

The Villains of Corruption Will Go to Jail: CM Rekha

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 6 November 2025

On the final day of her three-day campaign for the Bihar Assembly elections, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta addressed four large public gatherings. During her speeches, she launched a strong attack on the opposition, declaring that "the villains of corruption will now go to jail, while the inept will spend their time holidaying abroad." She affirmed that the NDA government is the true guarantor of development, security, and stability, adding that the days of Jungle Raj are over and that Bihar is now set to move forward on the path of comprehensive progress.

The Chief Minister addressed public meetings in four assembly constituencies; Warisaliganj, Sherghati, Dehri, and Karagarh where she expressed confidence in the NDA's decisive victory in the upcoming elections and highlighted the government's key development initiatives in detail.

The Chief Minister said that the people of Bihar are wise and well-informed, fully capable of shaping their own future with clarity and conviction. She emphasised

that the progress Bihar has achieved over the past 15–20 years has been possible only under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

Questioning the credibility of the opposition, she said, "Those whose hands are tainted by corruption and scams; what moral authority do they have to seek the people's votes?" She reminded the public how certain leaders had stooped so low as to siphon off funds meant even for cattle feed, exploited the earnings of the poor and the lands of farmers, and failed in their duty to safeguard the dignity of women.

Taking a strong swipe at the opposition, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said, "This is Bihar- here, only those who win the people's hearts are true leaders. The villains of corruption will now end up in jail." She further remarked that those who mislead the public with lies and confusion are neither the true well-wishers of the people nor deserving of political respect.

"While the people of Bihar struggle for their rights, such inept individuals spend their time vacationing abroad," she added.



The Chief Minister underscored that the NDA government has firmly set Bihar on the path of progress by establishing new hospitals, building airports, and introducing hundreds of new trains. "Had these development efforts begun years earlier," she said, "Bihar would never have fallen behind.

During the days of Jungle Raj, the state lost

its way in the darkness of lanterns. It has taken immense effort to bring Bihar back on track — and sustaining this momentum is now crucial."

The Chief Minister highlighted the deep emotional connection between Delhi and Bihar, stating, "I come from Delhi, and I can say with full responsibility that when Bihar progresses, Delhi celebrates; and when Delhi prospers, blessings pour in from every village of Bihar from the mother whose son works in Delhi and the father whose family lives there." She assured all Bihari families residing in Delhi that, as their elder sister, she would always stand by them to ensure their safety and dignity.

Urging the people to continue supporting development, the chief minister said, "Bihar's pace of progress must not slow down now. The days ahead will shape the state's destiny and that destiny must be defined by growth, stability, and pride."

JDS urges Karnataka Governor to remove Minister for alleged 'farmer fraud' link

New Delhi (Agency)

A Janata Dal (Secular) office-bearer has written to Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot seeking the dismissal of Minority Welfare and Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, alleging abuse of office and support to individuals accused of cheating farmers. In a letter dated November 3, 2025, Pradeep Kumar SP, Advocate and General Secretary of the State Legal Wing of JD(S), alleged that the minister aided persons from Telangana, including one Akhtar Bin Tabar, accused of cheating maize farmers in Karnataka by not paying them dues after procurement. Pradeep claimed these farmers lost around Rs 1.89 crore.

According to the letter, the minister allegedly called a police officer to introduce Akhtar as his relative and sought help in a case filed against him. The JD(S) functionary also accused the minister of earlier misusing his authority by enabling his relative to use a government vehicle from the Minority Welfare Department for personal purposes across Hyderabad, Bidar, Raichur and other places, a matter he said had been raised in the Legislative Assembly. Pradeep pointed out that the Chief Minister had assured the House that the vehicle in question belonged to the Minority Welfare Department and that instructions were issued to verify the facts and take action. He argued that no action had been taken so far. Stating that the conduct allegedly violated the minister's oath of office and harmed farmers already facing distress, the JD(S) leader urged the Governor to remove Zameer Ahmed Khan from his post and initiate

I'm disciplined soldier: DK Shivakumar rebuffs Karnataka leadership change rumours

BENGALURU (Agency)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday once again played down speculation about a possible change in leadership in the state, popularly dubbed the 'November Revolution', declaring himself a "disciplined soldier" of the Congress and reaffirming that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will complete his full term. Emphasising unity within the party, Shivakumar said he would abide by whatever decision the Congress high command takes. Speaking to reporters in Delhi, Shivakumar said there was no discussion about any cabinet reshuffle or leadership change, asserting that such decisions rest entirely with the party leadership. "I am not going to meet anybody. I have not discussed anything about the cabinet reshuffle. The rest is the Chief Minister's prerogative, let him do what he has to," he said, adding that media speculation was driving the narrative.

Reiterating his loyalty to the party, Shivakumar said, "If the party says he

(Siddaramaiah) will continue for five years, he will be there for five years. If they ask him to be there for ten years, he will be there for ten years. Even if they say fifteen years, he will be there for fifteen years," stressing that his focus remains on organisational



work and party unity. Rejecting talk of any internal churn, the Deputy Chief Minister quipped, "There is no November, December, or January revolution. There is only one revolution,

and that will be in 2028 when Congress comes back to power. Till then, there is no revolution." On questions regarding cabinet expansion, Shivakumar said all decisions would be taken by the Congress leadership in Delhi.

His remarks came a day after the BJP mocked the ongoing power struggle within the Karnataka Congress by sharing an AI-generated video depicting a game of musical chairs for the Chief Minister's seat.

The satirical clip portrays caricatures of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi vying for the coveted position.

In the animated video, the four leaders circle around the Chief Minister's chair, each trying to outmaneuver the others to claim it. The BJP's Karnataka unit shared the video on social media with the caption, "Countdown to the November Revolution!", hinting at what it describes as an impending leadership shake-up in the ruling Congress government.

Incubation centre to come up soon to skill differently-abled: Priyank Kharge

Differently-abled people must be trained to use technology and skills, for example, a visually impaired person doing analytics was not possible.

BENGALURU (Agency)

With a view to bring inclusivity in the job sector by skilling differently-abled people and making them employable, the Karnataka government will soon start an Inclusive Incubation Centre, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge announced on Wednesday at the Bengaluru Skill Summit 2025. Kharge, who was part of the panel discussion 'Convergence of Education, Skills and Industry for Trillion USD Economy by 2032' said, "It is very important to upskill and reskill differently-abled people. The departments for IT, BT, skill development and women and child development will work together to set up the Inclusive Incubation Centre." Priyank asked Prateek Madhav, founder of Assistech Foundation who was also present, to prepare a proposal. "The proposal will be submitted to the departments on November 15. We will announce the features of the incubation centre during Bengaluru Tech Summit 2025." Prateek told TNIE, "Earlier, designs were created using paper and pen, now we have tools like Adobe to create designs. Differently-abled people must be trained to use technology and

skills, for example, a visually impaired person doing analytics was not possible. However, we have trained a person to do analytics in data, and he is employed in an MNC."

"Our government has spent nearly Rs 3,000 crore on three million people to make them



employable across the world. No other state would have spent this amount of money to upskill and reskill youth. We aim to achieve a trillion-dollar economy... We cannot promise employment to all youngsters but we can make them employable," he added. Minister for Skill Development Dr Sharang Prakash Patil said the Government Tool Room and Training.

Family Feuds, A Murder, And A Folk Singer: 5 Key Bihar Election Phase I Battles

Bihar will vote in a two-phase election this year, with the first today and the second next week, on November 11. The results will be announced three days later, on November 14.

Patna (Agency)

The first phase of the 2025 Bihar Assembly election began this morning with voters in 121 constituencies setting out to choose between Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's ruling JDU-BJP alliance and the opposition Mahagathbandhan led by RJD chief and chief ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav. In the former camp, apart from the Bharatiya Janata Party and Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United, are union minister Chirag Paswan's Lok Janshakti Party and the Hindustan Awam Morcha of ex-Chief Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi, as well as Upendra Kushwaha's Rashtriya Lok Morcha. In the latter, the Congress and a bloc of three Left parties, including the Communist Party of India, have rallied behind Lalu Yadav's RJD, with Mukesh Sahani's Vikassheel Insaan Party, and two smaller outfits, Indian Inclusive Party and Janshakti Janata Dal, making up the numbers. The RJD has fielded the greatest number of candidates (72) in this phase, followed by the JDU (57), BJP (48), and Congress (24). But those numbers hide one of the quirks of coalition politics – 'friendly' contests, in which allied parties compete against each other in some seats.

In this case, that quirk came about due to the Mahagathbandhan not reaching a seat-share deal before the deadline to file nominations, prompting 11 such showdowns, including in Vaishali, where the RJD and Congress will go head-to-head, and Bihar Sharif, where it is CPI vs Congress. 'Friendly' fights aside, which are the high-profile contests in this phase? The biggest is Raghurajpur – a RJD stronghold that has voted for Lalu Yadav twice and his wife, Rabri Devi, three times – and from where Tejashwi Yadav will bid for a third straight term.

Bihar Elections 2025: Lalu Yadav And The Story Of The Charwaha Schools

New Delhi (Agency)

Long before he stood on the floor of the Lok Sabha and delivered his signature one-liners, making even his opponents laugh, Lalu Prasad Yadav's story began in Bihar's Phulwaria village. From Phulwaria to Patna Secretariat and then to Parliament, he's spent over 50 years in the political corridors.

Politics, his lifelong battlefield, is now fronted by his son, Tejashwi Yadav, the heir apparent to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). As Bihar prepares for another election, Lalu remains an indomitable figure. At 77, he may not be as active in politics, but his socio-political legacy lives on.

The Shepherd's School

Formed in the 1990s, when Lalu was Chief Minister, the "Charwaha Schools" were institutions with classes that welcomed children in barefoot who spent their days herding cattle. It began after Lalu, on one of his many impromptu tours of rural Bihar, stopped to chat with a group of children grazing goats. They told him they couldn't attend school because someone had to look after the animals. His solution was to bring the school to them. So came the Charwaha Vidyalayas,



classrooms without walls where attendance was flexible, livestock grazed nearby, and children learned their lessons in between chores. They could come and go as family duties demanded. Sometimes, food was

offered to lure them to education.

The Rise Of A Socialist

Born into a family of poor Yadav farmers in Gopalganj, with illiterate parents who never recorded his birth date, Lalu Yadav emerged from student activism at Patna University in the early 1970s. The young man with a thick mop of hair and a ready wit became the president of the university students' union and soon found himself under the wing of Jayaprakash Narayan, the socialist leader who mentored a generation of revolutionaries.

Manjinder Sirsa reviews pollution control measures across 13 Hotspots

The Sikh Times
Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi, Nov 6 2025: Under the leadership of Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, Manjinder Singh Sirsa today inaugurated a series of civic infrastructure works worth ₹10 crore in Rajouri Garden constituency. These works include new sewer and water lines, road repairs, new footpaths, and boundary wall constructions across multiple locations under the Delhi Jal Board (DJB), Public Works Department (PWD), and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). Sirsa inaugurated new sewer and water lines at various sites in Rajouri Garden, including J-Block, Z-Block, Aggarwal Sweets area, Rattan Dairy, Janta

Market, and Raghbir Nagar. The day-long visits concluded with the new footpaths, and drain works in the West District near Major Sudesh Marg & flagging off of anti-smog guns. In addition to the inaugurations, Sirsa chaired a high-level review meeting at the Delhi Secretariat with the Environment Secretary, DPCC, Divisional Commissioners (MCD) and senior officials from relevant departments. The Minister reviewed the progress of on-ground enforcement teams and directed officials to accelerate anti-pollution drives across all 13 hotspots.

During the meeting, the Hon'ble minister directed on-ground teams to ensure strict enforcement of anti-pollution measures including pothole repairs, paving of roads, water

sprinkling to mitigate dust, proper disposal of industrial waste, prevention of open burning etc. The officials apprised the Hon'ble Minister of the ongoing repair works and completion timelines.

"Under the strong leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, our

government is working tirelessly, day and night, to curb pollution and deliver visible results on the ground," Sirsa said. Speaking at the inauguration, Sirsa added, "A Viksit Bharat is possible only when Delhi becomes Viksit Delhi — and that begins from our neighborhoods. From roads to sewer and water pipelines, every part of our civic infrastructure must be rebuilt to match the aspirations of a modern city." The Minister emphasized that these works are part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of holistic urban transformation and Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's resolve to provide every household in Delhi with clean water, upgraded sewer lines, and better civic amenities.

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Manjinder Sirsa reviews pollution control measures across 13 Hotspots

"Under the leadership of Rekha Gupta, our mission is to rebuild what has remained neglected for the past decade. The focus is on creating a clean, efficient, and sustainable infrastructure network for every citizen of Rajouri Garden," Shri Sirsa added. The ₹10 crore project package aims to modernize critical public infrastructure, ensuring long-term relief from sewage overflow, waterlogging, and pipeline leaks. The initiative also includes measures to reduce dust pollution and improve sanitation through regular smoke gun operations.

"This is not a one-time initiative," said Sirsa. "We are determined to continue these works in every ward of Rajouri Garden until all public infrastructure is renewed. A developed Delhi will lead the way for a developed India."

Noida's tech profile grows, LG to set up new GCC

Noida.(Agency)

South Korean multinational LG Corporation is set to establish a global capability centre (GCC) in Phase-II industrial sector — at an investment of Rs 1,000 crore — with a strong focus on research & development (R&D), marking a major milestone in the company's India expansion plan. Spread across about seven acres, the upcoming state-of-the-art facility will serve as a hub for advanced innovation and technology development. According to officials, the new R&D Centre will generate around 500 direct employment opportunities, "further strengthening Noida's position as a preferred destination for high-tech investment and global innovation". A high-level LG delegation met on Tuesday with Noida CEO Lokesh M, who later told that the company was advised to maximise local hiring.

Villagers urge CM to open Bhangel elevated road, cite traffic chaos, market losses

Noida.(Agency)

Residents of villages around the Bhangel elevated road have written to chief minister Yogi Adityanath, demanding immediate opening of the newly constructed stretch. They said the delay has caused severe inconvenience to commuters and heavy losses to traders whose markets lie beneath the road. The Noida Village Residents Association, which represents over 60 villages, said the elevated road is a vital link for people travelling from sectors 100, 107, 46, 47, and the 7X group of sectors, as well as from villages such as Baraula, Mamura, Salarpur and Bhangel.

The association president, Ranjan Tomar, said the road was completed several months ago and is awaiting inauguration. "In our letter to the CM, we pointed out that the road, built during the chief minister's tenure, is now ready for public use. We have learned that the Noida Authority has sought time from the CM's office for a formal inauguration. We have requested the CM to spare some of his precious time to inaugurate the road," Tomar said.

He added that the opening of the road would bring relief from traffic jams, reduce pollution and help revive rural markets that have suffered losses due to prolonged construction and lack of access. Tomar also urged the CM to direct the Noida Authority to reconstruct roads in Barola, Bhangel and Salarpur markets and create parking spaces beneath the elevated road. The demand has been echoed by several residents. Sukhdev Sharma from Rajat Vihar in Sector 62 said, "The business of shopkeepers below the elevated road has been badly affected, and all the villages and sectors under it are forced to suffer. The road below needs urgent repairs too."

MCG issues 432 challans, collects Rs3.3 lakh for sanitation violations

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

MCG issued 432 challans and fined residents and establishments Rs 3.3 lakh over two days for littering, plastic use, and waste dumping. During a virtual review meeting on Wednesday, MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya reviewed the cleanliness drive and graded response action plan (GRAP) implementation, directing officials to step up enforcement and improve city sanitation. According to officials, assistant sanitation inspector teams issued 423 challans amounting to Rs 2.5 lakh, while sanitation security force (SSF) seized five vehicles used for illegal dumping and issued six challans worth Rs 70,000. In addition to this, three people were fined Rs 15,000 for burning garbage in open areas.

Under 'mission pollution-free, clean Gurgaon' campaign, the civic body is carrying out large-scale cleaning of dust, weeds and construction debris along major roads, officials said. Work is underway in all four zones — from Hero Honda Chowk to Bakhtawar Chowk via Subhash Chowk in zone 1, Shyam Baba Chowk to Shobha City Road in zone 2, Old and New Railway Road and MG Road in zone 3 and Atul Kataria Chowk to Huda City Centre Road in zone 4. The commissioner has instructed that all works be completed by Nov 15. Dahiya also directed that contractors from govt departments promptly remove debris and soil generated from construction work, keep bus queue shelters clean, and speed up garbage collection from secondary waste points..

As part of GRAP measures, treated water is being used for sprinkling to control dust pollution, with additional sprinkler machines expected to arrive later this month. To manage horticultural waste, 25 shredder machines are operational at the ward level, and 15 more will be deployed soon, officials said. The commissioner emphasised strict surveillance against garbage burning and ordered immediate penal action against violators to keep the city clean and control pollution levels.

