

'Centuries-old wounds are healing', says PM Modi after hoisting saffron flag at Ayodhya Ram temple

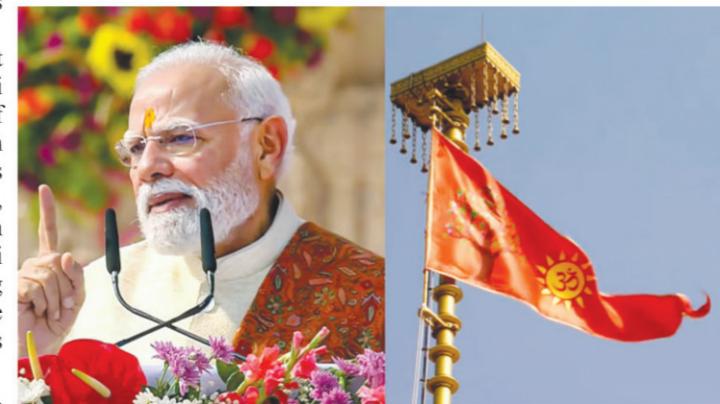
Before the flag hoisting ceremony, the Prime Minister held a roadshow from the Maharishi Valmiki International Airport to the temple complex.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the "wounds and pain of centuries are healing today" as he ceremonially hoisted a saffron Dharma flag atop the newly built Ram temple in Ayodhya, marking the formal completion of its construction.

Describing the moment as the fulfilment of a 500-year-old resolve, PM Modi said the flag embodied the ideals of Lord Ram and symbolised the triumph of truth and righteousness. Modi was joined by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel, and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath during the flag-hoisting ritual. The event took place during the 'Abhijit Muhurat', a period regarded as auspicious in Hindu tradition.

The right-angled triangular flag, measuring 10 feet by 20 feet, carries an intricate design featuring a radiant Sun, the sacred 'Om' symbol, and the Kovidar tree. According to temple authorities, the saffron colour represents fire, sacrifice, and the rising sun, emblems of spiritual strength and dedication. Calling the moment "epochal," the prime minister said



Ayodhya was witnessing another historic milestone and added that "the entire country and the world are immersed in Ram." Modi said the sacred flag would stand as a testament that "truth ultimately triumphs over falsehood," and

He said that by 2047, when India completes 100 years of Independence, the country must achieve the goal of becoming a developed nation, adding that "we will have to awaken the Ram within us" to realise this vision.

Modi stressed the need to take pride in India's civilisational heritage and "break free from the mentality of slavery," calling for a decisive effort over the next 10 years to shed inherited inferiority complexes. He said the influence of Macaulay's legacy persisted long after Independence, asserting that India must rid itself of this mindset to progress.

Rejecting what he termed a "distortion" that democracy was borrowed from abroad, Modi said, "India is the birthplace of democracy and it is embedded in our DNA." Before the flag hoisting ceremony, the Prime Minister held a roadshow from the Maharishi Valmiki International

Airport to the temple complex. A large number of residents and devotees, including women and youth, lined the route, showering flower petals as Modi's convoy passed amid heavy security deployment. Many waved the tricolour, while others held BJP flags with the lotus emblem.

congratulated Ram 'bhakts' along with all those who contributed to the construction of the temple. Prime Minister Modi said, "Our Ram does not discriminate, and we too are moving forward with the same spirit," urging citizens to embrace inclusivity as the nation advances.

CM Rekha Flags Off the Sacred Procession on the Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, 25 November 2025

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta yesterday flagged off the grand 'Hind Ki Chadar' sacred procession organised on the occasion of the 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The procession will commence from Gurudwara Sisganj Sahib and proceed up to Gurudwara Anandpur Sahib in Punjab. Throughout the journey, devotees will offer their tributes to Guru Ji by reflecting upon his teachings, his ideals, and his unparalleled sacrifice



in the defence of faith. On this occasion, the Chief Minister bowed before the entire sangat (devotees) and said that may Guru Ji's grace always remain upon everyone, and may every life be filled with happiness, prosperity and peace. Before flagging off the bus carrying the procession, she paid obeisance to Guru Sahib, sought his blessings, and conveyed her good wishes to all the travellers.

The Chief Minister said that this historic event not only reminds us of the indomitable courage and sacrifice of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji but also inspires us to follow the path

he showed and upheld the values of faith, peace and equality in society. She added that Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's sacrifice stands as a beacon of light for the protection of humanity and the values of truth, not just for the Sikh faith alone. He is revered as

the 'Hind Ki Chadar' because he laid down his life to safeguard the nation's religious freedom and dignity. The Chief Minister appealed to all devotees and citizens to spread the message of brotherhood and tolerance in society by following Guru Ji's ideals. Extending her best wishes, she said that may Guru Ji's blessings always remain upon everyone, and may every life be filled with happiness, prosperity and peace. The gathering echoed with spirited chants of "Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh" as the procession moved forward.

Op Sindoos was in line with Lord Krishna's message of righteous rule: Rajnath

New Delhi.(Agency)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said Operation Sindoos was a military act in consonance with the teachings of Lord Krishna for the establishment of righteous rule — a proclamation of India's self-commitment and self-respect in the aftermath of the Pulwama terror attack.

Speaking at the 10th International Gita Conference in Haryana's Kurukshetra, Rajnath said: "The Gita teaches us that 'shakti' and 'shanti' (power and peace) are not opposed to each other. Today, when India gives the message of world peace, the entire world sees it as a symbol of peace. In reality, peace survives only when it is supported by self-confidence and strength... Sri Krishna also taught Arjun this — the person who walks on the path of 'dharma' never gets scared."

Referring to the Pulwama terror incident in April,



Singh said the ghastly act still disturbs the national consciousness. The terrorists committed a dastardly and inhuman act when the innocent tourists were killed after they were asked about their religion, he said.

"I believe the incident was not only challenging the

peace-loving nature of India; the terrorists and their patrons had assumed that India's decency was its weakness, but they forgot that India is the country of the Gita, where there is compassion and also the inspiration to protect the 'dharma' on the battlefield," he said, addressing the gathering.

"If you want to protect the innocent, the courage to sacrifice is equally necessary. Those who misinterpreted our tolerance for weakness were given an unforgettable answer by India. We showed the world that India does not want war, but if compelled, we won't shy away either," he added.

In Kurukshetra, Shri Krishna explained to Arjuna that 'dharma' cannot be protected merely by lectures, but has to be secured through 'karma'; and Operation Sindoos was this very 'dharma-yudh karma' (the action of a holy war) which we adopted," he added.

Siddaramaiah urges Congress High Command to decide soon to end leadership chatter

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amid leadership buzz, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said Congress MLAs are free to go to Delhi despite the party high command's caution, adding that the final decision on the state's leadership rests entirely with the central leadership. "They have their freedom. If they have opinions, let's see what they want to convey. Ultimately, the High Command has to take a decision," he told reporters. He added that to "put a full stop to this confusion," the High Command must take a call. On cabinet reshuffle, he said the government would "move forward" once the party leadership gives a signal. Siddaramaiah also clarified that he has no plans to meet Rahul Gandhi.

Housing Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan dismissed talk of a rotation agreement between the Chief Minister and Deputy CM, saying, "There's no agreement between Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister in 2.5 years. Siddaramaiah will be Chief Minister till 2028."

Challakere Congress MLA Shivanna downplayed claims of a leadership crisis, saying internal matters must be left to the party's central leadership. He said some first-time MLAs may not fully understand party processes. "Whether the Chief Minister is Siddaramaiah, DK Shivakumar, or me everyone must abide by the decision of the High Command," he said, adding that MLAs had been advised not to speak publicly on the issue again.

In Delhi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge declined to engage publicly with the leadership speculation, making it clear that such issues are not for open discussion. "That is not something to be discussed here, and it is not a subject to speak about publicly," he said. Kharge added that he was in the capital to attend the Constitution Day event and

scheduled review meetings. "You should all be well aware that the party president doesn't go anywhere for the discussion. When

to "five or six" senior leaders. "I'm not going to discuss this publicly. I believe in my inner consciousness. I don't want to bring embarrassment to the party or make it seem weak. We are here because of the party and the karyakartas," he said.

He acknowledged Siddaramaiah's completion of 2.5 years and his announcement that he will present the next budget, saying he was "happy for that too."

Shivakumar emphasised that both leaders had worked hard for the party and said their collective focus should be the 2028 Assembly polls and the 2029 Lok Sabha election. On MLAs travelling to Delhi, he said they may have gone hoping for ministerial positions amid discussions of reshuffle. "I haven't called them or spoken to them. I haven't even asked why they have gone to Delhi," he said.



meetings happen, we will discuss in those meetings," he said. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar stressed that he has not demanded anything from the party and that leadership matters are restricted

News box

Man from Assam held for circulating AI-morphed photos of Gurgaon woman on social media

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 33-year-old man from Assam has been arrested for allegedly using artificial intelligence (AI) tools to morph a city woman's photographs into obscene content and circulating them across social media platforms. The woman had previously filed a similar complaint against the same man. He was arrested and later released on bail by the high court. Police allege that after being released, he repeated the offence. The case began on Sept 12 when she filed a complaint stating that she found a fake Instagram account created in her name. The unknown user behind the account was allegedly uploading objectionable, AI-morphed photos and videos using her images, which were also being shared on other social media platforms, causing her harassment and defamation. A case was registered under sections related to cybercrime and outraging the modesty of a woman. The accused—Niloy Banik, a resident of Guwahati—was apprehended on Nov 20. A local court granted transit remand, following which he was brought to the city. During interrogation, he admitted to knowing the woman and using photos from her social media account to create explicit images through AI tools, which he uploaded through a fake Instagram handle created in her name. One mobile phone believed to have been used in the commission of the crime was found from the accused's possession.

Govt panel to examine Al-Falah's financial records

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana education minister Mahipal Dhanda on Monday said the state govt has initiated an inquiry against Al-Falah University, prompted by concerns flagged by National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI). The minister revealed that the govt has set up a two-member committee to examine the operations and financial records of the private university. He said the investigation is focused solely on Al-Falah University and is not a broader examination of the entire sector. The committee, comprising senior IAS officer Shyamal Mishra, and Ashok Kumar who is an official in the accounts section of higher education department, has been assigned the task of reviewing the university's financial accounts and ensuring full compliance with regulatory standards. The committee has been instructed to deliver its findings within three months. At present, the higher education department is conducting its own investigation to ensure transparency and adherence to regulations. This move follows issuance of a show-cause notice by NCMEI to Al-Falah University last Friday, questioning why its minority status should not be revoked. The commission has also summoned the university registrar and the principal secretary of Haryana education department for a hearing scheduled on December 4. The notice demands that Al-Falah University provide documents related to its managing body, trust structure, funding sources, appointment processes, and compliance with the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004. Additionally, the NCMEI has requested original records of the trust deed, management composition, admissions data, faculty appointments, governing body minutes, and financial statements for the past three years. An official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said failure to appear or produce the required documents could result in ex parte proceedings.

Cab driver stabbed multiple times by passenger after dispute over fare

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A cab driver was left critically injured after a passenger allegedly stabbed him repeatedly during a dispute over fare near Meerut trisection on Monday afternoon. The victim, 32-year-old Surendra Singh from Delhi's Seelampur, sustained multiple knife wounds to his chest, neck and back and is currently in intensive care at MMG Hospital. Doctors said his condition remains critical. According to police, Surendra had picked up the passenger offline from Shastri Nagar Park in Delhi around 3pm for a drop in Ghaziabad. Police said the accused had travelled with him earlier in the day, going from Delhi to Panipat and then returning toward Ghaziabad. A senior officer said the accused had apparently booked the cab to the Ghaziabad RRTS station or some metro station nearby, but a dispute over the fare started as they neared the trisection. The passenger suddenly launched a frenzied knife attack, stabbing the driver on the neck and



back. When the victim managed to open the window and get out of the car, the accused followed him and stabbed him again in the chest before fleeing, a police officer said. In his haste, the attacker left a bag behind in the cab. Police said the bag left behind by the accused may provide crucial clues as the search for him intensifies. Arjun Singh, the victim's brother-in-law, said Surendra somehow managed to cry for help despite his injuries. "He was bleeding heavily but still had managed to get out of the cab and raise an alarm. People gathered, but before anyone could intervene, the attacker jumped out and stabbed him again in the chest before escaping," he said. Arjun has lodged a complaint at Nandigram police station. ACP Nandigram Upasana Pandey said an FIR under BNS section 109 (attempt to murder) has been registered. "We are scanning nearby CCTV footage to identify the accused. Two teams have been formed to trace and arrest him," she said.

Why Aravali watchers look at SC's 100m mining definition with concern

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Gurgaon: Though done in the context of mining, Supreme Court's acceptance of the Union environment ministry's definition of Aravalis as hills with an elevation of 100 metres or more has triggered concern among environmentalists that it may be used as a reference point for other purposes. For example, the new draft of the NCR master plan—Regional Plan 2041—is yet to be finalised and how Aravalis are recognised will be critical to the protection it extends to natural conservation zones (NCZ). Incidentally, in the definition it recently proposed for Aravalis as a whole, Haryana govt used a minimum age and height criterion. Proposed by the mining department, the proposed definition recognises only hills with rocks that are at least a billion years old and rise to an elevation of 100 metres or more above the surrounding land. Should such a height filter be applied, most of the hills will be out of the definition's ambit.

Experts said it is possible that NCR member

states will refer to SC's acceptance of the 100m definition, even if it is only in the context of mining, and argue that it should also be applied in planning and real estate zoning. "This can be a recipe for disaster. The forces that have been working against conservation of the Aravalis in Gurgaon and Faridabad will use this definition to allow more real estate activities and the need for conservation and wildlife protection will be completely ignored," retired forest conservator R P Balwan said. He added that 95% of the Aravallis in Gurgaon and 90% in Faridabad would not fit the new definition and the exclusion of lower hills would mean vast stretches of scrub hills, grasslands and ridge areas are out of the ecological protection ambit. As TOI has reported earlier, the proposed dilution of NCZ in Regional Plan 2041 has been the main bone of contention since the draft plan was shared with stakeholders and put out for public feedback more than four



years ago. Most of the over 4,000 responses favoured reinstating clauses restricting non-forest activities in NCZ. Even when the issue was placed before a group of ministers headed by the home minister, and the PMO, they favoured not tweaking NCZ.

MD Sinha, retired conservator of forests in Haryana, said the very idea of defining the Aravalis through a height filter "makes no scientific or logical sense" given SC has recognised the range as a

continuous geological ridge from Gujarat to Delhi and "rightly refused to define it" as a whole. Referring to the 100m definition for mining, he said, "Rajasthan used the same criteria and look what happened. A Supreme Court-appointed committee found in 2018 that 31 of 128 Aravali hills disappeared in 50 years because of illegal quarrying, and 10-12 large gaps opened up in the Aravalis. Those breaches now funnel dust straight from the Thar. Our air quality collapsed due to excessive mining and uncontrolled urbanisation." Sinha said a 100m filter would practically erase the range in NCR. "Delhi has zero areas above 100m. If this becomes the definition, the Aravalis are finished. And it's fundamentally absurd. Are we going to define the Shivaliks, Himalayas, the Ganga by arbitrary thresholds? If the Ganga narrows somewhere, does it stop being the Ganga?"

Nikki Bhati murder meticulously planned & executed by husband, in-laws: Charge sheet

Noida.(Agency)

Nikki Bhati (26) of Greater Noida's Sirsa was burnt alive by her husband and in-laws in a meticulously coordinated conspiracy, complete with planned alibis, staged movements before CCTV cameras and an attempt to pass the murder off as an accident, a 500-page charge sheet filed by a team from Kasna police station Monday stated. The woman, it said, was taken to a hospital by the accused only to make it look like a rescue effort.

The charge sheet named Nikki's husband Vipin, his mother Daya, father Satyaveer and elder brother Rohit as co-conspirators under BNS sections 103(1) (murder), 115(2) (voluntarily causing hurt) and 61(2) (criminal conspiracy). According to the FIR, filed on the complaint of Nikki's sister Kanchan, the attack took place around 5.45pm on Aug 21. Nikki was allegedly held down while an inflammable thinner was poured over her before she was set ablaze inside her in-laws' home. She was first taken to Fortis Hospital in Greater Noida and later referred to Safdarjung Hospital in Delhi, where she succumbed to 80% burn injuries.

Police said the family took the dying woman to the hospital only to construct the appearance of an accident, fully aware her injuries were unsurvivable. From the outset, they maintained that Nikki had been injured in a cylinder blast. One that was also corroborated by Nikki in her statement to a doctor treating her at Fortis, and was part of the hospital memo. But police believe she made the statement under pressure or confusion while fighting for her life.

The charge sheet stated that the post-mortem report confirmed that Nikki died of hypovolemic shock due to burn injuries, and forensic examination of the home showed no signs of an explosion. The forensics report concluded there was "no indicator" of an accidental fire. Police said medical findings and forensic evidence conclusively debunked that claim.

Service roads to be built along Dwarka Expressway to avert snarls in Gurgaon's new sectors

Gurgaon.(Agency)

New sectors along Dwarka Expressway are set to have 90km of new service roads. Around 55km of service roads are proposed in sectors 81–95, while another 35km is planned in sectors 99–115. GMDA's move aims to ease traffic load on master roads and create safer parallel access routes in these areas where several residential and commercial developments have come up. A consultant has been appointed to carry out ground penetration radar (GPR) and topographical surveys for these stretches. These surveys will help identify existing utility lines and right-of-way—legal right—constraints, following which detailed estimates will be prepared. Meanwhile, residents, who have repeatedly demanded proper service roads in new sectors, welcomed the move but flagged additional priorities the authority must not overlook. United New

Gurgaon Association president Praveen Malik said, "This is a welcome move and will help channel traffic better. But along with building service roads, GMDA should also ensure these stretches remain free of encroachments, the green belt is properly developed and stormwater drains are connected in a planned manner." Separately, GMDA has also lined up the development of around 45km of service roads in Sectors 68–80 along Southern Peripheral Road.

