

Date and time when Nirmala Sitharaman will table documents in Parliament

Sanjay Kumar

New Delhi, Jan 30: Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the highly anticipated Economic Survey 2024-25 on Friday, providing an official assessment of



the performance of the economy in the ongoing financial year, a day before the presentation of the Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025-26. The Economic Survey, which has been prepared under chief economic advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, would give an insight into the Indian economy and the government's fiscal agenda for the coming financial year. The Economic Survey 2025 will be tabled on Friday (January 31), marking the onset of the Budget Session of Parliament. The

Budget Session will commence at 11 am on Friday and the Economic Survey will be tabled shortly after President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint session. Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will table the Economic Survey in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha separately after the President's address. The presentation of the Economic Survey will be live-streamed across major social media platforms and key government channels. The key government handles such as Sansad TV and PIB India will broadcast the event. As India gears up for the Union Budget FY26, the Economic Survey will set the stage, offering crucial data and analysis that will inform the government's fiscal policies in the coming year. With Union Budget 2025, Mahakumbh stampede: Stormy Parliament session likely ahead Parliament's Budget session is likely to get off to a stormy start on Friday, with opposition parties demanding a discussion on the alleged mismanagement of the Maha Kumbh festival in Prayagraj, where 30 pilgrims were killed in a stampede.

Trump tariff threats and what it means for Indo-US trade ties

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Jan 30: US President Donald Trump has referred to India, China and Brazil as "tremendous tariff-makers" and warned of higher tariffs on goods imported from these countries. He said his administration will put America first. Any increase in tariffs will make India's exports to the US less competitive. File image: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Donald Trump shake hands after introductions during the "Howdi Modi" event, Sept. 22, 2019, at NRG Stadium in Houston. It is apprehended that the US might impose higher tariffs on Indian exports such as textiles and pharmaceuticals. In 2018 during its first term, the Trump administration imposed higher tariffs on aluminium and steel, which led to retaliatory action by the affected nations including India. The US and China are India's largest merchandise trading partners. India hopes to work out an amicable solution to the tariff tussle when Prime minister Narendra Modi meets Trump in the White House in February. HT examines the state of trade between the two countries. The US is India's largest destination for merchandise exports,

accounting for more than 18% in value. India exported goods worth \$77.5 billion to the US in 2023-24, which was more than the cumulative value of goods



exported to the next three largest destinations. That trend continues in 2024-25. In comparison, imports to the world's largest economy are much smaller, accounting for a little more than 6%. Significantly, India's imports from the US fell 17% to \$42.2 billion last year. This imbalance between imports and

exports has led to a rising trade deficit for the US in its bilateral trade with India, triggering Trump's tariff threats. Petroleum crude and products constitute about a third of India's imports from the US. Pearls, precious/semi-precious stones and imitation jewellery together are the second largest items of import. Other significant purchases include equipment for power plants such as nuclear reactors and boilers, electrical machinery and equipment, aircraft and parts and medical equipment. India has also been importing military equipment from the US as it diversifies away from Russia. India's exports to the US include petroleum products, drug formulations, pearls, precious/semi-precious stones, telecom instruments, electrical machinery, apparel and cotton fabrics and electronic components. India's exports to the US rose rapidly after the Covid disruptions of 2020. Trump wants India to lower tariffs on American goods and also buy more from it. A White House readout after the recent telephone call between Trump and Modi stated: "The President emphasized the importance of India increasing its procurement of American-made security equipment and moving toward a fair bilateral trading relationship."

Sanjay Raut blames BJP for Kumbh Mela chaos, calls for army's involvement

ST Correspondent

Mumbai, Jan 30: Sanjay Raut of Shiv Sena criticized the BJP and Uttar Pradesh government for poor Kumbh Mela management, linking it to a stampede that resulted in casualties Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut on Thursday, launched a scathing attack on the BJP and the Uttar Pradesh government over Prayagraj's Kumbh Mela management, alleging severe lapses that led to casualties on Thursday. Sanjay Raut, the head of the Shiv Sena (UBT), attacked the Uttar Pradesh government and the BJP harshly on Thursday for allegedly causing serious mistakes that resulted in fatalities during Prayagraj's Kumbh Mela administration. Speaking



on the stampede-like situation at the religious gathering, Raut said, "This is a yog that occurs once every 144 years. The administration and the government knew there would be a massive crowd, yet they engaged in political marketing by claiming that 10 to 20 crore people would attend daily." He further criticised the presence of political dignitaries in Mahakumbh. "At such times, VIPs should stay away. The entire area was shut down for a day each for the Defence Minister, Home Minister, and other Central Ministers. This led to a chaotic situation," he said. He further alleged that there was "no system in place, no ambulances, no medical facilities," adding that "several Mahamandaleshwars suggested handing over the arrangements to the army." Raut also alleged that Mahakumbh was "politicized for propaganda," which ultimately resulted in increased fatalities. "He stated that the Yogi government is responsible for the chaotic situation at the Mahakumbh. "The count of injured hasn't been done yet; many people are missing, including many women. Who is responsible for this? The central government is responsible. The Yogi government of Uttar Pradesh is responsible," he said. Raut also raised concerns over the allocation of funds for the event, claiming, "The budget for the Kumbh Mela was Rs10,000 crore, but reports suggest less than Rs1,000 crore was spent."

Nobody above law in this country: Supreme Court

New Delhi, Jan 30: The court said that after the man's counsel claimed that he would be made to suffer for the rest of his life due to his estranged wife being an IPS officer. Nobody is above the law in this country, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court on Thursday observed in a dispute between a man and his estranged wife, reported. Nobody is above the law in this country, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court observed. (PTI) Justices B R Gavai, Augustine George Masih, and K Vinod Chandran made the remark after the man's counsel expressed concern that he would be made to suffer for the rest of his life due to his estranged wife being an IPS officer. The bench said that the two parties should settle their disputes in the interest of justice and added that they couldn't force a settlement on the parties if they were unwilling. "She is an IPS officer. You are a businessman. Rather than wasting your time in the court, you should settle it. We are here to protect you if there is any victimisation," the bench said. The man's lawyer stated that his client and his father had been jailed in connection with cases lodged by the woman. He alleged that the estranged wife had lied in her declaration that no FIR was registered against her and that she faced two FIRs on the day she filed a form at the time of joining the police service.

Akhilesh Yadav blames BJP for Mahakumbh stampede, demands increased aid

Navdeep Singh Sahni

Lucknow, Jan 30: Samajwadi Party Chief Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday slammed the BJP-led Central and Uttar Pradesh governments for the tragic stampede incident at Mahakumbh, which claimed the lives of at least 30 people and injured 60 others. Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of the Samajwadi Party, blasted the BJP-led Central and Uttar Pradesh governments on Thursday for the sad stampede disaster in Mahakumbh that left at least 30 people dead and 60 wounded (Hindustan Times) Akhilesh Yadav, the leader of the Samajwadi Party, blasted the BJP-led Central and Uttar Pradesh governments on Thursday for the sad stampede disaster in Mahakumbh that left at least 30 people dead and 60 wounded "BJP cannot back away from the responsibility. Delhi and UP government both are responsible," he asserted while speaking with . Yadav emphasised that better

administration could have prevented the incident, adding that the government's responsibility cannot be ignored. Yadav

Yadav also demanded increased financial assistance for the families of the deceased, stating that the current amount of ₹25 lakh is minimal. He further urged the government to publish an official list of those who lost their lives and those who are missing to clear up confusion among the public. 25 lakh is a minimal number, it should be increased. Also, a list of those who lost their lives should be published, as well as those who are missing, because there is a lot of confusion among people. This will only be resolved once the government issues an official list," Akhilesh said. The SP Chief highlighted that he received information about the incident at 2:48 AM, questioning how the government could not have been aware of the situation. Yadav also pointed out that the government's distribution of cards and invitations may have contributed to the chaos.



Arvind Kejriwal accuses Congress of collaborating with BJP ahead of Delhi poll

Tejinder Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, Jan 30: Days ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched a scathing attack on the Congress on Thursday, accusing the party of "collaborating" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to ensure AAP's defeat in the polls. Arvind Kejriwal, the national convener of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), attacked the Congress harshly on Thursday ahead of the Delhi Assembly elections, claiming that the party was "collaborating" with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to guarantee the AAP's loss. "Congress is not contesting elections in Delhi to win, but they are collaborating with the BJP so that AAP loses," Kejriwal said in a video address. Referring to his recent meeting with Congress supporters, the former Delhi Chief Minister claimed that Congress lost the Haryana elections despite having a strong chance of win-

ning, due to internal conflicts within the party. "A few days ago, some people came to meet me, who were supporters of Congress since inception. Even though



they said they would vote for Congress, they were also disappointed. They told me that Congress leaders are involved in infighting. They lost the Haryana elections that were in their corner," Kejriwal

said. Appealing to Congress supporters to vote for AAP, he argued that Congress leaders never speak against BJP leaders but constantly slam AAP, and added that if the BJP comes to power, they will discontinue the welfare schemes introduced by the AAP government in Delhi. "They told me that Congress leaders don't say a word against BJP leaders, but they are only busy criticising AAP. I told them that I had worked for them as well and not only for AAP. I told them I provided free electricity and made government schools better. I told them if they vote for Congress, the BJP will form the government (in Delhi). They will shut mohalla clinics, and free bus services for women. I appeal to every Congress supporter that if they vote for Congress, the BJP will benefit. If BJP comes to power, you will not get any facilities provided by our government,"

Kejriwal's appeal comes amid the ongoing controversy over the Yamuna water issue. He criticized the Election Commission of India (ECI) after it rejected his explanation regarding his claim that the Yamuna was "poisoned". The AAP national convener accused the Election Commission of playing politics by sending him a notice, alleging that Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar "wants a job post-retirement." Earlier, on Wednesday evening, Kejriwal responded to the ECI regarding his "poisoned water" remarks, in which he accused the BJP-led Haryana government of "poisoning" the Yamuna water flowing into Delhi. He stated that his comments were made in "furtherance of an imperative public duty." In his letter, Kejriwal stated that the concerns raised should not be interpreted as an offence, as it would set a dangerous precedent, undermining state accountability. The Delhi polls are scheduled for February 5 and the results will be announced on February 8.

Must globalise compassion to solve basic human issues: Kailash Satyarthi

Naresh Malhotra

New Delhi, Jan 30: He spoke to HT about his journey, the power of compassion, and the significance of his work in the fight against child labour and slavery Children's rights activist and Nobel Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi is set to launch his autobiography, Diyasalai at the Jaipur Literature Festival on Thursday. He spoke to HT about his journey, the power of compassion, and the significance of his work in the fight against child labour and slavery. The title of your autobiography, Diyasalai (matchstick), is quite symbolic. What does it represent? The idea behind Diyasalai is deeply personal. I grew up in a home without electricity, relying on lanterns for light. A matchstick, though small, has the power to ignite countless candles and lamps. But it must be willing to burn itself first. To me, this is the essence of activism — one must be ready to sacrifice in order to bring change. This metaphor has shaped my life's work. I believe every person carries an ocean of light within them; they just need to take that first step to ignite it. When I started working for the

most marginalised and neglected children, it was an uphill battle. For decades, the



world did not acknowledge their suffering. Even the United Nations did not have a convention on children's rights until the 1990s. When I began in the late 1970s, fighting for child dignity and freedom was

seen as utopian or idealistic. But I persisted, knowing that even a single spark can light up the darkest corners of the world. While writing your autobiography, were there any moments that stood out or gave you new realisations? Writing this book made me relive some of my most difficult experiences. One of the most defining moments was my first rescue operation in 1981. A man named Wasal Khan came to me with a copy of my magazine, Struggle Shall Continue, pleading for help. His 15-year-old daughter, Sabo, was about to be sold into a brothel. She had been born into bonded labour at a brick kiln. I was a journalist at the time, writing about slavery, but that day, I asked myself — if Sabo were my sister or daughter, would I just write about it?

No, I had to act. With a small group of friends, I went to rescue her and others. We were brutally attacked and left beaten. But we didn't give up. We approached the Delhi high court and ultimately freed 36 children, women, and men, including Wasal Khan's family. The most powerful realization came when I saw these children running on the streets, laughing, unable to comprehend their newfound freedom. I had always heard of India's freedom struggle, but that was the first time I truly understood what liberation meant. That moment changed my life forever. You've fought for children's rights for over four decades. How do you view the global progress on this issue? There has been progress, but not enough. No government, UN agency, or corporation can now ignore children's issues. However, we are still failing them. A UN report during the pandemic revealed that between 2016 and 2020, child labour increased for the first time in decades, from 152 million to 160 million. This was shocking and unacceptable. We live in a world that has more wealth, technology, and knowledge than ever before.

Yet, we are failing to solve even basic human problems. Conflicts such as those in Ukraine and Gaza have shown us that children remain the worst victims of war. This is why I have expanded my mission beyond just children's rights—I want to globalize compassion. You mentioned the need to "globalise compassion." Can you elaborate on that? We have globalised markets, economies, and data. Now, we must globalise compassion. The problems we face today — inequality, violence, climate change — cannot be solved without a fundamental shift in leadership. We need compassionate leadership in politics, business, academia, and civil society. During the pandemic, I reflected deeply on this and began working with social scientists, neuroscientists, and psychologists to develop the concept of a Compassion Quotient (CQ) — a way to measure and enhance compassion in individuals and societies. We already have IQ (intelligence quotient) and EQ (emotional quotient); it is time we recognise CQ as a critical factor in decision-making and leadership. I hope to launch this concept globally this year.

