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Rift in Siddaramaiah camp? Aide says will accept Shivakumar for top post if...

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara signalled a major endorsement by saying he would accept DK Shivakumar as Chief Minister if the Congress decides on a transition. Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, however, said that the Chief Ministerial seat is not empty till 2028.

Bengaluru.(Agency)

On a grey Thursday morning in Bengaluru, Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara, a confidante of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, set political temperatures soaring after he said he would accept DK Shivakumar as the Chief Minister if the party high command decided so. A few minutes later, another Siddaramaiah aide, Minister Zameer Ahmed Khan, said the complete opposite, asserting that the Chief Minister will continue to remain in the top post. With this, a new twist was added to an already dramatic leadership battle playing out in Karnataka between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar. The action in the now-on-now-off tussle has moved to Delhi this time, with both sides wanting the Congress leadership to decide once and for all.

'WILL ACCEPT DK SHIVAKUMAR'

Speaking to India Today, he said "When someone asks me about Chief Minister aspirations, I naturally reply that I am in the Chief Minister race. But if there is a power transition and DK becomes Chief Minister, we will accept that."



This marks one of the strongest signals yet from within Siddaramaiah's camp amid the ongoing chum. Parameshwara added that any transition, if approved by the party, would be smooth.

He also reiterated that he too has Chief Ministerial aspirations, adding that the High Command is fully aware of his "contribution to the party," while reiterating that the final decision rests with them.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge was "also a suitable candidate for Chief Minister," he said, but maintained he had no knowledge of any pact between Siddaramaiah and DK Shivakumar.

'CHAIR NOT EMPTY'

Meanwhile, when asked about the Vokkaliga community's demand to make DK Shivakumar the Chief Minister, Zameer Ahmed Khan said it was natural for Vokkaligas to back him "because they are his community," while stressing that "the Chief Minister's chair is not empty."

LEADERSHIP TUSSELE

The tussle in Karnataka centres on growing speculation over a leadership change, with pressure building around a reported power-sharing pact between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar. The chaos intensified as a batch of MLAs loyal to Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar flew to Delhi, pressing the party high command for the Chief Minister's post. As that pressure mounted, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah camp convened a huddle of its own, aiming to persuade the High Command the chair for the top post isn't vacant. The internal feud has forced party president Mallikarjun Kharge, and by extension, senior national leadership, to step in. He has now acknowledged the crisis and promised a decision, warning the ongoing standoff is damaging the party's image.

Seeking votes through financial promises inappropriate: Sharad Pawar on Ajit's remark

Ajit Pawar last week told voters at Malegaon in Pune district that he will ensure there is no shortage of funds for the town if they elected the candidates of his party.

Mumbai .(Agency)

In a swipe at Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's 'vote or no funds' remark, NCP (SP) head Sharad Pawar on Thursday said it was inappropriate to seek votes based on financial assurances. Speaking to reporters at Baramati in Pune district, Sharad Pawar also said the aid provided by the state government to farmers for losses due to rains and floods is not sufficient. Ajit Pawar, who heads the rival NCP, last week told voters at Malegaon in Baramati tehsil of Pune district that he will ensure there is no shortage of funds for the town if they elected the candidates of his party, but if they rejected them, he will also "reject".

Elections to various local bodies in the state are set to be held on December 2. Responding to the debate over who controls the state treasury following the deputy CM's comments, Sharad Pawar said there is a competition going on about how much funds to be given.

"Instead of seeking votes on the basis of work done, the votes are sought based on financial assurances. This thing is not appropriate. If there is only one goal to win the elections by bringing financial aspects, then what is the need to comment on such things," the senior Pawar said.

On the financial aid to farmers who suffered losses due to heavy rains in some parts of the state recently, the NCP (SP) chief said there was a need to provide adequate help to cultivators who suffered damages. "The state has taken a decision to stop the recovery of loans taken by farmers for one year. The measure will help the farmers temporarily, but not in the long term. Looking at the losses farmers suffered, the state should have provided partial financial aid to the farmers. This could have helped farmers adequately," he opined.



Cabinet clears two rail multitracking projects for Gujarat, Maharashtra

New Delhi .(Agency)

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved doubling of the 141-km Dwarka-Kanals rail line in Gujarat and building third and fourth lines between Badlapur and Karjat (32 km) in Mumbai metropolitan region.

The two line-expansion projects worth Rs 2,781 crore are part of Indian Railways' push to improve connectivity on routes with high passenger footfall. The Devbhumi Dwarka (Okha)-Kanals rail line will improve connectivity to the Dwarkadhish temple, a key pilgrimage site, and transportation of commodities such as coal, salt, container, and cement.

Okha is a coastal town in Dwarka, while Kanals railway station is in Gujarat's Jamnagar district. The doubling of the railway line is expected to increase the transportation of edible salt with overall additional freight traffic of 11 million ton per annum. The line will have 7 major bridges and 143 minor bridges. It will involve a total expenditure of Rs 1,457 crore.

The Badlapur-Karjat line, which is part of 88-km Kalyan Lonavala, is a crucial link of the Mumbai suburban network. The line traverses through Thane and Raigad districts of Maharashtra and the expansion will further help the commuters between Pune to Mumbai. The line falls on the 1,238-km Mumbai-Chennai via Pune-Solapur-Guntakal-Arrakonam high-density network.

The 32-km line will have eight major bridges and 106 minor bridges. It will involve a total expenditure of Rs 1,324 crore, of which 50 per cent will be spent by the Maharashtra government. The expansion of this line is also expected to increase freight movement by 7.2 million tonnes per annum.



PM Modi inaugurates Skyroot's Infinity Campus, unveils Vikram-I rocket

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday inaugurated Skyroot Aerospace's new Infinity Campus via video conferencing. During the event, he also unveiled Vikram-I, the company's first orbital launch vehicle capable of placing satellites into orbit.

At the inauguration, PM Modi lauded the country's growing space sector, highlighting the private sector's significant role in India's space ecosystem.

"Today, the country is witnessing an unprecedented opportunity in the space sector. Today, the private

sector is taking a major leap in India's space ecosystem. Skyroot's Infinity Campus is a reflection of India's new thinking, innovation, and most importantly, youth power. The innovation, risk-taking ability, and entrepreneurship of our youth are reaching new heights today," he said.

The prime minister further said that more than 300 space startups were providing new hope to India's space future. "Today, over 300 space startups are providing new hope to India's space future.

Most of the space startups started with a small team. I have had the opportunity of meeting people



involved in these startups... small teams, limited resources, but they

have the resolve to tough new heights," PM Modi said.

He emphasised the country's growing capabilities in the space sector, highlighting the country's young engineers, designers, coders, and scientists who are driving innovation in areas that were unimaginable just a few years ago.

"Today, Gen-Z engineers, designers, coders, and scientists are creating new technologies... The youth of India is working in areas that were unimaginable just a few years ago," PM Modi said.

Assam moves a step closer to decision on ST status for 6 communities

Guwahati.(Agency)

The Assam Cabinet on Wednesday approved the report of the Group of Ministers containing recommendations connected to the grant of Scheduled Tribe status to six communities in the state. The report will be tabled during the ongoing assembly session. This approval was granted in a special cabinet meeting held on Wednesday evening to deliberate on the issue.

Six communities, which are currently part of the state's Other Backward Classes list and comprise around 27% of Assam's population – the Tai Ahoms, tea tribes or Adivasis, Moran, Motok, Chutia and Koch-Rajbongshi – have long been agitating for the grant of ST status, and organisations of all six communities have been holding mass demonstrations in the past two months, building pressure on the



government ahead of the upcoming elections. At the same time, the state has also been witnessing counter-protests by organisations representing communities already notified as ST in the state.

Ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election, a bill proposing to include these six communities in Assam's ST list was introduced in the Rajya Sabha but was neither discussed nor passed. Based on the Home Ministry directions, the Group of Ministers was constituted that year – and reconstituted twice since – "to determine quantum of reservation for six communities in the State, suggest revised quantum of reservation for OBCs after creation of a new ST category in Assam and measures ensuring full safeguard to protect the interests, rights and privileges of the existing Scheduled Tribes of Assam".

On Wednesday, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that the government is ready to table the report of the GOM – headed by Ranaj Pegu, and including Keshab Mahanta and Pijush Hazarika – in the assembly.

BJP asks its leaders to be ready for West Bengal after Bihar assembly results

NEW DELHI.(Agency)

In a show of collective appreciation and organisational discipline, the Bharatiya Janata Party on Wednesday evening hosted a grand dinner in New Delhi to felicitate more than 45 leaders and workers who played significant roles in securing the NDA's historic mandate in the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections.

The event, held at the official residence of outgoing BJP national president J P Nadda, brought together senior party heavyweights, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah, national general secretary (organisation) B L Santhosh and several MPs and MLAs mobilised from other states during the Bihar campaign. Addressing the gathering, Shah – widely credited as the chief architect of the BJP's electoral strategies praised the

teamwork that powered the victory and underlined the party's core principle of collective performance. "What you all have achieved in Bihar is a matter of pride. This is the hour to keep the organisation blooming for a Viksit Bharat," he reportedly said. "Be ready to conquer Bengal after conquering Bihar." Shah cautioned against individual credit-taking, saying no leader should assume victory was achieved because of him. "This leads to pride. Our role is: where there is less, there we are," he added, reiterating that every BJP worker bears responsibility for strengthening the organisation wherever gaps exist. "Be prepared for the battle of Bengal. Any one of us can be assigned anywhere in the state." Party sources said the dinner served both as a gesture of gratitude and as a reminder of the BJP's emphasis on discipline, unity and



readiness for upcoming electoral battles. The party often holds such gatherings to build camaraderie and acknowledge those who deliver on the ground.

BJP national general secretary Vinod Tawde,

among the strategists behind the Bihar campaign, posted that the banquet was organised to honour dedicated workers whose efforts ensured the NDA's sweeping victory. "Appreciating its dutiful workers and boosting their morale is the biggest identity of BJP," he wrote, noting that Shah conveyed his gratitude to all present.

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha, who was also felicitated, said he received guidance and encouragement from the top leadership. "Gratitude was expressed to all conscientious and dedicated workers whose hard work led to the NDA's landslide win," Sinha posted. He added that the leadership's blessings would inspire further efforts to strengthen organisational unity and advance the goal of making Bihar a developed state.

The BJP leadership hosted a felicitation dinner in Delhi to thank key strategists behind its Bihar victory, with Amit Shah urging them to now prepare for the upcoming electoral battle in West Bengal.

News box

Haryana Thar owner sends DGP notice over his 'defamatory' comment

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A city resident has sent a legal notice to Haryana DGPOP Singh, calling his recent statement about Thar owners defamatory. Sarvo Mitra, who owns a Thar and lives in BPTP Amstoria in Sector 102, claimed that the DGP's public remarks had caused him humiliation and forced him to stop using his vehicle out of embarrassment. The controversy erupted during police chief OP Singh's visit to the city on Nov 8, when he said, "Whoever has a Thar, their mind must be twisted. Thar is not a vehicle, it's a statement that we are like this. All the goons ride it. Meaning, the kind of vehicle shows the mindset."

Singh's comments, made in the context of rising concerns over road stunts and accidents, suggested that owning a Thar was a sign of reckless or criminal intent.

Mitra, who has owned a Thar since Jan 2023, insisted he chose the vehicle for its robust build, safety features, and reliability for daily commuting. "I bought the Thar because it is safe and dependable. To be branded as someone with a 'twisted mind' just because of my choice of car is deeply unfair," he said.

"A car does not define a person's mindset. Such sweeping statements only create divisions and hurt innocent people," he added. Represented by lawyer Vedant Verma, Mitra's legal notice accused the DGP of making baseless and insulting statements that had caused widespread ridicule and damaged the reputation of not just him, but all Thar owners. "The remarks have lowered the image of every Thar owner in the eyes of the public," Verma's notice stated.

E-cycles: An idea that flopped in Noida to be rolled out in Greater Noida

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) board approved a new e-cycling project under a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) model, where a selected agency will install and operate e-cycle stations across the city. Under this, GNIDA will provide 25 sqm of space at designated spots for a fixed period, while the agency will bear all infrastructure and operational costs.

Officials said the service was aimed at easing traffic pressure, improving last-mile connectivity, reducing travel costs and cutting pollution as the city's population continued to grow.

This e-cycle project is not unique to Greater Noida.

In 2023, Noida launched the e-cycle in the city on Noida Foundation Day with similar objectives, but the project has since collapsed. It was awarded to Turban Mobility, which was to operate e-cycles at 62 docking stations. At launch the company began services at 31 stations and committed to expand to all 62 within four months. However, the expansion never happened and within a year the project stalled completely.

According to officials, Turban Mobility failed to meet several obligations under its agreement, including timely installation of docking stations and proper operation of the service. Noida Authority issued notices seeking an explanation but received no satisfactory response. As the situation deteriorated, the CEO constituted a three-member committee to review why the system had collapsed. The committee found discrepancies in the company's performance and flagged concerns about project execution. With the system non-functional and no corrective action visible, the Authority has initiated proceedings to blacklist the operator.

