



## News box

**Smog engulfs Gurgaon, air remains in 'poor' zone for two days in a row****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The city recorded an air quality index of 278 (poor) on Friday, while it was logged at 300 on Thursday.

The station-wise data shows uneven conditions across the city. Gwalgahari recorded the worst air with an AQI of 373, falling in the 'very poor' category. Sector 51 followed at 312. Teri Gram remained in the 'poor' range at 255 and Vikas Sadan, at 168, was the only station inching towards 'moderate' levels of pollution.

Particulate matter levels underline the problem. Sector 51 reported the highest PM2.5 concentration at 365  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , followed by Gwalgahari at 343 and Vikas Sadan at 276. Teri Gram recorded the highest PM10 level at 343  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , followed by Sector 51 at 338 and Gwalgahari at 254. PM10 data for Vikas Sadan was not available. All stations remain above the CPCB limits of 60  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for PM2.5 and 100  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  for PM10.

Officials said pollutants continued to be trapped near the surface. The whole of NCR shows a similar pattern, with daily fluctuations but no real reduction in the overall pollution load. If calm winds persist and smoke from farm fires continues to drift in, the city may see another rise in pollution levels. Delhi's air quality marginally improved to very poor category after three 'severe' air days. On Friday, the average AQI in the capital was recorded at 387 against 404 (severe) on Thursday. The minimum temperature was 10.2 degrees Celsius. The maximum was 26.4 degrees Celsius and forecast at 24-26 degrees on Saturday. Temperatures have been steady, with maximums around 25-27°C and minimums between 10 and 12°C, both below normal at most stations. Shallow fog at Palam airport reduced visibility to 900m on Friday morning, before conditions improved slightly. Forecasts indicate similar weather ahead. Clear skies, light winds and night-time haze are expected till Nov 17. Northwesterly winds are likely to slow to near-calm levels each evening, limiting the dispersal of pollutants. Mixing depths are expected to fall from 1,400m on Friday to 1,100m by Monday. The ventilation index is forecast to drop to 1,200  $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$  on Nov 17, well below the 6,000  $\text{m}^3/\text{s}$  needed for effective dispersion.

Air quality is expected to remain in the 'very poor' range for the next four days, with a risk of returning to severe levels if local emissions and incoming smoke continue to accumulate.

**Live-in couple murder colleague over 'friendship demand', held****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 40-year-old factory worker, who went missing last month, was allegedly murdered by a junior colleague and his girlfriend after he repeatedly asked him to let him be friends with her. The couple, Kushalpal Singh, alias Kaushal (26), and Bhavna (19), have been arrested and the body of the victim—identified as Sonpal of Mathura—was recovered from the Kosi border in UP.

Police said Sonpal, who worked in Sector 5 and lived in Khokh village, left for home around 4.30 pm on Oct 4. "When he didn't reach home and his phone was found switched off, his brother-in-law filed a missing complaint at the Sector 7 IMT Manesar police station on Oct 7 and murder charges were added to the FIR on Nov 13," said a police official. Police found Sonpal often asked Kushalpal to let him befriend Bhavna. The couple resented this and allegedly plotted to eliminate him.

The victim's family alleged that cops delayed the investigation and said even after scanning call details of the deceased, they did not proceed with the probe. "We on our own tracked the location of the accused, found the tower where his phone showed the last location and began a search in the area," said a relative of Sonpal, Manish Kumar. "During the search, we found a cafe—Muni Ji—which the three of them had visited hours before the incident. We also accessed CCTV footage at the eatery," Kumar added. "On Oct 4, the couple allegedly lured Sonpal to join them on a trip to Mathura. Near the KMP stretch at the Kosi border, the two attacked Sonpal, first hitting him on the head with a helmet, then stabbing him in the neck. They then dumped the body near some bushes," said an officer. Also, the bike used in the incident was found to be stolen from Panchgaon in July, the official added.

**Bengaluru cancer care company to set up unit at med device park in Noida****Noida.(Agency)**

YEIDA is planning to allot plots for establishment of a major cancer-care manufacturing unit at its medical device park in Sector 28. To attract specialised cancer-device manufacturers, senior YEIDA officials—CEO RK Singh, OSD Shailendra Bhatia, and medical devices export promotion council head Praveen Mittal—will hold meetings with Medtech entrepreneurs in Bengaluru on Nov 17 and 18, targeting companies that produce radiotherapy machines, nuclear imaging systems,



oncology diagnostics, radiology equipment, and implants. Officials said while 101 plots have been allotted in the park so far, only three companies currently deal in cancer-related equipment—and these too are small. "Cancer is among the most critical disease segments. We want to allot land to an anchor cancer unit in the park," CEO RK Singh said. The park aims to attract top manufacturers in oncology-focused and high-end medical equipment. YEIDA will pitch MDP's incentive ecosystem, including capital interest subsidies.

**No relief, GAIL to pay s 6.5cr interest for lease rent dues****Noida.(Agency)**

Noida Authority board has rejected GAIL (India) Ltd's request for recalculations of interest on its lease rent dues for a 17,466 square metre plot in Sector 16A.

The land was allotted to GAIL in 1986 for setting up a management development institute and handed over in 1992 after the execution of its lease deed the same year. Though GAIL cleared payments related to the allotment, it accumulated substantial dues over non-payment of enhanced lease rent, which is usually hiked by 50% every 10 years as per the Authority's policy. Between 1992-93 and 2025-26, lease rent arrears rose to Rs 88 lakh, while compound interest on the dues climbed to Rs 6.5 crore. In a June 9 letter, GAIL asked the Authority to recalculate the interest using a simple interest rate. The company said the Authority had earlier allowed simple interest for two of its other institutional



plots—B-35 and B-36 in Sector 1—based on the Board's decision at its 187th meeting in Dec 2015. During a

board meeting on Oct 3, officials examined the provisions of the executed lease deed, which specifies that annual

lease rent would be charged at the rate of 2.5% of the original premium and may be enhanced after every 10 years. The clause stated that a supplementary deed must be executed when a lease rent is enhanced. However, no such supplementary deed was executed for the Sector 16A plot, and the lease rent continued to be calculated at the original 2.5% rate. The Authority's accounts department confirmed that the interest calculations made so far, based on compound interest, were in accordance with the Authority's prevailing financial policy.

While acknowledging that GAIL is a govt undertaking, the The Authority held relief granted in 2015 for two other plots could not be automatically extended to this case, as the circumstances and lease-deed compliance differed and rejected the proposal.

**Delhi car blast fallout: Al-Falah University turns investigation hotspot; students head home, 8 professors resign****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

With Al-Falah University becoming the focal point of a multi-agency investigation into the Nov 10 blast near Red Fort, several students have left the campus and gone home this week.

The university's faculty is also in churn, with eight professors having resigned over the past few days, said sources. Searches in and around the university campus continued on Friday too.

Most of the radicalised doctors arrested or detained with alleged links to the Delhi blast are from this university. These doctors have either studied or worked in Al-Falah University.

The situation has prompted some parents to come to the campus to take their children back home. An MBBS student, waiting for a relative outside the campus, said, "Despite ongoing chaos, there is no disruption to our academic routine. However, my parents have called and told me to return home for a few days, following which I applied for the pass required to go out of the university. Moreover, a large number of cops are visiting the campus daily, who, we heard, even questioned a few students." Another student said he was heading back to Punjab for a family wedding and his parents were also worried. "Four in our class went to their house in the last two days. Moreover, parents of a few other

students also visited the campus to take them home. I have to attend a wedding in Punjab, but my parents kept checking with me regularly about what's happening in the university," he added. National Assessment and Accreditation Council had issued a show cause notice to the university over what it called "absolutely wrong and misleading" public display of expired accreditation statuses. The notice served on Thursday said the university had not applied for accreditation after its expiry, and hence, was not currently accredited by the council. According to sources, around eight university professors have

**Irregularities in Haryana's Wazirabad tehsil ahead of online property registry launch, probe on****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Allegations of large-scale irregularities have surfaced in Wazirabad tehsil just days before the transition to online property registration system, prompting the deputy commissioner to order an inquiry. "Badshahpur sub-divisional magistrate has been directed to conduct an inquiry and submit a report at the earliest," a senior official said.

SDM Sanjeev Kumar said, "The investigation has begun. Relevant records have been called from the tehsil administration." Sources allege that several property deeds were manually registered on Oct 31—the last day before the system went fully online—despite official restrictions on the concerned properties and builders. Officials said that multiple transactions worth lakhs were allegedly carried out in violation of orders issued by the department of town and country planning. Notably, registries linked to Ansal Buildwell, whose licence has been suspended since 2022, were reportedly processed. The builder has not renewed

its licence and owes crores in external development charges (EDC), electricity infrastructure dues and transfer fees.

In May 2022, DTCP had directed all tehsils



and the district administration to withhold Ansal Buildwell's conveyance deeds. However, more than a dozen such registries were allegedly approved in Sector 57's Sushant Lok Phases 2 and 3, reportedly with the connivance of local revenue officials. Similar irregularities are suspected in documents linked to Ireo, another major builder. Sources said the tehsil also processed powers of attorney for individuals who were not blood

relatives—a practice expressly banned in Gurgaon district. The alleged violations have not only breached administrative orders but also caused revenue losses to the govt. Meanwhile, residents continue to face delays in obtaining their documents.

Many are still making rounds of the tehsil office to collect papers registered on Oct 31. Complaints about delayed sign-offs and unresponsive staff have further added to public frustration.

The controversy in Wazirabad comes amid ongoing investigations into irregularities in other tehsils. Earlier this year, an inquiry into the Farrukhnagar tehsil uncovered 254 illegal registries between April and Aug. Agricultural lands were allegedly shown as urban plots and several registrations were done using fake or incomplete NOCs. The probe, initiated after an RTI complaint by activist Ramesh Yadav, revealed similar violations in Badshahpur and Manesar as well.

**Body with head smashed found in garbage dump in Gurgaon's Sector 7****Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The body of a 30-year-old man, who was allegedly bludgeoned to death, was found near Panchmukhi Hanuman Temple in Sector 7 on Friday morning. The deceased was identified as Kamod, a daily wage labourer from Delhi. He had been living with his elder brother for a week in Jyoti Park. Around 7am, a garbage collector spotted the body lying under a heap of trash and informed police. A team from Sector 5 police station found the body lying in a pool of blood with deep injuries on Kamod's face and head. "Preliminary signs suggest his face and head were smashed with stones," an officer said. According to police, the brothers had a drinking session on Thursday night.

Around 10pm, Kamod stepped out alone, informing his brother he would return



soon. His body was found the next morning a few metres from the temple gate. An officer privy to the probe said

they are scanning CCTV footage from the area. "The garbage heap was lying a few metres away from the temple gate, so the temple's CCTV could not cover that angle. Another camera installed at a nearby shop was found to be non-functional. We have checked nearby footage, and he can be seen walking alone," the officer added.

Police said Kamod did not have a mobile phone. His brother told investigators that he had stopped using a phone for some time. This makes it difficult for police to track his movements. While robbery does not appear to be the motive, police is examining possibilities of a sudden altercation or personal enmity.

**Delhi car blast probe: Terror accused Dr Shaheen Shahid planned Dubai escape as aides finalised plot****Faridabad.(Agency)**

Dr Shaheen Shahid, one of the Al-Falah University doctors arrested for the Delhi terror plot, had applied for a passport and was, according to investigators, planning to flee to Dubai while her associates gave final shape to their plans.

But the radicalised doctors' module began unravelling with arrests in Jammu & Kashmir, Saharanpur and Faridabad and police got to her before she could make her getaway. Shaheen's association with the module was revealed after her colleague Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie was arrested on Oct 30, and he was found to be using Shaheen's Swift Dzire, from which an assault rifle was recovered.

Sources said Shaheen had applied for a passport and a cop from Faridabad visited her on the Al-Falah campus and took a photograph on Nov 3, even as the security machinery was trying to track her down. She was eventually arrested from Lucknow on Nov 11.

J&K Police initially did not share

details and told us that they were here to nab a male doctor of the

Al-Falah University for his involvement in pasting some objectionable posters in their state. We got to know about the case a few days later," a police officer from Faridabad said. How precision policing helped UP, J&K cops crack 'Jaish code of white-collar terror' On Nov 9, the day police uncovered nearly 3,000kg of ammonium nitrate and other explosive substances from two rented places in Faridabad, a Krinkov assault rifle was found inside a Swift Dzire owned by Shaheen, which led cops to her. Muzammil, who was using the Dzire, allegedly organised the ammonium nitrate stockpile. A Maruti Brezza, one of the three cars linked to the 'white-coat' terror module behind the Nov 10 blast, was also registered in Shaheen's name in Sept. It was traced to the Al-Falah University campus on Thursday. Faridabad police said J&K Police learned during Shaheen's interrogation that the vehicle was parked there and arrived with its key. The Brezza was found near Tower 17, where Muzammil lived. Investigators said Shaheen led the module operating in Al-Falah

University. On Friday, NIA teams raided multiple locations in Nuh, including Pinangwan. A fertiliser seller was detained for allegedly supplying 300kg of ammonium nitrate, and a few others were picked up for questioning. While they were licensed to sell the chemical, investigators said they failed to verify the purpose of the bulk purchase. Amid a district-wide high alert, local police units have intensified combing and search operations across Faridabad. Units from NIT, Ballabhgarh and the Central zone conducted extensive checks on Friday in sensitive areas, markets and crowded neighbourhoods. Police spokesperson Yashpal said special teams were carrying out continuous, intensive checking to "tighten security arrangements and detect any suspicious activity at the earliest".

District magistrate has also invoked Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), 2023, covering hotels, guest houses, PG accommodations, tenants, cyber cafés and used-vehicle dealers.

**THE SIKH TIMES**

Edited, Printed, Published  
Owned by Simmi Babbar  
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar  
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing  
Press, A4/A-144, Tronica City  
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)  
Corporate Office:  
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,  
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi

Editor-in-Chief  
Gurcharan Singh Babbar  
Mob: 9654072232, 9971359517  
Website: www.thesikhtimes.in  
Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

## Authorities intensify bio-security measures, surveillance at city zoo

New Delhi: Following the outbreak of H5N1 avian influenza at the National Zoological Park here, the authorities on Sunday intensified surveillance and bio-security measures at the facility. According to zoo officials, surveillance teams are conducting inspections of the entire premises twice in a day. Enclosures, water ponds and foraging grounds frequented by migratory birds are being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Health and behaviour of animals are being closely tracked by keepers as well as through CCTV monitoring. "All zoo staff members have been equipped with protective gear, including gloves, masks, protective suits and shoe covers, to ensure safety and minimise the risk of transmission," an official statement from the zoo read. As of Sunday, no new casualties have been reported among water birds or migratory species. However, three painted storks and one black-necked ibis have been separated from the aviary and are under treatment and observation. So far, six painted storks and two black-necked ibises have died inside the water bird aviary, while four migratory painted storks died in the ponds. Two samples each of painted storks and black-necked ibises were sent to lab. The results confirmed the presence of H5N1 avian influenza. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic strain of avian influenza virus, which is listed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a significant zoonotic disease with pandemic potential.

## Posing as telecom officer, Ludhiana man held for fraud

Gurugram: The accused, Shiva, who went to Laos in March, would dupe Indians by posing as a fake officer of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), CBI and the police. The police have seized a passport and a mobile phone from his possession and are investigating the fraud network. A local had filed a complaint on May 15, stating that he had received a call, wherein the caller introduced himself as an employee of the TRAI and said that his number was being used for illegal activities. He claimed that case had been registered against him at the Colaba Police Station in Mumbai. Later, he made him talk to a fake police official. "The fake police official mentioned my name in a money laundering case and said that a warrant had been issued. Then, he digitally arrested me. I transferred money as per the direction of the fake police official," the complainant told the police. An FIR was registered and a cybercrime team of the West police station arrested the accused in Ludhiana on August 27. He was taken on an eight-day police remand after being produced in a city court. The accused was identified as Shiva, alias Harsh, a native of new Vijay Nagar, Ludhiana in Punjab. The accused revealed that out of the amount defrauded in the case, Rs 50,000 was transferred to the account of his brother who was arrested earlier.