NEWS BOX

IISc researchers working on antivirals for mosquito-borne diseases

BENGALURU. Vaccines and antiviral, although not very effective are there for flu virus, however there are none which are clinically approved for mosquito borne viral diseases like Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya. Realising the need for them in the era of global warming and with rising incidents in mosquito borne viral diseases, a team of researchers from the Department of Microbiology and Cell Biology at the Indian Institute of Science's (IISc's) Centre for Infectious Disease Research laboratory are working on antivirals for mosquito borne viral diseases. Speaking to The New Indian Express, Shashank Tripathi, assistant professor, from the department said earlier these viral diseases were more prevalent regions in the global south. But now because of global warming, incidents of mosquito borne viral diseases are also being reported from northern hemisphere region in the last decade. "Mosquito borne viruses are always around us. Their increase or decrease of cases is seasonal. While there are vaccines for influenza, there is nothing for mosquito borne viral diseases, only symptomatic treatment is given. There is no specific drug for the treatment. Our lab is undertaking early discovery and preclinical development of antivirals for mosquito borne viruses like Dengue, Zika and JEV. Hopefully clinical trials in future," he said.

Massive fire breaks out at warehouse in Fort Kochi; no casualties reported

KOCHI. A massive fire broke out at a home appliance warehouse near the Brahma Temple in Amaravati, Fort Kochi, on Wednesday night. The incident happened at a warehouse, which sells used home appliances, located in a residential area, and was owned by Balan, a local resident. Fire and Rescue Services personnel from Mattancherry managed to put out the fire after intense efforts. While no casualties were reported, a large number of home appliances were destroyed. Preliminary probe suggests that a short circuit caused the fire. A local resident said the fire broke out around 8.30 pm in the warehouse



containing refrigerators, televisions, vacuum cleaners, mixers, and other appliances. Due to the presence of gas in some of these items, the flames spread rapidly. "The shop was originally owned by Balan. However, he passed away recently, and another person is now operating the business," the resident said. He also noted that the narrow roads made it difficult for fire department vehicles to reach the site quickly, which worsened the situation.

Tension grips Cuddalore village as government starts clearing agriculture land, 25 held

CUDDALORE. Villagers of Malayadikuppam, Kodikanpalayam, and Pethankuppam under Vellakarai panchayat staged a protest on Wednesday against the acquisition of agricultural land for industrial purposes when the revenue officials, accompanied by over 100 police personnel, arrived with earth movers to clear the land at Malayadikuppam. The government had issued a notice on December 19, stating the land had been encroached upon and must be vacated within 15 days. Villagers claim they have been residing there for over 100 years, cultivating cashew crops. They had previously submitted petitions seeking pattas for their residential and agricultural land, but officials informed them around 150 houses and cashew plantations would be removed. During the two-hour-long protest, PMK Cuddalore East district secretary S



Muthukrishnan, BJP East District president Agni Krishnamurthy and Tamil Nadu Farmers' Association members held talks with sub collector Abhinaya. The villagers requested a three-month extension to harvest their cashew crops, but officials insisted on a written assurance the land would be handed over after three months. The farmers refused, stating they would not give up their lands. With negotiations failing, police attempted to disperse the protestors and arrested over 25 people and took them to a private wedding hall in Vellakarai.

Andhra Etikoppaka tableau gets third prize

The award-winning tableau highlighted the 400-year-old traditional art form from Etikoppaka, earning widespread appreciation and social media praise.



GUNTUR. Andhra Pradesh's tableau, showcasing the world-famous 'Etikoppaka Bommalu' (eco-friendly wooden toys), bagged the prestigious third prize in jury category during the Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path in New Delhi on January 26, 2025. This recognition, announced by the Ministry of Defence on Wednesday, marks the State's first such honour in 30 years.

The award-winning tableau highlighted the 400-year-old traditional art form from Etikoppaka, earning widespread appreciation and social media praise. Designed by the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department, the tableau aimed to promote the State's handlooms and handicrafts globally while authentically representing its rich cultural heritage.

The front of the tableau featured a statue of Lord Ganesha, while the rear showcased Lord Venkateswara. Traditional elements such as the iconic Bobbili Veena and intricate Telugu jewelry further adorned the display. A specially

composed song played during its movement resonated deeply with audiences, enhancing the tableau's cultural impact. Kiran Kumar, Joint Director of the Information and Public Relations (I&PR) Department, described the effort behind the tableau's creation. "Etikoppaka toys are not just toys but handcrafted treasures. Our team paid meticulous attention to every detail, from design to colour combinations. We are thrilled to have received this award," he said. Deputy Chief Minister K Pawan Kalyan shared his joy on social media platform X, expressing pride in the tableau's success. "I am delighted that the Etikoppaka toys table

au representing Andhra Pradesh secured third

place and received the Jury Award at the Republic Day parade. Since the NDA government came to power, we have taken several measures to promote Etikoppaka dolls, including supporting Ankudu wood cultivation and using these toys as official mementos." He also extended special thanks to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu for selecting and showcasing the tableau this year. Tourism Minister Kandula Durgesh hailed the recognition, calling Etikoppaka toys a living testament to AP's cultural heritage.

"The tableau captivated Prime Minister Narendra Modi and millions of viewers worldwide," Durgesh noted. He emphasised the coalition government's commitment to promoting the state's rich handicrafts and extended congratulations to the team that designed the tableau and the artists who performed during the parade.

Local MP CM Ramesh acknowledged the cultural and artistic significance of Etikoppaka toys, describing them as symbols of beauty and the spirit of the people of Ankapalle. He lauded artist Gorasa Santhosh for designing a tableau that beautifully captured India's cultural essence and thanked the public for their support in helping Andhra Pradesh secure the third prize.

Expert panel approves SIA study report on Sabarimala airport

KOTTAYAM. In a significant development, the expert committee constituted to review the Social Impact Assessment (SIA) study report for the proposed Sabarimala Greenfield International Airport at Erumeli has approved the report, recommending urgent measures for the rehabilitation of the people impacted by the project. The committee chaired by Prathapan, former additional director at the Social Justice Department, submitted its report to the government on Tuesday.

The committee has pointed out that the financial and social benefits that the state will receive from the project outweigh the social impact of the project. The committee recommended a special package for the workers, currently employed in the Cheruvally Estate, which is set to be acquired for the project. The committee observed that the workers, who have been labouring in the estate for five generations, will have to face hardships when they are relocated to other villages or towns. Hence, they should be

given proper awareness and counselling. The committee also advised that estate workers who have been excluded due to labour disputes should also be included in the package.

The land owners and other residents who were not initially included in the SIA report should also be considered when acquiring the land. The committee has also acknowledged the request of some residents in Karithodu, Manimala, outside the estate, to be excluded from the project area. Currently, the estate management covers medical expenses up to Rs 6,000 per month for some of its workers.

The committee has recommended that this expense be included in the overall package for these workers, who will be forced to leave the estate due to job loss as a result of the airport project. The committee also recommended to consider the request of the management of Noyal Memorial LP School in Karithode to identify and acquire land for the relocation of the school. Moreover, the impacts on various

shrines and religious institutions due to the project should be considered and addressed in a favourable manner.

In addition to this, the committee also acknowledged the suggestion in the SIA report to prioritise job opportunities for current residents of the project area during both the construction and operational phases of the airport. The SIA report, prepared by a team from the School of Social Work at Bharata Mata College, highlights that the airport project will directly affect the livelihoods of 238 families in the Cheruvally Estate and require the relocation of 352 families. Additionally, the project will involve the acquisition of seven places of worship, two schools, a hospital, a canteen, a ration store, and a labour office. With the completion of the SIA proceedings, a new notification for land acquisition will be issued under the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 soon.

Karnataka High Court seeks state's response on police inaction

BENGALURU. Youngsters in their early twenties riding two-wheelers with two pillion riders and also some of them performing wheelies with no action taken by the city police are causing a nuisance in the city, while also resulting in accidents and deaths, said the Karnataka High Court on Wednesday, directing the authorities to submit their response on the issue. A division bench of Chief Justice NV Anjaria and Justice MI Arun passed the order during the hearing of a public interest litigation filed by Dr Archana Bhat K, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Psychology, Kateel Ashok Pai Memorial College in Shivamogga over implementing the law concerning wearing of safety harnesses and crash helmets by children starting from the age of nine months to four years who ride the pillion on two-wheelers. The court orally asked the government advocate about implementing the existing rules on helmets. It orally said that in Bengaluru, it finds youngsters and teenagers riding triples and doing wheelies in certain areas, but police not taking any action against them. The court asked what the government was doing against this nuisance. "Anybody living in Bengaluru will know about it. It's causing a huge nuisance in Bengaluru and there have been reported accidents and deaths because of that, which is public knowledge. Therefore, the government has to submit its response about implementing the existing laws," the court said. In the order, the court stated that the approach of the court may not be confined only to the issue of the petition concerning safety measures like safety harnesses and crash helmets while carrying a child, but the court may require the state authorities to redress the implementation of the safety rules concerning the two-wheeler riders — including the pillion riders and the number of persons to ride on such two-wheelers.

Soyabean procurement highest in Maharashtra, says Jayakumar Rawal

MUMBAI. Out of 7 lakh 64 thousand 731 farmers registered in the state, 7 lakh 81 thousand 447 metric tonnes of soybean have been purchased from 3 lakh 69 thousand 114 farmers, which is the highest purchase compared to other states. Maharashtra has purchased the highest amount of soybean in the country, surpassing Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat and Telangana, informed Marketing Minister Jayakumar Rawal.

Speaking to the media, Marketing Minister Shri. Rawal said, many districts have fulfilled their procurement target. Instructions have been given to the system to expedite the procurement process of soybeans so that the soybean producing farmers do not face any problem and to take swift action so that the amount reaches the farmers' accounts within two to three days. Since the procurement will continue till January 31, 2025, there will be a big increase in the procurement figures of soybeans. However, if there is a need to extend the procurement period of soybeans, an extension will be requested from the Central Government, he also said. Marketing Minister Shri. Rawal said that soybean procurement is underway in the state through six state-



level nodal agencies under NAFED and NCCF. Registration of soybean producing farmers was started from October 1, 2024. Accordingly, physical procurement has been started at 562 procurement centers in the state from October 15, 2024. Due to technical difficulties encountered during registration, the registration period was extended once. After that, initially the soybean procurement period was till January 12, 2025, but since many farmers did not purchase soybeans within this period, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis requested Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chauhan and extended the procurement period till January 31, 2025. Maharashtra has purchased the most soybeans compared to the major soybean producing states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat

, and Telangana. The total purchase of these six states including Maharashtra has been 18 lakh 68 thousand 914 metric tons, of which Maharashtra has purchased 7 lakh 81 thousand 447 metric tons. The highest amount of soybeans in the state has been purchased in Nanded district, 1 lakh 290 metric tons, from 57 thousand 528 farmers.

This is followed by 60 thousand 989 metric tons purchased from 29 thousand 764 farmers in Hingoli district. Minister Shri. Rawal said that the procurement process is still going on at a fast pace after resolving all the technical difficulties encountered in the initial phase. The Central Government has declared a minimum support price of Rs 4,892 per quintal for soybean for the year 2024-25 and procurement is underway accordingly.

This rate is Rs 292 per quintal higher than the minimum support price of the previous year. The area under cultivation in the year 2024-25 is 50.51 lakh hectares and the production is expected to be 73.27 lakh metric tonnes. Minister Shri. Rawal has also informed that the Central Government has approved 14 lakh 13 thousand 270 metric tonnes (19.28 percent) for the procurement of PSS.

How cracking a murder case unmasked a serial killer

Kerala. During another wave of lockdown in February 2022, for the people of Thiruvananthapuram, as equally nerve-racking as the news of a rampaging new Covid variant was the brutal murder of a young woman near Ambalamukku. Nedumangad native Vineetha Mol, a staff at a plant nursery here, was found dead with three deep slashes on her neck. The 38-year-old's body was tucked under a flex banner, seemingly to keep it hidden. By the time it was found, the murderer had already vanished.

With little evidence to go on, the Peroorkada police, led by then CIV Sajikumar, relied on a grainy CCTV clip from the area. The footage showed a man, who had not been seen before in the area, walking along the Ambalamukku-Kuravankonam road. He wore a full-sleeved shirt, trousers, a cap, and because it was Covid, a mask. One other

detail stood out — his left hand hung limp as if injured. "This was our first lead," recalls Sajikumar. "Also, the missing four-sovereign gold chain that Vineetha used to wear suggested that it was robbery-turned-murder. Further analysis of the footage revealed that the killer had entered the nursery around 11am and left 20 minutes later," the officer adds. After leaving the nursery, the suspect boarded an autorickshaw to Muttada. Police tracked down the driver, who remembered the man because of his limp hand.

The driver also noted that the man spoke broken Malayalam, suggesting he wasn't a native of Kerala. With no name or confirmed identity, the police released a sketch and launched a citywide search, focusing on migrant labourers and even more CCTV footage. Then came a breakthrough. A local



man sitting on his terrace reported seeing someone matching the suspect's description. The stranger had approached him, asking mostly through gestures if a nearby pond was safe for bathing. Shortly after, a new CCTV clip showed a man resembling the suspect but wearing different clothes, hitchhiking on a bike.

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NEWS BOX

Israeli strike kills at least 10 people in the West Bank, officials say

WEST BANK. Palestinian health authorities said an Israeli airstrike in the northern West Bank killed at least 10 people late Wednesday. Israel's use of a jet fighter to strike the rural village of Tamoun late Wednesday marked the latest escalation in its intensifying crackdown on Palestinian militants in the occupied territory. Residents of Tamoun said that the airstrike hit a house in a crowded neighborhood. The Palestinian Health Ministry cautioned that the death toll was likely to rise. In a statement, Hamas mourned the men killed in Tamoun but did not claim them as members. It called on Palestinians across Israel and the occupied West Bank to mobilize against Israel in hopes of making it "pay the price for its crimes." The tenuous ceasefire between Israel and Hamas is aimed at ending the war in Gaza and securing the release of dozens of hostages held by the militant group, as well as hundreds of Palestinians imprisoned or detained by Israel. The truce does not apply to the West Bank. Under the ceasefire, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have jubilantly returned to northern Gaza over the past three days. However, their homecoming has been bittersweet as nearly everyone has friends or relatives who died, and many northern neighborhoods have been transformed into an apocalyptic landscape of devastation by more than 15 months of war.