India's most polluted! Dharuhera choking on diesel, dust, and neglect; how it's all gone wrong for this NCR town

DHARUHERA (REWARI). (Agency)

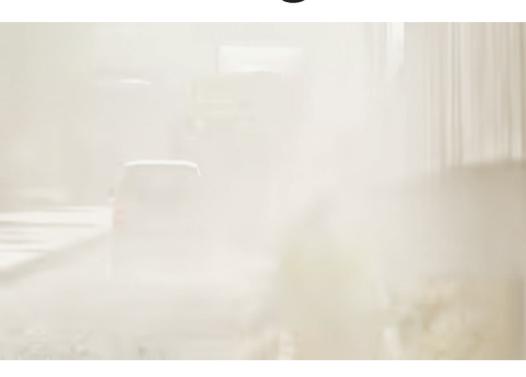
Trucks crawl, diesel autos cough up smoke, the constant roll of heavy tyres on crumbling tar creates a permanent overhang of dust, and garbage deposits line the main road. Dharuhera is a picture of everything that could have gone wrong. The 11 sqkm town just 40km from IFFCO Chowk and 60km from Delhi's IGI Airport was India's most polluted place through the month of Oct, with the highest average concentration of fine pollutants (PM2.5).

To a visitor, it's immediately evident why. To its residents, it's become a way of life. The stench, the smoke, the dust, the jams have become daily obstacles to negotiate as they go about their lives quietly, sometimes with burning eyes, sometimes with sore throats, sometimes with a cold that won't go away for weeks. This is home, what else can they do? Unlike people living in Delhi and Gurgaon, smog

vacations are a luxury people in this border town in Rewari district can't afford. They must stay and grind it out.

Dharuhera isn't choking because of a single source. It's a combination of heavy traffic, factories from the adjoining industrial area that forms a contiguous spread with Rajasthan's Bhiwadi, construction work, bursting-at-the-seams warehouses that trucks roll in and out of, diesel gensets that run everything here because of frequent power cuts, and noxious smoke from garbage dumps that people set on fire because no one clears it. Ram Saini, a shopkeeper near Sector 6 said, "We live here. We breathe this air. Over the years, air pollution has increased and we feel it every year."

The highway splits Dharuhera into two halves — factories on one side, homes and shops on the other. The industrial side is



cleaner, but emissions are scattered across town by the breeze. "Dharuhera does not have proper parking facilities, so vehicles are mostly parked along roadsides. People walking on roads are catching fumes from trucks and buses all the time because they move slowly through the town. Roads are always congested," said Amit, a resident of Sector 5.

The auto fleet is almost entirely made of diesel, which is banned in Delhi-NCR.

"These three-wheelers run not just on diesel but diesel-mixed kerosene and are the most used mode of transportation in town. Fumes emitted by these vehicles are bad for people's health," said Lalit Singh, a resident of Bypass Road. The Dharuhera-Bhiwadi belt is where many red industries from Delhi-NCR were shifted out. And while the towns are paying the price for it, the complete absence of basic pollution-control measures is surprising, given the intense scrutiny of the NCR air shed by Supreme Court and National Green Tribunal, and a central authority, CAQM, dedicated to managing anti-pollution measures scientifically. Sitting in the peripheries of NCR, Dharuhera appears to have simply been forgotten.

Low wind speed keeps Gurgaon's air in poor zone for 3 days in a row

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After a brief respite, the city's AQI rose to 225 on Wednesday, slightly worse than Tuesday's 217. Three of the four monitoring stations were active, and the readings varied significantly. Teri Gram remained offline, adding to the season's recurring monitoring gaps. Gwalpahari was the lone bright spot at 124, in the moderate bracket. Heading towards the city's core, the situation worsens. Sector 51 logged 258, in very poor range. Vikas Sadan, a persistent hotspot, was the worst at 299, hovering just below the severe threshold. With one key station down, officials are trying to track a complex problem with incomplete data.

The govt's Decision Support System model lays it out plainly. Mixing height and ventilation index, the two big markers

that show how well the atmosphere can flush pollutants away, are set to weaken after Wednesday. The atmosphere mixes



up to about 2,700 metres midweek but drops sharply by Friday to around 1,350 metres. The ventilation index follows the

same trend, sliding closer to thresholds associated with poor pollutant dispersal. "Temperatures have been holding on the warmer side for this time of year, and winds have been weak and shifting. That combination tends to trap pollution close to the surface," said an HSPCB officer. Forecasters expect the same pattern through the week: clear skies, mist or haze in the mornings and nights, light northwesterly winds that dip below 10 kmph after sunset, and temperatures staying slightly above normal. In practical terms, that isn't great news for dispersion. So, the air isn't likely to clean up on its own. The model expects poor air on Wednesday, then a slide into very poor between Thursday and the weekend. The outlook beyond that still keeps the city in the very poor zone.

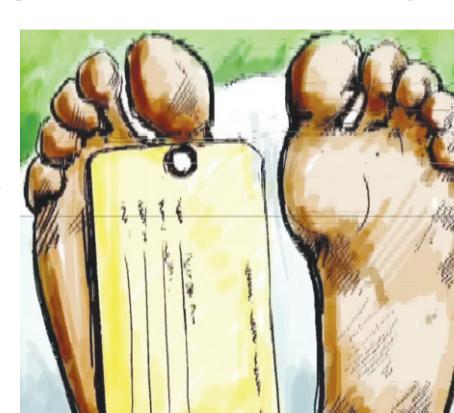
4 members of family on bike die in collision with truck in Nuh

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Four members of a family, including two children, died on Wednesday when a truck rammed into their motorcycle on Biwan road in Nuh's Firozpur Jhirkia. The victims — a couple and their two sons — died on the spot due to the impact of the collision. Tashreef (40), his wife Sahuni (35), and their sons Ehsan (15) and Arsan (10) are residents of Sukhpuri village. The family was heading to Biwan, Sahuni's village to visit relatives when the accident occurred.

The father, who worked as a truck driver, was taking his family to his in-laws' place in Biwan. The truck coming from the opposite direction was at very high speed and lost control before ramming into the motorcycle, a police officer stated.

Eye-witnesses said the truck veered into the opposite lane during an overtaking maneuver, resulting in a head-on collision with the motorcycle. The impact was so severe that all four family members were



thrown from the bike and died instantly. A large crowd quickly gathered, with locals attempting to assist before the police arrived. A team from the City Firozpur Jhirkia police station, along with forensic experts, reached the site to begin their investigation. The bodies were sent to Alfiya Mandikheda General Hospital for

postmortem examination. Police have seized the truck involved in the accident, although the driver managed to escape. "We have impounded the vehicle and registered a case under sections 281 (rash driving), 106 (causing death by negligence), and 125 (endangering human life or personal safety) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the City Firozpur Jhirkia police station. Teams have been deployed to trace the absconding driver," the officer added. Describing the incident as deeply tragic, the officer urged motorists to adhere to traffic regulations. "We urge drivers to maintain speed limits, especially on narrow rural roads. Overspeeding and reckless overtaking continue to claim innocent lives," he said. The accident has cast a shadow of grief over Sukhpuri village. Relatives and neighbors gathered at the victims' home.

Main road permanently flooded: Rajasthan & Haryana border towns swim in muck

Dharuhera.(Agency)

A stalemate between the Haryana and Rajasthan govt — both with BJP now at the helm — over drainage of water has led to permanent waterlogging of the main road in both Dharuhera and Bhiwadi, either side of the state border. Except this is not water; it is industrial refuse that floods a good 1km stretch of Sohna Road (no connection with Sohna Road in Gurgaon) that links the two towns, exposing thousands of residents and commuters to repulsive stench and health hazards that contact with the effluent can cause.

This is how it has been for three years now, say locals. The effluent stream, in turn, triggers jams, which contribute to air pollution. Both Dharuhera and Bhiwadi are affected by it, Dharuhera more so because Bhiwadi is at a slightly higher elevation. On the Rajasthan

side, around 300 metres of the road remains submerged. The mess stretches almost 700 metres on the Haryana side. "You can't breathe for even two minutes here," says Rajender Kumar, who runs a small hardware shop by the road. "Customers avoid stopping here. My business has fallen. Sometimes, I close the shop early and go home because the stench gets so strong that it gives me a headache."

Haryana tried a fix last year — a 50-metre-long, 4-foot-high concrete ramp on the Dharuhera side meant to block the flow from pushing deeper into the town. But it trapped the water like a dam. Garbage that came with the stream pooled around it, creating copious deposits of filth. The road turned into a swamp. "I drive through this twice a day. By the time I reach home, my legs itch and my clothes stink," says

Sandeep Yadav, a daily commuter from Malpura village. "Kids in our area get stomach infections every few weeks. Doctors say don't let them play outside. How do we live like this?

Locals say they have made multiple complaints, but nothing has changed. "We've been living in this filth for years. When it floods, bikes fall, people slip, and children get rashes. No one from govt comes here," says Sanjay Singh, a resident of Sector 4. "We feel abandoned." The water, which according to locals is sewage from houses and industrial refuse, flows on the road because the area does not have a proper drainage network. Amit Juyal, regional officer of Rajasthan State Pollution Control Board, says it's "domestic wastewater from Bhiwadi. Authorities use pumps to drain the water out. The discharge eventually spreads toward Delhi-Jaipur highway, and settles around industrial pockets and residential belts like M a h e s h w a r i , Nandampurabass, Malpura, Khatwali, Rajpura, Masani, Kharkhara and Alawalpur

have been held to solve this issue," he adds.

Haryana officials say they had to build the ramp to stop the rest of Dharuhera from flooding. "Before it was built, the water used to flood the city because Dharuhera sits lower than Bhiwadi. The matter is before National Green Tribunal now," says Nipun Gupta, regional officer of Haryana State Pollution Control Board. N.G.T.'s joint committee report says about 12 million litres of effluent are discharged into Dharuhera daily from Bhiwadi. Authorities use pumps to drain the water out. The discharge eventually spreads toward Delhi-Jaipur highway, and settles around industrial pockets and residential belts like M a h e s h w a r i , Nandampurabass, Malpura, Khatwali, Rajpura, Masani, Kharkhara and Alawalpur

villages, and sectors 4 and 6. Bhiwadi municipal officials say they are in talks with Haryana govt.

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Delhi zoo loses sole African elephant, mystery deepens over animal deaths

The Sikh Times

New delhi: Mystery continues to deepen over the string of animal deaths at Delhi's National Zoological Park (NZP), which has remained closed to visitors for more than 65 days. The zoo's only African elephant, Shankar, was the latest to die, one among several animals reported dead since August 2025. The 29-year-old elephant was found dead in his enclosure on September 17, after spending 13 years in solitary confinement. Officials have confirmed that Shankar died from encephalomyocarditis virus (EMCV), a rare and often fatal viral disease known to affect elephants, primates, pigs and several other mammals. The infection, caused by a virus in the Cardiovirus genus, primarily attacks the heart muscle, leading to sudden cardiac failure. According

to the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Bareilly, which conducted the postmortem, this is the first known case of EMCV reported from any Indian zoo. Brought to India from Zimbabwe in November 1998 as a gift to then President Shankar Dayal Sharma, Shankar had been a resident of the Delhi Zoo for over two decades. According to sources, approximately 15 animals have died at the Delhi Zoo since August 2025. The zoo authorities have not released any official figures or a statement explaining the total number and cause of these deaths. Following the detection of avian influenza, the zoo was closed indefinitely on August 30 as a precautionary measure. The outbreak began in the last week of August, leading to the deaths of 12 birds, including nine painted storks and three black-headed ibis, between

August 24 and September 6. Tests later confirmed that seven of these birds

cubs born to tigress Aditi did not survive, adding to concerns over animal care

from NIHSA, the zoo will be opened for visitors on getting permission from



were infected with the H5N1 virus. In the weeks that followed, two zebra finches were found dead on September 17, while a day later, Shankar, the zoo's 29-year-old African elephant, also died in his enclosure. Earlier that month, five of the six tiger

and disease control at the facility. In the latest update on Monday, NZP Director Sanjeev Kumar said, "Fourth fortnightly surveillance samples were taken on October 30 from NZP and sent to NIHSA, Bhopal. After getting a negative sample report

the competent authority. Results are expected this week." Since the closure, surveillance samples have been sent to the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSA), Bhopal, every 15 days to detect potential infections. However, no

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I, Anshul Atulkar S/O Atulkar Permanent resident of Kishan Pura Bahera, Bhind, Madhya Pradesh-477660. Presently residing at B-65/5, Gali No-17, 1st floor Shukar Pur Khas, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi, Delhi-110092, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sikandar Singh

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I, hitherto known as Kritika Singh D/O Daya Shankar R/O L-1st H no-3687, Sangam Vihar South Delhi 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kritika Tomar.

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NEWS BOX

Only war: Pak minister's warning to Afghanistan if today's truce talk fails

World . (Agency)

As Pakistan and Afghanistan prepare to resume crucial peace talks in Turkey today, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has issued a stark warning that if the negotiations collapse, it would force them to get into a 'war' with the Taliban. The minister's blunt remarks came during an interview with Geo TV on the eve of the third round of dialogue, which will follow two earlier rounds in Doha and Istanbul that ended without a breakthrough. "If the negotiations fail, the situation will deteriorate further. We have our options. Considering how we are being targeted, we may respond in the same manner," Asif said.

The talks are being closely watched after a fragile ceasefire was brokered between the two neighbours following brief cross-border clashes earlier this month. Turkey has been mediating to revive the process, which has so far stumbled over Pakistan's demands that Kabul act decisively against the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).

At a weekly press briefing last week, Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi confirmed the meeting and expressed hope for "a positive outcome". He emphasised that Pakistan will keep "engaging in the mediation process" but warned that peace hinges on Afghanistan's willingness to prevent terrorist activity from its territory.

US cuts flights by 10% as shutdown chaos pushes air travel towards crisis

World.(Agency)

The US government said on Wednesday it will cut air traffic by 10 percent across 40 of the nation's busiest markets beginning Friday morning, in an effort to maintain safety during the ongoing government shutdown. The move could disrupt thousands of flights nationwide. The air system handles more than 44,000 flights a day, from passenger jets to cargo and private planes.

Air traffic controllers have been working without pay since October 1, and increasing absences have left shifts short-staffed, leading to mounting flight delays, according to the news agency Associated Press. "We can't ignore it," said Bryan Bedford, who leads the agency overseeing air traffic operations. "We will not wait for a crisis to act." Bedford and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said they will meet airline executives to finalise how the cuts will be implemented safely. The affected markets will be named Thursday.

"If the pressures continue to build even after we take these measures," Bedford added, "we'll come back and take additional measures."

AIRLINES BRACE FOR TURBULENCE

Airlines are already adjusting. Southwest Airlines said it is reviewing schedules and will contact travellers whose flights may be affected. "We continue to urge Congress to immediately resolve its impasse and restore the National Airspace System to full capacity," the airline said.

Flight slowdowns are not new, they can occur due to storms or limited staffing. But this shutdown, now the longest in US history, has pushed the system into uncharted territory.

Last weekend saw some of the worst shortages yet, with at least 39 control centres reporting limited staffing, according to an Associated Press analysis of operations data. Before the shutdown, that weekend average was just eight. Since October 1, it has tripled to more than 26.

Death toll rises to 11 in Kentucky UPS plane crash, probe reveals engine loss

Washington .(Agency)

A cargo plane's left wing caught fire and an engine fell off just before it crashed and exploded after takeoff in Kentucky, a federal official said Wednesday, offering the first investigative details about a disaster that killed at least 11 people, including a child. First responders, meanwhile, searched for more victims, a day after the crash at UPS Worldport, the company's global aviation hub in Louisville, though Governor Andy Beshear said finding survivors seemed unlikely. The inferno consumed the enormous aircraft and spread to nearby businesses.

After being cleared for takeoff, a large fire developed in the left wing, said Todd Inman, a member of the National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the investigation.

The plane gained enough altitude to clear the fence at the end of the runway before crashing just outside Louisville Muhammad Ali International Airport, Inman told reporters. Airport security video "shows the left engine detaching from the wing during the takeoff roll," he said. The cockpit voice recorder and data recorder were recovered, and the engine was discovered on the airfield, Inman said.

"There are a lot of different parts of this aeroplane in a lot of different places," he said, describing a debris field that stretched for half a mile.

ACHAIN REACTION

The plane with three people aboard crashed about 5:15 pm Tuesday as it was departing for Honolulu from UPS Worldport at the Louisville airport. The crash had a devastating ripple effect, striking and causing smaller explosions at Kentucky Petroleum Recycling and hitting an auto salvage yard, Grade A Auto Parts. Beshear said the child who died was with a parent at the parts business. Beshear earlier said it was a "blessing" that the plane did not hit a nearby Ford Motor factory or the convention center.

Louvre museum system's password at time of \$102 million jewel heist: Louvre

The extraordinary heist, which took place on October 19 in under seven minutes, forced the closure of the Louvre. Eight items of jewellery had been stolen from the Apollo Gallery, including the emerald-and-diamond necklace that Napoleon gave his wife Empress Marie Louise and the 19th-century crown of Empress Eugenie.

World . (Agency)

French authorities faced widespread criticism following the audacious daylight robbery at the Louvre, the world's most famous museum and home to the Mona Lisa. Security lapses were blamed for the \$102 million heist. Now, it has emerged that a remarkably simple password for the museum's video surveillance system made it all the easier for the Ocean's 11-style thieves to decamp with French crown jewels. A museum employee told ABC

News that the password was simply "Louvre". The startling revelation came amid growing anger directed at museum officials over major security lapses.