While Greater Noida prepares to roll out its e-cycle network with renewed guidelines and a BOT structure designed to minimise risk, Noida's experience serves as a stark reminder of the need for stronger compliance and monitoring. Officials said that the new Greater Noida project aimed to avoid the lapses seen in Noida and provide residents with a reliable and sustainable mobility alternative.

Decision-making 'slow & poor': Noida gets a rap from UP govt

Noida.(Agency)

Noida Authority has drawn strong rebuke from the state govt for "slow and poor" decision-making and taking unnecessarily "adversarial approach" against real estate company Omaxe Buildhome.

On Tuesday, additional chief secretary (industrial development) Alok Kumar set aside an Authority's demand notice to Omaxe and directed it to recalculate the dues within four weeks after granting proportionate zero-period benefits for five towers of the developer's stalled project in Sector 93. The revisional order specified that relief must apply on three towers (T23 to T25) at Forest Spa project and two yet-to-be-built towers (T26 and T27) planned on an adjoining plot for the period between March 23, 2018, and May 19, 2025, when a high court stay had halted issuance of completion certificates. Zero period, part of UP govt's rehabilitation policy for stalled projects, is a window during which no penal interest, time-extension charges or other penalties can be imposed. Omaxe approached UP govt in May after it received a demand notice from the Authority. The developer sought that the period from May 6, 2015, to May 29, 2025, be treated as a zero period,

citing a series of court-imposed stays over a decade that prevented it from completing the construction of the towers, handing over units and executing registries, even though it continued paying dues. The dispute dates back to 2006, when Omaxe was allotted three group housing plots in Sector 93 measuring 1.19 lakh sq m with a permissible floor area ratio (FAR) of 1.5. Until 2011, it completed towers 1 to 22 of Grand Omaxe project and received a partial completion certificate. In 2010, after the Authority revised its building bylaws to increase FAR to 2.75 and allow additional purchasable FAR, Omaxe purchased 0.5 FAR and secured approval in 2013 to construct five more towers (T23 to T27).

The revised policy, however, sparked a volley of litigation by residents and associations challenging both the legality of the higher FAR and the revised layout. A chart submitted to the govt listed eight major cases before the Allahabad high court, Supreme Court and NCDRC between 2011 and 2025, leading to a series of orders that halted construction of two towers (T26 and T27).

NGT sends notices to govt, pollution boards for waste dumping in Aravalis

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued notices to 11 respondents, including the Union environment ministry, Haryana govt and Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) over a petition alleging illegal dumping of industrial waste in the Aravalis of Khori Kalan and Khori Khurd in Nuh district.

A bench of chairperson Justice Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A Senthil Vel said the case raised important questions of environmental compliance. All respondents have been asked to file their replies at least a week before the next hearing on Feb 13. The petition, filed by Switzerland-based Dr Amit Kumar, alleges that hazardous industrial waste is being brought from Rajasthan and dumped or burnt in the Khori belt, affecting forests, groundwater and public health. Kumar told the tribunal that he had earlier filed OA 277/2025 and was then asked to submit a detailed representation

to Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB). "No action followed despite multiple reminders. The tribunal, in a review plea in Aug, allowed me to bring the issue back," he told TOI.

Kumar cited a joint inspection report of HSPCB, which recorded heaps of plastic, solid waste and industrial waste dumped along the Tauru-Bhiwadi road near Haryana-Rajasthan border. Locals told the inspection team that waste was collected from Bhiwadi's industrial area and dumped on nearby land in Khori Kalan, some of which is classified as forest in revenue records. No burning was seen during the inspection.

He also submitted newspaper reports and a June 20 communication from the HSPCB regional office in Nuh to its Rajasthan counterpart, highlighting cross-border movement of waste. The Khori stretch of the Aravalis has frequently appeared in



environmental complaints related to waste dumping, encroachment and unregulated activity linked to the Bhiwadi industrial cluster. Enforcement has been uneven, partly due to divided jurisdiction between Haryana and Rajasthan. The ridge area is environmentally sensitive and has faced earlier disputes over illegal construction, stone extraction and disposal of untreated scrap. Local residents and environmental groups have long said that routine

dumping and occasional fires are harming forest land and polluting groundwater.

The tribunal has directed the applicant to serve all respondents and file an affidavit of service a week before the next hearing. In Aug, TOI reported that large quantities of chemical waste were being burnt at night in makeshift kilns in the Aravali terrain along the Rajasthan-Haryana border in Nuh, adding pollutants to the Delhi-NCR airshed despite ongoing efforts by state govts, the centre, the Supreme Court and NGT to improve air quality. TOI found that most of the kilns burning industrial waste, including chemically treated scrap, plastic and rubber, are located in Khori Kalan and Khori Khurd. Waste is brought in at night from Rajasthan, mixed with wood and set alight in kilns or open pits. The practice persists because many factory owners avoid the cost of legal disposal, opting instead for middlemen who transport the waste cheaply.

GMDA CEO yet to take charge a month on, Gurgaon development projects can wait

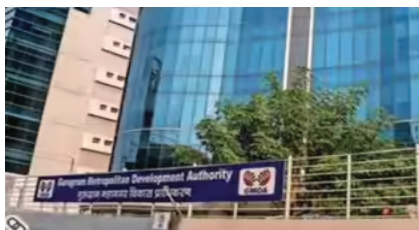
Gurgaon.(Agency)

The leadership vacuum at GMDA is beginning to affect the development work in the city. For the first time since its formation, the authority has been without a functioning CEO for over a month.

Interestingly, the Haryana chief minister himself is the chairman of GMDA.

After previous CEO Shyamal Misra was transferred on Oct 27, a new CEO was appointed the same day. However, 2006-batch IAS officer J Ganesan never assumed office. On Nov 18, the govt assigned MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya to take on the additional responsibility. But he too has not taken charge due to procedural gaps in the order.

The unprecedented situation has stalled administrative decisions, delayed project approvals and stalled financial clearances at the most crucial agency — GMDA — responsible for the city's planning, infrastructure and mobility.



Due to a lack of clarity over the transfer and posting, the designated link officer has not been able to discharge CEO-level duties even as some routine files have been cleared. Sources describe the ongoing situation as a "complete standstill," with officers reluctant to process files fearing administrative complications later. In the absence of an appointed head, project estimates are not being cleared, holding up new works at the file level. Even tenders that have completed their technical evaluation are unable to move to the next stage of financial evaluation. Contractors are also

annoyed since their payments are not getting processed. Officials admit the situation is unprecedented. A GMDA official said, "We are fictioning, but only to the extent that rules permit. Estimates for new work, financial approvals and tenders are all stuck. There is no clarity on when the CEO will formally assume office." Another official said that decision-making has "practically come to a halt. Basic approval of change of land use, access to the right of way and right to services timelines are getting affected."

GMDA was formed in 2017 to streamline Gurgaon's planning and development at the city level. Since then, the authority has seen a number of CEOs, from senior IAS officers at the rank of principal secretary in the initial years to officers of secretary level in recent appointments. Officials point out that not only has the tenure of CEOs become shorter over the years, but the position itself has seen a dilution in seniority from principal secretary rank to secretary rank, weakening institutional

Take me in your lap, pain is unbearable': Haryana basketball player Aman Kumar's father recalls son's final moments

**ROHTAK.(Agency)**

In Bahadurgarh and Lakhna Majra, Hardik Rathi and Aman Kumar left a void that is difficult to fill. The two aspiring basketball players, who died after rusted poles fell on them in the court, took with them their dreams of playing for India. At the Rathi house in Lakhna Majra, 16-year-

old Hardik's medals still lie neatly arranged on the shelf he dusted every week. Just a day earlier, he had told his father he would "play for India in 2026".

Hardik, who had already made a mark nationally, was studying at ITM Global School in Gwalior - a programme sponsored by the Basketball Federation of

India. But on Nov 21, he had requested a leaving certificate from school so he could return home to Rohtak. His mother was unwell, and the teenager did not want to continue staying away from her. Since then, he had been living and training in Rohtak, preparing for the upcoming Under-17 Nationals later this month.

The tragedy unfolded during dunk practice - a standard drill where players try to touch the rim to measure their vertical jump. Witnesses said Hardik missed the first attempt, touched the ring the second time, but his hand gripped the net and pulled him off balance. He fell backwards and never recovered. At Aman's (15) house in Bahadurgarh, the walls still have the balloons & festoons used on his birthday on Nov 19. His mother, Kanta Devi, sobbed, "Mummy, vishwas rakhna, I will make you proud."

Ghaziabad saw 41% jump in diabetes cases in 2 years, shows report

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Diabetes cases in the city have surged 41% in two years — from 2.5 lakh in FY 2022-23 to 3.5 lakh in FY 2024-25, according to a report published by the National Programme on Prevention & Control of Diabetes. Each year showed a steady rise, but the jump between 2023 and 2024 is particularly significant, with over 79,000 new cumulative cases added in just one year. Year-wise comparison of the data shows worrying trends. In FY 2022, total cumulative diabetes-related figures stood at 2,51,494, which rose to 2,76,258 in FY 2023, and then sharply escalated to 3,55,551 in FY 2024. The increase can be seen across all categories — newly diagnosed cases, patients starting treatment, and those under regular follow-up — indicating not only rising incidence but also more people entering the health system for diabetes-related care. According to the report, when the gender breakup is examined, one pattern remains consistent throughout the three years — female cases are significantly higher than male cases across all

indicators. "The sedentary lifestyle and fast food consumption are the main causes of the increase in diabetes cases. The govt proactively organises camps and awareness programmes to address the issue. The number increase is also due to awareness among people of more check-ups," said Dr KGupta, A C M O, Ghaziabad. Currently, there are around 3,910 active diabetes cases in the district this year. In newly diagnosed cases alone, women accounted for 1,73,085 of the total 2.27 lakh cases in FY 2022, compared to 54,835 among men. Although the gap narrowed slightly in FY 2023, the trend remained similar. By FY 2024, newly diagnosed male cases rose sharply to 1,31,923, but even then, the number of female patients remained higher at 1,56,139. This shows that while detection among men is improving — nearly doubling from 2022 — women continue to dominate the diagnosed caseload every year. A similar trend appears in the number of patients who are put on treatment. The figures increased steadily from 10,218 in FY 2022 to 15,889 in FY 2023 and

further to 18,858 in FY 2024, with women again forming a slightly larger share. Meanwhile, the number of patients receiving treatment follow-up more than tripled, rising from 13,356 in FY 2022 to 48,631 in FY 2024, representing a 260% increase. This significant jump suggests improving follow-up and monitoring systems, although it also reflects growing chronic disease burden in the district.

"Type 2 diabetes is one of the most common metabolic disorders today, yet its early signs are often overlooked, especially by individuals with a family history of the disease. While classic symptoms like increased thirst, frequent urination, and excessive hunger appear in only about 30% of patients, other subtle indicators—fatigue, blurred vision, slow-healing wounds, darkened skin patches, or recurrent infections—should never be ignored. In India, the rapid rise in diabetes is driven by sedentary lifestyles, unhealthy diets, genetic predisposition, stress, obesity, pollution, and late diagnosis. Recognising symptoms early and adopting healthier habits is our strongest defence," said Dr

R K Prasad, senior consultant, Endocrinology, Fortis Noida. In Noida, the total number of diabetes patients remained low compared to Ghaziabad. However, in 2023, a total of 8,638 patients were diagnosed with diabetes, of which 4,675 are men, and 3,963 are women. In 2024, the total number of patients increased to 13,761, with 7,521 women and 6,240 men, and in 2025 from April to Nov, a total of 16,815 patients reported diabetes, with 8,864 female and 7,951 male patients.

However, these numbers don't always present the most accurate picture of the on-ground reality. "Many people remain unaware they have diabetes because early symptoms are often silent. A large number of asymptomatic cases go unnoticed, leading to delayed diagnosis. As a result, diabetes is frequently identified only when serious complications begin to appear. The challenge is worsened in regions with limited access to primary healthcare, where routine screening and timely intervention are difficult," said a senior official at the health department. "Long working hours, erratic schedules, and

high stress levels are becoming key drivers of India's rising diabetes epidemic. In the fast-paced urban corporate culture of India, our young generation often sacrifices sleep, exercise, and balanced meals.

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As national capital chokes, MCD sat on clean air funds

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: As the Capital continued to choke, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) spent only 17 per cent of its clean air funds in the last five years, documents received through an RTI query show. The information, shared by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), also highlights repeated gaps flagged during official inspections of Delhi's air pollution mitigation measures. According to the CPCB's response, Delhi received Rs 8.93 crore under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in 2023-24. Along with an unspent balance of Rs 26.60 crore from previous years, the total available fund for that year stood at Rs 35.31 crore. Of this, the MCD spent Rs 5.19 crore, which is about 15 per cent of the total. In 2024-25, the

civic body did not receive any new NCAP grant. It had Rs 30.11 crore available from earlier allocations, but used only Rs. 1.34 crore, or 4.36 per cent of the amount. Taken together, the MCD spent Rs 6.54 crore out of the Rs 35.31 crore available across 2023-24 and 2024-25, amounting to 18.50 per cent utilisation. The CPCB said Delhi has received Rs 81.36 crore in NCAP funds over the past five years, but used only Rs 14.1 crore, or 17 per cent. "As per information submitted by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi on Portal for Regulation of Air Pollution in Non-Attainment Cities (PRANA), funds under NCAP have been utilised for the procurement of truck-mounted multipurpose water sprinkler with anti-smog gun and C&D waste management," the CPCB wrote in a reply.

