

## Delhi on high alert after explosion in car near Red Fort kills 8: What we know so far

**According to sources, a high alert has been sounded across the national capital. This development comes a day after a massive terror module with nearly 2,900 kg of bomb-making material was busted.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**  
Eight people died, and 24 others were injured after explosion in car near Gate No. 1 of Delhi's Red Fort (Lal Qila) Metro Station on Monday evening. The car went up on flames and several other nearby cars were



also gutted. After the blast, the national capital has been put on high alert. According to eyewitnesses, the intensity

of the blast was so powerful that the street lights in the vicinity went off.

According to the Delhi Fire Department, a call about the explosion

was received around 6:55 pm, after which seven fire tenders and 15 CAT ambulances were rushed to the spot.

The fire spread to other nearby vehicles, five to six of which were gutted before firefighters managed to bring the blaze under control.

According to sources, a high alert has been sounded across the national capital. This development comes a day after a massive terror module with nearly 2,900 kg of bomb-making material was busted.

Mumbai Police are taking precautionary measures, like increased patrolling and checks at vital locations after blast reported in Delhi. Multiple casualties have been brought to the LNJP hospital due to the blast near Gate No. 1 of Red Fort Metro Station, sources tell ANI.

Senior officers, including the DCP of the Special Cell, have reached the site to supervise the investigation.

**Delhi court postpones framing of charges against Lalu Yadav in land-for-job scam**

**New Delhi .(Agency)**

A Delhi court on Monday deferred pronouncement of its order to December 4 on framing of charges in the alleged land-for-job case involving RJD chief and former Railway Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, his family members, and several others. Special CBI Judge Vishal Gogna was hearing the case filed by the agency against Lalu Yadav and others over their alleged involvement in the case. The matter will now be taken up on December 4, when the court is expected to pronounce its decision on whether there is sufficient evidence to frame charges.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed chargesheets against Lalu Yadav, his wife and former Bihar chief minister Rabri Devi, their son Tejashwi Yadav and others in connection with the alleged scam.

The prosecution has alleged appointments in Group-D category of West Central Zone of the Railways based in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, made during Lalu Yadav's tenure as railway minister from 2004 to 2009, in return for land parcels gifted or transferred by the recruits in the name of the RJD supremo's family or associates. The court had earlier reserved its order on whether to frame charges against the accused after hearing extensive arguments from the prosecution, represented by Special Public Prosecutor DP Singh, and the defence counsel.

The CBI has alleged that the appointments were made in violation of norms and that the transactions involved benami properties, amounting to criminal misconduct and conspiracy.

## Delhi CM Slams Opposition for False Promises and Misleading Propaganda

**The Sikh Times**  
**Simmi Kaur Babbar**

**New Delhi, 10 November 2025**

For the upcoming by-elections to the Delhi Municipal Corporation, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) candidates filed their nomination papers today in the presence of Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. On this occasion, the Chief Minister stated that every BJP worker is dedicated to the cause of public service. She added that this by-election is not merely an electoral process but an opportunity to choose clean, transparent, and development-oriented governance in Delhi.

On Monday, the Chief Minister participated in the nomination programmes of Anita Jain, the party's candidate from Ward 56 (Shalimar Bagh-B), and Veena Asija, the candidate from Ward 65 (Ashok Vihar). Before filing nominations, the Chief Minister inaugurated the election offices and participated in the traditional havan and puja ceremonies in both wards. Thereafter, she joined a roadshow and addressed a large public gathering, stating that the party has nominated hardworking, experienced, and committed women candidates from both wards. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that they



would fulfil Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. Speaking about Shalimar Bagh, the Chief Minister noted that the area has long been recognised for its vibrant religious and social life. She said that when she was given the opportunity to serve as MLA and later as Chief Minister through the blessings of the people, she viewed it not as a personal milestone but as a testament to their trust and respect. Expressing her gratitude for the unwavering dedication and support of party workers and residents, she added that this collective strength has made Shalimar Bagh one of the most organised and progressive constituencies in Delhi. The Chief Minister informed that in the past eight months, not

only in Shalimar Bagh but across Delhi, long-pending development projects have gained new momentum. Resolving the issues of families living in slum clusters, easing administrative challenges faced by traders, ensuring a safe environment for women and girls, and establishing smart classrooms and computer labs in schools have all been given top priority. In the Shalimar Bagh constituency as well, long-delayed projects such as schools, community halls, and road development are being completed at a rapid pace.

The Chief Minister stated that the people of Delhi are well aware of the opposition's false promises and misleading propaganda. "We do not make empty announcements; we deliver results," she asserted. Delhi has witnessed how the Bharatiya Janata Party, both at the Centre and in the Municipal Corporation, has set new benchmarks in development. She appealed to the citizens of Delhi to vote in large numbers for the BJP candidates in the elections scheduled for 30 November. The Chief Minister also informed that the BJP has nominated strong and capable candidates in all 12 wards for the MCD by-elections. The party is confident of a stellar performance and of once again earning the trust of the people of Delhi.

## How Ajit Pawar's son's firm bought Rs 1,800-crore land without paying stamp duty

**A controversial land deal in Pune's Mundhwa involving Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar's son, Parth Pawar, has sparked a political storm.**

**Pune .(Agency)**

A land deal controversy involving the son of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar has triggered a political storm in the state amid allegations of fraudulent acquisition, undervaluation, and misuse of political influence. The Opposition has alleged that government-owned land was sold to a company linked to the NCP leader's son Parth Pawar at a heavily undervalued rate, with irregularities in stamp duty payment and exemption. The controversy centres on a 40-acre plot in Pune's Mundhwa area, which the Opposition claims has a market value of around Rs 1,800 crore. However, the sale deed was allegedly executed for just Rs 300 crore.

**A made a Enterprises**

LLP, the firm linked to Parth Pawar, is also accused of seeking and obtaining a stamp duty waiver of Rs 21 crore citing plans to establish a data centre on the land, which never happened.

**HOW THE DEAL UNFOLDED**

According to documents accessed by India Today, Amadea Enterprises LLP, a company with a declared capital of just 1 lakh, allegedly acquired the land worth Rs 1,800 crore for Rs 300 crore without making any upfront payment. The sale deed, executed between Amadea Enterprises and Parth's associate and power of attorney holder, Sheetal Tejwani, was registered in what sources describe as a "rare instance of absolute trust". It reportedly contained no details of payment terms, proof of receipt, or schedule of instalments, all of which are mandatory in property transactions under Maharashtra law.

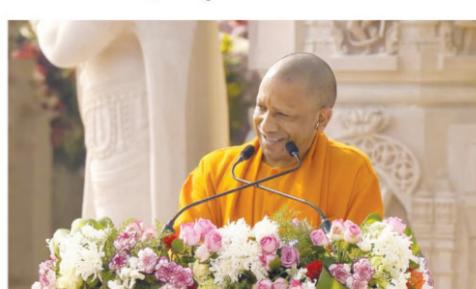
## UP CM Adityanath slams SP MP for opposing 'Vande Mataram'; says such 'divisive voices create new Jinnahs'

**GORAKHPUR.(Agency)**

Invoking All-India Muslim League leaders Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Mohammad Ali Jauhar, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday said that those who oppose the national song "Vande Mataram" are insulting India's unity and integrity. "Even today, we expect everyone living in India to be loyal to the nation and work for its unity," he said while participating in 'Ekta Yatra' (Unity March) and collective singing of "Vande Mataram" in Gorakhpur. He said when events were organised to mark the 150th anniversary of "Vande Mataram", the same voices of opposition resurfaced.

A Samajwadi Party MP again protested against the national song. These are the same people who skip the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of India's integrity, but shamelessly attend events honouring Jinnah," Adityanath said.

He asked if the country fails to honour its national heroes, where will it go? The extremism, Naxalism, and terrorism that constantly challenge India's unity and integrity are fuelled by those who insult national icons and revolutionaries, the chief minister said. Such actions embolden separatist forces that threaten the country's



national identity, he added. "It is now our duty to identify and oppose all elements that divide society, whether in the name of caste, region, or language. These divisions are part of a conspiracy to create new Jinnahs," he said. Jinnah served as the leader of the

All-India Muslim League from 1913 until the inception of Pakistan on 14 August 1947. He then became Pakistan's first governor-general until his death a year later in 1948.

Jauhar was the co-founder of the All-India Muslim League. He urged people to ensure that no new Jinnah ever arises in India again, and if anyone dares to challenge the nation's integrity, "we must bury such divisive intent before it can take root." The chief minister said every citizen of India must stand united for this cause.

Adityanath said there is no justification for opposing "Vande Mataram".

## CM Siddaramaiah says will serve full term, looks at DK Shivakumar, changes tone

**Political observers noted the timing of his comments and their potential implications for both state politics and Congress' image ahead of upcoming elections.**

**KUDIGI/HOSAPETE .(Agency)**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's public remarks on Sunday again stirred speculation of a possible change in leadership in the state government. At a public event in Kudligi to inaugurate various development projects, Siddaramaiah initially asserted that he will "continue as chief minister", reaffirming his intention to serve the full term. But moments later, after glancing towards Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and media, he noticeably shifted his phrasing referring instead to "our government" rather than his individual role.

The subtle change in tone drew attention amid rumours of differences within Congress over leadership change. Both Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar have

publicly denied any plans for a change, insisting that the government remains "stable and united".

Political observers noted the timing of his comments and their potential implications for both state politics and Congress' image ahead of upcoming elections. At the event,



Siddaramaiah launched a sharp attack on BJP, alleging that the party continued its practice of "vote chori" in the Bihar elections, undermining the democratic process. He said Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has betrayed sugarcane farmers, as both the FRP and MSP are determined by the BJP-led Centre. "It was Joshi and Centre that deceived our sugarcane farmers," he charged.

He said BJP state president Vijayendra, instead of questioning his own party's betrayal, is trying to cover it up by staging protest dramas in Belagavi. "Though the Central government failed our farmers, the state government stepped in to provide additional financial support and protect our sugarcane growers."

## News box

**Two attack family over land dispute, arrested**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Two men were arrested for allegedly attacking a family with sticks and an axe over a land dispute in Sohna on Nov 7. According to police, the incident took place on November 7 when the complainant and his family were working in their fields. A group of men — identified as Om Bir, Omdev, Pawan, Shiv Kumar, Raj Kumar, Mangal, and Sonu — allegedly attacked them, leaving several members injured.

Following an inquiry, an FIR was registered at Sadar Sohna police station under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Omdev and Raj Kumar, both residents of Abhaypur village, were arrested on Saturday.

Police said that the accused's forefathers purchased the disputed land from the complainant's ancestors around 60 years ago. However, a mismatch between the land number and the actual plot handed over led to a prolonged legal dispute, which the accused recently lost in court. The attack, police said, was an act of revenge linked to the ongoing enmity between the families. Further investigation is ongoing.

**Commuters raise safety fears over high-tension towers on key Gurgaon road**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

As winter approaches and fog is expected to reduce visibility, residents of sectors 102 and 102A have expressed concern over high-tension electricity towers standing in the middle of the 60 metre master road that connects Dwarka Expressway with Upper Dwarka Expressway. The structure, they say, not only endangers commuters but also obstructs traffic flow. "These high-tension lines are dangerous, especially during winter when low visibility and smog make it difficult for drivers to see the towers in time," said Kamal Malhotra, a resident of Adani Oyster Grande. He added that the presence of the towers could lead to accidents and also cause damage to the newly laid road surface.

Residents said that due to limited space, vehicles are forced to navigate around the towers, which increases the likelihood of collisions. Several residents' associations have written to the authorities multiple times, requesting the relocation of the towers and power lines. Despite this, they said, no progress has been made since GMDA began redevelopment work on the stretch about a year ago.

Sunil Sareen, vice-president of Imperial Gardens RWA, said the issue has been pending for a long time despite repeated complaints. "The tower stands right in the middle of the carriageway. It should have been shifted long ago, but the issue seems to have been ignored. We have requested DCP (traffic) to look into the matter before any accident occurs," he said.

Meanwhile, GMDA officials said the metropolitan authority has written to Haryana Vidyut Prasaran Nigam Limited (HVPNL), requesting the shifting of the existing high-tension line that falls within the alignment of the sector 102-102A master road. The authority has asked that the work be taken up on priority to ensure commuter safety.

**Watch out: Not properly covered, manholes are a gaping risk in Sector 46**

Noida.(Agency)

Manholes with broken lids or makeshift cement covers on walkways and near parks in Sector 46's A Block have become a safety hazard for the children and the elderly. The tiles around the frames are broken, making the manholes jut out about a foot above the ground level. Over 3,000 residents of the block live in fear of accidents. According to residents, these manholes have been left unattended for a long time. The broken tiles around the manholes pose a risk of tripping over them and falling. Sanjay Kumar Awana, general secretary of the Sector 46 Block A RWA, on Wednesday, wrote a petition to Noida Authority CEO highlighting the dire state of these manholes. He said that despite sending multiple reminders to local officials, including photographs documenting the issue, no action has been taken in the past three weeks. "I fear that if this issue



is not addressed promptly, it may lead to a serious accident," Awana told.

Awana added that the children play on the walkways around these hazardous manholes. This has added to the anxiety of the sector's residents.

The conditions are not limited only to Block A. Block B, which houses an additional 250 triple-storey homes with over 2,000 residents, shares similar safety hazards. Community outrage continues to mount as residents demand immediate action from the Noida Authority and local officials. With winter vacations approaching, families worry about the safety of children who play in the area. Awana has requested the Noida Authority CEO to direct appropriate measures for the repair and replacement of the manhole covers and has emphasised the need for timely communication from local officials regarding this pressing issue. A response from the Authority is awaited on the matter.

**Haryana DGP takes aim at Thar. But can behaviour be linked to a car?**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Time and again, studies have explored the connection between vehicle types and personality types. However, seldom has a brand and its drivers been singled out the way Haryana's director-general of police, OP Singh, did this weekend when he criticised the Mahindra Thar. "The choice of car shows the mindset of a person," Singh said in Gurgaon on Saturday. Linking the SUV's drivers to road stunts and accidents, he added, "Whoever has a Thar, his mind would not be in its right place. Thar is not a car. It is a statement."

People do make statements with a purchase. In that sense, Singh is right. But that is true across the spectrum of brands. Sure, one could be making a statement with a car, but one could be doing so with a watch, a dress, a pair of shoes, a handbag, or a perfume as well. "Even the iPhone is used to convey a pseudo sense of status. Perceptions get

attached to brands, especially those that catch popular imagination or command aspirational value," says Dr Sanjeev Bansal, Additional pro vice-Chancellor and dean of Faculty of Management Studies at Amity University. "And people associated with these brands get judged through them."

Tahseen Haider, who heads administration at a private company, says this judgment of Thar owners, voiced by the DGP, has been fed by displays of machismo by people driving Thar on social media, which in turn has made road rage incidents involving the SUV more noticeable. Haider, who bought a red Thar four years ago, says, "It's now become one of those stereotypes. If you are driving a Thar, you are someone to whom traffic laws don't apply, you drive as you like, and you are a bully. Social media simply reinforces those stereotypes. Some



people driving may derive a sense of power from it, but they don't speak for all."

SUVs worldwide, more so high-performance brands perceived as more masculine than others, have been the subject of driver behaviour studies for years, both in Europe and the US. In India, several SUVs before Thar have had this perception of unruly driving stuck to them, like Tata Sumo and the now withdrawn Toyota Qualis. But can rash driving or the tendency to break rules be linked to particular vehicles?

Likely not. For example, a 2023 UK govt study found 44% of cars broke speed limits in free-flowing traffic. This was not specific to a vehicle type. Besides, psychological factors have a connection with rash or dangerous driving. A 2023 Israeli study inferred drivers' more hostile behaviour was related to higher levels of state-trait anxiety among drivers.

In Delhi-NCR, where road rage incidents are still alarmingly frequent, perpetrators have been seen to drive all sorts of vehicles, sometimes even two-wheelers. "Am I wary of every SUV or Thar that I see while driving? No. I do sometimes get worried if I'm driving with my wife and daughter late at night and there's a car right behind us or a car is doing something funny, like overtaking and braking.

Cops must crack down on that sort of behaviour to make our roads safe," says a Gurgaon-based consultant.

**Businessman held by ATS over hawala funding, search on for Turkish aide**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A Greater Noida businessman has been arrested for allegedly producing hate literature and using over Rs 11 crore in foreign funds transferred to him through illegal channels into buying land in various states. Police are looking for his Turkish partner, who helped him set up his frontline business. Farhan Nabi Siddiqui, co-director of Istanbul International Pvt Ltd, was arrested from Kasna on Saturday by UP anti-terrorist squad (ATS). "Siddiqui is accused of publishing inflammatory books aimed at spreading religious enmity and receiving large sums through hawala channels. We are searching for his Turkish associate, Nasi Torba," an ATS official said.