The area has been grappling with bottlenecks due to missing link roads and direct merges onto main roads. Officials said the estimates for this phase are prepared and are currently under review. "The tender for this work is likely to be floated by Dec," an official said.

"We aim to strengthen the city's road network through this initiative. It will boost connectivity and facilitate safer mobility for all commuters," GMDA

chief engineer Arun Dhankar said. The authority has also proposed surface drains-cum-footpaths wherever feasible, addressing a persistent concern of residents who say that the absence of drainage and walkable space contributes to unsafe conditions ad flooding during monsoon months. Meanwhile, construction of service roads is already in progress in parts of sectors 68–80. Around 23km of service roads has been completed so far, and another 3km stretch will be taken up shortly. Officials said the larger plan is to create uninterrupted service roads on both sides of major corridors to prevent local traffic from merging directly onto the main carriageway. The scale of expansion, they added, is driven by multiple requests from residents, developers and public representatives, who have flagged safety issues, abrupt U-turns and dangerous roadside manoeuvres caused by the absence of proper service lanes.

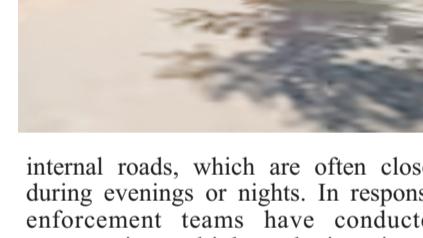
Illegal gates block emergency access, only boom barriers allowed, says DTCP

Chandigarh.(Agency)

Licensed colonies across the city are witnessing a rising trend of residents and RWAs installing permanent iron gates on internal roads citing security reasons—a practice department of town and country planning (DTCP) has termed "illegal". District town planner (enforcement) Amit Madholia said these gates not only breach regulations but also pose obstacles to movement and emergency services such as ambulances, fire tenders and police vehicles. "The department is intensifying its surveys and enforcement actions to tackle these violations. No permanent iron gate is allowed anywhere inside licensed colonies," Madholia said and clarified that only boom barriers are permitted, and even then, under strict conditions. In recent months, the department has received numerous complaints about gates being installed on 9m and 12m

internal roads, which are often closed during evenings or nights. In response, enforcement teams have conducted surveys in multiple colonies, issued notices for violations, and removed gates when responses were inadequate. In some

instances, demolition actions were necessary. "Our aim is to ensure unhindered public movement and uninterrupted emergency access. There is no provision for approving iron gates," Madholia added. According to regulations, installing a boom barrier requires approval from a committee led by the deputy commissioner. Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar has directed that boom barriers may only be installed at a colony's main entrance on a 24m road. RWAs or developers must apply to the deputy commissioner and DTP (enforcement), following which a public notice seeking objections and suggestions must be published in newspapers and displayed in community halls, RWA boards, and developer offices. If no objections are received within 30 days.



Digital geofencing for Sultanpur park buffer zone soon to monitor land-use change, curb violations

Faridabad.(Agency)

The eco-sensitive zone around Sultanpur National Park is set for digital geofencing, with five concentric rings being mapped around the protected area to monitor land-use changes and construction in real time. "Each ring carries its own set of prohibitions, regulations and activities to be promoted," divisional wildlife officer (DWO) RK Jangra told TOI on Monday.

No mobile towers within 3km, no new wood-based industries in the vicinity and no construction within 300 metres of the park—these are among the slew of measures being initiated. The 5km eco-sensitive zone around Sultanpur Park has 22 villages. Mapping of the outermost ring has already begun. The rollout timeline of the alert system will be finalised within 15 days. Haryana Space Applications Centre (HARSAC) will anchor the geospatial work and the alert dashboard will notify enforcement teams the moment a violation is detected. Sultanpur supports tens of thousands of migratory



waterbirds every winter and depends on an uninterrupted wetland and grassland matrix outside its core. Officials said the geofencing will remove all ambiguity on buffer boundaries, a recurring problem that allowed unapproved real estate around Sultanpur to grow over the years. DWO Jangra said, "With satellite imagery tied to ground-verified coordinates, every breach will appear as a timestamped location on the monitoring dashboard, creating a digital evidence trail for enforcement and legal proceedings. Construction within 300 metres of the park will not be permitted except for tube wells. New high-tension transmission lines are barred up to 500metres. Buildings above two storeys, or thirty feet, will not be allowed between 300 and 500 metres. No new wood-based industries will be allowed within 1km and no commercial construction of any kind within 3km. Polluting industries

notified by the CPCB and brick kilns are prohibited within a 3-km radius. Mining, stone quarrying and crushing units are barred up to 5km." Mobile towers are not permitted within 3km. New hot mix and RMC plants are banned within 1km. Single-use plastic is banned throughout the ESZ. Burning of paddy stubble or solid waste will not be allowed and the discharge of untreated effluents or waste will draw immediate action. Glazed glass façade

structures are prohibited within 3 km of the boundary. Groundwater extraction is permitted. Some activities will fall under regulated monitoring. This includes water.

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Student's death raises concern over support for struggling kids in schools

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The death of a Class X student of St. Columba's School has triggered deep concern among families across Delhi, raising questions about whether schools provide enough emotional support to children who may be struggling silently. Though many schools in

NAME CHANGE

I HARISH CHAND S/O HAR DAYAL DHINGRA R/O CGLO44DLF CAPITAL GREENS 15 SHIVAJI MARG MOTI NAGAR DELHI WEST 110015 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO HARISH CHAND DHINGRA

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I JITENDER S/o HAR DAYAL DHINGRA R/o H-222, Khasra No. 9/7, Gali No. 4, Kushad Road, Near Bharat Medical Store, Swaroop Nagar, Badli, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, declare that name of mine has been wrongfully written as JITENDER KUMAR in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is JITENDER, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I HJAM SHYAMCHANDRA LUWANG, S/o HJAM DHARMA LUWANG, R/o Andro Khunou Leikai, Andro Nagar Panchayet, PO: Yairipok, Dist: Imphal East, Manipur-795149, and presently residing at Quarter No. 2, Block-J, Andrews Gan Extension, New Delhi, Delhi-110049 declare that the name of mine has been wrongfully written as H.S LUWANG, in my minor son namely JESSE LUWANG HJAM. I aged 9 years in his School Record and Birth Certificate No. 11959. The actual name of my wife is SUMITA LUWANG respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as KULDEEP KAUR, W/o HARISH CHANDRA ARORA residing at AF - 47, Shalimar Bagh, North West Delhi, Delhi - 110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as USHAARORA.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known NARESH KUMAR alias NARESH SONI alias NARESH KUMAR SONI S/o JODH RAJ KUMAR residing at No. 12/1, Tagore Garden, West Delhi - 110027 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NARESH KUMAR.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

e-Open E-Tender Notice

Name of work with location, cost of work and Earnest Money
Emergency work at Bridge No.196 WJC at Km 126/13-17 on DUK section due to severe damage of Canal bed brick flooring bridge, apron, Canal CC lining, which is very close to the piers & abutments of bridge on the basis of Model study/consultancy of IIT Roorkee.
Approx Cost : Rs.99197030.52/-
Earnest Money: Rs. 646000/-

Earnest Money should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note : FDR or Demand Draft will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter No. 2015/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016.

Completion Period 12 Months
Date and time of submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 15.00 hrs on 19.12.2025 opening of e-tender at 15.00 hrs on 19.12.2025

Website particulars, published-tender, notice location etc complete details of tender can be seen and web site where the tender form can be downloaded

Similar nature of work Any bridge work

NOTE: All attachments must be self attested by the tenders and the affidavit should be submitted in the new format attached with tender conditions as per Annexure-XIV is compulsorily.

No. 128-W/280/Tender Notice/25-26/W4 (NIT-32) Date : 24.11.2025 3650/2025

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Mohd Shadab Ansari S/o Ahmad Hussain Ansari R/o 7268, Gali No-2, Aram Nagar, Nabi Karim, Pahar Ganj, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110055 declare that name of mine has been wrongfully written as Md Shadab Ansari in my minor daughter Nefeler Parveen aged 15 years in her School Records. The actual name of mine is Mohd Shadab Ansari.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Roqaiai Ansar Ansari D/o Md Isrul Haq Ansari R/o 7268 3rd floor, Gali No 2, Aram Nagar, Outub Road, Nabi Karim, Pahar Ganj, Swami Ram Tirth Nagar, Central Delhi, Delhi-110055 declare that name of mine, my father and my mother has been wrongfully written as Raquiai Khatoon, Israul Haq Ansari and Shahani in my 10th Class Educational Documents and name of mine and my father has been wrongfully written as Roqaiai and Israul Haq Ansari in my 12th and Graduation Educational Documents. The actual name of mine, my father and my mother are Roqaiai Ansar Ansari, Md Isrul Haq Ansari and Shahani Khatoon.

NAME CHANGE

I, Priyanka Kumari W/O Ravi Shekhar R/O SI-3, Plot No-14, Shakti Khand-2 Indira Puram, Shriya Sun City Indirapuram Ghaziabad Up 201014. Have changed my name name to Priyanka Shekhar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mithlesh Upadhyay S/O Shiv Bihari Upadhyay R/O 189, Satya Niketan New Delhi 110021 Have changed my name to Mithlesh Kumar Upadhyay for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I MOHAMMAD JAWEED AKHTER CHOWDHARY S/O MOHAMMAD YOUNIS R/O DDA SF'S FLAT NO-74-T THIRD FLOOR SECTOR-7 JASOLA OKHLA DELHI-110025 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD JAWEED AKHTER CHOWDHARY for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUDHIR KUMAR Son of No-803616Y Rank-HAV NAME-MAHENDER PAI Presently residing at VILL-SILARUP, TEH-NARNAUL, DIST-MAHENDRAGARH, HARYANA-123021, have changed my name from SUDHIR KUMAR to SUDHESH KUMAR for all future purposes and in my father's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 24/11/2003 instead of my correct date of birth as 02/12/2000 vide Affidavit dated 25/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

the Capital say they have counsellings services, students often report they aren't sure how to access them or feel hesitant to approach counsellors. A Class X student said she frequently feels anxious during exams, but has never gone to the counsellor. "We are told in assemblies that the counsellor is available, but no one explains how to actually meet them. If we approach during class time, teachers

get upset," she said. Another student said: "If we tell teachers we're stressed or scared, they

NAME CHANGE

I, MANUJ DEVI is a legally wedded wife of No. 186773W Rank PIONEER NAME JITENDER KUMAR presently residing, VPO- GUDHA TEH-KANINA, DIST- MAHENDER-GARH, (HARYANA)-123027, have changed my name from MANUJ DEVI to MANUJ and date of birth from 01/01/1985 to 16/04/1983 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 24.11.2025 before Sub Division Magistrate Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, GURPREET KAUR DHALLA DO JAGJEET SINGH R/O Z-6,1ST FLOOR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, CENTER DELHI, DELHI-110008, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GURPREET KAUR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, AMARJEET KAUR DHALLA WO JAGJEET SINGH R/O Z-6,1ST FLOOR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, CENTER DELHI, DELHI-110008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO AMARJEET KAUR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, AMIT KUMAR S/o Sukh Bir Singh R/o B-1/70, Gali No.7, Vishnu Garden, Maddi Wali Gali, Delhi-110018 have changed my name from AMIT KUMAR to AMIT KUMAR DHINGRA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, JAGJEET SINGH DHALLA / JAGIT SINGH S/o HARINDER SINGH R/O Z-6,1ST FLOOR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, CENTER DELHI, DELHI-110008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO JAGJEET SINGH FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, KULDEEP KAUR DHALLA DO JAGJEET SINGH R/O Z-6,1ST FLOOR, WEST PATEL NAGAR, PATEL NAGAR, CENTER DELHI, DELHI-110008 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KULDEEP KAUR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, LAKSHMI DEVI W/O JAMAL AHMED residing at Plot No. 100, Sector 10, Panchayat, PO: Yairipok, Dist: Imphal East, Manipur-795149, and presently residing at Quarter No. 2, Block-J, Andrews Gan Extension, New Delhi, Delhi-110049 declare that the name of my wife has been wrongfully written as LAKSHMI DEVI, instead of my minor son named Arif. I aged 9 years in his School Record and Birth Certificate No. 11959. The actual name of my wife is SUMITA LUWANG respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

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NEWS BOX

Gunmen attack a Yemeni official's motorcade, killing five security officers

world. (Agency)

ADEN: Gunmen opened fire Monday on the governor of Taiz's motorcade, killing at least five security officers and wounding two others, authorities said.

The attack, targeting Nabil Shamsan, happened on a key road linking Taiz to the rest of the country, Mohamed Abdel-Rahman, a spokesman for the province, told The Associated Press. He added that two assailants were killed in the shootout.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. In a statement, the governor's office said security and military forces were working to bring those behind the attack to justice.

The province's capital, also named Taiz, has been a battleground pitting the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and other militias backed by the Islamist Islah party against each other as well as other factions in Yemen's civil war. Taiz, in the southwest, is the junction of two crucial highways: an east-west road leading to the coastal city of Mocha on the Red Sea, and another north-south, to Sanaa via Dhamar and Ibb provinces. It has been under Houthi blockade since 2016 as part of their war against the internationally recognized Yemeni government. The country's brutal war began in 2014, when the Houthis marched from their northern stronghold of Saada province and forced the internationally recognized government into exile. A Saudi-led coalition that included the United Arab Emirates entered the Yemen war the following year in an attempt to restore the government. The war has been stalemated in recent years, and the rebels reached a deal with Saudi Arabia that stopped their attacks on the kingdom in return for ceasing the Saudi-led strikes on their territories.

China's Xi pushes Taiwan issue in call with Trump

BEIJING. (Agency)

Chinese leader Xi Jinping pressed the ever-sensitive issue of Taiwan in a phone call Monday with US President Donald Trump, as he stressed the need to build on a fragile trade truce between the two superpowers. China's foreign ministry said the call touched on other issues, such as Ukraine, but Taiwan featured prominently, with China embroiled in a weeks-long diplomatic row with key US ally Japan over the self-governing island. China claims Taiwan as part of its territory, and Xi told Trump that its return was an "integral part of the post-war international order" forged in the joint US-China fight against "fascism and militarism", according to the department. "Given what is going on, it is even more important for us to jointly safeguard the victory of WWII," Xi told Trump.

Taiwan Premier Cho Jung-tai hit back at Xi's comments, telling reporters on Tuesday that Taiwan "is a fully sovereign state" and "there is no such option as return". The latest bitter dispute between Tokyo and Beijing was triggered by new Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggesting this month that Tokyo could intervene militarily in any attack on Taiwan. While the United States does not officially recognise Taiwan's claim to statehood, Washington remains the island's most important partner and arms supplier. Trump praised "extremely strong" US-China relations in a social media post after the call, but made no mention of the contentious issue of Taiwan. According to China's foreign ministry, Trump told Xi during their discussion that the United States "understands how important the Taiwan question is to China". The US president's statement also confirmed that he will visit China in April, and that Xi will go to Washington later in 2026. Meanwhile Takaichi said she also had a call with Trump and discussed his conversation with Xi, as well as US-Japan relations. We "held a wide-ranging exchange of views on strengthening the Japan-US alliance and the challenges and issues facing the Indo-Pacific region", she told reporters, without elaborating.

She said Trump had proposed the call.

Both China and Japan have sent letters to the UN in recent days over the Taiwan issue.

Massive ash cloud drifts toward northern India as Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi erupts after 10,000 years

world. (Agency)

After the long-silent volcano erupted for the first time in nearly 10,000 years, a massive ash cloud from Ethiopia's Hayli Gubbi has begun drifting toward northern India. The eruption covered the nearby village of Afdera in dust and pushed thick plumes across the Red Sea toward Yemen and Oman before the cloud shifted eastwards. According to the Toulouse Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC), the explosive activity began around 8.30 am UTC and marked the volcano's first known eruption in almost 10,000 years. Although the eruption has now stopped, the Toulouse VAAC said that "a large ash plume is moving toward northern India," prompting meteorological agencies to closely monitor its trajectory. Even though no injuries have been reported, local officials worry economic implications for the local community of livestock herders. The volcano, part of Ethiopia's Erta Ale Range, last showed activity around 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. After the eruption, volcanic ash was observed over parts of the Arabian Peninsula. Airlines issued cautionary messages for flights passing through the Middle East. India's aviation regulator, DGCA, has instructed all airline operators to follow a volcanic advisory issued by the Airport Authority of India. In view of the DGCA advisory, several airlines, including Akasa Air, KLM, Air India and IndiGo, cancelled flights operating on routes that pass through the affected corridor.