The extraordinary heist, which took place on October 19 in under seven minutes, forced the closure of the Louvre in Paris, the world's most-visited museum. Eight items of jewellery had been stolen from the Apollo Gallery, including the emerald-and-diamond necklace

that Napoleon gave his wife Empress Marie Louise and the 19th-century crown of Empress Eugenie.

During her testimony last month, Louvre director Laurence des Cars admitted security lapses and cited deficient infrastructure and the lack of cameras in the museum.

"Despite our efforts, despite our hard work every day, we were defeated. We did not detect the thieves' arrival early enough," Des Car said, blaming it on the fact that



there were not enough cameras outside monitoring the perimeter of the Louvre.

The exterior security cameras do not offer full coverage of the museum's facade, she said, adding that the window through which the thieves broke in was not monitored by CCTV.

Des Car said she had repeatedly warned that the centuries-old building's security was in a dire state. "The warnings I had been sounding came horribly true." She pledged to establish no-parking perimeters in areas

around the Louvre, upgrade the CCTV network and ask the interior ministry to set up a police station inside the museum.

French media have speculated that the robbers were amateurs, as they dropped the most precious of the jewels - Empress Eugenie's crown, made of gold, emerald and diamonds - during their flight, left tools, a glove and other items at the scene, and failed to set fire to the movers' truck before fleeing.

PERPETRATORS ARRESTED

A week after the heist, police arrested two men suspected of being the ones who broke into the Louvre - a 34-year-old Algerian who has lived in France since 2010 and was detained by police as he tried to board a flight to Algeria, and a 39-year-old already under judicial supervision for aggravated theft. Both live in Aubervilliers, in northern Paris, and have "partially admitted" their involvement, as per Paris prosecutor Laure Beccau.

Typhoon Kalmaegi causes mayhem in Philippines; 114 dead, emergency declared

World . (Agency)

Scenes of uprooted trees, submerged and damaged houses and blown off roofs were visible across the Philippines as Typhoon Kalmaegi tore through the Southeast Asian country on Wednesday, leaving 114 dead and scores missing. Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos Jr declared a state of emergency as rescue personnel raced against time to evacuate the stranded, AP reported.

The typhoon, the deadliest to hit the country this year, comes less than a month after a powerful earthquake killed 72 people and injured more than 140. More misery is in store, with officials warning that another tropical cyclone could strengthen into a super typhoon and batter northern Philippines next week.



AP quoted Cebu's governor as saying.

Among those dead are six people who were killed when a Philippine air force helicopter crashed in the southern province of Agusan del Sur while it was on its way to distribute relief materials.

As per government estimates, the typhoon has affected nearly 2 million people, displacing more than 5,60,000 villagers.

Experts said the situation in Cebu might have compounded due to years of unchecked quarrying that caused clogging of nearby rivers, and substandard flood control projects. The issue saw street protests by residents of Cebu in recent months. The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and storms each year. The country, which has more than a dozen volcanoes, is also often hit by earthquakes.

If this happens to me, then....: Mexico President after man gropes her in public

world.(Agency)

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has filed a formal complaint against a man who groped her and attempted to kiss her in public, describing the incident as a reflection of the broader threats women face in Mexico.

'IF THIS HAPPENS TO THE PRESIDENT'

Speaking a day after a video of the assault went viral, Sheinbaum said the episode tells about the daily risks women endure in a country still plagued by machismo and gender-based violence. "If this happens to the president, where does that leave all the young women in our country?" Sheinbaum said. "No man has the right to abuse women's personal space."

The incident occurred on Tuesday in

Mexico City's historic centre, as Sheinbaum walked from the National Palace to the Ministry of Education while greeting members of the public.



the time. Sheinbaum later said the man appeared to be drunk and confirmed that he had been arrested later that evening.

CALLS FOR LEGAL ACTION ON HARASSMENT

Sheinbaum said she has asked the federal Women's Ministry to review state laws on sexual harassment, adding that such behaviour should be treated as a criminal offence punishable by law.

"It must be denounced, it must be named, because it's an act of violence," she said, noting that harassment remains inadequately punished across several Mexican states. Currently, sexual harassment is recognised as a crime in only about half of Mexico's states, including the capital.

Trump has a new number for aircraft shot down in India-Pakistan conflict

World . (Agency)

There seems to be no end to US President Donald Trump's love affair with the India-Pakistan conflict, coming up each time with exaggerated and unverified claims. Now, the eccentric President has revised his count of jets downed during the three-day hostilities in May. This, of course, while once again reminding the world of how he played the peacemaker in getting India and Pakistan to reach a ceasefire deal through trade threats.

The event might have been a business forum, but for Trump, a master salesman, every stage is an opportunity to showcase his credentials and boast about the number of wars he has stopped.

TRUMP CLAIMS 8 JETS DOWNED

Addressing the America Business Forum in Miami, Trump now claimed that eight planes were effectively shot down during the May 7-10 Operation Sindo.

"You know, I was in the midst of a trade deal

with both of them (India and Pakistan), and then I read on the front page of a certain newspaper... I heard they were going to war. Seven planes were shot down, and the eighth was really badly wounded... Eight planes were shot down, essentially," Trump said.

Over the past few months, Trump has repeated his claim of settling the India-Pakistan conflict over 60 times, with varying numbers of fighter aircraft shot down. He has, however, stopped short of specifying which country the aircraft belonged to.

Initially, Trump claimed that five jets were shot down. Months later, he revised the number to seven. "If you look at India and Pakistan, they were going at it. Seven brand-new, beautiful planes were shot down," Trump said in October at an event in Tokyo. While India has admitted it



suffered some losses, it has emphasised that 8-10 Pakistani fighter jets, including US-made F-16s and Chinese JF-17s, were destroyed, both on the ground and in the air, during the conflict.

STOPPED POTENTIAL NUCLEAR WAR'

At the business forum, Trump once again reiterated that it was his intervention that stopped a potential nuclear war between

India and Pakistan. While Pakistan has massaged Trump's ego by doing his bidding, India has vehemently denied the US President's claims, maintaining that the ceasefire was forged through direct contact.

"I said, this is war, and they are going at it. And they are two nuclear nations. I said, 'I am not going to make any trade deals with you guys unless you agree to peace,'" Trump said. "The two nations said 'no way'."

I said, 'You are nuclear powers. I am not trading with you. We are not making any deals with you if you are at war with each other,'" he further said.

He claimed that within 24 hours, he received a call from India and Pakistan about their ceasefire deal. "I said, 'Thank you. Let's do trade'. Isn't that great? Tariffs did that. Without tariffs, that would have never happened," Trump said amid applause.

NEWS BOX

Bihar polls trigger labour crunch in Telangana's Jagtial

JAGTIAL. (Agency)

Anxious farmers in Jagtial district fear that untimely rains could ruin their harvested maize as procurement drags on amid an acute labour shortage. With hamali workers from Bihar returning home for the Assembly elections, the process has nearly come to a halt in several villages.

In Mallapur and neighbouring areas, farmers



lament that just one procurement centre caters to 23 villages, forcing many to sell their maize below the government's MSP of Rs 2,400 per quintal. Many had to settle for as low as Rs 1,800 to avoid further losses.

Paddy farmers, too, face distress as continuous rains have waterlogged fields, stalling harvest machinery and leaving crops flattened. Officials said 437 paddy and 15 maize procurement centres have been set up across the district, and alternative labourers are being arranged to resume procurement by November 8.

Paddy support price to remain capped at Rs 3,100 after MSP hike

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)

An enhancement of the minimum support price (MSP) by the central government for 14 notified crops, including paddy, for kharif marketing season (KMS) 2025-26 notwithstanding, the support price of paddy for farmers in Odisha will likely remain unchanged at Rs 3,100 per quintal.

With the KMS 2025-26 starting from November 1, 2025, the Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare (FS&CW) department in a notification said the price of common variety of paddy has been increased from Rs 2,300 to Rs 2,369 per quintal while the Grade-A variety has been raised from Rs 2,320 to Rs 2,389 per quintal. This is in line with the enhancement of MSP by the Centre in June.

Sources in the FS&CW department said that farmers of the state will continue to get Rs 3,100 per quintal in the current kharif marketing season notwithstanding the upward revision of the MSP by the central government.

The state government has been providing an input assistance of Rs 800 per quintal to farmers from KMS 2024-25, taking the total procurement price to Rs 3,100 per quintal for common variety and Rs 3,120 per quintal for Grade-A variety. Production of Grade-A variety of paddy in the state is insignificant. The government has capped the support price of paddy at Rs 3,100 per quintal. The annual revision of paddy MSP by the central government.

Telangana transport department criticised for inaction till tragedy strikes

SANGAREDDY. (Agency)

As road accidents continue to claim lives across Telangana, public anger is mounting against the transport department for what many call its "reactive" approach — springing into action only after tragedy strikes. The department, tasked with ensuring that buses carrying hundreds of passengers and tipplers loaded with construction material ply safely, is being accused of neglecting its core duty of regular checks. People allege that officials wake up only after lives are lost — seizing vehicles for a day or two, only to return to silence once the public outrage fades. The recent private bus fire in AP, followed by the Tandur crash that killed 19 passengers when an overloaded gravel tipper rammed an RTC bus, has once again raised public concern over road safety. A private driver claimed that the tragedy could have been prevented if the tipper had not been overloaded.

Following the Tandur accident, RTA officials launched yet another round of checks, seizing 14 overloaded tipplers near Muthangi on the Outer Ring Road, but residents say these actions come too late, describing them as "rituals after every tragedy".

Civil contractors admitted that overloading has become a routine practice. "This isn't the first time tipplers have been overloaded. For the sake of extra money, drivers and owners continue to run their vehicles beyond limits," said a contractor from Sangareddy.

Superintendent of Police Paritosh Pankaj told, "We will be holding a meeting with department officials to prevent road accidents. Drunk driving is also a major cause, and we are increasing checks on that. Now, we'll also focus on tourist buses and overloaded vehicles."

EAST BOUND SPECIAL TRAINS-2025

In order to clear extra rush of passengers after Deepawali and Chhath Puja Festivals, Northern Railway has planned to run the following East Bound Special Trains from 07.11.2025 to 09.11.2025 in addition to normal regular trains as per schedule given below:-

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 07.11.2025 (FRIDAY)

Spl. Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Accommodation	Stoppages
04022	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur Jn.	05:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow NR, Gonda Jn & Basti
04090	Anand Vihar (T.)	14:25	Patna Jn.	11:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Varanasi Jn, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Sahatwar, Suraimanpur, Chhapra & Patliputra
04070	Anand Vihar (T)	00:20	Rajgir	19:50	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patna Jn, Rajendranagar Jn, Bakhtiyarpur Jn, Bihari Sharif & Nalanda.
04450	New Delhi	15:10	Dharbhanga	16:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04454	New Delhi	20:00	Mansi	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai & Khagaria Jn.
04456	New Delhi	22:40	Dhanbad	02:20	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almangan, Utraita Jn., Rae Bareli Jn., Amethi, Ma Behla Devi Dham Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehr On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribagh Road, Parasnath & Gomoh
04458	Anand Vihar (T.)	13:40	Bhagalpur	14:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Khusroopur Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokameh Jn., Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Kaira, Abhaipur, Dharhara, Jamalpur Jn., Bariarpur & Sultanganj
04016	Anand Vihar (T.)	15:30	Sitamarhi	15:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptangan Jn., Siswa Bazar, Bagaha, Haringar, Narkatiagan Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn. & Bairagnia
04452	New Delhi	18:15	Howrah Jn.	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn, Janghai Jn., Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehr On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Parasnath, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Barddhaman & Bandel Jn.,
04094	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:00	Patna Jn.	05:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Ghaziabad, Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04096	Anand Vihar (T.)	00:05	Patliputra	21:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Phephna Jn., Ballia, Sahatwar, Bakulha, Chhapra & Dighwara
04098	New Delhi	09:30	Hasanpur Road	12:00	3 Tier AC Economy & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptangan Jn., Siswa Bazar, Bagaha, Haringar, Narkatiagan Jn., Bettiah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudm Motihari, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
03256	Anand Vihar (T.)	23:30	Patna Jn.	18:35	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
05580	Anand Vihar (T.)	05:15	Purnia Court	13:45	3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptangan Jn., Bagha, Narkatiagan Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn., Bairagnia, Sitamarhi, Janakpur Road, Shisho, Sakri Jn., Jhanjharpur, Ghogardhina, Nirmali, Saraygarh, Supaul, Garh Baruari, Saharsa Jn., Dauram Madhpura, Murliganj & Banmankhi Jn.
02276	Delhi Jn.	09:30	Subedarganj	19:35	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur
03640	Delhi Jn.	19:00	Gaya	11:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehr On Son & Anugrah Narayan Road
05090	Anand Vihar (T.)	18:00	Chhapra	14:00	General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur Jn., Kaptangan Jn., Ramkola, Padrauna, Thawe Jn., Dighwa Dubauli & Mashrakh

EAST BOUND TRAINS FROM DELHI AREA TERMINALS ON 08.11.2025 (SATURDAY)

02252	New Delhi (Vande Bharat)	08:35	Patna Jn.	21:30	AC Chair Car & Exec. Chair Car	Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar & Ara
04090	Anand Vihar (T.)	14:25	Patna Jn.	11:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn, Varanasi Jn, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Sahatwar, Suraimanpur, Chhapra & Patliputra
04008	Anand Vihar (T.)	08:30	Jogbani	17:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almangan, Utraita Jn., Rae Bareli Jn., Ma Behla Devi Dham Pratapgarh, Varanasi Jn., Unnirahar Jn, Ghazipur City, Ballia, Suraimanpur, Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai & Khagaria Jn., Naugachia, Katihar Jn, Purnea Jn, Araria Court & Forbesganj
04450	New Delhi	15:10	Dharbhanga	16:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
04454	New Delhi	20:00	Mansi	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Barauni Jn., Begu Sarai & Khagaria Jn.
04456	New Delhi	22:40	Dhanbad	02:20	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Almangan, Utraita Jn., Rae Bareli Jn., Amethi, Ma Behla Devi Dham Pratapgarh, Bhadohi, Varanasi Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehr On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Hazaribagh Road, Parasnath & Gomoh
04458	Anand Vihar (T.)	13:40	Bhagalpur	14:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Patna Jn., Patna Saheb, Fatuha, Khusroopur Bakhtiyarpur Jn., Barh, Mokameh Jn., Hathidah Jn., Barhiya, Luckeesarai Jn., Kiul Jn., Kaira, Abhaipur, Dharhara, Jamalpur Jn., Bariarpur & Sultanganj
04016	Anand Vihar (T.)	15:30	Sitamarhi	15:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Hapur, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Hardoi, Lucknow, Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptangan Jn., Siswa Bazar, Bagaha, Haringar, Narkatiagan Jn., Sikta, Raxaul Jn. & Bairagnia
04452	New Delhi	18:15	Howrah	23:30	Sleeper & General	Ghaziabad, Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehr On Son, Anugrah Narayan Road, Gaya, Koderma, Parasnath, Dhanbad Jn., Asansol Jn., Durgapur, Barddhaman & Bandel Jn.,
04094	Hazrat Nizamuddin	11:00	Patna Jn.	05:00	1st AC, 2 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC	Ghaziabad, Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara & Danapur
04096	Anand Vihar (T.)	00:05	Patliputra	21:30	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Varanasi Jn., Ghazipur City, Phephna Jn., Ballia, Sahatwar, Bakulha, Chhapra & Dighwara
04098	New Delhi	09:30	Hasanpur Road	12:00	3 Tier AC Economy & General	Ghaziabad, Kanpur Central, Unnao Jn., Aishbagh, Badshahnagar, Barabanki Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Gorakhpur, Kaptangan Jn., Siswa Bazar, Bagaha, Narkatiagan Jn., Bettiah, Sagauli Jn., Bapudm Motihari, Muzaffarpur Jn. & Samastipur Jn.
03698	Delhi Jn.	08:55	Gaya	00:30	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Bhabua Road, Sasaram, Dehr On Son & Anugrah Narayan Road
02418	Delhi Jn.	09:30	Prayagraj Jn.	19:40	1st AC, 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & Gen.	Aligarh Jn., Tundla Jn., Etawah, Govindpuri & Fatehpur
02310	Anand Vihar (T.)	19:30	Rajendranagar (T.)	10:00	2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC & 3 Tier AC Economy	Govindpuri, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur & Patna Jn.
05590	Anand Vihar (T.)	13:00	Chhapra	09:00	General	Ghaziabad, Moradabad, Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, Sitapur Jn., Burhwal Jn., Gonda Jn., Basti, Khalilabad, Gorakhpur, Deoria Sadar, Siwan Jn., Chhapra, Sonpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Muzaffarpur Jn., Samastipur Jn., Dalsingh Sarai, Barauni Jn., Begusarai, Khagaria Jn. & Mansi Jn.
05502	Anand Vihar (T.)	05:30	Muzaffarpur Jn.	22:15	Sleeper & General	Kanpur Central, Prayagraj Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Buxar, Ara, Danapur, Patliputra & Hajipur Jn.
05512	Anand Vihar (T.)	12:00	Saharsa Jn.	17:15	3 Tier AC, Sleeper & General	Ghazi

Onus beyond the 51-crore bonus to the Women in Blue

The floodgates opened by Harmanpreet Kaur & Co's World Cup win are unleashing wave after positive wave. There is the satisfaction every player steps onto the field for, the pride of parents and coaches who support from the sidelines, the inspiration of young girls and boys everywhere who will vocalise their dreams with less diffidence, and the inevitable claiming of credit. There has even been talk on whether the 51-crore bonus the Board of Control for Cricket in India announced for the team and the support staff was enough. It's an exceptionally good space for women's cricket to be in, and those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes will take the win. But India's win also presents a tremendous opportunity—one that does not come by often enough—and it will be interesting to see if the BCCI has the alacrity to seize it. The question around the bonus is tricky. For starters, a bonus is not something you demand. When the Indian men's team won the Champions Trophy, they received a bonus of 58 crore, and given that the men's contingent is larger, the difference in amount is negligible. But this is the first World Cup win for the women, and you can see why there was the thought that the BCCI could have been more generous. The other side of that coin is that women's cricket does not yet attract the sort of viewership the men's team does. And it is from this that revenue follows—an aspect the administrators fall back on to justify equal pay for matches (men and women play games of the same duration), but different pay scales in central contracts.

