

Uttarakhand University Giving Extra Marks For Attending PM Modi's Event? A Fact-Check

The viral notice, which appears to be issued by the Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, asks all B.Tech CSE and specialisation (2nd year) and BCA (2nd year) students to attend the event.

New Delhi .(Agency)

A notice allegedly issued by a university in Uttarakhand asking students to mandatorily attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Sunday event marking the silver jubilee celebrations of the formation of the state for "50 internal marks" has gone viral, with the Centre and the university fact-checking it. The viral notice, which appears to be issued by the Dev

Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, asks all B.Tech CSE and specialisation (2nd year) and BCA (2nd year) students to attend the event. "Students are hereby informed that they must attend the upcoming event at FRI on Sunday, 9th November 2025, where an interaction with the Prime Minister of India will take place. Attendance in this event will be considered under the Bharatiya Gyan Parmpara (Indian Knowledge System) course, and 50 internal marks will be awarded to each participant. Hence, participation in this event is mandatory for all programs having the Indian Knowledge System course," the notice read. While it mentions that the order was issued by the BCA Head of Department and the B.Tech CSE 2nd Year program coordinator, it does not have any signatures on it.



Lawyer-activist Prashant Bhushan said, "Dev Bhumi Uttarakhand University to award 50 marks for attending Modi's rally! And how many for shouting Modi Modi?" The Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check division - the Indian government's

The notice quickly went viral, with the Opposition leaders hitting out at the BJP. Uttarakhand Congress spokesperson Garima Mehra Dasauni alleged that the BJP has "run out of workers and leaders".

official fact-checking agency fact-checked the viral notice, calling it "fake". "A letter allegedly issued by Devbhoomi Uttarakhand University is being circulated on social media, claiming that students' attendance at

Prime Minister @narendramodi's programme has been made mandatory and that internal examination marks will be given for it. This letter is #Fake. No such order has been issued by the university," it said.

The university, too, issued a clarification, saying the notice is "false" and "not issued or approved by them". "It has come to our attention that a fake notice has been circulated in the name of DBUU regarding marks for the upcoming visit to FRI on 09 November 2025. We would like to clarify that the notice is completely false and not issued or approved by the University. It does not bear any official signature, reference number.

Voter List Revision A Bid To Institutionalise 'Vote Theft': Rahul Gandhi

New Delhi .(Agency)

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is an attempt to cover up "vote theft" and institutionalise it. Speaking to reporters, Gandhi also said he believes that, like Haryana, "vote theft" took place in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh, too.

"Vote theft is an issue and SIR now, it is about covering it up and institutionalising the system," the Congress MP claimed. Gandhi arrived in Pachmarhi hill town in Narmadapuram on Saturday to take part in the Madhya Pradesh district Congress presidents' training camp.

The Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voters' list commenced in nine states and three Union Territories on November 4. The massive exercise will cover nearly 51 crore electors across 321 districts and 1,843 assembly constituencies of these nine states and three UTs.

"A few days ago, I gave a presentation on Haryana, and I clearly saw that vote theft was taking place... 25 lakh votes were stolen, 1 in 8 votes were stolen," Gandhi alleged. "After looking at that, after looking at the data, I believe that the same thing happened in MP, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh. And this is the system of the BJP and EC (Election Commission)," he charged. "We have more evidence, which we will provide gradually. But my issue is vote theft. The SIR now, it is about covering it up and institutionalising the system," he claimed.

Unfair to judge by one episode: Shashi Tharoor defends Advani with Nehru parallel

New Delhi .(Agency)

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor is once again drawing attention for his remarks on a BJP leader. This time for defending former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani's political legacy, asserting that just like Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi, the BJP veteran's decades of public service should not be assessed based on a single incident. "Reducing his long years of service to one episode, however significant, is unfair. Just as Nehruji's career cannot be defined solely by the China setback, nor Indira Gandhi's only by the Emergency, the same fairness should be shown to Advaniji," Tharoor wrote on X. The Congress MP's remarks came soon after he wished Advani, one of the BJP's founding members, on his 98th birthday, where Tharoor praised Advani's "unwavering commitment to public service". "Wishing the venerable Shri L.K. Advani a very happy 98th birthday! His

unwavering commitment to public service, his modesty & decency, and his role in shaping the trajectory of modern India are indelible. A true statesman whose life of service has been exemplary," Tharoor wrote.

Tharoor's praise for LK Advani's long public

career drew sharp pushback online, with critics accusing the Congress MP of "whitewashing the BJP veteran's role in divisive politics". Supreme Court advocate Sanjay Hegde hit back, writing,



"Unleashing the 'dragon seeds of hatred' in this country is NOT public service".

A brief exchange followed between Tharoor and the senior advocate, with the Congress leader defending the legacy of Advani by comparing it with that of former PMs Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. "The

Rath Yatra was not an episode. It was a long march to reverse the foundational principles of the Indian Republic.

It set the stage for 2002 and 2014 and thereafter. Like Draupadi's dishonour set the stage for the Mahabharata that followed, the Rath Yatra and its legacy of violence continue to haunt the destiny of this country. From his current bed of arrows, he has not preached any Rajdharma either," Hegde replied. Advani's Rath Yatra, which began in Somanath and was stopped in Bihar by then Chief Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, is widely seen as a prelude to the Babri Masjid demolition in December 1992.

Shiv Sena (UBT) leaders Ambadas Danve and Anil Parab raised concerns over the drone's presence, demanding a probe into what they called a "serious security breach". Parab also suggested the need to rule out any extremist angle, calling the incident "highly sensitive" given Matoshree's Z+ security.

Mumbai Police issued a clarification soon after, stating that the drone was part of an authorised Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) survey in the BKC-Kherwadi belt for the ongoing pod-

taxi project. Permission had been granted between November 8 and 16, police said, urging the public to avoid misinformation. Aaditya Thackeray, however, questioned why the residents were



not informed if it was an authorised survey and questioned whether an MMRDA survey would single out 'Matoshree'. He further criticised the Mumbai infra body for "focusing on surveillance instead of improving ground-level work", citing the Mumbai Trans Harbour Link as an example of "corruption and poorly executed projects".

Tejashwi Yadav Celebrates 36th Birthday During Rally In Bihar's Karakat

Tejashwi addressed a public meeting at the Inter College ground in Sanjhuli and cut a cake on the stage as supporters held placards wishing him 'Happy Birthday'.

Patna .(Agency)

Grand Alliance chief ministerial candidate and Leader of Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, celebrated his 36th birthday on stage during an election rally in Karakat on Sunday. Tejashwi, who addressed a public meeting at the Inter College ground in Sanjhuli, cut a cake on the stage as supporters held placards wishing him 'Happy Birthday'.

He appealed to the electorate to vote for the CPI(ML) candidate from Karakat, Arun Kumar. Addressing the gathering, Tejashwi targeted the NDA and called the present government "dishonest". The RJD leader reiterated that if the Mahagathbandhan forms the



Mohan Bhagwat Was Asked If Muslims Are Allowed In RSS. His Response

New Delhi .(Agency)

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) supports policies, not an individual or a political party, its chief Mohan Bhagwat has said, adding that RSS workers would have even backed the Congress if it supported the demand for a Ram Temple in Ayodhya. "We do not support any political party. We do not participate in election politics. Sangh works to unite society, and politics is divisive. We support policies. For example, we wanted Ram Mandir in Ayodhya, so our swayamsevaks who stood by its construction," he said, adding that the BJP ticked the box. "If Congress had

supported it, our swayamsevaks would have voted for that party," Bhagwat said.

"We don't have a special affinity for one party. There is no Sangh party; no party is ours. And all parties are ours because they are Bharatiya parties. We support rashtreeta (policies), not rajniti (politics). We have our views, and we want this country to go in a particular direction. Those who drive the country in that direction, we will support them," he said at an event in Bengaluru to mark the centenary of RSS.

Asked if Muslims are allowed to



"No Brahmin is allowed in Sangh, no one from any caste is allowed, no Muslim is allowed, no Christian is allowed... People from different denominations, Muslims or Christians, can come to Sangh,

keeping their separateness out. When you come to Shakha, you come as a son of Bharat Mata. Muslims and Christians come to shakha, but we don't take their count, we don't ask who they are."

Bhagwat also responded to a question raised by several Congress leaders: why is the RSS not a registered organisation? "This answer has been given umpteen times, but those who want to raise questions go on repeating them. Sangh started in 1925. Do you expect us to register with the British government? After Independence, the laws do not make registration compulsory.

Even Hindu dharma isn't registered: RSS chief responds to Priyank Kharge's jibe

►Responding to Priyank Kharge's remarks, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat defended the organisation's legal standing, saying registration isn't mandatory under Indian law and citing court recognition.

New Delhi .(Agency)

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Saturday hit back at Karnataka minister and Congress leader Priyank Kharge, who had recently questioned why the Sangh remains an "unregistered organisation" despite claiming to serve the nation. Responding to Kharge's remarks, Bhagwat said the Sangh had started in 1925, long before India gained Independence, and questioned whether critics expected it to register with the British government.

"The Sangh started in 1925. Do you want us to register with the British government? After Independence, registration is not compulsory. The law recognises even unregistered bodies of individuals. We pay



income tax. We were banned thrice, and every time courts lifted the ban. Governments and courts have recognised us as a legal organisation. Therefore, we need not be registered. Many things are not registered - even Hindu dharma is not registered," Bhagwat said.

Earlier this month, Congress leader Priyank Kharge had accused the RSS of operating "without transparency" and avoiding legal scrutiny. In a post on X, he said, "If RSS truly serves the nation selflessly, why not register like lakhs of NGOs that work transparently and lawfully?" The Congress leader also questioned the RSS's sources of funding and the security accorded to Mohan Bhagwat by the central government. "Why does the head of an unregistered organisation receive Advanced Security Liaison protocol, putting him on par with the Prime Minister and Home Minister? Who pays the full-time pracharaks and funds the organisation's campaigns?" he asked.

News box

Gang offers to convert scrapped notes for fees, 8 arrested in Ghaziabad**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Nine years after demonetisation, crores of invalidated Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes remain stashed with people, sustaining a grey market large enough for organised fraud. This was evident from the arrest of eight members of a gang over the last two weeks.

The men were allegedly behind a multi-level racket that trapped clients, mainly traders and middlemen still hoarding invalid notes, via social media sites by promising discreet conversion of demonetised currency in exchange for hefty commissions.

Investigation revealed that no currency was ever exchanged, and the gang simply collected bundles of demonetised currency and their advance fees before vanishing. Police have so far recovered demonetised notes worth Rs 3.9 crore from their stash. "Most victims never approached police because their own transaction was illegal," Trans-Hindon DCP Nimish Patil said. "The fraud operated through a structured, three-tier chain. The first tier, which included the recently arrested SK alias Sharik and Abhinav alias Rahul Buddhi Raja, handled negotiations with victims and offered assurances of converting the notes at 25% of face value. The second comprised collectors who sourced demonetised currency directly from clients, and the third consisted of couriers who transported the notes to designated handover points."

Itchy eyes, sore throat, choked lungs: 'Very poor' air takes a toll on residents in Noida**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Smog continued to choke Noida on Saturday, with several neighbourhoods waking up to a burning sensation in the eyes, sore throats, and increasing breathing discomfort. As the Air Quality Index (AQI) remained in 'very poor' category, residents said they have stopped early-morning walks, jogging, cycling, and other outdoor activities because of the thick layer of haze that blankets the skyline. CPCB data showed Noida's overall AQI rose to 354, up from 306 a day earlier.

"It's impossible to step out for walks anymore. Even five minutes outdoors leaves the eyes and throat burning," said Pramila Dhar of Sector 78. "Parks across high-rise clusters that are usually crowded on weekend mornings remained near-empty today."

Ghaziabad fared no better, with air quality sliding further to 339 from Friday's 314, while Greater Noida slipped from 'poor' to 'very poor', reaching 336 compared to 284.

Station-level readings presented a grim picture for Noida. Sector 116 - which covers the 7x sectors - recorded the highest AQI at 357, followed by Sector 125 at 347, Sector 62 at 345, and Sector 1 at 341, all in the very poor range. Nisha Rai, a resident of Prateek Wisteria in Noida's Sector 77, said people in the area have been facing respiratory problems. "People in the area are suffering from sore throats and breathing difficulties. We don't see water sprinkling being done, and the sky remains grey. We have also stopped outdoor activities," she said. Shreya Sharma, a resident of Panchsheel Pratishtha in Sector 75, said the AOA has started sprinkling water on its own. "There is rampant construction in the neighbourhood, and trucks and dumpers carrying materials create dust. However, there is no official check on such activities. We have advised children to stay indoors during morning and evening hours when pollution levels are high," she said.

GDA razes illegal walls, houses, GMC reclaims Rs 30 crore Vasundhara land**Noida.(Agency)**

GDA has demolished an illegal township spread over 23 hectares in Bhikhanpur and Morta, where land developers had built roads and boundary walls. A recent GDA survey shows illegal colonies have risen to 351, up from 321 in 2021. These colonies have occupied 2,944 acres of land, and this is growing, said an official.

In a separate drive, GMC reclaimed 1,600 sqm of land in Vasundhara worth Rs 30 crore.

"In both areas, the encroachers, in connivance with land sharks, earmarked land for residential use without any map sanctions. They came up with an office, constructed a boundary wall, and were even in the



process of constructing roads," said a GDA official.

"Our team flagged the illegal construction, and an anti-encroachment unit with the presence of a police force demolished the structure and barricaded the area. A case was also filed against the landowners," added the official. "While we carry out such drives at regular intervals, it is just a temporary solution. GDA, as a long-term solution, proposed that registries in these colonies be banned. In Sept, we also wrote to the stamp and registry department on the issue but so far have not received any response from the department," said the official.

Meanwhile, an official from the stamp and registration department said, "Clause 241 of the registration manual is very clear, which says that the stamp and registry department cannot deny the registry of properties, and the department is in no way responsible for verifying documents submitted at the time of registration. This is about rules."

Meanwhile, GMC led a separate anti-encroachment drive in Vasundhara. "In Vasundhara, 1,600 square metres of land was fully encroached for many years, which belonged to GMC."

A good mobility plan is central to development & ease of living: Haryana CM**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Haryana chief minister Nayab Singh Saini on Saturday said the state is prioritising mobility-led urban development, integrating transport systems to improve ease of living and support India's vision 2047 goal of becoming a developed nation. Speaking at the 18th Urban Mobility India Conference in the city, Saini said it was a matter of pride for Haryana to host the national event for the first time. He said the Prime Minister believes India's future does not lie solely in large metropolitan centres. Instead, tier-2 and tier-3 cities are emerging as key growth hubs, with mobility systems being shaped to support inclusive development. The state government, he noted, is prioritising sustainable mobility and transit-oriented development in urban planning. Emphasis is being laid on integrating transport networks to check unplanned urban expansion and ensure efficient use of resources.



"Our cities are engines of growth, but ensuring ease of living requires mobility to be central to development," the chief minister said, adding that mobility influences economic resilience, civic empowerment, and environmental balance.

He said plans are underway to introduce

smart bus services aimed at making urban transport more efficient, reliable and transparent. Improved bus connectivity, he said, boosts business activity and employment while enhancing access to services.

He further highlighted the state's mobility roadmap that includes expanding the

metro network to Gurgaon, Faridabad, Bahadurgarh and Sonipat, alongside giving priority to the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) and Namo Bharat Rail System. The high-speed rail links will connect Delhi, Gurgaon, Karnal and the Jewar International Airport, forming an economic corridor within the NCR and offering a faster, energy-efficient travel option.

Lastly, he said that alongside major infrastructure expansion, a push is also being made for last-mile connectivity using electric and CNG buses, e-rickshaws and cycle tracks across urban areas.

Modern city bus services are currently in operation in 12 cities, including Faridabad, Panchkula, Rohtak, Karnal, Hisar, Panipat, Yamunanagar, Sonipat, Bhiwani, Rewari, Kurukshetra and Ambala. Charging stations are also being expanded under the state's electric vehicle policy.

Woman held for colluding with lawyer couple to frame her husband in a fake Poco case**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Following the arrest of a city-based lawyer, her husband, and a balloon seller for running an extortion racket that framed men in fake Poco cases, police have now arrested a woman who allegedly conspired with them to implicate her husband. Geetika Chawla, the lawyer believed to be the kingpin of the gang that targeted families facing marital discord, her husband Harsh Kumar, and their associate Hanuman were arrested on Friday. The accused, identified as Shivani Aggarwal (42), a resident of Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, was married to Vishal Aggarwal, owner of an IT company, in 2008. The couple has two daughters.

After issues arose in his marriage, Vishal had approached Geetika for legal assistance in his divorce case. However, Geetika joined hands with Shivani, who, according to sources, paid around Rs 10 lakh to Geetika to extort money from her husband.

When Vishal refused to pay, he began receiving threatening calls from unknown numbers, demanding money on behalf of his estranged wife. On Oct 29, Hanuman, posing as Rohit from Farrukhabad, filed a complaint at Sector 65 police station, accusing Vishal of sodomising his eight-year-old son.

Shivani comes from a middle-class family and is a single child. She lost her father when she was young. Vishal, also from a humble background, worked hard to build his IT company after completing his engineering. He now runs a multi-crore business and leads a lavish lifestyle. After repeated quarrels, the couple decided to get a divorce, but Shivani sought a large alimony. When Vishal refused, she conspired with Geetika, who was his lawyer, to blackmail him," said an investigating officer. Police said Geetika urged Shivani to file a rape case against her husband, accusing him of abusing their daughter.

GMDA plans underpass to ease snarls near Millennium City Centre metro station**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

GMDA is planning to construct an underpass at Millennium City Centre metro junction to alleviate congestion and improve traffic flow. The proposal, estimated at Rs 80 crore, will be presented for approval at the GMDA board meeting on Nov 10.