## 50 CCTV cameras piece together final hours of Red Fort blast accused

### The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The police traced his movements from when he left Faridabad the night before the Red Fort blast to the moment his explosive-laden car detonated near the metro station the next evening. According to investigators, Umer's journey reflected careful planning and conscious efforts to stay unnoticed. Sources said he began his trip on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway on Sunday night before exiting near Firozpur Jhirka in Haryana's Nuh district. There, he reportedly stopped at a roadside dhaba and spent the night inside his white Hyundai i20. "He seemed cautious but not panicked. He avoided busy areas, sticking mostly to highways and smaller eateries," a police officer said. On Monday morning, CCTV footage captured him again along the expressway, driving slowly towards Delhi. He halted twice, once for tea and again to check his phone.

Entering the city through the Badarpur border, he appeared to follow the same route he had earlier used to travel from Faridabad.



Umer used to travel from Faridabad. Between 8 am and 3 pm, Umer made several loops around Delhi passing through Southeast, East, New Delhi and Central districts before stopping at a small eatery in Ashok Vihar around midday. "He was calm, had lunch and left quietly," said the source. Later, he

visited a mosque near Asaf Ali Road, close to Ramlila Maidan, where he prayed and stayed for nearly three hours. The police believe he might have received final instructions there, as his phone showed activity during that time. At 3.19 pm, Umer parked his car near the Red Fort complex, where the vehicle remained until 6.22 pm. Moments later, CCTV showed the vehicle

heading towards the Red Fort Metro Station. At 6.52 pm, the explosion tore through the evening traffic, killing 13 persons and injuring more than 20 others. Dr Umer un-Nabi began his trip on Delhi-Mumbai Expressway on Sunday night (November 9) before exiting near Firozpur Jhirka in Nuh district. He stopped at a dhaba and spent the night inside his i20 on Monday morning (November 10), CCTVs captured him again along the expressway, driving towards Delhi. He halted for tea & to check his phone. Entering the city through the Badarpur border, Dr Nabi appeared to follow the same route he had earlier used to travel from Faridabad. Between 8 am and 3 pm, Umer made several loops around Delhi passing through Southeast, East, New Delhi and Central districts before stopping at a small eatery in Ashok Vihar around midday. Later, he visited a mosque near Asaf Ali Road, close to Ramlila

Maidan, where he prayed and stayed for nearly three hours. At 3.19 pm, Umer parked his car near the Red Fort complex, where the vehicle remained until 6.22 pm. At 6.52 pm, the explosion tore through the evening traffic, killing 13 persons and injuring more than 20 persons.

### 17-year-old girl shot at in Faridabad

Faridabad: A 17-year-old girl was shot at by a youth in Shyam Colony, under the jurisdiction of city Ballabhgarh police station, on Monday evening. The bullet hit her shoulder and she was admitted to hospital in a critical condition. The police have registered a case and launched a search for the accused. According to police, the victim, Kanishka, is a resident of Shyam Colony and attends nearby coaching centre. The shooting occurred around 5 pm near her home, with one bullet grazing her shoulder and another her abdomen.

## Villagers call mahapanchayat on UER-2 toll

New Delhi: Anger over the Urban Extension Road (UER-2) toll tax is mounting in Delhi's rural areas, with villagers vowing to step up their protest. A panchayat of 360 villages was held in Bindapur on Sunday under the chairmanship of Palam 360 Khap head Chaudhary Surendra Solanki, where it was unanimously decided to convene a large mahapanchayat on September 13 at the Bakkarwala-Mundka toll plaza. Solanki told the gathering that the protest was not just about toll tax, but part of a wider struggle for the rights of rural communities. "No one can sup-

press the voice of 360 villages. The problems of the people will be firmly conveyed to the government," he said. The panchayat resolved that the upcoming mahapanchayat would be a "do-or-die battle" against the levy, with thousands of villagers and youth expected to participate. Villagers allege that the toll tax has been "forcibly imposed" on farmers and the general public and demanded its immediate abolition. Leaders at the meeting warned that if their demands were ignored, the agitation would intensify. "The unity of 360 villages

will no longer accept the toll tax at any cost," the speakers declared. It was also announced that the September 13 he said. The panchayat resolved that the upcoming mahapanchayat would be a "do-or-die battle" against the levy, with thousands of villagers and youth expected to participate. Villagers allege that the toll tax has been "forcibly imposed" on farmers and the general public and demanded its immediate abolition. Leaders at the meeting warned that if their demands were ignored, the agitation would intensify. "The unity of 360 villages

on the movement. Those present at the Bindapur panchayat included Chaudhary Dhar Singh Pradhan (Bawana 52), Chaudhary Naresh Pradhan (Lado Sarai 96), Chaudhary Samundar Pradhan (Karala 17), Ranbir Pradhan (Narela 17), along with Naresh, Surendra Dabas, Suresh Shokeen, Dharmendra Bakkarwala, Rajendra Pradhan and Jassa Numberdar Pradhan (Tihara 28).

**Two youths drown in Yamuna river near Faridabad**  
Gurugram: Two youths who had gone to celebrate a birthday party on the banks of the Yamuna river in Kidawali village near Faridabad drowned on Sunday afternoon. Their friends informed their relatives and the police. Despite search efforts by the police and SDRF teams, the bodies of the two youths have not been found yet. According to the police, Ayush, a resident of Mithapur, Delhi, was celebrating his birthday on Sunday. He had come to Kidawali village in Faridabad with his friend Dharmendra and six others. The Yamuna river flows along the banks of this village. The group started partying on the riverbank, cutting a cake and having fun in the mud. However, things took a tragic turn when Ayush and Dharmendra decided to take a bath in the river. As they slipped and drowned, the strong current made it impossible for their friends to rescue them. Villagers rushed to the scene after hearing the screams, but by then, there was no sign of the two youths. A police team from the Bhupani police station arrived at the spot, but the strong flow of water in the Yamuna hindered their rescue efforts. The SDRF team was informed, and they are continuously searching for the youths. However, as of now, both remain unfound. "Due to the strong flow in the Yamuna, the police could not do anything. The SDRF team was informed, and they are continuously searching for the youths, but both have not been traced yet," said Sangram Dahiya, SHO of Bhupani police station.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SANJAY KUMAR CHAUDHARY S/o LATE SH. LAXMAN CHAUDHARY Permanent R/o Parsons Khrishtor, Sitalmari, Bihar-843325 and Presently Residing at Plot No. B-20, Second Floor, Dass Garden, Baprola, Vihar, Nagarpur, New Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANJAY CHAUDHARY in my minor daughter namely SHIWANGI CHAUDHARY aged 17 years in her 10th class Marksheet. The actual name of mine is SANJAY KUMAR CHAUDHARY, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, DINDAYAL KAPIL, S/o BANWAR LAL KAPIL, R/o R-12 G, Gali No. 3, Gandhi Market, New Delhi, West Sugar Pur, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as DINDAYAL in my PPO No. 08/14/8/05932/1994. The actual name of mine is DINDAYAL KAPIL, which may be amended accordingly.

### NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of 47-SRDEE-G-DLI-2025-26 Work over DL1 Division three years, i.e. Johnson Make lifts installed at New Delhi, DEE, DSA and HNZM station of Delhi Division for three years. Approx Cost of the works Rs. 1,74,560.00 Address of the office Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi Earnest Money Rs. 2,15,900.00 Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender 09.12.2025, 16:00 Hrs. Opening of Tender 09.12.2025, 16:00 Hrs. Website & Notice Board www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

3555/2025

### SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

### E-AUCTION FOR AWARDING OF LICENSE OF LEASE SLR OF VARIOUS TRAINS OVER ALIPURDUAR DIVISION

E-Auction for leasing of SLR compartment of various trains over Alipurduar Division. Description: Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single compartment), Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee.

### Auction Catalogue No. C-AP-PCL-LEASE

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Trips
AA/1	15468-SLR-F1-BXT-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/2	12378-SLR-F1-NOQ-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/3	15417-SLR-R1-APD-SHT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	313
AA/4	1569-SLR-F2-APD-MXN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/5	13142-SLR-R1-NOQ-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/6	15768-SLR-R1-APD-SGUJ-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/7	15768-SLR-F2-APD-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/8	13150-SLR-F1-APD-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/9	15753-SLR-F2-APD-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/10	15778-SLR-F1-APD-NJP-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/11	15768-SLR-F1-APD-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/12	15468-SLR-F2-BXT-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/13	15753-SLR-F1-APD-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/14	15753-SLR-R1-APD-GHY-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/15	15417-SLR-F1-APD-SHT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	313
AA/16	15769-SLR-R1-APD-MXN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/17	13142-SLR-F2-NOQ-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/18	13148-SLR-F1-BXT-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/19	13142-SLR-F1-NOQ-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730
AA/20	15468-SLR-R1-BXT-SGUJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	730

Auction Start Date & Time: 11:00 hrs. & Closing Date & Time: 14:40 hrs. on 22-11-2025. Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Alipurduar Jn.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client M/s Aspire Buildwell through prop. Mr. Karan Dadeja S/o Mr. Satish Kumar Dadeja is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 309.49 sq. mtrs., out of Khat No. 195, Khasra No. 233K (87 sq. mtrs.), & Khasra No. 236 (22.5 sq. mtrs.), & Plot area measuring 108.69 sq. mtrs., out of Khasra No. 232K, Situated at Village Jalpura, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Vide San Deed dated 03/05/2023 duly registered in the office of SP Dadi, as Doc No. 15768, Book No. 01, Vol. No. 23442, Page Nos. 309-330 & Sale Deed dated 03/05/2023 duly registered in the office of SP Dadi, as Doc No. 15768, Book No. 01, Vol. No. 23442, Page Nos. 287-308, it is stated that Mr. Rakesh Chandra Aggarwal & Mr. Rakesh Baranwal had purchased above said property as HUF but further they have sold invaluable, now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by ICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. Branch: Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

### NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA

Advocate F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client M/s Aspire Buildwell through prop. Mr. Karan Dadeja S/o Mr. Satish Kumar Dadeja is the owner of Freehold Residential Plot area measuring 309.49 sq. mtrs., out of Khat No. 195, Khasra No. 233K (87 sq. mtrs.), & Khasra No. 236 (22.5 sq. mtrs.), & Plot area measuring 108.69 sq. mtrs., out of Khasra No. 232K, Situated at Village Jalpura, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. Vide San Deed dated 03/05/2023 duly registered in the office of SP Dadi, as Doc No. 15768, Book No. 01, Vol. No. 23442, Page Nos. 309-330 & Sale Deed dated 03/05/2023 duly registered in the office of SP Dadi, as Doc No. 15768, Book No. 01, Vol. No. 23442, Page Nos. 287-308, it is stated that Mr. Rakesh Chandra Aggarwal & Mr. Rakesh Baranwal had purchased above said property as HUF but further they have sold invaluable, now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by ICI Home Finance Co. Ltd. Branch: Laxmi Nagar, Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by any one. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

### NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA

F-211, Sector-3, Vaishali, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201010 (Contact at 09958871432)

transportation facilities of over 150 schools in the Capital. When The Tribune correspondents visited Burari, Timarpur and Rohini, students were seen returning home in cabs that were being driven rashly in several locations and ferrying students more than the permitted capacity. The condition was similar with e-rickshaws too. "Schools generally charge transport fee between Rs 4,500 and 5,000 for almost 20-22 days

(excluding holidays) in a month, which is very high given the city offers cheaper modes of transportation such as Metro and DTC buses," said Nitin Gupta, member of the Srian Parents' Association. Gupta said transportation was one of the ways where schools commercialise and earn profits. "Transportation should be provided at a concessionary rate so that students do not risk their lives while commuting to and from schools," he mentioned. Demanding a strict vigilance from the Traffic Police and the Department of Education, Gupta said: "The authorities should intervene to makemy area not is in their bus route. So, the child has to be sent to

the school either by a private van or by someone from the house," he added. Diksha Pandey, a resident of Burari, said, "My daughter takes an e-rickshaw to a government girls' school. The school does not provide transportation facility. Most of the times, I drop her to the school either by DTC bus or other modes of transportation such as e-rickshaw."

### NAME CHANGE

I, NO-17007475L Rank-NK Patel, father of NO-JC-379904X SUB MAJ PATIL MAHENDRA DATATRAY R/O VILL-BONJURDI, PO-ADKUR, TEH-CHANDGAD, DISTT-KOLHAPUR, MH-416509, have changed my name from DATATRAY NAGORI PATIL to DATTA NAGOJI PATIL, for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1953 instead of my correct date of birth as 17/01/1950. Vide Affidavit dated 29/11/2022. Before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, ANITA BANSAL W/O Pawan BANSAL residing at B-504, MAYUR-DHAWI APARTMENT, L.P. EXTN. EAST DELHI-110092 have Change my Given Name Tarannpreet Singh and Surname Kochhar for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 15.07.2025, executed before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Jyoti pal SUKIL Narmi, R/o W-125, Village Begumpur, North West Delhi -110086 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jyoti in

## NEWS BOX

**Bus crashes into a bus stop in Stockholm and causes fatalities, police say**

STOCKHOLM. (Agency)

A double-decker bus crashed into a bus stop in Stockholm on Friday, causing fatalities and injuries, police said. Police said that several people were hit but they weren't immediately giving information on their number, gender or ages. Authorities were alerted to the crash at 3:23 p.m. on Friday. The vehicle rammed into the bus shelter on Valhallavägen, a street in the Swedish capital's Östermalm district. The area is in the northern part of the city, near the Royal Institute of Technology.

Police were treating the crash as "involuntary manslaughter" but were still investigating. It wasn't immediately clear what the cause was. Swedish news agency TT said police confirmed that the driver had been detained and would be questioned to determine what happened. The front of the bus appeared to be have been seriously damaged. Emergency services said the vehicle — a regular city bus — was not in service and no passengers were on board, TT reported. It quoted a spokesperson for the Stockholm region, Michelle Marcher, as saying that "we currently have five victims, two of whom are seriously injured and have been taken to hospital." Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson wrote on X he had "received the tragic news that several people have been killed and injured at a bus stop... People who were perhaps on their way home to family, friends, or a quiet evening at home." He said that "we do not yet know the cause of this, but right now my thoughts are primarily with those who have been affected and their families."

**On Trump's Request, Epstein's Possible Links With Democrats To Be Probed**

Washington. (Agency)

The US Justice Department said on Friday it will fulfill President Donald Trump's request to investigate Jeffrey Epstein's ties to former Democratic President Bill Clinton and JPMorgan, as Trump sought to shift the focus from his relationship with the convicted sex offender. The move comes two days after a congressional committee released thousands of documents that raised new questions about Trump's relationship with the late financier, and marks the latest in a series of demands by Trump for federal law enforcement to pursue his perceived political enemies. Attorney General Pam Bondi said Jay Clayton, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, will lead the investigation.

The Epstein scandal has been a political thorn in Trump's side for months, partly because he amplified conspiracy theories about Epstein to his own supporters. Many Trump voters believe Bondi and other Trump officials have covered up Epstein's ties to powerful figures and obscured details surrounding his death by suicide in a Manhattan jail in 2019. Trump has harnessed the Justice Department to target other perceived political enemies, notably former FBI Director James Comey and New York State Attorney General Letitia James, both of whom were charged after Trump replaced the prosecutor leading the cases. The US Justice Department said on Friday it will fulfill President Donald Trump's request to investigate Jeffrey Epstein's ties to former Democratic President Bill Clinton and JPMorgan, as Trump sought to shift the focus from his relationship with the convicted sex offender. The move comes two days after a congressional committee released thousands of documents that raised new questions about Trump's relationship with the late financier, and marks the latest in a series of demands by Trump for federal law enforcement to pursue his perceived political enemies. Attorney General Pam Bondi said Jay Clayton, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan, will lead the investigation.