According to officials, investigation revealed that Siddiqui and his associates operated several companies, including M/s Hakikat Vakfi Foundation and M/s Real Global Express Logistic Pvt Ltd, which served as fronts for publishing and distributing material designed to provoke communal disharmony. Their printing unit, Hakikat Printing Publication in Kasna, was allegedly used to produce books in Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, and Bangla for distribution across the country. Officials said the literature promoted anti-Indian sentiment and targeted democratic institutions, fuelling communal discord.

ATS officials said the network received around Rs 11 crore from foreign sources — primarily Turkey and Germany — using hawala and other illicit routes. These funds were allegedly channelled into purchasing land in Amroha in UP and Punjab in the names of madrassas, mosques, and private firms. There are also allegations that land was bought in Bangladesh and Pakistan using these funds. The accounts of Siddiqui's relatives, including his brother and father, as well as some retired Army officers, are under scrutiny for alleged involvement in the funding and propaganda network.

**Met factors help, Gurgaon's air quality better as Delhi chokes on smoke**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

While Delhi, Noida and Ghaziabad remain trapped under a thick smog layer with "very poor" air quality, the city has so far stayed relatively better off. On Sunday, CPCB data showed Delhi's average AQI at 370, Noida at 366 and Ghaziabad at 345, all in the 'very poor' range. The city's average AQI, meanwhile, was 238, in the 'poor' category.

Officials at India Meteorological Department (IMD) said the city's position on the southwestern edge of the national capital region gives it a temporary meteorological advantage. An IMD scientist said, "Surface winds have been northwesterly for the past few days, which means smoke and pollutants from Punjab and Haryana are being transported mainly towards central and eastern Delhi first. Gurgaon stays on the cleaner edge of the air mass, at least in the first half of the day."

He added that clear skies and stronger daytime winds over the Aravallis allow faster dispersion of pollutants, while Delhi's flat terrain traps them once temperatures drop.

"Delhi sits in a sort of bowl that holds pollution. By evening, when the inversion layer forms, pollutants can't rise and get trapped near the surface. Gurgaon benefits marginally because of its open terrain, but this advantage will fade as the inversion strengthens," the scientist explained. However, the reliability of these comparisons is far from certain. For much of Oct, several air quality monitoring stations across Gurgaon and other NCR cities remained non-functional or partially operational. Experts say that raises doubts over how authentic the current data really are.

"How authentic these data are is itself debatable," Centre for Science and Environment research associate

Shubhangi Tiwari said.

"If a large share of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) were offline till late Oct, it's unclear whether instruments have been recalibrated or if their readings are consistent. Without regular calibration, even a few misreporting stations can skew the city's average AQI," Tiwari added. The data gap between Delhi and Gurgaon further complicates the picture. Delhi currently has 38 active monitoring stations spread across its districts, covering various land-use zones. Gurgaon, in contrast, has only five, including one at Manesar, which on Saturday recorded an AQI of 270 ('poor' range). With such a limited network, large residential and industrial areas in Gurgaon go unmonitored, leaving significant blind spots in the city's pollution map. Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).

**Tech glitches, lack of clarity take a toll on Dwarka Expressway commuters**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A wave of confusion and frustration swept through Bijwasan toll plaza on Dwarka Expressway on Sunday after National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) abruptly began collecting tolls without prior notice.

Even on what was typically a lean-traffic day, chaos reigned at the newly operational plaza — with motorists trapped in long queues, making frantic U-turns, arguing with staff, and scrambling for information about new passes and charges. The disarray forced NHAI to announce a temporary three-day relief for local private car users, reserving three lanes on each side of the plaza for residents to pass without paying any fee.

For many, trouble began the moment they approached the toll gate, only to be told they would need to pay or produce a valid pass. "Had NHAI given a couple of days'



You only find out about the toll when you reach the gate. The govt should have anticipated these problems, especially since tolling is happening for the first time on this corridor," said Anil Kumar, a commuter. The confusion was

compounded by a lack of clarity on eligibility for local passes, technical glitches in the Rajmarg Yatra app, and the sudden need for documentation that many residents living in sectors off the expressway did not have at hand.

"I bought the annual pass this morning. The amount was deducted, but the pass hasn't been activated yet. The customer care team cited a server issue and said they couldn't help. It's disappointing to see such poor implementation from authorities. Residents living along Dwarka Expressway should be given fair concession or at least a smoother pass system.

Else, this will only add to the growing frustration among taxpayers," said Atul Napal, a resident of M3M Woodshire, who had to pay Rs 220 despite buying the annual pass.

**Gurgaon teen battles for life after classmate shoots at him in condo flat**

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 17-year-old boy is battling for life in hospital after being shot at by his classmate in a flat in Sector 48 around Saturday midnight — an attack that is likely to have been triggered by an altercation between the two students in school a couple of months ago.

The accused student has been detained along with a friend. All three teenagers are Class 11 students at an English medium school in the city. According to police, the accused student — son of a property dealer — used his father's licensed pistol to fire at his classmate. Cops said they were trying to find out how he sneaked the loaded gun out of home without his family even realising it.

It was little past midnight that the police control room received an emergency call about a boy being shot at in a flat in Central

Park society. "A team from Sadar police station responded to the call and reached the location. But by the time cops arrived, the injured teenager had already been rushed to Medanta Hospital by his family," a police official said.

Doctors at Medanta described the boy's condition as critical, saying they were making every effort to save his life. Investigators, including forensic experts and fingerprint specialists, searched the scene of crime — a vacant flat that the accused student's father had set aside to put on rent. They recovered a pistol, a magazine, five live cartridges, and one spent shell from the room where the shooting took place. A further search led to the discovery of another magazine and 65 live cartridges stored inside a box.

According to a written complaint by the victim's mother — a

homemaker — his son received a phone call earlier in the evening, where one of his friends urged him to come out and meet.

When the boy initially refused, the friend insisted and offered to pick him up on his bike. The victim eventually agreed and went to Kherki Daula toll plaza, where he met the accused and another friend. Together, they headed for the vacant flat in Central Park.

Preliminary questioning revealed that about two months ago, the victim and the main accused had a heated argument in front of others in school, which may have fuelled lingering resentment and ultimately led to the attack. "We are trying to find out more about the motive," an official said.

An FIR was registered under Section 109 (attempt to murder) of BNS and relevant

provisions of the Arms Act against the two students. "An investigation has been initiated.

Apart from the motive, we will also need to find out how the teenager managed to access the firearm. The father could also face legal consequences for negligence in storing the weapon," the police official said.

While the victim's mother is a homemaker, his father passed away three years ago. Haryana Police chief OP Singh described the incident as "extremely unfortunate". "Praying to God that there is no loss of life."

I have instructed the ACP and CP to alert arms license holders in their areas about such threats. Arrange for necessary training for them to handle weapons properly. The generation that plays video games doesn't even know that shooting is not

a game. Parents and schools should teach children skills.

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Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar  
Mob: 9654072232, 9971359517

Website : www.thesikhtimes.in  
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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# NGT seeks states' response on tree protection framework

## The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed states and Union Territories to review and submit their responses within four weeks to the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) final report on strengthening tree protection and conservation frameworks. The CPCB, in its final report dated May 21, recommended that states and Union Territories without a legal framework for tree protection should establish one, while those with existing laws should align them with the objectives of the National Forest Policy, 1988. The report emphasised the need for robust enforcement mechanisms, the use of modern technologies for monitoring, and adequate staffing and resources for effective implementation. According to the report, "States and UTs not having a legal framework at present for promoting the growth of trees and enabling protection should take up the process of

establishing the required legal framework." It further suggested that, "States/UTs with the existing legal

efforts by integrating applicable advisories into their existing frameworks." The CPCB also advised that tree man-



framework may align with the broader objectives of national forest conservation

engagement in non-forest areas should be governed by clear guidelines, including

authorization for felling, preservation of heritage trees, and preparation of plantation augmentation plans. It proposed that Tree Authorities should include representatives from government departments, urban planners, ecologists, arborists, legal experts, NGOs, and community members for "a holistic approach to tree management." The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been asked to provide policy guidance, capacity-building support, and financial assistance under schemes such as the Green India Mission. The Tribunal directed that all respondents must also submit their views on the conduct of a tree census, including proposed modalities for its implementation, particularly in major urban local bodies (ULBs). The Bench noted that these measures were aimed at ensuring better coordination between central and state agencies and promoting effective monitoring of tree conservation across the country.

## Woman's headless body: Cops yet to make any breakthrough

New Delhi: A day after a headless body of a woman with severed palms was found in a drain near the Sector 82 Cut in Noida, the police on Friday intensified their search to identify the deceased. They are also resorting to forensic examination and scanning CCTV footages to get lead in the case. Additional Deputy Commissioner of Police (ADCP) Sumit Shukla said three teams had been formed to identify the woman. They were awaiting the post-mortem report to determine the exact cause of death. Another official said it seems the woman was murdered around 24-30 hours ago and her body was dumped in the drain. The official said her palms might have been severed to hide her identification mark such as tattoos. However, the motive behind beheading her could only be established after a thorough investigation. A passer-by contacted the emergency helpline after spotting the body in an eight-foot-deep drain in a remote location near a high-rise residential building and Sector 108 park. As per the preliminary investigation, the woman appears to be around 30 years old and is married. Data from nearby police stations regarding missing complaints is being analysed and her photographs have also been circulated to get any clue about her identity, the police official added. The official said all possible angles, including personal enmity, sexual assault, illicit affair, honor killing, were being examined. However, the exact motive could only be ascertained after the completion of investigation.

## Massive fire breaks out in Delhi slum near Rithala metro station; 1 dead

New Delhi: Police personnel and others gather as firemen try to douse a fire breaking out in a cluster of huts near Rithala metro station at Rohini area in New Delhi early Saturday. A man died and another sustained burn injuries after a massive fire broke out spreading to around 500 shanties near Rithala metro station in Delhi's Rohini, the Delhi Fire Services (DFS) said. Police said several LPG cylinders were said to have exploded late Friday evening, intensifying the blaze and triggering panic among residents. Thick plumes of smoke were seen rising from the area even as locals scrambled to save their belongings and move to safer places. Preliminary information suggests that 400 to 500 huts have been gutted, fire officials said.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SAURABH GOYAL / SAURABH GOYAL S/O BAIJARANG LAL GOYAL residing at FLAT NO-403, TOWER B-3, CLEO COUNTY, NODIA SECTOR-121, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR UTTAR PRADESH 201301, have changed my name to SAURAV GOYAL for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Kavijeept Kour D/O Paramjeet Singh R/O W-5A/1, Street No-11-2, Guru Nanak Nagar, Tilak Nagar S.O. West, Delhi, Del-110018, have changed my religion Sikh to Muslim from dated 08.10.2025 and changed my name to Sanya

### NAME CHANGE

I, Divya Kumar D/O Narendar Kumar R/O-284, Kumhar Chowk, Chirag Delhi, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017, My DOB is wrongly written 01-01-2006 in my some Documents but my correct DOB is 3-08-2007 for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Shiv Devi W/O Bhag Narayan Paswan R/O-636, Ganj and Dak Khana Banwala North West Delhi Delhi-110009, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Vibha Devi

### NAME CHANGE

I, Aman Deep Singh Saluja S/O Kulwant Singh R/O-1794- 3rd floor Subhash Nagar Delhi-110027 changed my name to Amandeep Singh.

### NAME CHANGE

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## NEWS BOX

**Texas man kills 3 co-workers at workplace, then shoots himself**



World. (Agency)

A 21-year-old man shot and killed three co-workers at a San Antonio, Texas, landscape supply company and then died after shooting himself, authorities said Sunday. Two men and a woman died in the shooting Saturday at the business on the city's north side, according to the San Antonio Police Department.

Other employees ran from the scene when the gunfire erupted around 8 am, KSAT-TV reported.

Police responded and secured the area, and hours later they found the gunman with a self-inflicted gunshot wound, officials said. He was identified by police as Jose Hernandez Galo. While the motive for the shooting wasn't immediately known, Police Chief William McManus said during a Saturday news conference that it was not random. Detectives continued to investigate on Sunday.

**7 dead, 13 rescued after boat carrying migrants from Myanmar capsizes off Malaysia**

World. (Agency)

Rescuers in Malaysia recovered the bodies of seven migrants from Myanmar and found 13 alive from a boat that capsized with dozens aboard, officials said Sunday. The vessel had departed from the town of Buthidaung, in Myanmar's Rakhine state, carrying some 300 people, said First Adm. Romli Mustafa from the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency, citing a preliminary investigation. Police and the maritime agency said the passengers were believed to have been split into three smaller boats once the vessel neared Malaysia. One of the boats was believed to have sank near Tarutao island in southern Thailand on Thursday, and some of the victims drifted into Malaysia's northern resort island of Langkawi, the authorities said.

The timing and exact location of the incident is not known. The fate of the other two boats is also unclear, officials said. Local media quoted the Kedah state police chief in northern Malaysia, Adzli Abu Shah, as saying that some of those rescued were Rohingya Muslims, from Myanmar, where they have faced persecution for decades. Romli warned in a statement that cross-border syndicates are becoming increasingly active in exploiting migrants using perilous sea routes.

The maritime agency said rescuers found 10 migrants and recovered the body of a woman from the sea on Saturday. Another six bodies were discovered Sunday as well as three survivors, it said, adding it has expanded the area of the search that will continue on Monday. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees urged regional governments to step up search and rescue efforts and take action to prevent such tragedies. So far this year, some 5,200 Rohingya refugees have embarked on dangerous maritime journeys, with nearly 600 reported to be missing or dead, said UNHCR spokesman Diogo Alcantara.

**Trump doubles down on Obamacare as federal shutdown drags into 40th day**

World. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump doubled down on Sunday on his push to gut Obamacare healthcare subsidies, which his Democratic opponents have insisted on preserving as a condition for ending the 40-day government shutdown. Trump on Saturday urged Republican senators to take federal money used to subsidise health insurance bought on Affordable Care Act marketplaces, and instead send payments to individuals buying coverage.

The federal government has been shut down since October 1, making it the longest federal shutdown ever, because of a congressional impasse over healthcare.

The ACA subsidies, which helped double Obamacare enrolment to 24 million since they were put in place in 2011, are at the heart of the shutdown. Democrats want to extend them before reopening the government, while Republicans say they are open to addressing the issue only after government funding is restored. Trump took to his Truth Social platform on Sunday to blast the subsidies as a "windfall for Health Insurance Companies, and a DISASTER for the American people," while repeating his call for funds to be sent directly to individuals to buy coverage on their own. "I stand ready to work with both Parties to solve this problem once the Government is open," Trump wrote.

This weekend's posts from Trump came as senators were deep in talks over ways to end the shutdown. But Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Senator Lindsey Graham, a staunch Trump ally, said in separate interviews that Trump's healthcare idea will not be introduced before lawmakers pass a federal funding measure. "We're not proposing it to the Senate right now," Bessent said in an interview with ABC's "This Week," referring to Trump's proposed direct payments. "We are not going to negotiate with the Democrats until they reopen the government."

**On Sunday night, the Senate voted 60-40 on the key procedural measure following an agreement between a group of moderate Democrats, Republican leaders, and the White House to advance the plan, even without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies -- a decision that has sparked a rift among some Democrats.**

World. (Agency)

The US Senate has moved to advance a crucial measure aimed at ending the 40-day government shutdown, the longest in the country's history, that has sidelined workers, delayed food aid, and disrupted air travel. On Sunday night, the Senate voted 60-40 on the key procedural measure following an agreement between a group of moderate Democrats, Republican leaders, and the White House to advance the plan,

even without a guaranteed extension of health care subsidies -- a decision that has sparked a rift among some Democrats.

The deal was negotiated by New Hampshire Democrats Senators Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen, along with Maine Independent Angus King. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, the top Democrat in the chamber, voted against the measure.

The key measure will prevent federal agencies from laying off employees until January 30, 2026, and would halt President Donald Trump's effort to reduce the federal workforce. At the start of Trump's second term, about 2.2 million civilians worked for the federal government, with at least 300,000 expected to leave by year-end due to his downsizing plan.

The measure would also provide back pay for all federal employees, including military personnel, Border Patrol agents, and air-traffic controllers. The measure will now go

through additional procedural steps before being sent to the President for approval. Republican leaders have planned to amend

signing.