Britain's unpopular government prepares a high-stakes budget and hopes for growth

LONDON. (Agency)

After being elected in a landslide last year, Britain's Labour Party government delivered a budget it billed as a one-off dose of tax hikes to fix the public finances, get debt down, ease the cost of living and spur economic growth. A year on, inflation remains stubbornly high, government borrowing is up and the economy is turgid. The annual budget, due on Wednesday, is expected to bring more tax hikes in pursuit of the same elusive economic boom. Rain Newton-Smith, head of business group the Confederation of British Industry, said Monday that "it feels less like we're on the move, and more like we're stuck in 'Groundhog Day'." It's not just businesses who are concerned. Alarmed by the government's consistently dire poll ratings, some Labour lawmakers are mulling the once-unthinkable idea of ousting Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who led them to victory less than 18 months ago. Luke Tryl, director of pollster More in Common, said voters "don't understand why there has not been positive change. "This could be a last-chance saloon moment for the

government."

Not much room for maneuver. The government says Treasury chief Rachel Reeves will make "tough but right decisions" in her budget to ease the cost of living, safeguard public services and keep debt under control. She has limited room for maneuver. Britain's economy, the world's sixth-largest, has underperformed its long-run average since the global financial crisis of 2008-2009, and the center-left Labour Party government elected in July 2024 has struggled to deliver promised economic growth. Like other Western economies, Britain's public finances have been squeezed by the costs of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and U.S. President Donald Trump's global tariffs. The U.K. bears the extra burden of Brexit, which has knocked billions off the economy since the country left the European Union in 2020. The government currently spends more than 100 billion pounds (\$130 billion) a year servicing the U.K.'s national debt, which stands at

around 95% of annual national income. Adding to pressure is the fact that Labour governments historically have had to work harder than Conservative

drove down the value of the pound and sent borrowing costs soaring.

Luke Hickmore, an investment director at Aberdeen Investments, said the bond market is the "ultimate reality check" for budget policy. "If investors lose faith, the cost of borrowing rises sharply, and political leaders have little choice but to change course," he said.

Mixed pre-budget signals

The government has ruled out public spending cuts of the kind seen during 14 years of Conservative government, and its attempts to cut Britain's huge welfare bill have been stymied by Labour lawmakers.

That leaves tax increases as the government's main revenue-raising option. We're very much not in the position that Rachel Reeves hoped to be in," said Jill Rutter, a senior fellow at the Institute for Government think tank. Instead of an economy that has "sparked into life," enabling higher spending and lower taxes, Rutter said Reeves must decide whether "to fill a big fiscal black hole with tax increases or spending cuts."

Trump administration ends temporary protected status for Myanmar migrants in US

World. (Agency)

The Trump administration has moved to end temporary asylum protections for nearly 10,000 Myanmar nationals living in the United States, terminating the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation granted to them since 2021 despite Myanmar remaining under an entrenched military dictatorship accused of widespread executions and repression. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the decision on Monday, saying its review of current conditions no longer justified Myanmar's status. The termination will take effect in 60 days. In a notice published in the Federal Register, DHS said it was ending Myanmar's Temporary Protective Status (TPS) designation after consultations in the administration. After reviewing country conditions in Burma and consulting with appropriate US government agencies, the secretary determined that Burma no longer continues to meet the conditions for TPS designation, "the department said,

referring to Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem.

DHS CITES IMPROVEMENTS, RIGHTS GROUPS DISPUTE CLAIMS

The announcement marks another step



in the Trump administration's sweeping overhaul of humanitarian and immigration protections. TPS was originally created to allow nationals from countries facing armed conflict, natural disasters or extraordinary instability to legally remain and work in the US on a temporary basis. The programme typically grants protection in 18-month increments and can be renewed. Myanmar was added to the

programme in May 2021 following the military coup and the violent crackdown that followed. The Biden administration extended TPS twice, most recently in March 2024 through November 2025. Nearly 10,000 Myanmar nationals were covered under the status. In its new order, DHS claimed improvements on the ground.

"In parallel with the national political process, armed ethnic groups have established local and ethnic administrations, which have made tangible gains in governance and public services, signalling broader improvements in Burma's stability," it said. Human rights groups strongly dispute that characterisation. Myanmar's junta has continued mass arrests, killings and airstrikes in civilian areas, and rights watchdogs have documented extensive crimes against anti-coup activists. The withdrawal comes alongside several similar actions targeting other nationalities. Since taking office, Trump has ended TPS protections for Afghans, Venezuelans, Hondurans,

9 children killed as Pak bombs Afghanistan after Peshawar suicide attack

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Pakistan bombed several areas in Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing 10 people, including nine children, a day after a suicide attack at the paramilitary force headquarters in Peshawar left six dead. The resurgence of hostilities amid a fragile ceasefire has ignited concerns of another round of conflict between the two warring nations. Taliban said the midnight strike by Pakistan in the Gurbuz district of Khost province targeted the house of a civilian, Waliat Khan, killing nine children (five boys and four girls) and a woman. Air strikes were also carried out in Kunar and Paktika, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said.

"The Pakistani invading forces bombed the house of a local civilian resident... Air strikes targeting the border regions of Kunar and Paktika wounded another four civilians," Mujahid tweeted. While Pakistan has not commented on the strikes, it has previously justified such actions as targeted towards Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) hideouts, which Islamabad has



claimed to be behind a spree of suicide bombings. In recent weeks, Pakistan defence minister Khwaja Asif has resorted to war-mongering tactics against Afghanistan. Earlier this month, Asif warned that Islamabad would go into an "open war" with Afghanistan if the peace talks collapse. PESHAWAR BOMBING KILLS 31 comes a day after a coordinated attack involving suicide bombers and gunmen targeted the headquarters of Pakistan's paramilitary force in Peshawar, killing three security personnel. While one bomber blew himself up near the entrance to the complex, which is located in a highly secured area in Peshawar, two other attackers were gunned down in the parking area. The outfit Jamaat-ul-Ahrar (JuA), which comprises soldiers from Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), has reportedly claimed responsibility for the attack. Pakistan labelled the attack a "foiled terrorist plot". The incident comes less than two weeks after TTP-linked militants carried out a suicide bombing near an Islamabad court, leaving 12 dead. Pakistan has, for long, blamed the Taliban for harbouring TTP leaders. A recent spree of attacks in Pakistan has only strained relations between the former allies. Matters worsened in October after deadly border clashes killed hundreds on both sides.

Ukraine, Russia trade deadly strikes as negotiators hammer at peace deal

KYIV. (Agency)

Ukraine and Russia counted casualties Tuesday after trading deadly overnight strikes, as negotiators scrambled to revise a framework to end the nearly four-year conflict ahead of a US-imposed deadline. US President Donald Trump has given Kyiv until November 27 -- the American holiday of Thanksgiving -- to respond to his proposal to end the fighting, a timeline and blueprint that European leaders have balked at. Kyiv and its allies nonetheless spent the weekend hammering away at Washington's 28-point plan, which initially hewed close to Russia's hardline demands, requiring the invaded country to cede territory, cut its military and pledge never to join NATO. An updated version, aiming to "uphold Ukraine's sovereignty", was thrashed out over the weekend at emergency talks in Geneva. Countries supporting Kyiv -- part of the "coalition of the willing" --

are due to hold a video call Tuesday to discuss the state of the plan. On the battlefield, the adversaries ramped up



pressure with a flurry of overnight attacks. Before dawn Tuesday, Russia's defence ministry said it had intercepted and destroyed 249 Ukrainian drones -- one of the highest figures reported. In Russia's Rostov region, acting governor Yuri Sliusar said at least three people were killed in the strikes. "Tonight's enemy attack brought great grief," Sliusar said. In the Krasnodar frontier region, Governor Veniamin Kondratyev called the

overnight bombardment "one of the Kyiv regime's most sustained and massive attacks". Across the border in the Ukrainian capital, AFP journalists heard powerful explosions and saw people running for shelters as air raid sirens blared. Authorities in Kyiv said at least two people died and seven were wounded in the capital, after a barrage of missiles and drones targeted the country's beleaguered energy sector.

"We must be cognisant that Russia will not ease its pressure on Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelensky said as his air force issued a nationwide missile warning. Zelensky has described his country as being in a "critical moment", after last week saying Ukraine risked losing either its "dignity" or Washington as an ally.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, who welcomed the original US plan to end the fighting, has threatened to seize more Ukrainian territory if Kyiv walks away from the negotiations.

US drops cases against ex-FBI director James Comey, New York AG Letitia James

A federal judge has dismissed charges against James Comey and Letitia James citing unlawful appointment of the prosecutor. The ruling raises questions about the Justice Department's handling of politically sensitive cases and potential appeals.

GENEVA. (Agency)

A federal judge on Monday dismissed criminal charges against two perceived adversaries of President Donald Trump, FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, ruling the US attorney he hand-picked to prosecute them was unlawfully appointed. The ruling throws out two cases Trump had publicly called for as he pressured Justice Department leaders to move against high-profile figures who had criticized him and

led investigations into his conduct. Lindsey Halligan, a former personal lawyer to Trump, was named interim US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia in September to take over both investigations despite having no previous prosecutorial experience. The findings by US District Judge Cameron McGowan Currie came after both Comey and James accused the Trump Justice Department of violating the US Constitution's Appointments Clause and federal law by appointing Halligan in September.

NO LEGAL AUTHORITY

Currie found that Halligan "had no legal authority" to bring indictments against either Comey or James. But Currie dismissed the cases "without prejudice," giving the Justice Department an opportunity to seek new indictments with a different prosecutor at the helm.

"All actions flowing from Ms. Halligan's defective appointment," Currie wrote, were "unlawful exercises of executive power and are hereby set aside." After the decision, Attorney General Pam Bondi told reporters the Justice Department would "be

taking all available legal action, including an immediate appeal to hold Letitia James and James Comey accountable for their unlawful conduct." Bondi said that because



Halligan was made a special US attorney, she can continue to prosecute cases. "She can fight in court just like she was and we believe we will be successful on appeal," Bondi said.

James and Comey separately said they were grateful for the ruling. James' attorney, Abbe Lowell, said she would "continue to challenge any further politically motivated charges through every lawful means

available." In an Instagram video, Comey said the case against him "was a prosecution based on malevolence and incompetence and a reflection of what the Department of Justice has become under Donald Trump." It is unclear if prosecutors could seek to bring a new case against Comey over the same conduct. The five-year statute of limitations on the charges expired on September 30, and Comey's lawyers have already indicated in court filings that they do not believe prosecutors have more time to refile the charges.

Both Comey and James have been longtime targets of Trump's ire. Comey as FBI director oversaw an investigation into alleged ties between Trump's 2016 election campaign and the Russian government and later called Trump unfit for office. James, an elected Democrat, successfully sued Trump and his family real estate company for fraud. Trump ordered Bondi to install Halligan to the post after her predecessor Erik Siebert declined to pursue charges against Comey or James, citing a lack of credible evidence in both cases.

NEWS BOX

Resolve water conservation issues in Dindori, Peth talukas immediately: Maha minister

Nashik . (Agency)
Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration and Special Assistance Minister Narhari Zirwal today gave instructions that the water conservation issues in Dindori and Peth talukas of the district should be resolved immediately in coordination with the concerned departments.

He was speaking in a meeting organized at the district collector's office here. The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Zirwal on the issue of excluding dams in forest clearance under the Employment Guarantee Scheme in Dindori and Peth areas, silt-free dams-silt-filled sluices, current status of land acquisition under the Small Irrigation Scheme, water availability certificate etc.

Zirwal said that the issue of irrigation is very important for Dindori and Peth talukas. Both these talukas receive heavy rains during the monsoon. However, many people migrate after the monsoon due to lack of water.

If irrigation facilities are provided to the villagers to prevent migration from this area, their migration will stop. For this, all the departments should take effective measures in coordination, he said.

Also, the silt removed through the silt-free dam scheme should be made available to farmers so that the agricultural land in this area will become fertile, he added.

The minister also gave instructions to immediately repair and strengthen the roads in the taluka.

Pune collects 10,000 blood bags in the mega blood donation drive

Pune. (Agency)
At a time when the city is facing a serious shortage of blood, Punekars once again upheld their rich tradition of social responsibility by contributing 10,338 blood bags through 56 blood donation camps organised on the occasion of union Minister of State for Cooperation and Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol's birthday.

Mohol expressed his gratitude for the unprecedented response of Pune residents to the annual initiative.



Mohol said he was "overwhelmed by the love of Punekars". "Citizens from all sections of society participated. This trust is a great source of inspiration for me," he said. Mohol said the government has started creating a database of Punekars who are always ready to voluntarily donate blood so that it can be made available immediately during emergencies throughout the year. The list will specifically include donors with rare blood groups, which will directly benefit patients in need.

"We are also developing a special online portal for blood donors and patients. Donors willing to donate can register on the portal. When needed, patients or hospitals will be able to contact them directly through the same platform. This will eliminate the need to run from hospital to hospital or rely on social media to find blood," Mohol added.

FIR filed by Vadodara Police against four from Gujarat: Delhi HC rejects pleas against ED attachment order in Rs 2400-crore cricket betting scam

Ahmedabad. (Agency)
The Delhi High Court Monday rejected a bunch of petitions filed by several accused in a multi-crore international cricket betting scam from 2015 challenging the provisional attachment orders issued by the ED over a decade ago. Dismissing the pleas, the Delhi HC held that even if cricket betting is not a separate predicate offence under which PMLA prosecution can be initiated, profits from such activity remain untraceable and would thus constitute as proceeds of crime.

short article insertThe ED, which has pegged the proceeds of crime at Rs 2,400 crores, had started probing the case after the Vadodara police in Gujarat had lodged an FIR against four individuals from the state, who were all partners of a firm 'Maruti Ahmedabad' (MA).

The modus operandi included betting on IPL matches through an online London-based platform betfair.com, banned in India in 2010, where the accused would buy super master-login credentials, and in turn would distribute the login IDs for use by individual bettors. According to the ED's allegations, the accused earned the proceeds of crime "through illegal betting activities, by placing and accepting bets on various matches played during 2014-2015, involving bookies and punters located in India, Dubai, Pakistan and other nations across the world."

Mumbai Metro Line 3 services briefly delayed after train develops technical snag

Teams from the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) are currently monitoring operations closely to restore full normalcy of services.

Mumbai . (Agency)

Services on Line 3 of the Mumbai Metro, also known as the Aqua Line, experienced a brief disruption on Monday after a train developed a technical issue at Siddhivinayak station.

According to officials, the affected train remained halted for around 10 minutes at the station before the issue was resolved. In the wake of the delay, teams from the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MMRCL) are monitoring operations closely to restore full normalcy.

"Due to a technical issue in one train at Siddhivinayak station, services were briefly halted for approximately 10 minutes. The issue has since been resolved. As a result, trains are currently running with a delay of about 5 to 10 minutes. Our teams are closely monitoring operations and normal services are expected to resume shortly as per the time table," MMRCL said in a statement.

In the first week of October, just days before Prime Minister Narendra Modi was scheduled to inaugurate the final stretch of Mumbai's flagship underground Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ Metro-3 corridor, a train on the line broke down near Santacruz station due to a technical



snag. The incident forced the evacuation of passengers and raised concerns about the preparedness of the much-delayed project. The affected train was subsequently taken to the Bandra-Kurla Complex loop line for inspection and repairs.

'Quantum teaching labs' to be set up in 100 engg colleges; each institute to get Rs 1 crore to design course

Mumbai. (Agency)

In order to generate interest in the field of quantum technology, 'quantum-teaching-labs' will be established in 100 engineering colleges across the country. Each college selected to set up such a lab will receive a funding of Rs 1 crore as a support to design course in quantum technology which can be taught at B Tech level, faculty development etc.

The Department of Science and Technology (DST) in association with the All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has launched this scheme to promote teaching learning in the field of quantum technology. Secretary of DST, Prof Abhay Karandikar, said, "These will not be research labs, but teaching labs, particularly for undergraduates. It will include offering minor courses in quantum technology at B Tech level."

Karandikar was speaking at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, where Minister of

State Jitendra Singh launched state-of-the-art fabrication and central facilities for quantum technology innovation under the thematic hubs



under the Union government's National Quantum Mission, with total investment outlay of Rs 720 crore.

Under the National Quantum Mission, the Ministry of Science and Technology is working to accelerate research in three areas: quantum

computing, quantum communication, and quantum sensors. Large-scale research is already underway at IIT Mumbai, IIT Chennai, IIT Delhi, and IISc Bengaluru.

Highlighting that India is on its journey towards becoming a global leader in quantum technology, Singh congratulated for the launch of state-of-the-art fabrication centralized facilities.

As part of the same mission, quantum-teaching labs or quantum-training laboratories will now be established in 100 engineering colleges. Karandikar said, "We have already received close to 500 applications from engineering colleges willing to start such labs. Out of them, 00 capable colleges will be selected and will receive support of Rs 1 crore each. In the next phase, the support may increase, but at this stage we are limiting it to Rs 100 crore." Karandikar also mentioned that eight startups have already emerged in this field, and efforts are underway to support them.

Fire at Jayanagar Complex in Bengaluru, two stuck in lift rescued

BENGALURU. (Agency)

A fire broke out on the first and second floors of the iconic Jayanagar Shopping Complex around 10am Monday, due to an electrical short-circuit which left two persons trapped in the lift. The complex is located in Jayanagar 4th Block.

Officials from South City Corporation and Fire and Emergency Services rushed to the spot and initiated operations. Power supply to the multi-storyed building was disconnected before the firefighting operations began.

During the operation, a person named Krishnegowda, who was trapped in the lift, was rescued. Arun Prasad, an employee of the Minor Irrigation department, was provided first aid and later admitted to Bengaluru Hospital for medical examination, and is said to be safe. Greater Bengaluru Authority Chief Commissioner

Maheshwar Rao, Commissioner KN Ramesh, and Additional Commissioners visited the site. While the building and offices did not suffer damage, the electrical duct was found damaged due to the short-circuit.