The junction, located at the intersection of sectors 27, 29, 43, and 44, connecting major roads and sectors, is a known traffic choke point, witnessing nearly 9,200 passenger car units during rush hours.

Its proximity to the Millennium City Centre metro and Rapid Metro stations, Galleria Market, and Sector 29's restaurant hub contributes to frequent jams and delays, especially during rush hours. With a new metro station also

coming at the junction, traffic load, both vehicular and pedestrian, is bound to increase, which could add further chaos.



"The proposal has been prepared and will be placed before the Authority meeting for administrative approval. Once the authority gives its nod, we will begin preparing the detailed project report,"

said a GMDA official.

According to the GMDA's Comprehensive Mobility Management Plan (CMM), nearly half of the city's road network operates below 30 kmph due to congestion. The Millennium City Centre Metro junction was identified as one of the priority locations for grade separation to ensure smoother traffic flow and reduce delays caused by signalised intersections.

The proposed underpass will improve traffic flow for commuters between Ifco Chowk, Golf Course Road Extension, Faridabad, NH-8, and the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway. It will also provide better local access to surrounding sectors and connectivity to the metro and Rapid Metro networks. The project is expected to be completed within 24 months from the commencement of work.

Large construction sites in Gurgaon must register on dust portal: DC**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Gurgaon administration has mandated the registration of all construction works exceeding 500 sqm on the online dust portal of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) for effective monitoring during GRAP restrictions.

A complete ban on burning any type of garbage or waste materials has been imposed, with immediate action required from departments. Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar emphasised that air pollution control was a collective effort for public health and environmental protection. "Air pollution control is not just a govt formality, but a collective effort for public health and environmental protection," he said.

In the video conference meeting, detailed discussions were held regarding GRAP restrictions and their effective compliance. Following this, the DC issued

strict guidelines while reviewing the pollution situation in the district.

Kumar said that 100 percent compliance with all GRAP-2 rules should be ensured.



Arrangements for green nets, dust control equipment, and water sprinkling should be made regularly for dust control at construction sites.

The DC directed the transport department to intensively check diesel buses and heavy vehicles coming from outside states and

issue challans to violators. Municipal Corporation Gurgaon and Manesar have been directed to regularly carry out water sprinkling on main roads and green belt areas. Emphasis was also laid on increasing the use of anti-smog guns and water sprinklers. He said that the pollution control board should continuously monitor industrial units and strict action should be taken against units not complying with emission standards. The DC said that air pollution control is a continuous process, which requires discipline and responsibility at every level. He also said that administrative efforts will be successful only when citizens also become part of this campaign. He requested citizens to follow the guidelines issued by the administration so that the quality of the environment can be improved through the collective efforts of all.

Gurgaon's air quality remains in 'poor' category for sixth day**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The city's air quality remained in the 'poor' category for the sixth consecutive day on Saturday, recording an overall Air Quality Index (AQI) of 236, a slight improvement from Friday's 253.

Despite the marginal decline, pollution levels continue to remain above the safe limit, raising health concerns as winter sets in. Among the four air quality monitoring stations, Sector 51 and Gwal Pahari recorded the highest pollution levels with AQI readings of 276 and 274, respectively, both in the 'poor' category. Vikas Sadan (195) and Teri Gram (155) reported comparatively better readings but remained in the 'moderate' range.

According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (Safar), the city's air quality is expected to deteriorate further

into the 'very poor' category over the next few days, as weather conditions are not favourable for the dispersion of pollutants.

Safar's forecast indicates mainly clear skies with smog and shallow fog during morning hours. Northwesterly surface winds of up to 10 kmph are expected in the morning, increasing to 20 kmph in the afternoon before slowing again in the evening.

The maximum mixing depth is likely to be around 1,500 metres, and the ventilation index is projected to be about 9,000 m²/s on Sunday. Safar stated that a ventilation index below 6,000 m²/s, combined with wind speeds under 10 kmph, is considered unfavourable for dispersing

pollutants. Independent air quality expert Sachin Panwar said northwesterly winds are carrying pollutants from areas

to fluctuate between the 'poor' and 'very poor' categories," he said.

Levels of fine particulate matter remained high across all monitoring stations. PM2.5 concentration at Gwal Pahari was 500 µg/m³, about 33 times higher than the World Health Organization's (WHO) safe limit of 15 µg/m³. It was followed by Sector 51 (354 µg/m³), Vikas Sadan (313 µg/m³), and Teri Gram (304 µg/m³). PM10 levels were also elevated,

with Gwal Pahari recording 467 µg/m³, nearly 10 times the WHO limit of 45 µg/m³, followed by Sector 51 (400 µg/m³), Teri Gram (178 µg/m³), and Vikas Sadan (172 µg/m³). As per Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) standards, the annual safe limits are 60 µg/m³

for PM2.5 and 100 µg/m³ for PM10 — well below current readings across all locations. Experts have stressed.

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where stubble burning is taking place, contributing to the city's poor air quality. "Thermal inversion is also restricting vertical air movement, causing pollutants to remain near the surface. Conditions may worsen over the next few days before improving slightly once westerly winds set in. For now, air quality is expected

Coaching centre deaths: 2 fire officers to face the heat

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena has approved disciplinary proceedings against two senior fire officers for alleged negligence and concealment of facts in connection with the July 2024 tragedy at Rau's Coaching Centre in Old Rajender Nagar where three civil services aspirants died after being trapped in a flooded basement library. The L-G has sanctioned disciplinary proceedings under Rule 18 read with Rule 14 of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965, against Vedpal, Divisional Officer, and Udai Vir Singh, Assistant Divisional Officer — both Group-A officers of the Fire Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD). The two had inspected the premises on July 1, 2024, just weeks before the tragedy, and cleared it for fire safety certification, allegedly

ignoring that the basement was being misused as a seating room and library. Based on their report,



the fire safety certificate was issued on July 9, 2024. A subsequent district magistrate inquiry found the officers guilty of concealing the misuse of the premises, leading to their suspension

last year. The L-G has now directed the Directorate of Vigilance to ensure timely completion of the

biometric entry system reportedly failed during the deluge, trapping them inside. The incident had triggered widespread outrage among UPSC aspirants and local residents. Students staged protests for nearly a week demanding justice for the deceased and stricter enforcement of safety norms at coaching centres. Locals had told The Tribune then that the tragedy was "a disaster waiting to happen," citing decades of waterlogging issues in the Old Rajender Nagar area. Earlier this year, on the first anniversary of the tragedy, The Tribune revisited the site and found that while civic infrastructure in the area had improved, the once-bustling hub of coaching centres had lost its old vibrancy. Locals pointed out that new drainage systems and wider gutters had reduced flooding, but footfall had declined drastically.

22-week-old premature baby survives miraculously, discharged home safely

New Delhi: A baby girl weighing 525 gm at birth at a private hospital in the national capital has now been discharged in good health with a weight of 2,010 kg — said to be a rare survival feat, not just for the Delhi NCR region but for the entire country. Dr Jay Kishore, Senior Neonatologist at Cloudnine Hospital, Patparganj, led his team to script medical history — successfully discharged the baby born at gestational age of just 22 weeks and 5 days, after a remarkable 105-day NICU journey. Dr Kishore said, "This survival is a testament to medical precision, team dedication, and the parents' unshakeable faith. Extreme prematurity is a major challenge, but when science and compassion work together, miracles happen." The parents, who had long battled infertility and suffered a miscarriage after their first IVF attempt, conceived again through IVE. However, their joy turned into anxiety when premature labour began at just 22 weeks and 5 days — a peripatetic stage where survival rates are exceedingly low. Against all odds, the baby was delivered,

intubated immediately, and resuscitated in the delivery room. Despite being counselled about the poor prognosis, the

shifted to room air. Amazingly, during the entire NICU stay, not a single drop of formula milk was used. The care

cranial ultrasounds before discharge were normal, and LASER treatment for Zone 2 Plus ROP was successfully completed. Dr

cines — it's about a system that refuses to give up. Our nurses, associate consultants, and the parents stood by every single day. This is a victory for all of them."



parents placed their trust in Dr Kishore's expertise and opted for full intensive care support. The team provided round-the-clock, meticulous care — the baby was ventilated, given early surfactant therapy, and placed on Parenteral Nutrition. By day 3, mother's own milk (MOM) was introduced, and by day 10, the baby was successfully weaned off invasive ventilation. After prolonged non-invasive support using synchronised NIPPV and CPAP on an indigenous Optimedics ventilator, the baby was

approach included developmentally supportive care, kangaroo mother care, and exclusive use of mother's milk, which played a critical role in the baby's growth and neurological development.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GUM BAHDUR S/o YULAMA TAMANG, R/o 123, Sarai Kal Khan, Nizamuddi East, Hazrat Nizamuddin S.O. Dist. South Delhi, Delhi-110013, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GUM BAHDUR TAMANG. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sahl S/o Yogesh Kumar R/o A-21, sham nagar Vashni garden Delhi-110018 changed my name to Sahil Arora.

NAME CHANGE

I, Salm Ahmed Khan S/o saeed Ahmed Khan R/o. 917-gali chah shree farash khana farash khani Delhi-110006 changed my name to Riyansh Paridwaj.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD SHAHZAD FARUQUI S/o MD MANJU FARUQUI R/o 5888-6009 FIRST FLOOR BASTI HARPHOOL SINGH SADAR BAZAR DELHI 110006, have changed my name from MD SHAHZAD FARUQUI for all future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD MANIR FARUQUI S/o Abdul Halim R/o 5888-6009 FIRST FLOOR BASTI HARPHOOL SINGH SADAR BAZAR DELHI 110006, have changed my name from MD MANIR FARUQUI for all future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SADIAH KUMAR W/O Rajesh Kumar, HOUSE NO-580, BHIRAN PANA, LAPDUR, North West Delhi, Delhi-110084 have changed my name to Meenai for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Meenu D/o Dhanraj, R/o - 9 A, Gali no 2 Ramila Maidan Mukesh Nagar shahdara, North East Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name to Meenu for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Manesh Arora VIJAY KUMAR ARORA, R-2-E-34, FIRST FLOOR, 22-23-20, NEAR SHANKAR STORE, NILAI VIHAR, Nangli, P.O. Nangli, Dist- West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my name to Manish Arora for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, LALUO PRASAD VERMA Father of No-1571610X Rank-LNK Name-BRISHA KUMAR VERMA residing at 123, BALI KRIPALPUR, TARUN, FAIZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-224203, have changed my name to LALUO PRASAD for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/06/1963 instead of my correct date of birth as 09/11/1963 vide Affidavit dated 08/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, KRISHNA DEVI Mother of No-1571610X Rank-LNK Name-BRISHA KUMAR VERMA residing at 123, BALI KRIPALPUR, TARUN, FAIZABAD, UTTAR PRADESH-224203, have changed my name to KRISHNA DEVI to KRISHNA WATI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 04/07/1970 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1967 vide Affidavit dated 08/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAYA Wife of Rank-L/HAV Name-DASARE DIPAK RAMRAO Father of YASH Presently residing at VPO-SAKHAR KHERDA, TEH-SINDKHED RAJA, DIST-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443202, have changed my minor son's name from YASH to YASH DIPAK DASARE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAM RAO Father of Rank-L/HAV Name-DASARE DIPAK RAMRAO Presently residing at VPO-SAKHAR KHERDA, TEH-SINDKHED RAJA, DIST-BULDHANA, MAHARASHTRA-443202, have changed my name from RAM RAO to RAMRAO VITHOBADASARE for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 08/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAM RAO Se-4 Seat No-1, LAWYERS CHAMBER DWARKA COURT COMPLEX, NEW DELHI-110075, M.NO:-9958462082

NAME CHANGE

I, Rama S/o Ram Avtar Singh, R/o 4-1/20, Gali No-9, Dal Mill Road, Uttan Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Jagrati Vasit.

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NAME CHANGE

NEWS BOX

Afghan-Pak peace talks collapse after Islamabad's 'beyond capacity' demand

World. (Agency)

Peace talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan have collapsed, though a ceasefire between the two neighbours remains in place, the Taliban confirmed on Saturday. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said negotiations broke down because Islamabad demanded that Kabul take responsibility for Pakistan's internal security, a condition he described as beyond Afghanistan's "capacity." "The ceasefire that has been established has not been violated by us so far, and it will continue to be observed," Mujahid added.

Pakistani Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Friday said that the peace talks, held in Istanbul to prevent renewed border clashes, had failed. He noted that the ceasefire would continue as long as no attacks originated from Afghan territory. The collapse of talks came a day after Afghan and Pakistani troops exchanged fire along their shared border, coinciding with the resumption of negotiations in Istanbul.

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan met Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif in Baku on Saturday and expressed hope that the discussions would "yield results toward lasting stability." He reiterated Turkey's commitment to facilitating dialogue between the two sides, according to a statement from his office. Tensions between Afghanistan and Pakistan have escalated in recent months. Their militaries clashed last month, resulting in dozens of deaths, the worst violence since the Taliban took power in 2021.

Over 1,300 US flights cancelled as government-mandated flight cuts enter second day

World. (Agency)

Air travel chaos deepened across the United States on Saturday as airlines cancelled 1,330 flights on the second day of government-mandated flight cuts, while thousands more faced severe delays amid the ongoing federal shutdown. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has ordered airlines to reduce daily flights by 4 per cent at 40 major airports, citing safety concerns due to air traffic controller shortages. Staffing issues have worsened as controllers, unpaid for weeks, increasingly fail to report for duty.

Earlier on Friday, more than 1,200 flights were cancelled nationwide as part of efforts to ease pressure on the system. Major hubs including Atlanta, Denver, Newark, Chicago, Houston, and Los Angeles were among the worst affected.

By Saturday, delays were reported in at least 12 major US cities, with some passengers waiting for over five hours. The FAA warned that flight cuts could rise to 6 per cent on Tuesday and 10 per cent by November 14 if the shutdown continues.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy cautioned that reductions could climb even higher if absenteeism grows, saying the agency would "make decisions based on what we see in the airspace."

The disruption comes as the shutdown stretches into its 39th day, with about 13,000 air traffic controllers and 50,000 security screeners working without pay. Lawmakers remain locked in partisan gridlock, with Republicans and Democrats blaming each other for the funding impasse that has now grounded a key part of the nation's aviation system.

Canada deports 3 in gang extortion probe after attacks on Indian businesses, homes

World. (Agency)

The Canadian government has taken major action against gangs involved in extortion-related shootings. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has deported three foreign nationals accused of operating an extortion racket in the country. According to officials, the CBSA has also identified 78 other individuals suspected of involvement in similar criminal networks. Over the past few months, incidents of shootings outside the homes and businesses of businessmen have increased across Canada. Among the targets was popular comedian Kapil Sharma's Caf 2727 restaurant.

In response to the surge in such incidents, the British Columbia Extortion Task Force was formed. The recent deportations were carried out under this task force, which aims to curb the growing trend of extortion threats and violence against businesses, particularly within the South Asian community in the Lower Mainland.

In a statement, the Canada Border Services Agency said that the agency has initiated immigration investigations into 78 foreign nationals who may be inadmissible and has deported three individuals related to these investigations. The extortion task force consists of 40 members drawn from various policing agencies.

Meanwhile, sources have indicated that despite Canada designating the Lawrence Bishnoi gang as a "foreign terrorist organisation," its criminal activities have continued to rise. In areas such as Brampton in Ontario, home to a large Indian diaspora, the gangs led by Lawrence Bishnoi, Goldy Brar, and Rohit Godara have seen a spike in violent crimes and extortion attempts. Recently, Indian-origin businessman Darshan Singh Sasi was shot dead in Abbotsford, British Columbia. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang later claimed responsibility for the killing.

Hafiz Saeed opens new front against India, sends close aide to Bangladesh

Lashkar chief Hafiz Saeed is reportedly expanding the group's terror network through Bangladesh by sending his associates to train and radicalise local youth, a senior terror commander claimed during a public speech.

World. (Agency)

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LET) chief Hafiz Saeed is planning to open a new front of terror against India through Bangladesh and has sent one of his close associates to the country, according to a top Lashkar commander who disclosed the development during a recent public rally.

According to sources, Hafiz Saeed has dispatched one of his associates to Bangladesh, where he is reportedly inciting

local youth in the name of jihad and providing them with terror training. Addressing a rally in Pakistan's Khairpur Tamewali on October 30, Lashkar commander Saifullah Saif openly called for jihad against India, declaring, "Our people are active in East Pakistan (Bangladesh) and are ready to respond to India".

Allama Ibtisam Elahi Zaheer went to Bangladesh. He spoke of Kashmir, that Bengal (Bangladesh), which was snatched from us, which Indira Gandhi had said that 'we have drowned the two-nation theory in the Bay of Bengal'. Today, by the grace of Allah, that son of a lion, that orator, Allama Ibtisam Elahi Zaheer, is roaring like a father, like a lion, inside Bangladesh," he said.

The Lashkar commander added, "He is talking about Kashmir and Palestine. India is worried and distressed by this. They say,

"Hafiz Saeed's right-hand man has gone to Bangladesh. Now, from Bangladesh, they will come into India."

In a video of the speech obtained by India



Today, the terror leader is seen urging people to wage war against India, with visuals showing even children among the audience.

Saif also made an apparent reference to Operation Sindoos -- India's counter-terror

action following the Pahalgam terror attack -- claiming it as a victory for the Pakistan Army.

"If you have learnt the lesson of jihad, when you entered the field on the night of May 10, Allah made you a superpower in the world. India was attacking you, America was with them, all this was happening. Today, they have all sat down. Allah has established you in the world," he said.

Hafiz Saeed and his Lashkar-e-Taiba are considered the masterminds of several major terror attacks in India, including the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks and the 2001 Parliament attack. Saeed, who is currently serving a 78-year prison term in Pakistan, allegedly continues to operate from behind bars and enjoys the patronage of Pakistan's political and military establishment, despite being an internationally designated terrorist.

