

Sikhs called to gather at Sri Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib, Chandni Chowk

The Sikh Times
Special Correspondent

New Delhi, November: An impassioned call has been issued across the global Sikh community urging lakhs of devotees to assemble at Chandni Chowk—at the sacred site of Sri Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib—on 23, 24, and 25 November to honour the unparalleled martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji, the Ninth Guru of the Sikhs, and his devoted companions Bhai Mati Das Ji, Bhai Sati Das Ji, and Bhai Dyala Ji. This annual remembrance, rooted in centuries of sacrifice, dignity, and fearless resistance to tyranny, is expected to witness one of the largest gatherings in recent memory. Organisers have appealed to Sikh sangat to come “in lakhs,” stay day and night in the vicinity of Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji’s martyrdom site, and observe the sacred days with full devotion and unity. Sri Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib stands at the very place where Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji attained martyrdom on 24 November 1675 for defending the religious freedom and human rights of Kashmiri Hindus who faced persecution under the Mughal regime. Alongside the Guru, three of his devoted disciples embraced death with unshakable courage: Bhai Mati Das Ji, sown alive for refusing to abandon his faith. Bhai Sati Das Ji, wrapped in cotton and burnt alive. Bhai Dyala Ji, boiled in a cauldron of water until death. Their sacrifices marked one of the greatest chapters in world history—a collective stand for freedom of conscience, diversity, and justice. Leaders from within the Sikh community have reminded the sangat that these three days belong solely to the remembrance of Guru Sahib’s martyrdom, urging Sikhs to offer prayers only at the Guru’s Darbar, not at any symbol associated historically with his persecution. They emphasise that Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji chose martyrdom to protect the oppressed, and that the community must preserve the memory of his supreme sacrifice with full respect and unity. Alongside remembering the Mughals’ injustice of 1675, the Sikh community continues to carry the heavy wounds of November 1984, when thousands of innocent Sikh men, women, and children were killed in targeted violence across Delhi. In several testimonies, eyewitness accounts, and documented research including recent investigative material the community recalls: Over 480 Sikhs killed in and around Chandni Chowk. Bodies lying on the streets for three days. Victims’ bodies being left unattended, preyed upon by animals. And subsequently, allegations that many bodies were secretly removed and destroyed in forests and the Aravalli hills, using fuel and chemicals. For four decades, these accounts have remained a point of deep anguish and unresolved justice for survivors and families. Amid preparations for the November gatherings, a strong sentiment has resurfaced among sections of the Sikh community: a call for the Government of India to reconsider the Bharat Ratna award conferred upon former

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. Many Sikh bodies argue that numerous unanswered questions remain regarding the handling of the aftermath of the 1984 killings, the disappearance of bodies, and alleged administrative decisions. Several Sikh organi-

Sati Das Ji, and Bhai Dyala Ji. Seek justice for historical wounds. And reaffirm the Sikh commitment to defending human rights and standing against oppression whether in the 17th century or the 20th. As the nation prepares to observe the 350th year of Guru



sations have appealed to the Government to review the historical record and address these long-standing grievances in the interest of justice and national harmony. Community leaders have urged all Sikhs to reach Chandni Chowk in large numbers—“in lakhs”—and to maintain a peaceful, disciplined, and spiritually charged environment, reflecting the values taught by Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji. The gathering aims to: Honour the Guru’s martyrdom, Remember the sacrifices of Bhai Mati Das Ji, Bhai

Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji’s supreme sacrifice, the Sikh community hopes these remembrance days will become a turning point—bringing: Greater recognition of Sikh history. Healing for survivors of the 1984 tragedy. And a renewed commitment to justice, peace, and national solidarity. The coming days at Chandni Chowk are expected to create a profound spiritual atmosphere—one filled with shabads, kirtan, ardas, collective remembrance, and the unbroken spirit of the Sikh Panth.

SIR is voter-list purification, says Amit Shah; calls Bihar win mandate against infiltrators in country

Amit Shah said parties opposing the SIR exercise want to ensure that “names of infiltrators remain on the voters’ list”.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said that the BJP-led NDA’s sweeping victory in the Bihar assembly elections reflected a strong public mandate against “infiltrators”, and accused Opposition parties of shielding illegal immigrants by resisting the Election Commission’s Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Speaking at the BSF’s 61st Raising Day celebrations in Bhuj, Kutch, Shah said parties opposing the SIR exercise want to ensure that “names of infiltrators remain on the voters’ list”.

He described the SIR as a “purification” process crucial for protecting India’s democratic system. “Stopping infiltration is essential not only



for national security but also for safeguarding our democracy. Some political parties are weakening the anti-infiltration campaign,” Amit Shah said, adding that the government is committed to

deporting “every single infiltrator”. Opposition parties, including the Trinamool Congress in poll-bound West Bengal, have alleged that the SIR could disenfranchise lakhs of valid voters. Shah countered that no political party supporting infiltrators will gain public support. “The Bihar election was a clear mandate against infiltrators,” he said. The NDA won over 200 seats in the 243-member Assembly, decimating the Mahagathbandhan.

The Home Minister also hailed the BSF’s role in counter-insurgency and anti-Naxal operations. He said combined efforts of security forces will make India “free from the Naxal menace” by March 31, 2026. In Chhattisgarh, he noted, the BSF has secured the surrender of 127 Maoists, arrested 73 and neutralised 22.

It's in his jeans: Techie didn't fight Bihar election but took oath as minister

New Delhi.(Agency)

On Thursday morning at Patna’s Gandhi Maidan, as JD(U)’s Nitish Kumar geared up to be sworn in for the 10th time as the CM of Bihar, dozens of NDA ministers-designate mingled in crisp kurta-pajamas, dhotis, and bundies, a lean young man strolled in casual jeans and untucked shirt, met PM Narendra Modi, and took oath. The person hadn’t contested the Bihar Assembly elections, which the NDA swept.

People were instantly amused and expressed their curiosity on social media, asking, who’s this young man? He’s Deepak Prakash, the son of NDA ally and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) chief Upendra Kushwaha and Snehalata Kushwaha. While Upendra Kushwaha is a Rajya Sabha MP, Snehalata became an MLA from Sasaram. While Snehalata contested and won, 36-year-old Deepak became a minister without an electoral contest.

A techie by education and experience, Deepak made a surprise entry into Nitish Kumar’s

Bihar ministry, taking oath at Gandhi Maidan

on Thursday. His party, the Rashtriya Lok Morcha, contested six seats, won four, and secured just one ministerial berth in the 10th Nitish ministry. Deepak grabbed the spotlight with his unexpected, stylish ministerial debut. The lone minister from RLM.

HOW RLM CHIEF’S SON, DEEPAK PRAKASH, BECAME A MINISTER IN BIHAR

The ministerial berth for Deepak Prakash came as a shock to many. Initially, it was widely expected that his mother, Snehalata Kushwaha, who won the election from Sasaram, would take up the slot in Nitish Kumar’s 10th ministry. However, things changed at the last moment. “As far as I know, there was a meeting between my father and party leaders, and the decision was taken there. When I found out? It was a surprise news even for me, just shortly before taking oath,” Deepak told Aaj Tak, India Today

Digital’s sister portal.

Sources told The Times of India that neither

Nitish Kumar nor Union Home Minister Amit



Shah was in favour of Kushwaha wanting his son to become a minister, and that Deepak’s name was finalised at the last moment. So, in a surprise step, Upendra Kushwaha moved decisively to secure a ministerial position for his 36-year-old son. The announcement has surprised Bihar’s political circles and drew criticism from them,

including opposition leaders, over dynastic politics. Not just Prakash, even HAM (S) supremo Jitan Ram Manjhi’s son, Santosh Kumar Suman, was given a ministerial post.

WHO IS BIHAR’S DEEPAK PRAKASH? TECHIE-TURNED-POLITICIAN

Before transitioning to politics, Deepak Prakash was a tech professional. After finishing B Tech in Computer Science from Manipal’s MIT in 2011, Prakash worked in the IT sector for four years.

Despite his lack of prior electoral experience, his family’s political legacy paved the way for his entry. Deepak told Aaj Tak that he wasn’t a political novice, watching his father navigate the field since his childhood. “Yes, I got the ministerial post, but I am not new to politics. I have been closely watching politics since childhood, watching my father work, and I have been active in the party for the last four to five years,” said Deepak.

News box

Delhi businessman on way to deliver goods flung into air, falls on road & dies as car rams his bike in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 36-year-old man died after a car hit him from behind near the Subhash Chowk underpass early on Thursday. Police said the deceased, Gaurav, was a resident of Krishna Nagar in Delhi and owned a steel furniture shop. Police said Gaurav was on a motorcycle and was accompanying a cart loaded with an almirah he had to deliver. In his complaint, Rakesh Kumar, the cart rider and a daily-wage labourer at Gaurav's shop, told police that the crash took place around 1.30am. "Gaurav was initially riding behind the cart, but near Subhash Chowk, when he was ahead of me, a black car coming at high speed hit his motorcycle from behind," he stated. The impact flung Gaurav onto the road, causing severe head injuries that proved fatal on the spot, officers said.

A case has been registered at Sadar police station under sections 106 (death by negligence), 125(2) (endangering life or personal safety of others), and 281 (rash driving) of the BNS. Police are trying to identify the car and its driver using CCTV footage from the area.

In another case, a 50-year-old man was found dead near Loh Flyover on NH-8 on Wednesday. Police identified the deceased as Sanjeev Kumar, a resident of Tauru, Nuh. An Aadhaar card was recovered from the body, and family members were traced. An officer said that it was an unknown vehicle that hit him from behind around 5.30pm on Nov 17 and fled from the scene. A case under sections 281 and 106(1) of the BNS has been registered at Sector 37 police station. Earlier this week, a 29-year-old man was killed in a hit-and-run accident in the Rajendra Park area. Ravi Kumar of Jagram Das Colony in Mahendragarh was on his way home from his office in his car around 10pm when a speeding vehicle coming from the opposite direction collided with his car. Kumar suffered critical injuries due to the collision. The driver of the other vehicle fled from the scene. He was rushed to the hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead.

Rushing against time: Greater Noida building was constructed in 1.5 months

Noida.(Agency)

Families of the four construction workers who died in the roof collapse at Nagla Hukam Singh village in Greater Noida have alleged that the labourers were misled about the work site and the risks involved. According to relatives, the contractor who hired them claimed he was sending the group to Nagla Bhatona, but the men were instead taken to a construction site in Nagla Hukam Singh, where a three-storey house collapsed on Wednesday, killing four and injuring seven others. For the families, the sense of betrayal is as deep as the grief. Sharfraz, 64, a rickshaw puller and resident of Jewar Kanigarhi, lost two sons in the collapse. Sitting outside his home on Thursday afternoon, he said the men were taken somewhere they would have never agreed to work. "The contractor said the work was in Nagla Bhatona and that the daily wage would be Rs 600. He assured us the work was light," he said. "Only after the accident did we learn they had been taken to Nagla Hukam Singh, where a large house was being constructed with airport land compensation money. Locals told us the three-storey building was completed in barely one and a half months, using substandard materials. It was risky work, and many labourers had already refused. The contractor fooled us and took our sons." Both of Sharfraz's sons, he said, were the family's sole earners. "If the contractor had told us the real location, they would never have gone," he said. By Thursday afternoon, officials confirmed four men had died in the collapse. Zeeshan (21), who had been married just 18 days earlier, was among the four. The others were Kamil (22) and Sakir (38) from Jewar, and Nadeem (22) from Modinagar in Ghaziabad. All were primary earners for their families.

Below new Bhangel flyover, cratered DSC Road hits biz

Noida.(Agency)

Noida: Traders in Bhangel staged a protest on Thursday, demanding urgent repairs of the cratered DSC Road. They formed a human chain to stall traffic on the road



briefly. On Tuesday, Noida Authority opened the six-lane Bhangel elevated road to the public on a trial basis. The traders stated that the stretch was dug up in 2020, when work on the elevated road commenced. Despite the new structure now being open, the road remains unnavigable, causing losses to local businesses.

Traders from the Bhangel, Salarpur, and Barola markets located below and around the elevated road have been frustrated with the potholes on the road, stray cattle, and encroachments. Moreover, clogged sewers that lead to waterlogging during monsoon have exacerbated the situation. A local shopkeeper, Raj Kumar, said that the elevated road brought some relief, but the core problems remain. "The number of buyers and visitors has sharply declined in the market in recent years because of the poor road conditions and lack of parking space," he said. Another resident said that roadside drains are open at several points, increasing the risk of accidents. He added that stray cattle scan garbage for food, fight on the road, and create nuisances, making the entire stretch chaotic. A resident of Noida Sector 49, Brig C K Pathak (retd), said that the road has been in poor condition for a long time, causing inconvenience to traders, residents, and visitors. He said to avoid the damaged road motorists often enter internal roads of nearby sectors and cause snarls.

2 watchtowers to come up to intensify Aravali surveillance

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Monitoring across Aravali is set to receive a major boost, with two new watchtowers planned in the Mangar Bani and Dhauj belts. Forest officials said the structures will provide teams with a clear, elevated view of the landscape, which is essential for tracking wildlife movement, detecting forest fires during summer and spotting illegal tree felling or encroachment at an early stage. "Several stretches of the ridge are difficult to patrol on foot, and an elevated view will help the teams spot trouble far quicker. The purpose is protection," said Gurgaon divisional wildlife officer, RK Jangra.

Each tower will be about 40 feet tall with an estimated cost of Rs 5 lakh. Officials said the tendering process is underway and the structures are expected to be ready within the next two to three months.

Ecologist and wildlife expert, Sunil Harsana, said, "The towers will help plug



monitoring gaps. They will enable staff to track fires, tree cutting and encroachment in real time. This is basic but essential groundwork for protecting the Aravalis."

Mangar Bani is the only region in NCR to host 30 different tree species that are

native to the Aravalis. In 2017, the Wildlife Institute of India also pointed out that the area is home to several species of animals and is "thus, sensitive". Dhauj, though rich in wildlife, faces higher human pressure and frequent disturbance.

Both locations have been repeatedly flagged for illegal cutting, grazing and small-scale encroachments. Forest department officials said on Monday they have stepped up surveillance in the region. The last comprehensive assessment conducted in 2017 recorded 31 leopards, 126 hyenas, 3 wolves, 26 jungle cats, 166 jackals, 91 pangolins, 61 badgers, 50 mongooses, 4 foxes and 3 langurs in the Gurgaon Aravali. In 2020, a survey was conducted, but the Wildlife Institute of India has yet to release its findings. The ridge here also carries deep archaeological value. Hills across Gurgaon and Faridabad — including Mangar, Silakhari, Mohabbatabad, Dhauj, Kot, Badshahpur, Taithad, Mangawar, Harchandpur, Khedla, Damdama and Bhangsi — have yielded traces of human habitation believed to be nearly 80,000 years old. Prehistoric rock art from several sites has also been documented.

Ahir community calls for boycott of '120 Bahadur', won't disrupt screening

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Unhappy with the Delhi High Court order, members of the Ahir community on Thursday called for a boycott of Farhan Akhtar-starrer film '120 Bahadur', set to be released on Friday. The community, however, clarified that they would not hold any violent protests or agitations at the film theatres. Instead, they plan to approach the court with a fresh petition against the film and its makers. The community has been protesting against the film on the grounds that it distorts historical facts and is demanding a change in the film's name. Sanyukt Ahir Regiment Morcha and others, who claim to be related to the soldiers who fought in the 1962 Battle of Rezang La, filed two separate petitions in Punjab and Haryana high court and Delhi high court.

On Wednesday, Delhi high court gave its nod to the release of the Farhan Akhtar-starrer movie, closing a plea challenging its Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certification. This followed the filmmaker and the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) submitting an affidavit before the High Court, stating they would display the names of all 120 soldiers from the Ahir community who sacrificed their lives during the Rezang La fight. On Thursday, the Ahir community expressed their dissatisfaction with the film and urged people to boycott it. "We are not against the film, but we have objections to the title of the film and the misrepresentation of the facts," Arun Yadav of the Morcha said. He stated soldiers from the region mounted a historical and inspiring fight against the numerically strong Chinese forces, and the stories about the battle are part of the folklore in the region. We are fighting for the due recognition of the contribution of the brave soldiers of the region and will continue their fight in a peaceful and legal manner," Yadav said.

Cyber City metro station deadlock resolved, RRTS to shift gates in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After nearly a year of bureaucratic back-and-forth, row over the location of Cyber City Metro station is nearing a resolution. National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has agreed to shift the entrance of its proposed Cyber City RRTS station. However, the station itself will be constructed on HSIIDC land near Shankar Chowk exactly as specified in its DPR. Only the orientation of the entry and exit gates will change. NCRTC is executing the rapid rail while GMRL manages Gurgaon metro. The RRTS station is planned on HSIIDC land in Sector 18, while GMRL's Cyber City metro station is located directly across the road, beside the Rapid Metro station. The Cyber City station of the Gurgaon Metro will be built under Phase 2 of the project. A senior GMRL official said the breakthrough provides the clarity needed to proceed. "Our priority is smooth integration between the new metro line and the RRTS station. With NCRTC

agreeing to shift its station entrance away from Shankar Chowk, we can now plan the terminal station and freeze the alignment. NCRTC will share the detailed layout with HSIIDC," the official said. During a high-powered meeting chaired by chief secretary Anurag Rastogi on Thursday, NCRTC proposed keeping the station at its DPR-approved site but shifting the access points toward the Hindustan Insecticides Limited (HIL) side, with additional access planned near the Cyber City and Cyber Hub side. According to officials, this revised layout is expected to reduce pedestrian load on Shankar Chowk and address the congestion concerns flagged earlier. The chief secretary directed NCRTC to submit its detailed station plan to HSIIDC so the agency can examine the revised access design before giving final clearance. This adjustment is crucial because the second phase of the metro project was slowed down after HSIIDC's objections. HSIIDC argued that placing

three high-capacity transit stations — RRTS (rapid rail or Namo Rail), Gurgaon metro and rapid metro — in the same area would worsen already heavy congestion at Shankar Chowk, particularly during peak hours. NCRTC maintained that the station could not be relocated because of a sharp curve in its alignment. With NCRTC refusing to shift the location, GMRL was unable to finalise the terminal station of the new metro line or freeze the alignment, putting the entire planning exercise on hold. In Sept, NCRTC was asked to explore moving the station to HIL land to give GMRL room to plan its terminal station there. However, at a meeting with MoHUA in Oct, the govt decided to retain the RRTS station at its DPR location, citing the need for seamless multi-modal integration and proximity to Cyber Hub. Meanwhile, the 93km Delhi-Gurgaon-Bawali RRTS corridor received approval from the Public Investment Board earlier this month.