#### HEALTH CARE SUBSIDIES' DISCONTENT

After more than two hours of discussions, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said he could not "in good faith" support the proposal. Schumer, who faced criticism from Democrats in March for voting to keep the government open, said the party has now "sounded the alarm" on healthcare. "We will not give up the fight," he added. Independent Senator Bernie Sanders called giving up the fight a "horrible mistake," while Democrat Chris Murphy noted that last week's elections showed voters want Democrats to hold firm. The debate in Congress comes as President Trump again pushed to replace Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies with direct payments to individuals. These subsidies, credited with doubling ACA enrolment to 24 million since 2011, are a key point.



the bill to include a full-year funding package, agreed upon with moderate Democrats, while offering temporary government funding through January 2026. The Senate will hold more procedural votes, which could be delayed by members opposing the deal. Once these are cleared, the bill will move to the House for approval before reaching the President for final

## US air travel meltdown: 2,700 flights cancelled, 10,000 delayed; here's why

World. (Agency)

Thousands of passengers were left stranded across the United States on Sunday as airlines cancelled more than 2,700 flights and delayed over 10,000, the worst day of air travel disruption since the federal government shutdown began. The chaos has laid bare why America's aviation network is faltering, as unpaid air traffic controllers call in sick, radar centres run thin on staff, and major airlines struggle under government-mandated flight cuts.

#### WHERE AND WHEN THE CHAOS HIT HARDEST

The cancellations swept through the nation's biggest air hubs, Atlanta, Chicago, Charlotte and Newark, snarling travel plans coast to coast. Flight-tracking site FlightAware reported over 1,000 cancellations on Friday, 1,500 on Saturday, and

Sunday's record-breaking figures have already forced airlines to preemptively axe flights for the coming week. Delta Air Lines was hit the hardest, with disruptions affecting more than half its mainline flights on

#### WHY ARE FLIGHTS BEING GROUNDED?

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has ordered airlines to reduce commercial flights by 4% across 40 major airports, with cuts expected to deepen to 10% by Friday if the shutdown continues.

Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned more drastic measures could follow as air traffic controllers, now working six-day weeks without pay, increasingly call in sick or look for other jobs. The National Air Traffic Controllers Association said it has delivered 1,600 handwritten letters to Congress urging an end to the shutdown, citing "unsustainable pressure" on exhausted staff who are keeping the skies safe on borrowed time.



Sunday. "It's the worst I've seen in years," a traveller stranded in Miami en route to the Dominican Republic, Emmy Holguin, was quoted as saying by AP. "We all have somewhere to be. I'm just hoping the government fixes this

## Watch: Trump booed by NFL fans during historic appearance at Commanders-Lions game

World. (Agency)

Loud boos rang out across Washington's Northwest Stadium after US President Donald Trump appeared on the giant screen during Sunday's NFL game between the Commanders and the Detroit Lions -- marking the first time in nearly half a century that a sitting president has attended a regular-season fixture. Trump, standing in a private suite alongside House Speaker Mike Johnson, was shown on the stadium's big screen late in the first half. The crowd erupted into a mix of cheers and jeers, though the boos appeared to dominate. The reaction grew louder when the announcer formally introduced the US President at halftime.

During the break, Trump participated in an enlistment ceremony for new military recruits, reading aloud the oath of service as the audience noise



continued. "I'm a little bit late," Trump told reporters earlier after landing at Joint Base Andrews, referring to his delayed arrival following a brief

flyover above the stadium. "We're gonna have a good game. Things are going along very well. The country's doing well. The Democrats have to open it up," he added.

Before Trump's arrival, Lions receiver Amon-Ra St. Brown celebrated a touchdown by mimicking the "Trump dance." Later, during the third quarter, Trump joined Fox Sports commentators Kenny Albert and Jonathan Vilma for a casual eight-minute on-air conversation.

When asked about his high school football days at the New York Military Academy, Trump replied, "I played tight end, but it was not quite football like this. It was a little bit easier. It wasn't so tough."

## Why President Murmu's Angola visit matters for India's Africa policy

World. (Agency)

India's diplomatic engagement with Africa received a significant boost as President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a four-day state visit to Angola, marking the first-ever visit by an Indian President to the country. The trip comes at an important moment, with Angola celebrating 50 years of independence and India and Angola set to complete 40 years of formal diplomatic ties in 2025. The visit highlights New Delhi's renewed focus on Africa as a strategic partner, particularly in energy, defence, technology, agriculture, and skills development.

During the talks between President Murmu and Angolan President Joo Loureno, the emphasis was on expanding cooperation across key sectors. India sees Angola as a vital partner for its energy security, with Angola already supplying a substantial share of India's crude oil imports. President Murmu underlined this relationship and conveyed India's interest

in securing a long-term energy purchase agreement with Angola. In addition, Indian companies are exploring opportunities to invest in onshore and offshore oil exploration and refinery modernisation projects within Angola.

The discussions also touched upon the expanding global focus on critical minerals. Angola possesses reserves of minerals that are central to manufacturing renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles, and electronics, areas that are integral to India's energy transition goals. President Murmu emphasised that Indian companies were also interested in collaborating on exploration, processing, and value addition of such minerals, along with investment in fertiliser production and diamond processing. Given Angola's place as one of the world's major producers of diamonds and India's global leadership in diamond cutting and polishing, both countries see a clear opportunity for

mutually beneficial cooperation. A number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were exchanged during the visit, including those related to fisheries, aquaculture, and marine resources. The two leaders also discussed intensifying collaboration in technology, agriculture, healthcare, defence, infrastructure, and people-to-people exchanges. President Murmu welcomed Angola's decision to join the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) and the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA), signalling shared commitment to environmental sustainability and conservation. President Murmu also highlighted India's advancements in rail technology, pointing to the Vande Bharat high-speed trains as an example. She conveyed India's willingness to collaborate with Angola in modern railway development and skill-building initiatives for the youth. Both India and Angola have young populations, and skill development was recognised as a crucial area for future cooperation. Defence cooperation also featured prominently in the discussions. India is in the process of finalising a \$200 million Line of Credit to support Angola in strengthening its defence capacity. This follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement earlier this year. India has also been providing military training support to African countries, including Angola and Botswana, and expressed willingness to deepen capacity-building programmes further.



**NEWS BOX**

Newly-married man charred to death after car hits median in Tiruvarur

**TIRUVARUR. (Agency)**

A 28-year-old man here driving back from his in-laws' residence was charred to death after his car went up in flames during the early hours of Sunday, the police said. The deceased was identified as A Mohammed Rafiq of Tiruvarur. Rafiq, who was running shops in Vijayapuram of Tiruvarur, was early on Sunday returning from his in-laws' residence at Ammapattinam in Pudukkottai



district after visiting his wife whom he had married a few months ago. While driving on the Tiruthurai poondi bypass road, he suddenly lost control of the car, causing it to hit the median. The vehicle then fell into the nearby field and caught fire, the police said. Passersby informed the Tiruthurai poondi fire station and the police following which fire and rescue services personnel doused the flames. They, however, managed to only retrieve Rafiq's charred body. The Tiruthurai poondi town police sent the body to the Tiruthurai poondi government hospital for post-mortem and registered a case.

**Village relocation for tiger introduction done sans public meeting: Satkosia Praja Surakhyam Samiti**

**BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)**

The Satkosia Praja Surakhyam Samiti has claimed that no gram sabha or public meeting has been held yet with the residents of Satkosia Wildlife Sanctuary by the Forest department for introduction of tigers in the landscape.

Referring to the statistics of voluntary relocation of villages in Satkosia, samiti president Nabakishore Bisoi pointed out that no gram sabha has been held in Katrang, Tulka and Bhurkundi. He said, out of 674 families relocated during 2017 and 2023, gram sabha was conducted only in Raigoda and Asanabahal villages. "There has been no gram sabha in Katrang, Tulka and Bhurkundi. Hence, it is not proper to mention that these three villages have been voluntarily relocated," Bisoi added.

He said this has already been challenged by the villages in the court of law for which the compensation package amount allotted to the beneficiaries in these villages can be considered to have been distributed illegally. "Without gram sabha or household survey, how could the Forest department conclude how many families.

**Eggs vanish from midday meal menu in Hyderabad as prices soar**

**HYDERABAD. (Agency)**

A financial crunch has taken eggs off the plates of government school students in Hyderabad for over a month. The staple item in the midday meal scheme has gone missing as the supplying agency struggles with soaring prices and unpaid dues running into crores. According to officials and sources, the state government pays the supplier Rs 2.5 per egg, while the market price has climbed to about Rs 6. Unable to bear the loss, the agency — which has been requesting a price revision for years — halted supply from mid-October, after the Dasara holidays.

The state owes the midday meal agency around Rs 4 crore for August, September and October, besides Rs 13 crore pending under the breakfast scheme introduced by the previous BRS government in 2023. The breakfast initiative, which included cooking and other costs, was discontinued, but payments remain unsettled.

Meals in government and aided schools are provided by Manna Trust, an NGO working in partnership with the state government. Teachers said the non-supply of eggs was depriving students of vital nutrition. As per the schedule, eggs are to be served on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, with bananas as substitutes on other days. However, neither has been served in recent weeks.

"Not serving eggs to students will affect their health, as they already lack access to quality food. We have sent several representations, but there has been no response," said Ahmed Khan, in-charge headmaster of a government school in Charminar. Ravinder, headmaster of another government school in Nallakunta, echoed the concern, adding that the agency cited rising prices and non-payment of dues for halting supply. A representative of the supplying agency, speaking on condition of anonymity, said, "The government pays Rs 2.50 per egg, but the market price is '6. It is not possible for us to continue bearing the loss. Though the government recently revised midday meal costs, eggs were not included in that revision."

# Mitigate human-animal conflict to save lives: DyCM Pawan Kalyan

**CHITTOOR. (Agency)**

Deputy Chief Minister (Environment and Forest) K Pawan Kalyan inaugurated the Kumki Elephant Training Camp at Musalimadugu in Palamaner mandal of Chittoor district on Sunday.

Speaking on the occasion, he directed forest officials to implement measures in a time-bound manner to mitigate human-wildlife conflict in the State. Making a PowerPoint presentation on the HANUMAN (Human-Animal Conflict Mitigation) programme, Anantapur Conservator of Forest Yeshodabhai explained the initiatives taken to prevent elephant and leopard attacks, and reduce the monkey menace in human habitations.

The initiatives include tracking elephant herds using radio frequency tags, GPS, and thermal drone cameras, and formation of animal rescue teams across the State. Volunteers will also be trained in catching snakes and monkeys in urban areas. Emphasis has also been laid on protection of people living in forest fringe areas. The Deputy Chief Minister has convened a meeting in Vijayawada on November 18 to finalise the strategy to mitigate human-wildlife conflict. Earlier, the Deputy CM inspected the Kumki elephants, observed their daily



routine, and witnessed a parade of five trained elephants. He also fed the elephants, and recorded videos on his phone.

Solar-powered hanging fence to deter entry of wild tuskers. The 20-acre Kumki camp, set up with four trained elephants brought from Karnataka, is the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh.

Under the ecotourism project, visitors will be

allowed to spend time at the camp to learn about elephant behaviour. The facility will also serve as a base for rapid-response teams to monitor the movement of wild elephants, and prevent attacks on agricultural crops. Pawan Kalyan laid the foundation stone for the Gajaramam Urban Forest Park, and launched a solar-powered hanging fence to prevent elephant intrusions.

## Egg prices in Namakkal rise after months of slump; driven by winter demand, export pickup

**NAMAKKAL. (Agency)**

After months of subdued rates, farmgate egg prices in Namakkal — the hub of India's poultry production — have begun to show a steady upward trend. The rise follows a long spell of weak demand and falling prices during the monsoon months and festival season.

According to trade data from the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), Namakkal zone, the price of an egg had touched Rs 5.75 on July 9, before beginning a sharp slide through the rest of the month,



dropping to Rs 4.25 by July

31. The decline was attributed to reduced consumption during the 'Sawan' month and festivals such as 'Nag Panchami' and 'Janmashtami'. Though prices began to pick up gradually in the following months, they remained under Rs 5.50 until early November. In recent weeks, the rate has risen again, to Rs 5.65 as of November 9, signalling renewed market activity and improving demand.

C Sasikumar, a poultry farmer from Namakkal, said the current rise is typical of the winter season when egg consumption increases.

"Usually, prices improve during this time as people prefer eggs in colder weather. Exports are also gradually picking up," he said. He added that the market is still below last year's levels. "In early November 2024, the rate was around Rs 5.85. This year, it's slightly lower, but we expect it to touch Rs 6 soon. Demand has gone up by nearly 6-7%, and if feed costs remain stable, prices will continue to rise," he said. Traders say that with steady consumption and improving export orders, the current upward trend is likely to continue.

**Andhra Pradesh government initiates LiDAR survey of Godavari canal system**

**RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM. (Agency)**

The State government has initiated a comprehensive LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey to assess the condition of the vital Godavari delta irrigation system, and Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage at Dowleswaram. A sum of ₹13.42 crore has been sanctioned for the conduct of the aerial survey using a specialised aircraft. An agency for the survey project has already been finalised. Irrigation experts have finalised the survey methodology and logistics, Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage Superintending Engineer K Gopinath told.

The Godavari delta irrigation system, which is the lifeline of the erstwhile twin Godavari districts, has deteriorated significantly over the years. The Godavari canals supply irrigation water to nearly 10 lakh acres of agricultural land in Kharif and Rabi seasons, besides providing drinking water to over 1.2 crore people in the Godavari districts. The Godavari delta system includes 788 km length of major canals, 4,578 km minor canals, 761 km drainage canals, 814 km intermediate drains, and 2,650 km minor drains.

The LiDAR survey will help map the Godavari delta, including canals, embankments and encroachments with high precision. This will enable the Water Resources Department to plan Godavari delta modernisation works scientifically.

The entire exercise is likely to be completed in six to nine months. Once completed, the LiDAR survey will provide the State with scientific data for future irrigation planning, ensuring efficient water management for growth.

## Over Rs 100 crore may change hands before polling begins in Jubilee Hills

**HYDERABAD. (Agency)**

The campaign for the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election concluded on Sunday, paving the way for last-ditch efforts to sway voters through various inducements. The next 48 hours will pose a major challenge for political parties in micro-managing electors. Political analysts do not rule out the possibility of parties going to any extent to influence voters. Sources claim that between Rs 100 crore and Rs 120 crore may change hands till the polling process begins on Tuesday — an exercise euphemistically termed "poll engineering". The main parties are focusing on voter mobilisation in bastis and slums, which form a major vote bank in the constituency. With 4.01 lakh voters, the segment has recorded around 47 per cent turnout in the last two Assembly polls. This time,

parties are pulling out all stops to boost polling percentage with reports indicating that they are spending up to Rs 2,000 per voter. The main parties have appointed booth-level in-charges, each responsible for managing 50 voters. These in-charges are tasked with coordinating voter transportation via autos and other vehicles to maximise turnout in their favour. Second-rung leaders are reportedly concentrating on persuading voters from rival camps and reaching out to apartment communities, where gifts are allegedly being distributed to woo urban electors.

The parties are believed to have assigned special teams in the constituency to distribute money to their selected vote banks. The activity is expected to continue late into the night and might go on until 8 am on polling day.

## Karnataka to get AI-enabled complaint generation system soon

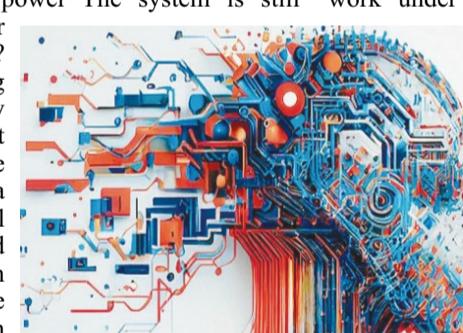
**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Have you ever struggled to write a complaint letter to government authorities on water supply, power connection, bad roads or even government schemes?

Come December, writing such letters to any government department would be easy. The Centre for e-Governance Karnataka is developing an Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Grievance Redressal System where one needs to provide only the basic information and the system generates the letter and sends it to the authorities concerned. A complainant can also just give oral instructions and utter a few key

words for the system to write the letter. It will be available in both Kannada and English.

The system is still "work under



progress". However, there is an integrated Public Grievance Redressal System (iPGRS) that has been functioning since 2021

through which one can raise complaints using the website. Here, one should enter basic details of the complainant, including the name, place, phone number and then look for the department to raise the complaint. In the existing system, one has to select the department to raise a complaint. In some cases, people would not know which department to approach, though they have a genuine problem. In the new AI-enabled system, one needs to give just the basic information of the complainant and key words like water supply disruptions for how many days, power cuts.

# Man, beast and bureaucracy inside Mysuru's escalating tiger war

**MYSURU. (Agency)**

The clang of a school bell echoes through Hale Heggudilu, but not many students returned to their houses. Instead, children gathered in small clusters outside the school gate, watching a convoy of jeeps, police vans and private cars snaking into their village. The sight of white SUVs with beacon lights and khaki-clad men was unusual in this remote forest fringe village of Saragur taluk.