Rao directed a committee to probe the incident. A team comprising officials from South City Corporation, Bescom, Fire and Emergency Services has been formed to conduct a detailed investigation into the exact cause of the electrical accident and submit a report. "City Corporation officials have stayed on site, and in the interest of public safety and as a precautionary measure, the entire building's power supply has been disconnected. All shops and offices within the complex have been temporarily closed to allow complete inspection and repair of the building's electrical lines," said a senior official.

'If he had received timely help, we might not have lost him': IAS brother of 22-year-old IIM student in Nagpur accident

Nagpur. (Agency)

A day after the death of Anuj Pathak (22), an original resident of Uttarakhand and a student of IIM Nagpur in a road accident, family members and police offered more clarity on the incident. The Indian Express spoke with his brother Tanuj Pathak IAS, posted in Alipurduar district in West Bengal.

"If he had received immediate help, we might not have lost him," Tanuj said.

Tanuj believes his brother succumbed to severe internal injuries after his bike crashed near Sonegaon. "He was badly hit in the ribs and chest. There was no head injury.

The cause of death was internal bleeding. From what I know, he had about 15-20 minutes," Tanuj said. He also said that he did not see any major lapses in the investigation, but felt that timely help could have saved his brother.

A senior officer from Sonegaon

police station told The Indian Express that a case of accidental death has been registered. "The front lights of the vehicle were damaged, suggesting he might have rammed into something from behind. Very few eyewitnesses were present during the time of the accident," the officer said.



hit a moving vehicle, grazed one, or collided with the divider. "After the preliminary probe, this does not appear to be a clear case of hit-and-run," the officer added.

Sources at the IIM told The Indian Express that Anuj was planning to visit his home soon. There were some festivities planned at his home town. However, Tanuj said all the festivities have now been called off. An emotional Tanuj said their last meeting was this Diwali, when Tanuj took him to the airport. Anuj's father works with the Ministry of Cooperation, while his mother is a school teacher.

No official statement has been issued by IIM about the accident, said an official. However, he said that usually students are allowed to go outside the college campus on weekends since it is a residential campus. A condolence meeting was held on the premises of the college on Sunday.

AMC, police department conduct joint demolition drive: Over 900 structures razed at Isanpur Lake

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

Following the mega demolition drive at Ahmedabad's Chandola Lake, a municipal corporation (AMC) and the police department on Monday razed over 900 structures in another massive demolition drive at Isanpur Lake, located in the city's South Zone.

Out of the total estimated area of Isanpur Lake – around 95,640 sq metre – an estimated 90,000 sq metre of the encroachments have been removed, say AMC authorities.

There were 167 commercial and 925 residential structures, out of which 167 commercial structures had already been removed earlier.

The machinery put to use included 12 Hitachi, eight JCB, 12 dumpers and 12 pusher machines. The demolition work started at 7 am and continued till 6 pm, razing over 900 structures. The machinery was backed by a human force of around

700 personnel of AMC's estate, engineer, health, fire, UCD departments and 550 of the police department. 20 teams were jointly formed.

For the demolition drive, the entire lake was divided into four parts. Two teams each of fire and medical were kept on standby to prevent any untoward incident.

"Keeping everyone's safety in mind, before starting the work, the electricity connection provided in the houses was removed. In addition, people were given enough time to collect their household goods. The UCD department made arrangements to take around 44 families to the nearest shelter home through AMTS buses," an AMC official said.

AMC said its estate department had issued three notices over the last two months, including notices in person to voluntarily vacate the

residential constructions. However, these structures remained occupied despite the notices. "Considering the

scheme of the Government of India. Apart from notices in person, public notices were also issued in the newspapers, hoardings and



submissions of the people living in the lake area for years, applications in the prescribed form with necessary evidence were called from all the people for allotting housing on humanitarian grounds. After verification of the applications, housing will be allotted under the PMAY 2.0

announcements through auto rickshaws made in the area of the lake to vacate the area. On November 20, a final notice was issued to people living illegally in the lake and asked to voluntarily vacate the lake. But, considering the demand of the people, additional four days were

BLOs ensure shifted voters stay on Chennai electoral roll

CHENNAI. Owing to significant number of voters shifting their residence away from the polling booths where they had their votes, many of the BLOs in Chennai have been issuing enumeration forms for Special Intensive Revision (SIR) to them even if they have moved out of their booths or assembly constituencies, so long as they reside within the district.

A section of BLOs from seven constituencies and at least three electoral registration officers in Chennai acknowledged that they have been issuing forms, even if someone had shifted out of their constituencies. They said that this is done, provided there was no objection from Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of any of the political parties and if the BLOs could verify with some documents that the particular person continued to be a resident of Chennai.

One of the EROs told TNIE that this was done, with the consent of political party representatives, since large number of people had shifted out of their constituencies and to ensure that they did not get deleted from the draft rolls to be released during SIR.

This is despite the chief electoral officer of Tamil Nadu stating on Monday during a press conference that enumeration forms could be issued if a person had shifted out of the polling booth, but not out of their assembly constituencies.

During the initial phase of the enumeration phase, several voters who had moved to different booths or constituencies were denied forms and were asked to change their addresses through Form 8 after the publication of the draft rolls, in which their names were likely to be dropped.

However, a few BLOs in constituencies including RK Nagar, Harbour, Anna Nagar, Saidapet, Velachery and Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni confirmed to TNIE that they have now been contacting shifted voters using the aadhaar-linked mobile numbers available on the ECI's BLO app, requesting them to collect the enumeration forms and submit it back to the same BLO. "This is to ensure they are not left out of the draft rolls.

hit a moving vehicle, grazed one, or collided with the divider. "After the preliminary probe, this does not appear to be a clear case of hit-and-run," the officer added.

Sources at the IIM told The Indian Express that Anuj was planning to visit his home soon. There were some festivities planned at his home town. However, Tanuj said all the festivities have now been called off. An emotional Tanuj said their last meeting was this Diwali, when Tanuj took him to the airport. Anuj's father works with the Ministry of Cooperation, while his mother is a school teacher.

No official statement has been issued by IIM about the accident, said an official. However, he said that usually students are allowed to go outside the college campus on weekends since it is a residential campus. A condolence meeting was held on the premises of the college on Sunday.

The AMC said the development at the lake has been included in the current year's budget. "Keeping this in mind, the work of developing the lake will be carried out in the coming days by removing the debris of the demolished structures.

The lake will be filled with rainwater through the storm water line, due to which the surrounding water logging spots will be eliminated.

In the coming time, work will be carried out to remove the encroachments and develop the lakes," an AMC official said.

Love beyond trials

Tomorrow is Vivah Panchami, the wedding anniversary of Sri Rama and Sita Devi. Those who love them may like to celebrate it with their partners as our desi 'Valentine's Day', buy flowers, and prepare or order something sweet. After all, their names are part of Indian weddings, including King Janaka's immortal line "Iyam Sita, mama sutu" to Rama at the wedding ceremony, meaning "This is Sita, my daughter". Families and single people, young and old, may like to celebrate too for love is worth rejoicing in, be it romantic, platonic, or familial. In some communities, the bride and groom sit on a flower-wrapped swing and the ladies gather around them, singing, "Sita kalyanam vaibhogame" ('The glorious wedding of Sita'). This is an 18th-century Sanskrit composition by Thyagaraja, who remained an ardent devotee of Rama, though he was mocked by his own brother. The song is set in Lord Shiva's favourite raga, Shankarabharanam, whose Hindustani equivalent is Bilawal Thaat. They are fundamental scales and correspond to the C Major scale in Western music. The song begins, "Pavanaja stuti paatra paavana charitra", meaning, "Praised by Lord Hanuman", who would surely have loved being there had he known Rama then. It describes the beautiful wedding of Rama and Sita and praises Rama's many fine qualities.

Some may ask, and with just cause, "Why should we celebrate? Did that marriage turn out well?" The answer to that is simple and straightforward. What went to the Indian heart and stayed there is the luminous quality of the love that Rama and Sita shared, their mutual loyalty, their unflinching acceptance of life's twists and turns, and especially, how they made the best of things, not the worst. Two particular instances come to mind about their positive approach. One, that Sita, a princess, who has only ever lived in palaces with maids and attendants to wait on her, is blithely open to new experiences as long as she is with her beloved Rama. In fact, she adjusts so well to her simple woodland life that she asks Rama wistfully, "Must we really go back to the city? Life is so pleasant here in the forest." And in the Valmiki Ramayana 3:15 (Aranyaakaandam, Sarga 15), we see a touching family dynamic. The 'three' have arrived in the flowering forest of Panchavati in a green valley by the Godavari, with mountains all around. They're looking for a place in which to build their little hermitage, as safe as possible from the snakes and wild animals in the forest. Rama notes with satisfaction the ideal location of a woodland glade full of flowering creepers and shrubs. It is conveniently located by the river, on which they see swans and chakravaka birds, just as Rishi Agastya had told them they would.

Rama notices that the coppery mineral streaks in the mountains catch the light and gleam like the oval vents in the houses and buildings back in Ayodhya, or like the ceremonially painted hides of the royal elephants in the Ikshvaku stables. There's a lovely lake near the glade, in which deep pink and pure white lotuses bloom. Thick grass grows handily around to perform their daily prayers with the earth connection that is an essential part of their faith. Sita, who loves gardens and parks, finds the air sweet with the scent of golden champaka flowers. Rama is delighted to see many other kinds of trees too—sal, tamal, jackfruit, mango, date palm, ashok, shami and kimshuk. He turns to Lakshmana and says, "Will you make a parashala, a thatched cottage, for us in this pleasant place by the Godavari?" He doesn't give Lakshmana a single order, nor does Sita tell him to do this or do that. Old-style commentators may like to remind us that Lakshmana is bound to serve Rama anyway as the avatar of Adisesha, the cosmic serpent. That may be so in theology, but story-wise, in their earthly situation, it's a great gesture of respect, trust and delicacy from Rama and Sita. Thus, Lakshmana, a prince who's never made a cottage before, gets to work. He raises a high clay floor, makes strong bamboo pillars for the clay walls, and rafters of shami branches. He creates a snug thatch of kusa and kaasa, grass and leaves.

BESIDES consumption and investment, trade balance is the third engine determining any country's economic growth and people's well-being. The rude trade shock of merchandise trade deficit catapulting to \$42 billion in October, nearly 60% more than last year, may have serious implications for India's GDP growth and her people's well-being. Services exports have, however, continued to gain strength, and at \$38.4 billion, overtook merchandise exports comfortably. Its surplus of nearly \$20 billion, however, could not wipe out merchandise trade deficit, resulting in an overall trade deficit of nearly \$22 billion, 141% higher than October 2024.

Despite October's shocking trade performance, India's showing in the first seven months was not that bad. The total trade deficit in this period was only marginally worse than last year, by about 10%. The big and burning question now is how India's trade performance will fare in the rest of the year. Optimists would like to believe that the October shock was a one-off event. Pessimists see it as an ominous portent of bad things to come. I would like to realistically assess India's future external trade trajectory and ask if India can get its act together. For this purpose, it will be useful to divide India's merchandise trade into five baskets—agricultural commodities, old industrial goods (e.g. textiles, steel, ICE automobiles), new industrial goods (primarily electronic goods, solar energy products and chips), gold and precious metals/stones (captured in gold and gems and jewellery) and energy products (oil, coal, gas, hydrogen etc.). Services trade can also be better considered in terms of another fivefold services basket—information technology, education and health, financial, transportation and personal services.

India is now an established and stable exporter of agricultural goods and products despite resorting to occasional bans and price restrictions on wheat and rice exports generating close to \$40-50 billions of exports every year. India's structural commodities import dependence is also limited to edible oils, pulses and dry fruits. Agricultural exports consistently far exceed imports. With a steady export surplus, there is no material concern on agriculture trade front.

A major meltdown happened in the case of exports of old industrial goods in October. All major exports in this class—organic and inorganic chemicals, engineering goods, plastic and linoleum and cotton and manmade textile exports fell by 13%-22%. On the contrary, imports of many traditional industrial goods witnessed large increases. Fertilisers import went up by 87% and project

India remains on trade-turning pitch

Despite October's shocking trade performance, India's showing in the first seven months was not that bad.

imports by 46%. Others like machine tools, electrical and non-electrical machinery saw an import surge between 12% and 20%. India is not a major participant in global value chains of most old industrial goods and continues to have major import dependence. There are no products which the world necessarily have to import from India. Worsening trade balance in this category is unfortunately likely to persist. New industrial goods are global growth engines of production and exports. India is only a marginal player there. While India's electronic goods exports witnessed an impressive 19% growth in October, thanks largely to Apple, none of the other new industrial goods even figure in India's exports. On the contrary, India has enormous import dependence for these products. Electronics goods and electrical and non-

imported nearly \$15 billion gold in October, a 200% increase, almost at par with petroleum products. Silver imports are up by 528%. International gold and silver prices are settling at high levels with serious concerns on India's trade balance.

India's gems and jewellery exports, despite rise in gold prices, witnessed about 30% fall in October. With Trump tariffs hurting gems and jewellery exports, India seems to be on a sticky wicket. Services exports continue to do well. In seven months, services exports grew by nearly 10%. Services imports, which are only about 50% of services exports, recorded smaller growth of a little over 3%. India's services exports though are hugely dependent on information technology services (more than 60%). A structural transformation is underway globally in terms of technology and immigration policies. While global capability centres (GCCs) exports from India are growing well, traditional business process outsourcing (BPO) and other IT services exports are slowing down/declining.

With artificial intelligence, auto-programming and IT capabilities rising all over, IT services exports are unlikely to maintain a good growth over a longer time frame. India has not got its act together in most other services exports, whether travel, education, transport—our exports remain highly subdued, whereas imports keep growing. While India's edge in services exports seems secure for some years, its moderate growth will impact its trade surplus. On the whole, India remains on a turning

pitch. India's path will remain unsteady unless it undertakes fundamental reforms and measures. We need to conclude long-pending foreign trade and investment agreements/treaties with US, EU and also China to make India a production and export powerhouse for new industrial products (including automobiles). We need to open up education, health, accounting, legal and personal services and thoroughly overhaul travel and transport infrastructure and services to build new services export growth engines. If we keep skidding from one negotiation to another without completing deals and don't undertake reforms, India's merchandise exports is likely to stagnate for many years. In the current year, merchandise trade deficit might end up around \$350 billion and overall trade balance might touch \$125 billion.



electrical machinery products, which include solar cells and modules, went up in double digits. India's electronics exports growth are slowing—only 19% in October, whereas the last seven months growth average is 38%. As exports of Apple iPhones mature and PLI on large electronic products gets wound up, there will be downward pressure on electronics goods exports.

India is a large importer of all fossil fuels, whether oil, gas and coal. International prices have been falling but are asymmetrically reflected in India's trade. While petroleum imports in value reduced by 4.5%, exports fell sharply by 16.3%. With renewable energy transition at a slow pace, India's dependence on energy imports will keep trade deficit under pressure.

India's fascination for gold has not seen any moderation despite gold prices shooting up by 50% in 2025. India

No sparing the guilty in blackbuck deaths in zoo

Zoos need to be open about any disease outbreaks, even small ones, and keep their wildlife health records updated and accessible

The deaths of 31 out of 38 blackbucks at the Kittur Rani Chennamma Mini Zoo in Belagavi, Karnataka, are more than an institutional embarrassment. They are a moral failure. These animals—icons of India's grassland heritage and listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972—died not because Hemorrhagic Septicemia (HS) is unstoppable, but because the authorities ignored every early warning they received. HS is notorious for its speed: a three-to-five-day incubation window that leaves no time for bureaucratic dithering. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research—National Institute of Veterinary Epidemiology & Disease Informatics (ICAR-NIVEDI) had issued not one but two 'Vet Alerts' through its AI-assisted National Animal Disease Referral Expert System (NADRES), clearly identifying Belagavi as a district at risk. These alerts were not academic memos. They called for surveillance, biosecurity, controlled access, equipment disinfection, quarantine measures, and—crucially—timely vaccinations. The science was clear. The instructions were



precise. The responsibility was unmistakable. The tragedy is even more troubling because these blackbucks were not vulnerable wild wanderers but captive animals living under State supervision. It is impossible not to recall how fiercely the country debated the Salman Khan blackbuck case in 1998, when his alleged actions in the wild dominated national headlines.

Here, by contrast, we have protected animals dying within government custody. Although HS outbreaks in zoos are not often talked about, they are not unheard of. In 2022, a study from the Sri Sayajibaug Zoo in Vadodara recorded an HS outbreak among blackbucks. Eight animals recovered after timely treatment, while three died. Tests confirmed HS in their lungs, liver, and kidneys. The episode showed how quickly veterinarians' actions can save lives, but it also highlighted the delicate nature of captive antelopes. Herbivores like blackbucks are easily affected by stress, poor enclosure conditions, and biosecurity measures. Constant vigilance is essential.

Zoos need to be open about any disease outbreaks, even small ones, and keep their wildlife health records updated and accessible. This transparency helps reveal early warning signs and pushes institutions to improve their systems. The Belagavi tragedy is an alarm bell: India's zoos must realise that when early warnings are given, failing to act is a serious breach of duty. Only a culture built on honesty, readiness, and responsibility can stop another preventable loss.