The Epstein scandal has been a political thorn in Trump's side for months, partly because he amplified conspiracy theories about Epstein to his own supporters. Many Trump voters believe Bondi and other Trump officials have covered up Epstein's ties to powerful figures and obscured details surrounding his death by suicide in a Manhattan jail in 2019.

**Researchers Call Musk's Grokipedia "Problematic", Raise Reliability Doubts**

world. (Agency)

Elon Musk's Grokipedia carries thousands of citations to "questionable" and "problematic" sources, US researchers said Friday, raising doubts about the reliability of the AI-powered encyclopedia as an information tool. Musk's company xAI launched Grokipedia last month to compete with Wikipedia -- a crowdsourced information repository authored by humans that the billionaire and others on the American right have repeatedly accused of ideological bias. "It is clear that sourcing guardrails have largely been lifted on Grokipedia," Cornell Tech researchers Harold Triedman and Alexios Mantzaflis wrote in a report seen by AFP.

"This results in the inclusion of questionable sources, and an overall higher prevalence of potentially problematic sources." The study, which scraped hundreds of thousands of Grokipedia articles, said the trend was particularly notable in topics pertaining to elected officials and controversial political topics. Grokipedia's entry for "Clinton body count" -- a widely debunked conspiracy theory that links the deaths of multiple people to former president Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary -- cites InfoWars, a far-right website notorious for peddling misinformation. Other Grokipedia articles cite American and Indian right-wing media outlets, Chinese and Iranian state media, anti-immigration, antisemitic or anti-Muslim sites, and portals accused of promoting pseudoscience and conspiracy theories, the report said.

**A White House spokesperson said Trump has done more than any president in modern history to tighten immigration laws and put American workers first.**

DHAKA. (Agency)

Washington:

The White House defended the Trump administration's H-1B visa policy, telling IANS that the \$100,000 application fee is a "significant first step to stop abuses of the system." In an exclusive response to IANS, a White House spokesperson said that President Donald Trump has "done more than any president in modern history to tighten our immigration laws and put American workers first." "The \$100,000 payment required to supplement new H1-B visa applications is a significant first step to stop abuses of the system and ensure American workers are no longer replaced by lower-paid foreign labor," White House

Spokeswoman Taylor Rogers told IANS. She also highlighted the recently launched "Project Firewall" to investigate companies flouting the H-1B visa rules. READ: 'Efficient Way To Hurt US': Immigration Expert On Bill To Ban H-1B Visas "The Department of Labor launched Project Firewall as a new enforcement initiative [initiative] to investigate companies that have abused the H1-B visa system. The Trump administration is protecting American workers by restoring accountability in the H1-B process, ensuring that it is used to bring in only the highest-skilled foreign workers in specialty occupations and not low-wage workers that will displace Americans." Rogers added. The White House reaction comes days after US President Donald Trump defended the programme, saying it's needed to import talent. In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham on Tuesday, Trump was asked if his administration planned to de-prioritize H-1B visas. He replied, "you do have to bring

in talent." When Ingraham countered, "We have plenty of talent," Trump responded, "No you don't." "You don't have certain talents.... And people have to learn, you

Marjorie Taylor Greene posted on X, reiterating her plans to introduce a bill to "ban H1B visas in all sectors" except the medical profession. "Ending H1B visas will also help the housing market. Ending H1B visas mean more jobs available for Americans and more homes available for Americans... When Americans have good paying jobs they will be able to buy homes as long as they don't have to compete with legally imported labor on visas and rich powerful asset management companies," she added. However, a leading immigration expert in Washington told IANS that Greene's bill is

"One of the most efficient ways to hurt Americans," and would lead to more "preventable deaths." In an interview with IANS, Sarah Pierce, the Director of Social Policy at Third Way, a think tank, argued that Greene's attempt to target the visa programme would "gut access to care overnight."

**Indian Sikh Woman Missing In Pakistan Converted To Islam, Married A Local**

**Sarabjit Kaur, 52, a resident of Kapurthala in Punjab, had gone missing after reaching Pakistan as part of a Sikh 'jatha'.**

Chandigarh. (Agency)

An Indian Sikh woman has allegedly converted to Islam and married a man in Pakistan, showed a document, days after she went missing from the group of pilgrims that had visited the neighbouring nation to celebrate Guru Nanak Dev's Prakash Parv. Sarabjit Kaur, 52, a resident of Kapurthala in Punjab, and other Sikh pilgrims crossed the Wagah-Attari border to enter Pakistan on November 4 under a bilateral deal facilitating visits to religious shrines. The Prakash Parv this year marked the 555th birth



anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. The group of 1,992 Sikh pilgrims returned to India on November 13 after spending around 10 days in Pakistan. Kaur wasn't with them. A 'nikahnama' (an Islamic wedding contract) in Urdu has now surfaced, stating that Kaur

had married Nasir Hussain, a resident of Sheikhpura, about 56 km from Lahore. She had converted to Islam and changed her name to Noor before her marriage, showed the document that could not be independently verified. She was divorced and has two sons with her ex-husband, Karnail Singh, who has been living in England for nearly 30 years. Kaur's passport was issued in Punjab's Muktsar district. Documents suggest she disappeared in Pakistan, with the immigration records missing her name for exiting Pakistan and entering India.

On Kaur failing to return to India, the Immigration Department here immediately informed the Punjab Police. The police have also sent a preliminary report to other Indian agencies. The Indian mission is in touch with the Pakistani authorities over her disappearance, news agency IANS reported, citing government sources.

**Efficient Way To Hurt US': Immigration Expert On Bill To Ban H-1B Visas**

Washington. (Agency)

A leading immigration expert in Washington has termed Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene's proposed bill to end H-1B visas as "one of the most efficient ways to hurt Americans," and would lead to more "preventable deaths." In an interview with IANS, Sarah Pierce, the Director of Social Policy at Third Way, a think tank, argued that Greene's attempt to target the visa programme would "gut access to care overnight."

"Slashing the flow of foreign workers, including the medical professionals their own communities rely on, would gut access to care overnight." READ: "H-1B System Spammed With Fraud": White House Defends Visa Fee Hike On Friday, Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene posted on X, reiterating her plans to introduce a bill to "ban H1B visas in all sectors" except the medical profession. In a video post on Thursday, Greene announced her

bill proposals - allowing only 10,000 visas annually, down from the current 85,000 cap. She said even that carve-out could be phased out over the next decade. Her bill would also take away from the citizenship path, forcing visa holders to return home. Pierce stressed that her exemption proposal of 10,000 visas for medical professionals would still lead to more "preventable deaths."

"The H-1B programme currently brings in far more medical professionals than her arbitrary 10,000-visa cap allows. This bill would leave US families, especially in rural areas, with fewer doctors, longer wait times, and more preventable deaths. It's cruelly disguised as policy," she added.

Pierce acknowledged that there are some US workers in tech sectors who have lost jobs due to the H-1B visas, but gutting the entire programme is "both dishonest and dangerous."

"Eliminating it or drowning it in punitive fees would kneecap the American

economy and jeopardise the sectors we rely on most." Leading Republican and conservative leaders have demanded the gutting of the H-1B visas after US President Donald Trump defended the foreign worker visa programme.

In an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham on Tuesday, Trump was asked if his administration planned to de-prioritize H-1B visas. He replied, "You do have to bring in talent." When Ingraham countered, "We have plenty of talent," Trump responded, "No you don't." "You don't have certain talents.... And people have to learn, you can't take people off an unemployment line and say, I'm going to put you into a factory. We're going to make missiles," he added.

Laura Ingraham, posted on X on Friday, responding to a CNN debate over the issue. "America's survival depends on its importing an endless stream of foreign workers—supposedly all geniuses?" she asked.

**Judge bars Trump from immediately cutting funding to the University of California**

BELÉM. (Agency)

WASHINGTON: The Trump administration cannot immediately cut federal funding to the University of California or issue fines against the school system over claims it allows antisemitism and other forms of discrimination, a federal judge ruled Friday. U.S. District Judge Rita Lin in San Francisco granted a preliminary injunction sought by labor unions and other groups representing UC faculty, students and employees. Messages sent to the White House and the U.S. Department of Justice were not immediately returned. The unions argue in a lawsuit that the administration is using funding cuts, and the threat of cuts, to silence opposing viewpoints at UC in violation of the Constitution and federal law. President Donald



Trump has decimated elite colleges as overrun by liberalism and antisemitism. His administration has launched investigations of dozens of universities, claiming they have failed to end the use of racial preferences in violation of civil rights law. The Republican administration says diversity, equity and inclusion efforts discriminate against white and Asian American students. Over the summer, it fined the University of California, Los Angeles \$1.2 billion and froze research funding after accusing the school of allowing antisemitism on campus. UCLA was the first public university to be targeted by the administration over allegations of civil rights violations. It has also frozen or paused federal funding over similar claims against private colleges, including Columbia University. University of California President James B. Milliken has said the size of the UCLA fine would devastate the UC system, whose campuses are viewed as some of the top public colleges in the nation. UC is in settlement talks with the administration and is not a party to the lawsuit before Lin, who was nominated to the bench by President Joe Biden, a Democrat. The administration has demanded UCLA comply with its views on gender identity and establish a process to make sure foreign students are not admitted if they are likely to engage in anti-American, anti-Western or antisemitic "disruptions or harassment," among other requirements outlined in a settlement proposal made public in October.

**Russia Plans To Make 120,000 'Cheap And Devastating' Glide Bombs: Ukraine**

Kyiv. (Agency)

Russia plans to manufacture up to 120,000 of its cheap and devastating glide bombs this year, a senior Ukrainian intelligence official said, including 500 of a new, longer-range version which can reach more towns and cities. Russia has ramped up arms production massively since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, with defence plants operating around the clock. It does not disclose details of military output, which are classified as secret.

Reuters was unable to verify the 2025 target, which Major General Vadym Skibitskyi, deputy head of Ukraine's Defence Intelligence disclosed in an interview.

He did not say how he had obtained the figure or give earlier data, but it would indicate a vast increase in the manufacture of glide bombs, which use wings and sometimes engines, to fly dozens of kilometres to their targets. The 120,000 number includes new munitions and existing bombs upgraded to glide. Skibitskyi said "Russia forces are firing between 200 and 250 glide bombs every day. Last month, the daily average was about 170, according to data from the

defence ministry. "It is possible to shoot them down, but the quantity of these aerial bombs produced in the Russian Federation... is enormous," Skibitskyi said. "This is a threat. A threat that will require us to respond appropriately."

Russia Is Boosting Glide Bomb Range The bombs, whose range was previously estimated to be up to 90 km (56 miles), can breach Ukrainian defences without sending planes across front lines where they would be shot down. They are much cheaper and more plentiful than missiles and their several hundred kilograms of explosive can blast through buildings and fortifications. They have pummeled frontline cities such as Kharkiv and Kherson. Russia is launching mass production of a new glide bomb capable of flying up to 200 km (125 miles) from the point of release from a fighter jet, Skibitskyi said, adding that it plans to make about 500 by the end of this year. Ukraine also believes that Russia is working on modifications so such bombs can fly up to 400 km, allowing Moscow to target even

more Ukrainian towns and cities without using missiles, he said.

October glide bomb attacks on Mykolaiv, Poltava and Odesa regions, which are at



least dozens of kilometres from the nearest front lines, have already demonstrated the increasing reach of the weapon.

The Russian defence ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Russia denies targeting civilians, but thousands have been killed and injured in the invasion. Moscow argues that Kyiv's moves to ally with the West pose a threat to Russia and must be stopped. Intensifying Attacks Aimed At

Forcing Kyiv's Hand In Talks Skibitskyi also gave estimates for Russian drone production, which he said had enabled it to target Ukraine's energy system more effectively. In 2025 Russia would make a total of about 70,000 long-range drones, he said, including 30,000 Shahed craft which are the workhorse of Russia's attacks.

READ: Russian Missile Strikes On Ukraine Hit 2.5-Year High In October: Report

"They started with 30 drones per month, now 30 can fly to a single target," he said, expecting the attacks on gas and energy infrastructure to continue into the winter.

"They definitely want to break us. This is destabilising the internal situation," he said. Skibitskyi described it as one of the tools to pressure Ukraine into a more compliant position in any possible peace negotiations.

He also said that should Russian troops capture the besieged city of Pokrovsk, where street battles are currently raging, they would likely press towards the boundaries of Donetsk region, their long-held goal.

**NEWS BOX**

**Day after landing on highway, training aircraft dismantled, sent for inspection**

**Trichy. (Agency)**

The single-engine training aircraft that made an emergency landing on the Tiruchy-Pudukkottai national highway near Keeranur in Pudukkottai district on Thursday was dismantled and taken back by its private operator to Salem on Friday for a thorough technical examination.

The Cessna aircraft, operated by the Salem-based Ekvir Flying Club, was loaded onto a truck after dismantling its wings and a few other components. Tiruchy international airport Director SS Raju told that officials from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) carried out a preliminary inspection on Friday and also questioned the pilot and trainee involved in the emergency landing. "From the airport's side, the transcription tape recording the communication between the cockpit crew and the ATC (Air Traffic Control) during the emergency has been handed over. As part of the inquiry, engine oil samples and other necessary evidence were also collected," he said. A senior Airports Authority of India (AAI) official said action would be taken against the flying club if any lapse in maintenance was established.

"If no fault is found, the incident will be treated as a learning exercise, and guidelines will be issued to prevent such incidents," official added.

**Gujarat man's tatkal passport seized after criminal case surfaces during check**

**Ahmedabad. (Agency)**

The tatkal passport of a resident of Valiya in Bharuch has been impounded after authorities found that he had suppressed information about a criminal case while filing his application. Valiya police recently filed a complaint against the man under the Passports Act. The local intelligence bureau officers became the complainants against the man, and based on the complaint, the Ahmedabad regional passport office impounded his passport.

"The applicant suppressed information about facing criminal charges, and a case pending against him," said an officer from the regional passport office. "The case from 2019 involves rioting and rioting with weapons, among other charges." The officer added, "Later, the passport office received an adverse report from Bharuch police stating that he had concealed the details of a crime registered against him at the Valiya police station."

The applicant was then issued a notice but did not respond within the given time, after which Bharuch police were informed. Later, the applicant approached the office, sources said, and it was discovered that he had not only wrongfully acquired the tatkal passport but had also travelled abroad using that passport.

The man applied for a passport on July 21, 2025, in the tatkal category. He received the passport the following day. However, the complaint said, it was later discovered that the applicant had not disclosed an ongoing criminal case against him. "The regional passport office in Ahmedabad issued a show-cause notice to the applicant on Oct 8, 2025, but reportedly received no response," the complaint said. "The applicant intentionally concealed the criminal case to obtain a passport and travel abroad."

**Admission error: HC asks ACPC to reserve MBBS seat**

**Ahmedabad. (Agency)**

The Gujarat high court directed the admission committee for professional courses (ACPC) to keep an MBBS seat vacant at the Narendra Modi Medical College in Ahmedabad. This directive follows a petition from a student who paid her fees and began attending lectures without submitting her provisional admission order at the help centre to confirm her admission.

She had chosen a college in Nadiad during the second round and opted for the Ahmedabad college in the third round, but missed an essential requirement to secure her seat. As a result, her seat was marked as vacant in the ACPC system, putting her admission at risk of cancellation and potential reallocation of the seat to another student.

She then approached the high court, arguing that her failure to submit the provisional allotment order was a bona fide mistake. She claimed she was misled into believing her admission was confirmed upon fee payment. After a preliminary hearing, Justice Nirzar Desai said that it is a fact that she qualifies on merit, and the seat she occupies was assigned to the petitioner by Respondent No 5 (ACPC). In the interest of justice, the respondents were instructed to "keep the seat held by the petitioner vacant".