At the centre of the crowd lay the small house of Danda Nayaka alias Chowda Nayaka, a 48-year-old farmer and labourer who had been mauled to death by a tiger only hours earlier. As politicians, forest officers arrived to console the family, the village stood with murmurs of disbelief. "Come home before dark," parents called out. By the time Nayaka's body was taken for postmortem, the narrow lanes of Hale Heggudilu had fallen silent. Not a single villager dared to step out. This is not a scene at this particular village. Dread now stalks every village along the edge of Saragur taluk — from Badagapura to Bennegere, Kurnegala to

Mullur. As dusk falls, doors are bolted, fields abandoned.

**When fear becomes routine**

The people of Saragur, once accustomed to living alongside wildlife, now live in terror. Four tiger attacks in 20 days have turned the region into a zone of panic. There is also fear of leopards and elephants entering the village.

We have always seen elephants and even tigers from afar," said Mahadevaiah, a resident of Hale Heggudilu. "But they never attacked humans. Now, three men have been killed within 20 days. We have stopped going to our fields at night," he said. This wave of attacks has exposed more than just human fear; it has laid bare the deep cracks in the state's wildlife governance, political interference and conservation ethics.

**Chain of deaths**

The blood trail began on October 16, when Madegowda (48) of Badagapura was mauled by a tiger. He survived, but remains under treatment in Mysuru. Ten days later,

on October 26, Rajashekhar, a farmer from Bennegere, was killed near Mullur. On October 31, Doddanagaiyah (65) of Kurnegala was attacked while grazing cattle. And finally, on November 7, came



Danda Nayaka's death in Hale Heggudilu. When Nayaka's oxen returned home, the yoke ropes still tied to their necks, his wife Rukmini sensed something was wrong. She rushed to the field with neighbours, only to find blood on the soil. A gruesome trail led them to a pit where Nayaka's body lay, partly eaten. Ironically, he had survived an elephant attack a few months ago. This

time, fate didn't spare him. In the aftermath of all these attacks, the Karnataka forest department launched combing operations and a tiger-capture drive that experts describe as a panic operation. Within 20 days, five tigers, including cubs, were caught but no one is sure if they are the ones responsible for the killings in the region.

Two cubs, separated from their mother during one such operation, have been shifted from Bennegere village to Bannerghatta Rescue and rehabilitation centre. Another one-and-a-half year old female tiger cub was rescued at Hosavindu village on November 5, while an eight-year-old tigress was captured on October 28 at Anjanapura village. In the latest operation, another tiger was captured on the night of November 8 — a 10-12 year-old male tiger, which forest officials say is behind all these killings, but this can be confirmed only through various modes and guidelines set by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).

## Seven sins of pseudo-spirituality

When police entered the Peoples Temple settlement in Jonestown, Guyana, on November 19, 1978, a chilling sight awaited them—909 dead bodies lay scattered across the compound. They all drank cyanide-laced Kool-Aid at the command of their leader, Jim Jones.

These were not the bodies of 'gullible fools,' but of people like us seeking meaning in life and a connection to something greater. The Jonestown tragedy illustrates how blind faith can kill hundreds in minutes, not just by cyanide, but due to their unexamined certainty. Though extreme, the Jonestown tragedy mirrors pseudo-spiritual sins that still mislead many today. Interestingly, the word sin originally meant not evil, but simply 'missing the mark'. Pseudo-spiritual sins work the same way—not evil in themselves, but misguided efforts that erode freedom, clarity, and purpose. Here are seven such sins and the red flags to recognise them before they derail your journey.

### 1. Outsourcing Spiritual Growth

Just as no one can lift weights to build your muscles, no one can meditate, evolve, or transform for you. Your life is a garden only you can tend—sowing the seeds and clearing the weeds. True teachers foster independence; false ones breed dependence.

Red flag: Beware of look-at-me gurus who draw attention to their self-advertised greatness and promise to do your spiritual work. Authentic look-at-yourself teachers redirect your focus to your own attitudes, choices, and responsibilities.

### 2. Failing to Discern Noise from Signal

Our growth falters when we confuse noise with signal. Signals are practices that genuinely transform us—daily meditation, quiet reflection, small acts of kindness. Noise is what distracts—selves with gurus, endless debates, or back-to-back retreats without application. If it doesn't foster health, character, or purpose, it is gossip, not growth.

Red Flag: Beware fads and gurus who rely on catchy slogans, rituals, emotionally charged stories, or clever metaphors instead of offering evidence-based tools for growth.

### 3. Seeking Shields Against Misfortunes

No spiritual leader, however revered, can shield you from life's storms. Tragedies strike gurus, their families, and followers alike. The universe won't bend to our beliefs or wishful thinking. True spirituality doesn't erase pain; it builds resilience to face it. The Buddha said, "Pain is inevitable; suffering is optional."

Red flag: Be wary of teachers who peddle fear of hell, doomsday, and miserable rebirths, or promise immunity from misfortune. These are traps.

### 4. Confusing Popularity with Truth

Popularity doesn't equate to factual or moral truth; millions once believed the sun orbited a flat earth and endorsed slavery. Test someone's teachings and practices with reason and evidence, and the visible transformation in followers' lives, not crowd size or hype. Red flag: Question your belief in gurus flaunting celebrity endorsements or massive following to prove their legitimacy. Truth needs no spotlight.

### 5. Expecting Omnipotence, Grace, or Miracles

If anyone were truly all-knowing, pandemics would be prevented, diseases cured, and crimes solved—and we wouldn't need scientists, doctors or detectives. Yet, suffering persists. Why would an omniscient person allow it, unless the claim is hollow or the claimant indifferent? Imagine a doctor saying, "I can cure you, but I won't interfere with your karma." Excuses such as "non-interference with cosmic law" only admit that such powers are of no practical use.

**Looking at upbeat faith trends like 'bhajan clubbing', I mourn that I belong to the cheated urban generation that was denied Sanskrit. Swamped by proud atheists, my low-maintenance faith became "the love that dare not speak its name" with time**

A new trend is reportedly rocking young India called 'bhajan clubbing', in which Gen Z gathers in various spaces for sessions of singing and dancing to remixed devotional songs. Chai and buttermilk are to hand, not the liquor served in Western-style pubs and clubs. There are diyas, candles, incense sticks, and flowers to create a pleasant atmosphere. The young dress up, or don't, depending on the occasion, clap along, and sing to guitars and drums. The music is modern, but the words are old, including mahamantras like 'Hare Rama, Hare Rama'.

If we look, we'll see that this movement was growing organically, with important contributions to the 'vibe' from singers like Shankar Mahadevan, Kailash Kher, Jubin Nautiyal, and a score more. The happy-clappy satsang and naamkirtan culture already in place was made more modern. The electric atmosphere during festivals like Navratri, Mahashivratri, and Janmashtami at temples, garba grounds, and in popular ashrams also fostered this development. Purists may cavil, but doesn't it sound perfectly natural for a singing, dancing nation? The young have found their own, blessedly free expression of belief, blending fun and faith. I welcome this trend with all my heart and wish it had happened in my youth. It would have been grounding, energising, and expressive of the Ananda or joy, which is the driving principle of this upbeat faith. I would not have been conditioned to be a 'coconut'—brown outside and white inside. I mourn that I belong to the cheated urban generation that was denied Sanskrit. I was taught French instead. No learning is wasted, true, but our access to and understanding of our heritage should not have been removed either. I am very thankful that the two terrible fault lines in our culture—caste and gender—are being repaired. I regret that along the way, they 'threw the baby out with the bathwater'.

This brings back a question I was pointedly asked when I began writing about religion over twenty-five years ago, thanks to the newspaper editors who took a wild chance on me. Prior to that, growing up had been complicated. My mother, the believer, was long dead, my father was basically irreligious, and I was swamped by proud atheists. They were decent people, bright and well-spoken, whose one blind spot was faith. My friends included the 'Khan Market gang' and 'Lutyens gang' that ridiculed Indian religion. I was taken aback by the underlying self-hate when people breezily said things like, "Ram was a wimp". My authentic self—a low-maintenance Hindu, maybe, but a Hindu nevertheless—was hidden from them. My faith became "the love that dare not speak its name". But my cover was blown when I began writing about religion. I couldn't lie there, though I openly shared my doubts, queries, and



critiques, drawing flak from traditionalists. All hell broke loose in my little world when I tried to explain the Hindu's visceral need for temples, headlined 'A House for Mr Vishwas'. 'Left-lib' friends told me sternly, "Renuka, you've become embarrassing," and scornfully demanded, "What's a column on religion doing in a newspaper?"

Wait, my peer group found me ridiculous, and was pressuring me to stop? It was a stark moment of choice. I chose God. A response came to me. "I think a newspaper could be compared to a farm," I said slowly. "The news pages bear staple crops like wheat and rice. The sports and feature pages grow spice and vegetable crops. The business pages are the mandi, the crop market. The editorial pages are orchards, with the fruit of thought."

"So, what's a faith column?" my friends repeated. Their tone had subtly shifted, as though processing the comparison. An answer lit up in my head. "A faith column is the kesar bagh," I said. "The 'saffron garden', as a garden of precious herbs is called. Its space may be smaller than that of the big crops. But if honestly tended, perhaps its scent may be able to enhance the quality of life." There was a long moment of silence, and I looked back steadily, for, in having to explain myself, I found I had clarified my own thoughts. Perhaps it was what we'd

call "the Upanishadic reflex"—to respond with a plausible analogy. I wondered if, unrecognised by both parties, this pattern was so culturally entrenched over the millennia that even Macaulay could not fully uproot it. For they accepted the analogy, though they stuck to their disregard for faith.

We continued as friends, with the uncomfortable understanding that I walked a different path. I heard them tell others that I was "not really like that". Once, when I showed up for lunch at the Delhi Gymkhana Club with a tilak on my forehead because I'd stopped by the Yogi Maya temple, my smart friends were horrified and icily asked why I'd turned into a sadhvi. By then, I'd grown past explaining and merely raised a 'So, sue me' eyebrow. Then one of them said, "She's not a sadhvi," and the moment passed.

I'd thought about life without the approval of the people I knew. It was fine, I'd realised, with growing excitement, for I was on a valid, if lone, personal journey in dialogue with the public. I had somehow arrived, stumbling, at the golden shore of a vast ocean, a fathomless treasure trove. It's me, the almost-outcast, who loves how Gen Z is making faith its own, combining music, devotion, and community. Sing and dance, dear people. Hari bol, with rightiful joy.

## A bypoll to redefine shape of Telangana politics

**If the Congress wins the Jubilee Hills byelection in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy earns stripes. A BRS triumph would revive the pink camp's confidence**

The Jubilee Hills byelection in Hyderabad has turned into a litmus test for all the political parties in Telangana—the ruling Congress, the main opposition BRS, and the ambitious BJP. The outcome of the November 11 vote will do more than deciding one urban seat—it could reset the power equations that shape the state's political landscape.

The contest pits the Congress bid to prove its staying power against the BRS's attempt at resurrection and the BJP's hunger for urban entrenchment. For the Congress, the stakes could not be higher. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has made it a prestige issue. A win would burnish his image and silence critics who claim his administration is wobbling under factional pulls. A loss, however, would deepen the cracks, leaving him gasping for breath amid cabinet indiscipline and a restless cadre. The Congress machinery is in overdrive—rolling out welfare testimonials, aggressive booth management, and door-to-door persuasion. A victory would give the party swagger. It would show that Hyderabad's urban, aspirational voters



reward the Congress, too, and blow the myth of BRS invincibility in the capital. After all, the Congress has not made a dent in Hyderabad in a decade.

For the BRS, the bypoll is a battle for revival. Having lost ground in 2023 and then all 17 Lok Sabha seats a few months later, it is desperate for a comeback. By fielding

the late MLA Maganti Gopinath's widow, it is banking on sympathy and legacy. A victory would signal that the pink flag still flies high in the city. The BJP, meanwhile, is likely to play the spoiler. It is pitching itself as the Hindu voice of the urban middle class, hoping to slice into both Congress and BRS votes. A strong showing would underline its expanding footprint and could nudge the BRS toward tactical cooperation in future contests. For the saffron party, Jubilee Hills is less about today's seat and more about tomorrow's momentum.

But urban byelections have a mind of their own. Turnout swings, candidate sympathy, and micro-level booth work often upset grand strategies. If the Congress wins, Revanth Reddy earns stripes. A BRS triumph would revive the pink camp's confidence. A strong BJP performance could rewrite the script altogether. When the dust settles, the result will echo far beyond Hyderabad's skyline—shaping alliances, ambitions, and agendas in Telangana's next big political battle.

## Vande Mataram: A mantra to stir the nation's soul

**Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's poem should not be seen through narrow parochial or religious eyes. It harkens to a higher ideal of nationhood that's relevant even today**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi must be congratulated for making the 150th anniversary of 'Vande mataram', the song that stirred the soul of a fallen nation, into a State celebration. For what is a State—any State—which has no statement to make? Respect, even reverence, for one's motherland is the least, some would even say the utmost, Indian statement. For Ma Bharati is not just a country, a political union, a nation, or even a state of mind. She is nothing short of a force of consciousness. In invoking her, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, unified and activated the dormant soul of a defeated people, so enwrapped in darkness that it needed nothing less than a new mantra, almost magical in its incantatory power, to agitate it into awakening.

If I sound so enthusiastic, even laudatory to the point of being reverential, it is because I have just re-read and inwardly recited Bankim's poem, India's national song. Yes, it was so affirmed by India's Constituent Assembly in 1950, the same body that gave us our Constitution. Let me confess that I have never sung or listened to 'Vande mataram' without being deeply moved, even to tears. And today is no exception.

But here's a slight problem. The full song, for various political and historical reasons, is not easily available, especially in Devanagari. I actually had to source the full original from sanskritdocuments.org. This leads me to offer an aside to the powers that be. In our efforts to promote our many national languages, in addition to the two official ones, namely Hindi and English, we must try to make important texts available not

only in translation, but in transliteration. That is, from Punjab to Kerala, Gujarat to Assam, original texts should be in both Devanagari and Roman transliteration so that we can try to read them in original.

When it comes to 'Vande mataram', most educated Indians will find it easy to grasp, its mixture of Sanskrit and Bangla heavily weighted in favour of the former, rendering it truly a national text in much of the country. Which leads me to some slightly more chauvinistic Bengali friends, mostly Hindus. They are quick to point out that Bankim spoke of seven crore voices (saptakoti kantha), slightly in excess of the population of Bengal Presidency in his time. The teeming masses of undivided India, even in the late 19th century, numbered some 285 million souls. Ergo, they argue, Bande (with a b), not Vande (with a v) mataram, was for Bengalis, not Indians. Thank you, but why be so literal, I ask. Why can't Bengal stand for India? After all, most important ideas in the colonial period, including Hindutva, coined before V D Savarkar by Chandranath Bose, came from Bengal. What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow, they used to say. Why should it be the other way round today—what India thinks today, Bengal thinks tomorrow? If we cry for national unity, even Hindu unity, why should Hindu Bengalis carp and cavil so much?

My apologies if I offend anyone. Given how much a Bongophile I am, my Kolkata friends long ago, albeit grudgingly, called me an 'honorary Bengali'.

I found that one of the most honourable, in addition to flattering, compliment I have ever received. From the regional to the 'secularist' national objection. I think it was K D Sethna, better known as Amal Kiran in Aurobindonian circles, who answered it best and most politely: "That Vande



mataram should ever have been challenged on the ground that it was too Hindu and not secular enough for a country where there were millions of Muslims, is a sad symptom of national decadence. Perhaps a still sadder one is the lukewarm apologeta put up for it at times—namely, that the goddess invoked should not worry anybody since nobody now believes in the reality of such a being and she can be taken as a harmless poetic metaphor for the motherland. Heaven save us from this kind of secularism!" It was indeed Aurobindo who not only hailed Bankim as a 'rishi' but Vande mataram as a

mantra: "Among the rishis of the later age we have at last realised that we must include the name of the man who gave us the reviving mantra which is creating a new India, the mantra Bande mataram." In an article reproduced in The Standard Bearer in 1920, Aurobindo even went so far as to say, "A greater mantra than Bande mataram has to come."

I think that is because Bankim hails Mother India as a combination of Durga, Lakshmi, and Saraswati—the three powers we need at the practical and psychic levels—to turn earthly existence into a successful and cooperative enterprise. Understood in this light, there is nothing parochial, narrowly religious, or even rigidly nationalistic about Vande mataram.