Court's ruling clouds federal balance further

The Supreme Court's advice that the Governor's or President's subjective satisfaction is immune from judicial review has no constitutional precedent in the context of legislation that reflects the people's will

The response of the Supreme Court to the Presidential Reference has raised more questions than it has answered. It is constitutionally flawed and politically troublesome. Let us first examine what the Constitution Bench has done right. It has held that neither the Governor nor the President can withhold a Bill passed by the State Legislature interminably. That is a no-brainer. The Supreme Court could not have held otherwise. Secondly, it is held that, in the event the Governor or the President, as the case may be, sits over a Bill for an unduly prolonged period, limited judicial review is available, that too only on the question of delay.

The advice rendered has both constitutionally and politically problematic consequences. The constitutional consequences are as follows: (i) The advice negatively impacts the federal structure of the country; (ii) The subjective satisfaction of the Governor, at the initial stage and later of the President, is immune from judicial challenge; and

(iii) The plenary powers of the State Legislatures can be thwarted by executive fiat, through the Governor or the President, by unduly delaying implementation of the will of the people. Under our Constitution, the State Legislature has plenary powers to legislate on subjects which are exclusively in its domain, as set out in List-II of the Seventh Schedule. If a Bill is passed by the State Legislature in respect of a subject matter within its exclusive domain, the Governor or the President withholding such a Bill is anathema to the country's federal structure. Take a Bill where the State Legislature seeks to amend a statute by taking away the Governor's power to appoint Vice Chancellors to universities. Since that power is conferred by the Legislature, it has the plenary power to take away that right. The Governor cannot have the discretion to withhold assent to such a Bill. Yet, the advice on the Presidential Reference allows the Governor to do so. The executive power of the

Governor cannot, as a matter of law, thwart the people's will reflected in state legislation. In fact, the first proviso to Article 200 stipulates that the Governor may, as soon as possible, after a Bill is presented to him, either assent to the Bill or suggest amendments thereto; and if the House or Houses reconsider the Bill and present it again to the Governor with or without amendments, the Governor cannot withhold assent thereto. There is no constitutional space for the Courts to advise otherwise. However, the Court, in its advice to the President, seems to have held that even if the Legislature returns the Bill, the Governor can still withhold assent, or reserve it for the President's consideration, contrary to the first proviso to Article 200 referred above. This is yet another blow to the country's federal structure.

The Court's advice that the subjective satisfaction of the Governor or the President is immune from judicial review has no constitutional precedent, especially in the context of legislation which reflects the people's will. In other words, the Executive's opposition to the people's will cannot be the subject matter of a judicial challenge. Even the President's subjective satisfaction in the imposition of the President's Rule in a state and the rejection of a mercy petition are also subject to judicial challenge. Here, the embargo on the judicial challenge is with reference to legislation expressing the people's will. Such an embargo is not only contrary to the federal structure, but also seriously jeopardises the constitutional premise that the will of the people must be respected, and that the

executive cannot thwart it on the basis of subjective satisfaction.

There can be only one occasion for the Executive to reserve a Bill for the President's consideration. It is when the Governor believes that the Bill relating to a subject matter in the Concurrent List (List-III) trenches upon the law enacted by Parliament. In that case, the Bill can be



sent back under Article 200, as soon as possible, to the Legislature with a message to that effect, which the Legislature is constitutionally bound to consider. However, if in the Legislature's opinion, there is no conflict and the Bill is passed again, there is no space for the Governor or the President to hold back that legislation. In such an eventuality, the matter will be decided by the affected parties through a judicial process

under Article 226 of the Constitution. There is no other reasonable way to interpret Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution. Once the Legislature clears a Bill, how long the Executive can sit over it is not clear from the Court's advice to the President. How long is too long is unclear. What a prolonged delay means is unclear. How the facts and circumstances determine such an issue is unclear.

No answers to why the assent of the Governor be prolonged; why should the Governor have to reserve it for the President's consideration; and why should the Executive not be obliged to give reasons for opposition to the Bill. The reasons for the Executive's inaction will not be before the Court, as that part is not justiciable. This is going to lead to litigation. The nature of court processes, which are tardy and invariably delayed, will adversely impact the implementation of the enactment, apart from serious political implications. The court is, I suppose, aware that in recent years, Governors have acted beyond their constitutionally assigned roles, especially in states where the opposition is in power. We have seen this happen in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Kerala, and elsewhere. The court cannot be blind to the realities of the Governors' actions or

inaction, which are all in the public domain. I am afraid the advice rendered by the Court, in response to the Presidential reference, is not well thought out. Instead of providing clarity, it adds uncertainty to the passage of Bills, which reflect the people's will. A recent Supreme Court judgement that sought to provide some certainty amid Governors' prolonged inaction has been overturned.

NEWS BOX

Hightened security in place ahead of Magh Mela in Prayagraj

Prayagraj. (Agency)

Preparations for the annual Magh Mela in Prayagraj are underway in full force, but following the recent blasts in Delhi, authorities have significantly ramped up security measures.

Access to the Mela area has been tightened, and flying drones without prior permission has been strictly prohibited. The Magh Mela is scheduled to begin on January 3 and continue until February 15.

Sources said on Tuesday that bomb disposal squads and dog units are conducting frequent checks across the fairgrounds. Temporary structures and ongoing construction work are also being closely inspected to ensure safety.

"Security personnel are keeping a close watch on all sensitive areas of the fair. Flying drones without permission is completely banned, and anyone caught will be questioned," a senior police official said.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath personally inspected the Magh Mela area recently. Following his visit, preparations have gained momentum, with security agencies performing their duties with utmost diligence.

The administration confirmed that every checkpoint in the fair area is being closely monitored to ensure a safe environment for devotees.

Kerala excise dept launches intensive crackdown ahead of festive season

Thiruvananthapuram. (Agency)

As Christmas and New Year celebrations approach, the Kerala Excise Department has intensified a statewide crackdown to curb the flow of narcotics and illicit alcohol. Anticipating higher demand and attempts at large-scale smuggling during the festive season and ahead of local body elections, enforcement has been stepped up across the state to ensure public safety.

Over the past nine days, the department seized narcotics worth Rs 3.65 crore and illegal alcohol valued at Rs 55.27 lakh. A total of 3,171 cases were registered, resulting in 613 arrests.

The heightened vigilance reflects the department's commitment to preventing the circulation of harmful substances during a period when families, communities, and Christian institutions engage in major celebrations, officials said.

In Kochi, the State Excise Enforcement Squad seized over 2 kg of Hashish oil, valued at more than 2 crore, arresting four persons, including two Odisha natives.

On Saturday in Kannur Palangadi, Officers confiscated 11,055 litres of spirit being transported under cattle-feed sacks from Hubballi to Ernakulam; the Karnataka-based driver was arrested. Extensive inspections in Thiruvananthapuram on Friday uncovered MDMA, LSD stamps, cocaine, and ganja, leading to multiple arrests.

Across the state, 3,911 raids were conducted including 96 joint inspections with police and other agencies. Additional checks included 702 at bus stands, 200 at railway stations, 1,334 near schools, and 136 in labour camps. Officers registered 417 Abkari cases and 243 narcotics cases, arresting 355 and 234 individuals respectively.

Seizures included more than 3 kg of hashish oil, 104.14 kg of ganja, 259.87 g of MDMA, 10.03 g of heroin, and 93.59 g of brown sugar. In 2,511 tobacco-related cases, fines totalling Rs 5,01,800 were collected.

Three nights on their toes, police crack biggest heist in Bengaluru in a week

BENGALURU. (Agency)

The Rs 7.11-crore robbery that made headlines across the country was solved within a week by the Bengaluru City Police, with investigators and their support staff spending three sleepless nights and coming under tremendous pressure. More than 200 police personnel from the South Division and the Central Crime Branch (CCB) worked together leading to the arrest of nine accused and recovery of Rs 7,05 crore.

A senior police officer said police personnel stayed away from their families for more than three days while tracking the accused, who had fled to different states.

The investigation initially confused the police, as the complainant alerted them nearly an hour after the incident, allowing the suspects to move far from the crime location. Meanwhile, officers and inspectors from the South Division, who were on bandobust duty for Kadalekai Parishes, were roped in for the investigation.

Nearly 60% of the division's inspectors and their crime teams began analysing CCTV footage, questioning company employees and speaking to others connected to the case. Later, CCB police joined the probe. When no immediate leads emerged, tension grew but eventually, crucial clues led to the arrest of a constable and others.

Then the priority of the police was to recover the booty, as the two persons arrested initially were not aware of the whereabouts of the other accused.

The police questioned the family members of the absconding accused, and based on their statements, multiple teams of four to five personnel were dispatched to various locations, including Chittoor, Attibele, Hyderabad, Kuppam and East Bengaluru.

Early-morning demolition clears illegal constructions in Chandigarh Sec-1 club

The SDM (Centre), supported by Executive Magistrates reached to ensure effective law-and-order oversight in coordination with the police teams.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Early morning hours, the staff at the Chandigarh Club in Sector 1, was in for a surprise when they saw UT Estate Office team at their doorstep with excavators and other machinery for a demolition.

At 6 am, the Estate Office team with police force reached the club to remove unauthorised constructions and ensure strict adherence to building regulations. Water and electricity connections to the site were disconnected in advance as per requirement. The Chief Fire Officer, Sector 17, deployed one fire tender as a precautionary measure.

Chandigarh Deputy Commissioner Nishant Yadav told The Indian Express that one large marriage hall (temporary construction in around 1 acre) and kitchen area (around 4000 sq ft) were demolished for violations.

Though the club's encroachment on government land was removed in a demolition drive carried on September 14, a kitchen and toilet constructed at the right-hand side beyond the zoning line still existed. Also, there were unauthorised tin sheds constructed at the left-hand side and were occupied by the commando

caterers. Similarly unauthorised water body constructed also existed.

Adequate police arrangements, including the deployment of lady constables, were ensured by the Senior Superintendent of Police,

Executive Magistrates reached to ensure effective law-and-order oversight in coordination with the police teams.

The Estate Office Enforcement Wing, including the Tehsildar (Enforcement), SDOs,

Inspectorial staff, labour teams, trucks and demolition machinery, carried out the demolition under the supervision of the designated nodal officer who ensured proper identification of structures to be removed.

Civil Defence volunteers assisted in ground operations. The Health Department, Sector 16, deployed doctors along with two ambulances to address any medical contingencies. Administrative and support staff from the Estate Office ensured proper logistics, documentation, refreshments, and early-morning deployment for smooth completion of the drive.

"The Chandigarh Administration remains firmly committed to maintaining the planned character of the city," Yadav stated. He emphasized that all violations of building bylaws will be dealt with strictly as per law and reiterated that unauthorised constructions will not be tolerated under any circumstances.



Chandigarh, to maintain law and order during the drive. The DSP concerned was also present. The Chief Engineer, UT, arranged technical supervision through SDOs and Junior Engineers, along with a team of labourers and machinery. The SDM (Centre), supported by

RPF of NFR apprehended 06 persons Involved in theft of passenger's belongings

The Sikh Times

Maligaon: The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of N.F. Railway, while conducting regular checks and drives within the zone from 19th to 20th November, 2025 apprehended 06 persons involved in theft of passenger's belongings. During this check at different stations and trains, they successfully recovered valuables worth approximately Rs. 1 Lakh 65 thousand from trains and railway stations at Guwahati and Kathiawar. All the apprehended persons along with the recovered valuables were handed over to the respective In-charge of GRP for further legal actions. In a recent incident on 20th November, 2025 RPF of Kathiawar jointly with CPDS team of Kathiawar conducted checking at Kathiawar railway station and apprehended two persons with two stolen mobile phones worth around Rs. 40 thousand. On the same day, RPF team of Guwahati jointly with CPDS team of Guwahati conducted a checking at Guwahati



railway station and apprehended one person and recovered two stolen gold rings worth around Rs. 80 thousand. On 19th November, 2025, RPF team of Kathiawar (East) jointly with CPDS team and GRP of Kathiawar conducted a checking at Kathiawar railway station and apprehended one person and recovered one stolen mobile phone worth around Rs. 20 thousand. During the month of October, 2025, RPF of NFR arrested 19 persons involved in theft of passenger's belongings and recovered 20 mobile phones, etc., total worth around Rs. 2.73 lakhs. All the apprehended persons along with the recovered valuables were handed over to the respective In-charge of GRP for further legal actions. RPF of N.F. Railway always ready to provide services to extend guidance and assistance to the rail users besides their task of ensuring security to the passengers. Railway passengers can dial 139 (Toll-free) if they come across any problem during their train journey.

Northeast Frontier Railway Strengthens Safety Measures for Approaching Foggy Season

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 25th November: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has undertaken extensive preparations to ensure safe train operations during the approaching foggy and inclement weather season. In line with Railway Board guidelines, the zone is equipping locomotives with Fog Safe Devices to assist Loco Pilots in identifying signals and markers under low-visibility conditions. Automatic signalling systems are also being

upated availability of detonators, lime-marking key track locations for better visibility, repainting signal sighting boards and level crossing gates with luminous strips and installing LED-based flasher tail lamps on rear coaches. Retro-reflective STOP boards and other visibility-enhancing measures are being checked and reinforced across fog-prone sections to ensure consistent safety preparedness. Operational steps are also being implemented, including rationalizing train movements to reduce

congestion during low-visibility periods. Training and refresher courses for Loco Pilots, Assistant Loco Pilots, and Guards are being conducted at Zonal Training Centres and Supervisor Training Centres, with special emphasis on fog operations. Crew changing points and locomotive links are being closely monitored to maintain punctuality and safety throughout the challenging weather conditions. Visibility Test Objects (VTOs) are being installed or verified at all required stations to help Station Masters assess fog intensity and take appropriate safety actions, such as deploying fog signalmen or placing detonators. NFR assures passengers that all necessary operational, technical and safety measures are in place to ensure safe and reliable travel during the foggy season and encourages passengers to stay updated through official communication channels.

'Serial killer' linked to gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari held in Kolkata after multi-state chase

New Delhi: A 38-year-old 'serial killer', wanted in over 30 cases of murder, robbery, extortion and other violent crimes, has been apprehended from Kolkata after tracking him across multiple states, police said on Friday. The accused, identified as Sohrab alias Sourav, a native of Lucknow, jumped on a trolley after his release from Tihar Jail on May 19. He had got parole in connection with a 2011 murder case in Delhi's Krishna Nagar, they said, adding that he had the backing of gangster-politician Mukhtar Ansari. Police said Sohrab began his criminal career in 2005 with a series of revenge murders in Lucknow and later escaped from custody in 2007 while being produced in court. Over the years, he allegedly executed several high-profile killings, including that of a Social Welfare Department employee in 2011, former BJP councilor Shyam Narayan Pandey in 2013 and Mohammad Zaid Shakeel, grandson of former MP Shafiqur Rahman Bargi, in 2016. While lodged in jail, he and his brothers allegedly continued extorting businesses in multiple UP cities with the backing of Ansari, police added. He was also convicted for a daylight jewellery shop robbery in Delhi's Krishna Nagar in which the shop owner was murdered. A senior police officer said Sohrab was among the top 10 most wanted criminals in Uttar Pradesh and had been on the run for months. "Police launched a nationwide search, initially scanning locations in Delhi and later expanding the operation to several UP districts, including Lucknow, Barabanki, Bijnor, Moradabad and Nanpara near the Indo-Nepal border," the officer said. The breakthrough came during the probe into an October 6 arms recovery case, where an arrested accused disclosed that Sohrab had been helping procure illegal weapons. Acting on specific intelligence that he would visit an IVF clinic in Kolkata's Bidhannagar area, a trap was laid, and he was apprehended on Wednesday after attempting to flee, an officer said. Sohrab was arrested in Kolkata on November 18 and produced before a court the next day. A three-day transit remand has been obtained, and he is being brought to Delhi for custodial interrogation, officials said, adding that his arrest is expected to aid investigations into several pending cases.



upgraded as per revised standards to enhance reliability and safety during fog. Ahead of the fog season, NFR has strengthened its infrastructure by ensuring ade-

Indraprastha university strengthens global ties with Canadian varsity

New Delhi: Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University (GGSIPU) on Saturday hosted a high-level delegation from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, as part of its drive to expand international collaborations and strengthen its global academic presence. The delegation, led by Dr Darcy Marciniuk, associate vice-president (Research), included senior officials such as Dr Sarah Forgie, dean of the College of Medicine; Dr Anurag Saxena, professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine; Dr Cory Neudorf, professor of Community Health and Epidemiology; Dr Meghna Ramaswamy, director of the International Office; and Dan Zhao, international partnerships specialist. The meeting, chaired by GGSIPU vice-chancellor Prof Mahesh Verma, focused on exploring joint research projects, student and faculty exchange programmes, collaborative grant applications and co-hosted academic events.

Both sides also discussed partnerships aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals

and initiatives aimed at strengthening parameters used in global rankings such as QS and THE. Calling global collaboration "central to the future of higher education," Prof Verma said the engagement with the University of Saskatchewan would open new avenues in interdisciplinary research, healthcare innovation and internationalisation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Pramod Kumar & Mrs. Poonam Singh purchasing Freehold Residential Unit No. 03 on First Floor without roof rights area measuring 45 Sq. Yds. property Bearing no. 180, out of Khasra no. 32 Situated in the Revenue estate of Village Basant Gaon, also known as Basant Nagar, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110057, from Mr. Sandeep Sagar S/o Late Mr. Bhagwan Dass, initially Mr. Bhagwan Dass Sagar as Doc. No. 2024/8/7437, Book no.1, Vol. no. 338, Pages no. 77-88, SR- New Delhi Sarojini Nagar, our client is declaring that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, which is to be financed by IndusInd Bank Ltd. Branch: Janakpuri, Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained.