Along with fund utilisation data, the CPCB has shared inspection findings from three visits conducted on

visits, the CPCB noted diversion of NCAP funds to purposes not covered under the programme and

also recorded that minutes of the city-level implementation committee meetings, which are required

inspection, the team was able to verify only pavement work and a few water sprinklers. Other activities listed under NCAP work plans could not be confirmed on ground. Delhi's local bodies are key implementing agencies under NCAP, which aims to reduce particulate matter concentrations in non-attainment cities. The Capital's air quality remains among the most closely monitored in the country, and local-level actions on road dust, waste burning, vehicle emissions and industrial pollution form a major component of The findings come at a time when the city is facing persistent PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ levels during peak pollution months. Road dust, construction debris and waste burning are regularly listed among major contributors to particulate pollution.



April 2, 2024, January 8, 2025 and June 25, 2025. The inspections were aimed at assessing the progress of air quality-related work carried out by the MCD. Across these

continued low utilisation despite repeated observations. The inspection teams said the MCD had not taken action on suggestions issued during earlier reviews. The CPCB

to be uploaded on the NCAP's PRANA portal, were missing. This portal is used to track planning, fund flow and progress under the clean-air programme. During the latest

Woman shot dead by 'jilted lover'

New Delhi: A 24-year-old woman was shot dead allegedly by a jilted lover, who then allegedly turned the gun on himself at her house in West Delhi's Punjabi Bagh area, the police said on Sunday. They said the incident appears to have stemmed from a dispute over a relationship between the duo. The deceased has been identified as Muskan (24), while the injured youth has been identified as Neeraj (25). Investigators suspect that Neeraj reportedly first shot the woman and then turned the gun on himself on Saturday evening. Neeraj, who suffered a bullet injury on his chest, is in a critical condition. According to police, the control room received a call regarding a firing incident around 5:15 pm from the Old Slum Quarters in Punjabi Bagh. When the police reached the spot, they found Muskan lying on the mattress in one room with a gunshot wound on her head. Neeraj was found critically injured in another room. They were shifted to a nearby hospital where Muskan was declared dead on arrival, while Neeraj is undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigation suggests that the two were involved in a relationship and a quarrel might have led to the shooting. The police are questioning their family members to establish the sequence of events. A case has been registered and further investigation is underway.

Woman swaps elderly's gold earrings in Delhi, arrested

New Delhi: According to the police, a PCR call regarding the theft of a gold earring was received on October 30 at the Chandni Mahal police station. The complainant, an elderly woman, reported that the accused had first visited her home on October 27, claiming to have known her late daughter. After befriending her, the woman returned the next day. During the visit, the accused told the elderly woman that one of her earrings had loosened. On the pretext of tightening it, she allegedly swapped the gold earring with an artificial one and left. The police carried out manual and technical surveillance and checked CCTV cameras. Investigators observed that the suspect's distinctive gait, along with her eyes and a portion of her forehead visible through her hijab, matched the description provided by the complainant, who suffers from low vision. After thorough analysis and local enquiries, the team identified the woman, who was apprehended on November 15. During interrogation, the accused confessed to committing the crime for monetary gain.

Despite GRAP IV curbs, Capital struggles to breathe

New Delhi: Delhi woke up to another smog-laden morning on Sunday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) hitting 430 at 7 am, slipping deep into the 'severe' category despite ongoing curbs under the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) Stage IV. Though the average AQI on Sunday stood at 391, keeping it in the 'very poor' category, several pollution hotspots, including Mundka, Anand Vihar,

Jahangirpuri, and Wazirpur, continued to report dangerously high readings, offering little relief to residents who have endured toxic air for

action to enforce anti-pollution measures. On Sunday, Sirsa said construction activities across Delhi were being "strictly monitored" and that viola-

GRAP Stage IV measures, already in force, were being implemented rigorously. These included a ban on non-essential construction, restrictions on diesel vehicles, stoppage of stone crushing activities and intensified public transport operations. However, air quality interventions are struggling to counter the combined impact of local emissions, stagnant winds and the influx of smoke from farm fires in neighbouring states. The Delhi Government on Saturday also rolled out a CSR-funded initiative to distribute 10,000 electric heaters to Resident Welfare Associations to reduce winter burning of wood and coal for warmth, a major source of nighttime

pollution spikes. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who attended the launch, urged citizens to report any instance of open burning. Sirsa said the government was employing drones, ground patrols and real-time AQI monitoring to track violations. "Our teams are on the

ground 24/7. No leniency for violators," he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mrs. Mitlesh Devi, W/o Mr. Salendra Singh, is the owner of a two-storied residential house measuring a total area of 50 sq. yds. (41.8 sq. mtrs.), bearing Khassa No. 861, situated at Village Bisahada, Pargana & Tehsil Dadi, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. The original owner of the property was Mr. Nabab Singh, S/o Mr. Narayan, as per revenue records. Mr. Nabab Singh has expired, and the names of his legal heirs, including Mr. Salendra Singh (son) and others, were mutated in the revenue records on 02.02.2015. Thereafter, Mr. Salendra Singh gifted the said property to his wife, Mrs. Mitlesh Devi, through a Gift Deed dated 15.11.2025, registered as Document No. 56873. As a result, Mrs. Mitlesh Devi is now the absolute owner of the aforesaid property, which is free from all kinds of litigation, encumbrances, liens, charges, or claims. Kindly note that the said property is currently being mortgaged with Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., Branch Noida, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

(ASHWAN KUMAR) Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

NAME CHANGE

I, GORAV S/O PERMADAS R/O HOUSE No. 968, STREET NO-2, MAHALAXMI GARDEN RAILWAY STATION GURGAON HARYANA-122001, I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO GAURAV FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, REENA W/O ROHIT BHATT R/O G-1158, GROUND FLOOR, SUKHANT LOK PHASE-3, SECTOR-57, GURGAON, HARYANA-122003, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO REENA ROHIT BHATT FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, M S SANDHU S/O CHATTAR SINGH Presently residing at 9 A, GP-2, GURGAON-ONE, SECTOR-22, GURGAON, INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX DUNDHERA, GURGAON, HARYANA-122016, have changed my name from M S SANDHU to MANJIT SINGH SANDHU for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, M ROHIT Son of JC-442953X Rank-NB SUB Name-MADASU ATCHIBABU residing at H.NO-62/504, KAVERI BLOCK, REVNU WARD, PO-VADUVA-PUDI, PS & TEHSIL-GAJJUVAKA, DIST-VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH-530046, have changed my name from M ROHIT to MADASU ROHIT for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 23/10/2025 before Notary Public, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, RAMESH CHAND S/O PREM CHAND, R/o H.No. 120, Taimoor Nagar, Dist. South Delhi, Delhi - 110065, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as LUCKY aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of my minor son is LUCKY CHAND, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, FAREHA BEGAM / FARIHA W/O MOHAMMAD NIYAZUDDIN R/O H.NO-17C, BLOCK-H, GALI NO-13, RATIYA MARG, SANGAM VIHAR, PUSHPA BHAWAN, DELHI-110062, have changed my name to FARIHA BEGUM for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD ASLAM S/O ABDUL RAB R/O Z-1/71, 72 Z1-BLOCK, LAKDI MARKET, WELCOME SEELAMPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME MOHD ASLAM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, NAZIA PARVEEN W/O MOHD ASLAM R/O Z-1/71, 72 Z1-BLOCK, LAKDI MARKET, WELCOME SEELAMPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NAZIYA PARVEEN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Shamsuz Zehra W/O. Mohammad Suleah BAQRI, R/O 541, Mohalla Sadat, Said Nagli, Amroha Uttar Pradesh-244242, have change my name and shall hereafter be known as SHAMSI ZEHR.

NAME CHANGE

I, Salvi Kalra W/O Armaan Anand R/O, 61/23 Ramjas Road Karol Bagh Delhi-110005 have changed my name to Salvi Anand.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANPREET SURI W/O JASPAL SINGH, SUJRI R/O, C-58 UPPER GROUND FLOOR, BLOCK-C, VIKAS PURI, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to MANPREET KAUR SURI.

NAME CHANGE

I, NIKHIL S/O DEEPAK KUMAR GOYAL R/o H.No.132, GF, Pocket-A-8, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name NIKHIL GOYAL permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK KUMAR S/o Ram Kishan R/o H.No.132, GF, Pocket-A-8, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name DEEPAK KUMAR GOYAL permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, POONAM W/o DEEPAK KUMAR GOYAL R/o H.No.132, GF, Pocket-A-8, Kalkaji, Delhi-110019 have changed my name POONAM GOYAL permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, KISHAN S/o Hari Singh R/o H.No.239, Near Canara Bank, Tilpat, Amanagar, Faridabad-121003 have changed my name from KISHAN to KISHAN KUMAR permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, Sanju S/o Rama Swami R/o A-350, Wazir Pur, J J Colony, Delhi-110062, have changed my name to Sanju Kumar for all future purposes

weeks. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), over a dozen stations recorded AQI above 400, while many others hovered in the 'very poor' range. A layer of haze stayed trapped over the city due to low wind speed and winter inversion, worsening visibility and respiratory discomfort. Even as pollution levels surged, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa insisted that the government had been taking "strong and continuous"

weeks. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), over a dozen stations recorded AQI above 400, while many others hovered in the 'very poor' range. A layer of haze stayed trapped over the city due to low wind speed and winter inversion, worsening visibility and respiratory discomfort. Even as pollution levels surged, Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa insisted that the government had been taking "strong and continuous"

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GULFASHAN D/o GULSHAD R/o E-57/C-801, Jhuggi, H-Block Sunder Nagar, Mandoli, PO/Mandoli Saboli, North East, Delhi-110093 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as GULAFSHA.

NAME CHANGE

I, BALJINDER PAL SINGH S/O AMARJEET SINGH R/O C- 335 , THIRD FLOOR C-BLOCK VIVEK VIHAR PH-1 JHILMI, DELHI DELHI- 110095, I have changed my name to BALJINDER SINGH Permanently for future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJESH CHAKRABARTY S/O ARVIND CHAKRABARTY R/O B-1, 802 THE HEART SONG SECTOR -108 DAILTABAD GURGAON HARYANA - 122006, I have changed my name to RAJESH CHAKRABORTY Permanently all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, MEENU CHAKRABORTY W/O RAJESH CHAKRABARTY R/O B-1, 802 THE HEART SONG SECTOR -108 DAILTABAD GURGAON HARYANA - 122006, I have changed my name to MEENU SHARMA Permanently all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I Manju Sivestava alias Manju Adhikari D/O Bag Singh Adhikari Ex. Wife of Sandeep Sivestava residing at K-401, Gali no-8, K block Malpuri pur, Malpuri Kohni alias Rang south west delhi delhi-110037 declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree No HMA 937/2025 dated 20.08.2025, further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manju Adhikari.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ramesh Ram S/O LD Ram R/o A-97 Gali No-5 Madhu Vihar Near Som Bazar Road, D.K. Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi 110059 have changed the name of my minor son Chandrasekhar alias Chander Kesh Bhatti aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Chander Kesh Bhatti.

NAME CHANGE

I, Vikas S/o Purn Singh R/o DDA Flats No-179 Pocket-3 Near Sector-11 Metro Station, Sector-19 Dwarka New Delhi 110075 have changed the name of my minor son Roonak alias Raunak Luthra aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as Raunak Luthra.

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, JEEVAN JOSHI S/O RAM KUMAR SHARMA, residing at H.NO-K/5/11, GALI NO-5, GANGOTRI VIHAR, WEST GHONDA, GARHI MENDU, DELHI-110053, declare that name of my father and mother has been wrongly written as RAM KUMAR JOSHI and RANJ JOSHI in my 10th & 12th Educational Documents and father's name is wrongly written as RAM KUMAR JOSHI in my AADHAR CARD NO-821347814610 and PAN CARD NO ARGP30307M. The actual names of my father and mother are RAM KUMAR SHARMA and RANI, respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection

NAME CHANGE
I, KAFEEL AHMED S/O MOHAMMAD SHAMEEM R/O T-366 AHATA KIDARA NEAR VASHISHT TEMPLE DELHI-110006 have changed my name to KAFEEL AHMAD for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, BALJINDER PAL SINGH S/O AMARJEET SINGH R/O C- 335 , THIRD FLOOR C-BLOCK VIVEK VIHAR PH-1 JHILMI, DELHI DELHI- 110095, I have changed my name to BALJINDER SINGH Permanently for future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJESH CHAKRABARTY S/O ARVIND CHAKRABARTY R/O B-1, 802 THE HEART SONG SECTOR -108 DAILTABAD GURGAON HARYANA - 122006, I have changed my name to RAJESH CHAKRABORTY Permanently all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, MEENU CHAKRABORTY W/O RAJESH CHAKRABARTY R/O B-1, 802 THE HEART SONG SECTOR -108 DAILTABAD GURGAON HARYANA - 122006, I have changed my name to MEENU SHARMA Permanently all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I Manju Sivestava alias Manju Adhikari D/O Bag Singh Adhikari Ex. Wife of Sandeep Sivestava residing at K-401, Gali no-8, K block Malpuri pur, Malpuri Kohni alias Rang south west delhi delhi-110037 declare that I got divorce from my husband vide Court Decree No HMA 937/2025 dated 20.08.2025, further I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manju Adhikari.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

All concerned are hereby informed through this Public Notice that my client namely Smt. Barji Devi W/o Late. Sh. Vikram singh R/O RZF-221, Raj Nagar-2, Guru Nank Marg, Palam Colony, New Delhi-110077, Has debarred and disowned her Son namely RAMPAL S/O Lt. Sh. Vikram Singh aged 35 years, from her social life and all her moveable and immovable property and cancelled all her relations with him risk, cost and consequences.