On Friday, ACPC countered by emphasizing that the requirement to submit the provisional allotment order is well-publicised and clearly stated on the portal and in all student documents. They stressed the importance of adhering to the established admission procedures. The high court has sought responses from the Centre, the National Medical Commission (NMC), and the medical college before Monday's hearing.

# Railway reduces sleeper coaches in second Mumbai-bound express train

**As per the revised coach composition, the total number of sleeper berths will reduce from 576 to 400, while the number of AC two-tier coaches will increase from one to two.**

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Nearly 18 months after reducing the number of sleeper coaches from five to two in the Chennai Central-CSMT Mumbai (22159/60), the Central Railway has now cut the sleeper coach count in another Mumbai-bound train — Chennai Egmore-CSMT (Mumbai) Superfast Express (22157/58) — from eight to five, as part of the transition from conventional ICF coaches to LHB coaches. The railway authorities have issued orders formalising these changes.

As per the revised coach composition, which will come into effect from January 16, 2026, the total number of sleeper berths will reduce from 576 to 400, while the number of AC two-tier coaches will increase from one to two. The cut in sleeper coaches will force passengers to pay two to four times more for end-to-end travel. For instance, while a

sleeper berth from Chennai to Mumbai costs Rs 600, a third AC berth costs Rs 1,600 and a second AC berth Rs 2,230. Besides, as the Chennai-Salem Express is operated using the

coaches, three third AC coaches, two second AC coaches and four general coaches.

For operational reasons, the Central Railway has so far been running the train with 18 ICF coaches, which has now been replaced with 16 LHB coaches. "If the rake is transferred to Southern Railway, then the zone may increase the total number of coaches to 22, which would allow the addition of more sleeper coaches," rail enthusiast Naveen Chandar said.

At present, the Chennai-Mumbai route has four daily trains. The two trains operating between Chennai and LTT Mumbai continue to have eight sleeper coaches.

However, the number of sleeper coaches in the Chennai Central-CSMT Mumbai Express was reduced to two in February last year when the conventional ICF rake was replaced with an LHB rake, forcing passengers to spend more for end-to-end travel.



## Mumbai: Senior manager duped of nearly Rs 4 crore in online share trading fraud in Thane

**Thane. (Agency)**

A senior manager working with a leading energy drink company was duped of Rs 3.9 crore in an elaborate online share trading scam, police said on Thursday. Police registered an FIR under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The complainant, who is a 48-year-old resident of Hiranandani Estate, was lured into the fraud between May and Oct after being added to a WhatsApp group allegedly run by individuals posing as experts linked to a reputed securities firm. "Believing he gained access to an exclusive investment forum, the victim continued to follow the group's advice over several

months," said an official from Thane cyber crime police. According to the FIR registered, the WhatsApp group had several members pretending to be market analysts, administrators, and customer support executives. They regularly shared "expert" trading tips, screenshots of inflated profits, graphs, and investment schemes designed to build confidence among new entrants. The group operated with a professional tone, often using financial jargon and charts to appear authentic.

"The victim was contacted separately by a person claiming

to be the group administrator and a woman posing as an investment advisor. They assured him of exceptionally high returns



through curated stock trades," said police. Convinced by their claims, the victim transferred money in phases to multiple bank accounts provided by the

fraudsters. Once the entire amount was deposited, the scammers stopped responding, deleted their profiles, and eventually dissolved the WhatsApp group.

Police said the suspects created a highly convincing facade with fabricated trading links, mobile dashboards showing fake profits, and structured payout schemes specifically targeting high-income professionals. "We are examining digital footprints and financial trails. The fraudsters used multiple accounts and online identities. Efforts are on to trace IP logs, device IDs, and interstate money movement," the officer added.

## Mumbai: St Xavier's College hosts talks on moral duty of environmental protection

**MUMBAI. (Agency)**

Framing environmental protection as a moral duty, St. Xavier's College on Saturday hosted the Jesuit Alumni Association for a series of talks on society's role in safeguarding ecology. Archbishop of Bombay John Rodriguez, the guest of honour, urged citizens to treat the environment as an inheritance. "As we inherit the earthly monetary savings of our parents, we must similarly save and give in inheritance our ecology to the next generation," he said. Citing Pope John Paul II, he added that the seventh commandment — "thou shall not steal" — also implies not robbing future generations of natural wealth.

Rodriguez recalled how Pope Francis opened the vast gardens of Castel Gandolfo, the pope's summer residence, to the public to nurture "a love of ecology and nature," stressing that environmental protection must



work "in consonance with economics, culture, and social structures."

Keynote speaker Shloka Nath, founder of the Indian Climate Collaborative, warned of an "impending disaster," noting that the Thar Desert expands half a kilometre each year and coastal land continues to vanish to rising seas.

She highlighted initiatives such as the Great Green Wall of Gujarat and a nationwide climate-vulnerability directory.

Kalpesh Desai, head of the St. Xavier's Academy alumni association, who served as one of the organisers, asks a stark question: "When all the water is used up and all the food is eaten, what will your money buy you?"

## Fossil fuel lobbyists flood COP30 climate talks in Brazil, with largest ever attendance share

**BATHINDA. (Agency)**

With one in every 25 attendees, a fossil fuel lobbyist, at COP 30, a massive industry presence intensifies calls to protect climate negotiations from corporate capture. Analysis reveals more than 1600 fossil fuel lobbyists have been granted access to the COP30 climate talks in Belém, marking yet another year of overwhelming industry presence at crucial climate negotiations, according to the Kick Big Polluters Out (KBPO) coalition.

The analysis reveals that fossil fuel lobbyists significantly outnumber almost every country delegation at COP30 — with only host country Brazil (3805), sending more people. Proportionally, this is a 12% increase from last year's climate talks in Baku, Azerbaijan, and is the largest concentration of fossil fuel lobbyists at COP since KBPO started analysing conference attendees. With one in every 25 participants in Belém representing the fossil fuel

industry, the calls for an accountability framework to protect the talks from big polluters grow stronger. The Kick Big Polluters Out coalition analyzed the provisional list of participants at COP30 line-by-line. The findings include fossil fuel lobbyists outnumber official delegates from the Philippines by nearly 50 to 1 — even while the country is being hit by devastating typhoons as the UN climate talks are underway. Fossil fuel lobbyists sent more than 40 times the number of people than Jamaica, which is still reeling from Hurricane Melissa. Fossil fuel lobbyists have received two thirds more passes to COP30 than all the delegates from the 10 most climate vulnerable nations combined (1061), highlighting how industry presence continues to dwarf that of those on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Major trade associations remain a primary vehicle for fossil fuel influence, with the International.

It was highlighted that the health

finance gap is a critical component of the overall adaptation finance gap, and the world's inaction is further compounding the situation and the cost. The latest Adaptation Gap Report estimated that Developing countries' needs will be \$310-365 billion a year by 2035. The international community is struggling to mobilise the \$40 billion Glasgow Pact Goal for adaptation finance.

It was highlighted that the health finance gap is a critical component of the overall adaptation finance gap, and the world's inaction is further compounding the situation and the cost. The latest Adaptation Gap Report estimated that Developing countries' needs will be \$310-365 billion a year by 2035. The international community is struggling to mobilise the \$40 billion Glasgow Pact Goal for adaptation finance.



"With regards to finance, the reality is that we have a deficit that is quite colossal," Carlos Lopes, Special Envoy for Africa, COP30 Presidency. "We have to admit that most of the efforts that are being done are from the national authorities, so what we need to expect from financing coming from abroad is that it needs to be complementary."

This year's Adaptation Gap Report

**Karnataka HC asks state to file status report on welfare of persons with disabilities**

**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Issuing notice to the state government, the Karnataka High Court on Friday directed the government to file a status report on the prayers sought by the petitioners in a public interest litigation concerning the effective implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

A division bench of Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhrus and Justice C M Poonacha passed the order after hearing the petition filed by Y Karthik (27), Y Kaushik (27), and their father, Y Satish aka Satish Yeachareddy, who is an MLC from Ballari and Vijayanagar districts.

Karthik suffers from visual impairment and cerebral palsy. Making the Department of Women and Child Development Empowerment of Differently Abled and Senior Citizens and Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, which are responsible for the implementation of the Act, as respondents, the petitioners have prayed the court to issue directions to those departments to set up additional special schools and institutions commensurate with the population of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the state, ensure infrastructure in all schools is accessible to PWDs, establish special training centres to promote vocational training for them, ensure four percent vacancies of the cadre strength in all government establishments and they are filled by PWDs and approve the scheme to allocate five percent of each government department's budget for the welfare of PWDs.

On account of the disability suffered by the first petitioner, the second and third petitioners are sensitised to the needs of the differently-abled. While the petitioners are financially sound and able to care for the first petitioner, the petitioners are aware that many PWDs in Karnataka lack basic care and do not have the means to approach the court, they said. The MLC said he has made significant contributions to advancing their rights.

## Adaptation finance crucial to strengthen health in the face of life-threatening climate conditions

**BATHINDA. (Agency)**

As the global climate crisis accelerates, its devastating impacts on health are intensifying, making climate change one of the most important threats to human health, speakers warned at an event by the Global Climate & Health Alliance and Carbon Copy, focused on "Positioning Health at the Centre of Adaptation Finance" at COP30 in Belém.

They argued that concerns about the health impacts of continued global warming and the benefits of immediate actions should significantly shape decisions about climate policy and climate action. "Each year more than half a million lives are lost due to heat, and over 150,000 deaths are linked to wildfire smoke exposure. Health systems, already stretched and underfunded, are struggling to cope with these growing pressures, and most are still unprepared for what is coming", said Dr Marina Romanello, Lancet Countdown

Executive Director, Institute for Global Health, University College London.

"Adaptation in the health sector is essential, but current funding is nowhere near sufficient. Only 44% of countries have cost their health adaptation needs, and existing finance falls short by billions. Without urgent investment, we will not be able to protect populations from escalating climate impacts", says Dr Marina Romanello.

It was highlighted that the health finance gap is a critical component of the overall adaptation finance gap, and the world's inaction is further compounding the situation and the cost. The latest Adaptation Gap Report estimated that Developing countries' needs will be \$310-365 billion a year by 2035. The international community is struggling to mobilise the \$40 billion Glasgow Pact Goal for adaptation finance.

highlighted that just 4% of multilateral climate adaptation funding between 2019-2023 was allocated to health. A recent report by adelphi stressed that out of all multilateral climate finance, only 0.5% goes to health, health being critically threatened by climate change.

"Our Health National Adaptation Plan was designed to identify the real problems, build capacity and use our limited resources more effectively", said Md Ziaul Haque, Additional Director General, Ministry of Environment, Bangladesh. "But the truth is, our adaptation financing for health is far below what is needed. The gap between what we require and what we receive is enormous. We need multilateral funding entities to bring forward concrete, holistic proposals that match the scale of the challenge".

## The new Russian arsenal that can deter wars

If Russia succeeds in wrapping up its 'special military operations' in Ukraine while US President Donald Trump remains in office, this war can end all wars in Europe and Eurasia for a long time to come. The recent weeks are witnessing a phenomenal shift in the 'correlation of forces' in international politics attributable to the dynamic relationship between Russia's productive forces.

Russia, which left socialism behind and crafted a toolbox attuned to geopolitics, is regaining a favourable balance of power vis-à-vis the West. In the current transitional era of revolutionary change and transformation in the global order, Russia's surge becomes immensely consequential to India, which is also on a capitalist path of development littered with formidable challenges to its rise. On Russia's National Unity Day on November 4, President Vladimir Putin held a ceremony at the Kremlin to present state decorations to the designers of the Burevestnik cruise missile and the Poseidon unmanned submersible, the country's newest futuristic weapon systems. The terrible beauty of these two weapons is that both are nuclear-powered and the West has neither any matching capability nor defence against them for the foreseeable future.

The 9M730 Burevestnik is a low-flying, nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed cruise missile that Putin called "a unique weapon that no other country possesses", and would have a nearly unlimited range because of its onboard nuclear power. The missile's test lasted around 15 hours, travelling more than 14,000 km. The Norwegian government confirmed the test flight launched out of Novaya Zemlya, an archipelago off the northern coast of Russia. The Poseidon, named after the sea god in Greek mythology, is a nuclear-powered underwater drone—also with an unlimited range. Russian state media and officials claim that the super-torpedo is designed to trigger massive radioactive tsunamis capable of devastating coastal cities and rendering large areas uninhabitable for decades. In a State of the Union address in 2018 at the Russian parliament, Putin had stated that the Burevestnik and several other new strategic weapons were necessary to preserve strategic stability, citing the US's withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty as destabilising.

These weapons are game-changers in the global strategic balance. Alongside comes the cutting-edge Oreshnik, a surface-to-surface hypersonic ballistic missile designed to be launched from ground or sea that strikes targets at speed exceeding Mach 10. Oreshnik, which has been inducted into the armed forces, displayed its massive destructive power last November in a sensational 'target practice' without munitions in Ukraine. Some months ago, writing in Foreign Policy, Decker Eveleth, an American expert at CNA, a Washington-based non-profit research organisation, assessed that Oreshnik could potentially cripple Nato's operational readiness in a hypothetical war, giving Russia more non-nuclear options and theoretically lessening the need to use nuclear weapons early in a conflict.

Such a scenario is of interest from an Indian perspective, as Tass has reported Russia may be willing to supply the Oreshnik to 'allied nations'. The Russian defence industry currently produces up to 25 Oreshnik missiles per month, which allows the Russian armed forces to field approximately 300 such systems annually. But, as a Moscow expert puts it, "I wouldn't cap it at this number. If necessary, production can be scaled up to supply additional export batches to our key foreign partners." The point is, such capabilities serve not only as a strategic deterrent, but also as a diplomatic tool that can be extended to Russia's foreign partners and allies, thereby safeguarding their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The development of the above three weapon systems means that for the first time since the dawn of the nuclear age, Russia would have an edge over the US both in conventional warfare and in nuclear deterrence capability. They are intended to discourage US decision-makers from pursuing policies that threaten Russian interests.

BIZARRE and somewhat amusing developments are taking place in the world of science and technology in India. A national science academy, which had famously refused to make APJ Abdul Kalam its Fellow, bestowed upon industrialist Mukesh Ambani its Fellowship — an honour till now reserved only for scientists having stellar academic and research achievements. A top technological institution carried out 'artificial rain' supposedly to address poor air quality in Delhi, knowing fully well that there was no scientific basis for doing so. It did so just to fulfil the wishes of the state government. A Union minister dishonoured Vikram Sarabhai, visionary founder of India's space programme, at a public forum by saying that Sarabhai used to carry rockets on a bicycle as we had no resources. He apparently did this to justify his absurd claim that Indian achievements in space were all due to resources made available 2014 onwards by the Narendra Modi government.

These recent developments may seem isolated and unconnected, but they are not. They are part of a long chain in recent years during which our scientific, research and academic institutions have been losing their autonomy one by one. Some have been forced to fall in line, while others have decided to surrender voluntarily.