Bar association files petition, flags poor hygiene & infra flaws on court premises in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The district bar association has filed a petition before a city court over a plethora of issues accusing MCG, public works department (PWD) and district administration of their "collective failure to maintain hygiene and infrastructure in the court premises". Association counsel Manish Shandilya told TOI, "The agencies are engaged in a blame game and no one is ready to take responsibility." Shandilya said the civic infrastructure inside the court premises is the responsibility of PWD, while GMDA and MCG are responsible for the infrastructure outside the premises, "leading to confusion and inaction". The authorities have not been able to manage, maintain and fix the long-pending issues in the "most revenue-generating district", it says. On Thursday, civil judge (senior division) Manish Kumar issued notices to

GMDA, MCG (which is responsible for cleanliness), PWD and district administration, seeking their replies. The



authorities have to submit a plan with the timeline. Raising issues such as poor civic amenities, stray animals inside the court premises and the failure of authorities to resolve them despite repeated complaints, the petition says thousands of judicial officers, lawyers, police personnel and litigants use the premises daily. The sewerage system was non-functional for

years. Poor drainage, defective sewerage, unclean areas, dilapidated internal roads and mismanaged stray animals have created a nuisance, "resulting in malodorous conditions with mosquito breeding sites". Top national and international companies have their corporate offices in Gurgaon, which have some other litigations and due to which a number of top officials, national and foreigners, visit the court complex. "It can be commonly understood what kind of impression they would have carried," the petition says. Shandilya said the courts are called the temple of justice. However, due to the lethargic attitude, poor management and non-execution of works by the defendants, "the temple's premises have become unbearable for all. Over 10,000 lawyers are registered with the association.

Big loans, bigger worries: For Al-Falah students, it's all fallen apart in 10 days

Faridabad.(Agency)

"I hope things settle down in a few days because I believe I can be a good doctor and my parents are spending a fortune on my studies." A fourth-year student at Al-Falah University's School of Medical Sciences & Research Centre, the 22-year-old from Pulwama voices the collective anxiety churning through the campus that has become synonymous with the Delhi terror attack. From discovering that one of their professors, Umar Un Nabi, was the bomber who triggered the Nov 10 blast that killed 15 people near Red Fort metro station to founder Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui being arrested by Enforcement Directorate, the world has rapidly fallen apart for Al-Falah University students.

They have several things to worry about — the fate of their college and course, the association of the name with a terrorist module whose principal architects were three of their professors, the impact on their job prospects and the huge loans their parents have taken. Over five years of the MBBS course, a student pays nearly Rs 90

lakh. "Everyone is really worried right now because of what is going on. We are reading what is appearing in the media, trying to ignore all the anxieties and carry on with our normal routine," says the Kashmiri student. A resident doctor who has just completed her MBBS and is doing her internship on the campus says one of the reasons why medical seats at Al-Falah get taken up is the campus having its own hospital. Al-Falah has 200 seats in its MBBS course, which began in 2019 after its engineering college shut down. The university has, however, come under a cloud over its accreditation claims with National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) issuing a show cause notice over display expired accreditation statuses. The intern admits fast-paced developments over the past 10 days have put considerable pressure on the student community. "If I keep thinking about everything that's being said in the news, I won't be able to work," says the intern, who is based in Faridabad and was a day scholar at the university. She hopes the Al-Falah

association will not damage her career. "I'll do my MD from a different university. This won't be the only degree to showcase," she adds. Some students say they have prepared for the worst, including being shifted to another college and hope govt will take care of them in case the university shuts down. "I am hoping that we get shifted to a govt medical college," says a third-year student from Moradabad in Uttar Pradesh who fears the university may lose recognition after Delhi Police filed two FIRs and University Grants Commission sent a notice. Students say they have been discussing contingency plans with their families. "Almost everyone on the campus is worried that we might lose the recognition. This is the conversation happening all the time," says a third-year student from Jhajjar. It's mid-session but the campus wears a desolate look and the hospital barely has any patients — outcomes of events of the last 10 days and the terror investigation that has seen different agencies camping here, looking to unearth information about Umar, Muzammil Ahmad

Ganaie and Shaheen Shahid. A hospital official tells TOI patient footfall had dried up since the Nov 10 blast. "The emergency department is usually full, but for the last week, there are hardly 30 patients coming in a day. Some of the senior staff has left and those who are still there have decided to admit only those patients who need critical care," says the official.

According to sources in National Medical Commission, which regulates medical education, the Haryana education department is looking into the college's accreditation. Indian Medical Association president Dilip Bhanushali says he hopes the authorities investigate the university thoroughly and the future of genuine students is safeguarded. Requests to Al-Falah for a comment did not elicit a response. Al-Falah, which acquired university status in 2014, started as an engineering college. The engineering college shut down in the 2018-19 session because of what sources said was low intake of students. Al-Falah medical college is among the nine private medical colleges in

Haryana. In the pursuit of the MBBS degree, reputation is not always the primary consideration. And a steep fee no discouragement as long as the degree is a recognised one. An Al-Falah seat.

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Hypertension may damage brain before rise in BP: Study

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: Hypertension may start damaging the brain long before doctors can detect any rise in blood pressure, a new study has found. Researchers at Weill Cornell Medical College in New York reported that key brain cells linked to thinking and memory show early signs of stress within just three days of exposure to angiotensin II, a hormone involved in human hypertension. The study, published in the journal *Neuron* on November 14, helps explain why hypertension is a major cause of cognitive decline and why many blood pressure medicines

do not prevent brain problems. In the study, scientists induced hypertension in mice and examined their brains at two stages - day three, when blood pressure was still normal, and day 42, when hypertension and memory issues became visible. On day three, they found major changes inside brain cells. Endothelial cells, which line blood vessels, showed early aging. Interneurons, which help balance brain activity, showed signs of dysfunction. Oligodendrocytes, which make the protective coating around nerves, could

worsened. The mice showed reduced myelin, the mouse model. Earlier, human studies have also shown that this class of drugs may offer better protection for the brain compared to other blood pressure medicines. However, the researchers emphasised that controlling blood pressure is important. Hypertension can damage the heart, kidneys and other organs. The research team is now studying how early aging in small blood vessels may lead to further problems in brain cells. Their goal is to develop treatments that can prevent or reverse cognitive decline linked to hypertension. The findings offer new insight into how brain damage begins at a very early stage and suggest that future therapies may need to target more than just blood pressure.

changes appeared even before blood pressure went up, suggesting that hypertension affects the brain through pathways beyond blood flow. Researchers also observed that the blood-brain barrier, which protects the brain from harmful substances, started weakening at this early stage. By day 42, the damage had

Delhi allows power connections for 'booked properties'

New Delhi: In a major policy shift aimed at providing relief to thousands of residents, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has approved a proposal allowing electricity connections to be issued to 'booked properties' - homes flagged by the Delhi Municipal Corporation (MC) for unauthorised construction. The Delhi Government has issued an official order following the approval, paving the way for more than 1.25 lakh families to obtain electricity connections that were previously denied. The decision, the Chief Minister said, was taken in public interest to ensure that no citizen was deprived of essential services due to prolonged administrative delays. Gupta said lakhs of people across the Capital had been living in such properties for years, many without

access to legal electricity connections. In several cases, she said, demolition orders issued by the MC were never acted upon, leaving residents in limbo. According to the government, DISCOMs had been receiving numerous complaints from residents whose connections were either denied or disconnected on the grounds that their properties were tagged as 'booked'. Gupta said the new order would end this practice and help curb electricity theft, which had risen in many areas where legal connections were not allowed. Under the revised guidelines, electricity distribution companies can no longer deny a connection simply because a property has been booked for unauthorised construction. A connection may only be refused if the MC formally certifies that demolition or sealing work is actively underway at the site.

NAME CHANGE

I Varas Ali/S/O Mohd Taki R/O, Plot No-80, Kh No-24/1, Main 30 Ft Road, Rajeev Nagar, Mandoli, Delhi-110093 have changed my name to Varis Ali.

NAME CHANGE

I Varun Kumar S/O Ravinder Kumar Shrivastav R/o- a104 Dichaon Enclave, Dichaon Kalan, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 Have Changed My Name to Varun Kumar Shrivastav for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sachin S/O Ashok Sharma R/O 497, Nai Basti Bombay Colony Nand Gram, Ahmadnagar Naiyabars, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201003, Have changed my name to Sachin Sharma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Manorama W/o Sanjay Kumar Singh R/o 2, Lodhi Estate Lodhi Garden Near Khan Market Lodhi Road, central Delhi-110003 have changed the name of my minor daughter CHINKI alias SHALINI SINGH aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as SHALINI SINGH

NAME CHANGE

I, Varun Kumar S/O Ravinder Kumar Shrivastav R/o- a104 Dichaon Enclave, Dichaon Kalan, Najafgarh, Delhi-110043 Have Changed My Name to Varun Kumar Shrivastav for All Future Purposes.

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NEWS BOX

US wants to end boycott, join G20 summit, says South Africa**JOHANNESBURG. (Agency)**

In an 11th-hour about-turn, the United States has told South Africa it wants to take part in this weekend's G20 summit in Johannesburg. President Cyril Ramaphosa said Thursday.

President Donald Trump's administration had said it would not take part in the November 22-23 meeting and that no final statement by G20 leaders could be issued without its presence. It has clashed with South Africa over various international and domestic policies this year, extending its objections to Pretoria's G20 priorities for the meeting of leading economies being held for the first time in Africa.

"We have received notice from the United States, a notice which we are still in discussions with them over, about a change of mind about participating in one shape, form or other in the summit," Ramaphosa told reporters. "This comes at the late hour before the summit begins. And so therefore, we do need to engage in those types of discussions to see how practical it is and what it finally really means," he said. There was no immediate confirmation from US officials. Ramaphosa said: "We still need to engage with them to understand fully what their participation at the 11th hour means and how it will manifest itself." In a note to the government on Saturday, the US embassy repeated that it would not attend the summit, saying South Africa's G20 priorities "run counter to the US policy views and we cannot support consensus on any documents negotiated under your presidency." Ramaphosa said earlier Thursday that South Africa would not be bullied.

"It cannot be that a country's geographical location or income or army determines who has a voice and who is spoken down to," he told delegates at a G20 curtain-raiser event.

Fire At COP30 Venue Forces Evacuation As Delegates Flee Amid Sirens And Smoke**world. (Agency)**

Delegates fled as sirens sounded after a fire broke out at the COP30 climate summit site in Belém, Brazil, on Thursday, briefly halting proceedings. The fire, which broke out inside one of the event pavilions, sent thick smoke billowing through parts of the convention center and forced the immediate evacuation of thousands of people. Emergency teams arrived at the scene and brought the situation under control. As per the authorities, the incident occurred around 2 p.m. local time when a fire was seen rapidly spreading through the fabric lining inside an exhibition pavilion. Security immediately cordoned off the area and evacuated those present as smoke alarms sounded at the venue. Authorities stated that the fire was extinguished within minutes and was likely caused by electrical equipment, possibly a malfunctioning microwave. According to reports, thirteen people were treated for smoke inhalation, though there were no indications of any serious injuries. More than 50,000 diplomats, journalists, and climate activists have gathered in Belém for the summit, where nearly 200 countries are negotiating new commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions. The fire briefly delayed discussions at a crucial stage. The venue has already faced criticism for issues such as waterlogging in the main hall due to heavy rainfall, an air conditioning system struggling against the heat and humidity, and complaints from delegates about insufficient food supplies. Despite the disruption, summit organisers said the event will continue as planned once all safety checks are completed.

Pakistan Killing Its Own People With Chemical Weapons Baloch Groups' Shocking Claims Raise Serious Concern**world. (Agency)**

Pakistan is facing serious allegations from Baloch nationalist activists, who claim that the country's military has used chemical agents during recent drone strikes in Balochistan. Baloch activist Mir Yar Baloch claimed in a post on X that the Pakistan Air Force carried out "multiple drone strikes" in Kalat, Khuzdar, Bolan, Kohlu, Kahan, Chagai, Panjgur, and Noshki. He alleged that unusual substances, described as "chemical particles," were found on debris from the sites, calling it a possible violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which Pakistan has been a signatory to since 1997. In a widely shared post, Mir Yar Baloch claimed, "Pakistan is using CHEMICAL WEAPONS against Baloch people in the Republic of Balochistan." He said that credible reports had emerged of drone strikes hitting multiple areas on November 21, prompting calls for foreign experts to visit the affected regions. Calls for International Investigation Activists in Balochistan have demanded an investigation by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), the international body responsible for enforcing the CWC. However, at the time of writing, there has been no independent verification of these chemical weapons allegations from international organizations, medical professionals, or investigative journalists.

Reports of Increased Surveillance in Balochistan
Baloch activists have also reported increased aerial and ground surveillance in approximately fifty areas of the province. These claims align with a September 2025 Amnesty International report that accused Pakistan of operating one of the world's largest surveillance networks, with Balochistan being particularly affected.

Syria reopens Washington embassy after 11 years as Afghan, Russian, Iranian missions remain abandoned**world. (Agency)**

In Washington's embassy district, years' worth of wildly overgrown vegetation outside an empty building was finally pruned away in September as the flag of Syria was raised. The symbolic reopening of the compound after 11 years of closure serves as a reminder that a number of buildings in the area of Washington called Kalorama are in a state of sad abandon, thanks to the violent jolts of world diplomacy. Since the embassy of Afghanistan closed a few months after the Taliban returned to power in 2021, its mailbox outside has been filled with yellowing newspapers. And not far away, weeds grow in the parking lot of a mansion that used to house the Russian trade delegation in Washington. The State Department ordered it closed in reprisal for Russia's alleged attempt to interfere in the 2016 US presidential election. The Syrian Embassy was shut down by the US government in 2014 after three years of civil war. Now, in principle at least, it can reopen. The Trump administration announced this on November 10 after a White House visit by Syria's new president Ahmed al-Shara, the formerly blacklisted jihadist who led the ouster of Assad in late

2024. Angry neighbours But the building is in such bad shape it could take years to get it up and running again, former Syrian diplomat Bassam Barabandi told AFP. Barabandi left his post in 2013 after it emerged that he had secretly made passports for people opposed to the Assad regime. He recalled that even back then, before he left, areas of the building had been partially condemned.

"So, just imagine," he said, of its state now. Down the street, the overgrown hedges outside the abandoned ambassador's residence were sometimes trimmed by gardeners employed by wealthy neighbors irked by the unsightliness. A utility company notice of gas being cut off still hangs from the front door knob. A few buildings away, near a mansion owned by Barack and Michelle Obama, the embassy of Afghanistan stands. "So one day it was there. The next day it just was, it was gone," said US postal worker Trina Thompson, who has done rounds in the neighborhood for 25 years. That was in March 2022 and then-deputy ambassador Abdul Hadi Nejrabi watched it all. It was he who handed the keys to the embassy back to the US government. Kabul had fallen to the Taliban seven months

earlier and Hadi Nejrabi and his diplomatic colleagues represented a government that no longer existed. Soon their bank accounts were frozen and they were no longer



paid. The embassy was still offering consular services to Afghan citizens but "we reached a point the State Department officially asked us to close the embassy and just hand over the keys," Hadi Nejrabi told AFP. A team from the State Department's Office of Foreign Missions went to the embassy to oversee the closure. "We checked every room, and then we just came out and we locked the door and I just gave the key," the former diplomat said.

It is this State Department section which is responsible for the upkeep of other

countries' embassies. Under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, states are supposed to respect and protect other countries' embassies in cases where diplomatic relations are severed.

Border on theft'

The State Department lists 29 such buildings which it is supposed to be looking after: three associated with Afghanistan, six with Venezuela, and 11 with Iran -- these three countries have no relations with the United States now. But the list also features three buildings for China and six Russian ones. The buildings now off limits to the Russians include consulates in San Francisco and Seattle and a massive compound in Maryland. They were closed in a spot of tit for tat reprisals after the 2016 election won by Donald Trump. The Russian Embassy old AFP these closures are illegal under the Vienna Convention and "border on theft." "While property rights of the Russian Federation for these six objects are recognized and have not been challenged by the US side, continuously denying access for Russian diplomats even to inspect the grounds and buildings is preposterous, cementing the bilateral relations' toxic legacy' of previous years."

Israel plans to seize historical site in the West Bank as a new settlement appears**JERUSALEM. (Agency)**

Israel plans to seize parts of a major West Bank historic site, according to a government document, and settlers put up a new outpost overnight, even as the country faces pressure to crack down on settler violence in the Palestinian territory. Israel's Civil Administration announced its intention to expropriate large swaths of Sebastia, a major archaeological site in the West Bank, in the document obtained by The Associated Press on Thursday. Peace Now, an anti-settlement watchdog group, said the site is around 1,800 dunams (450 acres) — Israel's largest seizure of archaeologically important land. The move came as Israeli settlers celebrated the creation of a new, unauthorized settlement near Bethlehem, and a Palestinian lawyer said a West Bank activist has been detained and hospitalized. Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch said Israel may have committed war crimes when it forcibly expelled 32,000 Palestinians from three West Bank refugee camps this year.