DINESH KUMAR MEENA
ADVOCATE
CH.752, DWARKA COURTS,
CHAMBER BLOCK
NEW DELHI-110075.
Mob:-7503276002

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK S/O ASHOK KUMAR R/O X-1/17 PHASE-1, BUDH VIHAR DELHI-110086, I have changed my name to DEEPAK GUPTA for All Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, Kanchan Sain W/O Neeraj Sharma R/O B-76, Rama Park Uttam Nagar delhi 110059 changed my name to Kanchan Sharma.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOMINI S/O ABDUL AZIZ R/O B-60 KANCHAN KUNJ, PART-2 MADANPUR KHADAR DELHI-110076 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHID MOEMEN FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, MOUNIKA Wife of No. 16124873F Rank-SPR Name-MANGALA DURGA PRASAD Presently residing at HOUSE NO-13/165 G-2, SANJEEV NAGAR, GUNTAKAL (MID & TK), ANANTHAPURAM (DIST), ANDHRA PRADESH-515801, have changed my name from MOUNIKA TO SHAIKA ASIFA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 27/11/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as JYOTI BALAYADAV alias JYOTI YADAV D/O AHI VAREN YADAV, W/O PAWAN KUMAR R/O House No. F1U/148, Pitam Pura, Saraswati Vihar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110034, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JYOTI YADAV, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Dharmender Kumar S/O Hansraj Aggarwal R/O BG-3/17C, LIG Flats Paschim Vihar New Delhi West Delhi, Delhi -110063, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dharmender Kumar Aggarwal

NAME CHANGE

I, Manav S/O Sunder Lal R/O 1807 Sanjay Basti Timarpur , Civil Lines S/O Dist. North Delhi, Delhi - 110054, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manav Bijwan

NAME CHANGE

I, Khurshida Khatun W/O Tafiya Permanent resident of Ajlantiar, Ward No-18, Rani Shakarpura, PO: Rani Sakarpura, Dist: Khargiya, Bihar-851204, Presently residing at A-277 D, Gali No. 7A, Mahavir Enclave Part-2, Uttam Nagar, D. K. Mohan Garden, West Delhi Delhi - 110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Frooja Khatun

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Sneha Goel W/o Jai Parkash Mangal R/O B-80 Antariksh Apartments, Sector-14 Extension, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, Delhi-110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Sunita Mangal.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Saksham S/o Santosh Kumar Gupta R/O B-310/1, Vats Sharda Enclave, Prem Nagar-3, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Sultanpuri C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Saksham Gupta.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SHYLA JOSEPH W/O JOSEPH JACOB Permanent resident at KUZHIATHU KADUPPIL HOUSE, PARIYARAM P.O, PUTHUPALLY, KOTTAYAM, KERALA-686021 Presently residing at HOUSE No. F-210, SOUTHEAST APARTMENT CHARMWOOD VILLAGE SURAJKUND FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121009 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MARIAMMA JOSEPH in my PPO-0114021359. The actual name of my mine is SHYLA JOSEPH, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I HIJAM SHYAMCHANDRA LUWANG, S/O HIJAM 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 Ganj Extension, New Delhi, Delhi - 110049 declare that the name of my wife has been wrongly written as SALAM SUMITA, in my minor son namely JESSE LUWANG HIJA? , 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, SAMSUL KHAM S/O MOHID BASHIR R/O 424 GALI NO 5 KHURJEJI KHAS KRISHNA NAGAR EAST DELHI 110051 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAMSUL HAQ

NAME CHANGE

I, PUNDEV MISHRA S/O KISHUN MISHRA R/O KAMALNATH NAGAR WARD NO 23 BETTIAH WEST CHAMPARAN BIHAR 845438 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO UMAKANT MISHRA S/O KISHUN MISHRA

NAME CHANGE

I, Chanchal W/O Prem Kumar Garg R/O Flat No-g-46, Ug 1, Dilshad Colony Shahdara 110095 Have Changed My Name to Chanchal Garg for All Future Purposes.

INDIAN RAILWAYS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (BHARAT SARKAR)

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRALAYA)

(RAILWAY BOARD)

No. 2025/TK-II/22/63 (ZITMS) New Delhi, dt.: 27.11.2025

CORRIGENDUM No. 8

Sub : E-tender no. TM -2501 for procurement of Integrated Track Monitoring System from Zero Speed (ZITMS) and its Operations and Maintenance

The closing date of the subject tender due on 28.11.2025 (Friday on 11:00 hrs) has been extended to 28.01.2026 (Wednesday on 15:00 hrs).

All other terms and conditions of the subject tender shall remain unchanged.

(Anurag Kumar)

Executive Director/Track (Mod.)

Railway Board

Tele No. 011-47845530

Email id: anuragkumar.dtk2@gmail.com

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice Invitation of

Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

location	Similar Nature of work: Any Civil work other than track work		
	111: Improvement of civil infrastructure of LC gates and rubberized surface in the section of DEN-IV Similar Nature of work: Any Civil work other than track work		
Approx. Cost of work:	108: ₹1,02,23,954.64 111: ₹7,04,59,598.43	110: ₹9,77,39,288.94	
Earnest Money deposit	(It should be in the form of net banking or payment gateway only. Note: FDR will not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 201025/CE-I/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016)		
	108: ₹2,01,100/-	110: ₹6,38,700/-	111: ₹5,02,300/-
Completion period of work		108: 06 Months 111: 08 Months	110: 12 Months
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender		Upto 15:00 hrs. on 19.12.2025 Opening of tender at 15:00 hrs. on 19.12.2025	
Website particulars notice board Complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.			Above tender available on IREPS site i.e www.ireps.gov.in

NEWS BOX

Families displaced after tornadoes hit Houston as Thanksgiving week begins

DHAKA . (Agency)
A fire in a crowded slum in Bangladesh's capital has burned or damaged 1,500 shanties, leaving thousands homeless, authorities said Wednesday.
No casualties were reported. The blaze, which began Tuesday evening at the Korail slum in Dhaka, was doused Wednesday after 16 hours, said Rashed Bin Khalid, a duty officer at the Department of Fire Service and Civil Defense. The fire service's director, Lt Col Mohammad Tajul Islam Chowdhury, said about 1,500 shanties were burned or damaged in the blaze and thousands remained homeless. According to official data, about 60,000 families "many of them climate refugees" live in the slum which has an area of more than 160 acres (65 hectares). The slum straddles Dhaka's upscale Gulshan and Banani neighbourhoods, and it is surrounded by clusters of high-rise apartment and office buildings. Heavy smoke blanketed the area as flames engulfed the dwellings overnight.
On Wednesday, the residents who lost their homes were desperate to collect their valuables as they scoured the debris. The firefighters said they struggled to reach the area because of narrow alleys. Dhaka, a city of 10.2 million people as of 2024, has hundreds of slums where people from rural Bangladesh migrate because of poverty and exploitation. Climate-induced disasters also push them to the city slums, where they live on daily labour such as driving rickshaws and working as housemaids and cleaners.

What we know about Hong Kong's deadly high-rise fire that killed at least 44

BEIJING. (Agency)
A devastating fire tore through a Hong Kong high-rise residential complex, killing dozens of people with hundreds still missing. The inferno -- the financial hub's worst in decades -- sent shock waves through the city, which has some of the world's most densely populated and tallest residential blocks.
Here's what we know about the fire and its possible cause: Intense flames burned on bamboo scaffolding on several apartment blocks of Wang Fuk Court, a residential complex undergoing repairs in the northern district of Tai Po, on Wednesday.
The blaze rapidly engulfed several towers at the housing estate, which includes eight buildings of 31 floors each and that have a combined total of 1,984 units. Firefighters, one of whom was killed, battled the inferno overnight and it was still burning in spots on Thursday morning. Hong Kong's fire department said at least 44 people have died and authorities have said hundreds remain missing. Around 900 residents have been moved to temporary shelters and dozens were in hospital, some in critical condition.
Tightly packed city
Hong Kong is one of the most densely populated places in the world, making urban disasters a significant risk. Its 7.5 million residents are squeezed into islands covered in steep hills.
The city's population density is more than 7,100 people per square kilometre of land, on par with packed metropolises like Tokyo. Vertical living
The financial hub is famous for its dramatic skyline of sky scrapers set against a picturesque harbour, many of which are home to residents as well as as banks and commercial offices. The city's construction boom in past decades has been largely fuelled by residential towers to house its growing population.
Much of the new residential development in recent decades has been in the New Territories, the area where Tai Po is located.

At least 55 dead, 279 missing as fire rips through Hong Kong apartment blocks

HONG KONG . (Agency)
Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades burned through the night, leaving at least 55 people dead and 279 reported missing with rescuers still pulling residents from blazing high-rise apartment buildings into the morning. Authorities on Thursday said 51 people had been found dead on the scene, bringing the death toll to 55 including four others who had been brought to the hospital. More than 70 people were injured, according to the city's Hospital Authority, many suffering from burn and inhalation injuries.
Police had arrested three men on suspicion of manslaughter in connection with fire which began Wednesday afternoon in a housing complex in Tai Po district, a suburb in the New Territories. By Thursday morning local time, the fire was yet to be put out and rescues continued. Hundreds of residents were evacuated as the fire spread across seven of the eight towers in the Wang Fuk Court complex, as bright flames and smoke shot out of windows.
Forty of the 44 fatalities were declared dead at the scene, officials said. At least 62 others were injured, many suffering from burn and inhalation injuries. Authorities suspected some materials on the exterior walls of the high-rise buildings did not meet fire resistance standards, as the rapid spread of the fire was unusual. Police also said they found Styrofoam materials -- that are highly flammable -- outside the windows on each floor near the lift lobby of the one unaffected tower, believed to be installed by a construction company. "We have reason to believe that those in charge of the construction company were grossly negligent," said Eileen Chung, a senior superintendent of police. The three men arrested, aged 52 to 68, are the directors and an engineering consultant of the firm. The fire at four of the buildings was "coming under control" by Thursday morning, according to the Fire Services Department.

South Africa will not receive invitation for 2026 G20 summit, says Trump

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
South Africa will not receive an invitation to attend the G20 Summit to be hosted under the US Presidency in Florida next year, President Donald Trump said as he described the country as not being "worthy" of membership anywhere. The US takes over the Presidency of the G20 from South Africa and will head the grouping from December 1, 2025, through November 30, 2026. "The United States did not attend the G20 in South Africa, because the South African Government refuses to acknowledge or address the horrific human right abuses endured by Afrikaners, and other descendants of Dutch, French, and German settlers," Trump said in a post on Truth Social Wednesday. He said South Africa has "demonstrated" to the world they are not a country worthy of membership anywhere, and we are going to stop all payments and subsidies to them, effective immediately. "At the conclusion of the G20, South Africa refused to hand off the G20 Presidency to a Senior

Shark kills woman, seriously wounds another awimmer at Australian beach

MELBOURNE . (Agency)
A shark killed a woman and seriously wounded a man taking an early morning swim with her at a national park beach on Australia's east coast Thursday, police said. Experts say a shark rarely attacks more than one person. The attack occurred at Crowdy Bay National Park, which is known for beach camping, fishing spots and hiking tracks 360 kilometers (224 miles) north of Sydney. Beaches in the area and to the north of the attack were closed to swimmers indefinitely, Police Chief Insp. Timothy Bayly said. Emergency services were called to Kyllies Beach following reports that two people in their mid-20s had been bitten by a shark at 6:30 a.m., Bayly said. Bayly declined to detail the injuries or the circumstances of the attack. "At this stage, all I'm prepared to say is they were known to each other and they were going for a swim and the shark attacked," Bayly told reporters. A bystander helped the pair on the beach before ambulance paramedics arrived, but the woman died at the scene. The man was flown by helicopter to a hospital, and paramedic Josh Smyth said the man's condition was serious

but stable. Smyth said the bystander's first aid might have prevented a double fatality. "I just really need to have a shoutout to the bystander on the beach



who put a makeshift tourniquet on the male's leg which obviously potentially saved his life and allowed New South Wales Ambulance paramedics to get to him and render first aid," Smyth told reporters. The identities of the man and woman were not released. Media reports said they are European tourists. Bayly said police would work with experts to determine the species of the shark responsible. He also expected

drumlines — baited hooks suspended from floats — would be deployed in an attempt to catch the shark. Gavin Naylor, director of the University of Florida's shark research program and manager of the International Shark Attack File database, said a single shark attacking more than one person was exceptionally rare. "It is very unusual. Individual shark attacks are rare. And shark attacks on two people by the same individual is not unheard of, but it's very rare," Naylor said. Naylor said he would need to know details of the sequence of the shark's behavior Thursday to understand what had motivated it to bite. The context of the attack was also important such as the size of the shark and whether other prey was in its vicinity. "Sometimes younger sharks are less judicious and they can make mistakes. Where sharks are close to seal colonies and feeding, the probability (of attack) is higher," Naylor said. "The few bites that we do have where a single shark has bitten multiple people, it's usually tiger sharks. We've never seen white sharks do that unless somebody's heroically jumping in the way," he added.