Rather, especially when understood as a mantra, it signifies the energising feminine or active force in any transformative endeavour, whether physical, vital, intellectual, psychic, or spiritual. Writing on Bande mataram, Aurobindo explained that a nation, like an individual, has three bodies—the physical (annamaya kosha), the vital energy of its citizens (pranamaya kosha), and, "Within the gross body is a subtler body, the thoughts, the literature, the philosophy, the mental and emotional activities, the sum of hopes, pleasures, aspirations, fulfilments, the civilisation and culture, which make up the sukhshma sharir of the nation... but within them all is the source of her life, immortal and unchanging, of which every nation is merely one manifestation, the universal Narayan, One in the many of whom we are all the children."

## NEWS BOX

## 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu arrested by Sri Lankan Navy

**MAYILADUTHURAI. (Agency)** The Sri Lankan Navy arrested a total of 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu in the early hours of Monday for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and fishing near Analaitivu in the Sri Lankan waters.

The arrested include 13 fishermen from Mayiladuthurai and one from Cuddalore. The arrested fishermen have been identified as Rajendran (32), Sivadas (20), Kulandaivel (27), Ranjith (30), Raj (30), Kalai (30), Gugan (28), Prasad (32), Akilan (27), Akash (27), Robin (29), Rajkumar (30), Govind (40) from Mayiladuthurai and Barathi (40) from Cuddalore. While reportedly fishing in the waters near Analaitivu on Monday, the Sri Lankan Navy intercepted the vessel and arrested all 14 fishermen on board and the arrested fishermen were later taken to Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka for further procedures.

According to sources, the fishermen had originally set out to sea on November 3 from the Tharangambadi Fishing Harbour in a mechanised boat. The crew, consisting of 14 fishermen, began their routine fishing expedition. However, during the early hours of November 4, their boat developed a mechanical fault near Jegathapattinam. With the help of local fishermen, the crew managed to tow the vessel ashore for repairs. After fixing the issue, the fishermen resumed their journey from Jegathapattinam Fishing Harbour on November 8 before being caught by Sri Lankan Navy.

## Karnataka SHRC wants Kodagu DC to prevent river pollution

**MADIKERI. (Agency)**

The State Human Rights Commission has sought a comprehensive report from the Kodagu deputy commissioner detailing the initiatives undertaken to mitigate pollution in Cauvery and Lakshmana Theertha rivers. This directive follows a complaint lodged with the commission by members of the Save Cauvery River organisation.

The Save Cauvery organization stressed that untreated waste and sewage effluent from various towns and villages in the district were being discharged into the river, resulting in massive contamination. This complaint was later forwarded to the additional chief secretary overseeing the forest department, who instructed an inquiry and requested a detailed report. At the same time, the Central Pollution Control Board conducted an inspection and collected water samples from ten distinct locations along the River Cauvery. Laboratory analyses of these samples confirmed the presence of pollutants, including sewage and untreated waste, particularly from the regions of Bhagamandala, Napoklu, Murnad, Kondangeri, Siddapura and Kudige.

The DC has been urged to implement stringent measures to prevent the inflow of waste and sewage into the rivers. The commission also sought a compliance report from the district administration by April 27, 2026.

## MP Tejasvi Surya completes Ironman 70.3 endurance triathlon in Goa

**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya completed the Ironman 70.3 endurance triathlon in Goa on Sunday, marking his second consecutive finish in one of the world's most challenging fitness events. The race, which draws elite athletes from over 50 countries, involves 1.9km of open-water swimming, 90km of cycling and a 21.1km half-marathon, all to be completed within a strict cutoff time.



Surya finished the course in 7 hours and 49 minutes, clocking 44 minutes for swimming, 3 hours and 47 minutes for cycling and 2 hours and 54 minutes for the run. Former Tamil Nadu BJP president K. Annamalai, who participated alongside Surya, completed the race in 8 hours and 13 minutes.

Speaking after the event, Surya said, "The Ironman 70.3 Goa has emerged as one of India's premier endurance events. It is the ultimate test of physical and mental strength. Over the past few months, I trained rigorously to improve my endurance and am delighted to have completed this challenge." He urged young Indians to take up sports and physical activity as part of their daily routine. "As a finisher of this demanding challenge, I can attest that setting and pursuing fitness goals truly pushes your boundaries and transforms you as an individual."

# MGNREGA employment declines in Andhra Pradesh

**VISAKHAPATNAM. (Agency)**

Employment generation under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) has witnessed a sharp decline in Andhra Pradesh during the first half of the 2025-26 financial year, according to the latest MGNREGA Tracker released by LibTech India. The report, based on official MGNREGA MIS data (nrega.nic.in) for April-September 2025, highlights a sharp drop in both employment and household participation, coupled with growing digital exclusion due to the mandatory Aadhaar-based eKYC requirement. The report shows that persondays generated in Andhra Pradesh fell by 13.6%, a steep decline than the national average of 10.4%. The number of participating households also decreased from 42.79 lakh to 40.74 lakh, marking a 4.8% drop compared to the previous year. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe workers were disproportionately affected with persondays declining by 18.7% and 17% respectively, compared to an 11.3% fall among other categories. This reduction in work

opportunities has directly impacted household incomes. The average income generated per MGNREGA household dropped by 4.8%, from Rs 10,695 in 2024-25 to Rs 10,178 in 2025-26.

**LibTech advocates for suspension of Aadhaar-based eKYC requirement**

Despite a marginal increase in the notified wage rate from Rs 300 to Rs 307 per day, workers collectively earned around Rs 435 crore, less than last year due to reduced work availability. At the district level, NTR recorded the steepest fall with a 44.7% decline in persondays generated, followed by Chittoor with a 31.3%.

In contrast, Nellore and Visakhapatnam were the only districts to register positive growth, increasing employment generation by 4.8% and 4.1% respectively. Palnadu remained largely stable, showing a marginal decline of 0.4%. The report cautioned that the ongoing Aadhaar eKYC mandate could further deepen the crisis. In Andhra Pradesh, nearly 38 lakh registered workers are yet to complete eKYC verification, while over 21 lakh active workers remain unverified.

"Many have been unable to complete the process due to migration for seasonal work, technical errors, and poor internet connectivity in rural areas," the report cited. LibTech India urged the State government to request the Centre to suspend the mandatory Aadhaar-based eKYC requirement, noting that such digital filters, intended to prevent fraud, are in practice excluding genuine workers from accessing employment and wages. It also recommended that the government hold consultations with worker groups, civil society organisations, researchers, and Central authorities to address these challenges, and ensure that accountability measures do not come at the cost of exclusion.

## NFR Loco Pilots Exemplary Vigilance Prevents Elephant Mishaps

**The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 10th November: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has once again demonstrated its commitment towards wildlife conservation and safe train operations in elephant-prone areas. Due to the vigilance and timely action of alert loco pilots and staff, several elephants were recently saved from possible accidents in different sections under NFR. On 10th October 2025, Shri Jitendra Kumar, Tower Wagon Driver displayed exceptional alertness and dedication while on duty. During his run, he noticed two elephants crossing the railway track between Rajabhatkhawa and Kalchini section of Alipurduar Division. Acting swiftly and responsibly, he applied the brakes and brought the Tower Wagon to a complete halt, thereby preventing a potential

elephant dashing incident. In another instance, on 16th October

Tinsukia Division. The crew acted promptly by applying the brakes



2025, while operating a Special Train, Loco Pilot Shri Satyendra Yadav and Assistant Loco Pilot Shri Sudarshan Hatimuria noticed four elephants crossing the tracks in the Mariani - Titabar section of

and stopping the train in time, saving the lives of four elephants. Similarly, on 24th October 2025, the crew of Train No. 20503 (Dibrugarh - New Delhi) Rajdhani Express Shri Lalman,

Loco Pilot and Shri Vinit Gupta, Assistant Loco Pilot, observed an elephant on the track between Bokajan - Khotkhoti section of Tinsukia Division. They immediately applied emergency brakes and brought the train to a halt, thereby averting a possible mishap and ensuring safety for both wildlife and passengers. These instances reflect the dedication, vigilance and compassion consistently demonstrated by the running staff of Northeast Frontier Railway. With the longest elephant corridors in the Indian Railways network, NFR remains committed to ensuring safe train operations while protecting wildlife. The railway is continuously implementing measures such as Intrusion Detection Systems, construction of underpasses and enhanced patrolling to reduce elephant-train collisions in sensitive areas.

## Drones, three-tier security to ensure peaceful polling in Jubilee Hills bypolls on November 11

**HYDERABAD. (Agency)**

For the first time, drones will be deployed for surveillance to closely monitor the polling process for the Jubilee Hills Assembly byelection on November 11 where 58 candidates are in the fray. Drones will be deployed at all the 139 building locations where 407 polling stations have been established. Live webcasting will be carried out from all polling stations for peaceful polling and maintaining law and order, Hyderabad District Election Officer RV Karnan said.

As many as 226 of the 407 polling stations in 65 locations have been identified as critical polling stations, where paramilitary forces will be deployed for maintaining law and order. Addressing media on Sunday, Karnan along with Hyderabad JCP Tafseer Iqbal and others said that 407 polling stations have been set up across 139 locations in the Jubilee Hills constituency, with 3,000 polling staff and 1,761 police personnel have been deployed. A three-tier security system has been put in place. As per election rules, canvassing and loudspeaker use will remain prohibited

during the 48-hour silence period. Polling will be held from 7 am to 6 pm with an additional hour permitted compared to earlier elections. Given the large number of candidates (58) in the fray, EVMs consisting of one Control Unit (CU) and



one Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) are provided to all the polling stations. The Assembly constituency has 4,01,365 voters, including 2,08,561 (male), 1,92,779 (female) and 25 (other voters). Counting of votes will be done in 10 rounds for which 42 counting tables have been arranged. Mobile deposit counters are being opened at all the polling stations to facilitate the voters to deposit their mobile before entering into the polling station and to take back after casting their vote.

## After testing positive for HIV, woman kills son, ends life in Krishnagiri

**KRISHNAGIRI. (Agency)**

In a tragic incident highlighting the continued stigma related to HIV/AIDS, a 40-year-old woman near Hosur strangled to death her nine-year-old son before ending her life on Sunday, a week after learning that they had contracted the virus from her husband. Police said Rekha (name changed) of Krishnagiri district had quarrelled with her husband a few months ago after he tested positive for HIV and started treatment. Rekha, their son and teenage daughter subsequently tested for the virus and last week the results showed that mother and son were positive and daughter negative.

On Saturday night, Rekha and the boy went to sleep in one room, while the girl and husband slept in another.

The next morning, her husband found their bodies. Police said Rekha had strangled her son to death and then died by suicide. Based on a complaint filed by Rekha's relative, police have launched a probe into the deaths. A Krishnagiri official of the Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society (TANSACS) told TNIE



"Proper counselling will be given to the affected persons, and their details will be kept private. The community should support those living with HIV and not isolate them," the official said. It may be noted that with antiretroviral therapy (ART), persons with HIV/AIDS are able to live long, healthy lives.

## Tirumala gets AI-powered command control centre

**TIRUMALA. (Agency)**

Cradled in the divine embrace of Tirumala's seven sacred hills, where chants of Govinda echo through the ages and pilgrims ascend in faith, a quiet technological revolution is underway. The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), custodian of Lord Venkateswara's abode, has unveiled India's, and possibly the world's first fully AI-powered pilgrim management system, anchored by a state-of-the-art Integrated Command Control Centre (ICCC).

Built at a cost of Rs 28 crore, the ICCC located inside the Vaikuntam Queue Complex represents a landmark fusion of devotion and digital innovation. Designed to manage the daily inflow of over 1 lakh devotees, the system ensures safety, serenity, and operational efficiency even amid shrinking manpower. TTD's workforce has declined from 12,600 to 4,600 over the past three decades due to retirements and a hiring freeze.

"This initiative embodies our resolve to maintain devotion and discipline despite challenges," said Additional Executive Officer Venkaiah Choudary. "With AI, machine learning, and digital twin technology, we're ensuring that every pilgrim's journey remains sacred, safe, and seamless." The idea took shape in October 2024 after HRD and IT Minister Nara Lokesh's Silicon Valley visit, where he explored smart city models and digital twin systems, virtual replicas that enable real-time monitoring and predictive analytics. Inspired, he encouraged a collaboration between TTD and global technology philanthropists to blend ancient faith with modern intelligence.

By February 2025, a core vision team presented a detailed roadmap to TTD, identifying the need for an AI-driven control ecosystem capable of crowd prediction, anomaly detection, and drone surveillance. Following feasibility studies,



the project received approval on August 28, 2025. Funded entirely through donations from global philanthropists under the US-based Karya Foundation, the ICCC was conceptualised as an offering of 'digital seva'. Tech leaders including Anurag Jain, Srinivas Raju, BV Jagadeesh, A Praveen, JP Vejendra, and Dr Srinivas Mukkamal contributed over \$3.5 million to bring the project to life.

Constructed in just 16 days, the centre

operates on KloudSpot's AI platform and NVIDIA's high-performance computing infrastructure.

Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the ICCC, witnessing its live operations. The trial run exposed the importance of cybersecurity, prompting TTD to add a Rs 8 crore 'Cybersecurity and Digital Threat Intelligence' upgrade, making Tirumala the world's first AI/ML hybrid spiritual hub. The ICCC integrates over 3,000 CCTV cameras, processing 360,000 payloads per minute and generating over 518 million daily events. "It produces around 2.5 billion intelligent inferences in real time," Choudary explained. The system provides live queue status, heat maps for crowd flow, and digital kiosks for navigation. AI even detects distress signals or emotional strain, ensuring pilgrims feel supported throughout their spiritual journey.

**CUTTACK. (Agency)**

The Orissa High Court disposed of a habeas corpus petition after being informed that a girl from Rourkela, whose disappearance had prompted judicial intervention, was successfully traced at Mathura and reunited with her family. According to official reports submitted in court, the girl was staying in an Ashram in Mathura and had informed the police that she had gone there on her own will 'to seek God's shelter' out of family stress.

In the November 6 order, the division bench comprising Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice MS Raman appreciated the steps and efforts taken by the police administration in tracing the missing girl and retrieving her from a far flung place. The habeas corpus petition had been filed by the elder sister of the girl, aged about 20 years, who went missing from her father's house at Rourkela on June 9.

Since July 10, the court had been closely monitoring the investigation, calling for regular progress reports from the state through additional government advocate (AGA) Debasish Tripathy. At the initial stages, the court was informed that all possible steps had been taken including examination of family members and neighbours and that police teams had even travelled outside the state in search of the girl.

The AGA on November 6, submitted before the court a report stating that the police efforts had yielded fruitful results, with the girl being traced to Mathura, and she was restored with the family.

The Chief Justice disposed of the case as the petitioner stated that she was not inclined to proceed further in the matter as the girl had come back home, and directed the family to ensure all assistance and medical attention as required.

# Ajit Doval office to probe possible GPS spoofing at Delhi airport: Sources

**GPS spoofing is a type of cyberattack where fake satellite signals are transmitted to deceive navigation systems about their actual location. In the Delhi airport case, pilots reported receiving false navigation data, including incorrect aircraft positions and misleading terrain warnings.**

**Agency New Delhi.** The office of National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval has launched an investigation into possible GPS spoofing incidents that were reported early last week. The possible GPS spoofing took place a couple of days before massive flight disruptions at the Delhi airport last week due to an ATC systems glitch that affected over 800 flights, causing major delays and diversions.

GPS spoofing is a type of cyberattack where fake satellite signals are transmitted to deceive navigation systems about their actual location. In the Delhi airport case, pilots reported receiving false navigation data, including incorrect aircraft positions and misleading terrain warnings, particularly within a 60-nautical-mile radius of the national capital.

The National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC) at the NSA's office is responsible for national-level coordination on cybersecurity matters. The sitting NCSC is Navin Kumar



Singh, who was appointed in August this year. The NCSC works under the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and coordinates with various agencies, including the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to ensure a cohesive national response to cyber threats. The NCSC is also responsible for directing the country's cyber threat response and coordinating across

government bodies.

Meanwhile, the investigation aims to determine the cause and scope of the alleged GPS spoofing incident. Authorities are also examining whether the airport disruption incident was a result of a technical glitch, cyberattack, or intentional interference. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and the Airports Authority of India (AAI) are also involved in the investigation. On Friday, Delhi Airport, which handles over 1,500 flight movements daily, had witnessed widespread disruptions after the glitch caused delays to more than 800 flights and led to the cancellation of at least 20. Several flights were also diverted to nearby airports, including Jaipur and Lucknow. The incident caused significant air traffic congestion, with pilots relying on manual navigation and air traffic controllers switching to ground-based systems. The spoofing incident raised concerns about aviation safety, as pilots faced challenges navigating through Delhi's busy airspace.

**Madhya Pradesh man on Delhi visit shoots himself dead at Jantar Mantar**



**Agency New Delhi.**

A man died by suicide after allegedly shooting himself with a country-made pistol at the protest site in Jantar Mantar on Monday morning, triggering panic among protesters and bystanders.