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]
Advocate

F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad

Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

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Dharma Dhawaj symbolises ideals of Ramrajya at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple



Ayodhya. (Agency)

The Dharma Dhawaj, hoisted atop the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, represents dignity, unity, and civilizational continuity and is considered a symbol of the ideals of Ramrajya. The specially designed saffron flag, measuring 22 feet long and 11 feet wide, was hoisted to mark this historic occasion.

Designed by a parachute expert from Ahmedabad, the flag weighs two to three kilograms and is built to withstand winds and weather conditions on the temple's 161-foot-high summit and 42-foot-high flagstaff.

The radiant sun depicted on the flag symbolizes the brilliance, valor, and divine influence of Lord Ram. The engraved 'Om' symbol and the tree motif convey messages of spirituality and cultural continuity.

According to the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, the Dharma Dhawaj embodies the ideals of Ramrajya. The temple itself is constructed in the traditional North Indian Nagara style, while the approximately 800-meter-long parakota wall reflects South Indian architectural influence, showcasing the complex's architectural diversity.

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Deaths, Suicide Claims, Resignations: What's Pushing Poll Officers To Edge

A BLO represents the Election Commission at the grassroots level, and s/he plays a key role in collecting information from every voter registered at polling stations in areas assigned to them.

Main entrance damaged, customers use ladder to enter SBI branch in Odisha

New Delhi.(Agency)
An unusual scene came to light in Odisha's Bhadrak district after customers of a State Bank of India (SBI) branch were forced to climb on a wooden ladder to enter the bank. The inconvenience occurred for the customers due to an anti-encroachment drive, which damaged the main entry point of the bank and made it unusable. It disrupted the movement of customers, and as a result, the bank authorities placed the ladder on a



tractor trolley to create an alternative pathway. However, it led to severe inconvenience as people in long queues gathered outside the bank. However, the temporary solution did not impress customers, as many were shocked to learn that they had to climb the ladder to enter the bank. The pathway also created a lot of difficulties for elderly people and women. Local inhabitants raised safety concerns and asked for a speedy restoration of the main entrance of the bank, so that customers do not need to climb the ladder, risking their lives. However, as of now, the residents have no other option except to use this alternative pathway. The bank officials have not given a deadline regarding the restoration of the main entry point. Hence, the customers might have to bear the risk for a few more days.

SC issues notice on plea for framework to compensate victims of wrongful incarceration

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Supreme Court has issued notice on a Public Interest Litigation seeking the creation of a comprehensive national framework for compensation and rehabilitation of individuals who suffer unjust or arbitrary imprisonment and are later discharged or acquitted.

The petition, filed by one Jawaharlal Sharma, seeks the constitution of an expert committee to draft a model scheme providing monetary and non-monetary relief to such individuals, including those subjected to prolonged pre-trial detention before being found not guilty.

A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta briefly heard arguments from Senior Advocate Gopal Shankaranarayanan, assisted by Advocate-on-Record Neha Rathi, appearing for the petitioner.

The court then issued notice to the union of India, all state governments, and union Territories, directing them to file their responses.

The petitioners have urged that the proposed committee be headed by a retired Supreme Court or High Court judge and be tasked with framing a uniform, rights-based mechanism for compensation and rehabilitation.

The plea highlights that wrongful or excessive pre-trial detention constitutes a grave violation of fundamental rights, and that acquittal alone cannot adequately remedy the profound harm suffered.

The suggested model framework includes the creation of a national fund to support victims of unjust incarceration, offering financial compensation, psychological counselling, livelihood and skill-development assistance, and structured support for reintegration into society.

The bench has directed that the matter be listed for further hearing after four weeks, following receipt of responses from the union and the states.

New Delhi.(Agency)
At least nine Booth-Level Officers - foot soldiers in the contentious revision of voter lists before a flurry of Assembly elections next year - have died, by suicide or otherwise, across the country over the past week, including in poll-bound West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. Their deaths have focused attention on demands on the hapless BLOs, for most of whom this is a second (and low-paying) gig. The deaths have also led to a spat between the opposition, led by the Congress' Rahul Gandhi and Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, and the Election Commission. As with Bihar, the opposition has questioned the timing of voter list revisions in multiple states, including five that will vote in 2026. Apart from Bengal and Tamil Nadu, these are Goa, Gujarat, and Puducherry. And a Jharkhand minister even demanded people "capture BLOs" when they visit their homes for voter verification, a ridiculous comment that only adds to the stress they are

already under. The poll body has expressed concern over the deaths and said workloads assigned to BLOs must not exceed 1,000 voters each. The EC also said it had doubled allowances - to Rs 12,000 per year for this physically and mentally taxing job - and SIR-related incentives to Rs 2,000. The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, meanwhile, has come out swinging at the opposition, accusing it of obstructing voter revision by failing to provide BLOs with resources and then politicising their deaths.

'Can't do this anymore', says UP BLO

The pressure on BLOs was underlined this week in a letter from Uttar Pradesh's Noida; Pinky Singh resigned complaining that it was impossible to retain her job as a government school teacher while also overseeing verification of 1,179 voters in a residential colony 10 km away. "I am resigning... won't be able to do this anymore. I can neither teach nor do BLO work." Twenty-four hours earlier a BLO in Bengal's

South 24 Parganas district had been hospitalised for stress. Kamal Naskar said he went door-to-door to complete the first phase of the allotted voter list work, and had been given



less than two weeks to ensure the return of filled-in forms.

And two days before he was hospitalised a BLO from Bengal's Nadia district died by suicide - Rinku Tarafdar was found dead in her home and her family blamed SIR-related stress. At least two other deaths have been reported

from Bengal.

BLO deaths have also been reported from Kerala - Aneesh George died by suicide; Rajasthan - Hariom Bairwa died after allegedly being put under pressure by senior poll officials; and Gujarat - four school teachers died after dealing with 'disproportionate and unbearable workloads during SIR process'. The death in Kerala and Bengal also prompted protests with BLOs and employee unions demanding the authorities act to relieve the stress. Some of these protests turned violent. Some were different; in Kerala last week, a BLO in the northern part of the state stripped naked in public while filling out voters' enumeration forms. The EC has issued a show-cause notice.

'Imposed tyranny', says opposition

Opposition leaders like Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Trinamool boss Mamata Banerjee have ripped into the Election Commission on this issue, accusing the poll body of putting BLOs under immense pressure to hit near-impossible voter re-verification targets.

"Misfit For Army": Court Raps Christian Officer Who Didn't Enter Gurdwara

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday criticised a Christian Army officer fired for refusing to enter a gurdwara (to perform a puja) and labelled him a "cantankerous man" and a "misfit", and backed the armed forces' decision to eject him for failing to respect his fellow (Sikh) soldiers' faith. "What kind of message is he sending? Gross indiscipline by an Army officer. He should have been terminated. This kind of cantankerous persons deserves to be in the military?" a bench led by the new Chief Justice Surya Kant said.

"He may be an outstanding officer but he is a misfit for the Indian Army. The amount of responsibilities our forces have at this time... this is not what we want to entertain." Formerly a Lieutenant in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, Samuel Kamalesan was sacked for defying military discipline; he refused a command from his superior officer to enter the sanctum sanctorum of a temple to conduct a puja.

He argued it would affect his monotheistic Christian faith. In May the Delhi High Court re-affirmed the Army's decision, which was that Kamalesan "kept his religion above a lawful command from his superior", and ruled, "This is clearly an act of indiscipline."

The court called Kamalesan's act a violation of "essential military ethos". This afternoon Kamalesan's plea received similarly short shrift from the Supreme Court, with Justice Joymala Bagchi noting the ex-soldier had even defied his pastor's advice.

"When your pastor counsels you... you leave it at that. You cannot have your private understanding of what your religion permits. That too, in uniform..." he declared.

Arguing for the sacked soldier, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan said, "They (i.e., the Army) dismissed him for a single infraction" and that Kamalesan did display respect towards other religions by taking part in festivals like Holi and Diwali.

"This one place in Punjab did not have a sarkar dham (i.e., a structure symbolising the unity of all religions, such as the one inside the Parliament building in Delhi). It had a gurdwara..."

"He is standing right outside the sanctum. He told them, 'Everything else you want me to do outside, I'll do... but entering the sanctum is against my faith...'. Sankaranarayanan told the court, pointing out that only one person - Kamalesan's superior officer - had a problem.

Poll body to meet Trinamool delegates on Nov 28 for dialogue amid SIR row

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday approved Trinamool Congress' leader and Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien's request for an appointment to the party's delegation team as part of its regular interaction programmes with political parties amid the ongoing row over the implementation of SIR 2.0.

In its letter to the party chairperson, Mamata Banerjee, the poll body wrote, "The Commission always welcomes regular interaction with the political parties for constructive dialogue. Accordingly, the Commission has considered the party's request and decided to give an appointment to the delegation of All India Trinamool Congress,

comprising the authorised representative (Derek O'Brien) of the party along with four other members of the party, for a meeting at 11:00 AM on 28.11.2025 (Friday) at



Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi."

The decision came after O'Brien wrote a letter to the poll body on November 23, seeking permission for an appointment. Nevertheless, the issues that are supposed to be

discussed in the meeting are yet to be known.

In the past few days, Trinamool Congress has written several letters to the poll body over the implementation of SIR 2.0 in the state. In her first letter to the Chief Election Commissioner, Gyanesh Kumar, Banerjee highlighted the ongoing problems regarding SIR in the state, citing that the process was structurally unsound.

"Critical gaps in training, lack of clarity on mandatory documentation and the near-impossibility of meeting voters in the midst of their livelihood schedules have made the exercise structurally unsound," Banerjee wrote. As the state has witnessed several suicides in the panic of SIR, she also highlighted the human cost of the process.

Cops Add 'National Security' Charge Over Maoist Slogans At Delhi Protest

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Police has invoked charges under 'imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration' in one of the FIRs registered against a group of protesters who allegedly raised pro-Maoist slogans and used pepper spray on police personnel during an anti-pollution demonstration at the India Gate on Sunday, an official said on Tuesday.

On Monday, the Delhi Police told a court here that the group of protesters arrested for allegedly using pepper spray on cops raised slogans hailing slain Maoist leader Madvi Hidma. The police have

registered two different FIRs -- one at the Kartavya Path police station against six protesters and the other at



the Sansad Marg police station against 17 people. The new section has been added to the Kartavya Path FIR. After the accused were produced

before two magisterial courts, 22 were sent to judicial custody. The newly-added Section 197 of the

Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita (BNS) pertains to imputations and assertions prejudicial to national integration, which includes charges for disseminating false information that endangers India's sovereignty, unity, or security. The FIR said the protesters raised alleged Maoist slogans, including "Hidma amar rahe", "Kitne Hidma maroge, har ghar se Hidma nikalega" and "Hidma lal salaam", prompting the addition of Section.

Lawyer complains of sore throat during hearing. Here's what Chief Justice said

During the hearing, senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan said, "Sorry, I cannot speak properly. My throat is gone." In response, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant responded, "In Delhi, that's a problem for everyone currently," a veiled reference to the city's toxic air crisis.

New Delhi.(Agency)

A light moment broke the tension in a courtroom on Tuesday when senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan told the Supreme Court he could barely speak due to a sore throat. In response, Chief Justice Surya Kant shot back with this sarcastic quip, "In Delhi, that's a problem for everyone currently." The exchange came during the hearing in which the court upheld the dismissal of a Christian Army officer who had refused to enter a temple's sanctum sanctorum. The case was being heard by a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice

Jyomalya Bagchi, with Advocate Sankaranarayanan appearing on behalf of the dismissed officer. As the hearing progressed, Sankaranarayanan, while presenting his arguments, said, "Sorry, I cannot speak properly. My throat is gone." Chief Justice Surya Kant responded, "In Delhi, that's a problem for everyone currently," - a veiled reference to the national capital's worsening air pollution, which has left the city choking. For weeks, Delhi-NCR residents have seen no respite from the deteriorating air quality. On Tuesday as well, a thick blanket of haze shrouded the national

capital, with air quality (CPCB), the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) was recorded at 363, a slight improvement from Monday's 382. At the Rohini Pollution Control Board monitoring station, however, the air quality reached a severe level, with a reading of 416. The air quality is expected to stay in the 'very poor' range over the coming days. Due to the ongoing crisis, all government offices and private establishments were ordered to operate at 50 per cent staff strength under Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan, with the remaining employees required to work from home. Essential services, including hospitals, private healthcare facilities, fire services, public transport, and water and sanitation, have been exempted from these restrictions.

NEWS BOX

Amir, son of a mechanic, vital cog in India's wheel at Junior Men's Hockey World Cup

CHENNAI. (Agency)

When India begin their FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup campaign against Chile at the Major Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai on Friday, defender Amir Ali will be one of the key players for the hosts. When he steps on to the field, his father would be miles away on a footpath in Lucknow trying to fix a two-wheeler that's broken down. The father is a small-time mechanic who doesn't even have a shop.

For Ali, a good show at the junior World Cup would help him seek for a better future for him and his family. Ali's experience from the 2023 edition, where India finished fourth, will be crucial if the Indian colts wish to



become the champions for the first time since 2016. The 21-year-old has already represented the country in the FIH Pro League 2023-24, Asian Champions Trophy 2024 and three editions of the Sultan of Johor Cup (2022, 2023 and 2024). Yet he is yet to help his father work out of a shop.

Born in a modest family from Shah Naja Imambara in the city, Amir had to struggle for basic hockey equipment like sticks when he started more than a decade ago. Father Tasauvar Ali, who is a two-wheeler mechanic, was hardly earning enough for a family of seven including two sons and three daughters. Given his meagre earnings, Tasauvar could afford a small space on Rana Pratap Marg footpath near the National Inter College. Every morning, he would reach the spot with his tools packed in a box and a chair hoping for a good day. Despite the everyday struggles, Tasauvar never stopped Amir from dreaming.

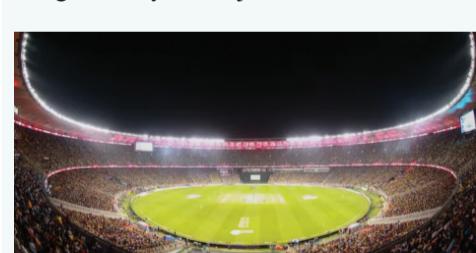
"Initially, my mother Kismatum Jahan was reluctant but father never stopped Amir," Shahrukh Ali, Amir's younger brother who also plays the game and represents Uttar Pradesh at age group tournaments, told this daily. Days passed and so did the years as Amir honed his skills with the help of SAI coach Rashid Aziz Khan at KD Singh Babu Memorial Society. Rajnish Mishra, former India international and incumbent secretary of UP Hockey, then came into picture and lent a helping hand.

India set to formally get hosting rights of Commonwealth Games on November 26

New Delhi. (Agency)

All but assured of the hosting rights more than a month back, India's 2030 Commonwealth Games bid is set to be formally approved on Wednesday at the Commonwealth Sport's general assembly in Glasgow, marking a major milestone in the country's ambitious plan to become a global multi-sport hub.

India last hosted the Games in 2010 in Delhi but this time, the multi-sport event will be coming to Ahmedabad, a city that has upgraded its sports infrastructure at war footing in the last one decade. Wednesday's General Assembly will go through the formality of putting a seal of approval on what has already been recommended by the Commonwealth Sport's Board. That recommendation followed a process overseen by the Commonwealth Sport's Evaluation Committee. For the 2030 CWG bid, India was facing competition from the Nigerian city of Abuja. But Commonwealth



Sport decided to instead consider the African nation for the 2034 edition after developing "a strategy for supporting and accelerating" its hosting ambitions.

"During the Assembly, members from across the Commonwealth will take the final decision regarding the host of the Centenary Commonwealth Games in 2030, following a presentation from India, outlining their vision for the Games in Amdavad (also known as Ahmedabad)." The confirmation of the recommendation will be followed by a unique broadcast moment," stated a press note from Commonwealth Sport that gave a lowdown of how the day would pan out in the Scottish capital. A formal announcement is expected around 6.30pm (IST) and India is being represented by joint secretary (sports) Kunal, Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President P T Usha and Gujarat Sports Minister Harsh Sanghavi among others. "The decision will mark a pivotal moment for the future of the Commonwealth Sport Movement, and a significant chapter in its 100-year history," the Commonwealth Sport added.

India vs Pakistan set for February 15 in T20 World Cup 2026: Report



India and Pakistan will face each other on February 15, 2026, at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo during the Men's T20 World Cup. India and Pakistan are expected to be grouped with the USA, Netherlands and Namibia during the tournament as the full schedule will be revealed on Tuesday

New Delhi. (Agency)

India and Pakistan are scheduled to play their group-stage match of the Men's T20 World Cup on February 15, 2026, at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. This match will mark their first meeting since the 2025 Asia Cup encounters, where they played three games including the final. The tournament, running from February 7 to March 8, 2026, is being co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, maintaining the same format

as seen in 2024. Both teams are placed in a group along with the USA, Netherlands, and Namibia, according to a report from ESPN Cricinfo. India will play their opening match against the USA in Mumbai on February 7, followed by games against Namibia in Delhi on February 12, Pakistan in Colombo on February 15, and the Netherlands in

Ahmedabad on February 18. Pakistan will play all their group matches in either Colombo or Kandy, as per the tournament schedule. The tournament structure consists of 20 teams divided into four groups of five. The top two teams from each group will advance to the Super Eight round, which will be split into two further groups of four teams

India lose to Belgium 2-3 in Azlan Shah Cup hockey

LONDON. (Agency)

IPOH: A gritty Indian side fought hard but went down 2-3 to Belgium in a rain-affected Sultan Azlan Shah Cup match here on Tuesday. Abhishek (33rd) and Shilanand Lakra (57th) scored for India, while Roman Duvakot (17th, 46th) and Nicolas De Kerpel (45th) netted for Belgium. The defeat comes after India, led by defender Sanjay, opened their campaign with a 1-0 win over three-time champions South Korea on Sunday. India held off early Belgian pressure, with goalkeeper Pawan producing sharp saves. Belgium earned back-to-back penalty corners 10



minutes into the contest, but the Indian defence stood solid to keep the scores level at the end of the first quarter. Belgium broke the deadlock in the 17th

minute through Duvakot, despite India appearing to have settled into the game.