Also, the women play far fewer matches and therefore are remunerated less. This too is a complex issue, as the BCCI and perhaps the England and Australia boards are financially well enough to plough money into the women's game; but this is not the case elsewhere. Even if the BCCI wanted to give the Indian team more opportunities, the calendar would not come close to matching the men's game because there isn't enough viable opposition to play. Now, all these are ground realities, but the opportunity before the Indian board is a clear one. While it must be acknowledged that the men's and women's games are different ecosystems, it is less clear if the BCCI recognises its obligation to promote and support the men's and women's games with equal intent and resources. The 'returns'—for want of a better word—from the women's game will be relatively insignificant compared to the men's. And yet, the game is not administered by the Board of Control for Men's Cricket in India. The opportunity before the BCCI is to embrace genuine inclusivity. If they see investing in women's cricket as its responsibility, and not as doing a favour to a game that cannot sustain itself financially, this World Cup win would have served its truest purpose. In the men's game, the BCCI has reaped the benefits of inclusivity. It was not that long ago that the sport was concentrated in metros. Anyone from smaller cities had to travel far to access infrastructure, coaching, and technical know-how. That changed when talent fought its way from the hinterland to the highest level—Mahendra Singh Dhoni's being an especially illustrative case. This then led to more investment, which in time ensured wider representation and access to a much larger talent pool. In that sense, the BCCI has proof of concept in terms of investing in underserved sections of cricket in India. It pays dividends, and they have the money to do so. The will has historically been lacking; but that, too, has changed.

Not goddess or angel, let the mother be unapologetically human

From the "cult of domesticity" in the 19th century to the "Supermom" and "Soccer Mom" images of the last century, motherhood has been trapped in impossible, exhaustive standards

God could not be everywhere, and therefore he created mothers. It's a familiar saying, one that resurfaces every year around Mother's Day. While it sounds like a heartwarming tribute, it carries an inherent danger—the act of turning an ordinary, fallible woman into a quasi-divinity. The mother is perched on a pedestal so impossibly high that she is expected to possess infinite patience, limitless love, and unending responsibility. She must nurture without complaint, give without asking, forgive without reason. It is this mother we encounter in Nissim Ezekiel's poem 'Night of the Scorpion', where after a night of enduring the pain of the insect's sting, she exclaims, "Thank God the scorpion picked on me/And spared my children." It is an image sanctified by familiar cultural and everyday tropes. Recall that famous line from the Hindi movie 'Deewar': "Mere paas maa hai." It firmly captures a familiar ideal of motherhood—unconditional love, an unwavering refuge and a steady moral compass.

Across regions and traditions, this ideal of the selfless mother takes many forms. There is the mother goddess, venerated across faiths and in prayers, whose protective power shields her devotees from harm. There is the concept of nation embodied as mother and divinity—Abanindranath Tagore's Bharat Mata depicts an ascetic four-armed woman—and this has since been assiduously and relentlessly built into political narratives. Then, there is Mother Nature personified in rivers, forests, mountains and fertile soil, endlessly giving and sustaining life. Yet mothers are not celestial beings para-dropped into domestic life. They are flesh and blood—women shaped by struggle, desire, disappointment, frailty and ambition. EM Forster, who lived with his mother, wrote that she had "cramped and warped my genius" yet also "provided a sort of rich subsoil where I have been able to rest and grow". In her memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me', Arundhati Roy describes her mother as both "my shelter and my storm", presenting a picture of a woman who was far from angelic and more human—fragile, flawed and full of contradictions. "In my effort to fathom my mother, to see things from her perspective, to accommodate her, to understand what hurt her, what made her do the things she did... I turned into a maze... hoping to gain a vantage point for a perspective other than my own," writes Roy. The maze can, however, reveal things one would rather not face. Last year, Canadian literary icon Alice Munro—whose fiction illuminated the inner lives of women—was accused by her daughter, Andrea Skinner, of ignoring her suffering. Skinner said she was abused by her stepfather as a child and that her mother chose silence. Skinner wrote that Munro reportedly told her that "our misogynistic culture was to blame if I expected her to



sacrifice for her children". The revelation toppled down not just a reputation but the idea that a mother's love is always selfless. From the "cult of domesticity" in the 19th century to the "Supermom" and "Soccer Mom" images of the last century, motherhood has been trapped in impossible, exhaustive standards. Zadie Smith recalls that as a child, she demanded complete submission from her mother. "Oh, it's very nice and rational and respectable to say that a woman has every right to her life, to her ambitions, to her needs, and so on... Only as an adult did I come to truly admire her—especially in the last, painful years of her life—for all that she had done to claw some space in this world for herself," she writes in 'Swing Time'. Adrienne Rich described the exhaustion that motherhood demands without any inhibition in 'Of Woman Born': "My children cause me the most exquisite suffering. It is the suffering of ambivalence." She wrote of bitter resentment and blissful gratification living side by side.

This ambivalence often runs like a silent undercurrent in

relationships. Samuel Beckett wrote of his mother: "I am what her savage loving has made me." It is an acknowledgement of both the gratitude and grievance that defined their bond. In her autobiography 'My Story', writer Kamala Surayya recalls a childhood marked by neglect, describing her mother, the Malayalam poet N Balamani Amma, as "vague and indifferent". But the image shifts in her poem 'My Mother at 66', where she watches age slowly claim her mother's face, "wan, pale as a late winter's moon". Similarly, Balamani Amma, in a poem addressed to her daughter, writes: "Your power to turn worms into butterflies comforts me." It reminds us that the bond between a mother and child isn't always static, fixed in devotion or rebellion—it evolves, weathered by years, deepened by the act of seeing each other as flawed, feeling human beings rather than roles ordained by tradition. Perhaps the real tribute to a mother is not to worship her, but to allow her to be a person. Not a goddess. Not an angel. Just a woman—gloriously, unapologetically human.

Eradicating poverty: A job not fully done

Lifting households out of poverty once does not guarantee sustained food, livelihood, and housing security. A measure of circumspection is essential amid the celebratory claims

Kerala has declared itself free of extreme poverty—a bold claim which, if true, marks a major milestone even for a state that takes pride in its human development achievements. Making the announcement on the state's formation day, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said his government has spent over 7,000 crore to eradicate extreme poverty and called the accomplishment the 'real Kerala story'. The Congress-led opposition dismissed the claim as bogus, while several experts raised doubts about the exercise's credibility, citing a lack of transparency in the underlying data. Even the nature of the public event marking the announcement, with actor Mammootty in attendance, made it seem as much public-relations moment as a policy milestone. That said, the state government deserves credit for making a sustained effort to identify extremely poor families. It began with a survey in 2021 that identified 1,03,099 people—roughly 0.2 percent of Kerala's population—as living in extreme poverty. Government bodies then devised customised plans to address each family's needs relating to livelihood,



food, shelter, health, and education, and ensured essential documentation. As part of the exercise, 5,422 houses were built and 5,522 renovated.

However, this Kerala story cannot be seen in isolation. A recent World Bank assessment based on the \$3-a-day international poverty line recorded a sharp drop in India's extreme poverty—from 27.1 percent in 2011-12 to 5.3

percent in 2022-23. According to the estimates, 269 million people moved out of extreme poverty over the decade, with Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh accounting for two-thirds of the decline. While Kerala made special efforts to lift select families above the poverty threshold, it has also benefited from India's broader improvements in living standards.

Hence, a measure of circumspection is essential amid the celebratory claims. Lifting households out of poverty once does not guarantee sustained food, livelihood, and housing security. For the record, Kerala continues to grapple with a high unemployment rate, with a 2024 survey showing nearly 30 percent of those aged 15-29 jobless. Meanwhile, a sizeable portion of the state's tribal population still battles hunger and landlessness. Unless these structural challenges are addressed, the big claim risks being remembered less as a transformative achievement and more as a political narrative crafted for electoral advantage.

A linguistic game of definitions

Nominal definitions follow predominant social conventions and vary according to the setting, while other definitions are about some essential attributes. Philosopher Ludwig Wittgenstein saw the choice of one or the other as a game. At times, courts pass on the weight of a definition to other terms

Oftentimes definitions can limit you, imposing unnecessary constraints, enclosing things within the four corners of a narrow, arbitrary boundary that you set for yourself. Other times, they provide no real meaning as the thing defined may not mean anything by itself. Take the example of 'Water!'. One might use it as a command to have someone else bring a glass of water, or as a proclamation at having found drinking water in the middle of a desert. Here, the word water, by itself, conveys no meaning apart from its usage. Or for that matter, 'Fire'. In isolation, it is a chemical reaction involving rapid oxidation that produces heat and light. But this technical definition tells us nothing about what the word actually does when used. Shouted inside a theatre, it would cause a severe panic. Some definitions are agreements on the usage of terms or expressions, while others are about some essential attributes. While the former, known as nominal definitions, takes cues from predominant social conventions and vary depending on the social setting, the latter tells us about the terms' real definitions or definitions de re, that is, about the way these terms are to be used and their essentialities.

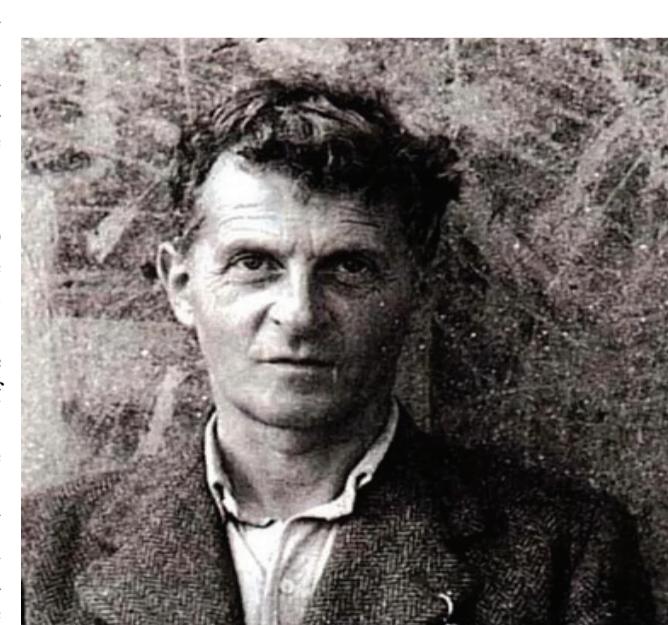
A teacher explaining, say, the chemical composition of lactic acid would attempt to provide the real definition to her students. As Ludwig Wittgenstein notes in *Philosophical Investigations*, such essentialities are expressed by grammar. On the other hand, a builder, while giving instructions to his assistant, does not speak in the language of the

approved sketch, but in a rudimentary language that has real meaning between the two. While definitions de re are necessary as a short-hand, they encourage confusion, especially when the term or concept involved is not one of science but one that straddles between the physical world and linguistic constructs. Take the example of 'law'. Any attempt at a real definition of the word would either simply be de dicto—that is, a definition based on usage—or drown in the pitfalls of the empirical method, leading us nowhere. Thus, the general description of terms based on grammatical rules may not always help us. The meaning of such words can only be determined by an analysis of the linguistic phenomena. This is so as our language is intelligible only when we see it as against the background of human activities and forms of life.

Wittgenstein states that the plurality of language uses is similar in nature to that of games. Let us take the example of the word 'games' itself. Any de re definition would require to cover all possible varieties of games—be it played on a board, a pitch, or a screen. An easier and more accurate way to define would be on the basis of attributes. Even this may sometimes be difficult: while some games have a few attributes in common, these similarities can disappear. While certain families of games carry resemblances that crisscross just like members of a family, what makes a game a part of a particular family may

differ for each family—meaning that there cannot be a singular definition of the word 'game'. As such, the question cannot be 'what are games?', but what attributes are relevant while identifying something as a game in the context of a particular

tools of interpretation. Take the term 'game of skill'. While the Supreme Court in Dr K R Lakshmanan (1996) sought to define the term as one in which success depends principally upon the superior knowledge, training, attention, experience, and adroitness of the player, it is generally acknowledged by courts that such broad-based definition of the term would not be workable. In fact, the courts have emphasised that the question of whether a game is one of skill or of chance is a 'question of fact' that must be decided based on the specific circumstances of each case. This means a court will meticulously analyse the rules, gameplay mechanics (patterns of play, role of memory, and strategy), and the role of player decisions in influencing the final result. As such, the definition in Dr K R Lakshmanan remains only an aid, and not really the basis of any classification. The court knew that the predominance of skill was not measurable like temperature or weight; it's a judgement call dressed in the language of objectivity. Therefore, the de dicto definition by the court is but a judicial dance that appears authoritative until one realises it merely postpones the question. What does 'principally' mean? How do we measure 'superior knowledge'? The definition defines nothing; it simply shifts the ambiguity to new terms, like a thimble or shell game where confusion is the prize.



'language game'. This recognition of family resemblances is not foreign to our judiciary, though it remains unarticulated. Courts largely agree that definitions cannot always be ready reckoning in the legal process, but that such definitions still remain

NEWS BOX

Telangana High Court sets aside Lok Adalat award

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

The Telangana High Court has set aside an undated Lok Adalat award passed by the Mandal Legal Services Committee, Malkajgiri, on the file of the I Additional Junior Civil Judge-cum-I Additional Metropolitan Magistrate, Kushtaguda, Medchal-Malkajgiri district. A bench of justices Moushumi Bhattacharya and Gadi Praveen Kumar held that the proceedings violated statutory procedure and the principles of natural justice. The order came on a writ petition by K Kalyani and another, who challenged the award as



illegal and contrary to the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

Citing Section 20 of the Act, the bench said Lok Adalats must follow a defined process — reference, settlement, recording of compromise and passing of the award — with a separate order recording the compromise. It stressed that parties must be personally present, their identities verified, and signatures obtained directly from them, not their attorneys.

Finding several procedural lapses and suspicious conduct, the court noted that the release deed violated the Registration Act, 1908, and that the GPA holder's actions appeared dubious. It also criticised the haste in referring and disposing of the civil suit. Allowing the petition, the court quashed the award, terming it contrary to law and natural justice.

Boat capsizes in Mahanadi river, all 30 passengers rescued

CUTTACK. (Agency)

A boat carrying over 30 people including eight children capsized in the Mahanadi river near Athagarh's Kandarpur area reportedly due to overloading, here on Wednesday evening. Sources said the passengers were returning from the Shiva temple located on an island in the middle of the river after attending a Kartika Purnima fair when the incident took place. As the boat overturned, all the passengers fell into the river. However, they were all rescued safely. Eyewitnesses said while some passengers managed to swim to safety, others were rescued by the locals who were present nearby. On being informed, police and officials of the local administration reached the spot and launched a probe to ascertain the reason behind the incident.

"We are looking into the matter to ascertain whether the boat was overloaded or operating without proper safety measures," said an official. As per sources, as it was Kartika Purnima, several boats were ferrying devotees to and from the Shiva temple on the Amanigukkuda island in Mahanadi river. The boat capsized while ferrying back the devotees possibly due to overloading, they added.

Pilgrimage turns tragic as four friends die in crash in Telangana

Hyderabad. (Agency)

What began as a spiritual trip to Ganagapur for Karthika Pournami turned fatal for four friends from Jagannathpur and Elgoi villages when their car collided head-on with a courier vehicle near Bidar on Wednesday morning. Driver Naveen (30), Biradar Rajappa (45), Nagaraju (40), Kashinath (36), and Pratap had set out on Tuesday night, filled with devotion and excitement.

After taking a holy dip in the river near the shrine and offering prayers, they began their return journey. Just 80 kilometres away from Narayankhed, their car collided with another vehicle.

Naveen, Rajappa, and Nagaraju died on the spot, while Kashinath succumbed to his injuries during treatment. Pratap, a journalist who suffered serious injuries, is now fighting for his life in the hospital. Moments before the crash, Pratap had posted a cheerful selfie with his friends — their last photograph together. Each of the victims left behind a story of love, responsibility, and dreams cut short. Naveen, the only son of Sharappa and Satyamma, was the family's sole breadwinner.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters, who continue to grieve their loss. Kashinath, who had recently performed the weddings of his three sons, was known for his generosity.