The incident took place around 9 am near a tea stall close to the metal detector gate installed by Delhi Police at the venue. Police officials said the man arrived at the protest site carrying a firearm and shot himself before any intervention could be made.

According to police sources, the deceased had reportedly come to participate in a protest for which permission had been granted earlier. However, before the demonstration could begin, he allegedly took out the weapon and shot himself. Eyewitnesses said the man was seen standing quietly moments before the gunshot was heard. The area was immediately cordoned off, and police teams rushed to the spot.

Preliminary reports suggest the man may have been a resident of Madhya Pradesh, though officials said his identity is still being verified. His body has been sent for post-mortem examination. A senior police officer said a case has been registered and forensic teams are examining the scene. The firearm has been recovered.

**Rs 50 Lakh Money Trail Found In Adulterated Ghee In Tirupati Laddu Row**

**Agency New Delhi.**

A Rs 50 lakh money trail has been unearthed in connection with adulterated ghee supplied to the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam to make the Srivari laddu, the devotional offering distributed to the lakhs of pilgrims, worshippers, and tourists who visit the famous temple every year.

Sources said K Chinnappanna, the personal assistant to YV Subba Reddy, a Lok Sabha MP from Andhra Pradesh's ruling YSR Congress Party and a former TTD Chairman, allegedly received that sum – in cash – from hawala agents linked to Uttar Pradesh-based Premier Agri Foods Pvt Ltd. Specifically, Chinnappanna allegedly received Rs 20 lakh from Aman Gupta, a Delhi-based agent, and the rest from Premier Agri Foods senior executive Vijay Gupta.

Both transactions were made near Delhi's Patel Nagar Metro Station, sources said. Last year a massive political (and legal and socio-cultural) row erupted after allegations the world-famous Tirupati laddus were made with 'impure' ghee, i.e., ghee made with animal fats.

The matter reached the Supreme Court, which downplayed politicians expressing 'anguish' over the controversy – the reference was to Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's public statements – stating firmly that politics and religion should not be mixed. The court, however, ordered a joint investigation – with officers drawn from the CBI, the state police force, and food safety officials. The team's report outlined several instances in which the four dairies supplying the ghee manipulated documents and prices to win tenders. Investigators found that 60.37 lakh kg of adulterated ghee, i.e., mixed with foreign particles, worth Rs 240.8 crore, reached the TTD.

Specifically, Bhole Baba Organic Dairy Milk Pvt Ltd allegedly mixed palm oils and chemicals to make adulterated ghee at their plant in Roorke, some of which was routed to the temple via three others – Sri Vyshnavi Dairy Specialities supplied tainted ghee worth Rs 133.12 crore, Malganga Milk & Agro Products Rs 73.18 crore, and AR Dairy Foods Rs 1.61 crore.

**Bomb scare in Bengal after live explosives found in Murshidabad field**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

A bag containing live crude bombs was recovered from an agricultural field in West Bengal's Murshidabad on Monday morning, triggering a security scare and raising concerns over law and order situation in the state. Police said the bag was found near a culvert in the area following a tip-off late Sunday night. The area was cordoned off, and a Bomb Disposal Squad has been called in to defuse the explosives.

The discovery has put the area on high alert. An investigation is underway to identify those who stashed the bombs and determine their motive. According to officials, Murshidabad has a history of similar recoveries during election seasons. In 2021, about 60 crude bombs were found in the district ahead of the Assembly elections. Ahead of the 2023 Panchayat polls, live bombs were recovered near a Congress candidate's residence, prompting allegations of political intimidation.

The district has also witnessed several incidents of violence linked to elections. Over 40 people were killed in clashes across West Bengal during the 2023 Panchayat elections, with Murshidabad among the worst affected.

In 2016, a CPI(M) polling agent was killed after being attacked with crude bombs in Domkal. Police said the district's proximity to the India-Bangladesh border makes it vulnerable to illegal arms and explosives smuggling. Crude bombs are often used as weapons in political rivalries at the local level. Senior officials said security measures have been stepped up across the district, and patrolling has been intensified to prevent any untoward incidents ahead of the polls.

"We have increased surveillance and are investigating the source of the explosives," a police officer said. The bombs were to be defused by the Bomb Disposal Squad later in the day.

**60% Rise In Stubble Burning In 6 States In 24 Hours: Delhi Gasps For Air**

**Agency New Delhi.**

The rising air pollution in the national capital Delhi continues to draw attention to stubble burning – one of the causes of pollution – in neighbouring states, including Punjab and Haryana. In just 24 hours, six states reported a 60 per cent collective rise in incidents of stubble burning on November 8, according to data collected by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Agriculture Research Institute's CREAMS laboratory.

The six states and union territories being studied include Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. The number of stubble burning incidents increased from 568 on November 7 to 911 a day later, as per the satellite remote sensing data.

The data has been collected following the "Standard Protocol for Estimation of Crop Residue Burning Fire Events using Satellite Data", said the CREAMS laboratory.

On November 8, Madhya Pradesh reported a whopping 353 cases of stubble burning. This was followed by 238 in Punjab, 158 in Haryana, 120 in Rajasthan and 42 in Haryana.

**Punjab At Centre Of Rising Stubble Burning Incidents**

A total of 8,365 crop burning events have been detected this season in six states between September 15 and November 8, with Punjab recording the highest at 3,622. Within Punjab, Sangrur, one of the rice producing districts, reported the maximum number of stubble burning incidents at 602 during the same time.

A microscopic view of the data suggests that even on November 8, Sangrur recorded the highest number of stubble burning incidents in Punjab. Sangrur is closely followed by Firozpur and Mansa reporting 33 and 27 cases respectively.

## 4 doctors arrested in 4 days with chemicals, rifles: Face of white-collar terror

**Agency New Delhi.**

In a worrying string of arrests over the past week, authorities have arrested four doctors and several other associates linked to terror activities in two separate incidents, exposing a growing white-collar terror ecosystem operating from within professional circles. One of the set of arrests, which took place in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Jammu & Kashmir, was accompanied by a seizure of over 2,500 kgs of bomb-making material, rifles, pistols, and other suspicious material. The other arrests, made in Gujarat, carried recoveries of poison-formulating material and pistols.

Both sets of arrests took place within a

day of each other, but authorities haven't said whether they are linked, so far.

Ghazwat-ul-Hind (AGUH).

These arrests of four doctors within four days point to a disturbing trend – highly educated professionals leveraging their positions to further terror agendas. Officials have warned that these professionals had contact with international handlers and were actively preparing both chemical and firearms-based attacks in different parts of the country.

### DR ADEEL RATHER ARRESTED FROM UP

The first arrest came last week when an AK-47 rifle was recovered from the personal locker of a senior resident doctor at Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag, Jammu and Kashmir. Adeel Ahmad Rather, 27, a resident of Qazigund, Anantnag, had been working at GMC Anantnag.



Investigations revealed that these radicalised doctors were in contact with foreign handlers operating from Pakistan and other countries and even banned outfits like ISIS, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM), and Ansar

ethical and legal challenges.

"The characteristic of GenAI being a black box and having opaqueness has the possibility of creating an ambiguity in the legal system followed in India.

In other words, the skill of GenAI to leverage advanced neural networks and unsupervised learning to generate new data, uncover hidden patterns, and automate complex processes can lead to 'hallucinations', resulting in fake case laws, AI bias, and lengthy observations.

This process of hallucinations would mean that the GenAI would not be based on precedents but on a law that might not even exist. Such arbitrariness is a clear violation of Article 14," it claimed.



**Agency New Delhi.** Chief Justice BR Gavai on Monday acknowledged the growing misuse of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools and other digital tools against the judiciary, noting that he has seen the morphed pictures.

"Yes, yes, we have seen our morphed pictures too," the Chief Justice said while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking directions for framing guidelines or a policy to regulate the use of Generative AI (GenAI) in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.

According to the petition - filed by advocate Kartikeya Rawal - there is a difference between AI and GenAI,

may replicate, perpetuate, and even aggravate pre-existing biases, discrimination, and stereotypical practices, thereby presenting profound

ethical and legal challenges.

## "Seen Our Morphed Pics Too": Chief Justice Says "Judges Aware" Of AI Misuse

with the latter capable of creating ambiguity in the legal system by generating new data and non-existent case laws. It also warned that GenAI

"The characteristic of GenAI being a black box and having opaqueness has the possibility of creating an ambiguity in the legal system followed in India.

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This process of hallucinations would mean that the GenAI would not be based on precedents but on a law that might not even exist. Such arbitrariness is a clear violation of Article 14," it claimed.

**The government has set a firm deadline for all drug manufacturers to comply with global Good Manufacturing Practices by January 1, 2026, following international concerns over toxic cough syrups linked to child deaths.**

**Agency New Delhi.** After a string of global scandals over toxic Indian cough syrups linked to child deaths abroad, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has drawn a hard line, all drug manufacturers must comply with global Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by January 1, 2026, or face closure. No further extensions will be granted.

### FINAL DEADLINE FOR NON-COMPLIANT UNITS

The CDSCO's latest order targets 1,470 pharmaceutical manufacturing units with an annual turnover below Rs 250 crore that had been granted extra time to meet revised Schedule M GMP standards.

These smaller facilities were earlier given until January 1, 2026, provided they applied for an extension before May 2025. The regulator has now made it clear that no more leeway will be allowed beyond that date. Out of India's 5,308 drug manufacturing units, around 3,838 micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) have already complied with the upgraded norms. The remaining 1,470 companies, which had sought more time, now face a firm ultimatum - upgrade operations or shut down.

### GLOBAL STANDARDS, DOMESTIC SCRUTINY

The move comes after mounting international pressure following multiple incidents of contaminated



materials, and better documentation to align with World Health Organisation (WHO) standards. The revised GMP norms have already been in effect since 28 June 2024 for companies with turnover exceeding Rs 250 crore.

### 'NO MORE EXTENSIONS'

Senior CDSCO officials said the industry had been given enough time and assistance to upgrade their facilities. "The deadline of 1 January 2026 stands final. No further extensions will be considered," the regulator's order said. The decision effectively means that non-compliant units will have to suspend operations until they meet the upgraded GMP criteria, a significant push.

## Upgrade by Jan 1 or shut shop: Drugmakers put on notice after cough syrup deaths

## NEWS BOX

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola sends Premier League title warning to rivals

New Delhi. (Agency)

Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola sent a warning to his Premier League rivals, saying that his side is ready to have a go for the title as they beat Liverpool 3-0 on Sunday, November 9. Goals from Erling Haaland, Nico Gonzalez and Jeremy Doku secured all three points for City as they cut the gap to Arsenal to four. The result for Guardiola's side came after Arsenal were held to a 2-2 draw by Sunderland. Speaking to the reporters, the Spanish tactician said that his message to the players before the game was to prove they can go up against the Champions of England while not looking at the Arsenal result.

"I think Liverpool and us said 'oh wow Arsenal dropped points finally and conceded two goals'," said Guardiola.

"But at the end we have to do it and I said to the players 'don't do it because yesterday Arsenal didn't win. Do it because we believe in ourselves that we can play against the champions of England and show them we are ready to be there with them this season'." "Today we proved it. We did it."

Doku was the star of the show for City as he was a constant menace down the left and gave Connor Bradley a rough time. Guardiola said that the Belgian demands himself to get better and handled Bradley well, especially after the Liverpool right-back's performance against Real Madrid mid-week.

"He [Doku] is demanding himself to be better, he listens, and he has special attributes with dribbles," said Guardiola. "Today, Conor [Bradley] -- the right-back of Liverpool -- I'm really, really impressed." "Pep Lijnders told me a thousand incredibly good things about that guy, he can do everything. I know the game against [Real] Madrid how good [he was] against Vincius." "And he [Doku] handled it. He was aggressive, quick without the ball, and we tried to help him. He played an outstanding game."

## Renuka Singh overwhelmed by villagers' tribute after India's World Cup triumph

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian pacer Renuka Singh Thakur received a hero's welcome on Sunday as she returned to her ancestral village, Parsa, in the Rohru subdivision of Shimla district, following India's historic triumph at the 2025 ICC Women's World Cup.

Renuka, who played a key role in India's campaign by taking three wickets in the tournament, was felicitated by villagers and local authorities in a heartwarming ceremony that celebrated her contribution to the nation's maiden Women's World Cup win. During the felicitation, she was surprised with a documentary made by her villagers chronicling her journey from the hills of Himachal Pradesh to the world stage, a gesture that moved her deeply.

"I feel really happy to be here, especially because of the documentary they made for me. I think this is the best gift I could have received," Renuka told news agency ANI during the event.

Earlier in the day, the 28-year-old fast bowler visited the Hateshwari Mata Temple in Hatkoti to offer prayers and express gratitude for India's triumph. "My hard work is yielding results, but the credit goes to my mother and Bhupinder uncle, who spotted my talent and supported me," she said, reflecting on her journey. Renuka's story is one of perseverance and quiet strength. She lost her father, Kehar Singh Thakur, at the age of three, and it was her mother, Sunita Thakur, who single-handedly raised her and her brother. Her father's dream of seeing his children succeed in sports continues to inspire her—a sentiment she carries permanently, with a tattoo of her father's name etched on her arm as a reminder of his wish.

"I do not have any words for my mother's struggle. No amount of words can be enough to describe what she went through. I would like to give credit for this to everyone—my coaches, my uncle, and all the people who helped me right from my childhood," Renuka said. She particularly credited her uncle, Bhupinder Singh Thakur, who recognised her potential early and ensured she received the right training at the Dharamshala Cricket Academy under coach Pawan Sen and trainer Veena Pandey.

"My mother played a big role in my success. I also worked very hard, and my uncle supported me a lot. Had he not seen me and sent me to an academy at the right time, I would not be here," she added.

Bhupinder Singh, proud of his niece's success, described it as the result of over a decade of dedication and sacrifice. "Her success is the result of 13-14 years of sheer hard work," he said. Reflecting on India's campaign, Renuka admitted that the pressure was immense when the team lost three consecutive matches midway through the tournament. "There was a lot of pressure as we had lost three matches back-to-back and the last three were crucial. But we were hopeful of winning the World Cup," she recalled.

# MS Dhoni will play IPL 2026: Raina picks CSK retentions, makes big Jadeja call

**Former Chennai Super Kings batter Suresh Raina has laid out his retention and release plans for CSK ahead of IPL 2026, insisting that MS Dhoni and Ravindra Jadeja remain untouchable while pushing for fresh changes to the squad.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Chennai Super Kings batter Suresh Raina has weighed in on Chennai's potential retentions ahead of IPL 2026, putting his full support behind some of the franchise's biggest names while urging the management to refresh parts of the squad through the mini-auction. His comments arrive at a time when the five-time champions are believed to be exploring one of the most dramatic trade negotiations in recent IPL history — a possible swap that

could see Rajasthan Royals captain Sanju Samson arrive in Chennai, while CSK fan favourite Ravindra Jadeja heads the other way.

Suresh Raina left no ambiguity when asked who he believed Chennai should hold on to ahead of the 2026 season. Raina threw his weight behind MS Dhoni, saying he is sure that the 44-year-old will return to play next year in the IPL. Speculation around Dhoni's future crops up before every retention deadline, but CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan told that they are hopeful of having their 'Thala' playing in 2026.

Raina also backed Ruturaj Gaikwad to continue leading CSK in IPL 2026. "MS Dhoni should definitely be retained; he is playing this year, so he should remain with the team. Ruturaj Gaikwad should continue as captain," Raina told JioStar. "Ravindra Jadeja should be retained again. He is a gun player for CSK. He has done really, really well for the team over the years, so 'Sir Ravindra Jadeja' has to be there."

All 10 teams will announce their list of



retained and released players on the retention deadline day—November 15.

### THE JADEJA-SAMSON SWAP SPECULATION

Raina's words carry significance, particularly in the middle of speculation that Jadeja may be part of a potential trade deal with Rajasthan Royals. Chennai are reportedly in talks to acquire Sanju Samson, a move that would not only hand them a long-term wicketkeeping option but also a solid middle-order presence for the years to come.

Samson has been with Rajasthan Royals for 11 seasons and has captained the side since 2021, but with CSK seeking a successor to

MS Dhoni and a reliable Indian batting core, the Royals skipper has emerged as a major target. A senior CSK official, speaking to PTI, confirmed ongoing interest in the Royals captain, saying the franchise has formally expressed its intention during the trading window. "Everyone knows we are interested in getting Sanju. We have expressed our interest in procuring him in this trading window. RR is yet to confirm as their management said they are weighing the options. We are hopeful Sanju will play for CSK," the official said. If the move goes through, it could become one of the biggest trades in league history. For Rajasthan, Jadeja's return would be symbolic — he last played for them in 2009 before becoming one of CSK's most iconic all-rounders, a player who has been instrumental in title runs, spin chokes, and unforgettable lower-order finishes. Adding another twist, England all-rounder Sam Curran is also reportedly part of the same package, potentially heading to Rajasthan in the reshuffle.