2 dogs get new homes after surviving plane crash that killed rescue flight pilot

World Two dogs that survived an animal-rescue flight crash that killed the pilot have found new homes as the late aviator's friends work to honor him by helping more pets, a shelter director said Wednesday. The Nov. 24 crash in New York's Catskill Mountains killed Seuk Kim of Springfield, Virginia, a dedicated volunteer who transported cats and dogs from disaster areas and overcrowded shelters to rescue groups. He was bringing three dogs to an Albany, New York-area organization called the Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley when his 1986 Mooney M20J went down. Kim told air traffic controllers that he hit moderate to heavy turbulence at 5,000 feet (1,520 meters), but then he descended to about 4,300 feet (1,311 meters) and reported that conditions improved to light to moderate turbulence, according to the National Transportation Safety Board's preliminary report on the crash. The report said he didn't contact air traffic control again or make any distress calls. Two of the dogs, a Labrador-mix puppy named Whiskey and a young Yorkshire terrier mix called Pluto, survived. Pluto was internally bruised, while Whiskey was found huddled in the snow with two broken legs. The Lab pup subsequently underwent surgeries at Pieper Memorial Veterinary emergency and specialty hospital in Middletown, Connecticut. After those procedures and lots of physical therapy, 6-month-old Whiskey is on his feet and playing at his foster home in Middletown, and the family that took him in has decided to keep him, said Maggie Jackman Pryor, the executive director of the Animal Shelter of Schoharie Valley. Pluto, meanwhile, recovered quickly and was adopted a few weeks into a home in Averill Park, a community near Albany, Pryor said. The remains of the third dog, a little one named Lisa, went to Kim's relatives at their request.

US passenger jet with 64 aboard collides with Army helicopter near Washington, several feared dead

ARLINGTON. A jet carrying 60 passengers and four crew members collided Wednesday with an Army helicopter while landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, prompting a large search-and-rescue operation in the nearby Potomac River. There were multiple fatalities, according to a person familiar with the matter, but the precise number of victims was unclear as rescue crews hunted for any survivors. Three soldiers were onboard the helicopter, an Army official said. There was no immediate word on the cause of the collision, but all takeoffs and landings from the airport were halted while helicopters from law enforcement agencies across the region flew over the scene.

Inflatable rescue boats were launched into the Potomac River from a point along the George Washington Parkway, just north of the airport, and first responders set up light towers from the shore to illuminate the area near the collision site. At least a half-dozen boats are scanning the water using search lights.

US President Donald Trump said he had been "fully briefed on this terrible accident" and, referring to the passengers, added, "May God Bless their souls."

The Federal Aviation Administration said the midair crash occurred around 9 p.m. EST when a regional jet that had departed from Wichita, Kansas, collided with a military helicopter on a training flight while on approach to an airport runway. It occurred in some of the most tightly controlled and monitored airspace in the world, just over three miles south of the White House and the Capitol. Investigators will try to piece together the aircrafts' final moments before their collision, including contact with air traffic controllers as well as a loss of altitude by the passenger jet.

American Airlines Flight 5342 was inbound to Reagan National at an altitude of about 400 feet and a speed of about 140 miles per hour when it suffered a rapid loss of altitude over the Potomac River, according to data from its radio transponder. The Canadian-made Bombardier CRJ-701 twin-engine jet, manufactured in 2004, can be configured to carry up to 70 passengers. A few minutes before landing, air traffic controllers asked the arriving commercial jet if it could land on the shorter Runway 33 at Reagan National and the pilots said they were able. Controllers then cleared the plane to land on Runway 33. Flight tracking sites showed the plane adjust its approach to the new runway.

West Virginia white couple convicted of forced labor, human trafficking of adopted black kids

CHARLESTON, W.Va. A West Virginia couple accused of neglect and forced labor involving their adopted children was convicted by a jury on Wednesday after eight hours of deliberations. Jeanne Kay Whitefeather and Donald Ray Lantz went on trial in mid-January and each faced over a dozen counts, including forced labor, civil rights violations, human trafficking and child neglect. The couple, who are white, were accused of mistreating their children — all of whom are Black — by locking them in a shed, forcing them to sleep on the floor and use buckets as toilets, and more. The Kanawha County Circuit Court jury convicted Whitefeather on all 19 counts against her, including the civil rights violations. Lantz was found guilty on 12 counts out of 16. He was acquitted of four counts of civil rights violations. Both showed little emotion as the verdict was read. Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney Debra Rusnak said she cried as she heard the word "guilty" repeated again and again. "These cases mean a lot to us — we take a lot of this personally," she said at

a news conference afterward. "This is our community, and these are the children of our community. If we're not going to fight for them, then who will?" Whitefeather and Lantz adopted the five siblings while living in Minnesota, moved to a farm in Washington state in 2018, and then brought the family to West Virginia in May 2023, when the children ranged in age from 5 to 16. The couple was arrested in October 2023 after neighbors saw Lantz lock the oldest girl and her teenage brother in a shed and leave the property. A deputy used a crowbar to get them out. Inside the main residence, a 9-year-old girl was found alone crying in a loft with no protection from falling, according to a criminal complaint. A fourth child was with Lantz when he eventually returned. Deputies were later led to the couple's youngest daughter. The children were found in dirty clothes and smelling of body odor, deputies said, and the eldest boy was found barefoot with what appeared to be sores on his feet. All five were turned over to Child Protective Services after the couple's arrest. During



the trial, neighbors in Sissonville testified they never saw the children play and witnessed Lantz make them stand in line or perform difficult chores around the yard, including lifting heavy items. After Lantz noticed the curious neighbors, the children mostly stayed indoors. The couple's eldest daughter, now 18, testified that the outdoor work occurred mostly in Washington and that some of them were forced to use their hands for digging. She also said the children were fed a steady diet of peanut butter sandwiches at scheduled times, some left over from a previous meal. Some kids were

forced to stand in their rooms for hours and keep their hands on their heads. The oldest girl and boy shared a room, including the same bucket for using the bathroom while the other held up a sheet for privacy. The couple and their attorneys pushed back on the accusations, with Lantz testifying that the chores were assigned to teach the children responsibility. Whitefeather called the shed the children were found in a "teenager hangout" and said the teens had access to a key and were free to leave as they pleased. Whitefeather's attorney said the oldest boy had attempted to run away from home and the lock on the shed was meant to keep him from trying again. Testimony showed the children didn't know where a key was — detectives found one out of sight on a cabinet in the shed. Prosecutors said the couple's tactics were less about teaching responsibility and instead about control. "The whole point of treating them this way is they become less than human," Kanawha County Assistant Prosecutor Chris Krivonyak said.

American Airlines flight with 64 aboard collides with Army helicopter while landing at Reagan Airport near DC

ARLINGTON. A passenger jet collided Wednesday with an Army helicopter while landing at Ronald Reagan National Airport near Washington, prompting a large search-and-rescue operation in the nearby Potomac River. Some 60 passengers are believed to have been on the commercial jet, a US senator from Kansas said. "A plane, traveling to the Nation's capital from Wichita, KS carrying roughly 60 passengers collided with a Military helicopter," Senator Roger Marshall posted on X, describing the situation as "nothing short of a nightmare." Meanwhile, the U.S. Army confirmed that three soldiers were aboard the military helicopter. Inflatable rescue boats were launched into the Potomac River from a point near the airport along the George Washington Parkway, just north of the airport. President Donald Trump was briefed, his press secretary said, and Vice President JD Vance encouraged followers on the social media platform X to "say a prayer for everyone involved." The Federal Aviation Administration said the midair crash occurred around 9 p.m. EST when a regional jet that had

departed from Wichita, Kansas, collided with a military Blackhawk helicopter while on approach to an arriving commercial jet if it could land on the shorter Runway 33 at Reagan National and the pilots said they were able. Controllers then cleared the plane to land on Runway 33. Flight tracking sites showed the plane adjust its approach to the new runway.



In audio from the air traffic control tower around the time of the crash, a controller is heard asking the helicopter, "PAT25 do you have the CRJ in sight," in reference to the passenger aircraft. "Tower did you see that?" another pilot is heard calling seconds after the apparent collision. The tower immediately began diverting other aircraft from Reagan. Video from an observation camera at the nearby Kennedy Center showed two sets of lights consistent with aircraft appearing to join in a fireball. A post on social media, American Airlines said it was aware of reports that one of its flights was involved in the incident and said it would provide more information once available. The crash is serving as a major test for two of the Trump administration's newest agency.

Donald Trump sounds the same, but his White House—so far—couldn't be more different

NEW YORK. The marathon Q&A sessions are back, along with the cream Oval Office rug and the Diet Coke button on the Resolute Desk. So, too, are the late-night social media posts that ricochet across the globe and the barrage of executive orders. But in 10 days, Donald Trump has frozen federal spending and hiring, offered buyouts to more than two million government workers, and ended federal diversity and transgender-rights efforts. He's fired nearly two dozen independent inspectors general, rewritten American maps, pardoned Jan. 6 protesters who assaulted police, announced plans to detain migrants at Guantánamo Bay, and undone years of his predecessors' actions with the stroke of his Sharpie pen. Trump 2.0 looks and sounds a lot like he did during his first go-around. But this time, the president is far more

experienced and surrounded by a team that's spent years planning for its White House return, unleashing a fusillade of action that is testing the bounds of presidential power, sowing confusion and drawing fury from Democrats unsure how to stop him. "He seems much more comfortable, almost relaxed in how he's doing the job," according to Sean Spicer, Trump's first White House press secretary, who said Trump is showing a new "level of confidence," having spent four years in office. "I think he has the people, the policies and the process down. He knows who can get his agenda done, who he wants to surround himself with, the policies he wants to advance, and the process to get that enacted," said Spicer, who now hosts a show on YouTube. US President Donald Trump answers questions from reporters as he

signs an executive order in the Oval Office of the White House, Jan. 23, 2025, in Washington. Trump finds new ways to flex presidential power after returning to White House. An emboldened president

Trump no longer needs to worry about reelection. The Constitution bars a third term. He faces little resistance from a unified Republican Congress, which controls both chambers. The Supreme Court, a third of which he nominated, has ruled that he and future presidents have expansive immunity from legal consequences. But beyond that, Trump has lived through a stunning four years, surviving a pair of assassination attempts, including one in which a would-be assassin's bullet grazed his ear. He was indicted four times, became the first former president to be convicted of a crime—and.

Robert F Kennedy Jr's nomination signals new era of anti-intellectualism in American politics

World The many controversial people appointed to the Trump administration, from Elon Musk to Robert F. Kennedy Jr., have at least one thing in common: They dislike and distrust experts. While anti-intellectualism and populism are nothing new in American life, there has hardly been an administration as seemingly committed to these worldviews.

Take President Donald Trump's decision to nominate Kennedy, a well-known vaccine skeptic, to lead the Department of Health and Human Services. Kennedy, whose Senate confirmation hearing is Jan. 29, 2025, epitomizes the new American political ethos of populism and anti-intellectualism, or the idea that people hold negative feelings toward not just scientific research but those who produce it. Anti-intellectual attacks on the scientific community have been increasing, and have become more partisan, in recent years. For instance, Trump denigrated scientific experts on the campaign trail and in his first term in office. He called climate science a

"hoax" and public health officials in his administration "idiots."

Skepticism, false assertions

This rhetoric filtered into public discussion, as seen in viral social media posts mocking and attacking scientists like Dr. Anthony Fauci, or anti-mask protesters confronting health officials at public meetings and elsewhere. Trump and Kennedy have cast doubt on vaccine safety and the medical scientific establishment. As far back as the Republican primary debates in 2016, Trump falsely asserted that childhood vaccines cause autism, in defiance of scientific consensus on the issue.

Kennedy's long-term vaccine skepticism has also been well documented, though he himself denies it. More recently, he has been presenting himself as "pro-vaccine safety," as one Republican senator put it, on the eve of Kennedy's confirmation hearing. Kennedy has mirrored Trump's anti-intellectual rhetoric by referring to government health agency culture as "corrupt" and the agencies themselves as



"sock puppets." If confirmed, Kennedy has vowed to turn this anti-intellectual rhetoric into action. He wants to replace over 600 employees in the National Institutes of Health with his own hires. He has also suggested cutting entire departments. During one interview, Kennedy said, "In some categories, there are entire departments, like the nutrition department at the FDA, that are — that have to go." Populism across political spectrum

In lockstep with this anti-intellectual movement is a version of populism that people like RFK Jr. and Trump both

Newly spotted asteroid has a tiny chance of hitting Earth in 2032

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. A newly discovered asteroid has a tiny chance of smacking Earth in 2032, space agency officials said Wednesday.

Scientists put the odds of a strike at slightly more than 1%. "We are not worried at all, because of this 99 percent chance it will miss," said Paul Chodas, director of NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies. "But it deserves attention." First spotted last month by a telescope in Chile, the near-Earth asteroid — designated 2024 YR4 — is estimated to be 130 to 330 feet (40 to 100 meters) across.

Scientists are keeping close watch on the space rock, which is currently heading away from Earth. As the asteroid's path around the sun becomes better understood, Chodas and others said there's a good chance the risk to Earth could drop to zero.

The asteroid will gradually fade from view over the next few months, according to NASA and the European Space Agency. Until then, some of the world's most powerful telescopes will keep monitoring it to better determine its size and path. Once out of sight, it won't be visible until it passes our way again in 2028.



The asteroid came closest to Earth on Christmas Day — passing within roughly 500,000 miles (800,000 kilometers) of Earth, about twice the distance of the moon. It was discovered two days later.

Chodas said scientists are poring over sky surveys from 2016, when predictions show the asteroid also ventured close. If scientists can find the space rock in images from then, they should be able to determine whether it will hit or miss the planet, he told The Associated Press. "If we don't find that detection, the impact probability will just move slowly as we add more observations," he said. Earth gets clobbered by an asteroid this size every few thousand years, according to ESA, with the potential for severe damage. That's why this one now tops ESA's asteroid risk list.