After Kalmaegi, Philippines braces for super typhoon Fung-wong, evacuates people

World. (Agency)

The Philippines evacuated over 100,000 residents across its eastern and northern regions as Fung-wong intensified on Sunday into a super typhoon ahead of its expected arrival later in the day, threatening to unleash torrential rains, destructive winds, and storm surges. Storm alert signals have been hoisted across large parts of the Philippines, with Signal No. 5, the highest warning, raised over southeastern Luzon, including Catanduanes and coastal areas of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur, while Metro Manila and surrounding areas are under Signal No. 3.

Packing sustained winds of 185 kph (115 mph) and gusts of up to 230 kph, Super Typhoon Fung-wong, locally known as Uwan, is forecast to make landfall in Aurora province in central Luzon Sunday night at the

earliest. Parts of Eastern Visayas were already experiencing power outages. Some images shared by the Philippine Coast Guard in Camarines Sur showed evacuees carrying bags and personal belongings as they



transferred from long, narrow passenger boats to waiting trucks during preemptive evacuation operations.

300 FLIGHTS CANCELLED
More than 300 domestic and international flights have been

cancelled, according to the civil aviation regulator.

A video shared by ABS-CBN News on X showed stormy conditions in Catanduanes province, with an overcast sky, tree branches swaying violently in the wind, and strong rain visibly falling and pounding the area, its intensity audible.

Fung-wong approached the Philippines just days after the country was battered by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which killed 204 people and left a trail of destruction before slamming into Vietnam, where it claimed five more lives and devastated coastal communities. In the fishing village of Vung Cheo in central Vietnam, fishing vessels were seen piled up in wrecks along the main road on Saturday, where hundreds of lobster farms had been washed away or damaged.

Man opens fire at immigration officers in Chicago amid raid, says US government

World. (Agency)

A man in Chicago opened fire on US Border Patrol agents during an immigration enforcement operation on Saturday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said.

However, the Chicago Police Department denied that anyone was injured in the incident. According to DHS, the suspect, who was driving a black Jeep, managed to flee the scene and remains at large. Chicago police said officers responded to reports of shots being fired and secured the area. "There are no reports of anyone struck by gunfire," the department said in a statement.

The shooting reportedly occurred in the Little Village neighbourhood during protests against ongoing immigration

raids by federal agents. A Reuters witness saw police detaining a man after an argument with residents following one such raid.

DHS said "agitators" threw a paint can



and bricks at Border Patrol vehicles during Saturday's operations. "Over the past two months, we've seen an increase in assaults and obstruction targeting federal law enforcement,"

the agency said in a statement posted on X. Raids have taken place across Chicago and nearby suburbs, including one at a daycare centre earlier this week. The operations have sparked protests and, in some cases, violent confrontations.

On Friday, more than a dozen suburban Chicago mothers were arrested outside an immigration detention facility in Broadview, a suburb west of Chicago that has become a flashpoint for anger over Trump's "Operation Midway Blitz." The immigration crackdown in Chicago began in September with the stated goal of targeting dangerous criminals

living in the US illegally. DHS said the operation has led to more than 3,000 arrests, including US citizens and people with no criminal history.

Syrian President arrives in US for historic visit, set to meet Trump

World. (Agency)

Syria's President Ahmed al-Sharaa arrived in the United States on Saturday for a historic official visit, the first by a Syrian president since the country's independence in 1946, according to analysts. His visit comes just a day after Washington removed him from a terrorism blacklist. Sharaa, whose rebel forces overthrew longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad last year, is scheduled to meet US President Donald Trump at the White House on Monday.

He earlier met Trump in Riyadh during the US president's regional tour in May. US envoy to Syria Tom Barrack has expressed hope that Sharaa will sign an agreement to join the US-led coalition against the Islamic State (IS).

A diplomatic source in Syria revealed that the US plans to establish a military base near Damascus "to coordinate humanitarian aid and observe developments between Syria and Israel." State Department spokesperson Tommy Pigott confirmed that Sharaa was removed from the blacklist after his government met US requirements, including efforts to locate missing Americans and dismantle remaining chemical weapons.

Sharaa's Washington trip follows his September visit to the United Nations, where he became the first Syrian president in decades to address the UN General Assembly. That visit was preceded by the UN Security Council removing sanctions against him, while his former group, Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) — previously linked to Al-Qaeda — was delisted as a terrorist organization by the US in July. Since taking power, Sharaa and Syria's new leadership have sought to distance themselves from their militant past and present a more moderate image to both Syrians and the international community.

Michael Hanna, director of the International Crisis Group's US program, described the White House visit as a symbolic step in Sharaa's transformation from militant leader to global statesman. During the visit, Sharaa is expected to seek international funds to aid Syria's recovery, which the World Bank estimates could cost around USD 216 billion following 13 years of civil war.

Pigott described the delisting as recognition of the progress Syria's leadership has made following decades of repression under Assad. He added that it would support regional security and a "Syrian-led and Syrian-owned political process."

'Do you know about Mamdani?' Masked US immigration agents grill Indian-origin man

World. (Agency)

An Indian-origin Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) employee was questioned by three masked agents about his immigration status while working on a construction project in the US state and also asked whether he was aware of the new mayor of New York, Zohran Mamdani. The incident has drawn criticism from state officials and has raised concerns about the targeting of US citizens based on race or ethnicity.

The individual questioned is an Indian-American and a US citizen, and was performing his duties on the Busse Highway resurfacing project when agents approached and questioned him about his background and connections to New York, The Chicago Sun Times reported. This encounter occurred amid heightened scrutiny of immigration enforcement activities in the Chicago area.

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker addressed the incident publicly, calling it part of a

broader pattern of what he described as racial profiling by federal officials. He said that President Trump and Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem were "continuing to question US citizens apparently based on the colour of their skin." "I am appalled they would stop and question a state employee working hard on the job to help improve our state's roads and infrastructure," Pritzker further expressed his outrage in a statement, emphasising the rights of state employees to perform their work free from harassment.

He added, "Our state employees should be able to go to work and do their jobs without masked agents targeting them for no legitimate reason". The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) responded on Saturday, denying that the agents involved were from US

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or US Customs and Border Protection (CBP). The governor's office did not provide additional details



regarding the agents' identities or authority. Reports of the incident caused concern in the local community, with students and teachers in Park Ridge-Niles School

District 64 instructed to remain inside their buildings on Friday. The district superintendent, Ben Collins, said that "he was aware of reports regarding ICE agents in Park Ridge neighbourhoods near some of the district's schools."

These events unfolded during a week of increased federal immigration activity in the Chicago metropolitan area. Federal judges in Chicago recently set new restrictions on conditions at the Broadview immigration facility and on DHS use-of-force policies.

On Thursday, federal immigration agents reportedly led a caravan through Chicago's Southwest Side, making multiple stops to question residents about their immigration status. The operation was headed by US Border Patrol Commander-at-Large Gregory Bovino.

NEWS BOX

Counter sought on plea to regulate darshan in Tiruchendur Murugan temple

MADRASI. (Agency)

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court on Friday directed the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR&CE) department to file counter-affidavit on a PIL seeking direction to streamline darshan and other facilities in Tiruchendur Subramanya Swamy temple.

The litigant, B Rajesh, an advocate from Chennai, stated in the petition that, due to improper crowd management, devotees visiting the above temple are forced to wait 5 to 7 hours in a queue for darshan. The arrangements made for the smooth darshan of senior citizens and persons with disabilities (PwD) are also inadequate. Parents who come with infants are also put to untold hardships due to poor services, he alleged, and basic facilities like drinking water, toilets, and resting areas are also insufficient. To alleviate these problems, devotees submitted a representation to the temple authorities on August 7, suggesting several measures, such as an online darshan booking system, exclusive access for senior citizens and PwD, and a colour-coded darshan token system for different types of darshan, among others. However, there has been no proper action on the same, he claimed, and sought the court's intervention.

Hearing the case on Friday, the counsel representing the HR&CE department stated that several measures have been undertaken to regulate darshan and other services. Hearing this, a bench of justices, Anita Sumanth and C Kumarappan, directed the department to file a counter affidavit and adjourned the case to December 9.

Door-to-door pre-census drill in Karnataka

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Ahead of the much-awaited national census 2027, the Directorate of Census Operations, Karnataka region, will conduct a door-to-door pre-census trial drill on November 10.

It will be conducted in three select locations to ascertain what needs to be improvised for Census 2027. The three locations include 46 villages of Supa, Joida taluk in Uttara Kannada district, 27 villages of Gundlupet taluk in Chamarajanagar district, and JP ward in Bengaluru North City Corporation. Census 2027 will be held in two stages. The first will be from April to September 2026, with a 30-day window in which each state government has been given the option to choose their dates. The second stage will be from February to March 2027. The census exercise is being organised by the Directorate of Census Operations/Citizen Registration, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. A trial is being conducted as it is for the first time the census is being done with a combination of physical and digital assessment. It is also the first time a self-enumeration method has been introduced.

A trial was done from November 1-7, 2025, where around 1,100 households from select locations participated in the exercise.

Explaining the exercise, Aswini Kumar, Deputy Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Karnataka region, told The New Sunday Express that in 2010, the census was done physically.

Nuapada in spotlight: A forgotten district basks in by-election glow

NUAPADA. (Agency)

For a district that often makes headlines for migration and neglect, Nuapada is suddenly at the centre of Odisha's throbbing political map. After more than two decades, a by-election has turned this quiet border district into a buzzing hotspot of politicians. Over the past week, locals have watched the chief minister's convoy twice, the former chief minister's as many times and a steady stream of white SUVs crisscrossing the roads amid campaign music blaring through loudspeakers. For the people here, this is more than just a bypoll. It is their rare moment of fame.

Nuapada finds itself at the peak of this political excitement due to the death of sitting MLA Rajendra Dholakia on September 8. A four-time legislator and former minister, Rajendra's death left a void in the BJD, triggering a political contest that soon grew larger than the seat itself.

For the ruling BJP, it became an opportunity to add another constituency to its tally and prove its 16-month governance record; for BJD, it was a mission to retain its bastion and for Congress, a test of relevance in a district where it once had deep roots.

Even before candidates began filing nominations, the ripple effects were felt in the local economy. All four hotels in Nuapada and Khariar Road were booked within hours by BJD and BJP. At the only Khariar Road hotel, rooms were first split between the two political parties. But when Rajendra's son Jay Dholakia switched camps, the entire hotel turned saffron overnight.

Houses that struggled to find tenants are now packed with party leaders and campaign workers. The boom has spread across a 60-70 km radius, even into nearby districts besides towns in Chhattisgarh. Prices of groceries and vegetables have soared, and local shops are doing brisk business, thanks to the influx of politicians. For residents, the by-election has brought back a kind of energy they last saw in 1997. In a town that usually shuts down by 9 pm, hotels now buzz past midnight. These hotels have become the only places where party workers of all affiliations, journalists, and locals sit together to eat and talk.

Kerala's first Catholic nun Mother Eliswa beatified

KOCHI. (Agency)

In a realisation of the prayers of the sisters of the Congregation of the Teresian Carmelites and the hopes of the residents of Ochanthuruth, thousands of faithful gathered on Saturday at the Vallarpadam Basilica to witness the beatification of Mother Eliswa, the first nun of the Catholic Church in Kerala.

Cardinal Sebastian Francis, special representative of Pope Leo XIV and bishop of Penang, Malaysia, officially proclaimed Mother Eliswa as blessed. The cardinal read out the declaration issued by the pontiff in Latin. In his entreaty, the metropolitan of Verapoly archdiocese, Joseph Kalathiparambil, said, "Mother Eliswa's holy, courageous, and unwavering life of faith and love will be an inspiration to many."

Speaking after the proclamation, Cardinal Sebastian said, "So today, with immense joy and gratitude, we rejoice to witness this historic moment for the global Carmelite family, for the archdiocese of Verapoly, for the church of Kerala, for India, for Asia, and for the universal church. We rejoice with all the consecrated women, all mothers, and all those who suffer in silence and still choose to love. Her tomb at Varapuzha, which I too had the privilege to visit two days ago, has become a place of pilgrimage, where people of all backgrounds come to seek her intercession. And now, she intercedes for us

from heaven as Blessed Eliswa, a beacon of hope, a spiritual mother, and a saint for our times." Earlier, processions carrying the portrait, logo, and deepashika (torch) arrived at the National Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Ransom from Koonammavu, Varapuzha, and Ochanthuruth. Priests accompanied bishops



to the altar as songs in praise of Mother Eliswa were sung.

The bells of the church were rung as the cardinal announced the beatification. Cardinal Dr Oswald Gracias unveiled the image of Blessed Mother Eliswa. And, her relics were placed on the altar. Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India, spoke at the ceremony. Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) president Archbishop Andrews Thazhath released the novena. Union minister George Kurian, state's special officer in Delhi K V Thomas,

Kochi mayor M Anilkumar and MLAs T J Vinod, K J Maxy, and Anwar Sadath attended the ceremony.

Eliswa was declared a servant of God in March 2008 and was proclaimed venerable in November 2023. On April 14, 2025, Pope Francis approved a miracle attributed to the intercession of Mother Eliswa.

Born on October 15, 1831, Eliswa was the first of eight children of Thomman and Thanda, of the Vyppissery Capithan family of Ochanthuruth. She was the founder of the Third Order of the Discalced Carmelites, which later divided into the Congregation of Teresian Carmelites and the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel. Mother Eliswa established the first special school for women in Kerala.

'Blessed' journey

1831 Born to Thomman and Thanda at Ochanthuruth

1847 Married to Vatharu Vakayil of Koonammavu

1850 Blessed with a daughter, Anna

1851 Widowed

1862 Shares the divine call to consecrated life with Fr Leopold Beccaro

1866 Establishes the Third Order of the Discalced Carmelite Congregation

1913 Passes away

2008 Declared Servant of God

2023 Proclaimed Venerable

2025 April Miracle attributed to her intercession approved by Pope Francis

Tiger captured after month-long fear in Karnataka's Sargur

MYSURU. (Agency)

Ending weeks of fear and tension in the forest-fringe villages of Sargur taluk, forest authorities on Saturday night captured an aged male tiger suspected to be behind a series of fatal attacks on people and livestock.

Forest Minister Eshwar B Khandre confirmed the capture, stating that the tiger is believed to be responsible for the deaths of three people in separate incidents reported from the Hediya, Moleyur, and Nugu forest ranges over the past month. The operation was jointly carried out by personnel from Bandipur and Nagarhole Tiger Reserves, who had been combing the area following multiple reports of human-wildlife conflict.

However, the Minister has ordered that DNA profiling be carried out to conclusively establish whether the captured animal was indeed the man-eater responsible for the recent deaths.

"The post-mortem reports of the victims and the tiger's DNA must be cross-verified to confirm its involvement," Khandre said.

Preliminary examination by veterinarians revealed that the captured tiger is around 12 to 13 years old, with severely worn-down teeth, a likely reason for its inability to hunt wild prey. This may have driven it to venture into human habitations in search of easier food sources, resulting in attacks on people and cattle.

The Minister directed senior officials from the Mysuru Wildlife Division and Project Tiger to continue monitoring vulnerable areas and to remain stationed in the region until the situation stabilises. He also instructed them to assess whether any other tigers might be involved in the attacks.

Meanwhile, precautionary measures have been strengthened in villages where tiger sightings have been frequent. Dedicated night-patrol teams, including forest staff and members of the Rapid Response Team (RRT), are conducting round-the-clock surveillance. Public address systems are being used to warn villagers whenever tiger movement is detected.

TN omni bus services to Kerala suspended

CHENNAI/COIMBATORE. (Agency)

The All Omni Bus Owners Association announced that they will not be operating any services to Kerala from Saturday 8 pm. The move followed the detention of around 30 buses by the Kerala Transport Department and imposition of hefty fines for alleged permit violations.

The association, in a release said, the services will not be resumed until the issue is resolved. It urged the Tamil Nadu government to immediately intervene and resolve the issue amicably. According to the statement, the Kerala Transport Department imposed fines ranging from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh per bus on Friday, resulting in hardship to the passengers and operators.

The association said the suspension of services is likely to affect large number of people, particularly the devotees of Lord Ayyappa travelling to Sabarimala in the coming weeks.



In this regard, around 15 TN omni buses en route to Kerala (that departed on Friday night) were stopped before Walayar on the Salem-Kochi highway in Coimbatore on Saturday morning. The passengers, opposing the drivers' sudden decision to suspend services, demanded that they either refund the ticket fare or drop them at their destinations. Following an hour of heated arguments with

the passengers, the drivers resumed operating the buses towards Kerala from Walayar around 7.30 am. Walayar is located on the TN-Kerala border.

Before that, the passengers told reporters that when they boarded the buses, the drivers had not informed them that they would not enter Kerala. They pointed out that except for a few buses registered in Nagaland, all other buses proceeded to Kerala along this route. All Omni Bus Owners and Operators Association founder A Pandiyan told that buses with an all-India permit pay a road tax of Rs 90,000 to the central government every three months and the centre gives this amount to the respective states. "Besides, we pay road tax to the TN government based on the number of seats, and no other tax is required," he said. As Kerala imposed taxes on TN buses citing lack of permits, they have stopped operating services to Kerala, he added.

Three youths killed, three injured as car overturns in Kerala's Palakkad

PALAKKAD. (Agency)

Three young men were killed and three others were seriously injured after their car lost control and overturned near Kallingal junction on Chittur Road late Saturday night. The accident occurred around 11 pm when a wild boar suddenly darted onto the road. The victims have been identified as Rohan (24), son of Ranjith from Nooradji Road, Rohan Santhosh (22), son of Santhosh from Noorani, and Sanoosh (19), son of Santhakumar from Yakkara.