## Robert Lewandowski hat-trick powers Barcelona to thumping win over Celta Vigo

New Delhi. (Agency)

Barcelona defeated Celta Vigo 4-2 away in LaLiga to bolster their position in the title race. Robert Lewandowski delivered a standout performance, notching a hat-trick to lead the visitors, while Lamine Yamal added another goal before halftime. This result lifts Barcelona to 28 points, narrowing the gap to Real Madrid at the top to just three points. Celta Vigo remain in 13th place with 13 points, trailing European qualification spots by five. Lewandowski was the match's key performer, scoring in the 10th, 37th, and 73rd minutes. His clinical finishing ensured Barcelona maintained control, and his third goal, coming from a corner, exemplified his impact. Celta Vigo struck back through Sergio Carreira, who equalised in the 11th minute after Lewandowski's opener, and Borja Iglesias, who scored in the 43rd minute. However, Barcelona's attacking efficiency kept them ahead for most of the match.

Marcus Rashford played a crucial supporting role, providing assists for two of Lewandowski's goals. His involvement, particularly from set pieces, proved effective in unlocking the Celta defence. Barcelona managed the match tempo well, capitalising on early pressure and set-piece opportunities. Celta Vigo responded with two timely goals but struggled to contain Barcelona's attacking threats. The result leaves Barcelona two points clear of Villarreal in third place.

There was late drama as Frenkie de Jong was sent off in stoppage time after receiving a second yellow card. This incident did not affect the result, but could impact Barcelona's squad options after the international break.

### WHAT FLICK SAID

Barca manager Hansi Flick was thrilled with Lewandowski's performance, saying that he has seen a different version of the Polish striker after his return from injury. "After his injury, I've seen a different Lewandowski, a positive one," Barcelona coach Hansi Flick told reporters. "He came back ahead of schedule. It's great that he's scored three goals to boost his confidence. Last season he was very important for us."

## Can BCCI help Indian football recover from its ISL fiasco?



Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to "sponsor Indian football" for a few years and help the sport stand on its own feet again.

### If BCCI steps in, football can move forward

Speaking to PTI, Sarkar didn't mince words. "Indian football cannot stop like this," he said. "If the BCCI sponsors the sport for at least four-five years, it would make a huge difference. For them, Rs 100-150 crore is not a big amount. If they take responsibility,

Indian football can move forward in a better way."

A plea like this may sound emotional—even desperate, but it reflects a growing truth: Indian football's glitzy experiment may finally be running out of luck.

### Cracks beneath the glamour

When the ISL was launched in 2014, it promised a revolution. Bollywood owners, international stars, cheer squads, fireworks — it had the swagger to rival cricket's IPL. But as the lights dimmed over time, the realities became clear: football can't survive on glitter alone. Behind the showbiz, clubs were struggling. Most continued to bleed money year after year. Youth academies existed only on paper. Long-term development plans were rare, while the chase for instant success drained both investors and enthusiasm. The result? When the AIFF opened the doors for new ISL bidders, no one walked in.

## Ravindra Jadeja's Instagram profile disappears as Sanju Samson swap deal picks up steam

New Delhi. (Agency)

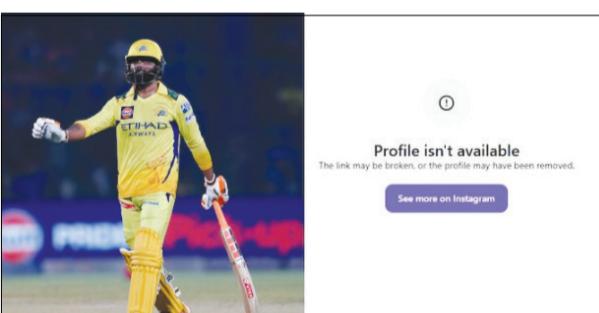
As the news of his exit from the Chennai Super Kings is growing stronger day by day, Ravindra Jadeja's official Instagram account has vanished. Jadeja has been vital to CSK's recent success, having won titles with them in 2018, 2021 and 2023 and even captaining them during the 2022 season for a few games.

However, CSK are reportedly in the midst of planning one of the biggest transfer moves ahead of IPL 2026, with Rajasthan Royals skipper Sanju Samson likely to make the switch from Jaipur to Chennai in a blockbuster trade that could see Ravindra Jadeja move the other way. To add further intrigue, England all-rounder Sam Curran is also said to be part of the proposed deal, potentially joining Rajasthan.

As CSK begin to shape their squad for life after MS Dhoni, Samson has surfaced as their top target to bolster the batting unit and provide leadership for the future. However,

the possible departure of Jadeja — a long-time fan favourite in Chennai — is expected to stir strong emotions among supporters.

A senior CSK official, speaking to PTI,



reportedly confirmed that the franchise is in active negotiations for Samson, while Rajasthan Royals are currently assessing the proposal before making a final decision. The recent rumours have unsettled a set of CSK fans for whom Jadeja has been a favourite. However, some of them noted on Monday morning that his official Instagram

account, under the name of royalnavghan, had been deactivated.

Jadeja is active on the social media platform, where he gives a sneak peek into his life.

During the time of the IPL, Jadeja often posts about his love for CSK and his connection with the fans.

### DHONI TO ALLOW JADEJA TRADE?

Former cricketer Mohammed Kaif feels that MS Dhoni will allow the Samson-Jadeja trade to go through as he will be aiming to make CSK champions again. "If Jadeja has to be sacrificed for the team's good, Dhoni will do it. People say how Dhoni operates based on friendships and does it, giving them a couple of extra chances. But it doesn't mean his focus goes away from winning. The goal is to make CSK a champion. That's why he will let go of Jadeja if it has to be done. If Dhoni feels he can get a better option for the team, he will take the decision," remarked Kaif. Jadeja played for RR 16 years ago and was part of the side that won the inaugural IPL title.

## IND vs SA: Temba Bavuma joins South Africa squad in Kolkata ahead of 1st Test

**South Africa captain Temba Bavuma was the final player to join the senior squad on Monday morning as the visitors assembled in full strength in Kolkata ahead of the opening Test against India, scheduled to begin at Eden Gardens on Friday.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

South Africa captain Temba Bavuma joined the national team in Kolkata on Monday morning, completing the visitors' full-strength squad ahead of the opening Test against India, scheduled to begin at Eden Gardens on Friday. Bavuma, who recently led the South Africa 'A' side in their

unofficial Test series against India A in Bengaluru, was the final member to check in with the senior squad. "Bavuma, along with another player and a few officials, arrived this morning from Bengaluru. Most of the squad, including the head coach, had already checked in on Sunday," the team's local manager told PTI.

The first batch of South African players, including head coach Shukri Conrad, pacers Kagiso Rabada and Marco Jansen, and those returning from the white-ball series in Pakistan, had landed in Kolkata on Sunday morning. "South Africa now have their full contingent in. There's no activity scheduled at the Eden today. Most likely, both teams will have their first training session on Tuesday," the manager added.

Bavuma, who missed the start of South Africa's

World Test Championship (WTC) campaign in Pakistan due to a calf strain, returned to competitive action for the 'A' team. The right-hander, playing under Marques Ackerman's captaincy, scored a gritty 59 off 101 balls in the second innings of the second unofficial Test in Bengaluru to help his team secure a five-wicket win and level the series 1-1.



Middle-order batter Zubayr Hamza, another member of the 'A' squad, has also joined the main team. Known for his ability to handle spin, Hamza made valuable contributions in both matches, including a 77 in the second innings of the final game at the Centre of Excellence.

On the Indian side, the first group of players—including skipper Shubman Gill, head coach Gautam Gambhir, pacer Jasprit Bumrah, all-rounders Washington Sundar and Axar Patel—arrived in Kolkata late on Sunday after completing the limited-overs tour of Australia. The remaining members of the squad, including Rishabh Pant, KL Rahul, and Dhruv Jurel, are expected to check in throughout the day. Both India and South Africa will hold their first training sessions at Eden Gardens on Tuesday in preparation for the first of the two Tests.

## What is 'Digital Gold' and why has Sebi issued a warning?

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has issued a strong warning to investors about the rising popularity of digital gold, a product that lets users buy small amounts of gold online through apps. Millions of Indians have been investing in digital gold, assuming it is as safe as physical gold or gold exchange-traded funds (ETFs). But Sebi has clarified that these online gold products are not regulated under any of its frameworks and therefore carry significant risks.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS DIGITAL GOLD?

Digital gold allows users to buy and sell gold through fintech apps and online platforms, often in very small amounts starting from Rs 10 or Rs 100. The platform claims to store the equivalent physical gold in a secure vault on behalf of the buyer.

Later, investors can sell it digitally or request delivery of physical gold. The idea became popular because it offered easy access to gold ownership without visiting a jeweller or buying large quantities. Apps like Paytm, Google Pay and PhonePe have offered digital gold through partnerships with companies such as MMTC-PAMP and Augmont. However, Sebi has pointed out a key difference between these digital gold products and regulated gold instruments like Gold ETFs or Electronic Gold Receipts (EGRs), which are traded on stock exchanges and fall under Sebi's supervision.

### WHY HAS SEBI ISSUED A WARNING?

Sebi's warning is based on one clear concern: digital gold is not regulated by any financial authority. It does not qualify as a security, deposit or derivative, which means Sebi has no control over how these platforms operate or store investors' gold.

## Noida's retail boom: These 2 mega infra projects are driving mall growth

New Delhi.(Agency)

Noida's retail market is undergoing a significant transformation as two major infrastructure projects, the Noida-Greater Noida Expressway and the Yamuna Expressway, leading to the new Noida International Airport in Jawahar, are the main drivers of this change. They are clearing the way for malls and retail developments, which are going to change the way shopping and fun are done in the National Capital Region (NCR).

### INFRASTRUCTURE ACTING AS A CATALYST

The Noida Expressway, which connects Noida and Greater Noida, has become a corridor of the future that is both attracting and accommodating residential as well as commercial investments. This six-lane road, which is surrounded by IT parks, office buildings, and modern residential areas, has become a favourite among real estate investors in the NCR.

The Yamuna Expressway, which leads further to the airport at Jawahar, makes a connection between Noida and the new international travel hub. The airport's infrastructure development, such as the building of elevated corridors, service lanes, and metro extensions, is bringing about the opening up of many new areas for commercial and retail investment.

### THE EMERGENCE OF RETAIL POWERHOUSES

The Noida area has become a preferred place for retail investors and mall developers due to the proximity of expressway connectivity and the airport's vicinity. The real estate professionals are saying that these corridors are quickly turning into retail empires, with many big projects that will include retail, dining, and entertainment all under one roof coming up.

## Growth IPO allotment out: Here's how to check on BSE, NSE

New Delhi.(Agency)

If you applied for the Growth IPO, the wait is finally over. The allotment status is being finalised today. Investors can now check whether they have received shares in one of India's most talked-about public issues of the year. The parent company of Growth, Billionbrains Garage Ventures Ltd, saw massive investor interest during the subscription window, as the online investment platform continues to ride the boom in retail participation and digital finance. With the allotment now underway, here's how you can find out if you've secured a piece of the company before its market debut.

On the BSE portal, select "Equity," choose "Billionbrains Garage Ventures Ltd" from the dropdown menu, and enter your PAN number or application details before submitting. The page will display your status as either "Allotted" or "Not Allotted."

On the NSE platform, go to the IPO section, pick the company name, and use your PAN number or application ID to check. If the allotment hasn't been processed yet, it may show as "Approved" or "Pending," so checking again later in the day can help.

You can also verify the status through the registrar's website—details are available on the Growth IPO page. You'll need your PAN number and application number handy to confirm whether shares have been allocated to your demat account.

### IPO LISTING DETAILS

If you've been allotted shares, they will be credited to your demat account before the listing date. Those who didn't receive an allotment don't need to worry—the blocked funds will be automatically released to their bank accounts within a few days.

# Overcapacity in solar module manufacturing to moderate profitability

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity is set to top 165 GW by March 2027 from 109 GW now, buoyed by the slew of incentives and policy measures in the form of the approved list of models and manufacturers (ALMM) that effectively bars direct import of modules, along with the imposition of basic customs duty on imported cells and modules, and the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme, leading to an overcapacity build-up which may force industry-wide consolidation. The implementation of ALMM list-II for solar PV cells from June 2026 has spurred the ongoing expansion of cell manufacturing capacity by module original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), which is likely to increase to about 100 GW by December 2027 from 17.9 GW currently under ALMM, Icra Ratings said in a report.

But this is likely to lead to an overcapacity scenario as the annual solar capacity

installation is expected at 45-50 GW direct current against an annual solar module production of 60-65 GW. Further, the recent imposition of US tariffs has adversely impacted export volumes, posing new challenges for the industry as modules have been redirected from the export market to the domestic market.

Thus, the overcapacity is likely to result in a consolidation of the smaller/pureplay module players, said the report based on the seven top players which contribute 50 percent of the volume. The report however did not name these seven companies. According to Ankit Jain, a vice-president at the agency, the operating profitability for the top seven solar OEMs, which remained elevated at 25% in FY25, is likely to moderate due to competitive pressures and overcapacity build-up. The recent imposition of tariffs by US and the growing regulatory uncertainty in the US are likely to further

dampen exports, potentially exerting pricing pressures.

Given that the ALMM requirement for solar cells is effective from next June, a significant scale-up in the cell



manufacturing capacity along with its stabilisation in a timely manner remains critical in the near-term. Further, the cost of modules using domestic cells is expected to be higher by 3-4 cents/Watt compared to the cost of the domestic modules using imported cells.

The agency also notes that all projects

wherein the last date of bid submission is prior to September 2025, translating into a solar project pipeline of 45-50 GW, will be exempted from the requirement of using solar PV cells under ALMM list-II even if their date of commissioning is after June 2026. This will support the order book without additional capacity ramp up in the near term. The solar PV manufacturing supply chain is dominated by China, with over 90 percent share in the global manufacturing capacity across polysilicon and wafer, over 85 percent share in cells and around 80 percent share in modules. Given the dependence on China for the sourcing of wafers and ingots, any potential geopolitical curbs on the supply of technology/machinery in setting up backward integration facilities for domestic OEMs remains a key monitorable. Moreover, each successive stage in the value chain demands higher technological complexity.

## Selling less, earning more: Why India's real estate is earning more from less

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's housing market is breaking its own rules. Fewer homes are being sold, yet the total value of sales is rising faster than ever. According to new data from ANAROCK Group, the country's top seven cities could see home sales value jump nearly 20% in FY26 to cross Rs 6.65 lakh crore, even though the number of units sold is expected to remain flat. The report, titled "Home Sales Value in FY26 May Grow ~20% Y-o-Y, Sale Volume to Stagnate," reveals that India's housing story has entered a new phase, one where luxury and premium homes are driving the market, while affordable housing demand slows down.

In FY25, around 4.22 lakh homes were sold across the top seven cities, with a total sales value of Rs 5.59 lakh crore. In FY26, ANAROCK projects this number to rise to Rs 6.65 lakh crore, driven mainly by higher prices and demand for bigger, more expensive homes.

During the first half of FY26 (April-September 2025), more than 1.93 lakh homes worth Rs 2.98 lakh crore were sold—already 53% of FY25's total sales value. Explaining this shift, Anuj Puri, Chairman of ANAROCK Group, said, "India's housing market is seeing a clear value-led growth. Demand in the premium and luxury segments continues to remain strong even as affordable housing slows due to high property prices and borrowing costs. Developers are aligning their launches to this new demand reality."

Puri added that housing sales value is being driven by a combination of rising home prices, a surge in high-ticket purchases, and steady domestic demand. "Luxury and upper mid-segment homes now account for a much larger share of overall sales. Buyers today prefer bigger homes, better amenities, and quality living spaces," he said.

### LUXURY HOMES DRIVE THE TREND

Data from ANAROCK shows that 42% of all new housing supply in H1 FY26 came from luxury and ultra-luxury projects. Even though the overall sales volume fell 14% in FY25, the total sales value rose 6%—the highest since FY22.

Dr Prashant Thakur, Executive Director and Head of Research at ANAROCK, said, "After reaching a peak in overall absorption in FY2024, housing sales have tapered down amid various headwinds. However, the sales value of total homes sold is growing. The current trends indicate potential double-digit value growth by the end of this fiscal, even as volumes stagnate." The demand for premium homes is being fuelled by affluent homebuyers, NRIs, and professionals seeking larger living spaces after the pandemic. Developers are responding by focusing on high-margin projects in prime urban areas, supported by strong domestic liquidity and a shift in lifestyle preferences.

