashtra Minister Nitesh Rane has raised questions over the attack on Saif Ali Khan, asking if the actor was really stabbed or if he was "acting". Rane said that Saif, who was discharged from the hospital on January 21, was "dancing while walking" back to his residence.

His remarks came a day after Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Nirupam raised questions over the actor's quick recovery in five days after he was stabbed six times by an intruder at his house on January 16 morning. Saif underwent a six-hour-long surgery as a 2.5-inch knife was stabbed in his body. The actor had also suffered an injury near his spine and had to be shifted to the ICU following the surgery.

What Did Nitesh Rane Say On Saif Ali Khan's Attack?

Addressing an event in Pune on Wednesday, Rane took a potshot at illegal immigration, referring to the arrest of a 'Bangladeshi' man accused of attacking Saif, and said that he may have entered the actor's residence to "take him away". "Look at what Bangladeshis are doing in Mumbai. They entered Saif Ali Khan's house. Earlier they used to stand at the crossings of the roads, now they have started entering houses. Maybe he came to take him (Saif) away. It is good, garbage should be taken away," he said. The Minister said that the way Saif walked in comfortably to his home after being discharged from the Lilavati Hospital made him doubt whether the actor was "stabbed or he was acting".

"I saw when he came out of the hospital, I doubted whether he had been stabbed or he was acting. He was dancing while walking. Whenever any Khan like Shahrukh Khan or Saif Ali Khan gets hurt, everyone starts talking about it. When a Hindu actor like Sushant Singh Rajput is tortured, no one comes forward to say anything," Rane said. The BJP leader further attacked the Opposition for taking a stand on 'religious lines'. "That Mumbai's Jeetuddin (Jitendra Awhad) and Baramati's Tai (Supriya Sule) did not come forward to say anything... They are only worried about Saif Ali Khan, Shah Rukh Khan's son, and Nawab Malik... Have you ever seen them worrying about any Hindu artist... You guys should pay attention to all these things," Rane said.

Sahiba Bali

Stuns In A Sleek Black Strapless Dress, Hottest-Ever Photos Go Viral

Sahiba Bali once again set the internet ablaze with her latest Instagram update, featuring stunning photos that showcase her elegance and impeccable sense of style. Dressed in a sleek black strapless tea-length dress, she accentuated her look with minimal yet striking gold jewellery, including statement earrings and a delicate ring. Her soft, wavy hair cascaded over her shoulders, styled to perfection. In one of the photos, Sahiba is captured in a beautiful moment, with her hand lightly touching her hair.

Not long back, Sahiba shared photos from her beach vacay on her Instagram account. Taking a dip in crystal-clear waters,



she can be seen snorkeling, embracing the tranquility of the ocean. In the first photo, Sahiba is captured mid-swim, gracefully navigating the turquoise waters, showing off her adventurous side. In the second frame, she strikes a playful

peace sign while perched on the steps, wearing a sleek navy-blue bikini and snorkeling gear, ready to dive back in.

Sahiba Bali, recently seen in Imtiaz Ali's Chamkila with Parineeti Chopra and Diljit Dosanjh, has become a fan favourite. She made her debut as Radha in Dear Maya (2017) and later appeared in Laila Majnu (2018) and the short film Jiya Jaye (2017). She has also acted in popular web series like Bard of Blood (2019) as Abida and Tanaav as Toshi Kaul.

A recent workout video of Sahiba Bali went viral on Instagram, showing her giving it her all during an intense gym session.

She focused on arm exercises like side-lateral raises, bicep curls, tricep pushdowns, overhead presses, and concentration curls. Wearing a mustard sports bra and black shorts with braided hair, she impressed fans with her dedication and toned physique. Sahiba Bali is currently hosting Shark Tank India 4.