Israel to seize swaths of Sebastia heritage site The Israeli order released

Nov. 12 lists parcels of land it intends to seize in the Sebastia area. Peace Now, which provided the document to AP, said the popular archeological site, where thousands of olive trees grow, belongs to the Palestinians. The capital



of the ancient Israelite kingdom Samaria is thought to be beneath the ruins of Sebastia, and Christians and Muslims believe it's where John the Baptist was buried. Israel announced plans to develop the site into a tourist attraction in 2023. Excavations have already begun and the government has allocated more than 30 million shekels (\$9.24 million) to develop the site, according to Peace Now and another rights group. The order gives Palestinians 14 days to object to the

declaration. The largest parcel of historical land previously seized by Israel was 286 dunams (70 acres) in Susya, a village in the south of the West Bank, Peace Now said. Settlers inaugurate new illegal outpost days after Palestinian attacks Israeli settlers said they established a new unauthorized outpost close to Bethlehem. The chairman of the local Etzion settler council, Yaron Rosenthal, welcomed the settlement as a "return to the city of our matriarch Rachel, of King David." Rosenthal said the new community would "strengthen the connection" between Etzion and Jerusalem. The new outpost could be a response to the latest Palestinian attack on Israelis in the West Bank. It's close to the busy junction where on Tuesday Palestinian attackers stabbed one Israeli to death and wounded three more. Rosenthal demanded that Israel respond forcefully and better support the settlements. "Terrorism is fueled by the hope of a state," he said, connecting the violence to the Palestinian Authority and a renewed push to advance efforts to secure Palestinian statehood.

Earthquake In Bangladesh: 5.5-Magnitude Quake Rocks Region, Tremors Felt In India**Bangladesh Earthquake. (Agency)**

A magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck early Friday near Narsingdi, Bangladesh, with the epicentre located about 14 kilometres west-southwest of the town, reported United States Geological Survey.

The quake occurred at 04:38:26 UTC or 10:08:26 AM as per Indian time at a depth of 10 kilometres, according to preliminary seismic data. Tremors were felt in surrounding areas, and authorities are currently assessing the situation for any damage or aftershocks. Casualties are feared in Bangladesh but the exact details are awaited. Notably, tremors were also felt in Dhaka as people rushed to

social media show that people standing on roads while pointing towards a tilted building. The quake was so intense that its tremors were felt in West Bengal and Assam of India. Strong tremors jolted Kolkata, Siliguri, Cooch Behar and several parts of Northeast India moments after a magnitude 5.5 earthquake struck Bangladesh. In Kolkata, panic spread across the city as people rushed out of homes and offices. At the Salt Lake IT hub, large crowds were seen evacuating buildings as the ground shook for several seconds.

Authorities are monitoring the situation and assessing reports of any damage or aftershocks. Bangladesh sits on a

highly active junction of three tectonic plates—the Indian, Eurasian and Burma plates. The Indian plate moves northeast at about 6 cm per year, while the Eurasian plate moves northward at around 2 cm per year over it. The country lies close to several major fault lines, including the Bogura fault, Tripura fault, Shillong Plateau, Dauki fault and Assam fault, making it part of 13 earthquake-prone zones.

Areas such as Chattogram, the Chattogram Hill Tracts and Jaintiapur in Sylhet fall in the highest-risk category. Dhaka, with more than 30,000 people per square kilometre, is one of the densest cities in the world and has been identified as one of the 20 most earthquake-vulnerable cities globally, according to The Daily Star.

Trump's draft peace plan for Ukraine cedes land to Russia, limits Kyiv's military capacity**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

US President Donald Trump's plan for ending the war in Ukraine would cede land to Russia and limit the size of Kyiv's military, according to a draft obtained Thursday by The Associated Press. The proposal, originating from negotiations between Washington and Moscow, appeared decidedly favorable to Russia, which started the war nearly four years ago by invading its neighbor. If past is prologue, it would seem untenable for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has opposed Trump's previous calls for territorial concessions. A side agreement aims to satisfy Ukrainian security concerns by saying a future "significant, deliberate and sustained armed attack" by Russia would be viewed as "threatening the peace and



security of the transatlantic community." The agreement, which was detailed by a senior US official who was not authorized to publicly discuss the matter, does not obligate the United States or European allies to intervene on Ukraine's behalf, although it says they would "determine the measures necessary to restore security." Trump's push to end the war could drive a wedge between himself and European leaders, who are likely to oppose any agreement that could be seen as rewarding Russian President Vladimir Putin for his aggression, leaving him emboldened rather than defeated. For example, the proposal would not only bar Ukraine from joining NATO but would also prevent the alliance's future expansion. Such a step would be a significant victory for Moscow, which views NATO as a threat. Putin would also gain ground he has been unable to win on the battlefield. Under the draft, Moscow would hold all the eastern Donbas region, even though approximately 14% still remains in Ukrainian hands. Ukraine's military, currently at roughly 880,000 troops, would be reduced to 600,000.

US Coast Guard rejects Washington Post report claiming swastikas, nooses no longer hate symbols**New guidelines label swastikas and nooses as "potentially divisive," not hate symbols, prompting criticism from lawmakers, Jewish advocacy groups, and Coast Guard personnel.****world. (Agency)**

The US Coast Guard is facing political controversy after a report by The Washington Post claimed the service will no longer classify the swastika, a symbol of fascism, white supremacy, and the Holocaust in the western world, as a hate symbol under a new policy taking effect December 15. According to the Post, the same reclassification would apply to nooses and the Confederate flag, though the latter remains banned. Certain historical displays or artworks in which the

Confederate flag is a minor element are still permissible. The report cited publicly available Coast Guard documents and noted that the change comes as the service aligns with the Trump administration's review of military harassment and hazing standards. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth in September called previous rules "overly broad," arguing they could undermine combat readiness. The November 2025 Coast Guard policy document lists "potentially divisive symbols and flags," including swastikas, nooses, and other symbols adopted by hate-based groups. In contrast, a February 2023 policy explicitly designated such symbols as constituting a potential hate incident, allowing commanders to order their removal.

After The Post report, Coast Guard Acting Commandant Adm. Kevin Lunday sent a service-wide email affirming that swastikas, nooses, and other extremist imagery remain prohibited. "These symbols violate our core values and are treated with the seriousness they warrant under current policy," he said. The Coast Guard and the Department of Homeland

Security later criticised the report, calling it "categorically false" and "fake crap," respectively, in statements attributed to Lunday and DHS spokeswoman Tricia



McLaughlin. An anonymous Coast Guard official expressed concern about the policy wording. "If you are at sea, and your shipmate has a swastika in their rack, and you are Black or Jewish, and you are going to be stuck with them for the next 60 days, are you going to feel safe reporting that?" the official told The Post. Senator Jacky Rosen (Democratic Party Nevada), a member of the Senate Commerce Committee, urged the administration to

reverse the changes, warning that they "send the wrong message" amid rising antisemitism. Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Reform Movement's advocacy arm, called the policy change "an indelible stain on the Coast Guard" in a letter to Lunday. Historical context highlights the sensitivity of such symbols within the service. In 2019, the Coast Guard's policy allowed commanders to order swastikas, nooses, or similar imagery removed even if not part of a reportable hate incident. That policy followed the arrest of United States Coast Guard lieutenant Christopher Hasson, charged with plotting attacks on Democratic lawmakers and found to be a white nationalist. Earlier, in 2007, two noose incidents aboard Coast Guard facilities drew national attention. The noose is not merely a knot; it is one of the most potent and unmistakable symbols of racial hatred, violence, and intimidation in the United States. Historically, it evokes the practice of lynching, during which mobs, primarily in Southern United States, where thousands of African Americans were tortured and murdered between the late 19th and mid-20th centuries.

NEWS BOX

Two killed, four injured in car collision on Bijapur Highway in Telangana

Hyderabad . (Agency)

Two people were killed and four others injured when two cars collided on the Bijapur National Highway at Kanakamamidi in Moinabad mandal of Rangareddy district on Friday.

One person died on the spot, while another succumbed to injuries during treatment at a hospital, Police officials said. The impact of the collision caused severe damage to the front portions of both vehicles.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident.

VHP voices concern over Sharjeel Imam case, urges strict action to prevent radicalisation

Lucknow. (Agency)

Following the Supreme Court hearing on Sharjeel Imam's alleged inflammatory speeches, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) has expressed concern over recent reports of individuals from various professional fields being involved in radical activities.

VHP national spokesperson Vinod Bansal said in a statement on Friday that after the Additional Solicitor General presented excerpts of Imam's alleged speeches in the Supreme Court on Tuesday, a question has arisen in the country: "who should be trusted and who should not."

He alleged that Imam's speeches contained serious issues affecting the unity and security of the country. According to Bansal, "Appeals such as disrupting the connectivity of the northeastern states, creating large-scale blockades, inciting against constitutional institutions, and creating organized unrest cannot be acceptable in any form."

The spokesperson added that such statements could pose a threat to public peace, social harmony, and national security.

He expressed concern that "if such individuals are released from prison, it could have serious implications for law and order." Bansal further claimed that the spread of radical ideas misleads youth and promotes antisocial activities in society. He urged the court to adopt a strict stance in such cases to prevent any form of anti-national activity.

Governor inaugurates Telangana—North East Connect Cultural Festival

Hyderabad. (Agency)

Telangana Governor Jishnu Dev Varma on Friday inaugurated the Film Festival organised by the Telangana Film Development Corporation (TFDC) at Prasad IMAX as part of the first phase of the Telangana—North East Connect Cultural Festival.

Addressing the gathering, the Governor said the festival was designed as a platform for deeper cultural exchange, dialogue, and collaboration between Telangana and the North Eastern states.

He noted that films have the power to transcend language and geographical barriers, bringing people together through shared stories and creative expression. Highlighting the diverse film industries of both regions, he said the festival aims to encourage knowledge-sharing, innovation, and cooperation among filmmakers.

The Governor urged audiences in Telangana to explore the films from the North East and encouraged delegates from the region to experience Telangana's cinematic diversity. He said the festival would help open new avenues for collaboration and strengthen cultural bonds.

TFDC officials said the two-day festival, being held on November 21 and 22 across screens 4 and 5 at Prasad IMAX, will showcase 12 films from Telangana and the North Eastern states, including award-winning titles from Tripura, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Assam, Manipur, and Telangana. Delegates from the North East, who are participating in the festival, expressed appreciation for the initiative.

Mumbai court sentences couple to 5 years for attempted murder in property dispute

Mumbai. (Agency)

A session court in Mumbai on Friday awarded five years rigorous imprisonment to a husband and wife duo Wakil Attarwala and his wife Taranum Attarwala for attempting to murder Wakil's brother, Siddique Attarwala, in 2014. The attack stemmed from a property dispute between the siblings.

On February 28, 2014, Siddique was found unconscious in his perfume shop in Atik Manzil, Mazgaon, South Mumbai. He later told police that Wakil, his wife, and a former employee had attempted to strangle him and hit him with a heavy metal object.

The couple had claimed that they were falsely implicated in the case. However, the court rejected their defense, stating that there was no reason to doubt the victim's account.

Consequently, both Wakil and Taranum Attarwala were convicted of attempted murder and sentenced to five years of rigorous imprisonment.

Karnataka govt, private sector pool Rs 1,200 crore to boost deep tech startups, IT/BT minister Kharge says

Kharge mentioned that 143 startups had benefitted from the Elevate programme, notably Bharatone Services and Affiliates, Anucharith Innovations and Dxbiotics LLP.

BENGALURU. (Agency)

On the concluding day of BTS 2025, IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge lauded the collaboration between the government and the private sector in investing in a deep tech ecosystem in Karnataka.

He announced that a total fund of over Rs 1,200 crore has been amassed for the investment. Of this amount, various venture capitalists have contributed a combined total of Rs 786.43 crore, with the Karnataka government contributing the rest.

"You will not see this anywhere in India where the government and the private sector collaborate to invest in deep tech. We want to inspire the rest of the country to ideate and innovate. Together we will build an ecosystem that is unmatched in the world," he said, thanking the donating venture capitalists who were brought onto the stage. He added that in his political career, it was unprecedented for him as a government official to propose a monetary donation and have the private sector contribute equally, if not more, to the initiative. Kharge also mentioned that 143 startups had benefitted from the Elevate programme. Some of the notable ones are Bharatone Services and



Affiliates, Anucharith Innovations and Dxbiotics LLP. Owners of the most funded startups were brought onto the stage and felicitated. The minister said he wanted to see

the startups reach a stage one day where they can contribute like the venture capitalists had. "I wish I could do more (to help you), but I deal with the taxpayers' money," he quipped.

Orissa HC sets December 3 date for judgement on national emblem misuse

CUTTACK. (Agency)

The Orissa High Court on Wednesday reserved its judgement on a PIL seeking judicial intervention against misuse of the State Emblem of India. The matter has been posted to December 3 for pronouncement of order.

Alone Trust, a Ganjam-based NGO filed the PIL through advocate Pabitra Kumta Datta on December 27, 2024. Senior advocates Manoj Mishra and Subir Palit were appointed Amicus Curiae on August 12, 2025 to assist the court in achieving the main object, more particularly, the prevention of misuse of the State Emblem of India and spreading of awareness amongst the people.

The division bench of Chief Justice Harish Tandon and Justice MR Pathak reserved judgement after taking on record a detailed report submitted by Amicus Curiae. The report of Amicus Curiae underscored that the State Emblem of India, derived from the Lion Capital



of Ashoka, is not merely a symbol but the official seal of the Republic, embodying the authority, sovereignty, and integrity of the

2007 (amended in 2010).

The Amicus Curiae called for clearly distinguishing authorised users such as Constitutional authorities and specified officials. They also recommended a state-level task force and a uniform SOP for handling complaints, inspections, seizure, prosecution and publicity along with quarterly vehicle and office checks.

Recommending a multi-pronged preventive strategy, the report called for large-scale social media campaigns led by the Ministry of Home Affairs and state governments, featuring awareness videos, infographics and case studies on improper use. It proposed collaboration with regional media and digital creators for a six-week outreach drive, particularly around national occasions like Republic Day and Independence Day, on the issue.

ED raids 18 locations in Dhanbad in Coal trade money laundering probe

Dhanbad. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday launched a major operation in Dhanbad district targeting suspected money laundering linked to coal trade and outsourcing operations.

The operation, which began around 6 am, targeted multiple locations associated with coal outsourcing contracts, including Dev Prabha Company and its owner, L.B. Singh. The firm reportedly manages outsourcing work for BCCL. Along with Singh, premises linked to coal traders Anil Goyal and Sanjay Khemka also came under scrutiny.

According to sources, the ED raided a total of 18 locations across Dhanbad, including Singh's residence "Dev Villa." During the searches, officials seized several crucial documents, digital records, and financial transaction details believed to be connected to irregularities in coal outsourcing, generation of unaccounted income,

and illegal fund transfers.

Sources said the ED had been monitoring suspected irregular transactions and coal contracts for the past seven to eight months. The agency is learned to have gathered substantial evidence of illegal earnings and unauthorized financial movements. Complaints received earlier by the Ministry of Coal reportedly prompted the initiation of this action.

The operation witnessed a brief disruption when L.B. Singh allegedly released his pet dogs to prevent officials from entering his premises.

However, the ED team managed to control the situation and continued the raid.

No BCCL officials have been named in the action so far, though sources indicate that several officers may come under scrutiny as the investigation progresses.

The probe has been initiated based on a CBI FIR, which has since been converted into an ED Case (ECIR).

Vijayawada MP Chinni promises to resolve issues of New Government General Hospital soon

The MP inspected several departments at New GGH to assess the available facilities, patient care systems, and ongoing development works.

VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanand (Chinni) on Thursday assured that the long-pending issues at the New Government General Hospital (New GGH), Vijayawada, will be taken to the notice of both the State and Central Governments for speedy resolution.

He said efforts are underway to enhance medical services and upgrade infrastructure to meet the growing patient load.

The MP inspected several departments at New GGH to assess the available facilities, patient care systems, and ongoing development works.

Doctors explained the urgent requirement for advanced medical equipment, improved patient amenities, and the status of the building construction.

The MP also interacted with nursing students and assured them that they



would be shifted to the new block once construction is completed. He instructed Superintendent E Venkateswara to ensure that no patient faces inconvenience and sought a detailed report on the hospital's development needs. Chinni said the hospital handles

nearly 3,000 outpatients daily, making infrastructure upgrades crucial. He said review meetings will be held with district MLAs to push development works and added that CSR funds will be explored for strengthening facilities.

Odisha steps up anti-Naxal operations; aims to eradicate Maoist menace by March 2026

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)

As neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh eliminate top Maoist operatives, Odisha too is going all out to meet Centre's target of eradicating the menace by March 2026.

Additional DG and head of anti-Naxal operations Sanjeeb Panda said sustained operations by Odisha Police have yielded significant results and they would continue. Such operations have pushed the red ultras in the deep forests as their arms supply has been cut off and routes connecting to the neighbouring states blocked.

This year, 19 Naxals have been neutralised in the state. Eight were arrested, six surrendered before Odisha Police while another seven gave themselves up in Chhattisgarh. The number of Odisha natives in the banned CPI (Maoist) has dropped drastically, he added.