to be taken from them. Perhaps, worst of all, the soon to be out of business New York Times and the Fake News Media won't issue a word against this genocide," he



said. South African President Cyril Ramaphosa noted the "regrettable" statement by Trump on his country's participation in the 2026 G20 meetings. A statement issued by the Presidency of the Republic of South Africa said that the G20 South Africa 2025 Leaders' Summit was attended by several heads of state and governments and was "hailed by all those who attended the summit as one of the most

successful summits." Prime Minister Narendra Modi had attended the G20 Summit in Johannesburg and said that the "successful" summit will contribute to a prosperous and sustainable planet. "I'd like to thank the wonderful people of South Africa, President Ramaphosa and the Government of South Africa for organising the Summit," Modi had said. The statement added that as the United States was not present at the summit, instruments of the G20 Presidency were "duly" handed over to a US Embassy official at the Headquarters of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation. It said that as one of the founding members of the G20, South Africa has always valued the spirit of consensus, collaboration and partnership that defines the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation. The United States was expected to participate in all the meetings of the G20 during South Africa's Presidency.

Two National Guard members shot in an ambush attack just blocks from the White House

WASHINGTON . (Agency)
Two West Virginia National Guard members who deployed to the nation's capital were shot Wednesday just blocks from the White House in a brazen act of violence that the mayor described as a targeted attack. FBI Director Kash Patel and Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser said they were hospitalized in critical condition. The rare shooting of National Guard members comes as the presence of the troops in the nation's capital and other cities around the country has been a flashpoint issue for months, fueling court fights and a broader public policy debate about the Trump administration's use of the military to combat what officials cast as an out-of-control crime problem. Jeffrey Carroll, an executive assistant D.C. police chief, said investigators had no information on a motive. He said the assailant "came around the corner" and immediately started firing at the troops, citing video



reviewed by investigators. "This was a targeted shooting," Bowser said. Two law enforcement officials and a person familiar with the matter said the suspect was believed to be an Afghan national who entered the U.S. in September 2021 and has been living in Washington state. The suspect has been identified by law enforcement officials as Rahmanullah Lakanwal, but authorities were still working to fully confirm his background, they said. The people could not discuss details of an ongoing investigation and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey initially said the troops had died, but he later walked that statement back to say his office was "receiving conflicting reports" about their condition. A suspect who was in custody also was shot and had wounds that were not believed to be life-threatening, according to a law enforcement official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The Trump administration quickly ordered 500 more National Guard members to Washington following the shooting.

At least 44 dead, 279 missing as fire rips through Hong Kong apartment blocks

KYIV. (Agency)
HONG KONG: Hong Kong's deadliest fire in decades burned through the night, leaving at least 44 people dead and 279 reported missing with rescuers still pulling residents from blazing high-rise apartment buildings into the morning. Police had arrested three men on suspicion of manslaughter in connection with fire which began Wednesday afternoon in a housing complex in Tai Po district, a suburb in the New Territories. By Thursday morning local time, the fire was yet to be put out and rescues continued. Hundreds of residents were evacuated as the fire spread across seven of the eight towers in the Wang Fuk Court complex, as bright flames and smoke shot out of windows. Forty of the 44 fatalities were declared dead

at the scene, officials said. At least 62 others were injured, many suffering from burn and inhalation injuries. Authorities suspected some materials on the exterior walls of the high-rise buildings did not meet fire resistance standards, as the rapid spread of the fire was unusual. Police also said they found Styrofoam materials -- that are highly flammable - outside the windows on each floor near the lift lobby of the one unaffected tower, believed to be installed by a construction company. "We have reason to believe that those in charge of the construction company were grossly negligent," said Eileen Chung, a senior superintendent of police. The three men arrested, aged 52 to 68, are the directors and an engineering consultant of the firm. The fire at four

of the buildings was "coming under control" by Thursday morning, according to the Fire Services Department. Officials said the fire started on the external scaffolding of one of the buildings, a 32-story tower, and later spread to inside the building and then to nearby buildings, likely aided by windy conditions. Chinese leader Xi Jinping on Wednesday expressed condolences to the firefighter who died and extended sympathies to the families of the victims, according to state broadcaster CCTV. He also urged efforts to minimize casualties and losses. John Lee, the city's chief executive, said the government will prioritize the disaster and halt public efforts for the Dec. 7 elections for the Legislative Council, the city's legislature.

Schools but no books: Gaza's children return to makeshift classrooms

GAZA. (Agency)
With no backpack, books or uniform, 11-year-old Layan Haji navigates the ruins of Gaza City and heads to a makeshift classroom after two years of war halted her education. But the school is not what she is used to. Painted walls and students' artwork no longer adorn the walls and hallways -- instead, tents set up in a battered building serve as their temporary classrooms. "I walk for half an hour at least. The streets are devastated, full of ruins... It is difficult and sad," Haji said, wearing a torn shirt and patched trousers. But "I am happy to return to my studies," added the young girl, who already dreams of becoming a doctor. Haji is one of 900 students who are going to the Al-Louloua al-Qatami school, one of a number of these establishments that have opened their doors in a bid to allow children to resume their schooling for the first time since the Israel-Hamas war broke out. "We don't have books or notebooks. The libraries are bombed and destroyed," said Haji, who lives in a displacement camp in the Tal al-Hawa area in Gaza City.

"There is nothing left," she added. A month after a fragile ceasefire took effect, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) and Gaza's education ministry announced that children had gradually begun returning to schools in areas not under Israeli military control. A critical moment According to a UN assessment, 97 percent of Gaza's schools sustained some level of damage, including from "direct hits", with most of them needing full reconstruction or major rehabilitation. Israeli strikes have killed many Palestinians sheltering in schools, with Israel alleging that Hamas fighters hide in such establishments. With schools also serving as displacement shelters, UNRWA has recently opened "temporary learning spaces". Last month, UNRWA chief Philippe Lazzarini said that more than 25,000 children have joined these new spaces, and some 300,000 would follow online classes. But that still falls short of the education ministry's estimates of more than 758,000 students in the strip. In the Al-Mawasi area in southern Gaza, local initiatives, some of which receive

international support, are hoping to bring children back to school. Qatar's Education Above All Foundation has launched the "Rebuilding Hope for Gaza"



programme, aimed at supporting more than 100,000 students. The programme includes distributing school supplies, ensuring access to the internet and electricity, and providing psychological support. But even with that support, one such school in the Al-Mawasi area can only offer four subjects: Arabic, English, maths and science. Hazem Abu Habib, from an

initiative backed by the foundation, said "we aim to help as many students as possible resume their education, even if it's just with basic courses". Before the war, Gaza was "completely free of illiteracy", he said. But now "education is facing its most critical period". Heavy labour Sixteen-year-old Said Sheldan said he was full of joy at being able to attend school now that the war has stopped. But "I don't have books, notebooks, pens or a bag. There are no chairs, electricity or water -- not even streets," he said. But before going to the classroom, Sheldan has much more basic needs to attend to. "Every morning, I have to collect water and wait in line for bread," said Sheldan, whose family has been displaced "10 times" and "no longer have a home". Headmaster Iman al-Hinawi, 50, said the school hopes to provide books and other supplies soon and for free. But she warned that the war has forced Gaza's children to perform "heavy labour" to support their families, especially in cases where the breadwinner has been killed.

NEWS BOX

Toddler mauled to death, lioness captured: Forest dept



Ahmedabad . (Agency)

A MINOR girl – nearly two years old – was mauled to death by a lioness in Pichhvi village of Gir Gadhada taluka in Gir Somnath district on Wednesday morning, forest department officers said. The lioness was later captured, the officers said.

According to the forest department, the incident happened around 10:15 am when the girl was playing outside the courtyard of her home when the lioness came and took her away.

A forest department team reached the spot around 10:50 am and recovered the girl's body. The body was sent to the Gir Gadhada community health centre and later handed over to the family after post-mortem examination. A forest officer said the lioness was captured around 1 pm.

Minister of State for Forest and Environment Pravin Mali termed the incident “very sad” and said a cheque of Rs 10 lakh would be handed over to the girl's family on Thursday as compensation.

Despite drug crackdown, Mysuru youth look for ‘Mango’, ‘Kush’ hit

MYSURU. (Agency)

In a shocking expose in the Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's hometown, the city's drug menace is spiralling out of control even as police maintain round-the-clock area domination patrolling and heightened surveillance. ‘Mysuru Mango’, ‘Mysuru Kush’ – local slangs given for popular ganja variants available in the city are now openly used among young consumers and peddlers.

A week after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah publicly vowed to make Mysuru a drug-free city, the ground reality paints a grim and disturbing picture. What is even more alarming is the profile of the buyers. Students aged 18 to 20 years are reportedly travelling from Ramanagara, Hassan and even Kerala, specifically to source these Mysuru-branded ganja varieties, who have been detained while purchasing them in the city or consuming them and getting caught during the surveillance.

“We detained two youths from Ramanagara who were just 18 to 19-year-olds and another youth from Hassan who was 19-year-old during patrolling. On suspicion of them consuming ganja, we conducted a test which came positive, following which an FIR was registered,” said a police officer attached to Mandi police station who recalled instances reported during night patrolling in the last one week.

Peddlers proudly project Mysuru as a quality hub, attracting young buyers who see these variants as premium products, an indicator of just how dangerously glorified the city's narcotics market has become.

CMRL wins Global Sustainable Urban Mobility Project of the Year 2025 award

The Global Energy and Environment Foundation awarded CMRL at its New Delhi summit on November 20 for embedding environmental standards in project design and execution.



CHENNAI. (Agency)

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) has secured the Global Sustainable Urban Mobility Project of the Year 2025, reinforcing the city's emergence as one of India's more progressive mass-transit builders.

The award, presented by the Global Energy and Environment Foundation at its sustainability summit in New Delhi on November 20, recognises CMRL's continued push to embed environmental standards into project design and execution.

The citation was formally handed to CMRL managing director MA Siddique at a ceremony in Chennai, where senior project and environment officials highlighted the utility's efforts to reduce the ecological footprint of its ongoing network expansion.

CMRL has adopted scientifically planned compensatory plantation, strict dust-control systems, real-time noise and vibration monitoring, and the use of low-impact construction materials across its sites.

This is the second consecutive year CMRL has been recognised at Global Sustainability Awards, underscoring a longer-term shift toward greener construction norms and safer urban-mobility infrastructure in Chennai.

Process passport renewal plea of Gujarat man booked for rash driving in 4 weeks: HC to officials

Petitioner, who works in Kuwait, told court he 'would face forceful deportation' if document not renewed.

Vadodara . (Agency)

THE GUJARAT High Court has directed the Regional Passport Officer to process the application of an Indian national from Gujarat, working in Kuwait, whose passport renewal process was put on hold due to an FIR related to rash and negligent driving registered against him in Mahisagar district.

In an oral order on Tuesday, Justice Aniruddha P Mayee directed that the authorities must process the petitioner's renewal application within four weeks, considering the submissions of the petitioner that he “would face forceful deportation and permanent blacklisting which would put his livelihood at stake.”

The order of the HC, uploaded Wednesday, states, “In the peculiar facts and circumstances of the present case and considering the nature of offence as mentioned in the FIR, the court is

inclined to direct the respondent to process the passport application... within a period of four weeks on its own merits and in accordance with law in view of the written explanation ...



submitted before the authorities. The present order is also passed keeping in view the fact that the petitioner is working in Kuwait and would have to face serious consequences if the renewal of the passport is not considered.”

The court considered submissions of the petitioner that a “suitable written explanation had been given to the Embassy of India at Kuwait” on September 7 regarding the FIR

lodged against him and had also undertaken “to remain present and fully cooperate with the learned trial court for expeditious disposal of such criminal proceedings.”

The order of the court also noted that the petitioner was not aware of the FIR filed against him by the police authorities as the complainant is a Police Head Constable.

The HC was hearing a plea filed by an NRI from Gujarat, challenging an order that withheld the passport application of the petitioner as an explanation was sought from the petitioner regarding the ‘suppression of offence’ of rash driving or riding on public way, registered at the Lunawada police station.