A fledgling Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) had the courage to turn down a request from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in 1980 to send an Indian astronaut on a Soviet mission. It was not an act of defiance but a polite refusal based on sound arguments (ISRO was then busy making its first satellites and rockets and had no human flight programme on its agenda), which the PM was graceful enough to accept. She then assigned the task to the Indian Air Force, resulting in Rakesh Sharma's space journey in 1984. ISRO is still autonomous on paper, but it has no courage left to correct the minister when he disrespects its founder publicly. Similar is the case of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA). Though it has been supported financially by the Centre for decades, it was not the handmaiden of the government till recently. In 2010, at the height of the controversy over genetically modified (GM) foods, the INSA joined two other science academies in emphasising that GM food crops should be thoroughly tested for safety to human health and the environment before any commercial release. In January 2018, three academies came together to rubbish a statement made by a Central minister questioning Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and suggesting its removal from educational curricula. In both instances, science academies took principled positions, rightfully

asserting their freedom and autonomy. In the present case of electing new Fellows, if the science academy felt it prudent to involve non-scientists like Ambani and other industrialists in pursuance of its charter, it could have very well done so by designing appropriate collaborative programmes and platforms. No science academy worth its name would make someone its Fellow without requisite credentials. Ambani is now a member of the hallowed group that includes scientific luminaries like Satyen Bose, Meghnad Saha, Homi Jehangir Bhabha and Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar. The Royal Society, London — considered the gold standard of science academies — enrols people who are not professional scientists, such as researchers from industry, as its Fellows, provided they



have made a "substantial contribution to the improvement of natural knowledge." The INSA's decision to make Ambani and others its Fellows sets a dangerous precedent, besides being disheartening for many mid-career scientists looking to become its Fellows someday. One such scientist with globally recognised contribution to his credit declared on social media — "Alas! I have neither the bank balance nor academic merit to be an INSA Fellow." The comment reflects the general mood, though most in the scientific community have preferred to keep mum. A prominent institution on the radar of the Central government is the Kolkata-headquartered Indian Statistical Institute (ISI). The government has proposed to bring in the Indian Statistical Institute Bill 2025 that seeks to establish its direct

administrative control over this iconic body established by physicist-turned-statistician Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis nearly a century ago. Globally renowned for work in statistics, mathematics and applied sciences, the ISI is a unique self-governing scientific institution registered as a non-profit society. The proposed law seeks to dissolve the existing ISI Society and replace it with a Centrally-controlled Board of Governance. The President, Director and members of the Academic Council will no longer be elected but appointed by the Central government. The Bill also stipulates that the new body will take over all movable and immovable properties of the ISI. It is clearly an assault on academic freedom, democratic structure and institutional autonomy. This is similar to what the Centre has attempted to do with the governing structure of Panjab University, or what US President Donald Trump is trying to do with top universities in his country.

Autonomy is not an esoteric idea — it allows faculty committees to debate and refine the curriculum based on wide-ranging inputs and experience. The process is the key to achieving academic excellence and keeping academic programmes relevant to current scientific challenges. Replacing it with bureaucratic oversight from Delhi would undermine both the quality and independence of the curriculum. The 1959 Act that governs the ISI currently allows the institute to grant degrees independent of

the University Grants Commission (UGC). The Draft Bill is silent on this matter, implying that the ISI will be placed under the UGC and thus run like a regular university, which it is not.

Academic freedom is critical to let scholars, teachers and students think, question and express ideas without fear of censorship or retribution. It encourages innovation and critical thinking, while protecting the integrity of research and teaching. Institutional autonomy is necessary for protection from political, bureaucratic or corporate interference, and to promote excellence and diversity. Enforcing a 'one-size-fits-all' governance model for research and academic institutions, and allowing political interference from Delhi in their running, is going to deeply damage India's standing in science and technology.

## Export mission meets the moment, needs steady implementation

These two export-promotion-package initiatives should partially shield exports from the multiple headwinds they face—but only if they are rolled out on time and implemented well

The government's ₹45,000-crore package for export promotion is its latest attempt to support a sector facing unprecedented geopolitical shocks. The package includes a ₹25,000-crore Export Promotion Mission, which primarily is a consolidation of a few existing schemes to ensure that the nation can respond swiftly to global trade challenges and evolving exporter needs. It focuses on better access to trade finance for smaller enterprises, improved market access and visibility for Indian products, and enhanced export readiness through compliance, packaging, and certification support. The scheme is also looking to boost exports from non-traditional districts and sectors. It integrates existing export support measures such as the Interest Equalisation Scheme and the Market Access Initiative to align them with contemporary requirements. The other part of the package—Credit Guarantee Scheme for Exporters—will provide government cover to exporters, enabling their access to ₹20,000 crore of additional credit. These two initiatives, along with the recent extension of the Remission of Duties and Taxes on



Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme, should partially shield exports from the multiple headwinds they face—but only if they are rolled out on time and implemented well. The Export Promotion Mission, initially announced in the Union budget to last for six years up to 2030-31, is yet to be rolled out eight months into the current financial year. The mission's goal of

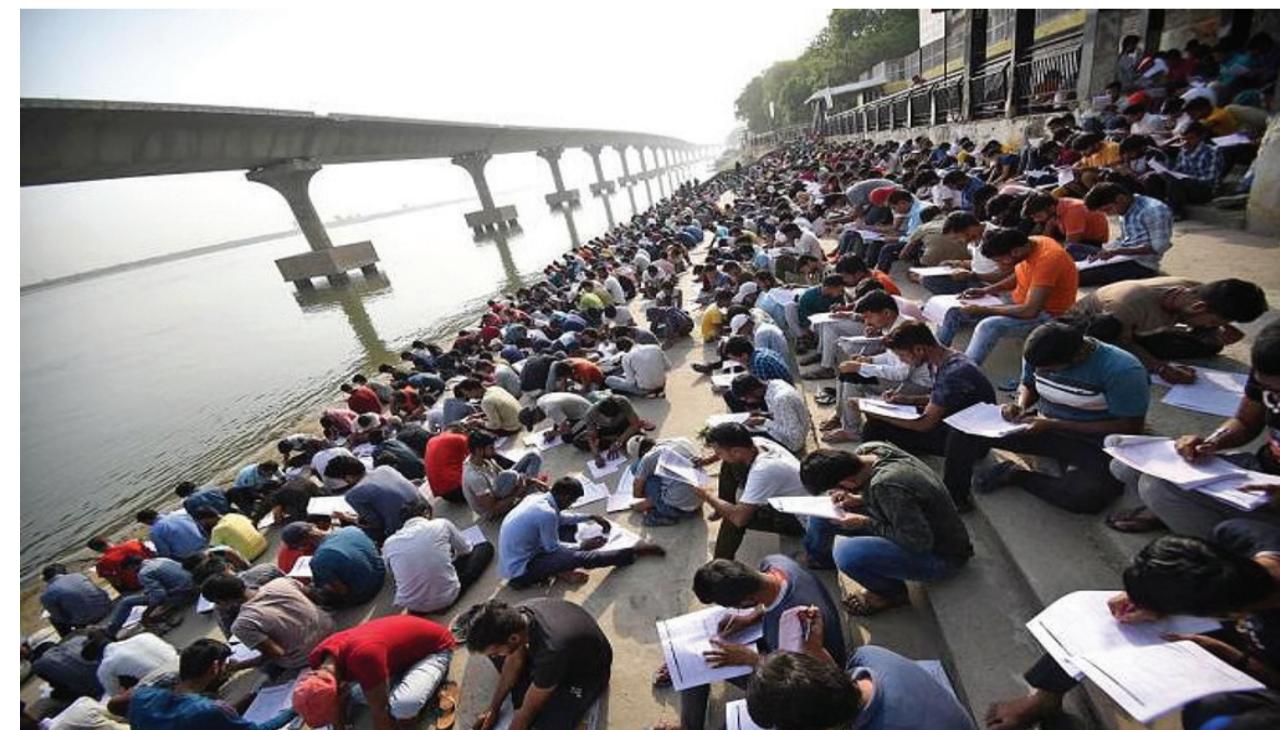
encouraging exports from non-traditional districts is ambitious, but worth pursuing to broaden the export base and benefit newer districts. It can also serve as a logical extension of the 'One District, One Product' scheme.

The laudable larger goal of both parts of the package—enabling smaller exporters' easier access to credit—should give this hard-hit, crucial segment a fresh lease of life. The schemes for credit guarantee and interest equalisation, which is now part of the mission, meets the need of the moment. However, experts have questioned the sufficiency of the funds allocated. The amount of ₹25,000 crore for six years—amounting to an annual allocation of a bit over ₹4,000 crore—may not be enough. The interest equalisation scheme alone cost more than ₹3,500 crore last year. The learning from RoDTEP—that once launched, there should not be too much tinkering with a scheme—should also be borne in mind. It's a mission well begun, but its success will depend on how it hits the ground.

## Vanishing promise of the college degree

A Harvard study has shown the rapidly-declining value of some college degrees. Business administration and tech-related degrees can open doors, but can't guarantee the journey beyond. The picture is similar in India. The education policy should prioritise lifelong learning. Colleges must craft more modular courses

A recent Harvard study has found that 10 college degrees—including once-prestigious ones such as business administration, computer science, and economics—are rapidly losing their value in the job market. The finding only confirms what students and employers worldwide have sensed for some time: the college degree is no longer the reliable passport to prosperity. For decades, it was indeed the surest ticket to social mobility. Everyone staunchly believed that it promised stability, respectability, and offered a dependable route to success. To hold a degree was like holding the future in one's hands. However, today, that promise is wearing out—both globally and in India. Due to artificial intelligence and the rapid pace of technological change bringing in automation, the relationship between education and opportunity is being redefined. Two economists from Harvard, David J Deming and Kadeem Noray, warned us of this as early as 2020. Their research showed that graduates, especially in technology-intensive fields such as computer science and engineering, could reap high early-career returns. However, these returns may fade sharply over time as their skills become less relevant. In effect, the 'earnings premium' that once made such degrees so desirable gradually begins to shrink within a decade of graduation. Thus what was once an appreciating asset becomes a depreciating one. Without continuous upskilling, the degree itself starts to lose value over time, often from the very day it is earned. This story is seen in many disciplines including business education. Surely, none would dispute that the MBA, once a crown jewel of middle-class aspiration, no longer carries the same magic. Recruiters today look less for credentials and more for competence. The Harvard Business School's 2022 study referred to this as the 'degree reset': employers are increasingly setting aside



traditional degree requirements and focusing instead on demonstrable skills. Even graduates from the world's top institutions are finding that jobs take longer to secure and salaries are not what they once were. The humanities, too, are in retreat. Philosophy, literature, history, and sociology are losing students at a pace that would have seemed unthinkable a generation ago. Since 2013, The Harvard Crimson has tracked a steady decline in humanities enrolments; the pattern is also visible in

India. According to the All India Survey on Higher Education, undergraduate enrolment in arts, humanities, and social sciences has been edging down—from 35.9 percent in 2018-19, it has come down to 34.2 percent in 2021-22. What once represented intellectual exploration now feels like a risk. This decline is reflective of a deeper systemic inertia. Our universities continue to behave as if the learning acquired in one's twenties could fuel an entire lifetime. Syllabuses are still rigid, faculty

incentives rarely reward curricular innovation, and success is narrowly measured by placement statistics rather than long-term employability or wage growth. The result is an educational model that prizes the attainment of a degree but neglects the cultivation of lifelong learning. It's time we understood that a degree today is not an endpoint, but a start. It may open a door, but does not guarantee the journey beyond. The graduates who thrive are not those with the most impressive certificates but those with the agility to learn, unlearn, and relearn. In a sense, the market is rediscovering an old humanistic truth: education is not a one-time achievement, but a continuous act of renewal. The only change is that the economy now demands this not as an ideal, but as a survival skill. Naturally, this calls for a radical rethink of India's higher education system. We can no longer afford to see learning as a front-loaded investment. The system must evolve into what can be called a 'lifelong learning economy'. Universities should embed micro-credentials, modular certifications, and industry-linked short courses into their degree structures. This would enable students and professionals to build skills iteratively, continually updating their learning portfolios as technology and markets evolve.

Policy, too, must change how it measures success. Currently, institutions are evaluated based on placements. That metric is short-sighted. The real question is whether those graduates can stay employable 10 years down the line. Are they earning more, adapting better and continuing to learn? Indicators such as mid-career wage resilience, alumni retraining, and skill relevance would tell a more honest story of institutional performance.



# Doctor, MBBS student detained in Haryana as Red Fort blast probe widens

**Delhi Police have detained a doctor and an MBBS student from Haryana in connection with the Red Fort blast probe, as investigators examine their suspected links to a wider terror network and the procurement of explosives.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)** As the probe into the Red Fort blast and the 'white-collar terror network' deepens, the Delhi Police has detained a doctor and an MBBS student from Haryana's Nuh following an overnight raid. The two individuals -- Dr Mustaqueem and Mohammad -- are alleged to have close links with Dr Umar un Nabi, the key suspect in the blast case. According to sources, Dr Mustaqueem, who earned his MBBS degree in China, was pursuing an internship at Al Falah University in Faridabad, from where the police recently recovered a massive cache of explosives.

Mohammad was an MBBS student at Al Falah University. He has reportedly told investigators that both he and Dr Mustaqueem were acquainted with the suspected terrorist Umar.

Police said the interrogation of the doctor is underway, and investigators are examining whether the two had any role in the procurement of explosives. In recent days, a total of five people, including the doctors, have been detained in the region. This includes two fertiliser and seed store owners from Sohna, who are suspected of supplying chemicals that may have been used by the terror module. Another doctor, Dr Rihan, who graduated from the Al Falah Medical College, was arrested recently in Nuh. Extensive raids were carried out on Friday night across Haryana's Dhauj, Nuh, and nearby areas by the Delhi Police, with central agency officials also participating in the operation. The National Investigation Agency (NIA), which is probing the Red Fort blast that killed 13 people, is also examining the broader terror network. Several individuals,



including multiple doctors, have been arrested as part of what officials describe as a 'white-collar terror network.' Recent police operations have led to the seizure of nearly

2,900 kilograms of explosives as the module was dismantled. The crackdown spanned Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh.

Investigators have also found that three key suspects -- Dr Umar Nabi, Dr Muzammil Ganaie, and Dr Shaheen Shahid -- allegedly used a Switzerland-based encrypted messaging app to plan and coordinate the conspiracy.

DNA tests on samples collected from the Red Fort blast site confirmed that Dr Nabi was driving the vehicle that exploded on Monday, killing 13 people and injuring several others. In a related development, a team of revenue officials from Faridabad visited the 70-acre Al Falah University campus to conduct a detailed land survey.

Officials said the exercise aims to ascertain whether the land is being used in accordance with approved norms and regulations. Meanwhile, police teams from NIT, Ballabgarh, and the Central Zone conducted searches in markets and crowded areas on Friday.

## BJP cracks down on Bihar rebels, expels ex-Union Minister, two others

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

In a sweeping post-election crackdown on dissenters, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday expelled former Union power minister and ex-Ara MPRK Singh for six years, accusing him of "anti-party activities" and repeated breaches of organisational discipline. Alongside Singh, the BJP also suspended MLC Ashok Kumar Agarwal and Katihar Mayor Usha Agarwal on similar charges, as the party moves to rein in rebellion within its Bihar ranks. Singh has been asked to submit a formal reply within one week.

The action followed a sharply worded show-cause notice earlier in the day, in which the BJP accused Singh of causing "harm to the party" through his public remarks and conduct.

"You are indulging in anti-party activities this has caused harm to the party. Therefore, you are being suspended and asked to explain why you should not be expelled," the notice mentioned. Hours after issuing the letter, the party confirmed his removal from its primary membership.

Bihar BJP suspends former Union Minister RK Singh for "anti-party activities". The party has asked him to submit a reply within one week. pic.twitter.com/ffb7ydsfnf — ANI (@ANI) November 15, 2025 Singh's ouster marks one of the BJP's strongest disciplinary steps in recent years. The former bureaucrat-turned-politician had openly criticised the BJP leadership and made explosive allegations about government projects. Bihar BJP suspends party MLC Ashok Kumar Agarwal and Katihar Mayor Usha Agarwal for "anti-party activities".

## Kids step into operational roles as Namo Bharat celebrates Children's Day in Delhi

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

To celebrate Children's Day, the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) organised a special event allowing children to take charge of Namo Bharat operations for a day. The activity gave students a rare opportunity to experience what goes on behind the scenes in India's first regional rapid transit system.

Under the guidance of NCRTC staff, children stepped into various operational roles such as Station Controller, Ticketing Distributor, Security In-Charge, Announcer-cum-Train Attendant, and Station Maintenance Associate. Through these responsibilities, they learned how the system ensures a fast, safe, and comfortable journey for thousands of commuters daily.