The senior police officer also pointed at the latest categorisation of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) where no district from



Odisha has been put under the 'most affected districts' and 'districts of concern' categories. "Three districts in Chhattisgarh and Kandhamal in Odisha are under 'Other LWE-affected districts' category. Eight

districts including Kalahandi, Rayagada, Boudh, Gajapati and Nuapada are under 'Legacy and thrust' districts category," said Panda. Districts which require consolidation of the security situation and not in the 'most affected' nor 'districts of concern' categories are put in 'Other LWE-affected' districts. Those under 'Legacy and thrust' districts category are the ones which have seen the end of Naxalism but are prospective sites for LWE expansion. Stating that Odisha will be able to eradicate the Naxal menace by next year, Panda said that vigorous operations will continue in the coming days, and asked the Naxals operating in the state to surrender before the police. Sources said about 80 to 85 operatives are active in Odisha. Of them, most are from Chhattisgarh and only three are from Odisha. Nikhil, a native of Jagatsinghpur and his wife are among the three from the state who are still active. The other Maoists hails from Malkangiri district. The Naxals active in the state are short of arms and ammunition supply and sustained operations have kept them away from any action. Security measures have also been tightened in the bordering areas of Chhattisgarh and Andhra Pradesh to ensure the Maoists do not cross over to the state.

State Taxes and Excise department collects over Rs. 26,000 crore in three years

Shimla. (Agency)

A spokesperson for the State Taxes and Excise Department said on Friday that the department has shown steady growth in revenue collection over the past three years. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, the department has collected over Rs. 26,000 crore. This includes Rs. 10,248.56 crore in the financial year 2023-24, which increased to Rs. 10,880.57 crore in 2024-25. In the current financial year 2025-26, the department has collected Rs. 5,536.30 crore up to September 2025.

The spokesperson said these figures reflect consistent growth in revenue from GST, Excise, VAT, PGT, and other taxes on goods since 2022-23, driven by improved efficiency and compliance resulting from state government reforms.

Several key reforms have strengthened transparency and enhanced departmental functioning. These include the Auction-cum-Tender system for the allotment of liquor vending in 2023-24 and 2024-25, which helped increase excise revenue from Rs. 2,147.04 crore in 2022-23 to Rs. 2,631.30 crore in 2023-24 and Rs. 2,776.41 crore in 2024-25.

The state government also introduced a Milk Cess of Rs. 10 per bottle of liquor, generating an additional Rs. 144.84 crore in 2023-24 and Rs. 141.92 crore in 2024-25 to support milk production and livestock farmers. A Natural Farming Cess, imposed from 2024-25, generated Rs. 24.62 crore to promote natural farming, while a WDA Cess (for Children of Destitute Women and Disabled Parents) of Rs. 1.50 per bulk litre has been levied on liquor exports in 2025-26 to support children of widowed or destitute women and disabled parents. The department has also taken important steps in digital governance. The Excise e-Governance Project launched in April 2023 now enables online issuance of passes and permits along with digital payment of all fees, said the spokesperson.

The irony of Rahul attempting to be a JP

The Bihar assembly result has spawned serious commentary, a slippery gradation of bright-to-dull analyses, and half-serious conspiracy theories. There is little need to revisit them or add a dead layer of another perspective. However, for someone who viewed the polls from a distance, there was a hazy historical comparison forming at times on the horizon. The comparative picture was also dissolving as swiftly as it was getting formed. Perhaps because it had weak legs of believability, and perhaps it was anathema to put an already-canonicalised figure next to a struggling revolutionary. But, like a recurring dream and an obsessive thought, it kept persisting through the few months of the poll season. It constantly triggered the question if it can really be the way one is trying to read it, or if it is an embarrassing misread. As events unfolded, the picture that was throwing itself up was of Rahul Gandhi and Jayaprakash Narayan. The question floating around was if Rahul was trying to be a JP in the build-up to the Bihar polls. Was that the final symbolism and weapon he was trying to unleash against the NDA regime? JP had created a movement against Rahul's grandmother Indira Gandhi, and the themes he had worked on then are largely the ones Rahul has been trying to make a success of his utter un-success now. JP, too, had been as fabulously unsuccessful as a political leader—that is, until he had embarked on a revolutionary project in the mid-1970s. JP had walked out of party politics in the 1950s. However, one should hasten to clarify that there is a Himalayan difference between JP and Rahul's political failures, confusions, and anarchic instincts. JP had rich academic training and theoretical depth. His ground-level engagement was remarkable. The bouquet of issues he picked up to represent had a stunning range from villages of India to international diplomacy. His stubborn idealism defined the age, and his handsomeness, like that of Rahul, had ripened without an impact. He embraced the wisdom of sacrifice and had an uncommon disdain for holding the levers of power himself. He was self-made, and had no privilege or pedigree to claim. JP was a grand individual and never, in a manner of speaking, an institution builder, although he was institutionalised by the circumstances of history near the end of his life. Such a failure has greater access to political symbolism than what Rahul can ever aspire to. In short, their backgrounds, pressures, and contexts are at diametrical ends. Therefore, to even think of imitating JP and his method may be anachronistic.

Yet, this season, Rahul picked themes that JP had picked 50 years ago. He tried to tap into the young and tried to dazzle with the accusation of electoral malpractices—'vote chori' and 'Voter Adhikar Yatra'. Rahul, too, has tried to work with students. He spoke about massive unemployment, monumental corruption, and economic backwardness of the majority; so did JP. The Congress, in its official release, claimed that Rahul had made the Modi regime "nervous". Interestingly, in the mid-1970s, JP too was accused of making the Indira Gandhi regime paranoid. Between 1971 and 1975, the electoral malpractice charge against Indira Gandhi lingered in the courts and achieved a certain finality in June 1975. This charge had tried to delegitimise her mandate in slow progression, like Rahul has long hoped his persistent campaign would do to Modi. When Raj Narain, who challenged Indira Gandhi's Rae Bareli election in the courts, went to his lawyer Shanti Bhushan, the first thing he said was about the 'chemicalised ballots' she may have used to rig the polls. An air of incredulity hangs in the air even today as Rahul makes his arguments. JP was accused of instigating the armed forces and the police—the excuse for proclaiming the Emergency. Rahul has similarly been accused of creating doubt around constitutional offices and democratic institutions. During the Bihar campaign, he also shockingly spoke of caste control inside the army, and had earlier spoken about the 'fraudulent' Agnipath scheme for the forces. Themes of vote and voter manipulation in the Bihar poll season aside, there was accusation of a title theft as well.

Let children develop their interest in the larger world by playing with the atlas, the globe and the art of storytelling.

ARTIFICIAL intelligence (AI) is here, and it seems that you and I will have to negotiate it today or tomorrow. Yet, it unsettles me that even students of Class III (hardly nine-year-old) have to learn AI as a mandatory subject. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce AI for all students from Class III onwards from the 2026-27 academic session. In order to go deeper into the meaning of this move, or what the Ministry of Education regards as "one of the significant curriculum overhauls in modern history", it is important to reflect on two issues relating to the rhythm of life, technology, culture and pedagogy.

To begin with, it is important to understand that in these hyper-modern times, we are almost compelled to accept every new piece of technological innovation—and quite often, without the slightest ambiguity. However, this constraint is often transformed into a form of seduction. It is not uncommon to see even three-year-old kids 'playing' with smartphones; and the resultant addiction to the screen is making it increasingly difficult for them to look at the open, vast sky, see a tree, notice a bird flying or feel the rhythmic play of a flower and a butterfly. Yes, technological gadgets seem to have colonised their souls. As we normalise this invasion of technology in almost every domain of life, it is, therefore, not surprising that the CBSE too feels that even children of Class III should not lag behind, and must begin to learn the fundamentals of AI through 'playful/interactive' methods'.

Moreover, who can say 'no' to AI, particularly when the techno-corporate elite and the market-driven advertising machinery keep reminding us of its 'revolutionary' potential? And possibly, many ambitious parents also think that in this fast-changing world, if their children do not feel comfortable with AI as early as possible, they will lag behind and fail to cope with newly emerging fields like data analysis, robotics and design innovation! However, amid this techno-seduction, we should not forget that not everything is necessarily promising about the use of AI in the realm of education. Professors of leading IITs and IIMs have expressed serious concern over this trend. Recently, Prof Ranjan Banerjee—the Director of IIT-Delhi—reminded his students that "an over-reliance on AI may hinder essential learning outcomes such as critical thinking skills." Likewise, in IIMs, as a professor has observed with deep anguish, some of the students are asking AI platforms to prepare even field studies.

Indeed, as these otherwise bright students are tempted to surrender their own critical/creative thinking and produce AI-mediated assignments, they deprive themselves of what makes them humane: their subjectivity, their agency, their experiential knowledge, their



'imperfection', their hard intellectual labour, and above all, their right to make mistakes. Accept it: Beyond the excessive hype over AI lies a brute fact. It can, as Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari has cautioned us, create a situation in which humans might lose control over their own invention. Isn't it frightening?

Furthermore, as a teacher, I often ask myself: What do the children of Class III actually need for their cognitive, psychic, aesthetic and intellectual development? Is it AI or something else? Before everything, let us accept that without altering the very meaning of schooling, no technology can arouse the child's interest in active learning. Let schools not look like prisons; let schools not 'discipline' our children in a way that they lose their simplicity, curiosity, wonder and playfulness.

Of course, they ought to learn a bit of elementary mathematics. They need to learn how to read, write and articulate themselves. It is equally important for them to learn how to share, relate to others and work in a group. Let them learn elementary arithmetic through everyday activities that demand addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and some sort of quantification or measurement. Let them develop their interest in the larger world by playing with the atlas, the globe and the art of storytelling. Let them see, touch, smell and read

good/colourful books, and evolve a taste for reading. Let them develop the faculties of observation and reasoning. Let them do things with their hands and legs. And above all, let them play and sharpen their physical/kinetic energy. Let them look at a flower, a tree, a river, and experience wonder and mystery. And this sort of sensitivity, we should not forget, is the highest form of intelligence. I have, therefore, no hesitation in saying that the students of Class III do not need AI. Instead, they need a pedagogic milieu the likes of Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Jiddu Krishnamurti experimented with. Think of the burden of knowledge these tender children are asked to carry: English, science, civics, mathematics, computer applications and now AI! Why do we want to rob them of their childhood? Why don't we realise that if in the formative years, they are allowed to evolve with love and care, and inspired to learn/unlearn without the fear of lagging behind, they will eventually evolve as intellectually awakened, emotionally fulfilled and aesthetically sensitive citizens? It will not be difficult for them to retain their creative surplus and critical thinking. And as they grow up, it will be possible for them to decide when and how to use AI, and most importantly when to say 'no' to it, and assert that the meaning of being humane is to be a master (not a slave) of technology.

SC recalling its Vanashakti verdict right way forward

On balance, it makes little sense to pit environment against development in a developing country like India

A three-judge bench of the Supreme Court took a balanced view while nixing a smaller bench's six-month-old Vanashakti verdict, which had barred the Union government from granting post-facto environmental clearances to development projects. Through a 2017 notification and a 2021 office memorandum, the government had cleared projects that had either commenced, expanded, or operated without prior approval, which was mandated under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2006. While a two-judge bench had struck down the government's workarounds as illegal, a three-judge bench led by Chief Justice B R Gavai recalled that verdict by a 2:1 majority. CJI Gavai and Justice Vinod Chandran formed the majority, while Justice Ujjal Bhuyan penned a strong dissent. Justice Bhuyan was part of the earlier bench along with Justice Abhay S Oka, whose judgement was quashed. CJI Gavai agreed with the petitioners that completed or nearly-complete public projects worth ₹20,000 crore would have to be demolished if the Vanashakti verdict were to hold ground. They include a



Steel Authority of India plant, a 962-bed medical college and hospital in Odisha, a new airport at Vijayanagar in Karnataka, and large effluent treatment plants. Going by the Vanashakti order, these projects had to be razed and environmental clearances secured afresh before reconstruction. Such mindless demolition would not just result in a waste of public money but also more pollution, the CJI observed.

Justice Bhuyan disagreed with the CJI's view, framing it as an innocent expression of opinion, adding that it overlooks the fundamentals of environmental jurisprudence. "Precautionary principle is the cornerstone of environmental jurisprudence. Polluter pays is only a principle of reparation. Precautionary principle cannot be given a short shrift by relying on polluter pays principle. The review judgement is a step in retrogression," he wrote. On balance, it makes little sense to pit environment against development in a developing country like India. The two are complementary aspects of the constitutional construct of sustainable development, as Justice Bhuyan pointed out. Yet, the Vanashakti judgement froze major ongoing projects instead of levying hefty penalties, as prescribed by coordinate two-judge benches in other cases. Delhi's smog is an extreme example of environmental pollution; replicating its solutions across the country would hold back national growth. Green jurisprudence must be respected, but it should not come at the cost of sustainable development.

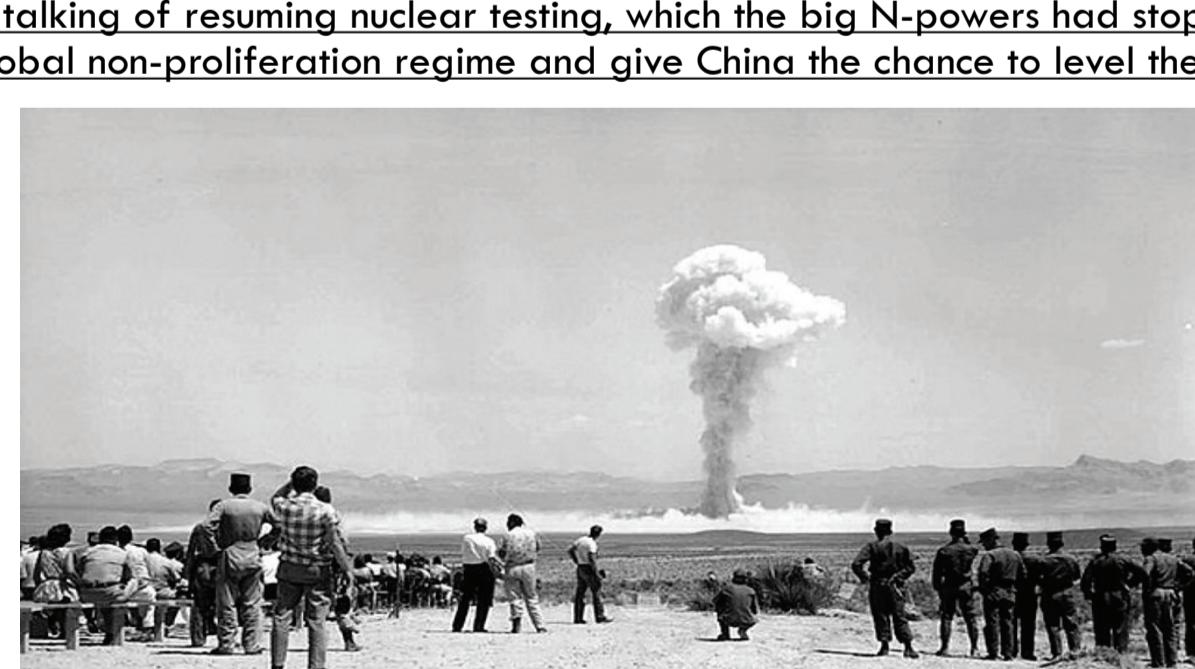
Cloud on the nuclear horizon

Trump has rattled the world by talking of resuming nuclear testing, which the big N-powers had stopped in 1996. If full-yield testing restarts, it will unravel the global non-proliferation regime and give China the chance to level the field on weapons technology

Hours before his October 30 meeting with Xi Jinping, Donald Trump announced that he had instructed the US department of war to "start testing nuclear weapons on an equal basis" immediately. He reiterated the stance in an interview later: "We're going to test nuclear weapons like other countries do." He also accused Russia, China, North Korea and Pakistan of conducting deeply buried underground nuclear tests.

Trump's remarks came in response to Russia's testing of new nuclear delivery systems—the Burevestnik, a nuclear-powered cruise missile tested on October 21, and the Poseidon, a nuclear-powered torpedo tested on October 28. His instructions were directed to the US department of war, which oversees missile testing, rather than at the department of energy, the principal authority for nuclear-weapons testing. The day after the Trump-Xi summit, the US energy secretary clarified that the administration's reference to renewed testing concerned 'system tests'—that is, subcritical experiments intended to verify the performance and reliability of existing nuclear weapons. However, Trump's ambiguous statements have stirred considerable uncertainty and debate within the non-proliferation and arms control communities, while also prompting reactions from the countries he accused of conducting nuclear tests.

At a meeting with the Russian Security Council on November 5, Vladimir Putin, while reaffirming that Moscow would only restart nuclear tests if the US initiated them, instructed his officials to prepare formal proposals for a potential resumption of tests. Russia also publicly urged the US to clarify what it called "contradictory signals" regarding the resumption of nuclear testing. China's response was restrained. Beijing expressed hope that Washington would abide by its 1996 commitments to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), maintain its moratorium on tests, and actively safeguard the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Pakistan denied testing, while



North Korea offered no immediate response. The CTBT, which explicitly prohibits nuclear explosions, was signed by the US, Russia, and China on the very day it opened for signature in September 1996. While Russia ratified the treaty in 2000, it later withdrew in 2023, citing the asymmetry created by the fact that the US had signed but failed to ratify the agreement. Although China has also not ratified the CTBT, all three nations have maintained a stated policy of moratorium. India chose not to sign the treaty, with a senior diplomat declaring, "India will not sign this unequal treaty. Not now, not ever." This decision was taken to safeguard our security interests, preserve our sovereign decision-making, and reject a framework that perpetuated the privileges of the established nuclear-weapon states.