All three died on the spot. The injured — Adithyan (23) of Chandranagar, Rishi (24) of Yakkara, and Jithin (21) of Nemara — have been admitted to the district hospital.

According to police, the group of six friends was returning to Palakkad from Chittur when the wild boar ran across the road. In an attempt to avoid hitting the animal, the driver swerved sharply, causing the car to

lose control. The vehicle first crashed into a roadside milestone and a tree before plunging into a paddy field below. The impact was so severe that the car was completely destroyed, and a large section of the tree was sheared off.

Four of the passengers were seated at the back and two in the front. Rescue teams reported that one of the rear-seat passengers was thrown out of the vehicle. Fire and Rescue personnel, along with police and local residents, used cutting equipment to break open the mangled car and pull out the trapped victims. The two passengers in the front seat and one in the rear survived the crash.

All six were close friends who regularly met in Palakkad on weekends for outings. Sanoosh was a student, while the others were either studying or employed outside the district.

NFSF oppose Blue Economy model of development, say it will threaten livelihoods of fishers

VISAKHAPATNAM. (Agency)

The National Federation of Small-Scale Fishworkers (NFSF) has opposed the government's Blue Economy model, saying it threatens the livelihoods and traditional rights of small-scale fishing communities across India.

In a statement, NFSF President Pradip Chatterjee, General Secretary Sebastiao Rodrigues, and Joint Secretary D Pal said the Blue Economy framework effectively transfers ecological resources to corporate entities under the guise of development. They alleged that projects such as new ports, logistics corridors, real estate ventures, tourism zones, and industrial infrastructure are severely impacting coastal ecosystems and displacing traditional fishing communities.

The federation criticised the India Maritime Week 2025 conclave, describing it as a declaration of the invasion and occupation of India's coastline.

It said that behind the narrative of national development and global ambitions lies the exclusion of fishing communities from decision-making processes and the gradual erosion of their livelihoods.

According to NFSF, even after 78 years of independence, small-scale fishing communities have not been granted legal rights over the resources that sustain them, such as coastal lands, water bodies, rivers, wetlands, and fish stocks. This lack of recognition, the federation noted, has enabled the large-scale transfer of these resources to private corporations

with state backing. The organisation also raised concerns about the promotion of mechanised and capital-intensive fishing, which it said is depleting marine resources.

Pollution, encroachment, and diversion of water for industrial use have further degraded inland and marine ecosystems. Industrial aquaculture, particularly intensive shrimp farming, was identified as a major threat to coastal ecology, groundwater, and public health.

NFSF said climate change is devastating small-scale fishers, causing loss of livelihoods, equipment, and habitat. It noted women suffer from the collapse of fish-drying activities. The federation urged protection of water bodies, recognition of fishers' rights, a ban.

Nagulapalli village in Andhra nurtures teaching legacy

KAKINADA. (Agency)

In the heart of U Kothapalli mandal, nestled within Kakinada district, lies Nagulapalli—a village quietly shaping the future of education in Andhra Pradesh. With a population of around 12,000, this Panchayat has earned a reputation for producing teachers who serve across government and private institutions, inspiring young generations with their lifelong commitment to learning.

Over 133 government teachers trace their roots to the village's Zilla Parishad High School and MPP schools, where they once sat as students and now stand as mentors. Many alumni have gone on to teach in private colleges and schools, while several have returned to serve in their alma mater, nurturing next wave of educators.

Among them are Abbireddy Apparao Reddy, Satish Reddy, Maneppalli Kondababu, Thadala Nanibabu, Chintapalli Durga Reddy, Ramavenkata Sankara Reddy, K Chiranjeevi Reddy, and Yarakam Rama Reddy—now headmasters and teachers in Nagulapalli's schools. Nagulapalli's

emphasis on education is evident in its infrastructure, which includes two high schools and four primary schools serving over 380 students from Nagulapalli, Isukapalli, and Thoturu villages. The schools boast of spacious playgrounds and a welcoming atmosphere, where students greet visitors.

Since 1983, the village has embraced education as a pathway to public service. Long before government mandates, elders introduced school uniform and distributed textbooks, laying the foundation for a culture of academic discipline. This vision culminated in the formation of the Nagulapalli Employees Welfare Society



(NEWS) in 2002, starting with 30 members and now boasting of 176 government employees—150 of them teachers.

Under the leadership of President P Satya Mohan Reddy and Secretary B Ramakrishna, NEWS has encouraged women to pursue employment since 2003. In the recent DSC-2025 recruitment, the village celebrated the selection of four Secondary Grade Teachers and four School Assistants.

Between 2008 and 2012, NEWS organised free DSC coaching for candidates, with 15–20 educators volunteering their time. Though the initiative paused due to logistics challenges, local leaders are now reviving it with enthusiastic support from the teaching community. Penumalla Apparao, headmaster at Gollaprolu School and a native of Nagulapalli, recalls the early efforts of NEWS. "The society helps the new generation get teacher posts and government employment. Since our childhood, the village has encouraged children to work hard and settle in life successfully," he told.

The WTO is dead, long live the WTO

It was a clear and balmy morning when I arrived in Geneva as ambassador to the World Trade Organization. I was ushered into the VIP lounge. Ambassadors visiting Geneva as representatives of their countries at any of the missions there have the privilege of using this lounge twice: once upon arrival and once before departure. I had been working in Brussels for the previous three years as deputy chief of the Indian embassy. The gloom and incessant rain of Brussels had worn us out considerably, and it was great to see clear blue skies, the magnificent Lake Geneva, and the snow-clad Alpine mountains in the distance. My work was not easy. The counsellor in my mission, Mohan Kumar, who distinguished himself later in many key assignments in the foreign service, came to me and said that our reputation was at its nadir. This followed the single-handed crusade by former minister Murasoli Maran at the previous ministerial conference in Doha in 2001 against the introduction of new issues such as investment and competition policy into the WTO's work programme, making them subject to its powerful and rigid dispute settlement mechanism. My first task was, therefore, to re-establish friendly links with other ambassadors, which I achieved by visiting more than 40 of them and getting on first-name terms with all. While this is not the place to describe all that transpired over the next three years, I thoroughly enjoyed my stay, loved being part of the core negotiations, and attended meetings where I pitted myself against some of the finest diplomats worldwide. I am, therefore, sad to see the current status of the WTO, where it barely survives, with all its carefully crafted and negotiated trade rules in tatters, leaving global trade itself in a disarray. Trade is an essential component of global growth. As William J Bernstein puts it in his bestselling book, *A Splendid Exchange: How Trade Shaped The World*, "World Trade has yielded not only a bounty of material goods, but also of intellectual and cultural capital, an understanding of our neighbours, and a desire to sell things to others rather than annihilate them." Trump would probably disagree with Bernstein. He cast the first stone to break away from a well-established multilateral system of trade rules by arbitrarily raising tariffs on steel and aluminium in his first term. He struck an even more brutal blow later by rendering the WTO dispute settlement mechanism dysfunctional by disagreeing on the appointment of members to the appellate body. Any ruling from the dispute settlement panel cannot therefore be taken up on appeal, breaking the legal chain. This meant that even if a member country broke multilaterally-agreed trade rules, the affected country could not impose retaliatory tariffs. Back in 2018, Trump expressed his resentment towards the WTO, claiming that the WTO was set up "to benefit everybody but us", adding: "We lose the lawsuits, almost all of the lawsuits in the WTO." In his second term, he has virtually dismantled the WTO, although he recently paid a part of the amounts due to the organisation. He imposed a set of tariffs based on his perception of unfair treatment of the US. Not only did he impose high tariffs on many countries, but he also exercised his right to change them whimsically, at times based on extraneous factors such as his belief that an ally in Brazil, former President Jair Bolsonaro, was not being treated fairly by the judiciary, or that Indian companies were buying oil from Russia. He decided to flex his muscles against China and imposed a succession of increasing tariffs. He denied that the tariffs signalled a trade war, stating that the "trade war was lost many years ago by the foolish or incompetent people who represented the US".

In contrast, China, South Korea, Japan, and Taiwan seem to

India's digital ecosystem thrives on American technology. From search engines and social media platforms to business applications and cloud infrastructure, our reliance on US technology runs deep, which is why the very thought of a potential US tech blackout has sparked a flurry of reactions this week. Industrialist Harsh Goenka's observations about the impact of a political crisis between India and the US might have on the tech industry if Donald Trump decides to ban US apps in India incited an opinion mob that insisted a blackout was unimaginable, though not entirely impossible. Homegrown tech firm Zoho and its founder Sridhar Vembu weighed in, too, suggesting a 10-year National Mission for Tech Resilience for self-reliance. India is the largest consumer market for US tech firms outside of China, and a potential ban would be as good as shooting themselves in the foot. That said, geopolitics can trump economics with Trump unabashedly using trade as leverage. If technology also becomes a weapon, India cannot escape without serious damage.

have put in safeguards long before the global tensions escalated. In China, domestic platforms like WeChat,

Sadda beta' Zohran has pushed the envelope

THE GREAT GAME: For a few tremulous hours, one half of India recognised itself in his victory



New York voted in Mamdani.)

Naturally, not one member of Modi's government has welcomed or congratulated Mamdani on his victory. On the day New York went to vote, BJP Rajya Sabha MP Rekha Sharma, former chairperson of the National Commission for Women, articulated the right-wing sentiment on X. "For this one I am with Mr Trump. People of Indian origin when you vote think twice. An Indian mother doesn't make Mr Mamdani a well-wisher of India." It would be interesting to know how the pro-Modi Indian diaspora in New York voted—all those who gatecrash the PM's public appearances, were they for or against Mamdani? If they voted in favour, what does this do to the Modi government's diaspora policy with which it has been so intimately connected for decades?

For the first time in a long time, a powerful American of Indian origin so clearly represents the social-political cleavage back home. From domestic politics to foreign policy, Zohran's victory is also emblematic of the disappearing idea of compromise that defined India's decades in the aftermath of Partition—when you kept your own beliefs but also participated in someone else's

joy, even if you didn't much care for that someone. That's why the Indian media's momentary celebration of Mamdani is significant. For a few hours, the back-to-back coverage of the Bihar elections and the debate over Panjab University's overhaul gave way to Dhoon Machale, the Bollywood song, some say, that is inspired by an Indonesian pop number—the perfect example of a khichri in filmi music, a little bit of this and a little bit of that. It is this idea of a khichri, when you throw everything into a melting pot and something that is more than dal and more than rice emerges to tickle your taste buds that joins New York with India—both spaces are defined by the art of ferment. *Sadda beta'* Zohran has pushed the envelope back home in New York—at 34, he doesn't understand the meaning of fear. Here in Chandigarh, as this newspaper goes to bed, the news that Panjab University students have forced the Centre to withdraw its move to change the functioning of their University, echoes that absence of fear. Move over, the young are saying. We are changing the old order, making it give way to the new. Democratic Socialist or simply democratic, our time has come.

Build Indian apps to reduce reliance on foreign tech

Evidence suggests that a significant share of these crimes is orchestrated from across the border and the money laundered through organised financial networks



have put in safeguards long before the global tensions escalated. In China, domestic platforms like WeChat,

Baidu, and Alibaba dominate the tech scene. Likewise, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan have homegrown super apps like Line and KakaoTalk, overriding Facebook, X, and WhatsApp in adoption. Line is used by more than 70 percent of Japanese mobile users, with a higher share in Taiwan, which also has a domestic champion, Dcard. India took baby steps with Koo, an alternative for X, but could not match it in performance. Zoho is leading the product innovation curve with various messaging and workspace applications like Mail, Sheet, Arattai and Vani; even though some ministers have endorsed them, they are yet to see mass adoption. There are no immediate threats, and chances are that American tech may never be weaponised. However, the fact remains that our lack of digital sovereignty remains a structural vulnerability. As can be seen from the ongoing global trade war, countries with excessive external dependence risk losing out when elements of trade are weaponised to assert world dominance. India needs to build its own digital ecosystem to shield itself from geopolitical fallout.

Pave road beyond COP30 with dollars, data and devotion

After starts & stops at previous COPs, the Brazil summit needs to agree on mobilising adequate funds. It must also place communities at the heart of adaptation and reward regeneration of ecosystems

As the world turns its eyes to Brazil for the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) next week, negotiators are preparing to track progress on the global goal on adaptation under the Paris Agreement. At its core, adaptation is about helping societies and ecosystems cope with—and ultimately thrive amid—the climate impacts that are already here, strengthening defences against floods, droughts, and heat, securing water and food, and protecting lives and livelihoods. But adaptation is more than infrastructure or indicators. It is about restoring the human relationship with nature that makes us care in the first place. After all, we care for what we love, and we love what we feel connected to.

In his 1997 book, *Survival Strategies: Cooperation and Conflict in Animal Societies*, Raghavendra Gadakar asks whether collective good can ever triumph over self-interest. Evolution rewards both cooperation and competition, but only when the balance is right. In the animal world, if individuals act solely for themselves, the group weakens; if the group thrives, individuals prosper too. That is precisely where humanity stands today on climate change. Every country and every person is trying to protect their own short-term interest to grow faster, consume more, and live comfortably while the planet's balance frays. When Earth suffers, every country eventually loses. Adaptation, then, is not charity for the vulnerable; it is survival for all.

Ecological balance is restored only when people truly recognise their dependence on nature. Forests, rivers and land are not just resources but partners in survival. This understanding once

guided the rhythms of everyday life. Food and festivals followed the seasons: mangoes in summer, sarso ka saag in winter, turmeric and palash marking harvests; Pongal, Onam and Bihu celebrating nature and renewal. These quiet acts of reverence built an ethic of respect and restraint that no regulation can enforce.

Today, that bond, surrounded by concrete and screens, is eroding. We speak of forests as 'carbon sinks' and wetlands as 'ecosystem services', forgetting that they are living and breathing homes. Children, especially in cities, can explain global warming but not name the trees on their street. Nature has become a subject to study, not a space to belong to, making it hard to care for something that we have never truly experienced. Why COP30 matters It is now clear that the world is heading towards exceeding the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to 1.5°C by the end of this century. The poorest and most vulnerable communities, who contribute the least to the crisis, would be the hardest hit. This makes adaptation not just a local necessity, but a test of global responsibility and solidarity. A strong collective response to their needs is a matter of climate justice and a legitimate expectation from COP30. Research by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water shows that over 80 percent of India's population lives in districts highly vulnerable to extreme climate events such as floods, droughts, and cyclones—underscoring why adaptation must be viewed as development itself. Past conferences have offered the world hope. COP26 in Glasgow urged for doubling the finance for adaptation and resilience. COP27 in

Sharm el-Sheikh created the Fund for Loss and Damage, a long-standing demand of the developing countries. However, despite these noble intentions, concrete finance commitments



remain meagre and elusive. Less than a third of climate finance currently reaches adaptation. The rest remains mired in bureaucracy and unfulfilled pledges. COP30, hosted near the world's largest rainforest, must correct the course. It should not just agree on frameworks or metrics for the global goal on adaptation. It must deliver tangible progress on adaptation finance, particularly to communities restoring ecosystems, and livelihoods on the frontlines of climate risk. Adaptation finance should be reframed as investment in resilience supporting those who protect and conserve our natural resources and keep our traditional knowledge alive. The much anticipated 'Baku to Belém Roadmap' for mobilising \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 must not unveil mere possibilities. It should build pathways

that place communities at the heart of adaptation and reward actions that regenerate ecosystems.

When trees are cut in the Amazon it weakens the monsoons in Asia. When adaptation becomes participatory and local knowledge meets modern science, it multiplies impact. For instance, India's climate missions and state action plans increasingly combine traditional wisdom with new technologies, from rainwater harvesting and mangrove restoration to resilient housing and micro-insurance. COP30 can learn from such models that value both data and devotion.

This philosophy resonates deeply with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), India's call for climate action rooted in mindful consumption and coexistence. It reminds us that individual choices, multiplied across billions, can reshape collective outcomes. Mission LiFE is a modern expression of India's ancient ethos: that progress and balance with nature are not contradictions, but complements. Equally vital is the role of the youth. YOUNGO, the official youth constituency at the climate conference, is infusing urgency and sensitivity into negotiations. Across countries, young people are demanding that adaptation be more than infrastructure: it must be imagination: of greener cities, restored rivers, and shared futures. They understand instinctively that resilience is as much about relationships as resources.

The lesson is clear. The good of the individual and the good of the collective are not in conflict; they depend on each other. Caring for the planet is not an act of altruism.

NEWS BOX

Viral video by Gopalpattinam schoolgirls over leaking classrooms prompts official action

PUDUKKOTTAI (Agency)

Taking their miseries from slushy pathways and leaking classrooms during rainy days to the attention of the public, a group of girl students of the government higher secondary school at Gopalpattinam in the district on Friday shared a video online, which has since been shared widely and has prompted official action. In their video highlighting the plight at their 13-year-old school, where more than 300 students are pursuing Classes 6 to 12 in around 10 classrooms, one of the girls said, "We struggle to even reach school when it rains. The classrooms leak and we don't even have proper toilets. We just want basic facilities."

We would be forced to stage a protest were the premises not cleaned and restored by Monday, the group said. Following the video, district education officials said they have sought a detailed report from local authorities and would mobilise funds from donors to build a proper pathway to the school.

A Rs 50-lakh proposal for constructing new buildings will also be sent to the district administration and the school education department. In the meantime, the students would be shifted to safer classrooms and similar temporary measures would be taken until permanent repairs are made, they added.

Salem double murder: Ayyanar's aide arrested

SALEM (Agency)

One more person has been arrested over links to the brutal murder of two elderly women of Edaganasalai in Sangagiri taluk early this month.