MUMBAI.(Agency)

Indicating the rising indebtedness of households and individuals or their spendthrift nature expecting better earnings going ahead, credit card spends soared 23 percent on-year and 13 percent sequentially to Rs 2.17 trillion in September—the highest since 2020. According to an analysis by Care Ratings, however, the total outstanding credit card balances stood at Rs 2.82 trillion in the reporting month marginally down from Rs 2.89 trillion in August 2025 and up from Rs 2.72 trillion in September 2024, indicating a moderate annual growth of 3.7 percent and a sequential decline of 2.38 percent.

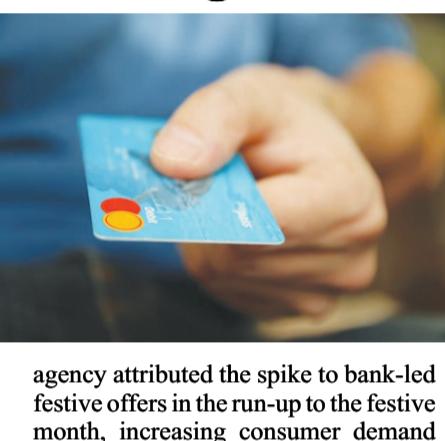
Accordingly, the share of credit card outstanding balances in total retail loans has also fallen marginally by 40 bps to 4.5 percent in the reporting month from 4.9 percent a year earlier. The

agency attributed the spike to bank-led festive offers in the run-up to the festive month, increasing consumer demand driven by the festive spending induced by GST rate cuts, along with increased card issuances in the month. While the growth rate for the reporting month remained robust, it was slightly lower than the 24 percent expansion seen a year ago. Private sector banks maintained their dominance in the

credit card spends market with a 74.2 percent share in September, although this was a 130-basis point lower annually, while public sector banks increased their share to 21.2 percent from 18.4 percent.

The total number of outstanding credit cards grew from 10.6 crore in September 2024 to 11.3 crore in September 2025, reflecting a steady increase in card penetration, indicating an annual increasing of 7 percent and an on-month growth of 1%, attributed to an expansion in credit card adoption and usage.

Private banks' average spending per card in September was Rs 20,011, up 3 percent, while that of their state-run peers saw a more significant increase of 30 percent, with per-card spending rising to Rs 16,927, primarily due to enhanced digital and rewards offerings, apart from their.



## Markets steady in mid-morning trade amid global optimism and earnings support

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Indian equity benchmarks traded higher through mid-morning on Monday, supported by positive global cues and upbeat domestic earnings. The Nifty 50 was up around 0.3 percent, while the Sensex gained a similar margin, extending early gains on broad-based buying across sectors. Investor sentiment improved after reports suggested progress toward resolving the US government shutdown, lifting risk appetite across Asian markets. Back home, strong corporate earnings continued to provide support, particularly in select mid-cap and pharma counters.

Out of 16 major sectoral indices, 14 were in the green, with mid-cap and small-cap stocks rising about 0.5 percent. Among notable movers, Nykaa gained over 4 percent after posting robust second-quarter results,

while Lupin advanced more than 2 percent following a 73 percent year-on-year jump in quarterly profit. In contrast, Ola Electric slipped nearly 2 percent after a credit-rating downgrade.



Market breadth remained positive, indicating sustained buying interest beyond frontline stocks. However, analysts noted that the gains were modest and pointed to a "wait-and-

watch" approach among investors ahead of key global economic updates. While optimism over US fiscal developments and resilient domestic earnings have boosted near-term sentiment, traders remain cautious about potential volatility linked to foreign institutional flows, inflation data, and policy signals from global central banks.

Market strategists say the near-term outlook remains cautiously constructive, with investors advised to focus on quality large-cap names while selectively adding exposure in sectors showing earnings momentum.

In summary, Indian equities were trading firm by mid-morning, reflecting steady optimism from global and domestic factors, though with a measured tone as investors look for fresh triggers to sustain the upturn.

## Lenskart makes a muted market debut, crashes 11% in initial trade

New Delhi.(Agency)

Eyewear major Lenskart Solutions shares made a weak stock market debut on Monday, despite its IPO receiving a thunderous response in the primary market. Shares of Lenskart were listed at Rs 395 per share on the NSE, a 1.74 percent discount to its IPO price.

On the BSE, the stock was listed at Rs 390 apiece, a discount of nearly 3 percent. The company's market capitalisation post listing of shares stood at Rs 67,660 crore. The stock declined as much as 11% in the first few minutes to hit a low of Rs 356. However, it made a recovery from the lows and hit a high of Rs 404 as of 10.30 am. Ahead of its listing, the grey market premium (GMP) of Lenskart fell sharply on Friday. The unlisted shares of the company were trading with just 2.5% GMP over the IPO price, according to data on Investorgain. This is a steep decline from the 24% GMP the IPO was commanding on October 31.

Meanwhile, domestic brokerage Ambit Capital initiated coverage on Lenskart with a 'sell' rating. It warned that the company's valuation appears stretched

and offers limited potential for short-term gains. Ambit has set a target price of around Rs 337 per share, about 16% below the issue price of Rs 402, implying that the stock could see pressure upon debut if sentiment weakens.

The initial Rs 7,278 crore public offer (IPO) of Lenskart was booked 28.26 times, highlighting confidence investors have in the Indian primary market and in the company despite valuation concerns. The Rs 7,278-crore IPO received bids for over 281 crore shares as against 9.97 crore shares on offer, as per BSE data.

The portion for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) part for Lenskart's IPO fetched 7.54 times subscription, while the non-institutional investor category got subscribed 18.23 times. The quota set aside for Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs) received 40.35 times the

subscription.

Lenskart's valuation concerns stem from its high P/E. The Gurugram-based company turned profitable in FY25,



posting a net profit of Rs 297 crore and its Rs 70,000 crore valuation at the upper end of the IPO price band translates to a steep 237 times price-to-earnings multiple.

This, according to many, makes the IPO a highly 'expensive' affair. Harshal

Dasani, Business Head, INVasset PMS said that Lenskart's forward valuation implies over 200 times current earnings, making it one of the most expensive

listings in India's digital retail space. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart said that while concerns around high valuation, recent losses, and competitive intensity weighed on short-term sentiment, the IPO received solid institutional interest backed by expectations of strong growth in international markets and improving margins.

"Investors allotted shares may consider holding for the medium to long term, supported by earnings visibility and expanding store footprint, with a stop loss around Rs 350 and short-term traders may exit the position and look for better opportunities elsewhere," added Nyati.

# Neha Kakkar's

## Name Misused In Trading Scam, Mumbai Lawyer Duped Of Rs 5 Lakh

In yet another shocking case of online fraud, scammers allegedly used Bollywood singer Neha Kakkar's name to promote a fake international trading platform called FXOnet, duping a Mumbai-based lawyer of over ₹5 lakh. The cybercrime, which relied on forged promotional videos and fake social media content, is now under investigation by the Worli Police.

### Fake Trading Platform Posing as 'Neha Kakkar-Endorsed'

According to the FIR filed at Worli police station, the victim, Advocate Shabnam Mohammad Hussain Syed (45), a resident of BDD Chawl in Worli, came across deceptive articles and videos in June 2025 falsely portraying Neha Kakkar as an ambassador for FXOnet — described in the content as a "trusted and legal trading platform." Lured by the celebrity association, Syed contacted individuals posing as FXOnet representatives, identified as Vijay and Jimmy D'Souza, who communicated with her through international phone numbers, Telegram (user ID: @fxonetbot), Zoom meetings, and emails that appeared professional and legitimate.

### How the Fraud Unfolded

The scammers convinced Syed to open a trading account under her name, promising high returns and sending her "expert investment tips" over Telegram. Believing the scheme to be genuine,



she transferred ₹5,02,025 between June 18 and October 9, 2025, from her HDFC Bank account to multiple accounts under names such as Rakesh Kannan (PONNURAKU@SUPERTYES), VPI ProMedia Kigali, India Impex Trading Company, and VPI 3 6 1 VPECOM. However, when no profits or refunds arrived, Syed realized she had been scammed and filed a complaint.

### Police Launch Digital Investigation

The Worli Police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology Act (IT Act). Investigators are now analyzing Telegram chats, Zoom meeting records, and UPI transaction trails to trace the culprits. Authorities said the fraudsters' modus operandi mirrors a growing trend where cybercriminals use celebrity names to gain public trust and lure victims into bogus investment platforms.

### Not the First Celebrity Fraud Case

This is not an isolated case. Earlier, the Mumbai Police filed an FIR against an unidentified person impersonating Hollywood star Keanu Reeves, who cheated a 69-year-old Versova woman of ₹65,000 by pretending to raise money for a flight ticket to India. The victim's daughter later reported the scam, saying the imposter had built emotional trust by posing as the actor online. Cyber experts have warned that the misuse of celebrity identities for financial fraud is on the rise, urging citizens to verify any endorsements or investment opportunities through official channels.



# Bhavya Gandhi

## To Return To Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah As Tapu? Actor Breaks Silence

Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah is one of the longest-running sitcoms and has often caught headlines for casting changes. In recent times, several actors have left the show, but it looks like this time the show is making headlines for a possible comeback. Yes, you read it right, it's none other than Bhavya Gandhi who has shown interest in returning to the show. In an interview with Hindi Rush, Bhavya Gandhi shared that he would love to return to the show if given a chance and said, "Yes, why not? I would definitely like to return to the show. If I return, it would be closure in my life."

He further talked about how he never left the show for money reasons and revealed, "I never worked for money, nor did I leave the show for money. I don't even know how much I was paid per episode because I was young at that time, and my parents handled all the transactions."

### About Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah

Tarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah (TMKOC), one of Indian television's most popular and longest-running sitcoms, has recently brought about a new transformation in Gokuldham Society. Following the show's 17th anniversary in July, the creators introduced a new family to the show. A Rajasthani family joined the Gokuldham Society. The new family's head is a businessman, and fans are eager to find out if he will compete with Jethalal, who heads Gada Electronics. Asit Kumar Modi created and produced Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah, which premiered on Sony SAB in 2008. Since then, several new faces have appeared on the show, while some have left.

### About the Show's Cast

Dilip Joshi as Jethalal, Amit Bhatt as Champaklal Jayantilal Gada, Tanuj Mahashabde as Krishnan Subramaniam Iyer, Mummun Dutta as Babita Krishnan Iyer, Mandar Chandwadkar as Aatmaram Tukaram Bhide, Sonalika Joshi as Madhavi Aatmaram Bhide, and Ambika Ranjankar as Komal Hansraj Hathi are among the actors who have continued to play their roles in TMKOC. Others include Nitish Bhaluni, Sachin Shroff, Sunayana Fozdar, and Khusi Mali.



Sunita Ahuja Says She Doesn't Want Govinda In Next Life; Rashmika Mandanna's Comment On Vijay Deverakonda



Bollywood actor Govinda's wife, Sunita Ahuja, always makes headlines for her unfiltered conversations and bold takes. Recently, in a conversation, she opened up about her marriage with Govinda and confessed that he isn't the best husband and that she doesn't want him in her next life. Looks like South cinema's favourite duo is ready to make it official. After months of buzz and subtle hints, reports now claim Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda are secretly engaged and planning a royal February 2026 wedding in Udaipur. Neither star has confirmed it yet, but fans are convinced their on-screen magic has finally turned into a real-life fairy-tale romance.

Taarak Mehta Ka Ooltah Chashmah is one of the longest-running sitcoms and has often caught headlines for casting changes. In recent times, several actors have left the show, but it looks like this time the show is making headlines for a possible comeback. Yes, you read it right, it's none other than Bhavya Gandhi who has shown interest in returning to the show.

Travis Scott's Tokyo concert became a heartwarming father-daughter moment when his 7-year-old daughter, Stormi Webster, joined him on stage during his performance of "Thank God." The concert, held on November 8 at Tokorozawa's Belluna Dome, saw the crowd erupt in cheers as the rapper introduced his little girl to thousands of fans.

Huma Qureshi is on a roll! The actress has been part of several intriguing projects recently, and has an exciting lineup ahead. She was recently seen in the series 'Maharani season 4', and will next be seen in 'Delhi Crime season 3'. Now, ahead of the release of Delhi Crime 3, her friend and actor Rajkummar Rao gave her a shoutout on social media. He expressed his admiration for Huma's talent, and applauded her amazing work. He wrote that he is a 'proud' friend, and also shared his excitement for her upcoming series Delhi Crime 3 in which she plays the ruthless 'Badi Didi'.

**Ahaan Panday's Latest Video Leaves Fans Gushing: 'He's Getting Younger Everyday'**



Ahaan Panday shot to fame with Mohit Suri directorial Saayaara, co-starring Aneet Padda. The two newcomers have since gained a massive following on social media, with fans eagerly tracking every update about the actors. A fan recently spotted Ahaan in Mumbai, and captured a video with him. The video has now gone viral on Ahaan's fan pages, with fans gushing over his youthful charm. The actor is seen rocking a fresh look, with shorter, wavy hair, and fans noticed that he looks much younger than his age. Many social media users expressed their wish to see him in a college romance with Aneet Padda.

**Ahaan Panday's New Look Wows Fans**  
A recent video that is going viral on Ahaan Panday's fan pages shows the Saayaara star interacting with his fan. When praised for his performance in the film, Ahaan humbly thanked the fan and expressed gratitude to all his supporters for their love. In the video, Ahaan is seen rocking a blue jersey. The fresh haircut adds a youthful charm to his look, and fans couldn't stop gushing over him. One fan wrote, "yrf, i have a vision. Ahaan x Aneet. College romance. That's it," while another one commented, "Ahaan spotted omgg he looks like a teenager hello?!?! He's so cute omgggggs." A third comment read, "He's getting younger everyday," while another fan wrote, "Hear me out....college romance, fake dating, he's a sunshine and she's grumpy." Check out some more fan reactions below!

**Ahaan Panday's Next Project After Saayaara**  
After the massive success of his debut film Saayaara, Ahaan Panday will be working with Aditya Chopra once again on a film, which will be directed by Ali Abbas Zafar. Sharvari will reportedly star opposite Ahaan in the upcoming yet-untitled action romance.

While fans are eager to know more about the project, a Mid Day report has claimed that the director will be heading to the UK in December for a month-long recce before the shoot kicks off in February 2026.

They will be shooting the film in London, Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds. Reportedly, Ali and Aditya are 'confident' about the movie, especially after the success of Saayaara.

"His debut film presented him as a devoted romantic hero. With the second venture, Aditya sir wants to project him as an action-romance star. He has been undergoing hand-to-hand combat training and weapon training," a source told Mid Day.

Every month, the group Hyderabad Vegans, sets aside a Sunday afternoon and comes together for a delightful potluck. On the menu are yummy vegan delights. TOI catches up with the group to get a lowdown on their food mantra.

Vegan potlucks first made their debut in Delhi and Mumbai, close to three years ago. But the trend, which is making waves in Western countries, has now gripped the city. Every Sunday afternoon, close to 50 enthusiastic vegans from the Hyderabad Vegans Club gather together at one of the members' homes, carrying casseroles filled with vegan delights (dishes minus any ingredient made of animal products). Giving a lowdown on how it all began, Amita Desai, a member of the group says, "Earlier, it was a small group of friends who bonded over vegan food. Slowly, through

word of mouth, many mutual friends began to show interest. Soon, we formed a group on a social networking site and started organising potlucks." She adds, "We even screen a short film on animal abuse after the meal and later have discussions for the new members."

On the menu are dishes with a twist — masala chai with cashew and almond milk, stuffed capsicums, baked vegetables with cashew cheese, millet crackers, salads, tofu makhan, palak tofu, kadhi pakora (tamarind pulp replaces curd), mock meat biryani (with soya nuggets), peanut curd rice and a host of lip-smacking

desserts like chocolate ice cream made from tender coconut pulp, chocolates made from vegan chocolate slabs and date sesame laddoos. As the group begins to devour the huge

spread, there are recipes being exchanged, small talk on how veganism is the way to go and even quick ideas are sprung across on what to bring



On a hot summer afternoon, all you need is a refreshing drink to cool off.

#### Ingredients

Beringer White Zinfandel 3 fl.oz./85 ml.

Peach Schnapps 1 fl. oz./30 ml.

Sierra Mist 2 fl. oz./55 ml.

Diced Fresh Fruit 1 oz./30 g

Lime Wedge 1 each.

Colorful / Black Turbo straw 1 each.

#### Method

- Fill glass with ice with 1 tablespoon of fresh fruit on top of ice.

- Pour each ingredient into a mixing tin and shake it two times or flash blend.

- Pour ingredients into the

glass. Top with Sierra Mist.

- Garnish the rim of glass with a lime wedge and summer stirrer/pick.

Serving suggestion: For outdoor and pool operations, try serving

on a hot summer afternoon, all you need is a refreshing drink to cool off.

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