Nevertheless, following the 1998 Pokhran tests, India voluntarily declared a unilateral moratorium on further testing as a demonstration of restraint and responsibility. While the term 'nuclear testing' may conjure images of mushroom clouds and fiery explosions, modern research has evolved far beyond. Having conducted 1,030 nuclear tests before the advent of the CTBT, the US launched the Stockpile Stewardship programme in 1994 to ensure the safety, security and reliability of its nuclear arsenal through subcritical experiments, computer simulations, and hydrodynamic testing. Subcritical experiments, though they employ fissile materials such as plutonium, do not initiate a self-sustaining chain reaction, and thus produce no nuclear yield, placing them beyond the scope of the CTBT's prohibition. Computer simulations and

hydrodynamic testing do not involve any fissile material. While the US asserts that it maintains full transparency in announcing its subcritical experiments, it has been accusing Russia and China of their lack of transparency including expansion of nuclear-testing facilities. Given the extensive global monitoring network established under the CTBT, it is virtually impossible for any nation to conduct underground nuclear tests of significant yield without detection. It is, however, theoretically conceivable that Russia or China may have carried out ultra-low-yield experiments, though such tests are unlikely to yield meaningful advances in designing more sophisticated weapons.

Conversely, if the US were to resume underground explosive tests—a process estimated to take at least two years to implement—it would effectively grant China a free hand to expand its own testing programme. Unlike the US and Russia, which have conducted hundreds of tests, China had carried out only 46 before 1996. A return to full-yield testing would thus level the strategic playing field, enabling China to develop new generations of nuclear weapons. During his first term, Trump sought to establish a trilateral framework with Russia and China to limit nuclear weapons—an initiative Beijing firmly rejected. Shortly after returning to office this year, he declared that denuclearisation would be a key objective of his second term. Following the Alaska Summit with Putin in August, Trump expressed optimism about Moscow's willingness to engage in discussions on the issue, voicing hope that Beijing would eventually join the dialogue. It appears that Trump was raising the stakes ahead of his meeting with Xi, even though no progress has been seen from the Chinese side thus far. Yet, if Trump were to resume full-yield nuclear testing, it would not only doom the CTBT, but also risk unravelling the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, extended indefinitely in 1995 on the understanding that the CTBT would be concluded.

NEWS BOX

Punjab suspends PCS officer over delay in bus arrangements for gurdwara event

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The Punjab government has suspended PCS officer Gurvinder Singh Johal, posted as Regional Transport Officer (RTO) in Ropar, over alleged delay in providing buses for a light-and-sound show during the Shaheedi programme of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Officials claimed that arrangements were required to ensure smooth travel for visitors attending the commemorative event at Sri Anandpur Sahib.

According to the suspension order, Johal has been relieved from duty with immediate effect under the provisions of the Punjab Civil Services rules. During the suspension period, he will receive a subsistence allowance as per service regulations. Chandigarh has been declared his headquarters, and he will not be permitted to leave the city without prior approval.

The transport arrangements were part of large-scale preparations for the centenary commemorations of Guru Tegh Bahadur, aimed at facilitating pilgrims through shuttle bus services and other facilities.

On Friday, the Ropar administration launched a dedicated website, 'anandpur Sahib 350.com', to provide real-time travel and facility updates to visitors.

Education Minister Harjot Singh Bains stated that a mobile application will be activated shortly to offer details on shuttle routes, tent accommodations, medical services, traffic diversions and event schedules. Digital platforms will be available in both Punjabi and English to support visitors accessing the Shaheedi programmes.

Johal's suspension marks one of the most stringent actions in the ongoing event-related preparations, with the state government signalling that lapses in logistical arrangements will not be tolerated.

CBI raids multiple locations in West Bengal bank fraud case amid ED coal smuggling operations

Kolkata. (Agency)

Amid ongoing Enforcement Directorate (ED) raids at over 40 locations in West Bengal and Jharkhand related to coal smuggling from state-run mines, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a fresh search operation in the properties of some business people in alleged bank fraud case, official sources said today.

According to sources, the CBI began searches at four locations in Howrah and Lake Town in connection with a Rs 9 crore fraud involving a nationalised bank. The raids focused on the properties of businessmen Anil Kumar Misra, at his Shibpur flats in Howrah, and Om Prakash Pandey at Lake Town in North 24 Parganas.

Officials allege that the two businessmen obtained loans for their company but diverted the funds to shell companies and failed to repay the bank, resulting in a financial loss of Rs 9 crore.

The simultaneous operations by the CBI and ongoing ED raids underscored intensified federal scrutiny of alleged financial irregularities and illegal mining activities in the region.

AP: President Murmu offers prayers at Lord Balaji shrine in Tirumala

Tirumala (Andhra Pradesh). (Agency) President Droupadi Murmu offered prayers at the ancient hill shrine of Lord Sri Venkateswara Swamy here on Friday morning. As per customary practice, Murmu along with her family members and entourage offered prayers at the Sri Bhuvaneshwari temple first and later reached the Mahadwaram of the Tirumala temple where she was accorded the traditional 'Isthikapal' welcome by the priests and officials led by TTD Chairman BR Naidu, Executive officer AK Singhal and Additional Executive officer Ch Venkata Chowdary.

The Endowments Minister of Andhra Pradesh Anam Rammayya Reddy also accompanied the President for Srivari Darshan.

After offering prayers to the presiding deity of Sri Venkateswara Swamy inside the sanctum sanctorum, she was presented Seshavastram followed by Vedasirvachanam which was rendered at the Ranganayakula Mandapam inside the temple complex.

Murmu spent about half an hour inside the over 2000-year old shrine, according to temple officials. After the prayers, the President was offered a sacred silk cloth, a portrait of Sri Rama, laddu prasadam, and 2026 diaries and calendars by the TTD officials. During her visit, the President and her family also paid respects at the Sri Padmavathi Temple in Tiruchanur, near Tirupati. After a brief stay at the Tirumala guest house, President Murmu is scheduled to depart for Hyderabad in the afternoon to inaugurate the Bharatiya Kala Mahotsav 2025 at Rashtrapati Nilayam, Bolarum, Secunderabad.

Gun, bullets found in raids on Kashmir Times office, probe agency claims; owners call it bid to silence

The newspaper's owners and editors, Anuradha Bhasin and husband Prabodh Jamwal who are believed to be in the US, condemned the searches in a statement while describing the accusations as "unfounded" and an "attempt to silence" them.

Jammu. (Agency)

The State Investigation Agency (SIA) of J&K on Thursday said it had raided the office in Jammu of Kashmir Times — one of the oldest English newspaper houses in the region — as part of its probe in a case against the organisation for its alleged "involvement in criminal conspiracy with secessionist and other anti-national entities".

Following the searches, which started at 6 am at the Residency Road premises, the SIA said it had allegedly recovered "one revolver, 14 empty cases of AK-series weapon, three live AK rounds, four fired bullets, three grenade safety levers" and "three suspected pistol rounds".

The newspaper's owners and editors, Anuradha Bhasin and husband Prabodh Jamwal who are believed to be in the US, condemned the searches in a statement while describing the accusations as "unfounded" and an "attempt to silence" them.

J&K Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary referred to the SIA raids and claimed that such action follows only in cases where wrongdoing is established and "not for the sake of pressure". The SIA operation comes days after J&K Police said they had busted a terror

module centred in Faridabad with the arrest of at least three doctors from J&K while a fourth was seen driving the car that exploded near Delhi's Red Fort, killing nine, on November 10. Founded by Anuradha's father and veteran journalist Ved Bhasin in 1954, Kashmir Times

integrity of India through print and digital content".

Officials said the searches started after SIA officials called the newspaper's manager Sanjeev Kermi from his home to open the office.

Around noon, sources said, SIA took Kermi to the

Gandhi Nagar residence of Jamwal where they conducted searches for nearly two hours. Ved Bhasin's eldest daughter Anju Bhasin, the former vice-chancellor of Jammu's Cluster University who currently stays at the address, is also believed to be abroad.

Officials said the SIA team also examined documents, digital equipment and other material as part of the investigation. The agency is likely to question Anuradha, they said, adding that the operation is part of the agency's ongoing action against networks

suspected to be aiding separatist narratives or unlawful propaganda. In their statement, Bhasin and Jamwal said that allegations "are designed to intimidate, to delegitimise, and ultimately to silence". "We call on the authorities to immediately cease this harassment, withdraw these unfounded allegations, and respect the constitutional guarantees of press freedom," they said.



had stopped the publication of its print edition from Jammu and operates primarily online.

According to the SIA, the listed charges include: "disseminating terrorist and secessionist ideology"; "spreading inflammatory, fabricated and false narratives"; "attempting to radicalise the youth" of J&K; "inciting disaffection and separatist sentiments"; "disturbing peace and public order"; and, "challenging the sovereignty and territorial

Maha: Amazon Launches 'Think Big Spaces' to boost digital learning in Thane schools

Thane. (Agency)

Amazon has unveiled its 'Amazon Think Big Spaces' digital learning initiative in collaboration with the Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) and the Pi Jam Foundation, aiming to bridge the technology gap in government schools.

The first centre was inaugurated at TMC School No. 65 in Yeoor, marking a significant step toward improving digital accessibility for students in the region.

The inauguration was attended by TMC Deputy Commissioner Sachin Sangle, AWS Director – APAC DCPD Cameron Evans, and Pi Jam Foundation Founder and CEO Shoib Dar, along with school staff and students. The partners highlighted their shared commitment to providing equitable access to digital learning tools and mentorship opportunities for

government school students.

The Think Big Spaces initiative adopts a comprehensive approach to digital and STEM education. Designed for teacher-led implementation, the centres serve as dedicated learning hubs where students engage in hands-on, experiential activities. The curriculum emphasizes computational thinking and design thinking, equipping students with essential technology concepts and problem-solving skills to tackle local community challenges.

In its first phase in Thane, the initiative will benefit over 900 students across nine municipal schools. Alongside infrastructure upgrades, the programme includes extensive capacity-building for teachers, with 250 educators set to receive structured training in computer science fundamentals, digital literacy and coding.

The long-term plan aims to reach 7,500 students

across multiple schools and communities, reflecting the partners' confidence in the initiative's effectiveness and scalability.

First launched in 2019, the Amazon Think Big Programme has already become a significant contributor to digital education in the Mumbai metropolitan region. It operates through Think Big Spaces, specialised STEAM Corners and mobile learning units, collectively reaching over 12,000 students across government schools in Thane and Navi Mumbai.

The programme focuses on providing students with opportunities to explore, experiment and innovate through structured learning frameworks.

By encouraging curiosity and hands-on engagement, it aims to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential in today's technology-driven economy.

Police bust terror module, arrest 5 operatives

New Delhi: Delhi Police have busted a major terror module being run in the guise of an NGO and arrested five operatives, an official said on Thursday. The NGO was being managed by a Pakistan-based handler, and it was trying to recruit youths by brainwashing them, he added. The mastermind, identified as Ashar Danish, was apprehended from Jharkhand's Ranchi, while two suspects—Aftab and Sufiyan, both residents of Mumbai—were arrested from Delhi on Tuesday. Muzappa was held from Telangana, while one more operative, Kamran, has also been arrested, the official said. Danish, the kingpin of the module, used to be known under different names such as CEO, Gazba and Professor, he said. "The raids were carried out after intelligence inputs indicated that a module was planning a major terror attack in the country. We have been tracking them for the last six months," the official said. Searches at multiple locations have led to the recovery of a large quantity of chemicals, ball bearings and other materials used in making Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) were recovered, he said. "Police teams recovered components and electronic equipment used in making IEDs. Several chemicals, including sodium bicarbonate, along with gas masks, electrical cables, fuse points, wires and other electrical equipment were seized," he added. In Ranchi, a raid at Danish's hideout led to the recovery of chemicals and other materials suspected to be used in making explosives, police said. "Preliminary investigation suggests that the module was in touch with Pakistan-based handlers and was preparing for a large-scale attack," police said, adding that the handlers used only social media platforms for communication.

10 pairs of trains running over NF Railway converted to LHB

The Sikh Times

Malgao, 21st November: Indian Railways is advancing with the upgradation of ten (10) pairs of train services running under the jurisdiction of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) upgrading from conventional ICF coaches to modern LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rakes during the financial year 2025 - 26. This initiative is part of Indian Railways' ongoing modernization efforts aimed at enhancing passenger safety, riding comfort and operational efficiency. LHB rakes offer superior safety features, higher speed potential, reduced maintenance requirements and an overall improved travel experience for passengers. As part of the plan, ten pairs of trains have been identified for conversion to LHB rakes. Among them, conversion of five (05) pairs of trains was successfully completed between June and August 2025. These include train no. 15715/15716 (Kishanganj-Ajmer-Kishanganj), train no. 15722/15721 (New Jalpaiguri-Digha-New Jalpaiguri), train no. 13159/13160 (Kolkata Terminal-Jogbani-Kolkata Terminal), train no. 13212/13211 (Danapur-Jogbani-Danapur) and train no.

13214/13213 (Saharsa Jn. -Jogbani-Saharsa Jn.) Similarly, train No. 15911/15912 (Tinsukia Junction-Naharlagun-Tinsukia Junction), train

(Silchar-Agartala-Silchar) are scheduled for conversion in January 2026. NFR further plans to expand LHB deployment in the coming years and

across multiple schools and communities, reflecting the partners' confidence in the initiative's effectiveness and scalability. First launched in 2019, the Amazon Think Big Programme has already become a significant contributor to digital education in the Mumbai metropolitan region. It operates through Think Big Spaces, specialised STEAM Corners and mobile learning units, collectively reaching over 12,000 students across government schools in Thane and Navi Mumbai. The programme focuses on providing students with opportunities to explore, experiment and innovate through structured learning frameworks. By encouraging curiosity and hands-on engagement, it aims to build critical thinking and problem-solving skills essential in today's technology-driven economy.

no. 13173/13174 (Sealdah-Sabroom- Sealdah) and train no. 13175/13176 (Sealdah-Silchar-Sealdah) are on track for LHB upgradation and are scheduled to be converted by the end of November 2025. In addition, train no. 55675/55676 (Agartala-Dharmanagar-Agartala) and train No. 15664/15663

more train conversions are being evaluated based on operational feasibility, demand and availability of rolling stock. This systematic transition marks another step towards achieving a fully LHB based fleet across NFR, ensuring safer, modern and reliable rail services for passengers in the region.

Mohali MC limit expansion: Over 150 residents record objections, final notification likely by next week

Advocate Gaurav Goyal, who attended from TDI City, claimed that officials instructed the audience that only those whose names were called would be allowed to speak.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The much-anticipated public hearing on the expansion of Mohali Municipal Corporation limits lasted for more than 2 hours on Thursday, with more than 150 residents objecting to the move.

Additional Chief Secretary, Local Government Department, Tejveer Singh and Mohali Municipal Commissioner Parminder Singh Sandhu heard residents' objections. However, several participants alleged that the process was not conducted properly.

Speaking to the Indian Express, Tejveer Singh confirmed that around 150 people attended the hearing and presented their objections

over a two-hour session. "All objections have been duly recorded and will now be forwarded to the government for further action. Keeping the official deadline in mind, the process will be completed within a week, after which the final notification may be issued."

Advocate Gaurav Goyal, who attended from TDI City, claimed that officials instructed the audience that only those whose names were called would be allowed to speak. "People were asked just one basic question, whether their area should be brought under the municipal limits and were told to reply strictly with a 'yes' or 'no'. No arguments were heard, no documents were reviewed,



and none of the local issues were discussed," he said, alleging that the AAP government and the Local Government Department were "suppressing public voices" and ignoring ground-level concerns.

Final notification likely by next week

Babul Marandi calls 'Sarkar Apke Dwaar' a show of pretence and photo op

Ranchi. (Agency)

Jharkhand BJP president and former chief minister Babul Marandi has sharply criticised Chief Minister Hemant Soren's 'Sarkar Apke Dwaar' initiative, alleging that the programme is returning merely to create a spectacle and generate photo opportunities rather than genuinely resolve public grievances.

Marandi said the government would once again stage a "drama" of listening to the people's problems without offering concrete solutions.

In a post on social media, Marandi said the programme, being revived after a year, reflects a government that "wakes up occasionally." He alleged that officials would collect files, make marks on paper, and then return to their "luxurious bungalows and offices," leaving people's issues unresolved.

Marandi presented a long list of questions, he said, the public must raise. He asked why the Maiya Samman assistance is not reaching all eligible women, why crime is increasing across the state, and why jungle raj appears to be returning. He also questioned why lakhs of government posts remain vacant despite no recruitment exams being conducted, and why youth aspiring for jobs are forced to wait for years.

He alleged government failure in curbing illegal mining of sand, coal and stone, criticised the shortage of teachers and dilapidated school infrastructure, and highlighted the poor condition of village roads.

He said farmers are not receiving timely seeds, fertilisers and compensation, and pensioners continue to face hardship every month to receive their dues.

Marandi said clean drinking water and proper health services remain distant dreams. He also accused the government of allowing "Bangladeshi infiltrators" to settle on lands belonging to tribal communities.

He questioned the status of previous promises such as 25 lakh jobs in five years, annual JSPSC and JSSC exams, ₹2,000 monthly assistance to poor women, and employment or unemployment allowance for one member of every household.



more train conversions are being evaluated based on operational feasibility, demand and availability of rolling stock. This systematic transition marks another step towards achieving a fully LHB based fleet across NFR, ensuring safer, modern and reliable rail services for passengers in the region.

The Punjab government is currently examining public objections and suggestions about the proposed new municipal limits.

Officials indicated that the final draft might be prepared within the next couple of days, following which the final notification could be issued next week.

ATS Society filed maximum objections. Balongi-based ATS Society recorded the highest number of objections supporting inclusion in the municipal limits. Around 45 flat owners submitted written objections stating that their society lies adjacent to the city and should therefore be brought under the Municipal Corporation.