K Boopathy (52) was taken into custody on Saturday for allegedly assisting in the murders of Paavai (70) and Periyammal (75) and helping the main accused, C Ayyanar, to dispose of their bodies. Ayyanar was caught by police near Orukkamalai in Sangagiri taluk during the early hours of Friday. He was shot in the leg during his capture.

Ayyanar, a 55-year-old man from Kamalapuram in Omalur, was arrested by a special police team from Magudanchavadi following a tip-off. When confronted, he allegedly attacked a sub-inspector with a knife, prompting the police to shoot him in the leg before taking him into custody. Ayyanar confessed to murdering both the women during interrogation. Their bodies were found floating in an abandoned stone quarry on November 4.

Police said the crime stemmed from a quarrel after Paavai demanded repayment of money she had lent Ayyanar. Under the influence of alcohol, he attacked and killed her. When Periyammal questioned him about the murder, Ayyanar killed her too to conceal his crime. According to police, Boopathy had reached the spot while Ayyanar committed the second murder and later helped.

Virtual queue booking mandatory for Sabarimala darshan: Police

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (Agency)**

Pilgrims coming to Sabarimala for darshan without virtual queue booking may face inconvenience and long waiting times, the state police have informed.

In a detailed press release on Saturday, the police informed that virtual queue booking is essential for darshan. "Devotees should strictly adhere to the time slot allotted in the booking. Spot bookings are very limited. Therefore it is not possible to accommodate all devotees arriving without virtual queue booking. Also, pilgrims from other states should plan their journey in such a way that they reach only within the allotted time," said the statement.

The state police also issued a slew of instructions to the pilgrims. According to which, pilgrims should use the traditional path - Marakottam, Saramkuthy, Nadapenthal to reach Sanidhanam. They should follow the queue system to reach Pathinettampadi, and use Nadapenthal fly-over for return journey.

Identification cards with address and contact numbers should be hung on the neck of children, aged, and malikapurams, said the release. Pilgrims can contact helpline number 14432 to approach police for emergency response in crisis situations.

Union Steel Ministry approves iron ore pipeline from Chhattisgarh to AP via Odisha

Chennai (Agency)

The Ministry of Steel, Government of India, has approved ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AMNS India) for the establishment of an iron ore slurry pipeline connecting Chhattisgarh to Andhra Pradesh via Odisha.

The pipeline will transport iron ore from mines to AMNS India's upcoming integrated steel plant at Anakapalle in Visakhapatnam district. The approval has been accorded under the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962, which authorises a nominated authority to sanction the right of way across the state the pipeline will traverse.

The proposed pipeline will carry iron ore in slurry form, creating a sustainable and cost efficient logistics corridor that reduces reliance on conventional road and rail transport. The project is expected to significantly lower the

carbon footprint of industrial logistics and aligns with India's broader push for green infrastructure. The Centre's timely clearance reflects its commitment to fast tracking industrial development in Andhra Pradesh and highlights the growing synergy between the

first phase. The Anakapalle facility is poised to become one of India's largest greenfield steel plants, featuring advanced technologies for energy efficiency, water recycling and emissions reduction. Just last week, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

Change's Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) recommended environmental clearance for the first phase.

With both environmental and pipeline approvals, the Anakapalle project is now set to enter its implementation stage,

reinforcing Andhra Pradesh's

emergence as a preferred destination for global industrial investment.

Andhra Pradesh Minister for HRD, IT,

Electronics and RTGS, Nara

Lokesh said, "This milestone is a

testament to Andhra Pradesh's

leadership in providing world class

infrastructure, speedy clearances,

and proactive governance. The AMNS project will

generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs,

boost local industry, and strengthen India's

position in the global steel supply chain."



state and Union governments in advancing India's manufacturing capabilities.

This pipeline approval marks a critical milestone in the rollout of AMNS India's 17 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) integrated steel plant, with 8.2 MTPA capacity planned for the

Double-engine govt in Bihar should continue, says Minister Nara Lokesh

VIJAYAWADA (Agency)

Andhra Pradesh HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh underscored the critical role of strong State governments in driving national development. As part of his election outreach, Lokesh met with representatives of the Bihar Industries Association, and prominent business leaders, including Ramji, Goenka, and former MP GVL Narasimha Rao, to share Andhra Pradesh's investment success story, and advocate for continued NDA governance.

Lokesh emphasised that Andhra Pradesh's transformation into a top investment destination was made possible by the "double-engine bullet government" led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

He cited landmark projects such as Google's



entry into AP within 12 months, and ArcelorMittal's upcoming steel plant, facilitated by the swift resolution of investor concerns through direct coordination between the CM and the PM.

"States must be strong for India to grow. AP's policy clarity, leadership commitment, and speed of execution have attracted record-breaking investments," Lokesh said.

He credited the Centre's support — particularly

from Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw — for enabling India's largest FDI to land in Andhra Pradesh.

Drawing parallels with Bihar, Lokesh praised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's leadership for fostering law and order, women's safety, and corruption-free governance. "Bihar's development before and after Nitish Kumar shows what strong leadership can achieve," he said, adding that both AP and Bihar benefit from constructive Centre-State relations.

Lokesh also highlighted AP's Vision 2047 document, which outlines the roadmap to becoming a trillion dollar economy. He acknowledged the challenges posed by the previous government's cancellation of PPAs, which forced the current administration to work 10 times harder to regain investor confidence.

Controversy erupts over preferential treatment of inmates in Bengaluru Central Prison

BENGALURU (Agency)

Bengaluru Central Prison authorities are again in the dock after photographs and videos of inmates using mobile phones and receiving preferential treatment went viral. This time, the photos and videos allegedly show suspected terror operative Zuhab Hameed Shakeel Manna and convicted serial rapist and killer Umesh Reddy using mobile phones and watching TV inside the prison.

In the video, Umesh Reddy is seen wearing coloured clothes and using a mobile phone inside his cell, while he is expected to wear prison-issued clothes as he is a convict. There is definitely no provision for him to use the mobile phone. He was also allegedly allowed to cook for himself.

Shakeel Manna, who was arrested by the National Investigation Agency for allegedly helping raise funds and radicalise Muslim youth, is also seen using a mobile phone in the viral clips. It is alleged that actor Tarun Konduraj, an underworld arrested in a gold smuggling case, too received special treatment when he was in the prison. Tarun was in the prison for nearly a year, and his use of mobile phones during custody is now under scrutiny. Among the 12 videos

circulating on social media, four were reportedly shot in 2022.

This newspaper tried to contact Additional Director General of Police (Prisons) B Dayananda, but he was not available for comment. Other senior prison officials, however, said he has ordered a probe into the viral photos and videos. Recently, a



video of rowdy-sheeter Srinivasa alias Gubbachhi Seena, lodged in the prison in connection with a murder, celebrating his birthday inside the jail had also gone viral. Disciplinary action had been initiated against six prison staff initiated after that incident. In the last two months, two jail wardens have been arrested for allegedly supplying drugs and mobile phones to inmates. The Supreme Court, too, had slammed the Bengaluru Central Prison authorities for allegedly giving preferential treatment.

Fix city infrastructure or quit: Karnataka LoP Ashoka to Deputy CM Shivakumar

BENGALURU (Agency)

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka, Bengaluru Central MP PC Mohan, MLAs S Suresh Kumar, CN Ashwathnayara and Munirathna Naidu, and local BJP leaders launched a campaign in Vijayanagar and Govindraj Nagar Assembly constituencies on Saturday against the Congress government for ignoring the city's "crumbling" infrastructure.

Ashoka lashed out at Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, for not taking any steps to fix problems such as potholes and waste disposal. He urged Shivakumar to resign as Bengaluru Development Minister if he can't set right problems related to the city's infrastructure. The campaign will be extended to other Assembly constituencies in the city, he said. Criticising Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar, Ashoka said they set a deadline for officials to make Bengaluru pothole-free by October 31. But that did not happen and motorists in the city have been left to fend for themselves.



The BJP leaders marked the potholes in parts of the two constituencies to alert motorists to avoid them.

Referring to Siddaramaiah asking reporters to question Shivakumar over potholes and garbage menace at a press conference recently,

Ashoka said it indicates that there is a rift between them. "The DCM claims that he is a trouble-shooter, but he is unable to take on the garbage mafia. If he can question Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Mohandas Pai, and BJP MLAs and MPs from the city, why can't he act against the mafias in the city? The garbage mafia is from Telangana. I urge the DCM to persuade Telangana Congress leader and CM Revanth Reddy to control the mafia," Ashoka said.

Due to the rift between Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah, the capital city is suffering, he alleged. Referring to sugarcane growers' agitation, Ashoka said the government has agreed to procure cane for Rs 3,300 per tonne only from Belagavi farmers. It can't ignore cane growers from other districts of the state.

UDF cosies up to Jamaat-e-Islami for local body election; Muslim groups raise concern

KOZHIKODE/MALAPPURAM (Agency)

The UDF is going ahead with its seat-sharing deal with the Welfare Party of India (WPI) in Malappuram for the local body election even as some Muslim organisations are trying to convince the front's leadership about the "danger of joining hands with the political wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami".

Under the arrangement, the UDF will allocate seats to the WPI in all local bodies where the latter already has a foothold. In return, the WPI will extend its full backing to the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) and other UDF candidates across Malappuram. Seat division has already been finalised in several key panchayats, including Angadipuram, Koottilangadi, Mampad, Tirurangadi, Tirur, and Kondotty. In

Angadipuram and Mampad, the WPI has already announced its candidates. "In Malappuram, the UDF — particularly the Muslim League — remains the most powerful force. To strengthen our political presence, we have chosen to cooperate with the League and the UDF locally. This, however, does not imply a state-level alliance," said a senior WPI leader.

IUML general secretary P M A Salam confirmed the development to, stating that the understanding with WPI was part of the League's broader electoral strategy.

"Jamaat ties will cost UDF dear in assembly polls."

"The UDF has no official alliance with the Welfare Party at the state level. But local



necessary. What is happening in Malappuram reflects that ground reality," Salam said. Meanwhile, some Muslim organisations have expressed deep concern over the UDF move to have an electoral understanding with WPI, which they believe would have disastrous consequences for the front and society at large.

One Mujahid group met Leader of Opposition V D Satheesan in person in Malappuram two days ago to convey the organisation's view on the matter. "We told Satheesan that it was unfortunate that he had given a clean chit to the Jamaat by saying the organisation had changed its ideology. The assessment stems from a total ignorance of its working," a Mujahid leader told.

Rath Yatra stampede: Probe panel recommends action against seven cops

BHUBANESWAR (Agency)

The probe panel to investigate the stampede during the Rath Yatra at Puri has held seven senior police officers responsible for lapses in crowd management and recommended disciplinary action against them, besides blacklisting the firm that supplied AI-powered surveillance cameras for the festival. Development commissioner Anu Garg was asked to probe the incident hours after three pilgrims were killed in the stampede near Gundicha temple on June 29. The panel observed that the then Puri SP had the overall responsibility for deployment of police force at different important locations of Puri town including at Srimandir, Gundicha temple, chariot site and Badadanda in consultation with senior police officers.

"Senior officials - commandant of OSAP 3rd Battalion, Koraput Ajay Kumar Padhi and DCP (HQ) of Commissionerate Police Vishnu Prasad Pati deployed for crowd management in front of the chariots that day were physically absent," the report stated. The panel recommended disciplinary proceedings against the two who are already under suspension.

The panel found that officers responsible for coordinating with the Shree Jagannath Temple Administration and sevayats did not maintain proper communication nor alerted the control room about ritual timings, crowd build-up and delays. Commandant of Swatantra Shree Mandir Surakshya Vahini (SSMSV), Puri Tapas Ranjan Das, deputy commandant KK Nayak and city DSP Prasanta Kumar Sahoo failed to ensure timely liaison during 'Dwaraphita' in the morning, leading to severe congestion ahead of rituals, the report said. Moreover, city DSP Sahoo and Kumbharpada IIC Susanta Kumar Sahoo were found to have failed in crowd control duties near the chariots and allowed a chariama-loaded truck to move through a densely packed crowd, which ultimately triggered the stampede, said the report.

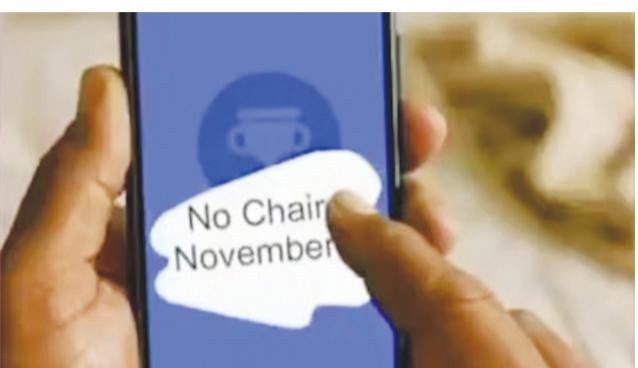
No Chair November: BJP's AI video pokes fun at Karnataka Congress power struggle

The sarcastic video shows that both Rahul Gandhi and Siddaramaiah sent a WhatsApp text to DK Shivakumar with a scratch card. Upon scratching the card, he finds that it was written, 'No Chair November', which means no power to him.

Agency New Delhi. The state BJP unit of Karnataka took a satirical jibe at the ruling Congress party over the growing speculation of a power struggle, dubbed as the 'November Revolution', between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar. Through an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered video, posted on the X account, it mocked both the CM and the Deputy CM and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi. Featuring the caricatures of all three, the video starts by showing that both Gandhi and Siddaramaiah share a WhatsApp text to Shivakumar. As soon as the latter opens the chat, he finds a scratch card. As he scratches, he finds that he has received a 'No Chair November' reward, which means that he will not become the Chief Minister as part of the power-sharing process. While Shivakumar gets surprised, the video shows that both Gandhi and Siddaramaiah are laughing after playing the prank on him. It

further continues with a husky dancing on the screen.

Sharing the video, the Karnataka BJP wrote on X, "It is 'No Chair November' for @DKShivakumar." The jibe referred to the



time, Siddaramaiah started asserting himself as the full-time (five-year) Chief Minister. Following his claims, many key leaders in Congress found themselves in a confusing situation regarding the potential change in the chief minister's role. Senior minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Krishna Byre Gowda met the party high command in Delhi on November 7 and asked for clarity on the developments. They were reportedly told to remain calm over the possible developments by the high command.

The speculations are, however, intensifying with time, as many think that a change in the Chief Ministerial position, along with a reshuffle in the cabinet, will occur in the state. The term 'November Revolution' has also been coined, highlighting these possibilities.

However, Shivakumar has played down all these speculations over the power-sharing tussle. On multiple occasions, he said that the Congress Party is united in the state and there is no need for people.

Car swerves to avoid hitting pig, crashes into tree; three killed in Kerala

Agency New Delhi.

Three people died and three were severely injured in a car accident in Kerala. According to sources, six friends were returning to Palakkad from Chittoor when their car lost control, hit a tree on the roadside, and overturned into a nearby field, which led to the loss of lives and injuries. The incident took place at 11 pm last night,



when a pig suddenly came in front of the car. To avoid hitting the pig, the car swerved, lost control, immediately hit a roadside tree, and fell onto the ground below. It was severely damaged.

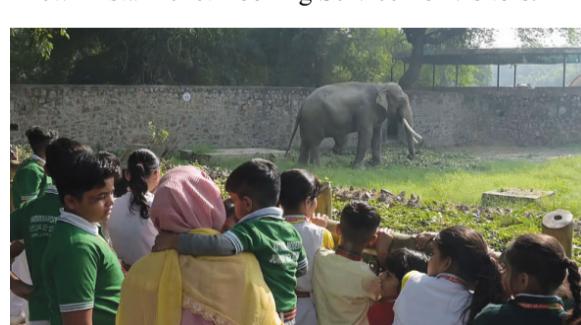
Following the incident, the locals rushed to the spot and saw that all six of them were trapped inside the car. The police and the fire brigade came soon, and the rescue operations began quickly. All six of them were taken out of the car and were immediately sent to the nearby hospital.

Upon reaching the hospital, the doctors declared three dead. The deceased are identified as Rohan (24), Rohan Santosh (22), and Sanush (19). The injured three, Adithyan (23), Rishi (24), and Jithin (21), are going through further treatment.

National Zoological Park reopens for visitors after two-month closure

Agency New Delhi.

The National Zoological Park (NZP) on Saturday welcomed over 8,000 visitors on its first day of reopening after being closed for more than two months following an outbreak of avian influenza. The zoo also introduced an all-new "Insta Ticket Booking Service" for the convenience of visitors, an official statement said. According to zoo officials, a total of 8,065 people, including 954 schoolchildren from 12 schools, visited the zoo — marking a lively restart for one of capital's most popular weekend destinations. "Marking this special day, the NZP introduced an all-new 'Insta Ticket Booking Service' for visitors. This



service is an additional facility alongside the regular online booking option available through the zoo's website," the Director of the National Zoological Park said in the statement.

With the new system, visitors can simply scan a QR code displayed at the entry gate and book tickets instantly. The payment process is quick and user-friendly — visitors can pay using any UPI app or through debit cards, credit cards, or net banking.

The system has been developed to ensure a timesaving, seamless, and hassle-free entry experience. Many guests availed of this facility on the first day and expressed satisfaction with new service, the Director added. The reopening followed health clearance from authorities and confirmation that all recent bird flu tests had returned negative. The zoo had been shut since August 30 as a precautionary measure after several waterbirds, including painted storks and black-headed ibis, were found dead in the aviary.

Tamil Nadu doctor detained in Russia, wife alleges torture, seeks Centre's help

Agency New Delhi.

What was supposed to be an interesting trip to Russia turned out to be an ordeal for a doctor hailing from Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district after he was allegedly detained by Russian authorities in Sochi in September this year.

Dr K Jagadeeswaran's wife appealed to Central and state governments to intervene and help her in getting her husband extradited back to India safely.