The station buzzed with excitement as the young "junior crew" carried out their duties. Students made announcements, greeted passengers, managed entry gates, and interacted confidently with the public. Many commuters paused to watch, clicked pictures, and appreciated NCRTC for organising such a thoughtful and engaging experience. The children, thrilled by the hands-on exposure, posed proudly with staff and commuters, their enthusiasm lighting up the station.

Teachers accompanying the students said the initiative blended fun with practical learning, giving children an understanding of the teamwork, technology, and precision required to run a modern transit system. As part of the celebration, NCRTC arranged a special visit for a group of Divyang students, who travelled from Ghaziabad to Anand Vihar on the Namo Bharat train, experiencing its speed, comfort, and accessibility. The students praised the organisation for creating a commuter system that is inclusive and universally accessible.

"By opening its doors to young learners, the organisation aims to nurture awareness, pride, and a sense of connection to India's growing urban mobility landscape," an official said.

## Loud thud, fireball shot: Video shows blast at J&K police station that killed 9

**A powerful accidental blast inside Nowgam Police Station in Jammu and Kashmir killed nine and injured 32 while teams were handling seized explosives. CCTV footage later revealed the scale of destruction.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A CCTV footage captured the moment a fireball shot into the night sky as an explosion ripped through the Nowgam Police Station on the outskirts of Srinagar, flattening the building and killing nine people on Friday night. The blast, which injured 32 others, also hurled debris across the compound with such force that body parts were later recovered nearly 300 metres away.

Officials said the explosion occurred while officers and forensic teams were extracting samples from a cache of explosives seized in the "white-collar" terror module case in Faridabad earlier this month. Nearly 350 kg of ammonium nitrate, brought to Kashmir in small bags following protocol, was being sealed and



secured under a magistrate's supervision at the time. The footage, sourced from a nearby camera, showed a sharp flash followed by a roaring burst of flame, with a shockwave tearing through parked vehicles before the frame filled with smoke and flying debris.

**WATCH THE FOOTAGE HERE**

Meanwhile, the Jammu and Kashmir Police rejected claims by Pakistan-backed PAFF that it orchestrated the

incident, calling the statements "false, baseless and mischievous". The force reiterated that there was no terror involvement and that the blast was accidental.

Rescue workers continued clearing debris through the night, warning that the death toll could rise as more people were believed to be trapped. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has ordered a probe and expressed anguish over the loss of lives in the incident.

"I have ordered a probe to ascertain the cause of the accidental explosion. Deeply anguished by the loss of precious lives due to extremely tragic accidental blast at Nowgam police station in Srinagar. My condolences to the bereaved families. I pray for speedy recovery of the injured," Sinha said in a post on X.



Bihar's Saran constituency, but lost to the BJP's Rajeev Pratap Rudy by quite a margin. Rohini's decisive move was in the making months before the Bihar polls, when he unfollowed the party's, Lalu's as well as brother Tejashwi Yadav's X handles.

With a flurry of cryptic, often emotional posts, Rohini stepped up her ante against the RJD and brother Tejashwi, dragging the rift in the party's first family out in the open. It is believed that at the centre of the storm was Rohini's reported kidney donation to her father in 2022, and rumours and allegations of her not doing it. Along with that, at the centre of the storm also was the shadow of Tejashwi's confidante and Haryana-born RJD Rajya Sabha MP, Sanjay Yadav.

### WIDENING PARI-WAR OF LALU YADAV'S FAMILY

Lalu Yadav disowned his elder son Tej Pratap Yadav and also expelled him from the party for declaring his affair with Anushka Yadav in May this year, further widening the pari-war (family feud). In May, tensions inside the Yadav family erupted after Tej Pratap posted on Facebook claiming a 12-year relationship with Anushka Yadav while his divorce case was still ongoing.

## Surgeon detained in Pathankot, was likely in touch with Delhi blast accused

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

A surgeon from Pathankot who previously worked at Haryana's terror-tainted Al-Falah University has been detained in connection with the Red Fort blast case. The surgeon, Dr Rayees Ahmad Bhat, was picked up from questioning after investigators found that he was allegedly in touch with Dr Umar Nabi, who blew up a car near Delhi's Red Fort, killing 13 people. The 45-year-old surgeon, who is presently with White Medical College in Pathankot, worked from 2020-2021 at Faridabad's Al-Falah University - the same institution where Dr Umar was based. However, investigators found that Dr Bhat was in



regular touch with staff at Al-Falah University.

Sources said Dr Bhat was taken into custody to "establish facts" and to ascertain whether he was part of the "white collar" terror module that was supported by the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind.

### SPREE OF ARRESTS AS TERROR PROBE INTENSIFIES

Apart from Dr Bhat, another doctor and an MBBS student of Al-Falah University, who were known to Dr Umar, were detained on Friday. It came as the Delhi Police Special Cell and central agencies conducted raids in Haryana's Dhauj and Nuh.

Dr Mustaqueem, who did his MBBS degree in China, and Mohammad told investigators that they knew Dr Umar. Earlier this week, another doctor, Rihan, who graduated from the Al-Falah Medical College, was also arrested. The arrests come as the police and the NIA ramp up their probe into the blast at one of the national capital's most famous tourist sites.

## Resignation of Jaish-linked doctor's brother triggers probe into terror links

**Dr Parvez Saeed Ansari's abrupt exit on November 6, sent via email, has drawn the attention of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), especially as it came just four days before his sister's arrest and the powerful blast near Delhi's Red Fort.**

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

The name of a Lucknow-based university has once again come under scrutiny as investigators probe the sudden resignation and suspected terror links of Assistant Professor Dr Parvez Saeed Ansari.

His abrupt exit on November 6, sent via email, has drawn the attention of the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), especially as it came just four days before his sister's arrest and the powerful blast near Delhi's

Red Fort. According to sources, the ATS is examining whether someone else may have used Dr Parvez's email ID and whether the resignation was part of a larger conspiracy.

The agency is also verifying if the university administration attempted to contact him after he quit and why the resignation was communicated solely over email. In this context, the ATS has sought the complete record of the 60-70 Kashmiri students enrolled in the university, including those from the medical department. Investigators suspect that Dr Parvez may have been attempting to brainwash some Kashmiri students to build a sleeper-cell network. Students described him as someone who generally kept to himself but maintained close ties with students from Jammu & Kashmir. Several crucial clues have been recovered from Dr Parvez's computer

hard disk, digital devices, documents and vehicles. After these leads emerged, a joint team of the ATS and J&K Police searched his ancestral home in Lalbagh's



Khandaari Bazaar and questioned his father, Saeed Ansari. On November 10, the J&K Police had arrested Dr Shaheen Shahid from Faridabad. She is Dr Parvez's sister and said to be a close associate of the main accused in the "white-collar" Jaish-e-Mohammed

(JeM)-linked Faridabad terror module, Dr Muzammil Shakeel. An AK-47, a pistol and cartridges were found in her car. A day after the Delhi blast, on November 11, ATS and J&K Police raided Dr Parvez's house in Madiyao, Lucknow. The house was locked and was broken open for nearly three-hour search. Sources said investigators have also recovered important documents from the university concerning his activities and his growing proximity to Kashmiri students. Meanwhile, the Uttar Pradesh Police and ATS recovered six mobile phones, three knives, an international calling card and other digital devices from another of his homes in Lucknow. Investigators allege the phones were used to communicate with contacts in Jammu, while the international calling card was meant for conversations.

## NEWS BOX

**New India citizen Ryan Williams named in AFC qualifier squad vs Bangladesh**

New Delhi. (Agency)

New India citizen Ryan Williams has been named in the squad by Khalid Jamil for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh. The Australia-born Williams recently got his Indian passport, making him eligible for selection in the Indian squad for international matches. The inclusion of the 32-year-old is considered to be the first step in All India Football Federation's (AIFF) attempts to include Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) in the national football setup. The match against Bangladesh will happen on November 18, with the Indian team set to land in Dhaka on Saturday evening. While Williams will travel to Bangladesh for the game, his participation in the matchday squad will be dependent on receiving a No-Objection Certificate from Football Australia and the subsequent approvals from FIFA and AFC. The match doesn't have any importance for India as they're already out of the running for



qualification to the AFC Asian Cup. The Blue Tigers sit at the bottom of the points table with no wins and two draws. India will be banking on the likes of Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Sandhesh Jhingan and Rahul Bheke to guide the young team in the final qualifier outing. India have decided to move on from Sunil Chhetri after the former captain requested the team management to look beyond him and prepare for the future. India have kept Mohammed Sanan in the squad after the young forward impressed with the youth teams.

**Ashes: England's Mark Wood cleared of hamstring injury, fit for first Test**

New Delhi. (Agency)

England received a timely boost ahead of the Ashes after Mark Wood was cleared of any hamstring damage following a precautionary scan in Perth. The fast bowler reported stiffness in his left leg during the tourists' warm-up match against England Lions on Thursday, raising concerns given his recent injury history. Wood bowled two four-over spells on the opening day at Lilac Hill Park before leaving the field with tightness in the same leg on which he underwent knee surgery earlier this year. The 35-year-old has not played a Test since August 2024, having first dealt with an elbow problem and then a knee injury that sidelined him for nine months. An ECB statement on Saturday confirmed that the scan showed no cause for concern. "Following precautionary scans on Friday, England fast bowler Mark Wood has been cleared of any concerns regarding his left hamstring. He is not expected to feature today, the third day of England's warm-up match against the Lions XI at Lilac Hill Park, Perth. Wood will continue to train as planned in the build-up to the first Test in



Perth," the statement said. Wood will not take part in the final day of the tour game, but England are confident he will be ready for the opening Test against Australia at Optus Stadium on 21 November. His availability is particularly important given England's desire to pair him with Jofra Archer and unleash high pace on a surface expected to offer bounce. The good news for England came on the same day Australia confirmed that Josh Hazlewood had been ruled out of the first Test with a hamstring injury, dealing the hosts an early setback.

England named five seamers, including Wood and Archer, and no specialist spinner in their XI for the warm-up, signalling their preferred balance for the Ashes opener.

**IND vs SA: Big blow for India as Shubman Gill retires hurt with injury scare in Kolkata**

**India were handed an early concern on Day 2 of the Kolkata Test after captain Shubman Gill walked off the field with a neck strain, cutting short his innings only moments after arriving at the crease.**

New Delhi. (Agency)

India suffered an early setback on Day 2 of the Kolkata Test after captain Shubman Gill retired hurt due to a neck strain, cutting short what had looked like a promising start to his innings at Eden Gardens. Gill walked in after the dismissal of Washington Sundar in the 35th over and appeared composed at the crease. He safely negotiated his first two deliveries from Simon Harmer before executing a well-timed sweep over square leg for four, a shot played with authority and control. However, the mood changed instantly. As he rose from completing the sweep, Gill appeared in visible discomfort. He removed his helmet and placed his hand on the left side of his neck, clearly struggling



with stiffness. He stood still for a moment before signaling to the physio. After a brief on-field assessment, the Indian management opted against taking any risks with their captain. A replacement batter was summoned, and Gill began the slow walk back to the pavilion. The incident took place only minutes after he arrived at the crease, with the 25-year-old facing just three deliveries before retiring hurt. He looked

increasingly stiff as the physio attended to him, prompting immediate concern in the Indian dressing room. Medical staff were seen moving in and out as Gill headed straight inside for further treatment. The crowd, which had welcomed him warmly moments earlier, briefly fell silent. Their concern soon shifted to excitement as Rishabh Pant made his way out to bat, marking his return to the longest format since

the Oval Test. Gill's exit temporarily disrupted India's rhythm at a stage when the hosts were looking to build stability. At the time, India were 79 for 2, and the tension in the middle increased as they adjusted to both the loss of a batter and the uncertainty surrounding their captain's condition. KL Rahul and Washington Sundar steadied the innings with watchful batting, keeping the run rate slightly above two.

**IPL 2026: Arjun Tendulkar and Shami move to LSG, Nitish Rana heads to DC**

AUCKLAND. (Agency)

Lucknow Super Giants have completed all-cash moves for both Arjun Tendulkar and Mohammed Shami as Nitish Rana leaves Rajasthan Royals to join Delhi Capitals on Saturday, November 15. Tendulkar has been a part of MI since 2021 but made his debut in 2023. He has played a total of five matches for the five-time champions and picked up three wickets. Tendulkar will join Lucknow for 30 Lakhs. Shami's move to LSG was teased by the franchise on Friday, as he struggled with SRH last season. The Indian pacer played just nine



positive, because MS Dhoni, I'm not sure how long he can continue as a wicketkeeper-batter. I'm sure captaincy could be one option." "For Sanju Samson, although Rutaraj Gaikwad has done a good job for CSK, and then you needed an Indian opener. Now that Conway has also bid adieu and yes, I know Mathre is there, but you have a top-order Indian batter, wicketkeeper, and a solid player in Sanju Samson. So I think that's a great positive for CSK," said Kumble.

**JADEJA ADDS VALUE TO RR**

Speaking about the Jadeja move to RR, Kumble said that the all-rounder will add value to the team with his bowling, batting and experience. "And to have Jadeja for Rajasthan Royals, you needed that Indian spinner because Rajasthan were playing with two Sri Lankan spinners last season compared to the previous campaigns where they had two stalwarts, Ashwin and Yuzi Chahal. I think Jadeja will certainly add value to Rajasthan Royals with his left-hand batting in the middle order." Then his experience, and of course, his left arm spin and fielding. So he's an asset to any team, but Rajasthan is a great option for him. From all accounts, it feels like both parties have been benefited by this particular deal," said Kumble. Across 186 appearances for Chennai Super Kings, Ravindra Jadeja claimed 143 wickets and contributed 2,198 runs. He now heads back to the franchise where his IPL journey began and where he lifted the league's very first trophy.

**Croatia secure World Cup 2026 spot, Germany and Netherlands edge closer**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Croatia confirmed their place at the World Cup with a 3-1 victory over the Faroe Islands, overcoming an early setback to top their qualifying group with 19 points, now clear of second-placed Czech Republic. Germany and the Netherlands also made significant progress in their campaigns, as Germany beat Luxembourg 2-0 to remain top of Group A, and the Netherlands earned a point against Poland to stay three points clear in their group. The results leave Germany and the Netherlands needing only draws in their final matches to secure World Cup spots, while the Faroe Islands' strong campaign remains a highlight despite missing out on automatic qualification. Josko Gvardiol was instrumental for Croatia, scoring the equaliser just seven minutes after Geza David Turi stunned the home crowd with a 16th-minute opener for the Faroe Islands. Petar Musa then put Croatia ahead in the 57th minute, before Nikola Vlasic's goal in the 70th minute secured the win and Croatia's passage to the World Cup.



Nick Woltemade dominated for Germany, scoring both goals in the 49th and 69th minutes against Luxembourg, taking his personal tally to three goals in two matches. His decisive finishing made the difference for Julian Nagelsmann's side, which now leads Group A with 12 points. The matches featured key momentum swings. In Croatia's game, the Faroe Islands' early lead was quickly overturned, while Germany overcame first-half difficulties, including several Luxembourg chances, to find their rhythm after the break. The

Netherlands trailed Poland after Jakub Kaminski's first-half strike but were brought level by Memphis Depay early in the second half, ultimately earning a valuable draw. Croatia's 19 points make them unreachable for second-placed Czech Republic, ensuring their automatic berth. Germany's 2-0 win keeps them unbeaten and top of Group A on 12 points, and a draw versus Slovakia will confirm qualification. The Netherlands remain three points ahead of Poland with 17 points, needing only a draw against Lithuania to secure their place. The Faroe Islands, despite their defeat, impressed by staying in contention for a top-two spot until the final rounds. The attention will turn to the final set of matches, where playoff places and group supremacy remain at stake. Group winners will qualify directly for the World Cup, while second-placed teams advance to the playoffs, keeping the competition intense as the qualifying campaign concludes.