Nagaraju, a botany lecturer at a private college in Narayankhed, had bought a new phone for his mother just days ago and invited his parents to his three-year-old daughter Abhigna's birthday on Thursday — a celebration that will not take place now. In response to the tragedy, MLA Sanjeeva Reddy contacted Karnataka Minister Rafiq Khan, requesting better medical care for Pratap and swift postmortem procedures. Lok Sabha member Suresh Shetkar attended the last rites, offering Rs 10,000 to each family and promising further assistance.

NFR & IIT Guwahati Collaborates on AI-Based Surveillance System for Wagon Door Lock Monitoring

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 6th November: In a collaborative initiative between Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) and the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati Technology Innovation and Development Foundation (IITG TIDF), a technical presentation was held on 6th November, 2025 at the General Manager's Conference Hall, N.F. Railway Headquarters, Maligaon. A team of experts from the IITG TIDF presented their advanced AI-based surveillance system named DRISHTI, an AI based Locking Monitoring System developed for Goods Wagons. The presentation was organized as part of the MoU signed on 19th November 2024, between NFR and IIT Guwahati, to showcase a prototype model for developing intelligent monitoring solutions using high-speed imaging, computer vision and artificial intelligence. The presentation was attended by GM of NFR alongwith several PhOs of the zone, where the discussions focused on the scope of integrating AI-based surveillance within NFR's freight net-

work. The development of an advanced AI-based surveillance system is important to address the

NFR identified the need for an intelligent, real-time monitoring solution that could autonomously

greater transparency, visibility and technological assurance to freight security system. Such a system can provide real-time status updates on door lock conditions, detect abnormal events or tampering during transit and issue automated data-driven alerts without affecting normal train operations. By integrating advanced analytics and imaging technology, the system aims to strengthen wagon sealing integrity, enhance reliability and minimize human intervention. During the presentation, IIT Guwahati demonstrated the prototype system that has been under successful trial for the past ten months approximately on selected wagons. The system integrates AI-powered cameras and sensors mounted on strategic points to capture and analyse door positions and locking conditions in real time. Preliminary results have shown encouraging accuracy levels, validating the potential of this indigenous innovation. Further refinements and scalability plans are underway for wider application across the NFR network to strengthen rolling stock safety and operational reliability.



operational challenges in detecting unlocked or tampered doors in moving freight stock, which pose significant safety and security concerns. Traditional manual checks are time-consuming and often impractical for long-haul rakes under dynamic conditions. The collaborative team from IITG and

detect and alert for anomalies in door locking mechanisms, especially during transit, using advanced computer vision and machine learning algorithms. An AI-based surveillance and locking condition monitoring system - DRISHTI, thus have been introduced and expected to bring

TN forms panels to revamp syllabus in line with SEP 2025

Chennai. (Agency)

The School Education Department on Wednesday issued government orders for the formation of two committees — a high-level expert committee headed by the School Education Minister, and a curriculum design committee — to revamp the state's school curriculum for the academic year 2027-28.

The curriculum design committee will be chaired by State Planning Commission member Sultan Ahmed Ismail, who is the former Head of the Department of Zoology, The New College. The high-level expert committee includes names of Isro chief V Narayanan and cricketer Ravichandran Ashwin, among others. According to the government order, the curriculum design committee will draft recommendations for a new curriculum framework and syllabus for



school education based on the Tamil Nadu State Education Policy (SEP) 2025, and submit them to the high-level expert committee for approval. The curriculum design committee will conduct a detailed study of the existing curriculum, syllabus,

teaching methods, and assessment practices, with a focus on bridging the gap between learning objectives and outcomes. It will also hold consultations with teachers, students, and parents as part of this process, the order said.

The high-level expert committee will deliberate and finalise the recommendations for reforms in school education in line with the State Education Policy. The Director of the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) will serve as the member-secretary for both committees, which will have a three-year tenure.

According to the School Education Department, textbooks for the upcoming academic year have already gone to print. Therefore, the decisions of these committees on revamping the curriculum will come into effect from 2027-28.

Tribal families in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitarama Raju see 'light' of Independence

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

After seven-and-a-half decades of Independence, electrical lights have illuminated the houses of 17 tribal families in the remote Gudem hamlet of Alluri Sitarama Raju (ASR) district, thanks to the proactive initiative of Deputy Chief Minister (Panchayat Raj and Rural Development) Pawan Kalyan.

The electrification project, completed in just five months, marks a historic milestone for this isolated hilltop settlement under Rompalli Gram Panchayat in Ananthagiri mandal. On

Wednesday, coinciding with Karthika Purnami, all 17 houses in Gudem got electricity connections.

The project involved laying power lines over 9.6 km through dense forest and rugged terrain, installing 217 electric poles, and setting up a dedicated transformer. Each house was provided with five bulbs, and one fan free of cost. The hamlet, situated 50 km from the mandal headquarters, had remained cut off from basic infrastructure like roads, safe drinking water and electricity. Residents lived in constant fear of wild animals at night, and relied on lanterns. Despite repeated appeals to authorities over the years, no solution

materialised until the tribals took their woes to Pawan Kalyan's notice five months ago. Moved by their plight, the Deputy CM directed the ASR District Collector to prioritise electrification of the hamlet.

He coordinated with Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi Kumar and APEPDCL CMD Prithvi Tej for the speedy execution of the project at an estimated cost of Rs 80 lakh.

Elated tribal families perform 'Ksheera Abhishekam' to Pawan Kalyan's portrait

It was executed using Central funds under the Non-PV GEET scheme of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. As a sustainable measure, solar panels were also installed and connected to the grid — the first hybrid solar-wind power system in a tribal village under the PM Janman Yojana, costing Rs 10.22 lakh. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Centre has allocated funds to bring light to remote tribal peaks. The NDA government in the State under Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu prioritises provision of basic infrastructure for all — the electrification of Gudem stands as a proof," Pawan Kalyan said.

Ikshak — futuristic pathfinder of Indian Navy

KOCHI. (Agency)

As Ikshak, the large hydrographic vessel of the Indian Navy, starts its mission guiding the Southern Naval Command in mapping the ocean floor and identifying threats, it marks a technological leap forward for the Navy. The Indian Navy will commission INS Ikshak, the modern Sandhayak-class hydrographic survey vessel in the presence of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi at Kochi Naval Base on Thursday. As Commanding Officer Captain Tribhuvan Singh puts it, Ikshak is a beacon of precision, purpose, and self-reliance on India's maritime horizon. She is not just a survey vessel, but can be converted into a 40-bed hospital during emergency.

Equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic and oceanographic equipment, including a high-resolution multi-beam echo sounder, Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), and four Survey Motor Boats (SMBs), Ikshak brings unmatched versatility and capability to the Navy's hydrographic fleet. The ship has a helicopter deck, extending its operational reach and enabling multi-domain missions.

The vessel has a length of 110 m, a beam of 16 m and a displacement of 3,300 tonnes. It can accommodate 231 crew members and 20 officers.

A hydrographic survey vessel is a specialised ship designed to map the seafloor and collect



oceanographic data. The data is used to produce nautical charts for safe navigation, but it also supports other applications like geological surveys for oil and gas, search and rescue, and disaster relief, said Defence PRO Commander Atul Pillai. "Though its primary role is that of a survey vessel, Ikshak can be converted into a hospital vessel. There is a hospital facility with six beds, an isolation

ward, an operation theatre and lab facility on board. We have on board facilities like an ultrasound scan, portable X-Ray machine, blood bank, emergency surgery instruments and portable ventilator.

During times of emergency, the vessel can be converted into a 40-bed hospital. Medical teams from base hospital can board the vessel with surgeons, anesthetist, radiologist etc," said Principal Medical Officer Sergeant Commander Athul N Gopinath.

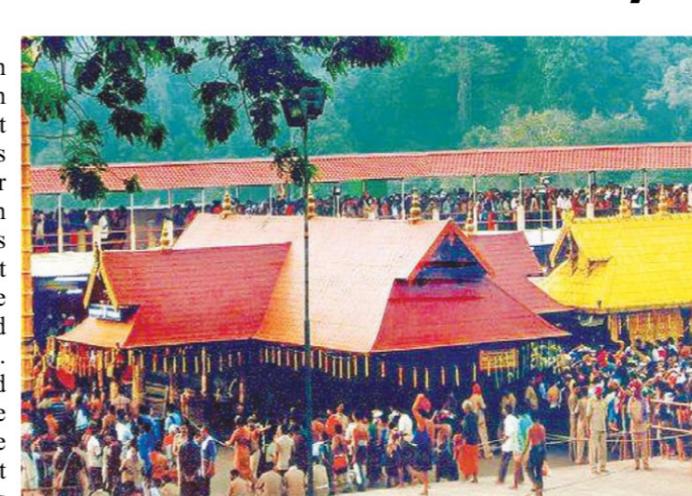
Sabarimala gold theft row: After HC raps Travancore Devaswom Board, SIT to snare heavyweights

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

The High Court's criticism against the Travancore Devaswom Board during the Special Investigation Team's (SIT) submission of interim report on Sabarimala gold theft has now set the stage for the arrest of key ex-TDB office-bearers, including its former chief N Vasu. The High Court had come down heavily on the board for giving a free reign to main accused Unnikrishnan Potti to access the Sreekovil and take measurements of the artefacts there. It also seared into the TDB for not including the decision taken on September 2, 2025 allowing gold-plating of dvarapala idols, in the minutes book. With the court flexing its muscles, the SIT would not delay arresting Vasu and if required, another ex-TDB chief A

Padmakumar too, sources said. The SIT had found that it was on the directive of then Devaswom Commissioner that the gold-plated copper sheets were recorded as mere copper plates in official documents in March 2019. This was mentioned in the remand report of Unnikrishnan Potti in the second case pertaining to gold theft from the door frame. During the above-mentioned period, Vasu was the commissioner. It was on the recommendation of Vasu that the TDB handed over the sheets to Potti for gold-plating.

Vasu was earlier questioned by the SIT and



released conditionally. Sources said the

and statements of the arrested point fingers at Vasu, suggesting his involvement, sources added.

Padmakumar was the president when the scam took place. Sources said his statements are yet to be recorded and SIT will soon be reaching out to him.

Sources said Padmakumar would be questioned after cops summon Vasu again and record additional statements from him.

So far three people, including Potti and two ex-TDB employees, have been arrested. If the SIT proceeds further and enforces Vasu's arrest, it would be the first high-profile arrest in the case which has created a huge furore.

Andhra Pradesh Deputy CM directs to fast-track Etimogga-Edurumondi bridge works over Krishna

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

In a decisive push for infrastructure and disaster recovery, Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan has directed officials to fast-track the construction of the long-awaited Etimogga-Edurumondi high-level bridge over the Krishna River, ensuring connectivity for over 20,000 island residents.

Addressing a high-level review meeting on cyclone damage and constituency development in Avanigadda, Krishna district, Pawan Kalyan emphasised the alliance government's commitment to resolving chronic issues plaguing the region, including flood-prone farmlands and stalled projects.

The meeting on Wednesday at the Deputy CM's camp office in Mangalagiri focused on the aftermath of Cyclone Monsoon, which ravaged coastal areas last month, alongside broader developmental priorities.

Cyclone Monsoon: Swift compensation for all

Pawan Kalyan underscored the urgency of assessing Cyclone Monsoon crop losses, whose preliminary estimates indicate affected 1.38 lakh hectares Statewide, including 46,000 hectares in Krishna district, impacting as many as 56,000 farmers. "During my field visit last week, I saw tenant farmers among the hardest hit. We must identify every affected individual and ensure no one faces hardships — compensation will reach all, registered or not," Pawan Kalyan stated, directing officials of rapid surveys and payouts to restore livelihoods in coastal villages.

Outfall sluices: Rs 50 crore fix to combat saline ingress

Highlighting YSRCP's neglect, Pawan Kalyan said dilapidated outfall sluices in Avanigadda fail to drain water, inundating 5,000 acres in Nagayalanka and Koduru.

"Basic maintenance like greasing was ignored, leading to corrosion and repeated flooding. This negligence now demands Rs 50 crore for full rehabilitation," he stated, promising central assistance and durable reconstruction.

DDA clears Delhi's first TOD housing project, major redevelopment, sports infrastructure plans across city

The authority approved the redevelopment of old DDA staff quarters at Safdarjung Development Area and Old Rajinder Nagar, both over five decades old and facing structural deterioration.

AAP accuses BJP of manipulating Delhi's AQI data; BJP hits back, calls AAP 'party of deceit and corruption'

Agency New Delhi.
The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday accused the BJP-led government of "manipulating" Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) data even as the city battled severe pollution. AAP Delhi state president Saurabh Bharadwaj alleged that the BJP's "culture of fraud" extended from "tampering with the Chandigarh mayoral election" to "creating a fake Yamuna" while failing to clean the river. "The whole of Delhi is coughing, yet they brazenly manipulate AQI data," Bharadwaj said. He added that fraud and deception had become hallmarks of the BJP's governance. Referring to the Delhi Assembly elections,



he claimed voter list irregularities led to the deletion of thousands of names, including 42,000 voters in Arvind Kejriwal's constituency. "Where did those voters disappear?" he asked. Responding to the allegations, Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said that the "political DNA of AAP is composed of anarchy, deceit, and corruption."

He alleged that former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had misused Delhi government resources to expand his political base while neglecting the city's development. Sachdeva also accused AAP of squandering Rs 6,500 crore meant for cleaning the Yamuna and Rs 25,000 crore from the Delhi Jal Board. He further claimed that AAP leaders created "fake voter registrations" in makeshift homes and congested areas, calling it another example of the party's corruption and manipulation.

Stock market gains from bribes remain proceeds of crime, says Delhi HC

Agency New Delhi.
The Delhi High Court has held that gains from investing bribe money in the stock market remain tainted and qualify as proceeds of crime, upholding the Enforcement Directorate's power to attach wealth traced to illicit origins.

The court held that appreciation through market forces does not cleanse the funds of their corrupt origin. A division bench of justices Anil Kshetrapal and Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar, in a November 3 judgment, explained that money-laundering is continuing in



nature. "The offence of money laundering being continuing in nature is not confined only to the initial act of criminal acquisition but also extends to every process or activity connected with the proceeds, including layering through multiple transactions, integration into the legitimate economy and projection of the acquired wealth as lawful."

The court passed the judgment while allowing the appeals of the ED challenging a single judge order in relation to the case arising from the allocation of Fatehpur Coal Block in favour of M/s Prakash Industries Limited (PIL).

Agency New Delhi.
The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) on Wednesday cleared several major projects, including housing, redevelopment and sports infrastructure, aimed at boosting urban renewal across the national capital. The authority meeting, chaired by Lt Governor VK Saxena, approved the launch of Delhi's first Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) housing scheme, the redevelopment of DDA staff quarters, and new institutional and sports projects in Narela. The DDA gave the go-ahead for the "Towering Heights at East Delhi Hub, Karkardooma Housing Scheme 2025", featuring 1,026 ready-to-launch 2BHK flats under Delhi's first TOD project. The project seeks to promote mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly living spaces integrated with public transport networks. The housing units will be sold through e-auction to ensure transparency and wide

participation. The authority also approved the redevelopment of old DDA staff quarters at Safdarjung Development Area and Old Rajinder Nagar,

DDA has also been authorised to redevelop other staff colonies that have outlived their structural life. In Narela, the authority cleared two major initiatives: the development of a

Multi-Sports Integrated Stadium on a 30.35-hectare site and an education hub spread across 4.33 hectares. The sports complex will host national and international events and is expected to promote sports tourism and local employment. The education hub, planned near UER-I and a proposed metro station, aims to attract universities and skill development institutions.

Among other decisions, the DDA approved rental assistance for residents displaced by the redevelopment of Signature View Apartments, Rs 50,000 per month for

HIG and Rs 38,000 for MIG flat owners, with 10% annual escalation. It also cleared a new housing scheme, Karmayogi Awaas Yojana 2025, offering a 25% discount to government employees for homes in Narela.



both over five decades old and facing structural deterioration. NBCC (India) Ltd. has been appointed as the Project Management Consultant. The projects will follow a self-sustaining model, with costs recovered from saleable built-up areas.

Delhi government launches road cleaning drive with 200 vans to combat rising pollution levels

Agency New Delhi.
To curb the rising pollution levels in the national capital, the Delhi government has launched an extensive road cleaning operation across all Public Works Department (PWD) roads, with 200 maintenance vans deployed throughout the city. The operation includes removal of debris from road surfaces, filling potholes on priority, repairing and upgrading road signage and carrying out other essential maintenance tasks. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that strict guidelines have been laid down for the campaign, with individual accountability fixed for each officer. Additionally, separate maintenance vans have been deployed for pruning and trimming trees along PWD roads.

The chief minister stated that coordinated efforts are being undertaken across departments to bring

pollution under control. Teams have been formed to monitor polluting industrial units and vehicles, while focused work continues to normalise identified pollution 'hot spots'. As part



of this mission, the PWD has launched a special drive for deep cleaning and dust control along all its roads, including Right of Way (RoW) areas. Each of the 200 maintenance vans has been tasked with deep cleaning at least 200 metres of road daily. To ensure accountability, every van is placed

under the direct charge of a Junior Engineer (JE) or Assistant Engineer (AE). Gupta informed that the work is progressing rapidly across 1,400 kilometres of PWD roads in the capital.