Detailing the ordeal Jagadeeswaran went through in Russia, his wife Yamini told PTI, that he was tortured and humiliated in the custody for the reason unknown to them, and his health condition has deteriorated. Though he has been released now from custody he lacked documents required to travel to Moscow so that he can return to India. She said that Jagadeeswaran got a degree



in medicine from an Armenian University in 2022 and they have been living in Armenia since then. The couple has a baby girl and wanted to visit their families in Tamil Nadu in August this year, she said.

"Since my husband is employed by a hospital in Armenia we were living there from 2022. It has been three years after our marriage. We just wanted to visit our families in Tamil Nadu and arrived here in August. I am from Chennai while Jagadeeswaran hails

from Tiruvallur. During our visit, my husband's friend Shekhar Manikandan requested Jagadeeswaran to accompany him for Russia as he is able converse well in Russian language," she told PTI in a brief interaction on Sunday.

His friend is running an educational consultancy in Russia and wanted Jagadeeswaran to accompany him under the tourist visa, she said. "They left on September 15 (from Chennai) and the ordeal started after they reached the Sochi airport," she said.

They were taken for interrogation by the immigration authorities from the airport, she said. Seeing my husband's passport and other documents and after coming to know that Jagadeeswaran can converse well in Russian, the immigration authorities detained him along with his friend at the Sochi airport on September 16, she said.

VP C P Radhakrishnan lauds Jainism for ahimsa, promoting vegetarianism

Agency New Delhi.

Vice President C P Radhakrishnan attended the ceremonial conclusion of 180-day fast of Jain monk Acharya Hansratna Surishwarji Maharaj at Vigyan Bhavan on Saturday and spoke about the contribution made by Jainism to the philosophy of non-violence and the Tamil culture. Acharya Hansratna Surishwarji Maharaj is a revered Jain monk, who is known for observing strict spiritual discipline and long-term ascetic practices. The ceremony, known as the Mahaparna, marked the end of the fast — called Upvas Parna in the Jain tradition.

The monk had undertaken the fast for the eighth time, reflecting his devotion, discipline, and commitment to spreading the principles of Jainism and moral values.

The Vice President highlighted the profound contributions of Jainism, one of the world's oldest religions, to the Indian ways of life and thinking. He

was driven by the idea of ahimsa

during India's freedom struggle and it continues to inspire global peace movements.

The Vice President extolled Jainism for its stress on vegetarianism, compassion toward animals, and sustainable living, which, he said, have become the cornerstone of environmental responsibility globally. Recalling his personal journey, Radhakrishnan said that he adopted vegetarianism 25 years ago after visiting Kashi, observing that it cultivates humility, maturity, and love for all beings. He lauded the government's efforts, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to confer 'classical language' status to Prakrit and preserve Jain manuscripts through initiatives such as the Gyan Bharatham Mission.

said that its teachings rest on four pillars of ahimsa (non-violence), satya (truth), aparigraha (non-possessiveness), and anekantavada (the multiple approaches to truth), which have left a lasting impact on the world. He noted that Mahatma Gandhi

was driven by the idea of ahimsa

during India's freedom struggle and it continues to inspire global peace movements.

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During the probe, police traced the accused to Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and arrested them through secret information and technical surveillance. "After extensive technical surveillance and local intelligence inputs, the team conducted raids in Bhubaneswar and arrested both accused," a police official said.

AAP slams BJP over delay in opening 1,470-bed Shalimar Bagh hospital

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government of neglecting public healthcare by keeping the newly built 1,470-bed government hospital in Shalimar Bagh non-operational. AAP leaders alleged that the facility, constructed during the Arvind Kejriwal government's tenure, remains unused despite being fully equipped, claiming the decision benefits private hospitals in the area. AAP Delhi State President and former Health Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj said the hospital was meant to provide free and quality treatment to lakhs of residents in North Delhi but has been left idle.

Sharing a video of the closed facility on social media, Bharadwaj questioned whether Chief Minister Rekha Gupta's administration intended to privatise government hospitals. He alleged that shutting down such institutions and reducing free medical services were steps toward promoting private healthcare interests.

AAP's Municipal Councillor from Shalimar Bagh, Jalaj Chaudhary, who visited the hospital site, described it as a "world-class" facility featuring ventilators, ICU beds, and centralised air-conditioning. He claimed that the hospital, located adjacent to Max Hospital, was nearly ready for inauguration under Kejriwal's government. According to him, the hospital's non-operational status since the BJP came to power has deprived local residents of essential medical services. Chaudhary further alleged that discussions were underway to hand the hospital over to private operators, comparing the situation to earlier attempts to transfer public healthcare facilities to corporate entities. He also expressed concern that other newly constructed hospitals in Haiderpur and Badli remain closed and that over 100 mohalla clinics have been shut. AAP has demanded that Chief Minister Rekha Gupta visit the hospital and clarify the government's position on its operational status.

Two men arrested in Odisha for duping Delhi rice trader of Rs 20 Lakh

Agency New Delhi.

Two men were arrested from Odisha for allegedly duping a rice trader of Rs 20 lakh in northwest Delhi by posing as representatives of a company using forged documents, police said on Saturday.

The accused have been identified as Basudev Swain (35), a resident of Lucknow, and Deepak Kumar (40), a resident of Varanasi, both from Uttar Pradesh, police said.

"The complainant, engaged in the rice and food supply business for the past 15 years, alleged that three persons — Deepak Kumar Singh, Basudev Swain, and Amit Kumar Singh — deceitfully posed as officials of a firm and claimed that their company intended to purchase rice for testing purposes and future large-scale procurement," a police officer said. Based on this assurance, the complainant supplied rice worth around '20 lakh against proper bills. Subsequently, the accused stopped responding and avoided making the payment. Upon verification, it was revealed that none of the accused was associated with the firm and that the documents and seals used were forged, the officer said.

During the probe, police traced the accused to Bhubaneswar, Odisha, and arrested them through secret information and technical surveillance. "After extensive technical surveillance and local intelligence inputs, the team conducted raids in Bhubaneswar and arrested both accused," a police official said.

"They confessed to their involvement in the offence and disclosed that they had indulged in such criminal activities to earn easy money," said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Northwest) Bhisham Singh.

Would be disastrous: Karnataka's Sharavathy project paused after Centre objects

The Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee said the project involves the felling of more than 15,000 trees, many of which are endemic to the Western Ghats, one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots.

Agency New Delhi.

The Centre has deferred a proposal to divert around 54 hectares of forest land in the ecologically sensitive Western Ghats for the 2,000-megawatt Sharavathy Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Project in Karnataka after members flagged serious ecological concerns and violations of forest laws. According to the minutes of the 11th meeting of the Environment Ministry's Forest Advisory Committee held on October 27, the proposed project area lies within the Sharavathy Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary, which is located in the central regions of the Western Ghats. The committee said the project involves the felling of more

than 15,000 trees, many of which are endemic to the Western Ghats, one of the 34 global biodiversity hotspots. It said the forest tracts fall under "eco-class 1 and eco-class 3" with canopy densities of 0.5 and 0.2.

The area has "climax forests of tropical wet evergreen, semi-evergreen and shola grasslands", which are "highly vulnerable and complex ecosystems", which, "if destroyed, cannot be restored to their original state". The minutes said the project site supports Lion-Tailed Macaque, Tiger, Leopard, Sloth Bear, Wild Dogs, King Cobra, Malabar Giant Squirrel and other rare and endemic species.

It referred to a wildlife census that recorded 730 Lion-Tailed Macaques in the Sharavathy Valley Sanctuary and warned that "loss of canopy and habitat would intensify this fragmentation, posing a serious risk to the survival of LTM's". The panel recorded that the



compensatory afforestation site offered by the project proponent will not be able to compensate for the loss of habitat of the Lion-Tailed Macaque and that "wet evergreen forests are complex ecosystems and are quite difficult to replicate". The committee examined the engineering design and said the project involves two reservoirs, tunnels up to 3.2 km long, excavation to depths of up to 500 metres, and drilling and blasting for underground works.

It said the area falls in Seismic Zone 3 and that the combination of slope cutting, blasting and heavy monsoon rainfall could aggravate landslide and erosion risks.

NEWS BOX

Lionel Messi masterclass powers Inter Miami past Nashville in MLS Cup Playoffs

New Delhi. (Agency)

Inter Miami progressed to the Eastern Conference semifinals of the MLS Cup Playoffs for the first time, defeating Nashville SC 4-0 in Game 3 at Fort Lauderdale on Saturday night. The win marked a milestone for Miami, who had never previously advanced in the MLS Cup Playoffs. Miami's success ensured Nashville SC's elimination in the first round for a third consecutive year, while the Florida club now prepares to face FC Cincinnati in a single-leg semifinal in two weeks. Lionel Messi played a central role in Miami's victory, being directly involved in all four goals. Messi scored twice and registered two assists, continuing a dominant run across the three-match series, where he contributed to all eight of Miami's goals (five goals, three assists). His performance brought his career tally against Nashville to 15 goals, the most he has scored against any MLS opponent.

Besides Messi, Tadeo Allende delivered a significant impact in the second half. Allende scored two quick goals in the 73rd and 76th minutes, both assisted by Messi, and also contributed an assist. His goals were the result of coordinated plays, involving a link-up with Jordi Alba for the first and a precise through ball from Messi for the second. The match's momentum was established early. In the 10th minute, Messi capitalised on a misplaced pass from Nashville's Corcoran to score the opener with a low finish. Miami's lead doubled in the 39th minute when Messi added a second following a defensive error by Walker Zimmerman, with Mateo Silvetti providing the assist.

Nashville's attempts to recover after halftime were unsuccessful. Their striker, Sam Surridge, had a goal disallowed for a foul on Miami's Maxi Falcon in the second half. Miami maintained control, with Allende's brace effectively sealing the result and ending any hope of a Nashville comeback. Despite the absence of Luis Suarez, who was suspended for this match due to a red card in Game 2, Miami's attack remained potent. Jordi Alba was notably influential.

Richa Ghosh, want to see you captain India one day: Sourav Ganguly

New Delhi. (Agency)

World Cup champion Richa Ghosh was felicitated by the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) and the West Bengal government on Saturday, November 8. CAB president Sourav Ganguly lauded the young wicketkeeper-batter, who played a crucial role in India's maiden women's World Cup victory.

At the ceremony, where Richa was conferred the Banga Bhushan award, Ganguly expressed his wish to one day address her as the captain of India. The 22-year-old wicketkeeper, who captured attention during the World Cup for her explosive power-hitting, was also appointed Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) and presented with a gold chain by the state government.

The CAB further rewarded Richa with Rs 34 lakh—Rs 1 lakh for every run she scored in the final. Former BCCI president and CAB chief Sourav Ganguly, who had himself



come heartbreakingly close to a World Cup title in 2003, summed up the emotion of the moment with words that reflected both pride and hope.

"Your career has just begun. Women's cricket will grow massively in the next four to six years, and there will be more opportunities. I hope you make the most of them and one day, like Jhulan, we'll stand here and say, 'Richa — India captain.' You're just 22. You have time on your side. All blessings and heartiest congratulations," Ganguly said.

He praised Richa's ability to perform a demanding role in the batting order during the World Cup. Tasked with accelerating India's scoring rate in the final overs, Richa displayed remarkable composure and execution, particularly in the knockouts and in key group-stage encounters against Pakistan, South Africa, and Australia. "The role she plays, batting lower down the order is very difficult. You get fewer balls but have to score the most runs," Ganguly said. "People may remember Jemimah's 127 not out or Harmanpreet's 89 in the semifinals, but Richa's strike rate of 130-plus made the difference. What she has done so simply is equal in value to Smriti or Harman."

India defeated South Africa in a tense final on November 2. Richa's crucial 34 helped India post a formidable 298 at the DY Patil Stadium. In the chase, India withstood a spirited innings from Laura Wolvaardt to clinch victory by 52 runs. Shafali Verma was named Player of the Match for her all-round display in the final, while Deepi Sharma earned the Player of the Series award.

Hong Kong Sixes: Another defeat, India finish campaign with 4 losses in a row

India finished their Hong Kong sixes campaign with yet another defeat. The Dinesh Karthik side lost to Sri Lanka in their final match of the invitational tournament. After starting with a win against Pakistan, India lost matches to Kuwait, UAE, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Another day, another loss. Dinesh Karthik's India ended their Hong Kong Sixes campaign with a defeat to Sri Lanka in their final game of the tournament. The result marked India's fourth consecutive loss in the 2025 edition of the invitational event, following earlier setbacks against Kuwait, the UAE and Nepal on Saturday, November 8. On Sunday, India failed to bow out with pride against Lahiru Madushanka's Sri Lankan side. Bowling first, India conceded

a massive 138 runs in six overs and managed only 90 for 6 in reply. Opener Robin Uthappa, who had been searching for a meaningful knock, fell to Lahiru Samarakoon in the first ball of the third over after scoring 13 off 5 balls.

Bharat Chipli provided some resistance with a spirited 41 off 13 deliveries, countering the Sri Lankan attack with intent. However, he found little support from Priyank Panchal, who made 2, and Abhimanyu Mithun, who remained unbeaten on 5. Captain Stuart Binny, who took over the leadership duties from Dinesh Karthik for the final game, contributed a valiant 25 not out off 9 balls. Ultimately, India fell short by 48 runs, closing out a campaign that never quite took flight. Earlier in the innings, Sri Lanka's openers Samarakoon and Madushanka dominated from the outset, both retiring hurt after identical scores of 52. Their partnership ensured Sri Lanka's control over the proceedings as they posted an imposing 138 without loss in their six overs. Every Indian bowler — Shahbaz

Nadeem, Bharat Chipli, Stuart Binny, Abhimanyu Mithun and Priyank Panchal — came under heavy fire, conceding at least 20 runs each. Panchal endured the toughest outing, finishing with figures of 1-



0-33-0. The loss capped off a difficult weekend for India, who had entered the tournament as one of the pre-tournament favourites but struggled to find rhythm after their opening win.

A Weekend to Forget

Saturday had already been a disappointing day for the Dinesh Karthik-led Indian team at the Hong Kong Sixes. After beginning

their campaign with a thrilling win over Pakistan on Friday, India suffered three consecutive defeats to Kuwait, the UAE and Nepal, which ended their hopes of reaching the quarterfinals. India had arrived at the six-a-side event — a fast-paced format featuring six overs per side and six players per team — with high expectations. Their line-up included several seasoned names: Dinesh Karthik, Robin Uthappa, Priyank Panchal, Abhimanyu Mithun, Stuart Binny and Shahbaz Nadeem. Yet, after the narrow win over Pakistan in their opener, their campaign quickly unravelled. The first setback came against Kuwait, who stunned India with a 27-run victory in their Pool C clash. Bowling first, India began well, reducing Kuwait to 38 for 4 inside 3.1 overs, but the final overs completely turned the game around. Dinesh Karthik and Priyank Panchal conceded 55 runs in the last two overs as Kuwait captain Yashin Patel unleashed a ferocious counterattack, hammering an unbeaten 58 off just.

After World Cup heroics, Jemimah Rodrigues makes slow start to WBBL stint

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jemimah Rodrigues didn't have the best of starts as she began her Women's Big Bash League (WBBL) following her World Cup heroics for India. Jemimah scored 292 runs in eight matches, including an incredible 127 not out in the semi-final against Australia, which helped in India's journey to the title. That would see Jemimah being one of the main retentions for Delhi Capitals, as she is being tipped to be a captain candidate for the Women's Premier League side. Jemimah looked to be in high spirits as she made it to the game for the



season, Jemimah's humour on air had the broadcaster in splits on Sunday. "I was not sure if Australia will allow me to cross the border after the semi-finals," Jemimah joked during the broadcast.

But she quickly shifted focus to the larger impact of India's victory, reflecting on what it meant for women's cricket globally.

"But honestly, everyone has been so warm and welcoming, and everyone is so happy in general for the growth of women's cricket. We know that it's going to change the game massively, not just in India but all over the world," Jemimah added.

The Mumbai batter, however, had a quiet start to her WBBL campaign. Playing for the Brisbane Heat, she managed just six runs off nine balls in her team's seven-wicket defeat to the Melbourne Renegades.



Heat against Melbourne Renegades in Brisbane.

However, the Indian star failed to make an impact in the game. The Renegades opted to bowl first and found early success with Charli Knott being back in the hut. Jemimah came in at No.3 and provided support to Nadine de Klerk in the middle, who scored 40 off 38 balls. Jemimah managed 6 off 9 balls and was dismissed in the ninth over by her former DC teammate Alice Capsey. De Klerk also soon followed as Capsey got her second wicket of the day. Chinelle Henry provided some entertainment with 29 off 22 balls, but the wickets kept tumbling.

Renegades captain Georgia Wareham then weaved her magic with the ball as she picked up three wickets for 12 runs in her four overs. Tess Flintoff also picked up three wickets as the Heat went from 90 for three to 120 for nine in the 5.2 overs. Georgia Redmayne got 16 at the end as Capsey also ended with three wickets to her name.

The Heat were eventually bundled out for 133 runs in their 20 overs. Before the Renegades could start their chase, rain came in to play spoilsport.

Ronaldo slams referee with sarcastic rant during Al-Nassr's win over Neom

New Delhi. (Agency)

Cristiano Ronaldo was caught on camera making a sarcastic comment to the referee during Al-Nassr's 3-1 win over Neom in the Saudi Pro League on Saturday.

Even in victory, the Portuguese star showed his fierce competitive spirit as his frustration with the officiating briefly took the spotlight. The incident occurred just before the interval, with the score still goalless. Al-Nassr were building a promising counterattack when the referee's whistle abruptly halted play, much to Ronaldo's disbelief. As the players walked towards the tunnel, the 40-year-old confronted the official and delivered an ironic comment that left little doubt about his feelings.