MBBS cut-off of 118 for private college against 504 for govt colleges raises concern

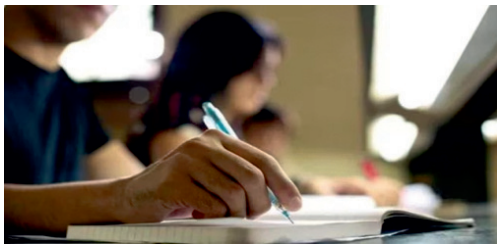
Mumbai.(Agency)

As MBBS and BDS admissions have concluded in Maharashtra, the final cut-off score declared by the Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell shows a significant drop compared to last year. Data shows that in the open category, the cut-off score for MBBS in government medical colleges this year is 504 marks, while last year it was above 600 marks.

The cut-off score for MBBS in private medical colleges for the same category dropped sharply. The CET Cell on Wednesday declared the final cut-off scores for MBBS and BDS admissions in Maharashtra at government as well as private medical colleges. While the cut-off score shows a significant drop when compared to last year, when easy paper for National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) had led to inflation of marks, many have questioned the cut-off score at private medical colleges seen to have dropped below 120 marks. According to candidates and parents, last year the NEET paper was very easy and alleged lenient

evaluation had led to inflation of marks.

“Last year NEET toppers were way higher with as many as 17 candidates scoring 720 out of 720 marks. Compared to that, the topper this year had scored 686 marks. Considering this



significant drop in scores of candidates, the cut-off scores were expected to be lower this year, which has been witnessed since the first round of MBBS/BDS admissions,” said a parent representative. However, many experts have also pointed out the gap of cut-off scores between government and private medical colleges, to raise concerns. Stating that inflation

of marks last year is an analogy best suited for drop in cut-off scores of government medical colleges, an admission counsellor Sachin Bangan highlighted that cut-off score at private medical colleges going below 120 marks raises concerns. “These are final cut-off scores which means those including admissions done at the institutional level rounds at private medical colleges which are infamous for malpractices. If a candidate scoring as low as 118 is able to secure a seat in MBBS at a private medical college in open category; it is definitely a concern,” he said.

CAP round for Ayush courses

In a good news for aspirants of Ayush courses – Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) and Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS), the Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell is to hold one more Centralised Admission Process (CAP) round to allow betterment in seats for all candidates of the previous round.

TVK extends support to sanitary staff on hunger protest in Chennai

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Tamilaga Vetri Kazhagam (TVK) has extended its support for the sanitary workers, who are on an indefinite hunger strike in Ambattur for the last 10 days.

TVK general secretary Bussy Anand, general secretary (election campaign management) Aadhav Arjuna, and deputy general secretary Rajmohan met the four women sanitary workers on Wednesday and extended support for their cause.

Meanwhile, hundreds of conservancy workers from the Royapuram and Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar zones, where solid waste management has been privatised, submitted petitions to their respective zonal officers, reiterating their demand for reinstatement of their jobs directly under the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC). Noting that their protest since August 1 has

been continuing in various forms for 118 days now, they asked authorities to address their demands at the earliest.

Speaking to reporters, Aadhav Arjuna questioned how MK Stalin, who was against the privatisation in 2021 when he was in the



opposition, could change his stance after becoming the chief minister. He said the workers on hunger strike are too weak to even speak. “Yet neither the CM, nor the deputy CM or any other ministers met them,” he said, urging DMK's alliance parties VCK and CPIM to express solidarity with protesters by visiting the protest site.

BMC discusses implementation of GRAP measures as several Mumbai pockets record poor AQI

Mumbai . (Agency)

Amid growing concerns of worsening Air Quality Index (AQI) in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) are mooting decisions to stop ongoing construction works in some of the pockets in Mumbai. Earlier on November 25, in a meeting chaired by Mumbai's municipal commissioner – Bhushan Gagrani – the civic administration had tabled the idea of imposing Graded Action Response Plan (GRAP) measures to mitigate the growing concern of air quality.

The GRAP mechanism is an action response that has been designed by the Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM). The overall plan is divided into multiple stages which includes stoppage of construction works, banning entry of vehicles inside city limits and limiting vehicular movement.

In the November 25 meeting, it was discussed that if Mumbai continues to record poor AQI readings above

200 for three consecutive days, then the civic authorities may impose the GRAP mechanism. Meanwhile, it has also been discussed that if any particular area continues to record poor AQI relentlessly then local level interventions like stoppage of



construction works will be initiated in the area.

On Wednesday, as many as 10 out of the 21 air quality monitoring stations in Mumbai recorded poor AQI. Out of which nine of them recorded moderate AQI, while only one station recorded satisfactory

Live-in relation also attracts laws on marital cruelty: Karnataka HC

BENGALURU. The Karnataka High Court held that the expression “husband” in Section 498A of IPC (cruelty and harassment against a married woman) is not confined to a man in a legally valid marriage alone, but also extends to one who enters into a marital relationship which is valid or voidable, as also to a live-in relationship which bears the attributes of marriage, so long as the essential ingredients of cruelty as defined in the said provision are satisfied.

“The facts... clearly show that the petitioner and complainant, who is the respondent to the case, lived together in a relationship having all the trappings of a marital union. They cohabited, represented themselves as husband and wife, and performed domestic and social obligations typically associated with marriage.

The relationship thus falls squarely within what has been recognised in recent times as a “relationship in the nature of marriage”, or colloquially known as a “Live-In” relationship, attracting the protective umbrella of Section 498A, provided the factual allegations satisfy the elements of “cruelty” as defined in the explanation to the said Section,” it observed.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj rejected the contention of the counsel for the petitioner-husband from Shivamogga that the Section cannot be invoked as the requirement is the existence of a legally valid marital relationship between the complainant-wife and the accused.

The petitioner's counsel contended that since the petitioner's marriage with the complainant is void, null, and without legal sanctity, the petitioner cannot be prosecuted under Sect 498A. The petitioner, already married, cannot be regarded as the “husband” of the complainant and no offence under Sec 498A can be made out against him, the counsel argued.

The court said it cannot accept the contention, and cannot permit the accused-petitioner to take advantage of his own wrong, particularly when he acted in bad faith to induce the complainant into a relationship clothed as marriage.

readings. Mazgaon recorded the worst AQI of 269, followed by 265 at Mulund, 250 at Malad and Borivali, 214 at Powai, 205 at Andheri and 204 at Deonar, among other places. Mumbai's overall AQI stood at 189 – which is regarded as moderate.

Mumbai's AQI has been hovering around the moderate category for the past one month, while several pockets have been recording poor AQI continuously.

For example, Mazgaon has recorded poor AQI for nearly 11 days now, followed by Deonar which has recorded poor AQI in 14 days so far this month and Malad has recorded 12 poor AQI days in 12 days.

“We are compiling data of the number of construction works that are underway in these locations. By tomorrow morning we will issue an SOP as a mitigation measure against the bad AQI,” an official told the Indian Express on Wednesday.

Samvidhan Gaurav Divas event | BJP gave 3 key portfolios to SC community: Minister lauds central & state leadership

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

PRADYUMAN VAJA, a senior minister in the Gujarat government, said on Wednesday that the BJP has given “three very good portfolios” to the Scheduled Caste (SC) community in the recent reshuffle of the state cabinet and for that the community should thank the party's central and state leadership.

Vaja was addressing a gathering in Ahmedabad, organised by the Scheduled Caste Morcho of the Gujarat BJP to celebrate November 26 as Samvidhan Gaurav Divas and to felicitate the three ministers from the SC community in the Bhupendra Patel-led government. Apart from Vaja, the other ministers are Manisha Vakil and Darshana Vaghela.

Last month, CM Patel implemented a major reshuffle in his Cabinet of ministers. Of the total 25 ministers

in it, 19 new ministers were introduced.

Vaja is Cabinet Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, Primary, Secondary, Adult Education & Higher and Technical Education. Vakil has been appointed as the Minister of State for Women and Child Welfare with independent charge. She is also Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment. Darshana Vaghela has been appointed as Minister of State for Urban Development and Urban Housing. Referring to the recent Cabinet rejig, Vaja said, “When the announcement was made, what did people think? What thought came to your mind when the announcement (of new ministers) was made in the morning? That we will get which ministership? Social Justice and Empowerment.”

“But when people saw on TV/media in the evening they were very



happy that along with Social Justice and Empowerment, three very good departments – entire education department, women and child welfare department and urban development department – have been given to the (ministers belonging to the) Scheduled Caste community. For this, we have to

thank the central and state high command (of BJP),” he added.

Vaja also said that in the previous Cabinet there was only one woman minister and that too was from SC community, Bhanuben Babariya. In the previous cabinet, Babariya was a cabinet rank minister. The function was held in the

presence of the BJP's state president Jagdish Vishvakarma. In his address, Vishvakarma said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the BJP has “always worked for the people in the margins.”

In the context of what Vaja said, Vishvakarma added, “I want to tell the youths, my mothers and sisters, that in its history the Congress has never given such respect as we gave these three leaders (ministers Vaja, Vakil and Vaghela)...And it has been given by BJP government.”

He also made a reference to the appointment of Ramanlal Vora as Speaker of Gujarat Assembly. Vora, who belongs to the SC community, is a former Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly.

He also alleged that Congress always “did injustice to Dr B R Ambedkar and repeatedly insulted the Constitution.”

Before dissent, need playfulness in nationalism

Whenever I try to balance between the esoteric and the everyday, my mind tends to go back to the memory of my teacher, Ramchandra Gandhi.

He was a remarkable philosopher, an authority on mathematician and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead. I still remember the way Ramu would come to class and quote Whitehead's lecture at Harvard. Whitehead had apparently once walked into the classroom, banged his head gently, and said, "Gentlemen, I have disturbed the most distant star," referring to the interconnectedness of the cosmos. For Ramu, communication and connectivity were part of everyday life. The way he linked them reminds me of the way he used to talk about nationalism. For Ramchandra Gandhi, nationalism was a filigreed moment—full of nuances, a dissenting imagination that created a pluralistic world.

For him, deep down inside, nationalism was a different way of looking at reality—a dream world that created a sense of alternatives. Within this context, he pointed out that the world of nationalism was not actually an invention of the nation-state. For India, and in fact for many nationalists, the dream of nationalism was a dream of inventing an alternative childhood.

Childhood, in fact, was the focus of many nationalist moments. It's best captured in Rabindranath Tagore's statement: "Every child born today is an indication that god is not yet tired of man." In this sense, Tagore captured the essence of the Indian national movement.

Childhood was a dream of flexibility. Childhood was a dream of freedom. And childhood brought about a sense of playfulness. This sense of play—with the capacity to imagine and inhabit alternatives—is something we have lost today. The dream of playfulness is caught in many ways in how we learn to live with uncertainty and celebrate plurality. It is this sense of play that we have lost in our nationalist movement, which has become more monologic, more uniform. We have created a monopoly of ideas, which now come as dictates rather than dialogues. Playfulness—the politics of play—is something our politics has forgotten. The first thing we have to understand is that the emphasis on the nation-state is misleading. For many nationalists in India—from Tagore to Patrick Geddes to Maria Montessori—it was their childhood that was the basis of the dream world. Childhood, in a way, was an articulation of alternatives. And this is what we must begin by emphasising that the nation-state was not so much a political economy as a pedagogic construct—a new way of understanding reality, teaching it, and communicating it. What marked childhood, and what marked nationalism in particular, was a certain sense of playfulness. This can be brought out by a series of examples.

One of the first things one thinks of is Mahatma Gandhi's own work on the charkha. The charkha, he said, was not just an instrument; it is a weave of playful ideas. In this context, he said the charkha could be used to teach Pythagorean ideas and mathematics—a pedagogic tool, an invention to teach through play. Gandhi emphasised again and again the sense of fun that nationalism and play brought about. I am reminded of the time when industrialist Jamnalal Bajaj gave Gandhi a Ford Motor car. It ran in the ashram for a week or two, then broke down. Gandhi had it pulled by a set of oxen, and playfully introduced it to visitors as "my Ox-Ford". It is this sense of playfulness, this sense of alternatives, this openness to interpretation that made nationalism not only a dissenting imagination, but a dream of alternatives—something we have lost today.

As Ramu pointed out, nationalism was a dream of childhood, a dream of playfulness. And connecting the two was a deep sense of alternatives.

Why EC was born before the Republic

The real test of reform is simple: Will the voter believe the EC can say 'no' to those in power?