The potential impact would occur on Dec. 22, 2032. It's much too soon to know where it might land if it did hit Earth. The good news, according to NASA, is that for now, no other known large asteroids have an impact probability above 1%.

espouse. Populism is a worldview that pits average citizens against "the elites." Who the elites are varies depending on the context, but in the contemporary political climate in the U.S., establishment politicians, scientists and organizations like pharmaceutical companies or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are frequently portrayed as such. For instance, right-wing populists often portray government health agencies as colluding with multinational pharmaceutical companies to impose excessive regulations, mandate medical interventions and restrict personal freedoms. Left-wing populists expose how Big Pharma manipulates the health care system, using their immense wealth and political influence to put profits over people, deliberately keeping lifesaving medications overpriced and out of reach — all of which has been said by politicians like Bernie Sanders. The goal of a populist is to portray these elites as the enemy of the people and to root out the perceived "corruption" of the elites.

NEWS BOX

R-Day tragedy: Villagers lock Malabiharpur high school seeking action against three teachers

CUTTACK. Ever since the death of a Class X student of Government High School, Malabiharpur in a road mishap on Republic Day, local residents have locked the institution's gate demanding that stringent action be taken against three teachers they hold responsible for the incident and compensation paid to the deceased's family with their six months' salaries. On Wednesday, the villagers submitted a memorandum addressed to the CM and School and Mass Education department threatening to intensify stir if action is not taken within five days. Holding three teachers responsible for the road accident, the villagers demanded that they be immediately suspended or transferred. "Since the pick-up van meant for carrying goods had no insurance and other valid documents, the deceased student's family will be deprived of availing the insurance benefit. Hence we are demanding that the owner of the vehicle pay 50 lakh to his family," they said. A Class X student Soumya Ranjan Behera was killed and 24 others suffered injuries when the pick-up van in which they were travelling to take part in the Republic Day parade at Saranda overturned at Kaligodi on Malabiharpur-Ansupa Road. Six injured students who were undergoing treatment at SCB MCH were shifted to ICU after their condition deteriorated.

Man wanted by TN cops for financial fraud arrested in Kolkata airport based on Interpol red notice

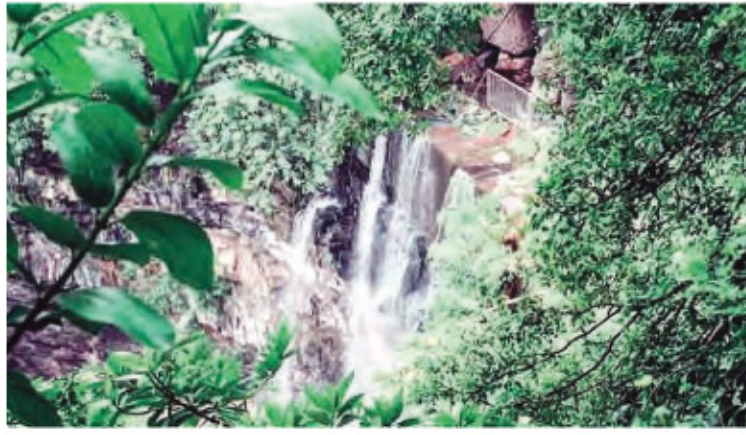
CHENNAI. A man wanted by the Tamil Nadu police for financial fraud was arrested at the Kolkata airport based on a red corner notice issued against him by the Interpol, CBI said on Wednesday. The Global Operations Centre of CBI closely coordinated with Tamil Nadu police, the Indian embassy in Bangkok and immigration authorities at the Kolkata airport to arrest the accused, Janarthanan Sundaram, the agency said. The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) in Chennai had registered a case in 2022 related to the offences of criminal conspiracy, criminal breach of trust, cheating, default in repayment of deposits/interest and offences committed under the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act, 2019, and the Tamil Nadu Protection of Interests of Depositors Act, 1997. Sundaram, along with other accused, had cheated depositors of Rs 87.5 crore, CBI said. Based on a request by TN police, CBI got a red corner notice issued against him by the Interpol on June 21, 2023, and circulated it to all Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) globally for tracking him down. He had travelled to Bangkok on January 28 and was denied entry on the basis of the red corner notice and deported back to India. He reached Kolkata on January 29, was detained and later handed over to the TN police who arrived there. CBI, as the National Central Bureau for Interpol in India, coordinates closely with all LEAs in India for cooperation and assistance via Interpol channels, the agency said.

Amaravati ORR works gain momentum

VIJAYAWADA. As the State government aims to complete the works in Amaravati, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has expedited the alignment works for the six-lane outer ring road (ORR), which is estimated to cost Rs 16,310 crore. Originally proposed in 2015 to facilitate efficient transportation around the capital region, the ORR will connect five districts—NTR, Krishna, Eluru, Guntur, and Palnadu—spanning 189.4 kilometres. The project, which was stalled during the previous YSRCP administration, resumed on October 1, 2024. The NHAI is now preparing for land acquisition, following alignment approvals from both the State and Central governments. The six-lane ORR, which will be 70 metres wide, will connect six highways. It will include two bridges over the Krishna River, three tunnels, 51 major bridges, 78 small bridges, seven underpasses, and three road over bridges (ROBs). As part of resuming the works, Detailed Project Report (DPR) consultants were reappointed, and a fresh drone survey was conducted. The survey identified nine locations obstructing the existing alignment. The revised alignment plan was submitted to the State government for approval and later forwarded to the Alignment Committee of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), which recommended four modifications. The Union Ministry has deemed the Vijayawada Eastern Bypass unnecessary, as it runs parallel to the ORR and only connects Chinnakani. After incorporating these changes, the updated alignment was resubmitted for final approval. The government has decided to exempt GST on cement, steel, bitumen, and other materials used in the ORR construction.

Delay in Nallamala - Seshachalam corridor project poses grave threat to leopards, tigers

NELLORE. The prolonged delay in creating a crucial wildlife corridor linking the Nallamala and Seshachalam forests has led to another tragic incident where a leopard was fatally struck by a vehicle near the proposed corridor site. This recent hit-and-run case underscores the pressing need for safe animal crossings to protect wildlife from increasing road accidents. The corridor, envisioned as a vital route for wild animals, including tigers, leopards, and deer, was designed to provide seamless connectivity between the two forests. However, bureaucratic delays and lack of funding have left the project in limbo, forcing wildlife to venture onto highways and human settlements in search of food and water. Wildlife casualties have become distressingly frequent. In March and January 2022, three leopards died in separate accidents on National Highway 565. Numerous incidents involving deer and wild boars have also been reported, with a deer being the most recent victim near Bujabuja Nellore. In June 2022, another leopard was severely injured in a road accident. Speaking on the issue, a senior forest official said, "We have already submitted proposals for underpasses on national highways. To support wildlife during the summer, we have established water pits and are installing warning boards. Once the underpasses are



completed, wildlife accidents will decrease significantly." The corridor's development is crucial not only for wildlife safety but also for biodiversity conservation. Tigers occasionally travel from Nallamala to Seshachalam but return due to the lack of continuous forest cover. The absence of the corridor has hindered potential reintroductions of tigers and put other species at risk. Spanning nearly 400,000 hectares across four districts, the proposed corridor is seen as a solution to reduce human-wildlife conflict. Conservationists argue that without swift action, more wildlife fatalities are inevitable. Efforts to expand the Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem tiger zone by an additional 500,000 acres have also come to a halt. Forest officials note increasing tiger activity between Nellore and Kadapa districts, further emphasising the need for uninterrupted

connectivity. In response to rising concerns, authorities have implemented temporary measures, such as installing CCTV cameras, raising awareness, and creating water troughs to keep wildlife within forest boundaries. However, activists contend that these steps are insufficient without the corridor's completion. Nellore district, home to over 1,030 square km of forest, faces significant wildlife threats due to three national highways passing through its borders. Vehicle collisions are a common occurrence, with 15 leopard deaths reported in the region in 2022 alone. Three of those fatalities occurred within Atmakur Range. Proposals for underpasses along NH 565 and the Mumbai road, as well as plans for a long flyover to facilitate safe wildlife crossings, remain unfulfilled. The Penusila Nrisimha Sanctuary is the only exception where conservation measures have progressed. Without timely action and adequate funding, officials fear the grim pattern of wildlife fatalities will persist, endangering biodiversity and threatening the region's fragile ecosystem. Conservationists continue to urge the government to prioritise the wildlife corridor and related projects for the long-term preservation of Andhra Pradesh's forest heritage.

Telangana HC dismisses EWS appeal over missing I&A certificate

Telangana. The Telangana High Court on Wednesday dismissed a writ appeal filed by T Thirupathi, ruling that eligibility for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category was determined only when the Income and Asset (I&A) certificate for the relevant financial year was produced. In this case, the appellant failed to furnish the required certificate for the financial year 2021-22. The appeal sought to modify an interlocutory order dated November 19, 2024, in WP of 2024, wherein a single judge of the high court issued notice before admission and ordered that any selection for the post of Hostel Welfare Officer Grade-II under Notification No.25 of 2022 issued by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TSPSC) would be subject to the outcome of the writ petition. The TSPSC issued a notification on December 23, 2022, for filling various posts in the Tribal Welfare department. Thirupathi applied for the position on January 26, 2023. After scrutiny, he was issued a hall ticket and appeared for the written test on June 28, 2024, scoring 193.19 marks. As per the notification, a 10% reservation for EWS candidates was provided under GO Ms. No. 65, dated May 19, 2021. Further, it mandated that candidates must submit an I&A certificate issued by a competent authority. The appellant, however, was unable to obtain the EWS certificate for the financial year 2021-22. The Telangana High Court on Wednesday gave the Home Ministry a final opportunity to file its counter in a PIL filed by Heaven Homes Society (HHS), a non-profit organisation for women and child welfare, against the failure of the authorities to file chargesheets or final reports in relation to FIR No. 67 of 2017 dated February 20, 2017, and FIR No. 1005 of 2013 dated January 12, 2013. The society urged the bench of Acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Renuka Yara to direct the respondents to establish special guidelines or restrictions to regulate the sale of spy cameras, ensuring that such devices are sold only through authorised.

Forest department launches Mission FFW to reduce human-wildlife conflict in Kerala

KOCHI. The forest department has launched Mission FFW (food, fodder and water), to improve wildlife habitat and ensure availability of water in the forest in an attempt to reduce human-wildlife conflict in forest fringe areas of the state. The project will be implemented in three phases from January 1 to the beginning of Monsoon season. During the first phase, forest teams will identify rivers, streams, waterholes, natural ponds, man-made ponds, checkdams, grasslands and open areas in forest areas and map them. The waterbodies will be segregated into those that have dried up and ponds that never dry up. These activities will be completed before February 10. During the second phase that extends from February 11 to April 30, the forest department will construct brushwood checkdams across narrowing



streams. All check dams and ponds will be desilted to ensure availability of water. All invasive plant species will be removed from the area and damaged checkdams will be repaired. In areas where there are no waterholes or ponds, the department will build shallow concrete tanks to ensure availability of water for wild animals.

All grasslands and open areas in the forest will be mapped and protected to ensure availability of fodder for these activities will be completed before April 30. The third phase will start from May 1. The department will ensure that checkdams do not hamper the movement of fish species from rivers to streams for breeding during the rainy season. All invasive plants will be removed before they start flowering. The grasslands will be divided into strips and controlled early burning will be conducted to avoid forest fire. The early burning will be conducted during morning and evening and forest staff will ensure that there are no birds or wild animals in the area. Overgrowth on either side of forest roads will be removed to a distance of 5.5 m to improve visibility and to avoid accidents.

Unmarked speed bumps on newly laid Red Fields road pose danger to motorists

COIMBATORE. The lack of reflective markings on speed breakers on the newly-laid Red Fields Road near Puliakulam in Ward 66 of the city poses a threat to motorists, especially two wheeler riders. The riders are not able to spot the speed bumps and lose balance while passing over them suddenly. Stating that the problem is acute at night, road users have urged the Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation to take action and ensure safety. "This is a busy road, and the absence of markings on the speed bumps is dangerous. Two-wheeler riders find it difficult to spot the bumps, which puts them at risk of



slipping or losing control," said J Jacob, a motorist from Sowripalayam. With the Indian Army's Madras Regiment and officers' mess located on the road, calls for immediate action have grown louder as locals urge the CCMC to promptly address the issue by painting the speed breakers and adding lane markings. Speaking to TNIE, an official from the engineering section of the CCMC said, "We have sent proposals along with the road marking to the DMA (Directorate of Municipal Administration). However, funds were allocated only for the road construction not for road markings.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot promulgates ordinance empowering government to utilise Bangalore Palace land

Its constitutional validity has been upheld by the High Court, and there is no stay on the operation of the act by the Supreme Court.



BENGALURU. Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot promulgated the Bangalore Palace (Utilisation and regulation of land) ordinance, 2025, passed by the state government, and it was published in the state's gazette (extraordinary) on Wednesday. With this, the utilisation and regulation of land of Bangalore Palace, belonging to the erstwhile Mysuru royal family - acquired under the Bangalore Palace (Acquisition and Transfer) Act, 1996 (Karnataka Act 18 of 1996), now vests with the state government. The cabinet on Friday had decided to promulgate the ordinance in the wake of a Supreme Court order dated December

10, 2024 that the government has to pay Rs 3,014 to the royal family as compensation to utilise 15 acres 17.5 guntas of land to widen the Jayamahala and Ballari road on a 2 km stretch. If that order had to be honoured, it would burden the state's exchequer, the government argued. It is interesting to see if the government resumes the road widening work or waits for SC's final judgment. The ordinance explains that the total value of the entire extent of 472 acres and 16 guntas of Bangalore Palace has been determined in accordance with the Act at Rs 11 crore. Its constitutional validity has been upheld by the High Court, and there is no stay on the operation of the

act by the Supreme Court. However, the Supreme Court in a contempt case (No. 688 of 2021 etc) has directed the government to grant Transferable Development Rights (TDR), valuing the part of the Bangalore Palace earmarked for the purpose, in accordance with the prevailing guidance value of adjoining areas in accordance with section 45B of the Karnataka Stamp Act, 1957 (Karnataka Act 34 of 1957). The civil appeals relating to the constitutional validity of the act are pending consideration of the Supreme Court and the grant of the TDR will be an irreversible process, which will have a severe ramification on the state, it added. Since the Assembly and Council are not in session, the governor is satisfied that the circumstances exist which render it necessary and expedient to exercise powers under Article 213 (1) of the Constitution, and promulgated the Ordinance which shall come into force on Jan 27, 2025, the gazette notification stated.