'Class 10 boy who died by suicide regularly visited school counselling room, was looking for someone to talk to'

New Delhi.(Agency)

Inside the close-knit community of parents of St Columba's School's students, grief at the Class 10 students death has quickly turned into introspection, anxiety and a sharp divide over what may have gone wrong. A mother, whose younger son was in the same class as the Class 10 student, said, "The most disturbing part is that the child was a regular visitor to the counselling room in the school and his diary was full of complaints."

She claimed that he had been suspended earlier this year by the school. "He was just looking for an outlet, somebody to listen to, somebody to understand and somebody to talk to."

Children need love and attention. Somebody in whom they look for a safe space... the person will not judge them for what they are doing and rather give a solution. He did not meet anybody like that. As parents, it is easy to not understand where we are going wrong."

Many parents said the school WhatsApp

groups remained silent for hours after the boy died. Teachers, they said, learnt of the incident only late at night on November 18. "One of my son's friends messaged asking if there was any issue with the Class 10 boy... The friend said they were passing by his house and saw people crying. That's how we found out..." said the parent of the boy's classmate.

The parent added, "Nobody talked about the incident in the school or class WhatsApp groups. We just left a message for the teachers. None of them had any idea about it till late at night." The parent said she had previously discussed her own child's issues with the school. "During Covid-19 pandemic, he was depressed. During parent-teacher meetings, I was informed about the issues. My younger one used to play games during online classes... We as parents and teachers worked on this together."

"While parents are informed about behavioural issues, many do not take



them seriously. Behavioural issues are a combination of factors. I have two boys, both teenagers. You cannot shout at them. You have to become a safe space," she added. Her elder son in Class 12 told her that the school conducts life skills and

counselling sessions. "But this (incident) is quite unfortunate. A story always has two sides," she said. Another parent, meanwhile, said his experience of the school has been entirely positive. "I am very satisfied with the

school. It is a very good school. My son is a student... Things happen. There is nothing like teachers being abusive and there is a lot of pressure." "A certain type of discipline is important... I think most of the parents are really happy. The real thing is that nobody knows what happened," he added. A former PTA (Parent-Teacher Association) member shared the same view. "If my child is getting harassed in the school, I will take care of the child."

There are worse things that happen outside school. We have to prepare them. We have to make them mentally strong... My son has studied here from KG."

"Whatever happened is extremely wrong. But we cannot blame anybody. The school has been really good," the parent said. The parent acknowledged that the school faced "issues" in the early years of its inception.

"Yes, they are very harsh... A teacher had told me once that 'you must have heard about the school, how strict it is."

India's flash PMI falls to 59.9 in November, weakest since May

New Delhi.(Agency)

The combined performance of India's manufacturing and services sectors reported a slower rate of expansion as the HSBC Flash India Composite Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 59.9 in November from 60.4 in October. According to data released by S&P Global, the index, which tracks month-on-month changes in the combined output of the two sectors, indicated a slower rate of expansion.

The growth slowed in November mainly because factory production grew more slowly, the weakest since May. Some manufacturers got fewer new orders, while service sector activity grew faster than in the previous month, S&P Global said.

Speaking on the development, Chief India Economist at HSBC, Pranjal Bhandari said, "The HSBC flash manufacturing PMI eased, though the improvement in operating conditions remained healthy. The rise in new export orders matched that seen in October."

However, overall new orders came in soft, indicating that the GST-led boost may have peaked. Cost pressures eased considerably, and so did prices charged." The report added that the export orders for goods stayed steady, but services saw a slight slowdown. International demand rose, but at the weakest rate since March due to tough global competition and cheaper alternatives abroad.

Govt announces major bureaucratic reshuffle

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Government has announced a significant secretary-level bureaucratic reshuffle, aiming to inject experienced officers into key ministries, including Petroleum, Telecommunications, Pharmaceuticals, and Agriculture.

This realignment is expected to bring deep sector knowledge and policy expertise to these ministries as they prepare for the next financial year and navigate critical regulatory landscapes.

Neeraj Mittal (IAS, 1992, TN cadre) is appointed Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, marking his return to the ministry where he previously worked on energy reforms.

Amit Agrawal (IAS, 1993, CG cadre) takes over as the new Telecom Secretary, bringing expertise in digital governance and experience as the head of. Manoj Joshi (IAS, 1989, KL cadre) heads the Department of Pharmaceuticals, leveraging his background in land management, urban affairs, and regulatory coordination.

Nuclear arms race intensifies amid global conflicts and rising tensions

New Delhi.(Agency)

As conflicts deepen and global power centers shift, the international system is entering one of its most volatile periods in decades. The war in Ukraine is grinding into its third year with no end in sight, while Israel's conflict with Hamas has thrown the Middle East into renewed turmoil. Across Europe, governments are scrambling to fortify their defenses, and Russia is signaling a return to Cold War-era military competition with tests of new strategic weapons. Against this backdrop, the United States is revisiting debates that once seemed relegated to history. President Donald Trump has directed the Department of War to prepare for the possibility of resuming U.S. nuclear testing—a step that would overturn a three-decade moratorium and reintroduce a level of nuclear brinkmanship not seen since the late

20th century. The move followed Russian President Vladimir Putin's announcement of a successful test of the Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone, designed to inundate coastal regions with radioactive tsunamis, along with continued progress on Russia's Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile.

If the US re-starts nuclear testing, this would end the three-decade-long American moratorium on nuclear test explosions, bringing with it an increasingly unstable nuclear era.

The Kremlin has reacted by saying it would "act accordingly" if the Cold War-era moratorium on nuclear weapons testing were broken. Trump's move is also provoked by China's growing array of nuclear warheads.

China's arsenal, according to Pentagon projections, is expected to reach 700

deliverable warheads by 2027 and 1,000 by 2030. Meanwhile, the United States remains bound by the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or New START, which caps US and Russian deployed warheads at 1,550. Russia suspended its participation last year, yet Putin has signaled a willingness to observe the treaty's limits for another year—an overture Trump has cautiously welcomed. But with the treaty set to expire in February 2026, and Russia showcasing new weapons programs even as the war in Ukraine grinds on, the future of arms control is highly uncertain.

In 2023, a 12-member bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States reported on a "looming two-nuclear-peer threat environment" and recommended that the U.S. urgently prepare for this new reality.

Delhi Police bust pirated books racket, arrest 1 and issue notice to 5 others

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Police said Thursday they have arrested one man and issued notices to five others for allegedly running a pan-India network of pirated books and selling them on a website. According to the police, they learned of the alleged scam after scanning low-cost books from reputed publishers on BookBhandar.in, following a tip-off on November 3.

The team conducted sustained technical surveillance on a digital entity operating under the name BookBhandar.in. Based on actionable inputs, the team raided the residence of accused Anmol Kiro, age 27, in Mayur Vihar Phase-I, Delhi. During the search, 42 pirated

books of reputed publishers were recovered from his residence," said Vikram Singh, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime).



The police said Kiro's interrogation revealed a multi-level operation, with the chain starting with a vendor in Daryaganj named Naved, who gave orders to create negatives of famous

books and plates for printing them to Hilal Mohammad, 40, who has a factory.

The negatives were then collected by Naved and given to Kamran, 37, a publisher with a printing press in Hauz Kazi, according to the police. "A printing machine, ADAST Dominant 714, was seized from the premises. He disclosed that two months ago, he printed books for Naved as per order. He stated that he accepts printing jobs from various clients as his livelihood," DCP Singh said.

Naved then sent the books to Sunil Gupta, who distributed them across the country via couriers and received payments into an account managed by his brother, Lalan Gupta.

Scan ammonium nitrate sales, used vehicle purchases: Delhi L-G to police after Red Fort blast

The L-G also ordered police to hold consultations with heads of X and Meta to tackle radicalised content.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Holding consultations with heads of X and Meta to tackle radicalised content, tracking sale of ammonium nitrate and second-hand vehicles: Delhi Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena has directed the Police Commissioner and the Chief Secretary to undertake a series of precautionary and preventive measures in the wake of November 10 Red Fort blast that killed 12 people.

The directions assume relevance as the suspected Red Fort 'bomber', a doctor named Umar Nabi, had allegedly bought a second-hand car — used in the explosion — that had changed multiple hands before it reached him. A large cache of ammonium nitrate was also seized from the co-accused in a terror module case, whose role in the blast is also being investigated.

In a written communication, the L-G office said: "... Police must maintain a digital record of entities purchasing and selling

ammonium nitrate beyond a certain threshold, including photographs of buyers and sellers apart from other relevant details.

The L-G also directed the Police Commissioner to revisit the 2022 Standing Order for licensing of sale, storage and transport of ammonium nitrate "in exercise of powers conferred under Delhi Police Act, 1978, read with Explosive Act, 1884 and Ammonium Nitrate Rules, 2012".

Further, the Delhi Police has also been asked to consult with heads of social media platforms including Meta, Twitter [X] etc. for "scientific tracking of radicalised content aimed at brainwashing citizens".

The administration has been ordered to hold a consultation exercise with all digital platforms and financiers engaged in sale and purchase of vehicles, especially second-hand vehicles. "Clear directions should be given that under no

circumstance will vehicles be allowed to paly where the actual owner is different from the registered owner," officials from the L-G Office said.

Directions have also been issued to create a



central data repository, containing records of doctors and para-medical staff engaged by hospitals — especially private ones — along with details of their medical degrees.

"In cases where medical professionals have secured degrees from foreign countries, information should also be

shared with the police department for secondary background checks," said officials.

Other directions include:

All DCPs have been advised to undertake a rigorous security audit of busy markets and public places that see high footfall including ISBTs, railway stations, cinema halls, parks, Metro stations etc.

"In particular, the audit should focus on a deployment plan of security personnel, beat roster and existing CCTV network. In case there are dark spots where additional CCTV coverage is required, a consolidated reference may be compiled and sent to the Chief Secretary for such installation where necessary," said the letter undersigned by the Principal Secretary to the L-G. The police intelligence network should be strengthened, both through human and tech intel, with a focus on vulnerable areas prone to radicalisation, said officials.

ED conducts raids linked to former Kerala MLA P V Anvar over alleged money laundering

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Delhi, Nov 21 (UNI) The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday launched extensive searches at multiple locations connected to former Independent MLA P.V. Anvar and his associates. The operation began early in the morning. "The raids are part of a money laundering probe stemming from alleged fraudulent loans sanctioned by the Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) back in 2015," said the ED official.

The probe is examining the generation of proceeds of crime, which are estimated to have caused a loss of ₹22.31 crore to the financial institution, the officials said. The investigation focuses on allegations of disproportionate assets, suspected benami holdings, and the diversion of funds into real estate projects as the agency traces the money trail. Anvar, who served as the Nilambur MLA from 2016 to 2021 with LDF/CPM support, was reportedly present during the searches, which officials described as proceeding peacefully.

NEWS BOX

Harry Brook tries to get away with edge, walks after Smith's DRS review

New Delhi. (Agency)

England vice-captain Harry Brook tried to get away after edging the ball but was forced to walk off after Australia reviewed for a caught-behind decision, bringing his promising 51-run innings to a dramatic end on the opening day of the Perth Test in the Ashes. Brendan Doggett, making his Ashes debut, claimed his first Test wicket by forcing Brook into an awkward tangle with a short ball aimed at the ribs. Brook attempted to sway out of the line but could not get his hands clear. The ball brushed the top glove of his left hand on its way through to Alex Carey. Steve Smith and Carey appealed immediately, although umpire Nitin Menon showed no interest. Even though Doggett himself did not seem convinced, Australia went for the review. Before the RTS technology confirmed a clear spike, Brook had already started walking, aware that the



ball had grazed his glove. The dismissal ended a bright 52 off 61 balls, marking his 24th Test fifty in only his 31st match, and halted England's momentum just as they appeared to settle in. Smith had placed a fielder specifically for Brook's pull shot as soon as the right-hander walked in during the ninth over, but Australia had not tested him often with the short ball. Brook earlier ducked a bouncer from Mitchell Starc that flew down the leg side and later steered one past point to reach a 58-ball half-century. His dismissal while pulling out of a hook is likely to influence Australia's plans when he walks out again in the second innings. England were eventually bowled out for 172 after lunch, with Starc producing a spell of sustained, hostile fast bowling to finish with 7 for 58. The left-arm claimed his 17th Test five-wicket haul, his fifth in the Ashes, raising the ball to the Perth crowd after removing Gus Atkinson with a back-of-a-length delivery that straightened just enough to kiss the edge.

Shubman Gill ruled out of 2nd Test, to seek specialist's opinion on injury in Mumbai

New Delhi. (Agency)

India captain Shubman Gill has been ruled out of the second Test against South Africa in Guwahati, with the BCCI releasing him from the squad on Friday. Gill, who has been dealing with a neck spasm, flew to Mumbai in the morning to consult a specialist for further assessment and injury management. The star batter did not train with the team on Thursday and had been scheduled to undergo a final fitness test on Friday in a late bid to prove his fitness. However, the medical team advised against taking any risks, prompting his withdrawal from the match. Vice-captain Rishabh Pant will lead the Indian side in Guwahati, starting on November 22. "Team India captain Shubman Gill, who suffered a neck injury during the first Test against South Africa, has been ruled out of the second Test in



Guwahati. Gill suffered a neck injury on Day 2 of the Kolkata Test and was taken to the hospital for examination after the end of day's play," the BCCI confirmed in a statement. "He was kept under observation and discharged the next day. He travelled to Guwahati on 19th November, 2025. Unfortunately, he was not fully fit to feature in the 2nd Test and will head to Mumbai for further assessment of his injury. Rishabh Pant will lead the team in the 2nd Test in Gill's absence. "Gill was admitted to the hospital after the second day of the Kolkata Test, having retired hurt after facing only three deliveries in India's first innings. On the morning of the third day, the BCCI confirmed that he would take no further part in the contest. India eventually lost the Test by 30 runs, bowled out for 93 while chasing 124 on a surface offering uneven bounce.

Don't blame batters: Want spinning pitches Then train accordingly, says Rahane

India vs South Africa: Senior batter Ajinkya Rahane contradicted Gautam Gambhir's take on India's loss to South Africa in Kolkata, saying it is unfair to blame the batters for their inability to play on spin-friendly pitches. Rahane added that visiting teams have been preparing better for Tests in India than the home side.

TBILISI. (Agency)

Senior batter Ajinkya Rahane has criticised the Indian team management, led by Gautam Gambhir, for opting for spin-friendly pitches for home Tests when Indian batters are not preparing sufficiently to play on such surfaces. The 37-year-old, who has captained India in the past on similar pitches, highlighted that batters do not get many opportunities to play on turning tracks because there is a shortage of such wickets in

domestic cricket. Rahane contradicted Gambhir's take on India's loss to South Africa in the first Test in Kolkata, saying it was unfair to blame the batters when the Eden Gardens pitch proved difficult for both sides. India lost the series opener in Kolkata by 30 runs, failing to chase 124 in the final innings. Neither side managed to cross the 200-run mark even once in a Test that ended within two-and-a-half days. Head coach Gautam Gambhir defended the pitch even as critics questioned its extreme nature, with batters struggling against uneven bounce and excessive turn. Gambhir insisted that regardless of how the wicket played, he expected his batters to chase 124 in the final innings. Speaking on R. Ashwin's YouTube show, Rahane observed that Indian batters are no longer equipped to play on such turning tracks because of the changing nature of domestic pitches, which are usually either flat or pacer-friendly. "In Tests, we make pitches that turn. But if you have quality spinners, yes, you can make turning wickets. However, you need to understand when they should start turning. If you want wickets that turn from Day 1, then you must have similar

pitches in domestic cricket," Rahane said. "Because if your players are going to play on such wickets in Test matches, they need to experience the same in domestic cricket. Domestically, we generally play on flat or seaming pitches. Very few have been rank



turners. Yes, a couple of red-soil pitches assist turn, but that usually happens from Day 3 onwards. The first two days are good for batting," he added. "Also, when you are playing on spin-friendly pitches, you need to prepare differently. I don't think we can fault the players here. They haven't played on such wickets. Even in practice, they don't train on such pitches," he said.

The Ashes: Mitchell Starc's first-over strike edges him closer to Anderson's record

SYDNEY. (Agency)

Mitchell Starc delivered an absolute classic with the red cherry as he removed Zak Crawley in the very first over of the Ashes opener at Perth on Friday, November 21. The crowd was already buzzing with anticipation, many recalling the unforgettable moment from the 2021 series when Rory Burns was bowled on the opening ball of the Ashes. While history didn't repeat itself exactly this time, the opening over of the 2025 edition still produced the drama fans crave, and Starc ensured the tone for the match was set within minutes. Asked to bowl first, stand-in captain Steve Smith showed no hesitation in tossing the new ball to his most experienced fast bowler. With regular skipper Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood not selected for the first Test, Australia needed someone to take charge of the attack, and Starc stepped forward with total conviction. The left-arm has built his reputation on delivering high-impact opening spells, and on a lively Perth surface, he wasted no time in reminding England of the danger he poses. Starc came



steaming in from ball one, generating pace, movement and steep bounce that forced Crawley into an immediate defensive mindset. The opener, known for his aggressive first-ball boundary attempts, was denied the opportunity this time, pushing the first delivery gently towards point. What followed was a sequence of

probing, menacing deliveries in the mid-140s, each one asking questions of Crawley's technique and judgment. Twice he raised his bat in cautious leaves as the ball whistled past off stump; once he was beaten entirely by a pitched-up outswinger that climbed unexpectedly, even forcing Alex Carey into a reverse-cup take behind the stumps. A crisp drive to mid-off offered brief relief, but by then it was clear Crawley was being dictated to, not dictating terms. THE BIG WICKET

And then came the moment Starc had been building towards. The final delivery of the over was an absolute beauty—143.6kph, back of a length, angled across the right-hander and seaming away late. Crawley, stuck on the crease with minimal foot movement, attempted to punch it on the up through the covers, a shot straight out of the Bazball handbook. Instead, he found a thick edge. At first slip, Usman Khawaja juggled the chance awkwardly as the ball dipped on him, but kept his composure, trapping it against his body to complete the catch. Starc let out a trademark roar, pumping his fists as the crowd rose with him.