India came out stronger after halftime and equalised when Abhishek finished a flowing team move in the 33rd minute. Belgium, however, regained control as De Kerpel converted a penalty corner in the 45th minute, followed by Duvakot adding another early in the final quarter. India pushed late, and Lakra pulled one back in the 57th minute after a superb cross from Rabichandra Singh. Mohit HS then pulled off a stunning save in the dying moments to keep India within striking distance, but the equaliser never came.

Ashes: Hazlewood back in training, Cummins trains with pink ball before 2nd Test

New Delhi. (Agency)

Josh Hazlewood returned to the nets on Tuesday as he continues his recovery from the hamstring injury that ruled him out of the opening Ashes Test in Perth. Pat Cummins, meanwhile, stepped up his push for a comeback by bowling with a pink ball, signalling his intent to feature in the day-night Test at the Gabba. The pair trained at Cricket Central in Sydney while New South Wales faced Tasmania in the Sheffield Shield. Hazlewood was working with the red ball, a clear indication that his focus is on later in the series. He is not expected to be ready for Brisbane, with Adelaide - reverting to a day Test this year - shaping as a more realistic return. Speaking on Monday, Australia coach Andrew McDonald expressed confidence that Hazlewood would play a role in the Ashes. "I know that he'll be available at some point during the series," he said. "We've got a little bit of that early rehab to go through to formulate where he may plug into the series, but we expect him to take some part in the series." Cummins has been steadily increasing his bowling workloads in recent weeks and looked sharp in the nets

in Perth ahead of the first Test. The selectors, however, will only clear him if they are convinced he can handle the demands of a full Test, even with the likelihood of shorter matches in this series.



"It looked like a player that was nearing the completion of his rehabilitation," McDonald said. "The intensity was there, the ball speed was there. There's a lot of positives, but now it's just really building that resilience within the soft tissue and making sure that we're not putting him in harm's way in terms of accelerating it too much." The first three Tests are well spaced,

with an 11-day gap between Perth and Brisbane after the two-day finish in the opener. The schedule tightens considerably from Adelaide onwards, with only four days between the second and Boxing Day Tests, and the same again before the Sydney Test, should matches run their full course.

With the day-night pink-ball element returning for Brisbane, another brisk contest is possible. In the current Sheffield Shield round, ten wickets fell in a single night session between Queensland and Victoria, driving that match rapidly towards a result. Conditions at the Gabba could produce similar action. Xavier Bartlett caught the eye in that fixture, taking 4 for 35 in the second innings to go with a career-best 72. Australia may not need further pace reinforcement if Cummins and Hazlewood become available, but Bartlett's form in domestic cricket and white-ball internationals may have pushed him up the pecking order.

trial and error. Gautam Gambhir can say whatever he wants. I don't care. I have been a former captain and former chairman of selector. I know what am talking. I am not talking through my hat. You need consistency," Srikanth said. Gambhir famously proclaimed that he would not drop players and that any changes would be about picking the right team to win. Yet consider this statistic: since Gambhir took charge, India have used 24 players in Tests in just one year. By contrast, during Virat Kohli's seven-year tenure as captain, only 41 players were used in total. In the first Test, India played Washington Sundar at No. 3, only to push him down to No. 8 in the first innings of the Guwahati Test. Sai Sudharsan, who was dropped for the series opener despite scoring 87 in his previous Test, returned at No. 3. India struggled with the bat in good batting conditions, managing only 201 runs. Barring Yashasvi Jaiswal (58) and Washington Sundar (48), none of the other batters went past the 25-run mark.

10-man Everton beats Man United 1-0 despite Gueye's red card for striking a teammate

MANCHESTER. (Agency)

Everton beat Manchester United 1-0 on Monday to slow the home team's recent revival in a Premier League game that will be remembered for an early red card shown to Everton's Idrissa Gueye for striking teammate Michael Keane. Kiernan Dewsbury-Hall scored with a superb strike in the 29th minute, after which Everton was forced to defend its lead. United dominated the visiting 10 men in a one-sided second half but couldn't find a way past England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford. "They were the better team, with 11 players or 10," United coach Ruben Amorim said. "I felt from the first minute that we were not there with the same intensity so they deserve the win. If they have 10, let's push the opponent to the final third. We need to be near on the transition. We needed to be focused. We need to do more." It was United's first defeat since

losing 3-1 at Brentford almost two months ago and the first time in 47 Premier League games that a visiting team has won at Old Trafford with 10 men. However, the night's unforgettable talking point came after 13 minutes. Gueye was furious at what appeared to be Keane's failure to pick up his pass inside the Everton penalty box. Bruno Fernandes stepped in and fired wide but an angry Gueye confronted Keane. Keane shoved Gueye, who responded with a slap to Keane's face. Referee Tony Harrington displayed the red card for "violent conduct." The referee's call of red card to Gueye for violent conduct was checked and confirmed by VAR — with the action deemed to be a clear strike to the face of Keane, the league said in a social media post. The Senegalese was the first player to be sent off in the Premier League for fighting with a teammate since Stoke City's Ricardo Fuller saw red after clashing with



Andy Griffin in 2008. Dewsbury-Hall later called it "the situation" but downplayed the incident and said what mattered was Everton's reaction. "I think it was just a moment of madness," the goalscorer said. "It was avoidable but Idrissa has apologized to us all at full-time and said his piece. We move on from it. The reaction from the lads after that is unbelievable. We could easily have crumbled and lost the game comfortably and if anything it made us grow as a team." Gueye apologized to Keane and to "my teammates, the staff, the fans and the

club." He said he takes "full responsibility for my reaction." "What happened does not reflect who I am or the values I stand for," Gueye wrote on his Instagram account. "Emotions can run high, but nothing justifies such behavior. I'll make sure it never happens again." David Moyes' team silenced the home crowd by taking the lead 16 minutes after Gueye was dismissed. Dewsbury-Hall's stunning 18-meter strike was a memorable one for the Everton stalwart, but it was an exceptional moment for the Toffees. After the goal it was all United. The home side had 25 shots on Pickford's goal, compared to Everton's three at the other end. "I will sleep well tonight," Dewsbury-Hall said. "I am so thankful we got the three points." Another happy man was Moyes, who recorded his first win as a visiting coach to Old Trafford in the Premier League after 18 unsuccessful attempts.

Gender parity in labour laws: Employers need to go beyond ticking checkbox

New Delhi.(Agency)

While the recently introduced labour laws have, for the first time, prohibited gender disparity in the workplace and given statutory backing to the principle of 'equal pay for equal work', labour and HR experts say that substantial groundwork is required from employers to make these rules truly implementable. They fear that without adequate logistical and infrastructural support, some of these provisions may end up as mere box-ticking exercises. "Employers may consider going beyond compliance checklists and embed gender-sensitive practices into workplace design. This includes revising HR policies to factor in 'equal pay for equal work' and eliminating bias in recruitment and promotion. For night-shift roles, employers are legally obligated to provide secure transportation, CCTV surveillance, and obtain written consent from women employees," said Sonu Iyer, National Leader, People Advisory Services – Tax, EY India.

The law mandates that employers ensure women have equal opportunities to earn higher incomes, including access to high-paying jobs. A key change is the removal of long-standing restrictions on women's employment in night shifts and high-risk occupations. However, experts point out that this will be feasible only if employers invest in infrastructure upgrades such as well-lit premises, functional restrooms, and crèche facilities to support women's participation. A key aspect of this will be the proper implementation of the Maternity Act. "Employers will need to refresh policies around safety measures, night shifts, work-from-home options, working hours, maternity benefits, crèche facilities, and equal opportunities," said Ankur Jain, Partner and Leader, Contracts & Compliance – Risk & Regulatory, PwC India. He noted that besides updating policies, effective communication and ensuring alignment of underlying processes and systems will be critical. Employers will also need to tighten transport and security arrangements and ensure that contractors adhere to the same standards. Women can now work in all categories of jobs — including underground mining and heavy machinery — subject to their written consent and adherence to prescribed safety protocols.

Nifty stalls below 26,000 as expiry-day caution keeps markets locked in a tight range

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Indian equities moved in a narrow band through mid-morning on Tuesday, November 25, as traders balanced cautious global sentiment with domestic factors ahead of the monthly derivatives expiry. Both benchmark indices opened without conviction and continued to drift in a tight range, reflecting a market that is pausing rather than moving decisively in either direction. The Nifty hovered just under the 26,000 mark after a flat start, while the Sensex held marginal gains. The tone was subdued across the board, with neither buyers nor sellers showing enough strength to push the indices meaningfully higher or lower. Profit-taking in select heavyweights added to the sluggishness, particularly in information technology and oil and gas stocks, which slipped after recent bouts of outperformance. Their weakness kept the benchmarks from advancing despite an otherwise stable global backdrop. Metals offered some support, benefiting from firm cues in overseas commodity markets and renewed buying interest from domestic funds. However, the sector's gains were not strong enough to lift overall sentiment. Broader markets mirrored the cautious environment, with mid- and small-cap indices trading almost unchanged and showing signs of consolidation after a period of strong traction. Investor behaviour reflected the usual restraint seen on days of futures and options expiry. Many participants preferred to avoid large directional bets, leading to lower intraday volatility and limited risk-taking. Traders also kept an eye on foreign investor flows, which remained muted despite improving expectations worldwide that the U.S. Federal Reserve is preparing for a rate cut in December. That development has helped lift overseas equities, but the enthusiasm has yet to translate into robust buying in Indian markets.

Adani Group's gross debt rises to Rs 3.36 lakh crore, cash balance grows to Rs 57,157 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

Adani Group said on Monday that it had a cash balance of Rs 57,157 crore at the end of September 2025. This is about 17% of its gross debt which now has grown to Rs 3.36 lakh crore. The port-to-power conglomerate's gross debt stood at Rs 290,409 crore at the end of financial year 2024-25 on a cash balance of Rs 53,843 crore. In its total debt of Rs 335,747 crore, 50% borrowings come from domestic banks. Share of global banks in the debt mix is 23% and the global capital market is 18%. Among companies, flagship Adani Enterprises has a debt of Rs 70,002 crore, Adani Green Energy has a debt of Rs 86,715 crore, Adani Power has a debt of Rs 47,053 crore and Adani Ports & Special Economic Limited has a debt of Rs 50,495 crore. The group stated that its metrics remained strong despite the accelerated investment cycle. Its net debt to EBITDA ratio grew to 3x at the end of September but was below the group's guided range of 3.5x-4.5x. The number, according to Adani, grew as the portfolio companies have now accelerated their capex programs. "Importantly, our debt metrics continue to remain below the guided range even after doubling capex to Rs 1.5 lakh crore—reflecting strong financial discipline... Our focus remains on flawless execution and world-class operations. With rising AAA domestic ratings and stable USD ratings, our long-term infrastructure assets are increasingly attractive to global institutions," said Jugeshinder Singh, Group CFO, Adani Group.

New labour codes boost fixed-term roles. Are full-time jobs at risk

Fixed-term jobs just got a major boost under the new labour codes. But does this new flexibility mean full-time roles are at risk, or will companies find a new balance altogether?

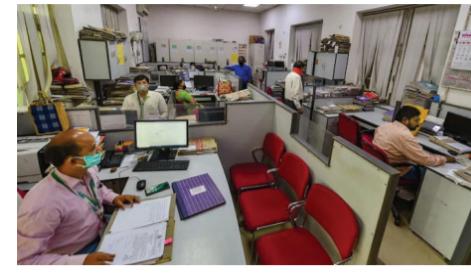
New Delhi.(Agency)

India's new labour codes have come into force, and they mark one of the biggest shake-ups in how companies hire, pay, and retain workers. The most immediate change is the new status fixed-term employees now enjoy. With gratuity eligibility after one year and near-parity in benefits, the distance between fixed-term and permanent roles has narrowed sharply. Companies are already reassessing how they plan their headcount. This shift has brought one

question to the surface. Will the rise of fixed-term roles erode full-time jobs or simply change how organisations balance flexibility with stability?

A SLOW BUT STRUCTURED SHIFT

Hiring experts agree that permanent roles are not about to disappear. But they also say the new codes will push companies to reorganise how work is structured. Balasubramanian A, Senior Vice President at TeamLease Services, said the real churn will happen in sectors where flexibility and cost control shape business decisions. "A shift toward fixed-term hiring is likely in sectors where cost flexibility and cyclical demand are central," he said. He explained that with benefit parity and the one-year gratuity rule in place, "fixed-term contracts become more attractive for project-based, seasonal, and pilot assignments." But he is equally clear that core functions will remain anchored to permanent roles. "Employers will continue to prefer full-



time hires for work where institutional knowledge, long-term retention and cultural alignment matter more than short-term flexibility," he said. In other words, fixed-term work will rise at the edges. Permanent roles will continue to define the centre.

WHERE THE SHIFT WILL BE FELT MOST

The effect will vary across industries, and in most cases the nature of the role will matter more than the sector itself. "In IT and digital services, companies may use fixed-term contracts for sprint-based

work, but core product, security, and long-term development teams will stay permanent," Balasubramanian said. He added that in manufacturing and retail, fixed-term roles could rise in seasonal or project-linked functions, but skilled shop-floor and supervisory jobs need continuity. Media and services firms may increase fixed-term hiring for campaign-heavy or content-driven work. However, Balasubramanian believes editorial, creative and leadership roles will stay permanent because the work depends on trust, continuity, and long-term performance. The shift is not sweeping. It is selective and layered.

A HYBRID WORKFORCE IS NOW CREDIBLE

The codes have also made hybrid workforces more realistic. A smaller, more stable permanent team supported by a larger, flexible pool is now organisationally and legally feasible.

Israel FTA: Indian exporters unlikely to gain materially

New Delhi.(Agency)

With both India and Israel reinstating their efforts to start negotiating a Free Trade Agreement, Indian exporters across sectors like electronics and mechanical appliances, gems and jewellery, pharmaceuticals are likely to get the opportunity to tap the opportunity and diversify their export market. Bilateral merchandise trade remains modest at \$3.6 billion, with Indian exports to Israel at \$2.145 billion in 2024-25, as per the data of the Ministry of Commerce. India accounts for just 2.3% of Israel's total imports of \$91.87 billion. Some of the top export items from India to Israel include precious or semiprecious stones, electrical machinery and equipment, and nuclear reactors. According to the United Nations COMTRADE database on international trade, electrical, electronic equipment, machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers, mineral fuels, oils, distillation products and Pearls, precious stones, metals being some of the top most imported items by Israel. Despite India being Israel's seventh



briefing centres, where the company hosts product demonstrations for enterprise customers, were also impacted. One of the biggest hits came to Apple's government sales team, which worked closely with agencies such as the US Defense Department

and the Justice Department. According to Bloomberg, this team had already been dealing with a difficult environment following the 43-day government shutdown and budget cuts introduced by the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Apple did not disclose the exact number of employees affected or the specific locations of the job cuts.

The move comes at a time when several major US companies have begun trimming their workforce again. In recent weeks, firms such as Verizon, Synopsys and IBM have all announced fresh rounds of layoffs as they adjust to slower growth and a cautious spending environment. Although Apple has not made broad layoffs like many of its peers, this latest step indicates growing pressure within the tech industry to streamline operations and control costs while navigating uncertain economic conditions.



largest trade partner globally, India's exports to the country have gone down by more than 50% between 2023-24 and 2024-25, with India's export of mineral oil going down by nearly 100%. Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) notes that even with an FTA, the scale of goods trade is unlikely to grow sharply. Israel is a high-income, technology-driven market of under 10 million people, limiting demand for Indian mass-market exports such as textiles, automobiles or general engineering goods. In sectors where India is competitive—agriculture, generics, steel, chemicals—Israel is either self-sufficient, tightly regulated through quality and phytosanitary norms, or already offers tariff preferences to partners like the EU and U.S. This keeps Indian products at a structural disadvantage," said Ajay Srivastava, founder, GTRI. Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and Israeli Minister of Economy and Industry Nir Barkat on November 20 signed the Terms of Reference that would guide negotiations on a FTA between the two countries.