Karnataka High Court declares ED raid on ex-MUDA chief illegal

BENGALURU. The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday declared that the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) raid on the residence of Natesha DB, former MUDA commissioner, in connection with the alleged irregularities in allotment of 14 sites to BM Parvathy, wife of CM Siddaramaiah, during his tenure, as illegal, unwarranted and abuse of law. Interestingly, the court said mere possession of a site that was allegedly illegally allotted to an accused in a criminal case cannot be considered an offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), unless it attracts the provisions of Section 3 of the Act. The high court said the search conducted on the premises of Natesha in the guise of investigation when there is no prima facie evidence to establish the offence under Section 3 of PMLA, is an abuse of process of law. The court said ED

cannot give the elements of procedural fairness contained in PMLA a go by in the course of its administration. The right to liberty and privacy of individuals cannot be trampled upon and any curtailment of civil liberties is subject to the due process of law. Allowing Natesha's petition challenging ED's proceedings, Justice Hemant Chandangoudar said the impugned search and seizure conducted at the residence of the petitioner on October 28 to 29, 2024, and the subsequent statement recorded under Section 17(1)(f) of PMLA are vitiated on the grounds of absence of 'reason to believe' and is hereby declared invalid and illegal. The judge said the statement recorded under Section 17(1)(f) of PMLA is ordered to be



retracted and the impugned summons of October 29, 2024, and November 6, 2024, issued under Section 50 of PMLA, and the statement recorded under Section 50 of the Act are quashed. Referring to the reasons adduced by ED in the sealed cover, the court said they indicate no specific allegation against Natesha, except that of improper allotment of sites in favour

of Parvathy, and that he is close to realtors. The reasons recorded do not in any manner, whatsoever, indicate the involvement of the petitioner in any act of money laundering or to be in possession of proceeds of crime involved in money-laundering, or to be in possession of any records or property related to money laundering or crime, respectively. Reasons recorded do not in any manner, whatsoever, indicate the involvement of the petitioner in any act of money laundering or to be in possession of proceeds of crime involved in money-laundering, or to be in possession of any records or property related to money laundering or crime, respectively. The court reserved the liberty with the petitioner to initiate action under Section 62 of PMLA against the officer.

The political & social cost of climate crisis

We are fully aware of the consequences of advancing climate change on our planet's ecology, on our economies and our energy, health and food systems. The political and social consequences of unabated climate change and irreversible global warming are less understood and appreciated. These consequences are already changing societies. They are changing political dynamics.

Both within countries and beyond, climate change is exacerbating income and wealth inequalities. There are increasing differences in the capacity to cope with higher temperatures, for example, through expensive air-conditioning, the ability and wherewithal to move from more inclement to relatively less affected regions and to corner increasingly depleted resources to maintain unsustainable lifestyles longer, even if eventually a ravaged planet will sink all humanity.

Some assume that the use of artificial intelligence will find a way to tackle climate challenge. This is hubris of the worst kind. Time and again, the forces of nature have overwhelmed human artifice and will continue to do so with even greater intensity as the delicate threads that hold life together on our planet are snapped by human exploitation.

Our earth is a tiny speck in the vastness of our Milky Way galaxy. And our galaxy is a speck in the unbounded vastness of the cosmos. Planetary extinction will be an insignificant episode in cosmic time. It is the humility that this should engender among humans which is missing and this lies at the heart of the ecological crisis, of which climate change is only an acute manifestation.

How does climate change alter societies? Climate change is changing weather patterns and vast areas of productive farmland. For example, farmlands in Africa, are becoming arid deserts. This triggers large population movements within countries and across borders. Families are disrupted, children suffer from malnutrition and irreparable psychological damage and the whole social fabric begins to disintegrate. Their vulnerability exposes them to violence and exploitation by a powerful minority, which itself is contested by other such groups. Coercive power becomes the only instrument for holding a community together through fear. Those who migrate across borders are no less exposed to violence and exploitation and the migration issue becomes, as it has in many western societies, an instrument of political mobilisation through fear of the "outsider." The stability of societies in both source countries as well as target countries, is disturbed. As families disintegrate and scatter, their members lose their anchor and identity. Unstable societies are unequal societies; they are victims of oppression and injustice, they are often violent and cannot sustain a democratic polity. Stability does not mean stagnation. It means orderly change and aspirational societies. A sense of threat from the unfamiliar and fear of the outsider justifies authoritarian governance. People become complicit in the limitation and even suspension of their own rights even as they applaud the violation of the rights of those they consider "outsiders". Populism is an expression of this pathology.

There is no doubt that the climate crisis — as also the larger ecological crisis the world confronts today — is the inevitable consequence of the fossil fuel-based pattern of economic development spawned by the industrial revolution of the 18th century. This has progressively become more resource- and energy-intensive and is mainly responsible for accelerating global warming and the larger ecological crisis. Climate change is the result of greenhouse gases, chiefly carbon dioxide, accumulated in the earth's atmosphere, since the dawn of the industrial age. Carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere for over a hundred years, diminishing only slowly and current carbon emissions add to that stock. One measure of the stock is the concept of particles per molecule (ppm) of air. The higher the density of the ppm, the greater the extent of global warming.

A child's failure in school exams is the system's failure

The role of state governments in the appointment of VCs has been eliminated, though education is a state subject and under the Concurrent List.

A 10-year-old child in class V must be held responsible for her learning outcomes. If her learning outcomes do not meet the 'benchmark' or 'expected level of learning', she must be 'detained'. What should be regarded as the failure of the pedagogy, curriculum and the collective system of schooling has, in effect, been shifted onto the child or the individual learner. The systematic dilution of the Right to Education (RTE, 2009) through successive amendments and the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is a testament to this shift. The first amendment granted local governments the authority to 'ensure class-level learning', prompting 19 state governments to wholly reject the 'no-detention' policy. The recent abrogation of this policy for centrally governed schools is merely another step toward its inevitable denouement.

Over six decades ago, John Holt authored the seminal work, 'How Children Fail'. Since then, the discourse surrounding education has evolved, gradually acknowledging that no learner, irrespective of his/her situation, is intrinsically unwilling to learn — he/she simply does not wish to be 'taught.' A child cannot, with deliberate intent, choose not to learn.

The educational narrative has also moved, to some extent, away from solely emphasising intelligence quotient in favour of a broader understanding of multiple intelligences.

There is no child who is inherently 'slow', 'weak', or a 'failure'. Rather, it is the inadequacy of the learning environment that prevents the child from realising his or her full potential. In this sense, it is the failure of the system, not the failure of the child. Examinations should never serve as instruments of exclusion. Yet, each time we design an exam, we do so with a fixed understanding of merit, deeply rooted in the belief in the 'normal probability curve'. This framework tends to measure and categorise the learner based on rigid, prescriptive standards. Once a student is marked as 'below average' or labelled a 'failure', she is relegated to repeating the grade and the collective gaze of teachers, parents and peers begins to regard her as 'undeserving' or 'fit to fail'.

Multiple studies have revealed that repeating a grade does little to enhance a child's 'learning outcomes' or 'learning abilities'. The promise of additional

resources or strategies for improvement — beyond the superficial provision of 'special' attention or reducing the learner to an object of pity — remains murky at best. Simply revisiting the same syllabus for another year fails to address the core needs of the learner, reinforcing only the hollow logic of 'meritocracy'.

What is considered merit is often dictated by those perched in positions of power. If monkeys were to define 'ability' as the capacity to climb a tree, all fish would inevitably fall short. In much the same way, a learner's abilities are shaped not merely by innate potential but also by their 'cultural capital'.



As Bourdieu and countless sociologists and psychologists have pointed out, the learner's capacity to learn is intricately tied to their socio-historical, economic and cultural background — factors over which they have little, if any, control.

Access to quality education, a rich curriculum and effective pedagogy is often determined by the learner's 'social assets'. In India, these assets extend beyond gender and physical abilities to encompass religion, caste, language and geography. The growing clamour for a uniform system of one nation, one education, one curriculum and one examination will only amplify the struggles faced by the already marginalised learners. Take, for instance, a differently-abled, tribal, Muslim girl in a conflict zone. Her ability to meet the prescribed learning expectations under the 'normal probability curve' is not a matter of will or intellect but of a convergence of obstacles beyond her control. India, with its vast

network of over 15 lakh schools and a student population exceeding 25 crore, paints a paradoxical picture of promise and neglect. Among these, 1.17 lakh schools operate with a single teacher, while a staggering two crore students remain deprived of access to what can truly be called 'quality' education. The teacher-student ratio is alarmingly skewed in several states, with recent reports revealing that 16 per cent of teacher posts lie vacant. This figure includes the patchwork addition of 'contractual' teachers. If salaries and recruitment processes were indicators of teaching quality, the disparities would be nothing short of scandalous: 23 per cent of schools lack the requisite number of teachers and even more suffer from a deficit of professionally trained educators. Despite lofty proclamations of education as an 'investment', budgetary allocations have persistently missed the mark, falling far below the recommended six per cent of the GDP. The numbers are stark — 79 per cent gross enrolment at the secondary level, yet 3.6 crore children remain out of school. To compound this, 11 per cent of the schools function without electricity and 13 per cent are without libraries, eroding the infrastructure critical for holistic learning. The abolition of the no-detention policy is, therefore, not merely an epistemic injustice, it is also a grave

social betrayal. The children who are envisioned as the architects of a developed India by 2047 are, in reality, ensnared in a system that fails them at every level.

This is not a call to abandon the procedures that assess learning, but rather an invitation to reimagine the very constructs of 'pass' and 'fail', of 'retention' and 'detention'. To declare that 'schools are no longer centres of learning but merely mid-day meal distribution hubs' is not only a dismissal of the crushing poverty faced by our people but also a betrayal of the profound human aspiration to cultivate knowledge within these spaces.

The delicate interplay between being a learner and a knower — a dynamic already fragile — risks being irreparably blurred with the dismantling of the no-detention policy. A child may 'fail' as a learner, but under no circumstance should her inherent agency as a knower be stripped away.

Ram Rahim's parole

Poll-eve release raises eyebrows yet again

If a poll comes, can Ram Rahim's parole be far behind? The Dera Sacha Sauda chief has been released from jail after being granted a 30-day parole — just a week before the Delhi Assembly elections. He has been finally allowed to visit his dera in Sirsa; this privilege has been given to him for the first time since he was awarded a 20-year jail sentence in 2017 for raping two of his disciples. It is not uncommon for the dera head, who continues to wield influence in the region, to be freed on parole or furlough whenever Punjab, Haryana or neighbouring states go to the polls. He was granted a 20-day parole in October last year ahead of the Haryana Assembly elections. The move had triggered allegations that the ruling BJP was pulling out all the stops to dent the Congress' prospects. And we all know which party had the last laugh. Ram Rahim's advocate has rightly said that every prisoner



has the legal right to apply for parole. However, the devil is in the timing. The dera head is known for his covert ways of telling his supporters whom they should vote for. He might be a convict in rape and murder cases, but there is no dearth of his followers who are convinced that he has been framed. The BJP has been out of power in Delhi for the past 26 years. Looking to turn the tables on AAP at long last, the saffron party is going the whole hog in wooing voters. Ram Rahim can do his bit by working behind the scenes. His repeated paroles and furloughs have invited criticism from political and religious leaders of Punjab, where he continues to be reviled for his alleged role in sacrilege incidents. But Punjab is not a priority in the BJP's current scheme of things. The party has no qualms about antagonising Sikhs because Ram Rahim's release holds the promise of electoral gains in Delhi.

FM must raise the bar for growth

A budgetary stimulus will underscore the fact that the India story is for the long term

The 2025-26 Budget proposals are being formulated in the backdrop of a grim domestic and international scenario. On the domestic front, slowing demand has led to tepid financial results for corporates. The stock markets are volatile, with bears being rampant for the first time in several years. Both Sensex and Nifty have fallen by about 12 per cent since September, largely due to an outflow by foreign institutional investors (FIIs). Growth seems to be sluggish, with the first advance estimates of national accounts projecting 6.4 per cent for FY 2025 as against a healthy 8.2 per cent in FY 2024. The geopolitical outlook also remains dismal amid an uneasy truce in the Israel-Hamas war, while the conflict in Ukraine shows little signs of ending soon. Moreover, US President Donald Trump looks set to upend American policies in a wide swathe of areas, especially trade, and this could affect India.

However, there is a ray of hope. The slowdown in the first half of the current fiscal is now being made up for with reports of rising rural consumption owing to higher agricultural output and the impact of direct benefit schemes. Urban demand continues to be laggard, but it is here that budgetary policies could make a significant impact. Providing income tax relief at the lower end of the spectrum could bring more money in the hands of the urban middle class. It is this segment that has provided buoyancy in direct tax revenues in recent years. A calibrated reduction in the lower tax slabs could give a much-needed fillip to urban consumption. The urgent need to bring about greater simplification and rationalisation of direct taxes cannot be overemphasised. Much has been done in recent years on this score, but an even greater paring of tax rules and regulations is required.

Shifting income tax filing to the online route was a major leap in this direction; government websites need to be upgraded to world-class levels as well, given the enormous information technology expertise available in this country. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) must also be rescued from the maze of Byzantine regulations that are now even being commented upon by the global media. Popcorn tax slabs, symptomatic of the tax bureaucracy's overzealousness, hit the headlines. It may not strictly come under the purview of the Budget, but a signal of intent on ironing out complexities would be welcome.