Shreyas Iyer to be out of action for 2 more months, cautious rehab plan recommended

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shreyas Iyer will remain out of action for an extended period as fresh medical evaluations have advised him to avoid any high-intensity work and follow a closely monitored, phased rehabilitation programme. The update comes as the India vice-captain continues to recover from the abdominal injury he suffered during the ODI series against Australia. Iyer had landed awkwardly while completing a catch in the third ODI in Sydney on October 25, an incident that immediately raised concern within the Indian camp. The BCCI later confirmed that he had sustained a blunt-force abdominal injury that caused a laceration to his spleen and resulted in internal bleeding. He subsequently underwent a minor procedure to control the bleeding and was moved to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for observation before being discharged once his condition stabilised. Since returning home, Iyer has been under regular medical supervision. India Today has reliably learnt that he

underwent an ultrasonography (USG) scan near his residence earlier this week, with the images reviewed by renowned sports medicine specialist Dr. Dinshaw Pardiwala.



The latest scan brought encouraging signs, with the doctor noting steady progress in Iyer's healing.

Based on the current assessment, Iyer has been cleared to resume normal daily activities and begin basic isometric exercises. However, he has been strictly advised to avoid any form of training that could elevate intra-abdominal pressure for at least the next month—an essential precaution to prevent aggravating the spleen injury. His recovery plan also includes another USG scan at the two-month mark. Only after the results of the next scan will he be allowed to begin structured rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru, ensuring his return to full fitness is handled with precision and care. Given the timeline, it is now evident that Iyer will be sidelined for a minimum of two to three more months. As a result, he is set to miss the upcoming ODI series against South Africa and New Zealand, with his participation in later assignments dependent on the pace of his recovery.

Ashes 1st Test: Starc destroys England with 7 wickets after hitting special 100

Spain scored 21 goals in qualifying while conceding just twice and have not tasted defeat in a national record 31 consecutive games.

SEVILLE. (Agency)

Left-arm fast bowler Mitchell Starc won the opening round of the much-anticipated Ashes series in Perth, landing heavy blows on England's batting order. The 35-year-old took a five-wicket haul on Day 1 of the first Test after England won the toss and opted to bat, and he eventually finished with seven wickets. Starc's figures of 7 for 58 saw England bowled out for just 172. It was a disappointing showing from the visitors, who lasted only 32.5 overs in their first innings of the series as Bazball crumbled in the face of high-quality pace. Harry Brook

showed resistance with a half-century, while Ollie Pope and Jamie Smith crossed the 30-run mark, but England lacked backbone in the middle order. They lost their last five wickets for just 12 runs in what proved to be an embarrassing batting display in Bazball's debut on Australian soil. Starc had been expected to shoulder the responsibility of leading Australia's pace attack, with Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood ruled out due to injury concerns. The seasoned spearhead rose to the occasion when his team needed him most, claiming five wickets after sending down 12 overs in the first session alone. The left-arm ran riot on the Optus Stadium pitch, which offered significant pace and bounce. Starc ensured the largely Australian crowd at Perth Stadium erupted as early as the opening over, removing England opener Zak Crawley for 0. With a length ball that angled across the right-hander, Starc found the outside edge, which was safely taken by



Usman Khawaja. He then accounted for the dangerous Ben Duckett, ending a 33-run stand for the second wicket by trapping the left-hander LBW for 21. ROOT'S AUSSIE HORROR CONTINUES

Starc also delivered the biggest strike of the morning session by dismissing England's all-time leading run-scorer, Joe Root, for 0, as the former captain's woes Down Under continued. It was not the statement that Root would have wanted to make after an Aussie tabloid called him 'Average Joe'. Root was squared up by a delivery that swung in late

HOLD A 10-DAY CAMP BEFORE HOME TESTS'

Rahane also pointed out that overseas teams are preparing better for Test matches in India. He said Indian teams are not giving their own batters enough time to adjust to spin-friendly conditions and urged the management to consider 10- to 15-day camps before every Test series. Why are we doing well overseas? Because our preparation for touring abroad is good. We play on seaming and bouncy wickets," he said. "But for spinning pitches, we haven't prepared as well. So, it has been really challenging for our batters to play on such wickets. Yes, home advantage should be used. We need to bring the spinners into play. But we also need to prepare our batters. Hold a 10- to 15-day camp and start preparing for that. Look at England and New Zealand's preparations. They had camps. England had a camp in Dubai. New Zealand camped in India. "But we assemble only three or four days before a Test match and still expect our batters to do well?" he added.

Australian Open: Lakshya Sen overcomes compatriot Ayush Shetty to enter semis

AUCKLAND. (Agency)

World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya Sen booked his place in the semifinals of the Australian Open Super 500 after defeating fellow Indian shuttler Ayush Shetty in straight games in their quarterfinal clash on Friday. The seventh seed, who had also beaten Shetty at the same stage of the Hong Kong Open earlier this year, prevailed 23-21, 21-11 in a 53-minute contest. With this win, Sen remains the only Indian left in the men's singles draw after early exits for his senior compatriots. Sen will now face Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei, the world No. 9 and second seed. Chou reached the last four after coming from behind to beat Indonesia's Farhan Alwi 13-21, 23-21, 21-16 in a match lasting one hour and 23 minutes. Alwi had earlier knocked out Indian veteran H.S. Prannoy in the round of 16, underlining the



depth in the field. The opening game between Sen and Shetty was a tight, momentum-shifting battle. Sen, 26, trailed 6-9 and 9-10 before reeling off four points to take a 13-10 lead. But Shetty, this year's US Open Super 300 champion, kept coming back, repeatedly overturning the deficit. The pair were level at 21-all before Sen held his nerve to seal it 23-21. Shetty's persistence forced long rallies and several swings in momentum, but Sen's experience showed in the key moments. His composure under pressure helped him navigate the tense exchanges and take control of the match. The second game saw a clear shift as Sen raced to a 6-1 lead and steadily widened the gap to 15-7. With Shetty unable to sustain the intensity of the first game, Sen closed out the contest 21-11, maintaining the pressure throughout to complete the win in under an hour. Sen is now aiming to build on a season in which he reached the Hong Kong Open final but is still searching for his first title of the year. His run in Sydney stands out all the more after the exits of Prannoy and Kidambi Srikanth in earlier rounds.

Ashes 1st Test: Starc destroys England with 7 wickets after hitting special 100

as Starc was breathing fire with the new ball. With his duck in the series opener, Root now averages 34.30 with 892 runs in 28 innings (15 Tests) in Australia, which is in stark contrast to his career average of 51.10. Starc was given long spells by Steve Smith, the stand-in captain, who went for the kill with his strike bowler, knowing England were shaken after the opening burst. England went to lunch at 105 for 4 after Cameron Green joined the party and got the wicket of Ollie Pope, who made 46 in the first session. It was a crucial strike as England were building a partnership after Starc nipped out three early wickets. In an excellent decision, Smith persisted with Starc after the lunch break. The reward was big as Starc got England captain Ben Stokes out for 6 with a wonderfully executed cross-seamer. The ball pitched outside off stump and shaped back in to sneak through the gap between Ben Stokes' bat and pads.

India Leads Real Estate Investment Momentum In Asia-Pacific: Report

New Delhi.(Agency)

Institutional investments worth \$5-7 billion are projected to be made each in 2025 and 2026 in the Indian real estate sector by foreign and domestic investors due to robust domestic economic growth, rising urbanisation and infrastructure augmentation, a report said on Friday. APAC-focused capital raising has surged over 130 per cent since 2024, representing 11 per cent of global fundraising in Q1-Q3 2025, the report from real estate services firm Colliers said. Regarding the Indian real estate market, Vimal Nadar, National Director and Head of Research, Colliers India said, "Industrial and Logistics segment will likely see renewed momentum. Amongst alternative assets, the data centres are likely to see increased investments, driven by the rapid expansion of digital infrastructure and hyperscale demand." Cross-border capital will continue to remain a critical driver, as India consolidates its position as one of the emerging destinations for stable, long-term real estate investment in the APAC region, he added. Office and residential assets are expected to contribute nearly 60 per cent of investment in 2025, driven by sustained occupier activity and a healthy supply pipeline, with industrial and logistics and data centres also drawing interest.

Equity markets are further enhancing liquidity and creating alternate investment opportunities through REITs and IPOs, which are further fuelling cross-border participation in Indian real estate.

Global investors are re-entering real estate markets pursuing diversification across regions and segments and shifting allocations to Asia Pacific, with India emerging as a favoured destination, the report said.

The survey of institutional investors found that market fundamentals are improving, liquidity is returning, and pricing expectations are normalising on a global level. While established markets such as Japan, Australia and Singapore remain popular, emerging markets, particularly India, are gaining attention as destinations for higher returns.

Institutional investments in Indian real estate have remained resilient, totalling \$4.3 billion during the first nine months of 2025, supported by steady momentum through the first three quarters, said the report.

Adani's arbitration plan stalled in Dhaka — why it raises fresh questions over the cross-border power pact

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Bangladesh's High Court has on Thursday put a temporary stop to the Adani Group's move to initiate arbitration in Singapore over a dispute linked to its 2017 power supply agreement with the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB). The order pauses any steps toward international arbitration until a court-appointed committee completes an ongoing review of the contract and submits its findings. The court's intervention carries significant implications for both the power sector and cross-border investment. The Godda plant in India supplies roughly 10 percent of Bangladesh's electricity demand, making the underlying contract crucial for system stability. Any prolonged stand-off could affect payment flows and complicate Bangladesh's procurement planning, especially if the review raises questions about pricing or contractual compliance. The injunction also sends a signal to foreign investors that high-value energy deals signed in previous political cycles may face fresh scrutiny, potentially influencing the way new power purchase agreements (PPAs) or long-term supply agreements are negotiated. The legal implications are equally important. Adani had sought to take its dispute with BPDB to the Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC), citing a clause in the power purchase agreement that designates SIAC as the forum for resolving disagreements. By restraining the company from proceeding, the High Court has effectively placed the domestic review above the contract's dispute-resolution pathway, at least temporarily. If the committee uncovers irregularities or recommends changes, Bangladesh could attempt to reopen parts of the agreement, altering the dynamics of any future arbitration or negotiations.

Govt goes soft on quality control measures as industry faces high input cost, US tariff

New Delhi.(Agency)

With the industry grappling with high input costs and US tariffs, the government has relaxed Quality Control Order (QCO) requirements on several raw and intermediary goods used by domestic manufacturers. After easing quality control rules on 14 petrochemicals, industrial raw materials, and several polymer and fibre intermediates, the government on Thursday relaxed norms for specified steel products as well. The steel ministry had earlier granted an exemption from mandatory QCO compliance for certain steel products with a Bill of Lading dated on or before 31 October 2025. This exemption has now been extended to imports with a Bill of Lading dated on or before 31 March 2026.

According to experts, the government has been compelled to relax quality norms largely because domestic industry is facing the double whammy of high US tariffs and elevated raw material costs.

"The QCO was introduced to address the risk of dumping poor-quality goods and inputs. However, it has resulted in unintended consequences for domestic manufacturers, including higher input costs and delays in sourcing. These issues have been exacerbated by tariff challenges," said Ranen Banerjee, Partner and Economic Advisory Leader, PwC India. A Quality Control Order is a government mandate that requires specific products to meet Indian standards and obtain a Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) licence for manufacturing, sale, or import.

Recipe for trouble Zomato's customer data move stirs up controversy

Zomato customer data: Food delivery giant Zomato has decided to start sharing customer data with restaurants. Politicians and marketing gurus have called it a recipe for trouble, expressing concerns about data privacy.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Attention foodies! Use code xxx to enjoy a flat Rs 200 off on your favourite dishes the next time you visit us. Such promotional messages could soon flood your inbox as food delivery giant Zomato has decided to start sharing customer data with restaurants, ending a years-long tussle with the restaurant industry. The issue has already cooked up a storm, with

politicians and marketing gurus expressing concerns about data privacy and potential misuse of customer information. Zomato is in advanced talks with the National Restaurants Association of India (NRAI), an umbrella body of over 5,00,000 restaurants, to start sharing customer data with eateries. Similar discussions are also on with Zomato's rival, Swiggy, a report in Business Today said.

WHAT WILL ZOMATO DO?

Currently, food delivery platforms mask customer data, meaning restaurants don't have access to your phone number and other personal details. For several years, the issue has been at the centre of dispute between aggregators and restaurants. As a pilot, Zomato has started sending pop-ups to customers asking for permission to share their phone number with restaurants for marketing and promotional messages. However, once shared, the user can't withdraw the information. "I allow restaurants to reach

out to me for promotional activities," the text reads. **WHAT DO RESTAURANTS WANT**

This left a bitter taste in the mouth of the



restaurants. The NRAI previously lodged a complaint before the Competition Commission of India (CCI) against Zomato and Swiggy over what it called "anti-competitive practices". The restaurant's body also flagged instances of deep discounting and steep commissions,

which shot up to 35% in some cases, by the food aggregators. In fact, the emergence and wide acceptance of food delivery platforms like Zomato, where one can receive their favourite biryani or paneer tikka from the comfort of their homes, has been the most significant disruption to the restaurant sector. And it is only about to grow, with reports predicting a growth of 18% year-on-year. The main grouse of the restaurants has been that masking of data prevented them from directly engaging with the customers. Sharing of key details will enable them to better understand consumption patterns and personalise them for customers. It will also enable restaurants to channel their marketing costs properly. For example, restaurants could call the user directly if there is any problem with the food order or if they want to confirm any preferences.

Sensex, Nifty fall in early trade as hopes of US rate cut fade

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark indices opened Friday on a weak note, tracking losses across Asian markets, after US jobs data failed to offer clarity on the Federal Reserve's rate cut outlook.

Around 9:23 am, the S&P BSE Sensex was down 131 points at 85,501.03, while the NSE Nifty50 slipped 40.70 points to 26,151.45. Volatility was high in early trade and all major sectoral indices were in the red, reflecting the cautious mood on Dalal Street. According to Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, market volatility has picked up sharply. He pointed to the Nasdaq falling 2.15 percent on Thursday and losing 4.4 percent from its intraday peak. He said this kind of movement usually signals more turbulence ahead. Concerns about stretched valuations in AI stocks have triggered bubble warnings, although Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has pushed back against that narrative. Vijayakumar said fresh buying in AI counters could reappear if valuations turn attractive. He also flagged excessive speculative trading in



doubles in 6 years. Sujay concludes his post with the message, "You have to accept the truth. You do not get wealthy by working harder. You get rich by letting your money work faster."

Netizens Reactions

The post has received widespread response on social media. One user commented that the Rule of 72 makes the impact of returns impossible to ignore. It shows how small percentage shifts can change entire timelines. Another user commented that the Rule of 72 is a sharp reminder of how small return differences shape long term outcomes. A third user said that the Rule of 72 is financial literacy 101. A simple change in return saves decades of waiting.

Rule Of 72: Analyst Explains World's Simplest Wealth Formula; Find Out How Many Years It Takes For Your Money To Double

New Delhi.(Agency)

Analyst Sujay U claims that one simple formula can predict your financial destiny in just 10 seconds. Sujay said that the rule of 72 is the simplest wealth formula in the world which indicates the precise time it takes for your money to double.

Sujay took to LinkedIn to describe the rule of 72 that explains how long it takes for money to double. He said that according to the rule divide 72 by your annual return to check the years it takes to double your money. At a 2 percent return money takes 36 years to double. At a 4 percent return money takes 18 years to double. At an 8 percent return money takes 9 years to double. At a 10 percent return money takes 7.2 years to double. At a 12 percent return money takes 6

years to double. Sujay claims that a simple change in your return can spare them decades of waiting. He said that most people keep their money in savings accounts that earn 2 to 3 percent or in FDs that earn 5 to 6 percent. However, the Indian equity market (Nifty 50) has historically delivered a 12 percent CAGR. He said that at 3 percent your money doubles in 24 years and at 12 percent their money

From Rs 70 LPA To 0: Indian Techie With 18 Years Experience Fails To Get Job For 7 Months

New Delhi.(Agency)

An Indian techie having over 18 years of experience has become hopeless after failing to get a job. After being fired by a Nifty50 company, the mid-level manager who was earning around 70 lakh annually is now back to zero. The techie took to Reddit to share his job searching difficulties of what he calls "depressing last 7 months". The techie was fired by one of the Nifty50 companies due to restructuring. He said, "Have over 18 years of experience in multiple industries in implementing new tech. Been through boardroom digital revolution and it worked well." The Redditor claimed that he used to earn around 70 lakh annually from the company but now he is back to zero with savings quickly running out and a runway of only two months. "Was making around 70Lpa seven months back, now I am back to zero. My savings are depleting really fast and have a runway of just 2 months," he wrote. The Redditor said that everyone in his family is stressed

and upset about the situation. He had recently bought a bigger house but had to rent it to someone else as he was unable to pay the EMI without his job. The Redditor said he has tried LinkedIn,



Naukri, references and consultants but nothing has worked. "Sadly I am not even getting any calls. In the past 7 months I have only got some calls from consultants and got only 2 interviews," he wrote.

The techie stated that he is ready to work at a lower pay but he is not receiving calls from any company. "At this level even friends cannot help much in getting a job as options are few. I am

even okay for lower pay but not even getting calls. It is all crashing down and I am hopeless now."