The activities include removal of dust from RoW areas, cleaning of kerb channels and bell mouths, debris removal, coordination with the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) for cases of regular dumping, cleaning and repair of footpaths, filling of potholes, improvement of road signage, and maintenance of streetlights and exposed wiring. Weekly

progress reviews are being conducted by senior officers. Meanwhile, Delhi Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood on Wednesday chaired a review meeting with senior officials of the MCD. During the meeting, the MCD officials informed that about 14,000 metric tonnes of waste.

Delhi Jal Board to launch cloud-based monitoring system; ropes in PSU and KPMG for IT overhaul

Agency New Delhi.
The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is set to overhaul its IT infrastructure by engaging a public sector undertaking (PSU) to implement a cloud-based online project monitoring system, officials said. The water board has issued a tender for a comprehensive IT transformation, focusing on developing digital platforms to improve citizen services. The reform includes upgrading existing applications and introducing systems for tasks such as water quality monitoring and tanker bookings.

According to DJB officials, the initiative, announced in June, is aimed at ensuring that all infrastructure projects are completed on schedule, with clear accountability at every stage. The software will streamline



coordination across departments, flag delays early, and fix responsibility immediately," the department stated. Officials said the digital platform will track the daily status, progress, deadlines, and responsible officers for each project. The water board currently uses various IT systems for its operations, including a Revenue Management System (RMS) for online bill payments and applications, and a

Computerised Complaint Management System with a 24x7 call centre and mobile app. To improve logistics, the DJB uses a tanker management system with GPS tracking to monitor the real-time movement of water tankers. Recently, the Delhi government appointed global accounting firm KPMG, a renowned multinational company, as the project management unit for the Delhi Jal Board (DJB). KPMG will help the DJB introduce digital monitoring dashboards, conduct technical and financial audits, and assist in restructuring billing systems to minimise errors and delays. It will also monitor the functioning and capacity of sewage treatment plants (STPs) and tanker dispatch systems.

India starts bringing back its citizens trapped in Myanmar cybercrime hub

India began flying home 270 citizens from Thailand after they escaped Myanmar's KK Park scam hub, following an Army raid that exposed widespread cybercrime and human trafficking across Southeast Asia.

Agency New Delhi.
India has begun repatriating its citizens who fled Myanmar's cybercrime hub last month, with the first group returning from Thailand on Thursday. The evacuees were among hundreds trapped in what authorities describe as one of Southeast Asia's most notorious scam compounds. The operation followed an October raid by Myanmar's Army on KK Park, a sprawling complex outside Myawaddy near the Thai border, long known as a base for online fraud and illegal gambling. The military crackdown prompted hundreds of workers, including more than 450 Indians, to escape across the border to Thailand. According to Maj. Gen. Maitree Chuprecha, who heads Thailand's Naresuan Task Force, an Indian Air

Force transport aircraft has already departed with the first batch of 270 nationals, news agency Associated Press reported. Another flight will leave later in the day, while the remaining Indians are expected to be repatriated next Monday.

Indian authorities had carried out a similar mission in March, bringing home 549 nationals following a previous cybercrime crackdown along the same border region. Thai officials in Mae Sot, just across from Myawaddy, have set up temporary shelters to process more than 1,500 people from 28 countries -- among them Chinese, Filipinos, Vietnamese, Ethiopians, and Kenyans -- who fled the raid.

Southeast Asia remains a global hub for online scams. The UN Office on Drugs

and Crime has estimated that large-scale syndicates across Myanmar, Cambodia, and Laos generate nearly USD 40 billion a year. Many victims are trafficked or



deceived with promises of legitimate jobs, only to be coerced into running scams involving fake romances, fraudulent investments, and gambling. Myanmar's state media said the assault on

Main accused held for stealing Rs 40-lakh gold-plated kalash from Jain temple in northeast Delhi

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi Police have arrested the main accused in the theft of a gold-plated 'kalash' (urn) worth around '40 lakh from a Jain temple in northeast Delhi's Jyoti Nagar last month, officials said on Wednesday. The accused, identified as Munna alias Salim (23), is a resident of New Seemapuri.

A button-actuated knife was recovered from him, and a separate case under the Arms Act has been registered at Nand Nagri police station.

Police said Munna is a habitual offender, previously involved in four criminal cases, including robbery, house theft, and offences under the Arms Act. During interrogation, he allegedly confessed to stealing the kalash from the top of the Jain temple on October 11. Earlier, police had arrested a 42-year-old female scrap dealer from Sundar Nagri after parts of the stolen kalash were found in her possession. Based on her confession, a raid led to the arrest of another scrap dealer, Danish (24), and recovery of the remaining parts.

The theft came to light on October 12, when temple staff noticed the missing kalash atop the spire. CCTV footage showed a man climbing down a pole inside the temple premises after allegedly removing the urn during the night of Karva Chauth. Police said the kalash, made of ashta-dhatu (an alloy of eight metals) and containing about 200 grams of gold, was valued between '35 lakh and '40 lakh.

Delhi Police busts trafficking racket in Paharganj spa after alert from 'Say Help' app; six women rescued

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi Police has busted an immoral trafficking racket and rescued six women from a spa in Paharganj area after alert received through "Say Help" application, officials said on Thursday.

Say Help is a global voice-activated emergency app for Android and iOS that enables users to trigger alerts via up to five custom voice phrases or a push button. It instantly sends real-time video, audio, and GPS details through SMS/WhatsApp to contacts and police, offering live monitoring and map tracking.

The app includes health check-ins and a robust dashboard for responders. Say Help collaborates with NGOs and authorities to help prevent gender violence and trafficking, especially in high-risk areas like Delhi, enhancing personal and community safety, police said.

On the intervening night of October 30 and 31, an alert regarding suspected immoral activities was received via the Say Help App from the Paharganj area. A team of the Special Staff, Central District and the team of Say Help app was mobilized to verify and act on the information, a senior police officer said.

During technical surveillance and field intelligence, reliable information was received about a spa on DBG Road, Nabi Karim, being involved in immoral trafficking and related offences.

A police staff as decoy customer was deputed with Rs 2,000 pre-noted currency and instructed to give a WhatsApp missed call as a signal.

At around 7.30 pm, the decoy confirmed illegal activities, following which a raid was conducted where they found six women and one female receptionist involved in immoral activities, the officer said. The receptionist confessed to running the operation along with her husband.

A case was registered on October 31 at Nabi Karim police station under sections 3, 4, and 5 of the Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, police said.

KK Park was part of broader efforts launched in September to dismantle cross-border scam networks. Witnesses reported explosions inside the compound as parts of it were demolished. Still, independent outlets such as The Irrawaddy said that criminal operations continued to function in and around Myawaddy despite the raids.

The growing cybercrime trade has drawn international attention. Last month, the United States and United Kingdom imposed sanctions on the organisers of a major Cambodian scam syndicate, while American prosecutors indicted its alleged ringleader in New York. In South Korea, the issue turned personal after a young

NEWS BOX

WPL 2026 Retention Review: UP Warriorz opt complete rejig, MI make tough sacrifices

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Women's Premier League (WPL) 2025 retentions have seemingly been finalised. The BCCI had set Wednesday, November 5, as the deadline for confirming the list of retained and released players, with the auction scheduled for November 27 at Aerocity, New Delhi. Before the official announcement, ESPNcricinfo accessed the list of players retained by their respective franchises. All eyes were on the Mumbai Indians (MI), the most successful side in the league's short but eventful history, having clinched the title twice in 2023 and 2025. There was also plenty of buzz surrounding the Delhi Capitals (DC), who have consistently come close to glory but have fallen just short of the title three seasons in a row. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) fans were equally anxious, especially after their maiden championship win in 2024, following two disappointing seasons where they failed to progress beyond the league stage.

Meanwhile, both UP Warriorz and Gujarat Giants were expected to head back into the auction market in search of fresh talent, hoping to rebuild and strengthen their squads after enduring mixed campaigns over the past three seasons.

With the retention window now closed and the auction on the horizon, here's a look at how the five teams are shaping up ahead of WPL 2026.

Mumbai Indians

Mumbai Indians faced tough choices as they had to pick from players who shone both in the WPL and on the international stage. Among their many all-rounders, they retained Nat Sciver-Brunt and Hayley Matthews, but due to the two-foreign-player limit, they had to release Amelia Kerr, Chloe Tryon, and Nadine de Klerk. They also can't use the RTM option, having already finalised their five retentions.

Queensland hit by half a million lightning strikes: Will 4th T20I even be played?



New Delhi. (Agency)

After days of chaos caused by an intense bout of thunderstorms, Queensland is finally set for calmer skies — just in time for the fourth T20I between India and Australia at the Carrara Oval on Thursday, November 6. What had briefly looked like another weather-threatened fixture in this rain-marred series now promises to unfold under clear skies and bright lights on the Gold Coast. Last weekend, Queensland endured one of its wildest weather spells of the year. A powerful thunderstorm swept through the state's southeast, unleashing giant hailstones nearly 9 cm wide, destructive winds, and a staggering half a million lightning strikes in a single day. The storm caused widespread power outages, brought down trees and power lines, and left several communities around Toowoomba, Ipswich and Logan without electricity for over 24 hours. The State Emergency Service received nearly 300 calls for help — most involving damaged roofs, broken windows, and flooding due to water ingress.

But as the region recovers from that extreme spell, the focus now shifts to cricket. With the five-match series locked at 1-1, both India and Australia head to Carrara Oval eager to gain the upper hand in what could be a decisive contest. The first T20I in Canberra was washed out, but Australia bounced back strongly in Melbourne before India responded in Hobart, chasing down 187 with ease. The fourth match, therefore, comes with high stakes — the winner will move within striking distance of clinching the series.

AUS vs IND, 4th T20I: Weather prediction
Thankfully for fans and players alike, the turbulent weather that battered Queensland last weekend won't be a concern on match day. According to weather.com, the Gold Coast is expected to enjoy sunny conditions with temperatures ranging from 20 degrees Celsius C to 26 degrees Celsius. The chance of rain is as low as 4 percent during the day and 6 percent in the evening, while humidity will hover around 58 percent, perfect for a game of cricket under the lights.

The Gold Coast's coastal breeze might play a part in the bowling dynamics, but after weeks of weather disruptions across Australia, Thursday's game finally looks set for a full, uninterrupted contest.

PM Modi's message to women's team: Go to your schools, inspire the next generation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian women's cricket team in New Delhi. Modi shared a powerful message with the team, and asked them to play a key role in inspiring the next generation.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met the Indian women's cricket team in New Delhi on Wednesday, November 5, in a session that blended fun, inspiration, and guidance. After spending time with all 16 players, the Prime Minister shared a heartfelt message, urging the champions to inspire the next generation of the country. The Indian women's team made history on November 2, defeating South Africa by 52 runs at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai to lift the

Women's World Cup trophy for the first time. Their remarkable campaign included a thrilling semi-final victory over Australia, followed by a dominant performance against South Africa in the final. The triumph came under the leadership of captain Harmanpreet Kaur, marking a historic milestone for Indian cricket.

During the meeting, PM Modi encouraged the players to visit schools and interact with children, highlighting how such encounters could leave a lasting impact on young fans who idolise cricketers.

"Go to the schools one day. Meet the kids. Talk to them. They will ask you a lot of questions. And you please answer them. I am very sure this will become a core memory for them. They will remember you for life," Modi said. He added, "I am not saying you have to go to every school. Visit the schools where you studied. Select three schools, and whenever you have time this year, go to one

school per day. Not only will this motivate them, but you will also be motivated by their energy and enthusiasm."

PM Urges Players to Promote Fit India



Movement

The Prime Minister also urged the team to promote the Fit India movement, aimed at tackling the growing issue of obesity in the country. "Obesity is becoming a big problem in India. Reduce the consumption of oil by 10 per cent. If people hear these

messages from you, they will believe them — especially the daughters of the country. Your contribution will make a real difference," he said.

Vice-captain Smriti Mandhana thanked the Prime Minister on behalf of the team, acknowledging his words of wisdom and guidance. "We will remember your words. Whenever we get the opportunity, we will pass on your message," she said.

Mandhana further added that their plan was to create a revolution in Indian sports, not only cricket, and that the World Cup win will give it the required push. "Going into the final, we had all been discussing how winning the World Cup would mark a new chapter for sports in India, not just women's cricket. The impact it will bring on sports, that will start a revolution in India. So going forward, we want to keep doing the same thing, to bring a revolution to women's cricket. That is the aim," Mandhana said.

Ferran hits out after Club Brugge tears down Barcelona defence in 3-3 draw

New Delhi. (Agency)

A frustrated Ferran Torres lashed out at Barcelona's defensive frailties after the club managed only a hard-fought 3-3 draw against Club Brugge in the UEFA Champions League. Barcelona were repeatedly exposed by the Belgian side on Wednesday, November 5, conceding the lead three separate times during a chaotic group-stage encounter.

The Catalan giants fought back on each occasion, with goals from Ferran Torres and Lamine Yamal keeping them in contention before a late own goal from Christos Tzolis salvaged a draw. Despite the comeback, Ferran's post-match remarks reflected deep frustration with the team's defensive display, as he urged his teammates to raise their standards at the back. Barcelona's defensive record this season has been a major cause for concern. Since the sale of Iago Martínez, their back line has looked increasingly vulnerable, with defensive traps and pressing structures often breaking down under pressure. The club has conceded 13 goals in 11 LaLiga matches and a further 7 in just 4 Champions League outings so far — a worrying statistic for a team with title ambitions.

"They created a lot of danger on the counter-attack, and we should have done much better in every area," Ferran Torres told Movistar Plus after the match. "It felt like with just two passes they were already inside our box. We have to find ways to improve. The team reacted well and created plenty of chances, but when you're constantly chasing the game, it becomes very difficult," he added.

In a pulsating encounter at Brugge's Jan Breydel Stadium, the home side struck first through Nicolo Tresoldi in just the sixth minute, capitalising on a lightning-fast counterattack led by Carlos Forbs that laid bare Barcelona's defensive vulnerabilities.

The 21-year-old Portuguese winger showcased his blistering pace, controlling a long pass perfectly to beat the offside trap on the right flank before surging into the box and squaring the ball for Tresoldi, who slotted home with composure past the Barcelona goalkeeper. Barcelona responded almost immediately, equalising two minutes later through Ferran Torres, who finished from close range to level the score at 1-1. However, Club Brugge reclaimed the lead in the 17th minute, as Forbs turned from provider to scorer, finishing another rapid counterattack with precision.

IND v AUS, 4th T20I: Shubman Gill faces the heat as India eye series lead in Gold Coast

New Delhi. (Agency)

India and Australia meet in the penultimate T20I of the five-match series on Thursday, 6 November, at Carrara Oval in Gold Coast. After having played at traditional venues in Canberra, Melbourne and Hobart, India now move to People's First Stadium, which will host only its third T20I and its first since 2022. The extended break between the third and fourth T20Is allowed India to arrive in Gold Coast early and prepare for the challenge ahead. With the series level at 1-1 after three matches, both teams understand the importance of a victory on Thursday, with an unassailable lead up for grabs. India carry momentum into the contest after clinching the third T20I in Gold Coast, riding on Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakravarthy's bowling heroics and a crucial cameo with the bat from Washington Sundar.

As bowling coach Morne Morkel said on Wednesday, India have been keen on mixing things up and giving opportunities to as many players as possible in the lead-up



to the T20 World Cup early next year. While winning the series remains a priority, the team management has not shied away from experimenting. A few players, such as Sanju Samson and Arshdeep Singh, have been

rotated, with the confidence that they remain firmly in the mix. The series in Australia has provided an opportunity to test the bench and assess depth.

However, India are yet to gain the same level of confidence from one key batting position — the opener's slot occupied by vice-captain Shubman Gill.

Since returning to the T20I side, the Test and ODI captain has struggled to make an impression. In the ongoing series, Gill has managed only 57 runs in three matches. India broke the fearsome opening combination of Abhishek Sharma and Samson to accommodate Gill at the top in T20Is. While his elevation to vice-captaincy appeared to make him an automatic selection, questions have been raised about the merit of his place in the T20I set-up, particularly given the options available for the opening role.

Harleen Deol asks PM Modi about his skincare routine, leaves team in splits

New Delhi. (Agency)

India batter Harleen Deol had her teammates in fits of laughter when she asked Prime Minister Narendra Modi about his skincare routine during an official meeting between the Prime Minister and the World Cup-winning Indian women's cricket team. What started as a formal discussion about India's historic World Cup triumph quickly took a humorous turn, thanks to Harleen's spontaneous question. During the interaction, Prime Minister Modi praised Harleen for her cheerful nature and her ability to keep the atmosphere light, even under pressure. After responding to his remarks, Harleen decided to turn interviewer for a moment. When everyone expected her to ask a serious or cricket-related question, she caught the entire room off guard.

"Sir, your skin is always glowing. Can you please tell me what is your skincare routine?" Harleen asked with a smile. Her unexpected question had everyone,

including the Prime Minister, laughing. Modi, still amused, replied, "I do not think about all that." Someone from the team quickly added, "Sir, it's the love of the millions of this country!" — prompting



even more laughter. Head coach Amol Muzumdar joined in the fun, jokingly telling the Prime Minister, "As you can see sir, these are the personalities I have to deal with. Which has now made my hair go white."