The focus of Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman must be, however, on stimulating economic growth in view of the slowdown in FY2025. The slump in the second quarter was largely due to sluggish public spending during the General Election. The effort should be to make up for this in FY2026 by ensuring that capital expenditure remains on track so that the engine of growth is revved up yet again. It may ultimately be followed by a much-awaited cut in interest rates by the Reserve Bank of India, thereby providing an even greater momentum to the economy. There are two key sectors that can also contribute to a revival in the coming financial year and need greater support. These are micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and export-linked industries. The MSME sector, one of the most vibrant segments of the economy, faced serious challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic. Credit assistance provided at the time did not ameliorate conditions adequately for these enterprises, which also had to face crippling payment delays from both public and

private sectors. A package of measures to provide easier credit and repayment facilities would revitalise a sector that generates an enormous number of jobs. The export-oriented sector poses greater challenges in the light of the Trump



administration's plans to raise tariffs. The extent of tariff hikes on imports are not known yet, but an increase seems inevitable. While tariffs may go up higher for countries like China, there is no certainty that Indian goods will benefit in terms of getting a comparative advantage. Export units need to be given assistance to be able to compete with economies, again like China, where heavy state subsidies are the norm.

It is also a good time to gradually bring down tariff walls built in recent years to protect the domestic industry in view of the 'Make in India' programme.

This is not merely to blunt the attack from the US over high tariffs, but also to align these levies with international levels. Such a move could go a long way towards plugging this country into global supply chains. In contrast, Trump's new policy directive on oil is likely to have a positive outcome for this country. His exhortation to the American oil industry to drill more could result in higher output and lower prices. World crude rates have already fallen from \$80 to \$78 per barrel since he made these comments. Any price softening will come as a relief by reducing the huge oil import bill and thereby the current account deficit as well. The proposals should also provide a conducive climate for higher investment, both from domestic and foreign sources. A critical element needing greater attention is the ease of doing business. Even the recent annual corporate summit at Davos became an occasion for several economists to highlight the urgency of improvement in this area. Undoubtedly, much has been done in recent years to cut red tape, but much more work is needed to make it easier to invest and run a business.

As for the volatility in equity markets, the budgetary proposals may not curb short-term trends of FIIs pulling out and moving to places giving higher returns, like the US. But a stimulus to growth will underscore the fact that the India story is there for the long term. It would also ensure that the more viable foreign direct investment flows pick up significantly. The Finance Minister's aim must be to push growth to the range of 7-8 per cent. Only then will it be possible to come closer to the target of becoming a developed economy by 2047.

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 of 2011 (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	2	3	4		5		
Sr. No.	Name of the Constituency	Name of the candidate	(A) Pending criminal cases		(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 - Mandawali 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.

Axis Bank launches Devanagari PIN for safer banking. Here's how it works

NEW DELHI. Axis Bank has come up with a unique solution to increasing digital security. In a first of its kind move, they've unveiled the Devanagari PIN, blending technology and tradition to create a banking PIN that's as personal as your favourite memory, but much harder for cyber criminals to crack.

"Your banking PIN can be as memorable as your favourite book, movie, or dish and yet almost impossible for scammers to guess because with Devanagari PIN you can create a secure and unique PIN! The possibilities are endless when it comes to creating your PIN! Devanagari PIN lets you turn any word into a secure and personalised banking PIN. Head to <http://devanagaripin.com>, type any word and create a strong banking PIN," Axis Bank said on X. Instead of predictable numbers, this innovation hides digits within the Devanagari script, allowing users to turn familiar words into ultra-secure PINs. Whether it's your favourite mantra, a childhood nickname, or even a beloved dish, your PIN can now be personal, memorable, and almost impossible to guess.

STEPS TO GET YOUR DEVANAGARI PIN Visit www.devanagaripin.com

Enter a word of choice in Devanagari
Generate a secure PIN for banking transactions
One of the most common ways fraudsters gain access to accounts is by guessing weak PINs or using phishing techniques to trick users into revealing their banking details. This is why experts suggest using strong passwords and PINs that are not easily predictable.

Market hoping for capital gains tax cut

NEW DELHI. Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have been pulling out of the Indian equity markets in droves -- FPIs have been net sellers to the tune of ₹1.74 lakh crore since October

Several factors are attributed to capital outflow including Trump's policies, overheated Indian market and a relatively poor economic forecast.

However, many in the market believe India's aggressive tax policies have not helped either.

The government in last year's budget increased tax on short-term capital gains from equities from 15% to 20%, and on long-term capital gains from 10% to 12.5%. With the budget around the corner, the investor community is hoping against hope for a possible cut in capital gains tax or removal of securities transaction tax (STT). It must be noted that STT was brought in 2004 after removing the long-term capital gains tax on equities.

In 2018 when the government brought back LTCG tax, it did not remove STT (currently at 0.1% on delivery-based sale and purchase of shares). Sameer Arora, founder and fund manager, Helios Capital Management, in a recent post on X said one way to show how wrong the FPIs are in selling Indian stocks is to cut long-term capital gains tax rate to 10%. While Arora's post reads like a light-hearted response to well-known investor Shankar Sharma's angst column on how India has failed to stop foreign investors from exiting Indian markets, the general sense among investors is that the government was wrong in increasing capital gains tax in the first place. Venkat Nageswar Chalasani, chief executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), says the industry hopes the Budget would prioritise investor confidence by restoring indexation benefits for debt funds and rationalising the capital gains tax regime.

Government unveils Rs 100 crore credit guarantee scheme to strengthen MSME manufacturing sector

NEW DELHI. Government on Wednesday approved a Mutual Credit Guarantee Scheme aimed towards improving the credit availability for micro, small and medium manufacturing sectors, aligning with the goals set under the Make in India Union Budget 2024-25 for the MSME sector. The scheme will offer 60 per cent guarantee coverage through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC) to Member Lending Institutions (MLIs) for loans up to ₹100 crore, helping eligible MSMEs finance the purchase of equipment and machinery.

This credit will enable MSME industries to purchase plant, machinery, and equipment, giving a boost to the sector and strengthening the Make in India initiative. The finance ministry, in a press release, revealed that the manufacturing sector currently contributes 17 per cent to India's GDP, providing jobs to more than 27.3 million workers. It further added that PM Modi's vision of 'Make in India, Make for the World' aims to increase this share to 25 per cent of GDP.

Features of the scheme

The borrower should be an MSME with valid Udyam Registration Number and the loan amount guaranteed should not surpass ₹100 crores.

Though the project cost could be higher, 75 per cent of it should be utilised for the equipment and machinery. In case the loan amount is ₹50 crore or less, the borrower can repay it over a maximum of 8 years. They are also granted a 2-year break at the start, during which they don't have to pay the principal amount, only interest (this is called a moratorium period). If the loan is above ₹50 crore, the repayment period and moratorium period can be extended further. Borrowers must pay 5 per cent of the loan amount upfront when applying for the guarantee cover under the scheme.

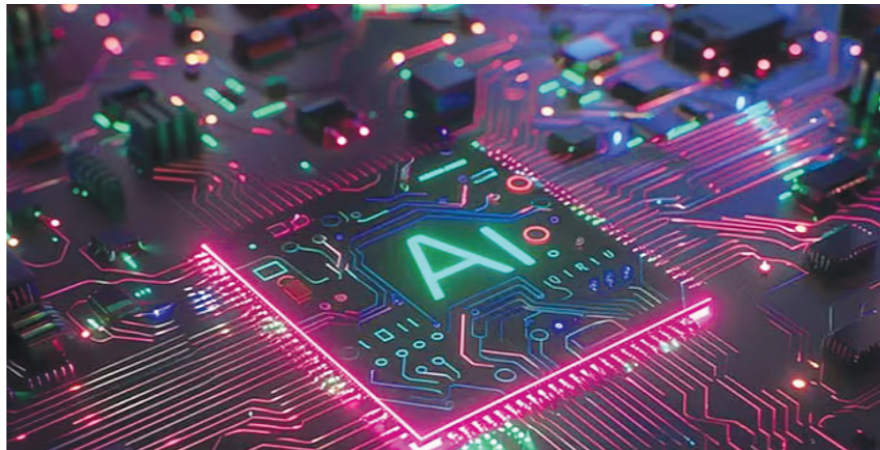
The Scheme will be applicable to all loans sanctioned under MCGS-MSME during the period of 4 years from the date of issue of operational guidelines of the scheme or till total guarantee of ₹7 lakh crore is issued, whichever is earlier.

Chinese-made AI model DeepSeek safe for use in India, says government source

What sets DeepSeek apart from others is the company's claim that the new release was built at a fraction of the cost of industry-leading models such as OpenAI.

NEW DELHI. DeepSeek, a Chinese-made artificial intelligence (AI) model, is safe to use in India, according to a source from the government. The source also assured that there are no concerns regarding data transfer to China.

"It is safe to use in India. I can assure you there is no data transfer of Indian users'



information to China when using this chatbot," the source stated. DeepSeek, a little-known Chinese start-up, has caused a stir in the global tech sector with the release of its low-cost AI model. It functions similar to Google's Gemini and OpenAI. The latest version of DeepSeek was released on January 20, and it impressed AI experts. What sets DeepSeek apart from others is the company's claim that the new release was built at a fraction of the cost of industry-leading models such as OpenAI. This led to significant market

impact, with chip-making giant Nvidia losing nearly \$600 billion (£482 billion) in market value on Monday—marking the biggest one-day loss in the US history. US President Donald Trump called DeepSeek release a "wake-up call" for US companies, urging them to focus on "competing to win." The model is reportedly as powerful as OpenAI's O1 model, released at the end of last year, in tasks such as mathematics and coding. Like O1, DeepSeek's R1 model is a "reasoning" model. These models produce responses incrementally, simulating how humans reason through problems or ideas. DeepSeek uses less memory than its competitors, which ultimately reduces the cost to perform tasks. Similar to many other Chinese AI models, such as Baidu's Ernie or ByteDance's Doubao, DeepSeek is trained to avoid politically sensitive questions.

Sensex, Nifty open flat as market awaits cues from Budget, US Fed's next move

NEW DELHI. Benchmark stock market indices opened flat on Thursday with IT and auto stocks declining in early trade, reacting to the statement made by US Fed Chair Jerome Powell.

The S&P BSE Sensex was up by 328 points to 76,860.96, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 135.70 points to 23,298.80 as of 10:50 AM.

Dr. V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Financial Services said that the recovery in the market is healthy since it is being led by fairly valued largecaps. "The rally can sustain if the Budget comes up with some strong growth stimulating measures that can improve the market sentiments too. However, a sustained rally can happen only if the FII selling stops and we get some leading indicators suggesting growth and earnings recovery," he added. In today's early market action, IT and auto stocks which have led the market recovery



were trading in red, while utility and financial stocks led the gainers. Power Grid Corporation of India emerged as the top gainer, advancing 2.99%, while Bajaj Finance showed strong momentum with a 2.69% rise. Hindalco Industries continued its upward move, gaining 2.61%, followed by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) which added 2.35%. Cipla rounded off the gainers with a healthy increase of 2.11%. Tata Motors witnessed heavy selling, tumbling 6.50%. Indian Hotels Company declined by 1.69%, while Infosys shed

0.72%. UltraTech Cement saw a modest dip of 0.24%, and ICICI Bank ended marginally lower with a 0.18% decrease. Globally, the stock markets remain strong mainly due to the resilient US economy and the down trending interest rate cycle in the US. The Fed's decision to pause yesterday was on expected lines. The Fed chief Powell's statement yesterday that "the central bank will need to see real progress on inflation or easing of labour conditions before making further adjustments" is a clear message that further cuts will be data-dependent," said Vijayakumar.

Broader market indices showed resilience while volatility took a hit. The Nifty Smallcap100 index led the gains with a 0.99% increase, while the Nifty Midcap100 moved up by 0.39%, indicating positive sentiment in the mid and small-sized companies. However, market anxiety appeared to ease as the India VIX, which measures volatility, dropped by 2.61%.

Dr Agarwal's Healthcare IPO: Should you subscribe Check latest GMP

New Delhi. The initial public offering of Dr Agarwal's Healthcare has seen a muted response from investors as it enters its second day of bidding process. Dr Agarwal's Healthcare IPO aims to raise ₹3,027.26 crore through a combination of fresh issue of 75 lakh shares and an offer for sale of 6.78 crore shares. Dr Agarwal's Healthcare IPO subscribed 0.07 times. The public issue subscribed 0.12 times in the retail category, 0 times in QIB, and 0.06 times in the NII category by January 29. Dr Agarwal's Healthcare has set the price band for its IPO between ₹382 and ₹402 per share. Retail investors need to apply for at least one lot, which consists of 35 shares, requiring a minimum investment of ₹14,070. For small non-institutional investors (SNI), the minimum application size is 15 lots (525 shares), translating to an investment of ₹2,11,050. Meanwhile, large non-institutional investors (bNII) must apply for at least 72 lots (2,520 shares), amounting to ₹10,13,040.



SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

"We believe its organic growth strategy and focus on expanding the primary facility network position it well to capture this growing demand. Hence, looking at all attributes we recommend our investors to 'SUBSCRIBE' the Dr. Agarwal's Health Care Ltd IPO for long term perspective only," said Rajan Shinde, Research Analyst, Mehta Equities Ltd. "At the upper price band of ₹402, DAHL is available at a P/E of 133.6x (FY24), which appears expensive compared to peers. However, considering the company's

plans to expand its presence across India by establishing new facilities, strengthening its brand image, and its consistent revenue growth over the years, we recommend 'subscribe' on a long-term basis," said an IPO report from Geojit. The initial public offering (IPO) of Dr Agarwal's Healthcare opened for subscription on January 29, 2025, and will remain open until January 31, 2025.