**Fans will be upset over Ravindra Jadeja exit, but CSK felt need for change: CEO**

**CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan explained why they decided to trade Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran to get the services of Sanju Samson from RR. Jadeja left Chennai after being one of their most decorated players and spending 12 seasons.**

TURIN. (Agency)

CSK CEO Kasi Viswanathan explained why the franchise decided to take the tough call to trade Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran to RR to get Sanju Samson on Saturday, November 15. The deal, which has been in the works for a few weeks, was finally completed with Samson joining Chennai

for Rs. 18 Crore. Jadeja went to RR for 14 Crore, and he leaves CSK as one of their most decorated players. The Indian all-rounder spent 12 seasons at CSK and won three IPL titles and captained them during the 2022 season. Speaking in an official video released by CSK, Viswanathan said that the franchise was in need of a top-order batter, and they decided to use the trade window to get Samson in. The CSK CEO said that the call was made with the mutual consent of Jadeja, who was looking for a new opportunity as he was approaching the fag end of his career. "The team management felt the need of a top-order Indian batsman. And since not many Indian batsmen are going to be available at the auction, we thought that the best way to get an Indian top-order batsman would be to go through the trade window. And hence, we have to take this call, and this decision has been taken by the team management, and it is a very tough decision leaving out Jaddu,

very clear that if there is an opportunity for him, because he's also felt that he's in the fag end of his career in white ball. So, he also felt that he can have a break," said Viswanathan. The CSK CEO said that it was important for the side to build a team for the future and Samson was an important player to get in during the transition period. "Leaving out Sam as well as, Jaddu was one of the toughest calls. We have certain players who are at the fag end of their career. And it is very important for CSK to build a team in the next couple of years. And since this is a mini auction, we don't have the opportunity to get the best of the Indian batsmen. Sam has been one of the most experienced IPL batsman, having scored more than 4500 runs, and he has also been leading Rajasthan Royals."

"He has the experience and he's only around 30 years, so we thought that he'll be a good addition for CSK to take care of the future," said Viswanathan.



## Jeevan Pramaan Rejected Follow THESE Simple Steps To Fix Your Digital Life Certificate

New Delhi.(Agency)

Pensioners are required to submit their life certificate, known as Jeevan Pramaan by November 30 to keep their pension payments running smoothly. Jeevan Pramaan is a Digital Life Certificate that uses Aadhaar-based biometric verification. This makes the process simple, secure, and convenient for pensioners. Jeevan Pramaan is an Aadhaar-based, biometric digital service that helps pensioners confirm their "aliveness" without visiting their pension office in person. It is available to pensioners of the Central and State Governments, as well as other government bodies whose Pension Sanctioning Authority (PSA) is registered on the Jeevan Pramaan platform. What to do in case of rejection

Receiving a rejection SMS for your Jeevan Pramaan can be worrying but fixing it is easier than you think. The first thing you need to do is get in touch with your Pension Disbursing Agency (PDA) whether it's your bank or post office to understand why it was rejected. Once the issue is clear, you can simply update the correct details and re-authenticate your biometrics to generate a fresh Jeevan Pramaan ID. Pensioners can visit Jeevan Pramaan centres available at banks, post offices, and CSCs.

- They can also use the Jeevan Pramaan app, provided they have a biometric device connected to their smartphone or computer. - Re-employed or remarried pensioners are not eligible to generate a Jeevan Pramaan certificate. - For the complete list of authorised PSAs and detailed submission guidelines, visit the official website: [jeevanpramaan.gov.in](http://jeevanpramaan.gov.in).

Essential Requirements for Getting a Jeevan Pramaan Certificate

According to the DoPPW, pensioners need to have a few key details ready before applying for a Jeevan Pramaan life certificate. This includes your Aadhaar number, name, mobile number, PPO number, pension account number, and bank details. You also need to provide information about your Pension Sanctioning Authority and Pension Disbursing Authority. These basics ensure a smooth and hassle-free verification process.

## ONDC to tie up with Ministry of Cooperation to scale up the business

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is likely to collaborate with the Ministry of Cooperation soon to scale up its businesses and tap a bigger market, said a source from the Ministry of the Commerce. Even after more than three years of its launch, ONDC is still struggling to get into the market dominated by e-commerce giants like Amazon and Flipkart. This tie-up could help sellers from several co-operative groups to list themselves on ONDC. "We are working on several strategies to scale up the business and market reach. Talks are on to collaborate with the Ministry of Cooperation to upscale the business," said the source.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) launched ONDC as a public, open-sourced network for e-commerce, using open specifications and protocols to democratize digital commerce in India. It was designed to break the dominance of large e-commerce platforms and create a level playing field for small businesses and sellers. Since its inception, it has tried to onboard small and medium sellers from tier 2 and tier 3 cities of India. One of the major incentives offered by ONDC to the sellers was near-zero platform fees.

While the initial days look promising, by the early months of 2025, retail orders fell to a twelve-month low of 4 million in May, down 6.2% from April's 4.3 million. Retailers' contribution to ONDC's total transactions has fallen nearly from 47% in October to just 25% in May. Despite the government pushing for ONDC, there has been minimal response from the customers. In fact, customers have often complained about complicated user interface and some even complained about poor customer service.

To further diversify their business, ONDC has also ventured into financial services as it boarded Zerodha Fund House. It also recently launched unsecured digital loans that can be sanctioned within six minutes, and plans to roll out GST invoice financing loans by September 2024.

## More support for exporters; RBI eases debt repayment rules

New Delhi.(Agency)

The government continues to offer help to exporters – this time in the form of RBI easing the rules for repayment of debt and credit by exporters. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday issued a set of guidelines to help mitigate the impact of trade disruptions on exports arising due to global headwinds. The guidelines will come into force with immediate effect. The Central bank has increased the maximum credit period for exporters from one year to 450 days for pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit disbursed till March 31, 2026. It has also allowed lenders to liquidate packing credit facilities availed by exporters on or before August 31, 2025, where dispatch of goods could not take place, from any legitimate alternate sources, including domestic sale proceeds of such goods or substitution of contract with proceeds of another export order. A packing credit facility is a loan extended to an exporter by a bank to finance the pre-shipment activities required to fulfill an export order.

In order to ease the debt repayment burden, the central bank has allowed deferment of payment of all term loans and recovery of interest on working capital loans falling due between September 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025. It has allowed the banks to recalculate 'drawing power' in working capital facilities either by reducing the margins or basis reassessment, during the above period. The central bank has relaxed the FEMA regulations on realization and repatriation of proceeds of export of goods and services and advance payment against exports.

# How to execute a will properly, so your family avoids delays and disputes

New Delhi.(Agency)

A will may feel like the final word, but if it can't be executed, it's just paper. Families often learn this the hard way. One missing document, one unclear clause or one forgotten instruction is enough to turn a simple inheritance into months of delay and dispute. The truth is, writing a will is only half the job. The real work begins afterwards. And unless the executor knows exactly what to do, and where everything is kept, even the most carefully drafted will can collapse into confusion. To understand how families can avoid delays and disputes, India Today spoke to Shaishavi Kadakia, Partner, Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas, and Nitin Jain, Partner, Agama Law Associates.

## FIRST STEPS AFTER A PERSON'S DEATH

Shaishavi Kadakia, said that the executor should be informed immediately. The executor (if the executor is someone other than the family members) should be contacted and informed about the demise of the testator. The executor should read

the will, understand the terms and clauses of the will, communicate with the family members who are legatees under the will, identify and collate all the assets and liabilities of the deceased person, understand the nature of the assets, whether the asset has nominees, joint owners, etc., and seek legal advice on the requirement of obtaining probate," said Kadakia. She further said that in case the will appoints a guardian for a minor child of the testator, the executor should also inform the guardian of his/her appointment. These early steps bring structure and reduce confusion during an already emotional time.

## LOCATING AND VERIFYING THE FINAL WILL

Families often struggle to find the final signed version, especially if earlier drafts exist. Kadakia explained that ideally, the testator should have verbally informed the family members (or the executor) about the location of the final signed will.

"In the absence of such information, the family will have to search through the testator's personal belongings to locate



the will. Usually, such documents are stored with other important official documents, or in a personal safe/locker, or in a bank locker, or with the testator's lawyer or accountant," she added.

Quickly locating the final will avoids early disputes and ensures the process starts smoothly. Kadakia says that many disputes arise because the document itself contains doubts. "A will can be challenged if it is ambiguous or contains suspicious circumstances. Suspicious circumstances could be unnatural bequests, changes made in handwriting or multiple versions

of the will. The testator should ensure that all older revoked versions have been destroyed." Even small errors or unclear clauses can lead to challenges later.

## WHEN PROBATE IS NEEDED

Probate is often misunderstood, yet it is crucial in many cases.

Kadakia explains that probate is mandatory for wills made by Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs and Jains, and it is compulsory if the will is made in, or if the immovable property bequeathed under the will is situated in, the original civil jurisdiction of the High Courts of Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. Probate may also be required when the deceased does not have nominees or joint holders. Nitin Jain highlights that probate itself is not quick. "In an ideal scenario, obtaining probate letters of administration/succession certificate generally takes six to nine months. However, post-Covid backlogs and contested matters can make it stretch to a few years, especially where the matter is contested, since it becomes a full testamentary suit requiring trial.

## Infosys hands out Sept quarter bonus: Employees to get 75% average bonus; check details

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Infosys announced its latest round of performance-linked payouts for the September quarter, issuing bonus letters on Friday to employees across several job levels.

The Bengaluru based company, which is also India's second-largest in the IT sector, has granted an average bonus of 75% of the eligible or target amount for the period. Employees told ET that the figure is slightly lower than what was distributed in the previous quarter.

According to staff at job level 4, the company has awarded 83% to those rated 'outstanding', 78.5% to those marked 'commendable', and 75% to employees who 'met expectations'. People familiar with the bonus cycle said payouts declined with each lower job level, although the overall average for all eligible categories still fell within 70.5% to 83%.

Some employees said their bonus this quarter is 5-7% lower than what they received for the



October, the data did not translate into currency strength, underlining how global conditions overshadowed domestic fundamentals.

The rupee's daily movement continued to narrow, with traders noting that intraday swings have shrunk considerably in recent weeks. Market participants attribute this reduced volatility largely to the RBI's steady presence in the market.

Looking ahead, the rupee is expected to

stay in a narrow corridor unless there is a significant shift in global sentiment or foreign investment flows. Stronger FPI inflows or a softer dollar could offer support, while renewed risk aversion, higher importer demand or a further delay in US monetary easing could push the rupee back toward its record-low zone. For now, the currency appears set to consolidate, with the Rs 88.50-Rs 88.80 band likely to guide near-term trading.

## DRA Homes announces Rs 125 crore ESOP programme ahead of possible IPO

New Delhi.(Agency)

As part of its preparation for a possible IPO listing, Chennai-based real estate company DRA Homes has rolled out a ?125-crore ESOP programme, granting 5% ownership to its 325 employees and pushing its valuation to ?2,500 crore. The fully granted ESOP, which vests over three years, is expected to create ten crorepati employees. The announcement aligns with DRA Homes' strategic roadmap as the company prepares for an IPO within the next three years. DRA Homes currently holds a valuation of ?2,500 crore, supported by a strong operational and financial foundation. For the current financial year, the company is targeting ?800 crore in revenue, building on last year's revenue of ?525 crore with a PAT of ?50 crore. The company presently

holds inventory worth ?2,700 crore, underscoring the scale and depth of its ongoing and upcoming developments. Ranjeeth Rathod, Managing Director, DRA Homes, said, "Our ESOP programme reflects a simple belief: if the company grows, our people must grow with us. True wealth creation is the most meaningful benefit we can pass on to our employees. Equity gives people choice and the freedom to build their lives the way they want. Through this ESOP, we want our team to experience that sense of security, independence and long-term value. Granting 5% ownership to employees ensures that everyone who contributes to DRA's journey becomes a stakeholder in its future." Rathod added, "The company is planning for IPO listing in the next three years. The ESOP is the first step towards that

direction and we want to make all our employees shareholders of the company. The ESOP will be distributed to employees in three phases over the period of three years. Before going for IPOs, I have certain metrics and numbers that I want the company to achieve in terms of revenue." He said employees must have worked with the company for at least a year to be eligible for the programme. The company currently employs 315 people and is engaged in 16 projects in and around Chennai. It is also planning to enter the Pune real estate market. Rathod said, "In terms of adopting modern technology, the company is experimenting with the usage of 3D printing in constructing villas. As of now, we are constructing only one villa in Karanai in Kancheepuram district.

April-June period. In that cycle, Infosys' average payout stood at 80%, and individual disbursals were between 75% and 89%. The company has extended payouts to employees at job levels 4, 5 and 6, which include software engineers, team leaders and senior managers. These groups, together forming the majority of the firm's 323,000 employees, were assessed under 'outstanding', 'commendable', 'met expectations', and a non-applicable category, all of which qualified for bonuses. The internal communication noted that payouts differ according to each employee's performance and contribution for the quarter. Delivery managers have been given the bonus allocations to distribute within their respective units based on individual assessments. In its email to staff, the company wrote.

## Gold and silver prices drop sharply on hawkish Fed signals and easing safe-haven demand

**The combination of firmer rate-cut expectations being pushed back and a fading flight-to-safety trade weighed heavily on both gold and silver through the session.**

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices in the global markets fell significantly on Friday as investor sentiment weakened following a series of hawkish comments from US Federal Reserve officials. The remarks damped expectations of a possible interest-rate cut in December, pushing traders to reassess their positions in precious metals. The decline was further reinforced by the resolution of the US government shutdown. With the shutdown ending, concerns about economic disruption eased, reducing the safe-haven appeal that

had recently supported bullion prices. Market analysts noted that the combination of firmer rate-cut expectations being pushed back and a fading flight-to-safety trade weighed heavily on both gold and silver through the session. Since these metals offer no yield, higher-for-longer interest rates make them less attractive compared with interest-bearing assets.

Experts believe that the current softness in bullion may persist in the near term. Unless there is a renewed surge in risk aversion or a clear shift in the Federal Reserve's policy tone, gold and silver could remain under pressure as investors track upcoming US economic data and policy statements. The price trend in India for gold and silver showed a mixed but steady trend on Saturday, November 15, with both metals holding near recent highs despite a brief phase of consolidation. Domestic prices reflected the influence of global market cues, currency movements and the easing of festival-driven demand. Gold prices remained firm, with 24-carat rates across major cities hovering around Rs 1.27 lakh per 10 grams. The metal has been under mild pressure after US Federal Reserve officials signalled a cautious stance on

cutting interest rates. Their comments strengthened the US dollar, reducing the appeal of non-interest-bearing assets like



gold. Even so, domestic demand from weddings and jewellery buyers kept prices supported, and local premiums remained intact in several markets. Silver prices softened slightly after their sharp rise in recent weeks. Rates on November 15 averaged around Rs 1.73-1.75 lakh per kilogram in key cities, including Chennai. The marginal dip followed a surge during the festive season, when industrial offtake and retail buying pushed silver to record levels. As festival demand tapered, premiums eased, but the broader uptrend stayed in place

due to strong global industrial demand, particularly from electronics and clean-energy sectors. Market analysts noted that both metals are in a consolidation phase after significant gains. Gold is trading just below its recent peak and could resume its upward move if global uncertainty persists or if the dollar weakens. Silver continues to show higher volatility and remains sensitive to shifts in industrial demand and speculative activity. For buyers, the current level represents a stable but elevated price zone. Jewellery demand is expected to remain steady through the ongoing wedding season, while investors may prefer to wait for clearer global signals before making large purchases. The next direction for both metals will likely be shaped by US economic data, upcoming central bank communication and any movement in the rupee against the dollar.