'Don't Want Photo With King Charles'

Muzumdar also shared a light-hearted story from India's earlier tour of England. He recalled that when the team was offered a chance to take photographs with King Charles, the protocol allowed only 20 people at a time in a single frame. This meant that the entire squad and support staff couldn't pose together. According to Muzumdar, the support staff then emphasised that they wouldn't mind missing a photo with the King — because they were saving that moment for when they would win the ODI World Cup and meet Prime Minister Modi instead.

India vice-captain Smriti Mandhana reflected that the team had approached the World Cup with a larger purpose — to spark a revolution in women's sports across the country. Their eventual triumph, she said, wasn't just about lifting a trophy but about changing perceptions and inspiring the next generation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who met the players after their historic win, shared that sentiment wholeheartedly.

Harmanpreet Kaur tells PM Modi why she pocketed the match ball after World Cup win

When PM Modi asked

Harmanpreet Kaur why she kept the match ball, her answer was simple — it was a piece of history she wanted to hold on to after India's first Women's World Cup win.

New Delhi. (Agency)

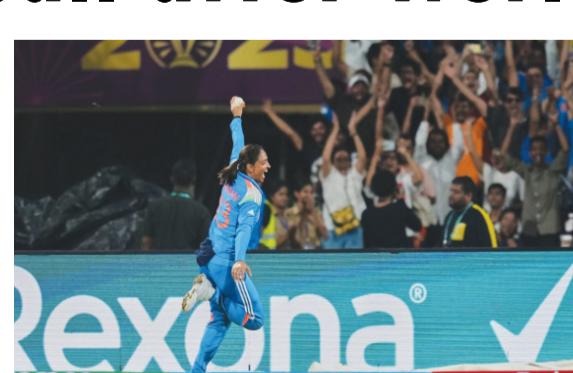
When Prime Minister Narendra Modi met India's Women's World Cup-winning team in New Delhi on November 5, there was one question that caught captain Harmanpreet Kaur slightly off guard, why did she slip the match ball into her pocket after taking the final catch? It was a small but powerful gesture, one that brought Indian cricket full

circle. Forty-two years after Sunil Gavaskar famously pocketed the match ball following India's maiden World Cup triumph in 1983, Harmanpreet unknowingly recreated the moment at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai. Harmanpreet's answer was as honest as it could get.

"This was also god's plan, sir. It was only all of a sudden. I didn't know the last catch would come to me. After all these years of hard work, when it did, I just felt it should stay with me," she said with a smile.

Harmanpreet's winning catch: Mark of a new era

As Nadine de Klerk's, South Africa's last hope of a batter in their 299-chase, upped drive off Deepthi Sharma flew toward cover, Harmanpreet leapt, clutched the ball, and with that catch, sealed India's first-ever Women's ODI World Cup title. Amid the celebrations, she quietly placed the ball in



her pocket, a keepsake from a night that will live forever in Indian sporting history.

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celebrations, she quietly placed the ball in her pocket, a keepsake from a night that will live forever in Indian sporting history.

India's 52-run win over South Africa in the final ended years of hard work, heartbreak, and close calls for the women's team. Harmanpreet Kaur's smart captaincy made a big difference in the final. She gave the ball to Shafali Verma, who had rarely bowled in ODIs, and the move changed the game. Shafali struck twice to dismiss Sune Luus and Marizanne Kapp, putting India in control. With Deepthi Sharma's five-wicket-haul and Shafali taking two crucial wickets after scoring a decisive 87 with the bat, the team put on a complete performance to lift their first World Cup title.

Harmanpreet quietly slipping the match ball into her pocket turned out to be a simple gesture that connected India's journey from Lord's in 1983 to DY Patil Stadium in 2025.

Cautious optimism on Dalal Street: Nifty near 25,650, sectoral divergence

New Delhi.(Agency)

Indian equity benchmarks opened on a firm note on Thursday, supported by upbeat corporate earnings, positive global cues, and optimism over MSCI index inclusions. However, the initial gains moderated as traders turned cautious amid selective profit booking in metal and power counters. In early trade, the BSE Sensex rose over 300 points to around 83,698, while the Nifty 50 climbed nearly 70 points to touch 25,666. However, the Sensex dropped sharply in the midmorning and settled at 83,399 at 11.30 AM. Broader market indices, including mid- and small-cap segments, underperformed as investors booked profits following a strong run earlier in the week.

Market sentiment was buoyed by better-than-expected quarterly results from companies such as Britannia Industries and Mahindra & Mahindra. The inclusion of several Indian firms in the MSCI Global Standard Index also lifted foreign inflow expectations. Positive cues from other Asian markets added to the early momentum, with Japan and South Korea trading higher in morning deals. However, weakness in select sectors limited overall gains. The metal index declined sharply, led by losses in Hindalco Industries after negative global developments weighed on sentiment. Power and media stocks also traded lower, while FMCG, banking, and auto shares showed resilience.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) continued to remain net sellers, offloading over ₹1,000 crore in the previous session, while Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) provided partial support through sustained buying. Technically, the Nifty faces immediate resistance near 25,750–25,800, while support lies around 25,500–25,400 levels. Analysts expect the index to remain range-bound in the near term, with a focus on stock-specific action rather than broad-based movement.

Shriram General Insurance's GWP Up 28%; net profit rises 6% in H1 FY26

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Shriram General Insurance Company (SGI) delivered a strong performance in the first half of fiscal 2026, driven by sustained momentum in its motor insurance portfolio. The company recorded a 28% year-on-year increase in Gross Written Premium (GWP), reaching Rs 2,045 crore, up from Rs 1,594 crore in H1 FY25 — four times the general insurance industry's average growth rate of 7%.

The company's solvency ratio stood at 3.33 as of September 30, 2025, well above the regulatory requirement of 1.5 times. SGI had 69 lakh active policies as of September 2025, compared to 63 lakh a year ago. The company's drive to onboard financial advisers gained further momentum during the period, with 9,482 new financial advisers being recruited during the first half of the fiscal. SGI's total financial adviser strength stands at 97,570, with plans to scale this up to two lakh by fiscal year 2029–30. The non-life insurance company currently has the highest number of financial advisers in the industry.

Anil Aggarwal, MD & CEO of Shriram General Insurance Company, said, "The sustained growth of our motor insurance portfolio reflects the trust our customers place in us and underscores our commitment to innovation, reliability, and excellence. We will continue setting the standard for solutions that protect and empower every journey." The net profit for the period rose by 6%, climbing to Rs 269 crore from Rs 254 crore in the same period last year. Additionally, investment income grew by 18%, supported by consistent returns from financial instruments.

The motor segment grew 26% year-on-year in the second quarter of FY26. Net profit rose 3.11% to Rs 144 crore in Q2 FY26 from Rs 140 crore in the same quarter of the previous fiscal. Investment income increased to Rs 253 crore — up by 30.49% from Rs 194 crore in Q2 FY25.

Coromandel MD elected chairman of Fertiliser Association of India

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Board of Directors of the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI), in its meeting held on October 31, elected S Sankarasubramanian, Managing Director and CEO of Coromandel International Limited, as Chairman of FAI.

Dr Siba Prasad Mohanty, Managing Director of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Ltd., formerly one of the two Co-Chairmen, will now serve as the sole Co-Chairman of FAI. Sankarasubramanian, who was previously Co-Chairman of the FAI Board and Chairman of FAI's Southern Region, brings over three decades of diverse experience in the fertiliser industry, particularly in the Phosphatic and Potassic (P&K) sector.

Mr Sankarasubramanian said, "FAI is committed to driving innovation and sustainability through resource efficiency and balanced nutrition, while working closely with policymakers to achieve Atmanirbhar in the fertiliser sector. We will continue to align industry goals with national agricultural priorities to foster growth, resilience, and long-term food security."

The Fertiliser Association of India thanked Sailesh C. Mehta, the outgoing Chairman of FAI, for his leadership and said it looks forward to his continued guidance and support for the sector. Established in 1955, FAI is a non-profit apex industry body representing fertiliser manufacturers, distributors, importers, equipment manufacturers, research institutes, and input suppliers.

Is BPNL a lifesaver or a debt trap? The hidden side of easy credit, explains expert

New Delhi.(Agency)

Buy Now, Pay Later (BNPL) apps promise a simple idea — shop now, pay later, often with zero interest. With festive season discounts and smooth one-tap payments, many users see it as easy money. But Abhishek Kumar, Sebi-registered investment adviser and founder of Sahaj Money, believes the dangers often show up only later. "Buy Now Pay Later is basically lending candy to yourself. Looks great until the bill arrives," he wrote on LinkedIn.

A recent real-life case he shared proves this point. During Diwali, one user borrowed a total of Rs 85,000 across five BNPL platforms. At first, it felt manageable — small instalments, zero interest, seamless payments. But things quickly changed. "One missed EMI turned a Rs 500 late fee into Rs 2,300. His credit score took a hit. Now he's handling a debt pile that began as 'just essentials,'" Kumar says.

THE 'ZERO INTEREST' HEADLINE IS NOT THE FULL STORY

Most BNPL offers promote interest-free credit, but only for a limited time. Once that window closes, interest charges kick in just like any other loan.

"That zero interest has an expiry date. After that? You're paying interest on EMIs. Always read what happens after the offer period," says Kumar.

HIDDEN COSTS CAN QUIETLY PILE UP

Many assume BNPL is completely free if repaid on time. But there are often processing charges, convenience fees, or penalties for failed or delayed payments that users notice only later. "Not all BNPL is interest-free. Fees, penalties, and add-on charges can add up faster than you expect," he warns.

BNPL payments are reported to credit bureaus just like personal loans and credit cards. That means a late payment is not a minor slip — it can lower your credit

score. "A missed EMI is not a slap on the wrist. It hits your credit file and stays there," says Kumar.

AUTO-DEBITS AREN'T ALWAYS FOOLPROOF

Many payments are set to auto-debit from



bank accounts. But if there isn't enough money on the due date, payments fail and penalties begin. "Your auto-debit can fail without warning. Always track your due dates and keep the account funded," he advises.

CREDIT LIMIT IS NOT SHOPPING PERMISSION

Some BNPL apps offer limits from Rs 2,000 up to Rs 1 lakh. Easy access can create a false sense of affordability. "That limit is your maximum debt capacity, not your spending goal. Just because you can borrow doesn't mean you should," Kumar reminds users.

THE REAL RISK: DEBT FEELS INVISIBLE

Unlike bank loans or credit cards, BNPL feels quick, casual and harmless — no paperwork, no long process, just click and buy. That ease can blur the reality of borrowing. "BNPL makes debt feel invisible — no bulky documents, no bank queues. Just taps on a screen and boom, you're borrowing," he says.

Kumar suggests treating BNPL like a financial tool, not a lifestyle support system. "Use it only for planned essentials you would buy anyway. Never for impulse shopping."

Gold, silver prices are rising again. Is there more upside left?

New Delhi. (Agency)

Gold and silver prices climbed on Thursday after a brief dip to one-week lows, supported by safe-haven buying and fresh demand ahead of the peak wedding season. On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), December gold futures hovered around Rs 1.20 lakh per 10 grams through the morning session, rebounding slightly from levels seen earlier this week. Silver saw a bigger gain after recent weakness and was trading at around Rs 1.47 lakh per kg.

GOLD, SILVER REBOUND AFTER 1-WEEK LOW

Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities at Mehta Equities, said the geopolitical backdrop is keeping bullion in demand. "Gold and silver prices rebounded from a one-week low, supported by safe-haven buying amid rising political uncertainty in the United States," he noted. Kalantri pointed out that strong physical demand from Asia is helping to keep the floor under prices.

"Strong physical demand from China and Australia also provided support to precious metals," he said. Wholesalers in China have been stocking up ahead of the Lunar New Year period, while Australian refiners report firm export orders.

DOLLAR IMPACT

However, the upside momentum is being challenged by a stronger United States dollar and mixed economic signals. The dollar index recently climbed past the 100 mark to hit a multi-month high, making gold more expensive in global markets.

Kalantri said, "The dollar index surged past the 100 mark which capped further gains." The latest ADP private payrolls report also showed job additions of 42,000 versus expectations of 32,000, reducing the likelihood of quick United States Federal Reserve rate cuts. Kalantri expects prices to remain range-bound for now. He sees global support for gold at 3,900 to 3,930 dollars per ounce, with resistance between 4,025 and 4,055 dollars. In the domestic market, he pegs support around Rs 1,19,280 to Rs 1,19,870 and resistance at Rs 1,21,090 to Rs 1,21,600 in the near term. Silver is likely to fluctuate between Rs 1,45,750 and Rs 1,49,280.

Jateen Trivedi, VP Commodity and Currency Research at LKP Securities, described the recent moves as a tug-of-war between caution and conviction.

"Gold traded weak after briefly touching lows near Rs 1,20,000 due to a firm dollar and uncertainty over the Fed's future rate cuts," he said, adding that prices are expected to remain volatile within Rs 1,18,500 to Rs 1,24,000 until policymakers offer a clearer roadmap.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Reliance Industries Ltd is looking to sell cargoes of Middle Eastern crude oil, an unusual shift for one of India's biggest refiners which is typically known for being a major buyer rather than a seller, reported Bloomberg News. Industry sources quoted in the report said the company has offered grades such as Murban and Upper Zakum to both domestic and overseas buyers in recent days. While it is not yet clear how much crude Reliance is seeking to offload, the approach itself has caught the oil market's attention.

The company has already sold a cargo of Iraqi Basrah Medium crude to a buyer in Greece, according to people familiar with the matter who requested anonymity.

Reliance generally imports large

volumes of oil from the Middle East and Russia to supply its massive refinery complex in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The move to sell cargoes suggests shifting market dynamics as Indian

refiners respond to evolving geopolitical pressure and tightening restrictions on discounted Russian oil. India, one of the largest crude importers in the world, has been scrambling to secure stable supplies after the United States strengthened enforcement of sanctions on Russian energy. Reliance was among the top Indian purchasers of Russian crude earlier this year, but recently increased buying from Middle Eastern producers following US measures aimed at curbing Moscow's war financing.

The company has said it will comply with American sanctions and adjust operations to meet regulatory requirements. Reliance previously had a long-term supply arrangement involving roughly 500,000 barrels per day from Russia's Rosneft, a deal now under review due to compliance needs.

The strategic shift highlights the more cautious environment Indian refiners are operating in. Market participants say Reliance may also be rebalancing inventories or managing exposure to sanctioned barrels as global trading conditions tighten.

ED summons Anil Ambani for second time on November 14 in loan fraud case

New Delhi.(Agency)

Reliance Group chairman Anil Ambani has been summoned once again by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for questioning in connection with an alleged bank loan fraud and money laundering case. The 66-year-old businessman has been asked to appear before the federal agency on November 14, according to officials familiar with the development. This is the second time Ambani will face questioning in this case. He was earlier summoned and interrogated by the ED in August 2025 as part of the ongoing probe into alleged financial irregularities involving loans taken by his group companies from Indian banks, including the State Bank of India (SBI).

The Enforcement Directorate's

investigation centres on loans raised by Reliance Communications (RCOM) and its related entities between 2010 and 2012. Authorities

claim that the group diverted large portions of these funds to other companies, violating lending conditions.

According to the ED, dues of Rs 40,185 crore remain unpaid, and five banks

have declared RCOM's accounts as fraudulent. The agency alleges that instead of being used for operational purposes, a significant portion of the funds was channelled to related companies and used for repayment of older borrowings, a process known as "evergreening" of loans. "From around 2010–12, RCOM and its group companies raised thousands of crores from Indian banks, of which Rs 19,694 crore still remains outstanding. These assets turned non-performing, and five banks have classified RCOM's loans as fraud," the ED said in a statement. Investigators estimate that at least Rs 13,600 crore was diverted through layered transactions, some of which allegedly moved overseas.

If you're planning to take a personal loan, comparing interest rates can save you a lot of money. Here's a quick look at what seven major banks, including SBI, ICICI, HDFC and Canara, are currently charging.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Personal loans are often a quick fix when you need urgent funds, whether for medical needs, weddings, travel, or even clearing old debt. But before signing any paperwork, it's always wise to see how much different banks might charge you. Even a small difference of 1% in interest can add up to a large amount over time. That's why comparing rates is important before you apply to any lender.

Since personal loans don't require any collateral, they generally come with higher interest rates compared to home or car loans. Banks typically charge between 12–18%, depending heavily on your credit score.

The better your credit history, the better your chances of getting a lower rate. If your credit score is on the lower side, expect the interest to be on the higher end.

HOW LEADING BANKS ARE PRICING THEIR LOANS

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, charges between 10.05 and 15.05% every year. Its processing fee varies from Rs 1,000 to Rs 15,000 before tax, depending on the loan terms. ICICI Bank, one of India's top private lenders, charges between 10.45 and 16.50% a year. It may also ask for a processing fee of up to 2% of the loan amount, in addition to GST.

HDFC Bank currently offers interest rates starting from 9.99% and going up to 24% annually. Borrowers should also note that

the bank charges a processing fee of Rs 6,500, which is subject to GST. Kotak Mahindra Bank starts its personal loan interest rate at 9.98% per year. However, borrowers need to be mindful of the

mid-range option among public sector banks. Canara Bank offers two types of rates — a fixed rate ranging between 14.50 and 16% annually, and a floating rate linked to RLLR (Repo Linked Lending Rate), which ranges between 13.75 and 15.25% per year. Bank of Baroda sets its interest rate between 10.4 and 15.75%. The exact percentage depends on whether the borrower works in the government or private sector, along with their credit score.