LATEST GMP

The grey market premium (GMP) for Dr. Agarwal's IPO has seen a decline in the official market.

The latest GMP was ₹5 as of January 30, 2025, at 8:32 AM. Given the price band of ₹402, the estimated listing price is around ₹407, factoring in the latest GMP. This suggests a potential gain of approximately 1.24% per share.

The allotment of shares is expected to be finalised on Monday, February 3, 2025. The company's shares are set to be listed on the BSE and NSE.



This allowance under the old tax regime is given by the employer to the employee to travel anywhere within India. A maximum of ₹36,000 per individual can be availed for exemption from taxes. No international travel can be claimed by the employee under LTC.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION ALLOWANCE

This allowance under the old tax regime is given to the employees to cover their child's educational expenses, thus easing their financial burden. However, the same is not available under the new tax regime.

DONATIONS MADE TO A POLITICAL PARTY

Under the old tax regime, Section 80GGB provides exemption for any donations or contributions made to a political party. However, donations made in cash are not eligible for tax deductions under this section.

Kerala startup Graamyam helps artisans go global with handmade, eco-friendly products

Highlighting the problems plaguing the sector, she says lack of revenue makes the younger generation ditch craft work.

KOCHI. Products from Kerala artisans have great demand in the international market. But these artisan communities struggle for visibility as they are unable to feature their products on a global platform. Aiming to help change this situation, Biju George — a mechanical engineer by training but with more than 20 years of experience in the IT field — and Rakkeek Timothy — a researcher from the Jawaharlal Nehru University — shared a dream of developing a business model that would improve the reach of Indian craft in the global market. That was the time they were relocating to Kerala. And they founded a social startup, Graamyam, which is now bringing joy

into the artisan communities across the state. "We wanted to make a change in the lives of rural craftspeople," Rakkeek tells TNIE.

Highlighting the problems plaguing the sector, she says lack of revenue makes the younger generation ditch craft work.

"Another major issue with traditional crafts is the absence of innovation in design and process. The laborious processes make the products costly and unaffordable to a large section of society," she adds. Further, the artisans are unable to generate interest in modern society for traditional crafts. "The sector also suffers from poor awareness in society about the quality and value of a traditional handicraft. Over the years, we have lost many valuable crafts because of a lack of patronage. Even now, many crafts are going through an existential crisis," Rakkeek points out.

But what does Graamyam do?

"Graamyam is an e-commerce platform that exclusively deals with handmade, eco-friendly, and sustainable products. At Graamyam, we partner with the communities to introduce new designs

and markets, thereby providing the artisans with better prices for the products," she says. The platform works with more than 70 craftspeople in 15 communities across Kerala.

"We work with handloom weavers, potters,



and ethnic communities crafting natural fibre and bamboo into home decor products," she says. Graamyam also has special initiatives for women to ensure they continue in the trade.

"For example, Killimangalam mats are made by a group of women weavers. The unit was in a terrible condition. The first thing we did was to fund the maintenance

of the building to ensure a safe working place for the women. We continued to use the same model for other communities too," Rakkeek says. And the fact that the initiative has touched the lives of these artisan communities is evident in the

feedback of Sudhakaran, the secretary of Killimangalam Mat Weaving Society. "If Graamyam hadn't reached out to us, closing the unit would have been the only option left before us," he says. The platform features over 150 products ranging from terracotta, bamboo, wood, natural fibre and handloom cotton to metal items. "We are a very young startup, founded in 2019. We help the artisans create innovative designs to appeal to the aesthetics of modern society," Rakkeek says. Currently, they are in the process of establishing production lines and links with craftspeople in Kerala. "We will diversify to other southern states soon and then cover craft communities in other parts of the country," she says.

With plans in place to make Graamyam a global brand for home decor, the founders are in talks with big lifestyle chains in the US.

NEWS BOX

Virat Kohli requests chilli paneer for lunch on Ranji Trophy return

New Delhi Virat Kohli requested for chilli paneer at lunch on Day 1 of the Ranji Trophy clash between Delhi and Railways at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi. Earlier, chilli chicken used to be Kohli's favourite dish when the Indian batter used to have non-veg. But in 2018, Kohli turned vegan, given the necessity of staying fit amidst a tight schedule in international and domestic cricket. Before the match against Railways, Kohli snubbed chhole poori, according to a Delhi and Districts Association official. Rather, he decided to have kadhi chawal with his teammates and the backroom staff. Sanjay Jha, the chef, who has known Kohli since his formative days, talked about Kohli's down-to-earth nature despite being a prolific name in international cricket. "I have been running a canteen for 25 years and I have known Virat Kohli from his childhood. He used to eat from our canteen. He started his career from here, but he doesn't have any arrogance. Even today, he stays humble while talking to us and the waiters just how a normal person does," Sanjay Jha told Sports Today in an interview.

"Earlier, chilli chicken used to be his favourite. Not only did he use to eat it, but he also recommended it to his teammates. Now he



has chole bhature or kadhi chawal. Once I asked him if we should order something from outside, but he refused, saying that he wanted to have food from our canteen itself," Sanjay Jha said. Back in 2021, the 36-year-old Kohli had shared his diet during an Ask Me Anything session on Instagram. "Lots of vegetables, some eggs, 2 cups of Coffee, quinoa, lots of spinach, love dosas too. But all in controlled quantities," Kohli wrote.

On Thursday, January 30, Kohli returned to playing in the Ranji Trophy after over 12 years since he last played against Uttar Pradesh in Ghaziabad back in 2012. On Tuesday, Kohli arrived at the Arun Jaitley Stadium and took part in running and fielding drills before taking the field on Thursday.

India vs England 4th T20I: Samson's weakness against raw pace, finishing woes in focus

PUNE. Sanju Samson's technical weaknesses against express pace along with Rinku Singh's dip in form and fitness issues will be a concern for India when they take on a resurgent England in the fourth T20 International here on Friday. Having fluffed their chances in the third T20I in Rajkot, the penultimate game of the five-match series gives the hosts another opportunity to seal the series going into the final game in Mumbai on February 2.

Suryakumar Yadav's men won the first two games in Kolkata and Chennai.

Samson, the maverick keeper-batter from Kerala, whose sympathetic and loyal fan base never fails to remind everyone of the limited chances he has got, started the T20I season with three hundreds against Bangladesh and South Africa prior to the ongoing series. In the current rubber, he has had scores of 26, 5 and 3 and it is not these numbers that are concerning. In T20 cricket, if one factors in risk, there would always be



lot of less profitable days at the office considering the kind of strokes batters play these days. But in case of Samson, what is of concern is his palpable discomfort against anything bowled above 145 clicks. Against Bangladesh at home, he faced Taskin Ahmed, Tanzim Hasan Shakib while in South Africa Andile Simelane and Lutho Sipamla were among the bowlers. These are not exactly intimidating fast bowlers and he rightfully took them to the cleaners.

These are bowlers who fire in between 130 to 140 clicks and can be hit through the line on flat decks. However, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood are different beasts, bowling between 145 kmph to 155 kmph and that pace is creating problems for Samson. During all three games, the Kerala batter couldn't even get his bat down as deliveries would thud into Phil Salt's gloves. The hard lengths and steep bounce are creating a problem and even on batting shirt-fronts, it is not easy to hit through the line if one doesn't have proper technique or doesn't regularly face this quality of fast bowling. Samson is one of head coach Gautam Gambhir's favourites and it is expected that he would be persisted with going into next year's T20 World Cup. But his technical issues need.

Champions League: Manchester City advance to playoff with 3-1 win over Club Brugge

New Delhi Manchester City came from behind to beat Club Brugge 3-1 and secure their place in the Champions League playoffs, as big guns Real Madrid, Bayern Munich and Paris St Germain also won to progress, while AC Milan and Juventus will join them despite both losing on Wednesday.

A goal-stacked night of 18 simultaneous kick-offs in the final group matchday of the competition's new format, eventually ended as the traditional format usually ended - with all the big guns still alive. Liverpool and Barcelona were the only teams already guaranteed a place in the top eight and automatic progress to the round of 16 and they stayed first and second respectively despite Liverpool losing 3-2 to PSV Eindhoven and Barca drawing 2-2 with Atalanta. Joining them are Arsenal, Inter Milan, Atletico Madrid, Bayer Leverkusen, Aston Villa and Lille, who produced the performance of the night to thrash Feyenoord 6-1. Although they eventually progressed reasonably comfortably, it was anything but for Man City at the Etihad. The 2023 European champions were exposed just before halftime when Raphael Onyedika brilliantly finished off a Brugge sweeping move. Mateo Kovacic pulled one back for

City early in the second half but at that stage they were still heading out of the competition and they needed an own goal by Joel Ordonez to get the lead and then a third by Savinho to relax. PSG, who were in 22nd place and in danger of missing out at kickoff, avoided a nervous night by racing into a 3-0 halftime lead at Stuttgart. Bradley Barcola opened the scoring and a hat-trick for in-form Ousmane Dembele completed the 4-1 win. It was the same score for Atletico Madrid at Salzburg. The visitors were helped by two goals for Antoine Griezmann. Lautaro Martinez got all three goals for Inter Milan in their 3-0 victory over Monaco, who had Christian Mawissa sent off after 12 minutes, but still made the playoffs. Arsenal came from behind to win 2-1 at Girona and rubber-stamp their third-placed finish, while Leverkusen also avoided the two-legged play-offs by beating Sparta Prague 2-0 to finish sixth.

Bayern Munich beat Slovan Bratislava Lille began the day in 12th but ended in seventh after thumping Feyenoord, who contributed a remarkable three own goals to



those scored by Osame Sahraoui, Jonathan David and Remy Cabella. Real Madrid, seeking to extend their record 15 European titles, secured their playoff slot with a 3-0 win over Brest courtesy of two goals from Rodrygo and another by Jude Bellingham. It was a second successive defeat for Brest but their flying start to the campaign proved enough for them to make the playoffs. Aston Villa led Celtic 2-0 with two Morgan Rogers goals inside the first five minutes but two for Adam Idah made it level at halftime. Ollie

Watkins, who missed a penalty, then restored the lead and Rogers completed his hat-trick at the death to lift Villa into the top eight. AC Milan began the day in sixth but goals by Martin Baturina and Marko Pjaca combined with an early red card for gave Dinamo Zagreb a 2-1 that dropped the Italians into the playoff, but still left Zagreb missing out on joining them by one place on goal difference. Bayern Munich beat Slovan Bratislava 3-1 with goals by Thomas Mueller, Harry Kane and Kingsley Coman while Benfica had an impressive 2-0 win at Juventus, a result that left both teams in the playoffs. The draw for the two-legged next stage takes place on Friday, where, unlike in previous years, teams from the same country and group can meet. Those games will be played on Feb. 11/12 and 18/19 and the eight winners will then meet the eight top-ranked teams from the group stage in the round of 16 - with the seeded draw for that made on Feb. 21. The final is in Munich on May 31.

Barcelona secure second in Champions League with Atalanta draw

BARCELONA. Barcelona made sure of second place in the Champions League on Wednesday after being held to a 2-2 draw by plucky Atalanta, who failed in their mission for direct qualification for the last 16. Hansi Flick's team finished the new single league phase second on 19 points, ahead of Arsenal and Inter Milan on goal difference thanks to goals from Lamine Yamal and Ronald Araujo. Barca had the chance to claim top spot after Liverpool lost at PSV Eindhoven and twice went ahead, but were pegged back in the 67th and 79th minutes by Ederson and



Mario Pasalic. The match looked set for a grandstand finish when Pasalic poked home Marten de Roon's pass but the Italians' hopes

of a historic win at the Montjuic Olympic stadium vanished when Giorgio Scalvini was stretchered off after falling awkwardly on his shoulder with three minutes remaining. Defender Scalvini, who has missed most of this season with a serious knee injury, left the field moments after Atalanta made their last substitution of the evening, leaving Gian Piero Gasperini's team with 10 men for the final minutes. Barca will now face one of Paris Saint-Germain, Benfica, Monaco or Brest in the last 16 while Atalanta will have to brave the play-offs after dropping out of the top eight and finishing ninth.

Manchester City rally to avoid Champions League exit, face Madrid or Bayern next

MANCHESTER. Pep Guardiola said Manchester City will be ready to compete with "giants" Real Madrid or Bayern Munich in the Champions League play-off round after escaping an embarrassing early exit by beating Club Brugge 3-1 on Wednesday. The Belgian champions were on course to send City packing before the knockout stages for the first time since 2012 when Raphael Onyedika fired the visitors into the lead just before half-time. City needed all three points after winning just two of their opening seven matches in the competition's new format and turned it around just in time. "We were on the verge, 45 minutes from being out. It is an incredible lesson for me, the club that nothing is (taken) for granted," said Guardiola. Mateo Kovacic levelled from the edge of the box before the unfortunate Joel Ordonez turned in Josko Gvardiol's cross. Substitute Savinho then drilled in the third to ease Guardiola's nerves. But victory may be a stay of execution for the diminished English champions up against the might of Madrid or Bayern next month. Guardiola said his side had come through a "million problems" to reach the knockout stage. The City boss is hoping for a refresh as the club's three new signings Omar Marmoush, Abdoukodie Khusanov and Vitor Reis can now be registered for the next phase, while others such as Nathan Ake and Ruben Dias could return from injury. "In two

weeks will be better than we are (now)," added Guardiola. "Against these two giants, one of them are going to play, we'll see how we arrive." Despite a first defeat in 22 games for Brugge, they also sneaked into the next round in 24th place and will take on Atalanta or Borussia Dortmund next. The drama at the Etihad on a nervous night began



before the action even got underway as a merchandise stand caught fire on the perimeter of the stadium shortly before the teams arrived. Brugge were not daunted by the task that faced them and got their reward just before half-time. The dangerous Christos Tzolis was the creator as the Greek's cross was swept home by Onyedika. Guardiola responded by introducing Savinho for Ilkay Gundogan at the break in what proved to be an inspired change as City posed far more attacking threat in the second period. "We were losing, we were out and when you are out, you have nothing to lose," added Guardiola. John

Stones headed wide a glorious chance to equalise just seconds after the restart. Kovacic then provided much-needed drive from the City midfield as the Croatian powered forward and slotted in from the edge of the box to level on 53 minutes. But in the nine minutes between City's first and second goals, Brugge could have sent the 2023 champions to an early exit. Tzolis fired too close to Ederson, drilled a shot inches wide and was prevented another clear effort by Gvardiol's last-ditch intervention with a hat-trick of big chances. At the other end, it was Brugge who did the hard work for City as Gvardiol's low cross was turned into his own net by Ordonez. Guardiola furiously kicked a water box during his celebration. The City boss' mood was not helped when Erling Haaland wasted his one huge chance of the evening as Simon Mignolet saved a one-on-one and Savinho's follow-up effort was cleared off the line by Brandon Mechele. But Guardiola was finally able to offer a smile of relief 13 minutes from time when Savinho took down Stones' cross on his chest and blasted in his first Champions League goal. Guardiola even embraced his counterpart Nicky Hayden before the match finished as the two exchanged a handshake during stoppage time. But the City manager is under no illusions that his side will need to be much better if they are to have aspirations of conquering.