Netizens Reactions

The post has received widespread response on social media with many sharing their personal experiences of being unemployed and others advising him to upgrade his skills to meet market demands. One user commented, "I am going through something similar. 11 years of experience in the software industry. I am not getting any calls. Referrals are not working. Not sure what is wrong. I hope and pray things work out for you." Another user commented, "Learn new skills. Look at job market, what is in demand. Try to learn those skills and upgrade. Project Manager jobs are actively getting automated." You are not getting selected because you are probably over qualified for most jobs you applied. Change your experience and titles as per job requirements," commented one user.

several newly listed Indian stocks. He said retail investors should stay away from such trades because they usually end badly for most participants. His suggested strategy in the current environment is to accumulate fairly valued, high-quality stocks on declines and remain patient. He added that India has lagged in this year's global AI trade. If the AI frenzy cools and money rotates into non-AI sectors, India could benefit. However, a sharp global correction would weigh on all markets, including India. He advised investors to wait and watch how the situation evolves. Anand James, Chief Market Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, said Nifty's breakout above its month-long range improves the chances of a move towards 26,550 in the near term. However, Thursday's brief push above the upper Bollinger band followed by a quick pullback suggests limited upside today. He said Nifty needs to hold 26,237 to maintain positive momentum. Failure to stay above this level or an immediate decline below 26,160 could allow bears to take control, with downside expectations of 26,028 to 25,984.

The Great IPO Gamble: How GMP and social media hype mislead so many first-time investors

New Delhi.(Agency)

Conversations about initial public offerings (IPOs) have slowly become part of everyday life. Families talk about them at dinner, colleagues check updates during tea breaks, and groups on Telegram and WhatsApp buzz with excitement every time a new issue opens. In many of these conversations, one number dominates. The grey market premium, better known as GMP. It looks simple, spreads quickly and feels like an easy way to judge whether an IPO might list strong or weak. For many new investors, GMP seems like a shortcut to understanding market sentiment. But few know where it comes from or how unreliable it can be. **WHAT EXACTLY IS GMP?**

GMP is an unofficial price at which IPO shares trade privately before listing. These trades are not done on NSE or BSE. They happen informally between a small group of market participants. There is no regulator verifying these prices and no guarantee that they reflect real demand. Ratnaj Tibrewal explains this clearly. "GMP is entirely informal and unregulated, so it often reflects speculative sentiment rather than real

demand," he says. He points to the recent Lenskart issue where "despite a GMP of one hundred eight at its peak, Lenskart's IPO GMP crashed to zero before listing, signalling that early hype can evaporate." Tarun Singh makes a similar point about the nature of GMP. "Retail investors must learn to treat GMP as market noise not a decision-making tool. It is an informal, unregulated sentiment quote that neither captures true institutional demand nor reliably predicts listing day outcomes," he tells IndiaToday.in.

WHY INVESTORS KEEP FALLING FOR GMP

Many investors rely on GMP because it feels simple. Tibrewal says, "GMP feels tangible and immediate. Investors see a high number and assume strong listing gains," even though the number has no official basis. Singh explains the psychological pull behind it. "GMP offers a seductive simplicity. A single, easily digestible number like GMP plus one hundred fifty appears to convert the complexity of a four hundred-page prospectus into a

simple yes or no call," he says. He adds that this illusion of certainty is powerful for new investors.

FOG OF GMP

Tibrewal points out that GMP is wrong



more often than most retail investors realise. "Quite often," he says, "for example, Paytm's GMP suggested a strong premium, but the stock listed at a sharp discount to its IPO price."

Singh highlights how the disconnect has grown. "Empirically, the disconnect is widening. The recent IPO cycle is replete with examples. Issues like NSDL, Orkla

India and Tata Capital saw healthy GMPs but flat or negative listings. Conversely, a company like Grown listed far above its muted GMP," he says. He explains the reason clearly. "GMP is frequently wrong in both direction and magnitude because it is set days in advance and cannot incorporate late breaking macro events or real institutional flow data."

CAN GMP BE INFLUENCED?

Because the grey market is unregulated, it can be influenced by a small group of traders. Tibrewal says, "Insiders or well-connected traders can inflate GMP through coordinated trades or hype, drawing in retail investors based on misrepresentations of demand."

Singh agrees that the structure makes it vulnerable. "Absolutely. The grey market is informal and operates outside Sebi's purview, making it structurally vulnerable to manipulation. A small pool of traders or vested interests can quote inflated premiums and circulate them through chat groups and portals," he says.



Ayesha Khan's Candid Chat With Sushant Singh Has Our Attention, Any New Project On The Cards?



Ayesha Khan, who rose to stardom on *Bigg Boss 17*, continues to wow us with her genuine performances in various projects. With a slew of more projects lined up, the actress was spotted at a gathering. What caught everyone's attention was Ayesha's interaction with actor Sushant Singh at the event. Ayesha Khan and Sushant Singh were seen greeting each other very warmly. While it was not clear what they were talking about, the duo was seen holding hands and suggestively Sushant was motivating the actress. Ayesha appeared a bit nervous and the duo were seen having a candid chat.

Ayesha was seen in a white semi formal dress while Sushant sported a casual look in a blue denim and white tee. He was also seen flaunting a full black and white beard and hair.

Ayesha Khan's Career So Far

The actress made her debut in *Balveer Returns*, but her career took off after her appearance on *Bigg Boss 17*. Ayesha became immensely popular throughout her stint on the show. She's also appeared in films including *Sunny Deol's Jaat*. She appeared in the drama *Dil Ko Rafu Kar Lei*, in which Karan V. Grover had a key role. Dreamiyata Entertainment, which is owned by Sargun Mehta and Ravie Dubey, produced it.

Ayesha Khan's Upcoming Projects

She has completed filming her forthcoming movie starring Sunny Kaushal and Ashish Verma. The untitled picture is supposed to be a detective comedy, and it will be released later this year. Aside from the trio, the upcoming film also has Nimrit Kaur and Medha Shankar in key roles.

The film's title and formal release date have yet to be revealed. Ayesha Khan has also been cast in *Kis Kisko Pyaar Karoon 2*. Abbas Mustan had directed the first film, which stars Sai Lokur, Jamie Lever, Arbaaz Khan, Elli Avram, Varun Sharma, Manjari Fadnis, Simran Kaur Mundi, Supriya Pathak, Sharat Saxena and Manoj Joshi.



Kriti Sanon

Calls Dhanush 'Incredible' In *Tere Ishk Mein*: 'We Have Created Some Magical Moments'

As the AR Rahman album from *Tere Ishk Mein* continues to trend and the trailer garners massive applause, the buzz around the film is at an all-time peak. Fans can't get enough of the chemistry between Dhanush and Kriti, with their new pairing becoming a major highlight ahead of release. Riding on this wave of excitement, Kriti opened up about her working experience with Dhanush, revealing the strong creative bond that shaped many of the film's moments.

Speaking about her experience working with Dhanush, Kriti shares, "I think Dhanush is an incredible actor. I have always been an admirer of his talent and his craft. I believe he has a very strong grasp of his craft. He's very nuanced; he has also directed a lot of films, bringing a wealth of experience and understanding to scenes and how they will translate on screen. He really brings out a lot of layers in his character and I was very excited to work with him. I knew I'm going to have an actor who I can really feed off of... that is exactly what happened. And we had not met before, and even Shankar and Mukti in the film at a point had not met before, so that worked out!"

Adding further about their on-screen dynamic and the process of creating powerful performances, she continues, "We have some really intense scenes, a lot of really long scenes that can, you know, translate when both of us feed off each other."

He's really collaborative as an actor and really helpful. I think together we have created some magical moments and felt it when the scene happened. Both of us would look at each other and go, 'That was a good scene!' I have really enjoyed working with him and I hope we do a lot more work in the future."

Presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Colour Yellow, *Tere Ishk Mein* is produced by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar. The film is directed by Aanand L Rai and written by Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav. It's an A.R. Rahman musical with lyrics penned by Irshad Kamil. Starring Dhanush and Kriti Sanon, the film is scheduled to release worldwide in Hindi and Tamil on November 28, 2025.



For Farah Khan, The 'Best Type Of Shoot' Includes Her Friends, Some Good Food And Lots Of 'Gossip'



What's the best type of shoot for Farah Khan? The choreographer-turned-director, currently in the limelight for her lighthearted cooking vlogs, revealed the same in a social media post. In a picture she posted on her Instagram account on Thursday, November 20, Farah was seen posing for a group photo alongside the team of the upcoming film *Gustaak Ishq*.

Manish Malhotra, making his debut as a producer with the romantic period drama directed by Vibhu Puri, was seen taking a picture with Vijay Varma, Fatima Sana Shaikh and Farah standing next to him. The fashion designer hosted them at his home.

While Manish wore a blue outfit, Farah opted for a brown one. Meanwhile, Vijay and Fatima went all out with their ensembles. While the Dahaad actor wore an ivory kurta with a peach-coloured detailing at the border, Fatima wore a traditional outfit in the same peach colour and looked absolutely stunning.

Farah Khan Shares She Shot A Vlog With The Three

In the caption, the *Om Shanti Om* director wrote, "Best type of shoot day.. food, friends n gossip with #gustaakishq .. n oh, we shot a vlog too with the best host @manishmalhotra05 n @itsvijayvarma @fatimasanashaih," followed by three red heart emojis. As revealed by Farah herself, fans can expect a vlog of this meeting on her YouTube channel soon.

Gustaak Ishq: Plot And Cast

Gustaak Ishq, set to hit theatres on November 28, also features Naseeruddin Shah and Sharib Hashmi. The film's trailer, released a few days ago, opened with Vijay Varma's character visiting Naseeruddin Shah's home to learn Urdu poetry. In the course of learning, he falls in love with Fatima Sana Shaikh's character. However, the situation takes a turn when a loan shark raises concerns about Vijay Varma's deteriorating financial condition. The trailer ends on a heartbreaking note as Fatima Sana Shaikh bids farewell to Vijay Varma over their differences.

Raj Kundra Hits Back After Netizen

Says Shilpa Shetty Joined Padyatra To 'Wash Off Sins' Amid Fraud Case



Businessman Raj Kundra has hit back at a social media user who claimed that his wife, actor Shilpa Shetty, participated in a recent padyatra to repair her public image. The couple, currently named in an ongoing ₹60-crore fraud investigation, has been under public scrutiny for weeks. Kundra addressed the accusation on X (formerly Twitter), criticising what he described as trolling disguised as moral commentary.

How The Controversy Began

The incident started when a netizen posted photos of several celebrities, including Shilpa Shetty, Rajpal Yadav, Ekta Kapoor, and cricketer Shikhar Dhawan, attending a foot march led by Dhirendra Shastri from Delhi to Vrindavan. The user claimed that the presence of these stars was an attempt to seek goodwill because each had faced legal cases or allegations in the past.

The post specifically alleged that Shilpa Shetty was attempting an image makeover while also referring to accusations against other participants. The user suggested that celebrities with "pending cases" were turning to religious events to "wash away their sins," implying their participation was strategic rather than spiritual.

Raj Kundra's Strong Response

Raj Kundra dismissed the claims, stating that people often confuse allegations with established guilt. He wrote that assumptions made by trolls were being treated as facts and called it "noise created by people living in bitterness."

He emphasised that attending a spiritual march should not be misinterpreted as a publicity move, adding that faith does not require justification. Kundra argued that expressing devotion should not bother anyone unless they hold preconceived resentment. He reaffirmed that the legal process would unfold separately from online speculation and advised trolls to reflect on their negativity.

Where the Case Stands

The fraud case against Raj Kundra and Shilpa Shetty stems from a complaint filed by businessman Deepak Kothari, director of Lotus Capital Financial Services Ltd. The complaint alleges that the couple accepted funds under the pretext of business expansion but used the money for personal purposes instead. The total amount in question exceeds ₹60 crore.

How to know if your

child

is deficient in these

5 essential

vitamins

Ensuring that your child gets the right proportion of nutrients will ensure proper growth, development, and well-being. While most parents are eager to see to it that their children eat enough food at each given chance, vitamin deficiencies slip through cracks leading to long-term health issues. Such vitamins include vitamin D, which play important roles in immune function, bone health, and cognitive development. Therefore, it is absolutely essential to know early signs of deficiency. The following are the five most essential vitamins and how to identify when your child may be deficient in them.

1. Vitamin D: Essential for bone health

Vitamin D is one of the notable requirements for the growth and immune system of your child. It also facilitates an easy intake of calcium for your body, which serves as an enhancement for the growth of firm bones. You may observe that your child is low in vitamin D by traits that include bone pain and weakness in the muscles, or even poor growth and development. If your child often falls ill or is prone to infections, this might be a signal that she/he might not be getting enough vitamin D. Sources that provide good amounts of vitamin D include exposure to sunlight and foods such as fortified milk and eggs, though in some children, supplements may be the best way of ensuring they get adequate amounts. According to the National Institutes of Health, deficiency in vitamin D is common in children who spend most of their time indoors.

2. Vitamin A: For healthy vision and skin Vitamin A acts similarly and plays a critical role in healthy vision, skin, and immune function. A deficiency can cause night blindness, dry skin, and even recurring infections. If your child usually complains of difficulty seeing in dim light or has dry, rough skin, it could be a sign of vitamin A deficiency. This vitamin is found in food staples such as carrots, sweet potatoes, and spinach. These nutrients will be sufficiently supplemented through continued consumption of these food items, but a severe deficiency may need supplementation. As per the study published in *Frontiers*, The clinical manifestations of vitamin A deficiency (VAD) involve night blindness, bitot's spots, corneal xerosis, and corneal scars. It is the most important cause of preventable childhood blindness among



children and causes morbidity and mortality

3. Vitamin C: Boosting immunity Vitamin C is an antioxidant in the body that fights infections and helps heal wounds. Deficiency in vitamin C may manifest as bleeding gums, dry skin, or slow healing of wounds. In extreme cases, it leads to scurvy, which will be accompanied by aching joints and lack of energy, perhaps drowsiness. Good sources include orange, strawberry, and bell peppers. These foodstuffs will make sure that your child gets the nutrients to keep them in a healthy condition about their immunity. Such diets are

also favoured in children by the World Health Organization that keeps common illnesses at bay.

4. Vitamin B12: For cognitive function

Vitamin B12 is vital for brain development and the production of red blood cells. Lack of B12 leads to frequent bouts of weakness, lassitude, poor concentration, pale skin, or even neurological issues. Vegetarians and children who have a limited diet may be at higher risk for B12 deficiency. Foods rich in vitamin B12 are generally sources of meat, dairy, and fortified breakfast cereals. If your child shows signs of tiredness or cannot concentrate, you may need to check your child's B12 level.

5. Folate: For healthy cell growth

Folate, or vitamin B9, is essential for healthy cell growth and development. A lack of folate can cause poor growth, fatigue, and irritability. It's particularly important during times of rapid growth, such as in infancy and adolescence. Foods like leafy greens, beans, and fortified cereals are good sources of folate. Research from the National Institutes of Health links folate deficiency with developmental delays and increased risk of anemia in children. If your child shows signs of low energy or growth delays, it could be a sign of a folate deficiency.

When to see a doctor In case you notice symptoms similar to those of vitamin deficiency, see a pediatrician. A pediatrician can easily determine whether your child is deficient in any of the essential vitamins by simply conducting a blood test. Then again, your child's diet may also be adjusted for a proper round-up of nutrients. They can help monitor your child regularly to detect any forms of deficiencies early before they cause long-term health issues. Your child requires the right mix of vitamins for growth and development. If any deficiency is suspected, then keep an eye out on symptoms such as fatigue, skin issues, or slow growth. Provide a nutrient-rich diet to your child and supplement them as required to help support your child's health to grow robustly and healthily.

Applying sunscreen to prevent skin cancer? 6 habits you should strictly follow



Every day, people cover huge portions of their bodies with sunscreen. As a basic rule, sunscreen should be applied 20 minutes before venturing outside in order to maximize its advantages. Sunscreen use lowers the incidence of melanoma and squamous cell skin cancers, according to a number of well-conducted, long-term follow-up randomized controlled trials by the National Library of Medicine.

Commercial sunscreens use chemical or physical components to guard against UV radiation's detrimental effects on the skin. As part of a comprehensive photoprotection strategy, the Canadian Dermatology Association advises most adults and children to use a sufficient amount of a broad-spectrum sunscreen with a UV protection factor of at least 30. Besides using sunscreen, here are 6 simple yet effective habits that help us prevent skin cancer:

Avoid sun in peak hours

According to Dr. Akshay Tiwari, Senior Director, Musculoskeletal Oncology, Max Super Speciality Hospital, Saket, "There are many other ways to avoid exposure to sunlight, such as avoiding exposure to sun in peak hours from 10 am to 4 pm, especially during summers. Use of long-sleeved shirts, pants instead of shorts, use of wide hats, and sunglasses are some of these."

Prevent direct heat to body

Avoid habits that expose the skin of a particular area to repeated injury; for example, prolonged exposure to heat by using heating devices (like Kangri) continuously over one particular area for months or years is known to cause skin cancer. Keep the source of heat indirect, give intermittent periods of relief, and keep changing the area exposed.

Get regular checkups of scars

Persons having old scars (like old burns or extensive scars from old injuries) may develop skin cancer in the scarred area. Regular self-/medical examination should be done for these scars; any new ulcer that doesn't heal in 2-3 weeks should be examined by a specialist, who will biopsy it if needed.

Always keep your weight in check

Keeping a check on weight is essential, as the increased belly fat can be a gateway to many serious health complications. Maintaining a healthy weight and a healthy diet rich in vegetables, fruits, nuts, and antioxidants is also recommended, as with other cancers.

Get a biopsy

Take a look at your body and skin for any significant changes. Any ulcer or new skin lesion that doesn't heal in 2-3 weeks should be subjected to a biopsy to rule out skin cancer.