WHY COMPARING MATTERS

Since personal loans can be an expensive financial decision, even the smallest rate difference can lead to noticeable savings. Loan processing fees, GST charges and extra costs should also be part of the comparison — not just the interest rate. Doing the math in advance or speaking with a bank representative can often help borrowers save money and avoid last-minute surprises.

From ICICI, HDFC to SBI: Personal loan interest rates across 7 top banks



Personal Loan

Information

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Date of Birth 12/1/19

Gender Male

Last Name Smith

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Raveena Tandon

Rejected SRK's Darr As She Felt Uncomfortable, Says 'Swimming Costume Main...'

Raveena Tandon has revealed that she was the first choice to play the female lead in the acclaimed thriller *Darr* (1993), opposite superstar Shah Rukh Khan. In a candid interview, Tandon said she was offered the role of Kiran, but she had to turn down the offer as she felt uncomfortable with certain scenes. The role eventually went to Juhi Chawla, and her chemistry with SRK impressed fans.

Raveena shared in a chat with ANI, "Darr had come to me first. So, you were talking about that vulgarity and whether you didn't do. So, no though it was not vulgar, but there was sometimes some scenes that I was not comfortable with."

She explained, "Darr mein kuchh aise pehle scenes the where, you know, woh tha kuchh. Couple of scenes the. Swimming costume main kabhi pehen ke nahi jaati thi. I would say 'no, I will not wear a swimming costume'. Yeah, kuchh aise the, matlab scenes that I was a little uncomfortable."

Raveena revealed that she was also offered the 1991 film *Prem Qaidi*. Raveena shared, "Like *Prem Qaidi*, in fact, the first film which I think Lollo (Kareena Kapoor) got launched, was actually offered to me first. But even that, there was this one scene where the hero pulls down the zipper or something, and a strap is showing. I was uncomfortable with that. So I used to be uncomfortable with a lot of things." "I was

very uncomfortable with proximity, with people whom I could not, I would not... I'd be very very like this (leaned back). I was a little uppity at that time, I think and not snooty, I was never snooty. I was always like how I am right now only. So that's why they treated me like a boy," the actress said. Meanwhile, on the work front, Raveena Tandon is gearing up for the second season of *Karmma Calling*.

Twinkle Khanna

Says 'Older People Are Better' At Hiding Affairs, Talks About 'Changing Partners'

Twinkle Khanna's opinions on cheating had caught everyone's attention recently. She was even trolled for normalising physical cheating during a segment on her show with Kajol, *Two Much*. Now, Twinkle has said that she believes that it's easier for older people to hide their affairs as they have had more experience. During a segment on *Two Much*, Twinkle Khanna, Kajol, Ananya Panday, and Farah Khan had to

everything about their lives, affairs." However, Ananya opined that due to social media, "everything comes out anyway". The second statement was: Today's kids change their partners faster than they change outfits. While Twinkle was in agreement, Farah, Kajol and Ananya disagreed. Twinkle said, "It's a good thing because in our time, it was like, 'What will people say? We can't do this.' They are changing their partners quickly, and I think it's a good thing."

Ananya Panday said, "People have always been changing their partners. Earlier, it was a bit quiet." Twinkle added, "It's much easier for them because they have no baggage. They are like, 'This is not working. Let's move on quickly.'

Previously, in a similar segment, Twinkle and Kajol had expressed that emotional infidelity was a bigger relationship dealbreaker than physical cheating as "raat gayi baat gayi". While Twinkle, Kajol and Karan Johar believed that physical cheating is not a dealbreaker in relationships, Janhvi Kapoor condemned both forms. Twinkle said, "She's young. She hasn't seen everything we've seen." Karan Johar opined, "I believe physical infidelity is not a deal breaker." Twinkle chimed in, "I mean raat gayi, baat gayi." Janhvi held her ground and said, "Nahi, nahi. Baat nahi jaati hai." Twinkle reiterated, "You are young."

agree or disagree with this statement: older people are better at hiding their affairs than younger people. Twinkle, Farah and Ananya agreed with this notion, while Kajol was in disagreement.

Twinkle Khanna said, "Older people are much better, lots of practice." Kajol disagreed with the statement and shared, "I feel younger people are much better at hiding



Hardik Pandya, Mahieka Sharma Get Cosy In The Ocean; PDA-Filled Pic Breaks The Internet



Indian cricketer Hardik Pandya appears to be in a new, happier phase of his life. Months after his separation from Natasha Stankovic in 2024, the all-rounder has been spotted spending time with model and actress Mahieka Sharma. On Tuesday, Hardik took to Instagram to share a few candid pictures that instantly caught the internet's attention. In one of the viral photos, Hardik is seen washing a car with Mahieka, both laughing and teasing each other playfully. Several other images show the duo enjoying each other's company, hinting that the cricketer is no longer keeping his relationship under wraps. Another photo from his Instagram story showed Hardik and Mahieka getting cosy in the ocean during a romantic getaway. Fans couldn't help but notice how relaxed and content he looked while also spending quality time with his son, Agastya.

Who Is Mahieka Sharma?

Mahieka Sharma, who holds a degree in Economics and Finance, transitioned into full-time modelling and acting soon after college. Over the years, she has featured in numerous music videos, independent films, and commercials for popular brands like Tanishq, Vivo, and Uniqlo. Mahieka has also graced the runway for top Indian designers such as Manish Malhotra, Anita Dongre, and Tarun Tahiliani.

Her growing popularity in the fashion world earned her the "Model of the Year (New Age)" award at the Indian Fashion Awards in 2024. Known for her dedication, Mahieka once walked the ramp despite battling a severe eye infection — a moment that fans and peers praised for her professionalism and resilience.

Hardik Pandya's Past Relationship

Before his reported relationship with Mahieka, Hardik Pandya was married to actress and model Natasha Stankovic. The couple, who tied the knot in May 2020 and renewed their vows in February 2023 in a dual Hindu and Christian ceremony, announced their separation in July 2024.

Abhishek Kumar Bids Adieu To 'Pati, Patni Aur Panga', Pens Emotional Note: 'Milte Hai Jald'



Abhishek Kumar was seen posing with host and Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre, along with Munawar Faruqui in the pictures.

Television actor Abhishek Kumar recently took to his social media account to bid adieu to his hit fun reality show *Pati Patni Aur Panga*. Sharing a carousel post featuring every couple and also the hosts of the show, Abhishek penned a beautiful note. He wrote, "So it's a wrap for Pati Patni aur Panga Bohat saare khoobsoorat pal sath le k ja raha hu. Kya hi show tha, sab log इतने pyaare itne ache k kya hi batau. Last day pe alag level ki excitement bhi thi and emotional bhi tha k ye aaj last day hai shoot ka. Per koina aap sabne itna pyaar dia hamare show ko uske lie ap sabka dil se shukriya. Bas aise hi apna pyaar bana k rakhein. Milte hain jald. (I'm taking along so many beautiful memories with me. What a show it was—everyone was so lovely and so good, I can't even put it into words. On the last day, there was a different level of excitement, but it was also emotional knowing it was the final day of the shoot. But it's okay—you all have given so much love to our show, and for that, a heartfelt thank you. Please keep showering your love like this always. See you soon!)

The actor was seen posing with host and Bollywood actress Sonali Bendre; host Munawar Faruqui; and participant celebrity couples Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla, Swara Bhaskar and Fahad Ahmad, Sudesh Lahiri and wife, Hina Khan and Rocky Jaiswal, newlyweds Avika Gor and Milind Chandwani, Debina Bonnerjee and Gurmeet Choudhary, and others.

Recently on the show, Abhishek Kumar and his ex-girlfriend and actress Isha Malviya were seen getting emotional and breaking down. The former couple, who have had a complicated and turbulent past, opened up about their relationship. A visibly disturbed Abhishek expressed his emotions and said, "I wish I hadn't made that mistake. I wish this wouldn't have happened." He added, "When you see yourself growing and improving gradually, you feel that God has done the right thing by separating us." His words reflected deep regret. Responding to him, Isha Malviya also got teary-eyed and said, "The matter has gone out of hand. There are a lot of things that have happened in the past. I am so sorry. I just, I know it's..." just before breaking down and being unable to continue to talk. For the uninitiated, Abhishek and Isha's relationship made headlines during their time on the reality show *Bigg Boss* 17.



Best foods for quick weight loss

No matter how healthy your daily routine might be, sometimes, the sudden need for quick weight loss manages to creep in unannounced.

Whatever the reason - a school re-union or your 30th birthday - none of us are above the need to lose weight and lose it fast. And here's some good news: Coupled with the right exercise and healthy nutrient intake you can lose weight quickly and surely by consuming these best foods for quick weight loss. Remember the first tenet of a healthy diet is portion control, and you're on your way to quick weight loss success...

Lean protein:

A recent study from Purdue University has proved yet again that lean protein enables weight loss through appropriate appetite control. While non-vegetarians can get lean protein from lean meat and egg white, vegetarians should look to include these protein foods in their daily diet: Chickpeas, soybeans, kidney beans, tofu, other beans and pulses, and dairy. Even peanut butter is a good substitute as an appetite controller here.



Fruits and vegetables:

This is a best practise followed by people who lose permanent weight successfully. Even if you love meat, including at least 2-3 whole fruits and a side serving of



vegetables with each meal goes a long way in curbing your appetite and enabling quick weight loss. So leave those diet pills, exotic foods that you buy just once and never eat again, and step over to the neighbourhood grocery store. Your best bet with quick weight loss lies within these humble, yet extremely healthy, fruits and vegetables.

Broth-based soups:

Pureed and chunky broth (not cream) based hot



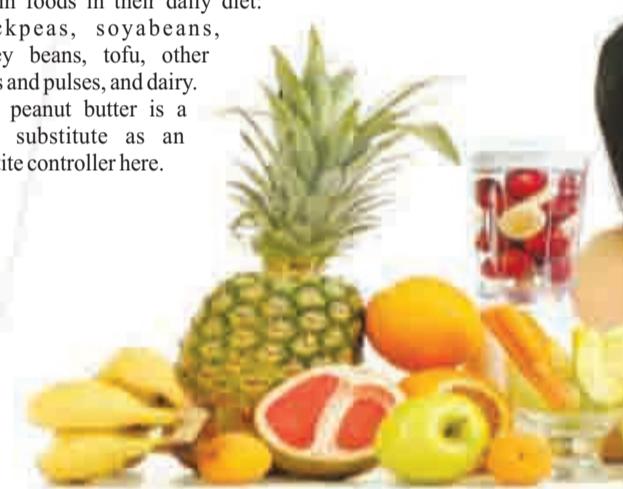
Lose Weight Fast

Low-salt and low-starch foods:

Cutting back on sodium and high-starch foods (read: bad carbs) results in a kind of cheat weight loss, which - if properly maintained can lead to permanent weight loss. In the short run, this strategy leads to low fluid retention and what you lose initially is 'water weight'. This is why most weight loss diets that promise quick weight loss begin with a no-carb, no-salt shock phase. You can do this cleverly by cutting down reasonably and continuing a daily exercise routine to maintain healthy appetite and calorie burn.

Whole grain:

A list of best foods for quick weight loss can never be complete without whole grains. Even without changing other areas of your daily diet, just a shift from processed to whole grain will work wonders for quick weight loss. Whole grains are nutrient-packed powerhouses and are excellent appetite controllers.



8 health benefits of Ginger tea



Nothing beats cold in the winter like a piping hot cup of ginger tea. With its high levels of Vitamin C, magnesium and other minerals, ginger root is extremely beneficial for health.

Once made into tea, you can add peppermint, honey or lemon to mask the taste of the ginger. Here's why you should have this soothing beverage.

Relieve nausea

Drinking a cup of ginger tea before travelling can help prevent the nausea and vomiting associated with motion sickness. You can also drink a cuppa at the first sign of nausea to relieve the symptom.

Improve stomach performance
Useful in improving digestion and increasing absorption of food, ginger

tea can bloat after eating too much.

Reduce inflammation

Ginger contains anti-inflammatory

properties that make it an ideal home remedy for muscle and joint problems. In addition to drinking ginger tea, you can also use it to soak inflamed joints.

Fight respiratory problems

Ginger tea can help relieve congestion associated with the common cold. Try a cup of ginger tea for the respiratory symptoms associated with environmental allergies.

Improve blood circulation

The vitamins, minerals and amino acids in ginger tea can help restore and improve blood circulation that may help decrease the chance of cardiovascular problems. Ginger may prevent fat from depositing in the arteries helping to prevent heart attacks and stroke.

Relieve menstrual discomfort

This one is for all women suffering from menstrual cramps. Try soaking a towel in warm ginger tea and apply it to your lower abdomen. It may help relieve the pain and relax the muscles. At the same time, drink a cup of ginger tea with honey.

Strengthen immunity
Ginger tea can help strengthen your immune due to the high levels of antioxidants in ginger.

Relieve stress

Ginger tea has calming properties that may help lower your stress and tension. This is thought to be due to a combination of the strong aroma and healing properties.



So sick was the Indian government of the procrastinating Indian citizen who refused to opt for preventive health care, that it bribed them to see a doctor. In 2012, the then finance minister offered a plan to save up to Rs 5,000 on tax by opting for an annual preventive check-up.

While Indians refuse to visit a hospital unless they need to be brought in on a stretcher, Americans, they say, can't get enough.

In the US, annual check-ups account for more than 8 per cent of doctor visits, and cost the health care system \$8 billion a year. Each visit takes around 23 minutes, adding up to a total of 17 million hours each year spent checking 45 million healthy people. In Europe, a study revealed that many routine checkups led to over-diagnosis and over-treatment of relatively

mild health problems, leading some patients to take medication for years with no apparent benefit.

But with the average age of patients diagnosed with cardiac problems dipping, and lifestyle-related disorders on the rise, doctors here are keen to catch the bug early. Thus, avoiding a case of 'surprise' heart attack, like actor Farooq Sheikh's.

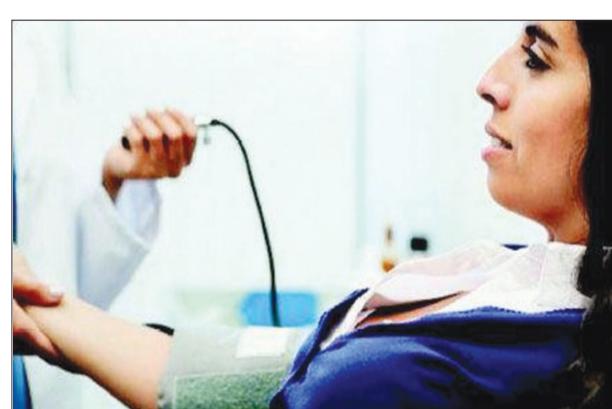
Don't wait for a heart attack, says Dr Lekha Pathak, cardiologist. One in 10 Indians suffer from hypertension.

And most aren't aware of it. For people above 40, I suggest a twice-a-year check up. This should include Electrocardiography (ECG), cardiac stress test, 2D echo and blood biochemistry to check blood sugar, kidney and lipid profile.

Smokers and those who have a family history of cardiac illness, diabetes and hypertension are part of a high risk group. They must start with these tests at 30.

Don't wait for a heart

Attack!



Often, those suffering a 'surprise' heart attack are those who have lived with symptoms of high cholesterol and hypertension, without knowing it. This is not specific to an age group or sex.

But 40 per cent of patients suffering from cardiac issues tend to be below 40.

Start gynaec visits in mid-20s, says Dr Rajeev Chhabra, gynaecologist

Indian women are just not in the habit of visiting a gynaecologist regularly. In fact, most women don't go to a doctor even when suffering from the symptom of an illness. It's always a last minute visit when the pain gets unbearable.

For women above 45, they need to start caring for their bones, since menopause will soon strike. Start with the following tests: CBC, Creatinine levels, SGPT and SGOT levels, calcium and phosphorus, USG (ultrasonography), PAP smear and mammogram.

Women between 23 and 30 need to take annual thyroid tests, prolactin, DHEA-

sulfate test and ultrasonography. These are purely preventive tests ensure that when they do decide to conceive, they encounter no complications. Lifestyle disorders like Polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOD) are detected at such times.

In case you are sexually active with multiple partners and don't insist on the use of condoms, take the PAP smear test every year.

For every known diabetic, there's one undiagnosed, says Dr Rajiv Koiril, diabetologist

In 2012, 11.8 million patients were diagnosed with diabetes, adding to the 65 million who live with the metabolic disorder. Sixty per cent of them were diagnosed during a routine health check up, having lived with silent symptoms.

It's a cultural problem. Indians feel they are wasting money on tests if they aren't sick.

There is no age bar to check blood sugar levels. It's meant for every adult. For those who aren't diabetic, a yearly check-up should include fasting and post meal blood sugar tests. Add the HbA1c test, that's usually missing from the basic package. It's to check the average plasma glucose concentration over prolonged periods of time.

For patients who are diagnosed with diabetes, the tests need to be specific; like those that test the effect of the illness on the liver, kidneys and retina.

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