The Portugal captain, visibly irritated, gestured in frustration as his teammates guided him towards the dressing room. It was another reminder of Ronaldo's

relentless pursuit of perfection and his unwillingness to accept what he perceives as unfair decisions.

If the first half ended in irritation, the second



began with intent. Al-Nassr returned sharper and more purposeful. Just three minutes after the restart, former Chelsea midfielder Angelo Gabriel broke the deadlock, slotting home a rebound after Ronaldo's free-kick had been blocked by

the Neom defence.

Neom's evening worsened moments later when striker Luciano Rodriguez was sent off following a VAR review for elbowing an opponent, leaving the hosts with ten men. The red card compounded their troubles, particularly after they had already lost former Arsenal striker Alexandre Lacazette to injury in the first half.

Ronaldo, who had missed a header earlier in the match, made amends from the penalty spot midway through the second half. His compatriot Luis Maximiano had initially denied him from close range, but Joao Felix chased the rebound and was shoved in the back, earning a spot-kick. The Al-Nassr captain stepped up and converted with typical precision, firing low into the corner to register his 953rd career goal and 83rd in the Saudi Pro League since joining the club in early 2023.

No more experiments: Aakash Chopra's advice to India after Australia T20I series win

Former cricketer Aakash Chopra has advised the Indian team management to stop experimenting after they wrapped up the Australia T20I series. India experimented with their batting and bowling during the series win against the Aussies.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former cricketer Aakash Chopra has suggested that India should abandon the experiments after winning the T20I series against Australia. The five-match series saw the Indian team use a lot of different combinations with both bat and ball. The likes of Sanju Samson and Shivam Dube

were used at No.3 during the second and fourth T20I, respectively, with Tilak Verma being dropped for the final match, which was washed out. The first two matches saw Arshdeep Singh warming the bench with Harshit Rana getting a chance ahead of him. Washington Sundar played the role of a finisher at times with the bat, but his use with the ball was less. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra said that the team admitted that they were experimenting, but now with just 10 T20Is left before the World Cup at home, India should stop the experiments.

"It's been a phase of experiments. I hope these experiments stop. They said they can send anyone up or down the order, play or drop anyone, and that they are in an experimental phase. When the team openly

admits that, you agree that they can experiment," Chopra said. "However, now

this, and you shouldn't, because the World Cup will start in February."

STOP EXPERIMENTS

Chopra said that India will be under pressure playing a home World Cup, especially with the tag of titleholders. The former cricketer said that the team management should be regularly playing a team that is closest to their playing XI for the World Cup in the last two series before the tournament.

"It seems like you have an advantage because it's a home World Cup, but there is pressure along with that. It's a tough one. So all experiments should be stopped now, that we will play the team that is closest to our playing XI," said Chopra.

India will play South Africa and New Zealand at home in the final two series before the World Cup.



you have a five-match series against South Africa at home and a five-match series against New Zealand at home, and I think the time for experiment is over. I think we are done. You cannot experiment much after

Blazeup AI launches its maiden intelligent platform Blazeup in Nellore



NELLORE.(Agency)

Blazeup AI has launched Blazeup, an intelligent platform designed to simplify business operations across HR, finance, IT service management, project management, and CRM. The platform aims to help organizations reduce manual work by 40 percent and boost productivity by up to 100 percent through automation and real-time insights.

Speaking at the launch in Nellore, Blazeup CEO Renil Komitla said the product represents a blend of local innovation and global ambition, showcasing that world-class technology can be built anywhere. Blazeup serves as a unified AI ecosystem, offering integrated tools for enterprises to streamline workflows and make data-driven decisions. Early users have reported significant improvements in efficiency and collaboration.

Komitla said the company's mission is to empower businesses with intelligent systems that enhance productivity and create room for innovation. He added that Blazeup's launch marks a technological milestone for the region, combining local talent with global vision.

AI Valuations Hit Elevated Levels, Further Rallies Run Bubble Burst Risk: Analysts

New Delhi.(Agency)

Artificial intelligence (AI) valuations have reached elevated levels and further rallies from here run the risk of a bubble burst, and this realisation is dawning on investors widely now, according to market watchers. This may restrain sustained FII selling in India. If, along with this realisation, India's earnings growth continues to improve, FIIs are likely to turn buyers. But this may take time, they noted. "It is important to understand a significant feature of the FII activity this year. FIIs, particularly the hedge funds, are selling in India and buying in other markets which are driven by AI trade," said Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd.

The US, China, South Korea and Taiwan are regarded as AI winners. This perception is hugely influencing the FPI action in the ongoing global rally driven by AI trade, he noted. While October witnessed net FII buying of Rs 3,902 crore, November has started with FIIs turning sellers on every trading day, so far.

The net FII sell figure through exchanges in November up to 8th, stood at Rs 13,367 crore. This takes the total FII sell figure for 2025, so far, to a massive Rs 207,568 crore. This largely explains the underperformance of India, relative to other major markets this year, said analysts.

Last week, markets ended lower, weighed down by persistent foreign fund outflows, mixed corporate earnings, and cautious global cues. Renewed concerns over the valuation of AI-related stocks triggered profit-taking across major markets, further weighing on risk appetite.

"Globally, traders will monitor the performance of AI-related stocks and developments around global trade deals, both of which are expected to influence market sentiment," said Ajit Mishra-SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

Credit Card Application Rejected? Here's How To Prevent It Next Time

New Delhi.(Agency)

Planning to apply for a new credit card? While it may seem like a simple process, many applications get rejected due to small mistakes or missing details. A rejection not only delays your financial plans but can also affect your credit score. To avoid this, it's important to understand what banks look for and prepare your application carefully. Even small mistakes like entering the wrong personal details or having a credit score that's just a bit below the required limit can lead to your application being rejected. What may seem minor to you can appear as a risk to the bank. This can slow down the approval process or result in an outright denial. So, it's important to know what lenders check and make sure your financial information is accurate before applying.

Income and Existing Debts Matter

Each credit card has a minimum income requirement. If your income doesn't meet that mark—or if you already have multiple EMIs running—banks may worry about your repayment ability and decline the application.

Low Credit Score Can Hurt Approval Chances

A score below 750 signals higher financial risk to lenders. It may suggest past delays in payments, making banks hesitant to approve new credit even if your finances are stable now.

Multiple Applications Can Work Against You

Applying for too many credit cards within a short time may make banks think you're urgently seeking funds. This can reduce trust and lower your chances of getting approved.

COP30: Brazil climate conclave shows waning concern

New Delhi.(Agency)

There's a message in holding the November 6-11 international summit on climate change at Belém, Brazil. The confabulation among nations on the state of the environment, or Conference of Parties (COP30), has been convened at the gateway of the endangered Amazon rainforests, the world's largest, 5.5 million square kilometres of tropical forests threatened by logging and mining. Unfortunately, Belém is not as exciting as Paris or Egypt's seaside resort of Sharm El-Sheikh. The conference is seeing a tepid response, with only a few dozen world leaders making the trek to this Latin American outpost. Leading lights from some of the most important and populous nations are absent—India, the US, China and Russia.

The Donald Trump-led United States and China are sceptics on climate change goals, while Russia is in the midst of a terrible shooting war. But it is indeed surprising that India, a usually sane voice on environmental issues, has given COP30 low priority this round. There is no denying climate change as a global

cause is losing steam.

Long Shadow on COP30

The environment movement is also facing the long shadow of Trump's pushback. Though he is not coming to Belém, speaking at the United Nations in September Trump dismissed climate change as "the greatest con job ever perpetrated on the world."

"The entire globalist concept, asking successful industrialised nations to inflict pain on themselves and radically disrupt their entire societies, must be rejected completely and totally," he added.

Growing war clouds in a divisive world have also sidelined environmental goals which require a wide consensus. Currently, Venezuela and Colombia, in South America, are the latest to be caught in the US' firing line. As Trump ratchets up his demand for regime change with left-wing governments, and bombs 'narco' shipping in the Caribbean Sea, the smaller regimes are struggling to survive. Saving the environment is a low

priority. The host nation, Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, made no bones about Trump's ostrich-like stance. Without naming him, he opened the conference on Thursday warning of "extremist forces that fabricate fake news

the Paris Summit, when concerns erupted about global warming and environmental degradation. For the first time, in 2015, a globally binding agreement to fight climate change was signed, requiring nations to set the long-term goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels.

It established a system where each country sets its own nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce emissions, to be updated every five years. It also provided a roadmap to achieve net-zero emissions by the second half of the century. Lofty goals indeed! But the have met their Waterloo in the face of stiff resistance by the rich nations.

The poor nations have rightly agitated that global warming is a spin-off from the Industrial Revolution, and it is the rich nations who have been the primary polluters. It is the developed world, therefore, that must pay for the clean-up. After much back-and-forth, a deal was reached in 2009 in Copenhagen, where the rich nations agreed to raise \$100 billion by 2020.



and are condemning future generations to life on a planet altered forever by global warming." Colombian President Gustavo Petro went further, denouncing Trump as "100% wrong" for his denial of science that threatens the future of the planet and could lead to a "real apocalypse."

Funds Drying Up

It is exactly a decade since the nations met at

Infosys Buyback Record Date 2025: Know The Tax Rules Before Submitting Your Shares

New Delhi.(Agency)

IT firm Infosys has already announced Friday, November 14, 2025, as the record date for its largest-ever share buyback at a price of Rs 1800 per equity share amounting to Rs 18,000 crore. It means shareholders will need to hold Infosys shares on the record date to be eligible to participate in the buyback. A buyback (or share repurchase) is when a company buys its own shares from existing shareholders, usually at a price higher than the market rate. The Board of Directors of the company at their meeting held on September 11, 2025, has considered and approved a proposal to buyback equity shares for an amount of Rs 18,000 crore at a price of Rs 1,800 per equity share," Infosys

said in an exchange filing previously.

Infosys Share Buyback: How To Apply?

If you want to participate in an Infosys

2. Read the Letter of Offer (LoF) to note buyback price, window, size and entitlement.

3. Check your entitlement (how many shares you can tender) and decide quantity (you may oversubscribe).

4. Log in to your broker and go to Corporate Actions → Buyback, select the Infosys buyback and enter quantity.

5. Or submit the Tender Form to your broker/registrar offline if you prefer paper submission.

6. Broker/DP will block/debit the tendered shares from your demat (you don't pay money).

7. After the window closes, check the acceptance/scale-down announcement (pro rata if oversubscribed). The Infosys buyback represents up to 2.41 per cent of the company's total paid-up equity.

buyback, here's the step-by-step process:

1. Check the record date and ensure your Infosys shares are in your demat by that date. It is important to note that the record date has not been announced yet.

Bonus, Dividend & Split: Power Grid, Godfrey, Garden Reach Among 40 Shares In Focus This Week

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of several listed companies will remain in focus among investors this week for various corporate actions, including dividend, bonus and stock split. Between November 10 and November 15, 2025, more than 40 firms will trade ex-dividend and ex-date for bonus or stock split.

Among the big names, Bayer CropScience will distribute an interim dividend of Rs 90 per share, the highest in this round. Nuvama Wealth Management follows with Rs 70 per share, while Ajanta Pharma, Godfrey Phillips India, and Great Eastern Shipping will reward shareholders with Rs 28, Rs 17, and Rs 7.2 per share respectively.

Blue-chip firms like Power Grid Corporation, Astral Ltd, Garden Reach Shipbuilders, and Chambal Fertilisers

have also declared interim dividends in the range of Rs 4.5–5.75 per share.

Other notable payers include Sasken Technologies (Rs 12), Garware

Energy Yield Plus Trust have also announced income distributions during the period.

Bonus And Stock Split Rush

Investors can also look forward to corporate actions like bonus issues and stock splits this week. Sampre Nutritions Ltd have announced a stock split from Rs 10 to Rs 5 face value and a 1:1 bonus issue. SMC Global Securities has also declared a 1:1 bonus issue, while Websol Energy System goes for a stock split from Rs 10 to Rs 1. Disclaimer: The views and investment tips by experts in this News18.com report are

their own and not those of the website or its management.

Users are advised to check with certified experts before taking any investment decisions.



Technical Fibres (Rs 8), Kaveri Seed Company (Rs 5), and D-Link India (Rs 6). Infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) such as PowerGrid InvIT, Indus Infra Trust, and Anzen India

InCred Holdings Files Confidential DRHP With Sebi To Launch IPO

InCred Holdings, led by Bhupinder Singh, confidentially filed DRHP with SEBI as it eyes capital markets.

New Delhi.(Agency) InCred Holdings, the 100% holding company of InCred Financial Services Limited (InCred Finance), has confidentially filed its draft red herring prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), as per the public announcement. The company, part of Bhupinder Singh founded InCred Group, is looking to tap the capital markets.

According to several reports, the IPO size could be in range between Rs 4,000-5000 crore. The IPO will comprise of fresh issue as well as an offer-for-sale. InCred Finance is part of InCred Group, a diversified financial services group that has three distinct business – 'InCred

Finance' the lending focused NBFC, 'InCred Capital' the integrated institutional platform and 'InCred Money' which is the retail wealth-tech investment distribution vertical.

The marquee investors are Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, TRS (Teacher Retirement System of Texas), KKR, Oaks, Elevar Equity, and Moore Venture Partners. Since inception in 2016, InCred Finance has disbursed loans worth over Rs 25,000 crore, serving more than 4 lakh customers through a network of 140+ branches and a workforce of 2,600+ employees. Personal Loan, Student Loan, Specialised MSME Loan, Secured Business Loan and Loans for Financial Institutions.

The lender has built scale with over Rs 12,585 crore (39% YoY growth) in assets under management (AUM) as of FY25, which provides natural protection against segment-specific risks.

supported by disciplined risk management and the use of technology and data science to serve underserved customer segments. The business



Pacific before founding InCred Group in 2016, has built a full-fledged diversified financial services platform under InCred Group.

InCred Finance, which merged with KKR India Financial Services in 2022 to form a joint entity under the InCred Finance brand, reported a standalone profit of Rs 372.2 crore and revenue of Rs 1,872 crore for the financial year ended March 2025 — a growth of 18.2% and 47.5%, respectively, over the previous year. For the quarter ended June 2025, the company posted a profit of Rs 94.2 crore, up 7% from Rs 88 crore in the same period last year, while revenue rose 7.5% to Rs 579.7 crore from Rs 539.1 crore a year ago. The listed shares of InCred Holdings Limited are trading at Rs 165 as of now.

Tara Sutaria

Janhvi Kapoor Groove To Zingaat, Fans Call Them 'Devrani-Jethani Goals'

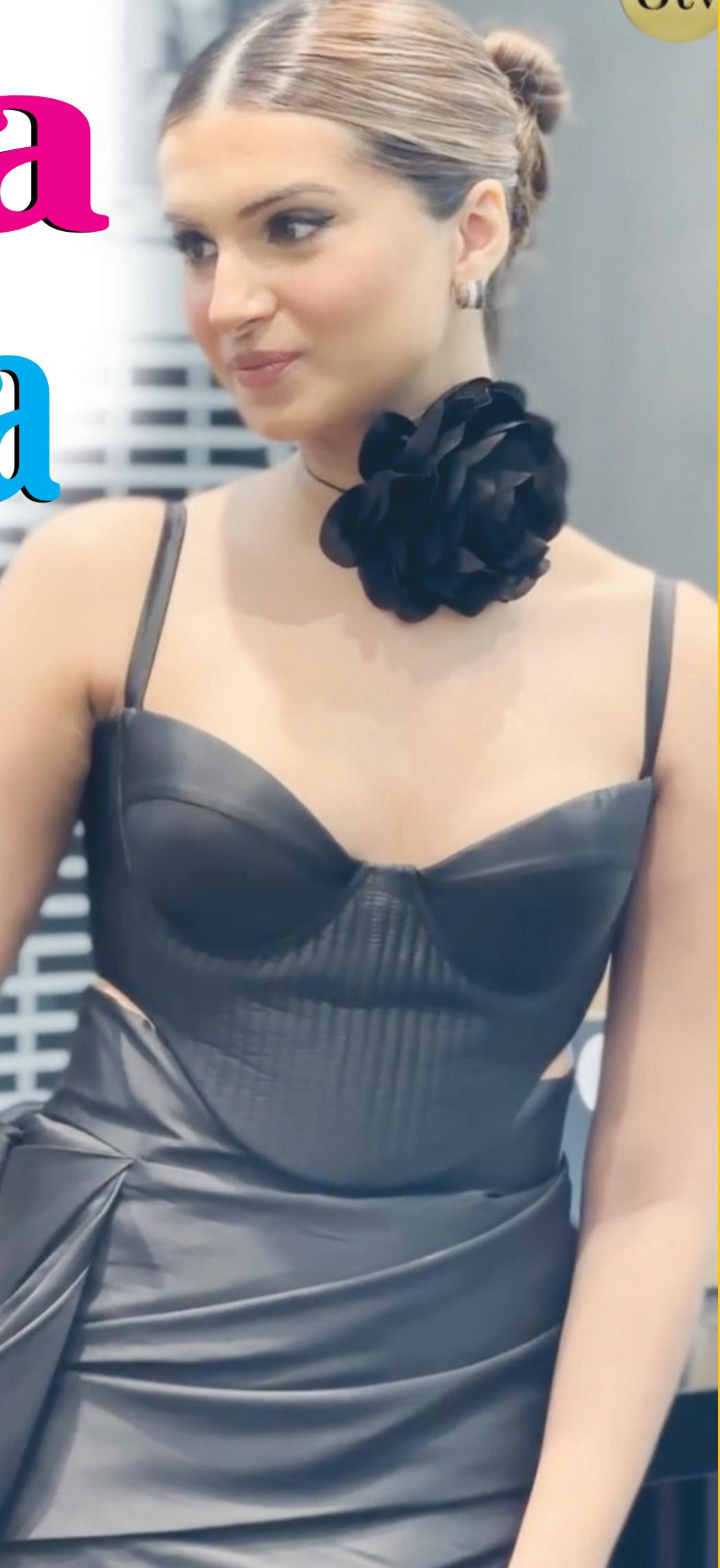
Ever since Tara Sutaria made her relationship with Veer Pahariya public, fans have been curious about her dynamics with Janhvi Kapoor, who is dating Veer's brother, Shikhar. In a recent viral video circulating on the internet, Tara and Janhvi can be seen grooving to hit track Zingaat. The actresses can be seen smiling and enjoying themselves on stage as the singer performs beside them. The video took fans by surprise, who were quick to flood the comments with their reactions. A user wrote, "Devrani Jethani ek saath" Another fan added, "They deserve each other's friendship." On Ganesh Chaturthi, Veer Pahariya shared a series of black-and-white pictures on Instagram. In one of the slides, he was seen posing with Tara Sutaria, both smiling at each other. Tara looked stunning in a saree, while Veer looked dapper in a white sherwani.