ON Constitution Day, we rightfully celebrate fundamental rights, federalism, secularism and the audacity of universal adult suffrage. Yet one of the most farsighted decisions of the Constituent Assembly rarely receives the attention it deserves. When the Constitution was adopted on November 26, 1949, Articles 324 to 329 creating the Election Commission of India (ECI) were brought into force immediately, two months before the rest of the Constitution commenced on January 26, 1950. This sequencing was not a technicality; it was a profound constitutional choice. The framers knew that once the Constitution began to operate, India would require a government elected under its authority. The ECI, thus, had to be constituted before the Republic was born, so that the first government would derive its legitimacy not from an executive, but from a constitutionally independent referee. There was another equally significant concern. In a federal system, it would have been natural to let each state conduct its own Assembly elections, as many federations do. But the framers rejected this model. They feared that state governments might manipulate electoral rolls to exclude "outsiders"—those who migrated for work, study or political activity. As several members warned, a state-run system could become a tool for provincialism. A single, independent national authority was, therefore, essential to guarantee that every Indian, wherever he/she lived, would be included on an equal, non-discriminatory roll. Seventy-five years later, the framers' fears are coming true more aggressively than ever, as controversies over residency, migration and deletion of names from voters' lists re-enter national politics. Article 324 grants the ECI "superintendence, direction and control" over electoral rolls and elections to Parliament and state legislatures, and to the offices of President and Vice-President. Articles 325 and 326 guarantee a single general roll for all citizens and universal adult suffrage without discrimination. These provisions were not inserted as bureaucratic conveniences; they were designed as the Republic's foundational safeguards. Inclusion, fairness and independence were built into the electoral architecture from day one. Over the decades, the Supreme Court has expanded and protected this constitutional vision. In Mohinder Singh Gill (1978), Justice VR Krishna Iyer described Article 324 as a plenary power



the right to choose NOTA, placing the citizen at the centre of the process. A nuance often missed deserves emphasis. In Subramanian Swamy vs Election Commission of India (2013), the SC recognised the VVPAT paper trail as an "indispensable requirement" for free and fair elections. But the court did not order an immediate nationwide rollout. It commended the commission's initiative, permitted its proposal for a phased introduction and directed the Union government to ensure funds. This reflected the correct constitutional balance: technological transparency combined with respect for institutional judgement.

The ECI's authority is constitutional, but its credibility flows from practice — millions of acts performed by

ordinary officials under extraordinary scrutiny. I learned this early. As an IAS probationer, I was posted as the presiding officer of a single polling booth while my colleagues were given supervisory positions.

We sought to make elections more inclusive, transparent and professional. SVEEP, our voter-education programme, treated citizens as partners rather than passive recipients of instructions. National Voters Day, launched in 2011, turned the enrolment of 18-year-olds into a nationwide civic rite. These two reforms have been responsible for record turnouts, the latest being Bihar.

We strengthened expenditure-monitoring, tackled paid news through MCMC (Media Certification and Monitoring Committee) mechanisms and took actions such as covering publicly funded statutes during elections — not because symbolism mattered more than substance, but because neutrality must be practised, and must be seen to be practised. As India approaches its 18th General Election, the constitutional design faces renewed pressures. Technology must inspire confidence, with EVMs, VVPATs, audits and dashboards working together to assure verifiability. Campaign finance reform must move towards real-time disclosures. Electoral rolls, machine-readable, must maintain a balance: open and accessible for every eligible voter, but protected from manipulation and arbitrary deletion. Procedural independence remains the bedrock. Appointment processes and tenure security are not privileges; they are structural requirements for neutrality. A referee cannot be dependent on the very executive it must regulate. Whatever reform model Parliament adopts, it must meet a single test: Will the average voter believe that the Election Commission can say "no" to power? Inclusion remains unfinished business. Migrant workers, persons with disabilities, first-time voters, women and the elderly who face mobility barriers must all find the electoral process welcoming. Prisoners who, ironically, can contest, must be allowed to vote. A democracy's legitimacy depends not just on who wins, but on who is allowed in. On this Constitution Day, we must remember why our founders activated Part XV ahead of the Republic. They were ensuring that when the people of India voted for the first time, they would do so under the watch of an institution designed to be independent of the government it would help create. That insight remains as vital today as it was 75 years ago.

Pollution affects all, redress can't be left to private options

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

Call it the Gurugram model of urban development. In this familiar pattern, the conurbation grows fast, government action on public goods lags, and citizens fend for themselves. If residents were once used to arranging their own power backup, security and even roads, the degraded common resource most metro dwellers are now trying to clean or avoid is the most plentiful of all—air. It is no longer only about masks and indoor purifiers. Portable purifiers and lotions claiming an 'anti-pollution factor' are flying off the shelves—never mind expert advice that these methods are unproven. Even hyperbaric chambers, meant to raise blood oxygen levels for medical purposes, are now marketed as anti-pollution services. None of these innovations make a dent in the public problem. The angst reached such a level this Sunday that when the Delhi Police tried to remove young protestors demanding cleaner air—the second such remonstrance this month—some protestors allegedly used pepper spray on the policemen. Twenty-two of them were taken into judicial custody and charged with obstructing police work and



making 'assertions prejudicial to national integration', as some also raised slogans for the killed Maoist leader Madvi Hidma. Even if causes got confusingly coupled in Delhi, the greyness over Bengaluru and Mumbai held steady. In recent weeks, the IT capital—especially the densely populated East Bengaluru—has seen

unprecedented air-quality index levels of 150–170. The commercial capital's air has also stayed far above safe limits. It is no longer just a 'Delhi problem'.

The critical question is: how many Indians can afford these ad hoc personal solutions? And what about the public health burden? The Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air recently highlighted that young children are the most vulnerable, as they breathe faster and absorb more pollutants. For a fair public discourse, we must first remove the artificial cap of 500 on official AQI counts, as independent monitors often notch far higher. The biggest culprits remain traffic congestion, unclean construction, and open waste or fuel burning. Clearly, mandated measures are falling well short. If governance is about doing the greatest good for the greatest number, the most abundant public good has to be urgently cleaned up in the world's most populous nation.

Dipping into the new data protection regime

Users need to understand how the new Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules affect their online lives. From privacy protection to redress options, much will change in the next 18 months. The efficacy of the new Data Protection Board will be essential in making the framework robust

November 14 was an important date in India's digital journey, marking a milestone by bringing to life a comprehensive framework that fundamentally changes how companies handle personal data. One of the major things that changes with the notification of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules, 2025—at least in theory—is the way an individual's browsing history, e-commerce trail, or social media use can be used by advertisers. We are all used to privacy policies posted on these platforms, though hardly anyone reads them. What's critical for the layman to note is that the DPDP framework transports privacy from a constitutional promise to enforceable rights and duties. The good news is that companies can no longer hide behind impenetrable legal jargon. There has to be a clear and understandable request from the person determining the purpose and means of processing personal data (data fiduciary), for consent from the person whose data is being processed (data principal). The request shall be accompanied by a notice informing the principal of the purpose for processing the personal data, the way the principal can withdraw or modify consent, the grievance mechanism available, and the way complaints can be raised against the data fiduciary. The rules provide timelines for data fiduciaries to maintain records before erasing them from their system. It is also significant to note that the rules apply to processing personal data outside India if it is in connection with offering goods or services within India.

The rules also provide for registration of 'consent managers', entities that play the role of a trusted intermediary between data principals and data fiduciaries, by assisting the data principal to manage their consents through a given platform. Consent managers have certain obligations too, such as implementing reasonable technical and organisational measures to prevent personal data breaches, and

maintaining detailed records of every consent given, denied, or withdrawn, along with related notices and data sharing. Ultimately, the consent must be a clear affirmation of an agreement to process personal data for a specific purpose. This shows a fundamental shift in power by placing the individual—data principal—at the centre of the framework. The DPDP rules that convert the framework into day-to-day obligations.

The DPDP framework also takes data breaches seriously. The haunting stories of password leaks, personal photos getting exposed, and bank details stolen cannot be dealt with silently by companies accountable for the breach. There is a mandatory requirement for them to report to the Data Protection Board without delay, and the board will thereafter have to take note of the steps taken by the company to remedy the wrong or mitigate the risk. The board is designed to be entirely digital. This means filings, hearings, and decisions are all expected to be done online. Another important point to note (especially if you are a parent) is that your children are protected. Data fiduciaries cannot process your child's data without your verifiable consent. Companies cannot track your child's behaviour or show them targeted advertisements.

The penalties that the Board can impose range from ₹10,000 (for data principals who provide wrong information or impersonate another person through the data they provide) to ₹250 crore (for violations of the Act by data fiduciaries). These fines are designed for body corporates to take notice. However, not all body

corporates are treated the same way; the central government's department for promotion of industry and internal trade-recognised startups have lighter compliance mandates. Further, the rules provide softer tools, such as mediation and voluntary undertakings.



There are also certain legitimate uses that are exempted. For example, in case of a medical emergency that poses a threat to life or immediate health of the data principal, or in taking measures to prevent an epidemic. The central government itself has been given a wide range of exemptions. It can process data for 'security' or 'public

order'. While the government maintains that public interest overrides privacy concerns to the worry of critics, the exemptions granted to them remain a concern, as they reignite the debate over unchecked surveillance and abuse of power. Unlike the General Data Protection Regulation, 2018, which is the comprehensive data privacy law enacted by the European Union, which demands strict necessity, proportionality, and independent oversight, India's DPDP leaves these boundaries unclear, echoing the longstanding constitutional worries. Importantly, a recent notification states that the law will be rolled out in a staggered manner. While some provisions take effect immediately, the main compliance requirements for companies will take effect after 18 months. While this appears to be extremely practical, the most crucial citizen facing rights, such as informed consent, breach notification, data correction and erasure, and grievance redressal, are deferred for 18 months. The Data Protection Board, scheduled to be set up in the next one year for digitally accessible grievance redress, faces scrutiny for potentially limited independence—appointments and removals are tightly managed by the central government. In any event, the notification of the DPDP marks a transformative moment and plays a crucial role in India's growing digital economy. Its success shall inevitably rest on the shoulders of the citizens, corporates and the regulators in creating an ecosystem that is both secure and inclusive.

NEWS BOX

Jammu and Kashmir Police arrest teen for alleged terror links

Jammu. (Agency)

Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday arrested a 19-year-old teenager in connection with suspected terror activities and are examining the digital devices seized from his possession, officials said.

A police spokesperson said, "The accused, originally from Reasi district and currently residing in the Bathindi area, is emerging as a key suspect in terror-related activities. An FIR No. 331/2025 under Section 113(3) BNS has been registered at Police Station Bahu Fort."

"The preliminary investigation revealed that the accused was being radicalised online and was allegedly planning to carry out a terror act," the police said.

Authorities also revealed that the suspect had been in contact via mobile phone with "certain numbers based in Pakistan and other foreign countries."

The digital devices seized from the teenager are being thoroughly examined and analyzed as part of the investigation. Police confirmed that detailed questioning and a comprehensive investigation are ongoing.

Manipur: Three militants arrested for threatening to bomb Sangai Tourism

Imphal. (Agency)

Security forces have arrested three militants, including a woman, for allegedly threatening to bomb the ongoing Sangai tourism festival in Manipur, police said on Thursday.

The arrests followed a joint operation by Manipur Police and Assam Rifles in response to a threatening video posted on Facebook on November 21, warning of a possible attack during Sangai Festival 2025. The three detained individuals are active cadres of KCP (MFL) and are reportedly involved in the incident.

In a separate operation on Wednesday, security forces and Manipur Police arrested an active cadre of PREPAK (PRO) from Top Awang Leikai, Imphal East.

Additionally, Manipur Police apprehended an active cadre of KYKL (SOREPA), who was allegedly recruiting new members for the banned organization. Authorities seized a mobile phone during the operation.

Police confirmed that further investigations are ongoing in all cases.

UP: Two arrested in Rs 100 cr MBBS admission scam

Lucknow. (Agency)

Lucknow Police on Wednesday arrested two men who allegedly cheated students and their families of nearly Rs 100 crore by promising guaranteed MBBS admissions in private medical colleges.

The accused — Prem Prakash Vidyarthi (35), alias Abhinav Sharma, from Aurangabad (Bihar), and Santosh Kumar (34) from Samastipur (Bihar) — created a fake consultancy network that targeted NEET aspirants with low ranks.

According to DCP Crime Kamlesh Dixit, the duo was arrested near Kathauta Lake in Chinhat. One of the accused is a B.Tech graduate, while the other has studied up to Class 12. Both were active on a dating app named "Tango," from where they collected phone numbers of young women. These women were then manipulated into working as telecallers for their scam.

The accused had allegedly purchased student data from private cyber companies. The telecallers contacted NEET aspirants and their parents, offering them admissions in reputed private medical colleges. After gaining their trust, the victims were called to consultancy offices set up by the accused. Once a scam operation was completed in one state, the duo shut the office and shifted to another state to start afresh.

ATPA and Don Bosco University signs MoU to facilitate research and innovation in tea sector

Guwahati. (Agency)

Assam Don Bosco University (ADBU) and the Assam Tea Planters Association (ATPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate joint research projects, academic exchanges, and innovation in tea cultivation.

"This collaboration will enable us to leverage cutting-edge research and technology to improve tea quality and productivity, while promoting sustainable practices and welfare initiatives for plantation workers," said Anjan Bhuyan, Secretary of ATPA.

The MoU aims to facilitate joint research projects, academic exchanges, and innovation in tea cultivation.

The partnership will focus on developing disease-resilient tea varieties using artificial intelligence, molecular biology, and transcriptomic profiling. Other priorities include soil health improvement, drone-based pesticide monitoring, energy efficiency audits, and modernization of machinery with eco-friendly alternatives, he said. As ATPA Secretary Anjan Bhuyan noted, "This partnership with ADBU will open up new avenues for the tea industry, enabling us to stay competitive while ensuring sustainability and social responsibility."