David Warner on Steve Smith's work ethic: He has cricket ball sandwiches

Former Australia opener David Warner has lavished praise on star Australia batter Steve Smith's work ethic after his magnificent hundred vs Sri Lanka in Galle. Smith scored an unbeaten 104* on Day 1 of the first Test as he brought up his 35th Test century. The stand-in Australia captain left behind legendary cricketers, namely Sunil Gavaskar, Brian Lara, Mahela Jayawardene and Yousif Khan, as he now sits on the sixth spot in the list of most hundreds in the longest format. Following Smith's remarkable ton, his former teammate Warner was full of praise for the batting stalwart as he shared his incredible work ethic. "He is an absolutely amazing cricket player and he just works hard. He literally has cricket ball sandwiches. Early in his career, he would be the first in the nets and the last in the nets. You just knew when Steve



was hitting a lot of balls, he was on. It is not by fluke that he is still playing," Warner was quoted by Fox Cricket as saying. Furthermore, Warner also spoke at length about Smith's ability to bat for long periods and revealed how he left him in awe of his batting prowess during his playing days.

Australia finish Day 1 in a commanding position. "His tenacity to bat long periods of time and get himself in and score runs for the team is amazing. Being up the other end and watching him do it with ease and have so much time, you then go back and, 'If I hit that many balls, would I have that much time?'. I don't think so. But it is his natural knack and ability to do that and churn our hundreds for fun and lots of runs for Australia," he added. Meanwhile, Smith was well-supported by Usman Khawaja on Day 1 as the duo got involved in a massive 195-run stand for the third wicket.

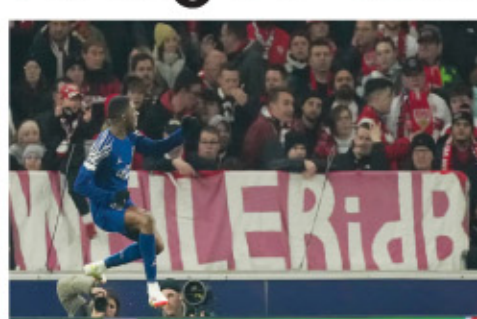
Ousmane Dembele hits hat-trick as PSG reach Champions League knockouts

← The victory relieves the pressure on PSG coach Luis Enrique and sets the French giants up for a two-legged knockout tie in February in order to progress to the last 16.

STUTTGART. Ousmane Dembele scored a hat-trick as Paris Saint-Germain romped to a 4-1 win at Stuttgart on Wednesday and qualified for the Champions League knockout stages. PSG were at risk of elimination after a disappointing group stage, with three losses and a draw, but were utterly dominant against an outclassed Stuttgart side as they confirmed their place in the play-off round. With six minutes gone, Bradley Barcola headed PSG in front after Desire

Doue stood a cross up at the back post following a corner. Stuttgart probed for an equaliser but PSG hit on the counter, Dembele tapping a Barcola pass into an empty net. Always a threat on the counter, Doue, Barcola and Dembele linked up again for PSG's third, with the latter blasting in from the right of the goal.

Dembele thrashed in another superb effort shortly after half-time to snuff out Stuttgart's unlikely comeback hopes. Stuttgart pulled one back after 77 minutes when William Pachon scored an own goal, but the damage was already done, with PSG keeping their hopes of a first Champions League trophy alive. "There was a lot to be proud of," Dembele told Canal Plus. "We've been doing well for some time now, controlling matches and winning our games." There are players who want to win things here with PSG, who run and fight for the shirt. That's what produces these results. "The victory relieves the pressure on PSG coach Luis Enrique and sets the French giants up for a two-legged knockout tie in February in order to progress



to the last 16. PSG will face either of Ligue 1 rivals Monaco or Brest, with Dembele saying "whatever happens in the play-off, it'll be a battle." The loss means Stuttgart are eliminated from the Champions League on their return to the competition after 15 years. "We saw today what the top of the football world looks like -- I can say that without jealousy or envy," Stuttgart coach Sebastian Hoeneß said. "It was incredible how they played." PSG's Champions League struggles Unbeaten and with a 10-point lead

atop the table in Ligue 1, PSG had struggled with a tough draw in the competition's new format. Losses to Arsenal, Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid, along with a home draw against PSV Eindhoven, had PSG facing an unthinkable early exit in a competition reformed to favour Europe's big guns. Both sides knew a point would likely be enough to reach the knockouts and with PSG desperate to continue in Europe, they had fended off pre-match suggestions they may play for a draw in Germany. Any such speculation was dispelled early when PSG energetically pressed Stuttgart into giving up a corner, with Barcola heading in a clever flick on from Desire Doue. PSG 'keeper Gianluigi Donnarumma saved twice in quick succession from Stuttgart's Chris Fuehrich before the visitors hit back on the counter, Dembele tapping in an inch-perfect pass from Barcola after 26 minutes. With new signing Khvicha Kvaratskhelia ineligible to play until the knockout stages.



Pragya Jaiswal's Daaku Maharaja performed exceptionally well despite a competition from Game Changer and Sankranthiki Vasthunam.

Pragya Jaiswal

On Success Of Her Film Daaku Maharaja: 'Couldn't Have Asked For More'

Pragya Jaiswal is riding high on the success of her latest release, Daaku Maharaja. The film's release date coincided with the actress' birthday, making it even more special for her. Its blockbuster performance in terms of box-office collections despite competition from Game Changer and Sankranthiki Vasthunam also added to Pragya's excitement. Brimming with joy, the actress recently reflected on her emotions for the film's success. She also addressed the age gap between her and Nandamuri Balakrishna with whom she collaborated for the second time. In a chat with Hindustan Times, Pragya Jaiswal said, "I feel the year started off with a bang for me, and I couldn't have asked for more. Daaku Maharaja was a Sankranti release that coincided with my birthday, and since then, I've been enjoying the love pouring in for the film, especially for my role as Kaveri."

Pragya Jaiswal portrayed an engineer-turned-daaku in the recently released film, something she had never done before. Shedding light on her role, she continued, "No one imagined me as a daaku, and now people are calling me daaku maharani. She's so accomplished, de-glam, hair tied up... it was a

different ball game to play Kaveri. She's so different from anything I've ever done before that I was worried when the film was released about how people would receive it."

The primary reason why Pragya Jaiswal said yes to the film was the 'powerful' role of a pregnant woman who also does action. Her character, Kaveri, has to protect her unborn child and fight for a cause that screams the strength of women in general, as per the actress.



The conversation continued as Pragya shared her views on working with Nandamuri Balakrishna in the film. Calling him respectful, collaborative and a nice person, the actress added that there is so much to learn from him.

Speaking about the growing age gap between male stars and their female leads, Pragya opined that casting is done based on a role and added that "as long as justice is done to the story and role, I feel there's nothing to talk about." Before Daaku Maharaja, Pragya Jaiswal was also seen in Khel Khel Mein, co-starring Akshay Kumar, Taapsee Pannu, Ammy Virk, Vaani Kapoor and others.



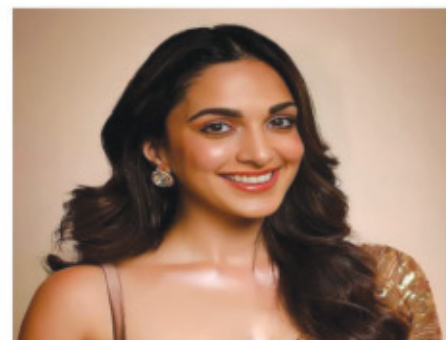
Kiara Advani Reaches Bengaluru, To Shoot 'Intense' Sequence For Yash's Toxic

Toxic will revolve around a powerful drug cartel in Goa that pulls the strings behind a facade of sun-soaked beaches and vibrant culture.

'KGF' fame Yash and Kiara Advani starrer "Toxic" has already managed to create a lot of buzz among movie buffs. Going by the recent update regarding the much-anticipated drama, Yash and Kiara Advani have arrived in Bangalore to kickstart a long and significant leg of the "Toxic" shoot.

A source close to the production house revealed, "After completing the pivotal schedule in Goa, Kiara Advani and Yash have now arrived in Bangalore to begin a long and crucial leg of shooting for Toxic. This schedule will delve into the film's intense narrative, and both Yash and Kiara are thrilled to bring this unique story to life."

The sources further claim that the Bangalore schedule of the drama will incorporate some critical scenes that explore important aspects of the storyline. Prior to this, the makers shot a song sequence for the movie in Goa featuring Kiara Advani and Yash. Renowned choreographer Ganesh Acharya has helmed the track. "Toxic" will see the return of Yash



in a dancing avatar after a very long time. Aside from Kiara Advani and Yash, "Toxic" will also see Lady Superstar Nayanthara, and Darrell D'Silva in pivotal roles, along with others. "Toxic" is expected to be set against the backdrop of a bygone era. The film will revolve around a powerful drug cartel in Goa that pulls the strings behind a facade of sun-soaked beaches and vibrant culture. The rumour mills are of the opinion that Nayanthara has replaced Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan in the movie. Made under the direction of Geetu Mohandas, the drama is looking at a late 2025 release. As the project is still in the shooting stage, further details regarding the film have been kept under wraps for now. In addition to "Toxic", Kiara Advani has also been roped in as the leading lady in Ayan Mukerji's "War 2". With Hrithik Roshan, Jr NTR in the lead, the film will see the return of Kabir Dhaliwal (Hrithik Roshan) combating a new threat to the nation.

Govinda's Wife Sunita Says She Was Troubled By His Link-Up Rumours: 'Dil Par Patthar Rakhna Padta Hai'

Sunita Ahuja, wife of actor Govinda, emphasizes women's independence and shares her journey of dedicating herself to family. She now seeks to carve her own career path.



Sunita Ahuja, wife of actor Govinda, is known for speaking her mind. In a new chat with HT, she said that she believes women should be independent and not depend on their husbands or fathers. She also opened up on her marriage and how she dedicated herself to her family and raised her children without helps. Sunita also spoke about the insecurities she faced as a star wife, sharing how it affected her over the years.

Sunita shared, "I feel every woman should be independent. They shouldn't be dependent on their husbands or fathers. While growing up, I always knew I wanted to get married and settle down. I did. I took care of my family, my husband and kids as I didn't want them to grow up with maids. But now they have grown up and have a life of their own. I was managing Govinda's work but he, too, has stopped working since two years, so now I want to do something for myself and carve a career path. I feel alone so I want to be busy. Judging a comedy show on TV is something I am looking at. Shakal toh achi hai! Tina is working on a podcast with me and there are few other ideas we are working on."

Being a star wife wasn't always easy for Sunita Ahuja. She shared that she had to stay strong because of frequent link-up rumours. She added, "Dil par patthar rakhna padta hai kyunki kabhi yahan link up, kabhi wahan. But often he would be working non-stop so time hi nahi tha affair karne ka. Ab woh (Govinda) kaam nahi kar raha hai, toh mujhe insecurity hai kahi affair na kar le. 60 ke baad log sathiya jaate hain!" Govinda and Sunita Ahuja have been married for over 30 years. They got married in 1987, keeping it private for a while because of Govinda's busy film career.

Noah Centineo On Reprising His Role As Peter Kavinsky In XO, Kitty: 'How Could I Say No'

The 28-year-old actor was filming The Recruit's second season in South Korea when he got the opportunity to reprise his role in XO, Kitty.



Noah Centineo has quickly become a household name thanks to his diverse roles on screen. From his iconic portrayal of the charming lover boy Peter Kavinsky in Netflix's To All The Boys series to his more recent turn as CIA lawyer Owen Hendricks in The Recruit, the American actor has proven his range. Before reprising his role as Owen in the second season of the spy thriller, Noah was also seen once again as Peter in XO, Kitty, the spin-off from To All The Boys.

In a recent interview with Deadline, the 28-year-old actor discussed how his shooting schedule for the upcoming season of The Recruit coincided with XO, Kitty's, both of which took place in South Korea. During the conversation, Noah said, "(All The Boys producer and XO, Kitty exec producer) Matt Kaplan and one of my friends over at Netflix called me and said, Hey, you're going to be shooting in South Korea the same time that we are. Would you be interested in coming back for XO, Kitty?" His response to this question was positive. "And I said, yeah, anything for Anna." He added, "I think Anna is just wonderful and hard working and super talented, just a professional, and she deserves the world." While he took no time to say yes to the opportunity, Noah was a bit sceptical about reprising his role as Peter Kavinsky. The actor mentioned, "It's a daunting thing to go back to Peter to open that box; you don't want to disappoint or let anyone down. The character is kind of what it is. But actually, it worked out. How could I say no?" Previously, Anna Cathcart, who portrays the titular role in XO, Kitty, shared her experience of working with Noah Centineo.