Janhvi Kapoor and her sister Khushi liked Veer's romantic post. Not just



Veer, Tara too posted pictures with her beau on the same day. Her caption read, "Devotion, faith and celebration.. Ganpati Bappa Morya." The post garnered more than 400K likes and received over 1,800 comments. Tara Sutaria And Veer Pahariya The couple posted mushy pictures on the occasion of Diwali. While Tara donned a golden shimmery lehenga, Veer looked as handsome as ever in a traditional white ensemble. Tara captioned the post, "Last night with my firecracker... For our dearest Manish Malhotra, my favourite host always."

The post crossed a million likes on Instagram. Disha Patani commented, "Gorgeous you guys." Veer Pahariya replied to the post with, "My PATAKAH" A user called the duo "Coolest couple ever" in the comments section. Another one wrote, "Awww, cute!" Veer too posted a similar set of pictures on Instagram and captioned it, "Love and Light. With My DYNAMITE" Tara replied to the post with, "My whole world." The post also garnered a lot of attention as it crossed over 6 lakh likes and received more than 13K shares. Singer Stebin Ben and Manish Malhotra replied on the post with heart emojis.



Rashmika Mandanna's The Girlfriend Director Thanks Fans For All The Love: 'The Spike Has Been...'

Director Rahul Ravindran conveyed his thanks to the audience for the love they are showing towards his latest Telugu film, *The Girlfriend*, starring Rashmika Mandanna and Dheekshith Shetty. The romantic drama, which opened in theatres on November 7, has received strong praise for its emotional storytelling and Rashmika's brilliant performance.

In his post on X, Rahul expressed both gratitude and humility as he reflected on the film's growing appreciation online. "I apologise for flooding your timelines. We were never going to be a film that opened massively on Friday. We were always going to depend on word of mouth," he wrote.

Message from Rahul Ravindran to the Fans

Further, Rahul Ravindran elaborated on the importance of audience-led promotion for indie films like his. "And it's crucial we amplify all the outpouring of love and affection audiences are showing for the film, so that more people are prompted to go to theatres." he continued. "And it's crucial we amplify all the outpouring of love and affection audiences are showing for the film, so that more people are prompted to go to theatres. And the spike has been heartwarming. Please put up with my bombardment of appreciation posts. And if it resonates with you... Please share it. Thank you," the filmmaker added.

The director's tweet quickly went viral and stands as a testament to how audiences are increasingly connecting with the film's emotional depth and intimacy, not only in the two Telugu states but also in

other regions.

Audience Applauds Rashmika's Performance

The film's release has been met with praise from both audiences and critics, particularly for Rashmika Mandanna's performance, with many describing it as one of her most mature and emotionally powerful roles to date. Several fans across social media shared that they were deeply moved by her portrayal, calling it "authentic and heartfelt."

The Girlfriend Plot



The Girlfriend is brought to audiences by Rahul Ravindran, with Vidya Koppineedi and Dheeraj Mogilineni producing it under the Geetha Arts and Dheeraj Mogilineni Entertainment banners, respectively. Alongside Rashmika Mandanna and Dheekshith Shetty, the cast includes Anu Emmanuel, Rao Ramesh and Rohini. The story follows a love affair that seems perfect at first but gradually turns toxic as Dheekshith Shetty's character becomes increasingly aggressive and possessive.

Naga Chaitanya Is In Awe Of Wife Sobhita Dhulipala's Command Over Telugu: 'She Should Teach Me'



As Naga Chaitanya and Sobhita Dhulipala near their first wedding anniversary on December 4, 2025, the couple's relationship continues to capture fans' attention for its warmth and mutual admiration. In a recent conversation with *Vogue India*, the *Premam* actor opened up about the one trait in his wife that never fails to impress him — her effortless command over the Telugu language.

"She's a city girl with a rooted soul"

Speaking about Sobhita, Chaitanya shared that she perfectly balances modernity and tradition. "In Mumbai, she's the quintessential city girl — cool, hip, and forward-thinking. But when she's back home in Vizag, she's deeply rooted in her culture," he said. What stands out to him the most, however, is her fluency in Telugu. "Her Telugu just blows me away," Chaitanya confessed with a smile, adding that he often jokes about her teaching him and "passing on all her intelligence."

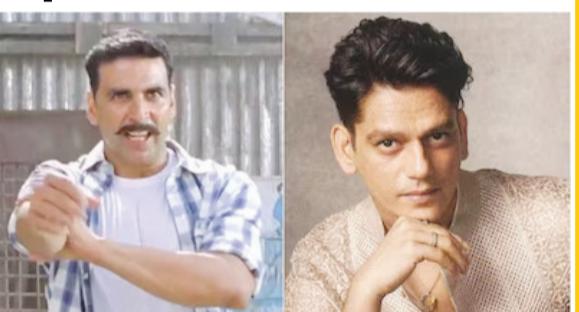
Sobhita on why Telugu feels like home

In the same interview, Sobhita revealed that speaking in Telugu with her husband evokes a deep sense of comfort and belonging. "After living in Mumbai for so long, I got used to speaking in other languages. I had almost forgotten what it felt like to converse in Telugu with anyone other than my parents," she said. "Talking to Chay in Telugu feels like home. It's the language I associate with my happiest and most emotional moments." She further shared that Telugu naturally flows to her mind whenever she feels intense emotions — be it joy, nostalgia, or sadness. "Whenever I'm truly happy or upset, my thoughts automatically come out in Telugu," she added.

On the work front

Naga Chaitanya was last seen in *Thandil*, directed by Chandoo Mondeti and co-starring Sai Pallavi. Based on a real-life incident involving a fisherman from Sri Lanka who drifts into Pakistani waters, the film won praise for its emotional depth and realism. It is currently streaming on Netflix.

Akshay Kumar To Be Replaced In Rowdy Rathore 2?; Vijay Varma Opens Up On Battling Severe Depression



Akshay Kumar's 2012 action comedy, *Rowdy Rathore*, remains one of the most loved movies to date. If reports are to be believed, Sanjay Leela Bhansali, who produced the film, is now planning a sequel to his hit movie. However, this time, Akshay Kumar won't return as Vikrant Singh Rathore, but a pan-India star is likely to replace him. If a report by *India Today* is to be believed, Bhansali Studios has decided to go big on *Rowdy Rathore* and convert it into a franchise. "Bhansali Productions is actively working on several major projects, including 'Rowdy Rathore 2'. It's one of the studio's biggest franchises with a strong pan-India fan base," a source cited by the portal claimed.

Vijay Varma recently recalled that the lockdown was a challenging period for him. He was flooded with back-to-back projects after *Gully Boy* released in 2019, and felt like he was living the best version of himself. However, after the pandemic hit and the lockdown was announced, everything came to an abrupt halt for Vijay Varma. He recalled that it was a tough period when he felt very lonely, and Aamir Khan's daughter, Ira Khan, and his *Dahaad* co-star, Gulshan Devaiah, became his support system. He said that Ira suggested he should seek therapy, after which he was diagnosed with anxiety and depression.

Anushka Sharma has been missing from the screen for over seven years now. She was last seen in the 2018 movie *Zero* with Shah Rukh Khan and Katrina Kaif. The actress then shot for *Chakda Xpress*, but although the movie's shooting was wrapped up in 2022, it was never released. However, according to a recent report, the makers of Anushka Sharma's *Chakda Xpress* are now eager to release the movie. As reported by *Mid-Day*, after the Indian women's cricket squad's historic win, the makers of *Chakda Xpress* have written to the top executives from Netflix, urging them to release their movie.

Disney has dropped the much-anticipated trailer of *Zootopia 2*, and fans across India are thrilled to see — and hear — a familiar voice in the mix. Bollywood star Shraddha Kapoor has officially stepped into the shoes (or rather, the paws) of the spirited police officer Judy Hopps for the film's Hindi version, bringing her signature charm, enthusiasm, and warmth to the beloved animated character.



How startups are cutting ballooning

Salary bills

Combination of factors is driving more startups to scout for talent from tier-II B schools and engineering colleges at lower salaries.

HiveMinds, a startup in social media, has chosen to approach tier-II B schools as it finds itself low on the priority list of the top-notch ones. "The top B-schools fix slots for bluechip companies in the first few days and they get the cream of students. Startups like ours, which cannot offer a hefty remuneration, get slotted on the last day and get the remaining ones," said CEO of HiveMinds MS Shan.

The limited fund flow into startups is one of the reasons for the hunt shifting to the non-IIM category of B-Schools. Vinod M, CEO, Cloudberry said due to healthy funding or the promise of it last year, companies were more enthusiastic about recruiting from top B-schools at higher pay.

"The funding sentiment has cooled down now and only heavily-funded startups would go on to recruit in top B-Schools," he said. Vinod said divergence, a skill required in startups, may not necessarily be available in Tier-II schools.

Going to the Tier-II B-Schools has clearly

given him a wider choice of options. They offer more scope for interaction at a pace that helps recruiters analyse and take a more measured decision. "Such options are not available with Tier-I schools where we are pressured to make a decision fast," said Shan.

PSG College of Management, Coimbatore had four new startups hiring students this time around. "Technology startups such as Zoho and Kaar Technologies looking for managerial positions have turned to us," said the institute's placement director Umesh C. Startups find graduates from engineering

colleges like VIT and SRM take risks and work for lower salaries than graduates from top B-schools demand.

"We prefer to hire from B-Schools such as NMIMS or engineering colleges," education startup ChalkStreet CEO Venkat V said.

B-Schools have reported a surge in recruitment from startups. Management Development Institute from Gurgaon has had 57% more startups visiting them compared to last year. Students too were keen in getting placed in them with 15 of the 17 offers getting accepted. "The

'Startup India Stand Up India' campaign will act as a catalyst in the ecosystem providing huge growth opportunity for students," said Kanwal Kapil, chairperson, placements from MDI. For internships too, startups are gaining more currency, said students of Mumbai-based B-School KJ Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research. "We are more open to taking risk which is reflected in the drive to take up a job in a startup than in a secure environment of a MNC or an Indian corporate," second-year student anil kumar said.

A survival guide for Office Rookies



Our first job teaches you lessons no college does. Here's how you survive the initial months of your career. Young and reckless—that's what we are in our 20s. We motorcycle our way through life with no helmet on, until we hit the career highway. Suddenly, we are expected to be responsible and mature, or at least on the path to being 'settled'. The transition from wild to mild is not easy and takes some discipline. But steer clear of these major faux pas and you'll be cruising in auto-mode in no time.

Don't be late

If you have a nine-to-five job, stick to the company's official timings. If you have flexible work hours, stick to your word instead. Walking in at 1pm when you promised to report at 11 am reflects on your commitment. In your first year, you want people to take you seriously. And how will anyone do that if you can't even honour your own word?

Don't use office as Tinder

Office romance isn't a cardinal sin, but get to know your colleagues and the rules of your workplace better first. The first year is definitely not the right time for you to swipe imaginary rights on those hotties in office. How about you learn more about the job first?



Stay sober at parties

Office parties involve a lot of free booze and that's reason enough to get drunk, right? Wrong! Many inappropriate things can be said and done when drunk and you don't want to face the consequences of something you don't even remember doing!

Don't abscond

Sometimes, it's hard to deal with the repercussions of unpleasant decisions that we take at the workplace—like quitting the job. But remember, this is professional, not personal. Your organisation will be far more appreciative if you resign formally and serve your notice period instead of pulling a disappearing act. Take Shreeji Doshi's case, for example. A fresh graduate, he joined a company while simultaneously appearing for post-graduate courses

entrance exams. Just ten days into the job, he secured admission in a premium college. Unsure of how to break the news to his boss, he simply stopped reporting to work. "That affected our relationship completely. If I had manned up, we would have probably remained in touch," says Doshi. Absconding can also lead to a bad reputation in the job market, blacklisting and even legal tussles.

Private means private

You may find your colleagues friendly, but that doesn't mean that they are your friends. Khusbhu Merchant learnt this the hard way, when she started discussing her personal problems with her teammates. "If I messed up at work, people started attributing it to my personal life, even when it was unrelated," says Merchant. In the first year of your job, people may try to exploit your vulnerabilities; don't throw your personal problems to the mix.

Think before saying 'yes'

You don't have to impress your bosses all the time. You are new to the job and they understand that. So if they ask you to tackle something brand new, seek help. Here's how: Boss: Rohan, can you make a case study out of our last project? You: Yes sir, but can I do it with someone who has done it before so that I get it right, as this is my first time? Boss: Of course, of course. Sit with Shreya. This way, your boss will not only realise that you are aware of where you need to improve at work but also that you have good communication skills.

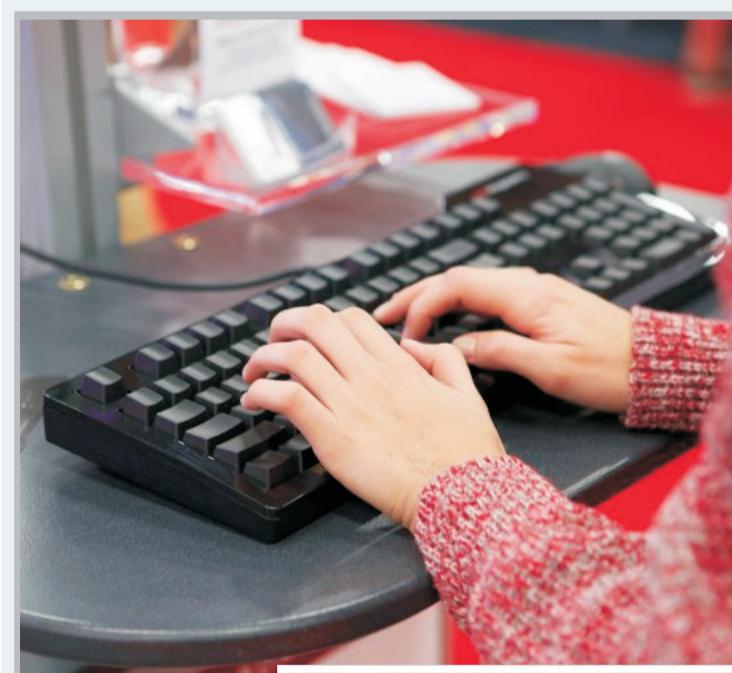
Wait for approval

If you have a client-facing job, you might be in a position where clients ask you something that you don't have the official answer to. In such situations, do not respond. It is absolutely fine to say that you will get back to them, even if you know what the answer should be. Similarly, do not perform any task without your boss's instruction or approval. Nithin SV, a software consultant, says, "Once, I discussed a software upgrade with a customer who seemed interested. So I got cocky and did the upgrade before getting an approval. I got a lot heat from the customer and my boss. This happened on the second day of my job."

Stay away social from media

It's one thing to say, "I hate Mondays" and quite another to say, "Today I worked on the Reliance accounts file". You could put your company in trouble or inadvertently give information to your company's competition. You could even put your organisation, and yourself, at risk of legal action.

Keyboard skills How to type faster



Typing fast is a skill that is fast becoming a necessity in today's time. How many times has it happened that you start typing and get bogged down by your slow speed? If you are hoping for some secret tips and tricks to help you type faster in a jiffy, let us tell you there aren't any. But there are ways, which can help you improve your typing skills with regular practice. 1.

Setup a proper workplace for your self. The first thing you'll need before you sit and start typing is spacious and a comfortable workplace. Also you'll be better off working or typing on a table than your lap.

2. Believe it or not, the right body posture

matters. Try and sit straight and keep your wrists at level with the keyboard, so that your fingers can properly arch over the keys. Try not to slouch too much and sit at a comfortable height.

3. Get your hand position right. Wrong hand position is the first and most common mistake people make while typing. To type better, place your hand and fingers over the keys in the 'home row' and return to that position while at rest. The home row keys are as follows:

- Left index finger on the letter F.
- Left middle finger on the letter D.
- Left ring finger on the letter S.
- Left pinkie on the letter A.
- Right index finger on the letter J.
- Right middle finger on the letter K.
- Right ring finger on the letter L.

• Right pinkie finger on the colon/semicolon (:) and (;) key.

• Left and right thumbs should rest on the space bar.

4. Try and practice some simple typing exercises like:

- Start with the home keys: asdf <space> jkl;
- Then, type the home keys in capital letters, using the shift key: ASDF <space> JKL;
- Now come to the bottom letters and type the bottom row: zxcvbnm.

• Next, skip over to the top row: qwertyuiop

• Without looking at the keyboard try writing the complete alphabet.

5. Learn touch typing (typing without looking at the keyboard)

It's a difficult skill to execute at first but touch typing is generally the fastest way to type once you've mastered it. So start slowly and try to type without looking at the keyboard. Build up your speed gradually and try to stick with it even if you find it difficult initially.

6. Practice, practice and practice. Well, there are no shortcuts to practice and the more you perform the better and faster you'll get.