## Key drivers behind global price trend

The precious metals lost ground as investors reassessed the outlook for US monetary policy. Since bullion offers no yield, expectations of higher-for-longer interest rates tend to reduce its appeal. Recent remarks from Federal Reserve officials

# Gulshan Devaiah

Calls Out Fake X Account Posing As

# Girija Oak Godbole

'Imposter Cashing In...'

**G**irija Oak Godbole has been trending ever since a video of her in a blue saree went viral on social media. The actress, who is gearing up for her upcoming web series 'Therapy Sherry' alongside Gulshan Devaiah, recently reacted to the overwhelming attention she received over the last few days. Meanwhile, amid her viral fame, her co-star Gulshan Devaiah called out a fake X account impersonating her and cashing in on her popularity. He took to social media to expose the imposter and tagged Girija Oak's official account, directing fans to the real profile.

**Gulshan Devaiah Calls Out Imposter 'Cashing In' On Girija Oak Godbole's Viral Fame**

On Friday, Gulshan Devaiah took to X (formerly Twitter) to call out the fake account posing as Girija Oak Godbole. He wrote, "Imposter cashing in on #GirijaOak's crush phase. If you wanna gush & crush, here she is @GirijaOak." Check out the post below!

Meanwhile, soon after Girija Oak Godbole was trending on the Internet, Gulshan shared a picture with his Therapy Sherry co-star, both sporting matching wave print shirts. He shared an appreciation post for her and wrote, "@girijoakgodbole Matching 'Babes' with the trending 'Babes' I'm enjoying everyone gushing over you. Trends come & go but you're never out of fashion my friend." Reacting to his post, Girija wrote, "Aww! Gullu you are the best."

#### Girija Oak Godbole Expresses Concern Over Her AI-Morphed Pics

Meanwhile, yesterday, Girija Oak shared a video, speaking out against her AI-morphed vulgar photos that are circulating online. Girija revealed that the photos are sexualized and objectified beyond comfort, and expressed that she is worried that her son may see them someday. "I have a twelve-year-old son. He does not use social media right now, but eventually he

will. Once he grows up, he's going to have access to these images because they may be circulating right now, but they're going to remain on the internet forever," she said.

"These obscene images of his mother—he's going to see them one day, and it worries me, scares me, bothers me to think how he is going to feel about them. He will know that these are not real images and that they are morphed with the help of AI. Just like people who are watching these images right now—they are also aware of the fact that these are not real images and they are modified. But it does give them some sort of a cheap thrill, some sort of a cheap digitalisation. This is scary," she added.

Girija Oak Godbole, daughter of Marathi actor Girish Oak, is known for her work in both Hindi and Marathi cinema. She was seen in the 2007 film *Taare Zameen Par*, starring Aamir Khan and Darshil Safary. She has also been a part of films such as *Shor In The City*, Netflix film *'Qala'*, *'The Vaccine War'* and Shah Rukh Khan's 2023 film *'Jawan'*.

**The photos give fans a glimpse of her and co-star Abhay Verma during the promotional song shoot for their upcoming movie.**



Amid Girija Oak Godbole's viral fame, her co-star Gulshan Devaiah calls out a fake X account impersonating her and cashing in on her popularity.

# Rasha Thadani

## Abhay Verma Shoot Promotional Song For 'Laikey Laikaa' In Delhi

**M**unja Fame actor Abhay Verma and Raveena Tandon's daughter, Rasha Thadani, were recently spotted in Delhi, filming a promotional song for their upcoming movie 'Laikey Laikaa'. The film, directed by Saurabh Gupta, is set for a Summer 2026 release.

The shoot took place at multiple locations, including Vijay Ghat, IG Colony, Lodhi Road and Connaught Place, according to a report by HT City. A source told the publication that the sequence was a romantic song featuring the two leads.

The photos give fans a glimpse of her and co-star Abhay Verma during the promotional song shoot in Delhi. The images suggest that the movie will likely feature youthful romance and lively sequences.

In the images, both actors were dressed in coordinated outfits. Thadani wore a white saree, while Abhay sported a white shirt and pants with floral prints. The images gave fresh, summer look vibes.

#### Fans Pour Love In Comments

The makers previously announced the project, leading to a lot of excitement among fans. Reacting to Thadani's post, hundreds of fans poured love for the on-screen couple. "You guys look so good together," a user commented. Many people jokingly asked for links to the dresses worn by the actors in the photos.

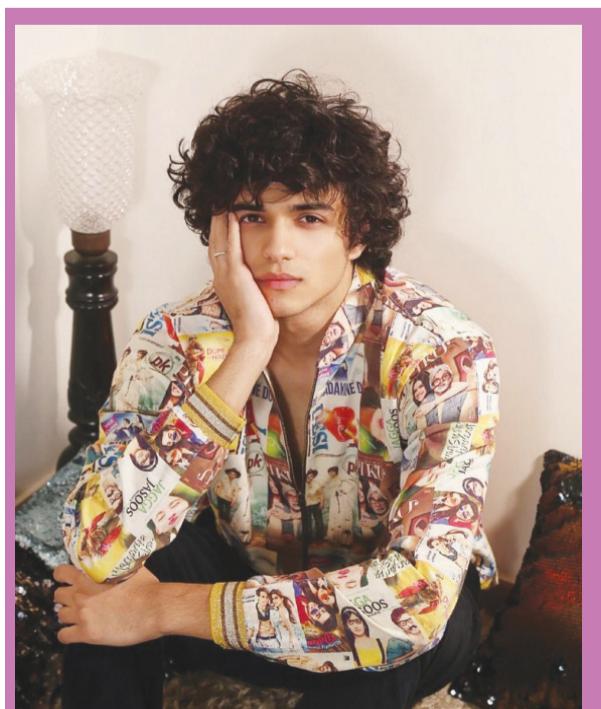
Some also tried asking the actress about the plot of the movie. "Is it a romance or comedy," a user wondered in the comments.

#### About 'Laikey Laikaa'

'Laikey Laikaa', produced by Phantom Studios, is likely to be a romantic actioner. In June, Thadani shared a video announcing the new project with Verma, in which the duo could be seen hinting at the movie's

theme. "She's the chaos. He's the calm. Or is it the other way around? Get ready for #LaikeyLaikaa in theatres, Summer 2026!" an Instagram post by Thadani, made on June 11, read.

Rasha Thadani went viral earlier this year for her performance in the song 'Uyi Amma' from Ajay Devgn-starrer 'Azaad'. She played the role of Janaki Bahadur, impressing fans with her lively expressions and fresh presence on screen.



**When Kamini Kaushal Opened Up About Breakup With Dilip Kumar: 'My Husband Understood Why It Happened'**



**V**eteran actress Kamini Kaushal had once reflected on her past relationship with legendary actor Dilip Kumar in her memoir. She offered a candid glimpse into the personal experiences that shaped her life. The actress opened up about parting ways with the legendary actor. In her biography, Kamini spoke about how both she and Dilip Kumar were heartbroken when they parted ways.

She revealed that they had shared a deep bond and were very happy together, but circumstances led them to separate. She explained that she could never abruptly end things, especially with her family involved, and appreciated her husband's understanding of the situation.

She wrote, "We were both shattered. We were very happy with each other. We shared a great rapport. But that's life. I couldn't dump people and say, 'Enough now, I'm going!' I had taken on the girls. I wouldn't be able to show my face to my sister. My husband, a fine human being, understood why it happened. Everyone falls in love."

Interestingly, in his biography, Dilip Kumar also acknowledged his attraction to Kamini Kaushal while they worked together in films. He described her as his first love. Years later, Dilip reflected on his first heartbreak in Bunny Reuben's biography "Dilip Kumar – Star Legend of Indian Cinema".

He recalled that moment by saying, "She (Kamini) was the only one with whom I achieved total identification. I think everybody falls in love only once. 'Again' – if there is an 'again' – is merely an imitation of the brilliant flame, the blinding light, the days of trance, the nights of impatience and waiting, and days of such happiness that one cannot believe they will last."

It is being reported that Kamini Kaushal was the first love of Dilip Kumar. The legendary actors shared the screen in three films: "Shaheed," "Shabnam," and "Nadiya Ke Paar." While Dilip Kumar never openly spoke about his feelings, renowned novelist Ismat Chughtai had revealed that he was deeply in love with Kamini.

**Saiyaara Wins Big At Yellowstone International Film Festival, Mohit Suri Celebrates His 'First Award'**



**Y**ash Raj Films' blockbuster *Saiyaara* has added another feather to its cap! The Mohit Suri directorial, starring Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, won the Popular Choice Award at the Yellowstone International Film Festival 2025. The honour was received by the producer of *Saiyaara*, Akshaye Widhani, CEO (Yash Raj Films) along with the film's director Mohit Suri at a prestigious film awards ceremony in Mumbai today that celebrated excellence in cinema. Mohit Suri revealed that this was his 'first award' in 20 years, and called it a 'great honour'.

**Saiyaara Wins Popular Choice Award At YIFF 2025**

The Popular Choice Award at Yellowstone International Film Festival marks the first award for *Saiyaara* as awards season kicks in. Director of the blockbuster film *Saiyaara*, Mohit Suri said, "This is really special. I've been around for 20 years, and this is my first award. There have been a lot of firsts with this film – the actors were doing it for the first time, I was making my first film with YRF, and Akshaye was producing his first film. I still remember when I was a kid and went to watch *Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge* in the theatre. That was the first time, the germ, the bug, hit me. I knew I wanted to be a filmmaker. Thank you, Adi sir. In a world where no one seemed to believe in love anymore, you stood by that conviction. You let me make this film when everyone else was busy blowing up buildings and helicopters (I'm not saying that's not fun!) But you trusted me to go with the script. And Akshaye – this award is more yours than mine. I wouldn't be here without you. It would've been easy to take the safe route for the first film, especially when you have access to so many actors but you believed in this story, a simple film about two young kids and that belief made all the difference."

# A calmer home

Do you know that if your home is cluttered, disorganised and poorly designed it doesn't nourish your energy? A survey by London-based Ministry of Calm — that designs spaces to enhance wellbeing — found that a whopping 99 per cent of the respondents believe that changing your space can affect how you feel. Healing places of stillness and calm in your home are uplifting. Here are some ideas on how you can do that...

Try minimalism: Don't accumulate things - de-clutter. Japanese author Marie Kondo says that anything that doesn't make you happy or isn't necessary should be touched, thanked and sent on its way.

Keep your home clean : Keisuke Matsumoto writes in his book A Buddhist Monk's Guide to a Clean House and Mind: "We remove dust to sweep away our worldly cares. We live simply and take time to contemplate the self, mindfully living each moment." Keeping



your home clean brings Zen peacefulness.

Use natural light: For a relaxing space, replace harsh fluorescent lights with natural light or use candles. Place different sources of light which will allow you to control the intensity. Avoid projecting a direct light from the ceiling.

Calming colours: Energy healer

Seema Midha says, "The colours you use will calm you as a person. Use green plants to take away negative energy." Simplify the bedroom: Don't pile on fancy things, as they bring a negative chi. Feng shui expert SBS Surendran says, "Keep harsh lights and all technology out of the bedroom. Add a soft white rug and swing where you can lounge."

Use minimum decorations:

Simplicity should be a ground rule if you want to bring in calmness to your home. Avoid collections of paintings or photos and keep only those that are dear to you.

Go green: Greenery soothes your nerves. Caring for plants is a big stressbuster.

Keep it soft: Keeping soft rugs and throw pillows around brings softness in your home



## Easy decorating ideas to instantly Update your home



If you are planning to refurbish your home, there is nothing better than including small changes which will make your pad look different and interesting. From a colourful wallpaper in your living space to a clever lighting fixture — these are instant ways to brighten up your dull room.

### Add a splash of colour to your living room

Whether it is by way of having some colourful throws into the room or adding some vibrant cushions — you can easily

brighten a corner of your living space. Choose wooden furniture for your room to make it look vintage. Instead of the usual curtains, opt for floral ones for an interesting look.

Vibrant lantern to spruce up your kitchen For those who are thinking of ways to make their kitchen look bright, there is nothing better than adding a vibrant lantern. This festive season, you can choose from a variety of lanterns which are available in colourful shades — pink, blue, purple, orange, yellow, red and even turquoise to add a statement to your

kitchen.

### Choose sunshine yellow for your bedroom

Many a times when you are planning a colour option for your bedroom, you end up picking hues like pink, blue or beige. But, adding a colour like yellow can instantly make a drab room come alive. You can either have a side table in that colour or maybe wall hangings or lights to make your room look inviting. You can also go in for various shades of yellow in case you feel one shade may look boring.

# Tips to keep Woollens as never as ever!

Avoid washing machines to clean your sweaters and avoid hanging your sweaters for drying, says an expert.

Bhavya Chawla, chief stylist, Voonik, an online stylist-handpicked apparel store, has suggested some tips to keep woollens as new as ever!

### Use the right brush

Avoid washing machines to clean your sweaters as they may lose their sheen. Instead, use an electrostatic garment brush after every wear as woollens tend to accumulate a lot of dust and are vulnerable to moths. Airing them and spot-cleaning is another effective way to keep them new.

### Gently clean tough stains

If you accidentally stain your sweater or scarf, take it to the dry cleaner. In case the stain is not that tough and you feel you can manage to clean it at home, use a high quality detergent meant for woollens. Mix it in lukewarm water and soak your woollens in the mixture. Gently wash the piece of clothing with your hands. But remember to do this only for items that don't come with a "Dry clean only" tag!

### Avoid hanging

Woollens should never be hung up on a clothes line like other articles as this causes the fabric to stretch and it may lose its shape eventually. Lay the sweater or cardigan on a flat surface and allow it to dry at room temperature. Steer clear of sunlight and intense heat as these can sap all colour and life from your precious woollens.

As they are really prone to stretching out of shape, you must also avoid hanging woollens on hangers in the closets. Instead, fold them neatly and place them.

### Don't iron when dry

Woollens shouldn't be ironed when they are completely dry as this won't ease out the deep creases. They can also scorch easily under direct dry heat. Instead, use a steam press. If that's not an option, wet a plain white cotton cloth very slightly and use this as a buffer between the iron and the woollen. It's also advisable to keep the sweater turned inside out when not in use.

### Prevent moth attacks and germs

Wool is very vulnerable to moth attacks and germ

**Winter is here and your woollens are your best companions during this season. It requires extra care as the fibres are more delicate and are prone to being damaged very easily.**



build-ups. That is why it's imperative to never stack even remotely damp woollen clothes in your wardrobe as you will end up creating a breeding ground for germs. Remember to stash some moth balls in the section of your cupboard where you are placing your woollens.



## Khadi drapes for home

**A**re you ready for an 'interiors renaissance' from India? How about some khadi curtains and swadeshi bed covers for the lounge? After celebrating the success of 'Make in India' in fashion and food, the world is now falling for khadi for their homes. In fact, khadi rugs have become a hot favourite in Europe, and khadi throws keep you ultra warm in winter.

### Wooing the world

Designer Peter D'Ascoli, who works with khadi for interiors, says, "Khadi is becoming a new hot favourite in the world of interior design for its weave, simple elegance and understated look." From its humble beginnings, it has now reached Hollywood. Actor Goldie Hawn loves her khadi cushions, director Mira Nair swears by khadi rugs and Deepa Mehta shops for khadi napkins.

Clothing designer Christina Kim's khadi home textiles have been bought by the likes of Michelle Obama and Jennifer Aniston.

### Earthy appeal

Being an eco-friendly fabric, khadi in your home adds a sense of warmth and well-being. Take your pick from khadi gamchha and mats to khadi pillows and bags. Design director Mann Singh showcased khadi sofas at Milan design fair to a great response. Says Singh, "We didn't showcase exotic materials. We visited our neighbouring villages, met some weavers and asked them about a fabric which has an Indian touch. And what did they come up with? Khadi!"

As the world moves towards ethical shopping, khadi is turning out to be the most sustainable yet fashionable buy.