Two-thirds of Air India's Boeing 787-8 fleet will be upgraded by end of 2026: Campbell

New Delhi.(Agency)

Air India CEO and Managing Director Campbell Wilson on Monday said the year 2026 is set to witness significant changes to the airline's fleet. Nearly two-thirds of the wide body Boeing 787-8 aircraft would be upgraded next year while the entire fleet would be upgraded by 2027. Briefing newscasters at the Air India Training Academy at Gurugram, Wilson spoke at length about the wide body upgradation programme underway. "The first two of our 787-788 legacy aircraft are undergoing upgradation in California and are receiving a completely new interior and wi-fi connectivity. They will come into service by February 2026. Thereafter, we will be pushing through two to three aircraft every month. So, all the 26 legacy 787-8 aircraft will be upgraded by the end of 2027. By the end of 2026, about two-thirds of the 787-8 fleet will

be upgraded." These aircraft operate to mainland Europe, Australasia, and some of the major markets in SouthEast Asia. "Over the course of 2026 you will see more and more of those routes being operated by the new world class Air India aircraft," he added. Air India has begun receiving the wide bodies purchased back in 2022, he said. "The first wide body aircraft manufactured specially for Air India, the line fit 787-9 should arrive just before Christmas and will go into service in January. Throughout the course of 2026, we should receive six new wide bodies—a mix of 787-9s and A350-1000s along with at least a couple of dozen narrow body aircraft," he elaborated. The customer experience on Air India flights will be much better in 2026, the CEO stressed stating that the retrofit of the interiors of the narrow body aircraft was taking place. "Presently about 83% of the

narrow body fleet has been upgraded. And the 17 aircraft that are yet to be upgraded were originally planned to be retired but decided to keep them later because of slow deliveries from Airbus and Boeing. "For the Vistara aircraft, the liveries have started arriving. "We will start the interior branding from this month. So, we are nearly at the end of the narrow body upgradation programme." He pointed out that 52% of the international routes are presently operated by the new aircraft and they are primarily to London Heathrow, New York, San Francisco, Singapore and Dubai. "By the end of 2026, 81% of the international services will be operated by the upgraded aircraft," he said. Wilson said that 524 out of the 570 aircraft that it had placed firm orders are yet to be delivered and will be done in the next few years. "They will start coming in significant volumes in 2027 and 2028."

India-US trade deal looks quiet. The 'energy' shift tells another story

New Delhi.(Agency)

For weeks, the India-US trade deal has looked somewhat stalled. There have been no major statements or timelines and little sign of fresh progress. But shifts in India's energy sourcing suggest the story is beginning to move. India's oil basket is where the first signs of change have appeared. Russian barrels, which had become the biggest point of friction for Washington, fell sharply in November. Tanker tracking shows arrivals around 9.48 lakh barrels a day, almost half of October's volume. Refiners say they have been adjusting procurement for export-linked units, especially after the latest US sanctions targeted major Russian suppliers and raised the risk of disruptions. Experts, speaking on condition of anonymity, say these shifts are clearing the path for the broader India-US trade agreement.

OIL PIVOT COSTLY, BUT NECESSARY FOR DEAL

This pivot is also expensive. Kpler estimates that replacing Russian crude could increase India's annual oil import

bill by \$3-5 billion dollars, and in a stressed scenario, the cost could climb to \$7-11 billion. The discount India enjoyed was already smaller than many believed. A report by CLSA calculates that India saved about \$2.5 billion a year from these cheaper barrels. Losing even that benefit is not ideal for a country that imports close to 88% of its crude. But with sanctions tightening and the risk of a supply shock rising, New Delhi appears willing to take the hit in return for more predictable flows. India has also signed a long-term contract to import 2.2 million tonnes of LPG from the US Gulf Coast for 2026. That accounts for nearly a tenth of India's annual LPG imports and marks the most structured American energy deal India has agreed to so far. Crude imports from the US have risen as well. October volumes touched about 5.4 lakh barrels a day, the highest in almost three years. Each of these steps signals a slow, deliberate shift away from concentrated dependence on a single supplier. This has not gone unnoticed in Washington. The United States has spent much of the year



raising tariffs on Indian exports and pushing duties on some items to 50%. But the same tariff notifications include more than 200 agricultural exemptions, a sign that the door was never fully closed.

India, for its part, has shielded politically sensitive sectors while showing some flexibility in others. The exchanges look confrontational from a distance, but the pattern on both sides points to managed pressure rather than a breakdown.

GOOD NEWS ON TRADE DEAL SOON?

Through all this, the official line from New

Delhi has stayed steady. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said the talks are going on very well and that some good news is likely once both sides reach a balanced arrangement. He has not attached a timeline to that optimism, which seems intentional since timelines raise expectations. Quiet confidence keeps room for negotiation. In the United States, the tone has shifted too. The push for market access remains, but the rhetoric has softened in recent weeks as India's energy moves become more visible. Goyal has also underlined India's approach more bluntly in recent remarks, saying the United States "sees India as a trusted partner" and that the deal will be announced only when it is "fair, equitable and balanced." The message is clear: India is willing to negotiate, but it will not be rushed. That sentiment is echoed within the government. A senior official involved in the talks told news agency Reuters that India had "avoided the worst impact of the 50% US tariffs" and added that New Delhi was "ready to wait" if needed.

Shraddha Kapoor

Says She'd 'Love' To Team Up With Alia Bhatt, Urges Writers To Create A Script

Shraddha Kapoor recently delighted fans by engaging in an informal online Q&A session, during which she addressed several topics that her followers have long been curious about. One question in particular about a potential collaboration between her and Alia Bhatt caught everyone's attention. When a fan asked about the possibility of seeing Shraddha and Alia together in a film, Shraddha responded with her signature humour. She playfully remarked that the query was "not a question but a statement," adding that she completely resonated



with the sentiment. Encouraging fans to unite in their request, she said they should collectively urge writers to create a script featuring both actresses.

Shraddha then expressed her admiration for Alia, saying, "I am a very big fan of Alia and I feel she does amazing work and it would be great if we get to work together someday."

Fans Request Aashiqui 2 Re-Release, Shraddha Responds Enthusiastically

During another segment of her interaction, a fan suggested that her iconic romantic drama Aashiqui 2 should be re-released in theatres. The actress lit up at the idea and replied that "it's a brilliant idea." She even mentioned that she personally would love to watch the film once again on the big screen.

Shraddha Kapoor Addresses Her Injury and Gives a Health Update

Shraddha also took a moment to address her recent injury, something fans had been anxiously waiting to hear more about. The actress injured herself on the sets of her upcoming film Eetha, which forced her to take a brief break from physical activity. Reassuring fans with her usual charm, she joked that after the injury, "I was moving like a Terminator. It's just a muscle tear. It will be fine." She further added that she simply needs some rest and assured everyone that she will be "absolutely fine" soon.



Palak Tiwari

Turns Heads In A Bikini During Her Fun-Filled Australian Getaway

Ever wondered how to turn a beach vacation into a style statement? Palak Tiwari's Instagram has the answer. The actress, whose vacation diaries never fail to go viral, recently shared a glimpse from her Australia getaway, and unsurprisingly, she looked absolutely stunning in a sultry beach look. Palak shared a series of pictures on her Instagram, showcasing a perfect balance of style and adventure. In some shots, she flaunted her chic beachwear, while in others, she was seen driving a Jeep along the shore. She was also spotted feeding dolphins during her Australia getaway.

The diva looked effortlessly stylish and full of energy in her post. She captioned her post: "@tangaloomaislandresort is a dolphin-filled paradise."

Palak's Aussie Adventures

Palak had also given fans a glimpse of her Australian vacation a few days ago. She captioned the post,

"Kept it 100 on the land, the sea AND the sky. Nothing in the world like Sydney." Her post's comments section was filled with heart emojis. A user wrote, "Your smile is more beautiful than you are, I feel like I can keep looking at you like this forever." Another user added, "Wow stunning as usual." Someone complimented the Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan actress by commenting, "Looking awesome and stunning." An individual remarked, "Not looking less than a brownie."

Palak Tries Talking To Animals In

Another Video From Australia

In the video, Palak begins by saying, "I'm in my room and I have some neighbours, and I'm going to try and befriend them." But to everyone's surprise, her 'neighbours' turn out to be giraffes.

She tries calling out to the giraffes in the video, and jokingly asks, "Hi guys! Are you looking for a human friend? I mean, I have the 'neck' for it. Last time I posted a giraffe, they said I look like one, so..." When the giraffes didn't respond to her, she cutely made an excuse, saying they're probably eating right now, and it's rude to disturb someone while they're having their meal. She gave it another shot, hoping to befriend an animal, but failed miserably. Her caption read, "All the @jamalalodge animals are still considering my request. Will get back with an update." Seems like Palak had a blast during her stay in Australia.



Dhanush Surprises Fans At AR Rahman's Pune Concert, Sings Tere Ishk Mein Track



Fans were in for a surprise at AR Rahman's concert in Pune on Sunday night, when Dhanush took the stage along with the legendary singer. The event rapidly grabbed attention when Dhanush sang a track from the upcoming film Tere Ishk Mein along with AR Rahman. Dhanush's surprising appearance elevated the buzz around the film set to release on November 28. Earlier, the two artists were seen sharing the stage during the music launch of Tere Ishk Mein as well. Dhanush also took to Instagram to post a video of himself singing an unreleased Tamil version of the film's song. It quickly became viral. In the caption, he wrote, "Moments like these make it all truly special Thank you dear @arrahaman sir. Tere ishk mein , An @aanandlrai film, nov 28 in theatres."

Tere Ishk Mein- Advance Booking

As per an India Today report, the event also provided an opportunity for Dhanush to make an exclusive statement about the film. He revealed that booking for Tere Ishk Mein would begin from Monday giving fans the option to secure their tickets before the film's premiere.

Tere Ishk Mein delves deeper into the raw, passionate, and unexpected world of Shankar and Mukti, a love story that defies reason, time, and fate. The new teaser offers an engrossing look into the film's fundamental themes of love, regret, and forgiveness, revealing deeper, more profound aspects of the plot that the teaser and songs had previously suggested. Aanand L Rai's unique storytelling style, paired with the emotional depth of Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav's screenplay, creates a poignant cinematic experience.

Tere Ishk Mein- Cast and Other Details

Tere Ishk Mein is presented by Gulshan Kumar, T-Series, and Colour Yellow, with production by Bhushan Kumar and Krishan Kumar. Aanand L Rai directs the film, which was written by Himanshu Sharma and Neeraj Yadav. It's an A.R. Rahman musical with lyrics by Irshad Kamil. The film is set to be released internationally in Hindi and Tamil on November 28.

Aadar Jain And Alekha Advani Mark One Year Of Their Roka With Unseen Ceremony Photos: 'So Grateful'



Fresh off his warm and candid appearance on Dining With The Kapoors, Aadar Jain had another special moment to celebrate. Aadar and Alekha Advani, who got engaged on November 23 last year, marked their first anniversary of the Roka ceremony this week. To commemorate the day, Alekha shared a beautiful post on Instagram, featuring a series of unseen photos from their beautiful ceremony. Alekha captioned the post, "1 year since everything aligned – us, our families, our world, so grateful." Aadar replied to the post and wrote, "My baby." Anissa Malhotra Jain, her sister-in-law, too reacted to the post and commented, "Our loves, can't believe it's been a year." Alekha's mother-in-law, Rima Jain, added, "Happy 1st Roka."

Aadar reposted his wife's post on Instagram and wrote, "Love you my everything." Aadar and Alekha had posted their engagement pictures last year on Instagram, where the couple looked beautiful together in white traditional outfits.

Aadar And Alekha's Karwa Chauth Celebrations

Earlier, Alekha also offered fans a peek into her Karwa Chauth celebrations on Instagram. She looked resplendent in a bright red, intricately embroidered suit set, while Aadar twinned adorably with her in a red kurta and white pyjamas.

Her carousel featured several sweet family moments as well, including photos with her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. Alekha's caption read, "To long fasts, longer moon delayed and lots of love. Happy KC."

The Beautiful Wedding

The couple tied the knot earlier this year and delighted fans by sharing stunning wedding photos on Instagram. Back on January 20, Aadar posted a series of pictures from their Christian ceremony, captioning the post simply, "The Vow."

A month later, Aadar and Alekha exchanged vows once again in a traditional Hindu ceremony. The groom looked handsome in an elegant white sherwani, while Alekha appeared ethereal in a heavily embroidered lehenga, embellished with delicate detailing.

Hidden dangers of eating dry chia seeds you must know



Chia seeds is a viral superfood people can't stop talking about in videos, reels and online conversations. Soaked chia seeds have even been given a moniker of natural alternative to popular weight loss drug Ozempic. The tiny superfoods are also added to various infused waters, promising effective weight loss and cholesterol reduction. Amid all the online chatter, it's easy to fall into the trap of misinformation and blind trust.

Dieticians often recommend chia seeds (*Salvia hispanica*) for weight loss. Other than aiding weight loss, consuming chia seeds have also been quite effective in controlling blood sugar and improving bone health among other benefits given that it is rich in fibre, calcium, antioxidants and omega-3 fatty acids. It therefore calls for making the nutritious seeds part of daily diet. But hang on. Swallowing of too many dry chia seeds at one go could have disastrous side effects. Plus, excess consumption of it may lead to problems ranging from dietary issues to lowering blood sugar level. It could also interfere with diabetes medication.

Choking hazard

Chia seeds has also been known to improve digestion and ease constipation, but, people who ingest dry seeds, especially too many of them, could land in trouble. If consumed without liquid or water, it can form a concrete-like mass in your digestive tract, which can lead to them getting stuck, Dr. Wendi Lebret, a gastroenterologist at California's UCLA Health, told New York Post and advised people to not eat dry chia seeds. Dr. Lebret cited a 2014 report from the American Journal of Gastroenterology, which



described a 39-year-old man with asthma who had trouble swallowing after ingesting a tablespoon of dry chia seeds. Tests revealed that the seeds had hydrated and formed a gel, causing an obstruction in his oesophagus.

Chia seeds can absorb up to 27 times their own weight in water and one should preferably have them soaked or in smaller quantities.

Constipation, abdominal pain or diarrhoea

Dry chia seeds are fibre-rich and helps in poop regulation but higher dietary intake of it cause problems for many people. Not drinking enough water along with dry chia seeds leads to bloating and abdominal pain. It may also cause diarrhea. As soon as such issues crop up you should

immediately cut chia seeds intake. Many people who suffer from inflammatory bowel disease should limit dry chia seeds intake in order to stop the problem from exacerbating.

Caution for diabetics

While chia seeds are considered a good option for managing blood sugar levels, their intake should be restricted if you are taking blood sugar or blood pressure medications. Too many chia seeds can interact

with these medicines and reduce their effect.

Can interact with blood pressure medications

Chia seeds are effective at lowering both blood sugar and blood pressure. Studies have shown that consuming chia seeds can reduce blood pressure, blood sugar levels, and inflammation. This effect is attributed to their high omega-3 fatty acid content, which acts as a blood thinner. However, chia seeds may interact with blood pressure medications, potentially leading to low blood pressure.



Miraculous benefits of raw Ginger juice for lowering cholesterol, weight loss



Ginger is a culinary staple used in almost every kitchen, but its utility is beyond the flavor it lends to a dish. Many forgotten uses of ginger are now finding favour in the modern world thanks to the various scientific studies that are approving incredible benefits of this spice for digestive health, weight loss and lowering cholesterol.

Ginger has a natural compound called gingerol, which provides a range of benefits from nausea to pain relief, and blood sugar to cholesterol control. It is a much-revered spice in Ayurveda too. According to Acharya Shushruta, ginger pacifies vata and kapha, eases constipation, relieves gas and bloating, and is helpful in abdominal pain. Acharya Charak says ginger's Vipaka or post-digestive effect is sweet and it is used in the case of hridya roga or heart disease. Ginger is also considered a good appetizer, and helps whet the appetite.

How to make ginger juice

Ginger juice can be made in jiffy and downed quickly, providing solution to your cholesterol as well as weight loss woes. This concoction is fast becoming popular among wellness enthusiasts. To make ginger juice, cut fresh ginger into small pieces and add some water. Blend it smooth and strain the mixture to extract the juice. If you do not like the taste, add honey or lemon for extra flavor.

Health experts suggest not having more than 1-2 spoonfuls to avoid adverse effects like mild heartburn, diarrhea, and irritation of the mouth.

Benefits of ginger juice

Relieves nausea and vomiting

Ginger is known to be effective in preventing nausea and

vomiting. It works by improving digestion and blocking certain receptors that cause nausea. Studies have shown that ginger can help reduce nausea caused by chemotherapy, which often leads to severe sickness, as well as nausea after surgery.

Aids in weight loss

Gingerol in ginger can boost metabolism and enhance fat burning. It also helps in controlling appetite which prevents overeating. This can help in shedding pounds.

Cholesterol control

Ginger can help lower blood sugar and reduce cholesterol and triglyceride levels. Long-term use may also raise beneficial HDL cholesterol.

Blood sugar control

Ginger has antidiabetic properties which can prevent the disease

or reduce complications such as micro-vascular retinopathy. Preliminary research suggests that ginger may contribute to better blood sugar control. Ginger juice consumption on an empty stomach may aid in managing blood sugar levels even in those without diabetes.

Relieves morning sickness

The active compounds in ginger, called gingerols, could help relieve morning sickness in pregnant women and is considered safe by the FDA in pregnancy.

Joint health

Another amazing benefit of ginger is its effectiveness in reducing pain and swelling, especially in case of conditions like rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. This is due to its anti-inflammatory properties.

Instant relief in headaches

Have a headache? Do not pop a pill but have some ginger juice. By reducing prostaglandin synthesis, ginger can relieve headaches and migraines.

Cancer prevention

There is some evidence that ginger may inhibit the growth of cancer cells and help combat drug resistance in tumors.

Way to have ginger

- Ginger water in morning can help relieve constipation

- Add grated ginger to your morning tea for a metabolism boost

- You can also add ginger to your soup

Avoid ginger if on blood thinners as it may increase risk of bleeding. Don't eat more than 6 gm of ginger on a daily basis as it can cause acidity, heartburn and diarrhea.