Construction of Gati Shakti Cargo terminals projects in Assam progressing rapidly

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 27th November: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) is advancing rapidly in the development of Gati Shakti cargo infrastructure, where six new Gati Shakti cargo terminals are currently under construction in Assam. The first of these, located at Baihata, being constructed by BR Transcon Ltd at an approximate cost of Rs 245 crores is nearing completion and is poised to significantly enhance the region's freight logistics ecosystem while helping reduce logistics costs for industries across the Northeast. Physical construction work has been completed and necessary clearances are in progress for ensuring safety. The terminal is expected to be operational very soon. The Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal policy was introduced in 2022 to promote the development of state-of-the-art logistic terminals built with the participation of major industry partners. In Assam, earlier there were such two Gati Shakti terminals at Moinarband near Silchar and Cinnamara near Jorhat. On 25

February 2025, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology



announced the development of six new Gati Shakti cargo terminals in Assam. Among the newly announced terminals, the Baihata Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal in Kamrup Rural district is set to be the first to be completed. Once commissioned, the Baihata Gati

Shakti Cargo Terminal is expected to handle more than 25 freight rakes every month. It incorporates several key features including three new goods lines, an

nal's capability to manage diverse cargo. The six Gati Shakti cargo terminals currently under construction in Assam are the Gati Shakti Terminal at Habaipur in Lanka under Lumding Division, the Gati Shakti Terminal at Jogighopa, the Gati Shakti Terminal at Baihata, the Multi-Modal Logistics Terminal at Kendukona, the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) Terminal at Basugaon and the Gati Shakti Multi-Modal Cargo Terminal at Chayagaon, all under Rangiya Division. Together, these upcoming terminals will significantly strengthen Assam's logistics network. Northeast Frontier Railway remains committed to expanding and modernizing freight infrastructure across its network. These new facilities are part of a broader effort to enhance multi-modal connectivity, increase freight efficiency and strengthen logistics networks under the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan improving connectivity and meeting the rising logistics needs of the region.

Mohali trash-burn scandal: PPCB cracks down as illegal dumping continues to poison air

Mohali. (Agency)

Mohali is facing a growing environmental crisis after repeated incidents of open garbage dumping and burning were reported from Phase 8B, Sector 74, Sector 66-A (Kambala village) and Sector 65/Phase 11. Following widespread complaints on social media and reports from local residents, the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB) conducted surprise inspections at the sites, extinguished the fires, seized trucks engaged in illegal dumping and instructed the Mohali Municipal Corporation (MCM) to immediately stop any open disposal or burning of waste.

PPCB chairperson Reena Gupta condemned the violations, stating, "Open burning of waste produces harmful particulate matter and toxic gases that severely degrade air quality. Our mission is to ensure every resident of Punjab breathes clean air." Environmental and health experts have warned that burning mixed

municipal waste, especially plastic, releases PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀, black carbon, carbon monoxide, dioxins, furans, VOCs and heavy metals. These pollutants increase the risk of respiratory and



cardiovascular illness and exacerbate the region's air pollution and climate challenges. Despite the PPCB's morning crackdown, fresh smoke was spotted again at the Phase 8B

dumping site in the evening. Youth activist Vishaldeep Singh Ballomajra, associated with the Aam Aadmi Party, reportedly intercepted another waste-laden truck attempting to dump garbage illegally. He urged local MLA Kulwant Singh to take strict action, warning that toxic smoke from these fires is affecting migrant labourers, industrial workers and children living nearby. Residents have already complained of breathing discomfort, eye irritation and persistent coughing, all consistent with exposure to hazardous fumes.

The PPCB has now issued directions to the Mohali Municipal Corporation to stop all open dumping and burning, seize offending vehicles and initiate legal action against violators. While residents have welcomed the intervention, they insist that only persistent monitoring, transparent waste-management systems and civic accountability can protect Mohali's environment and ensure clean air for future generations.

Mayor accuses MLA's men of halting civic projects: 'They walk into wards and order 'stop work, I'm here on behalf of MLA'

Mohali. (Agency)

A dramatic confrontation between the Mohali Municipal Corporation and the state government has come out in the open, after Mayor Amarjeet Singh Jeeti Sidhu and several councillors held a press conference on Wednesday, levelling serious allegations of political interference in ongoing development works.

The mayor alleged that civic projects across Mohali are being deliberately stalled under "government pressure", with private individuals visiting project sites and threatening contractors. Jeeti Sidhu claimed, "People are entering wards and openly saying 'Stop the work, I've come on behalf of the MLA... I'll tell you when the work can begin.'"

Work orders issued, funds available yet projects stopped

According to the mayor, despite approved tenders, issued work orders, and available funds in the municipal account, multiple development works have been halted for months, including road repairs, park upgrades, footpath construction, and other civic projects.

The councillors alleged that in ward 80, Harjeet Singh Bhola's ward, Reena's ward, Happy's ward, and councillor Anuradha's ward, "outsiders" are stopping contractors and issuing threats.

Senior Deputy Mayor Amreek Singh Somal added,

"Private people come and warn contractors work will not start.. you will have to follow my orders."

Garbage management turns political

The mayor accused the local MLA of intentionally blocking solutions to Mohali's garbage crisis. He said waste from surrounding areas is being dumped inside Mohali limits, only to later blame the Municipal Corporation, damaging its reputation.

Councillors warn of protest, legal action

The councillors announced that if interference continues, they will launch public protests, road demonstrations, and may even approach the High Court. Jeeti Sidhu warned, "If development is stopped, we will march into wards and expose how the government is blocking work."

A power struggle unfolds in Mohali?

The controversy has intensified political tensions in the city. Civic leaders insist development must resume immediately, while allegations of government meddling continue to escalate.

Women councillors also claimed they were threatened with legal action for attempting to commence development work.

A power struggle unfolds in Mohali?

The controversy has intensified political tensions in the city. Civic leaders insist development must resume immediately, while allegations of government meddling continue to escalate.

'Umeed' portal crucial for protection, smooth administration of Waqf properties: Minister Danish Ansari

Lucknow. (Agency)

Uttar Pradesh Minister of State for Minority Welfare Danish Azad Ansari today said that the central government's Umeed Portal is a crucial tool for the protection, better monitoring and smooth administration of Waqf properties.

During a surprise inspection of the Sunni Central Waqf Board office in Lucknow, the Minister said, "This will not only enhance transparency in the use of Waqf properties but also effectively curb corruption and irregularities."

The inspection was conducted to review the progress and effective implementation of the Umeed Portal following the recent implementation of the Waqf Amendment Act. Waqf Board Chief Executive Officer Masoom Ali Sarwar was also present.

On this occasion, Ansari met with various Waqf Mutawallis from across the state and shared information with them regarding the registration, management, transparency and digitization of Waqf properties.

He said that the benefits of Waqf properties through this portal will play a significant role in empowering the Muslim community, especially

the Pasmada Muslim community and Muslim women.

During the inspection, he reviewed the technical and administrative processes associated with the portal. He said that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, aims to digitize all Waqf properties in the state as soon as possible.

The Minister appealed to the Mutawallis to upload the necessary



documents on time and ensure maximum utilization of the portal's facilities. He directed officials to make the Waqf Board functioning more transparent, efficient and public-friendly.

He urged that public-facing tasks should be prioritised and any portal-related issues should be resolved promptly.

SKM protest in Chandigarh: Better planning ensures day passes off peacefully

Chandigarh. (Agency)

A day of meticulous planning — marked by multiple meetings with farmer union leaders, a full-scale police rehearsal, and strategic shifting of the rally venue from Sector 34 to Sector 43 — proved decisive for the Chandigarh Police on Wednesday, as the city managed a large farmers' gathering without major traffic disruption or any law-and-order issue. With pre-emptive coordination, route mapping and heavy deployment, the administration ensured that the rally of Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) and other farmer unions passed off peacefully.

Police officials remained on high alert from early morning, with route diversions, barricading and continuous ground supervision. Senior police officers said

advance engagement with SKM leaders, including Balbir Singh Rajewal, helped avoid friction. "Sector 34 was partially occupied, so we requested the farmers to shift to Sector 43. They agreed without hesitation. Sector 43 is a big ground, and accessible from bus stand, which also made the protesters reach the venue easily," a senior officer said.

Traffic officials said the Sector 43 venue, located near the Mohali border, allowed farmers to move in and out with their vehicles without choking Chandigarh's internal roads.

Farmers from multiple Punjab districts, including Gurdaspur, Bathinda, Pathankot, Mohali, and Patiala, reached the Dussehra Ground from 9 am onward in tractor-trailers,



buses and cars, filling the venue by noon. On stage, the SKM leaders raised demands for a legal MSP guarantee, crop insurance, relief packages and recognition for families of farmers who died during past agitations. The

three-hour event ended around 3 pm, with the union seeking written responses from the Centre and state governments. While SKM leader Tejinder Singh estimated that 20,000–25,000 people attended the rally, the police put the figure at 10,000. "We did not face any issues when we entered Chandigarh. It was better managed by Chandigarh Police," he said. On Tuesday, the police had conducted a full rehearsal reviewing the venue, assessing turnout estimates and planning entry and exit routes. A detailed advisory on traffic restrictions was issued a day in advance. "All city entry and exit points were studied to ensure smooth movement," said SSP (Traffic and Security) Sumer Partap Singh.

Supreme Court orders full scrutiny of private universities across India

►The Supreme Court has directed the Centre, States, UTs and the UGC to submit personally affirmed affidavits revealing the origins, governance models, finances and regulatory compliance of private, non-government and deemed universities. The order has expanded a student's grievance into a nationwide review of how India's private higher education sector has been functioning.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court has widened a student’s personal grievance into one of the most extensive examinations of India’s private higher education sector.According to a Live Law report, the Court has asked the Centre, all States and Union Territories, and the University Grants Commission (UGC) to file individually affirmed affidavits giving a complete account of how private, non-government and deemed universities in India were formed, how they are governed and what benefits they have received since their inception. The court’s intervention has turned what began as an individual plea into a moment of rare scrutiny for a sector that touches millions of students and parents. It has raised questions long whispered but rarely answered: who establishes these universities, how they acquire land and permissions, what rules guide their daily operations and where the money paid by students ultimately goes.

CASE THAT TRIGGERED THE NATIONAL REVIEW

The matter arose from a petition filed by a student, Ayesha Jain, previously known as Khushi Jain, who approached the Supreme Court alleging that she faced harassment and academic loss after changing her name.She said that Amity University, Noida, refused to update her name in official records and denied her attendance, effectively costing her an academic year. The Court had earlier directed the President of the Ritnand Balved Education Foundation, which runs Amity, and the Vice-Chancellor of Amity University to appear personally and provide sworn affidavits. They complied. But instead of ending the matter, the Court paused and examined the broader implications of the case. Although the student’s transition from a traditionally Hindu name (Khushi) to a Muslim one (Ayesha) formed part of the



factual background, the Bench did not frame the issue as a religious dispute. Rather, it recognised that her experience revealed deeper structural concerns about transparency, compliance and accountability across private universities.After reviewing submissions, the Court decided that the matter raised 'larger concerns',prompting it to expand the enquiry to every private, non-government and deemed university in the country.

SUPREME COURT WANTS A DETAILED ORIGIN STORY

The order seeks what is essentially a foundational dossier for every such institution. As reported by Live Law, the Supreme Court wants each government to explain precisely how each university came into being:the legal provision under which it was establishedthe circumstances leading to its approvalthe benefits, concessions and incentives it receivedthe terms and conditions attached to its land allotments or permissionsThis includes details that are often kept opaque, whether a university received land at concessional rates, what obligations were attached to such concessions, and whether those obligations were ever monitored or enforced.The Bench is also asking governments to specify the founding society or trust behind each university, its objectives, its leadership structure and the process through which its members were appointed.

UP man shoots married cousin dead for rejecting his advances; arrested

New Delhi.(Agency)

A 24-year-old woman was shot dead on Thursday morning in Uttar Pradesh’s Kaushambi district by a cousin who police say had been pressuring her to enter a relationship despite her repeated refusals.Police identified the victim as Deepika Tiwari, who had returned to her maternal home in Uno village a few days earlier. Deepika, married in 2022 and the mother of a one-and-a-half-year-old boy, was at home when the accused allegedly entered the house and shot her once in the head.

The suspect, Ajit Kumar Mishra (28), from nearby Osa village, later surrendered at the local police station with the pistol used in the killing, an official said.

A police team reached the scene soon after the crime was reported. Officers conducted an initial investigation, took the body into custody and sent it for an autopsy.According to the police official, Ajit had developed a one-sided attachment to Deepika, his maternal aunt’s daughter. Even after her marriage, he continued to pressure her to stay with him. The official said that Deepika had rejected his advances and had shown no interest in such a relationship.

“Preliminary findings show the accused had been trying to forcefully keep her with him,” Additional Superintendent of Police Rajesh Singh said. “When she refused, he came to the house this morning and shot her. After the incident, he went straight to the police station.”

"Judiciary Has No Magic Wand To Solve Delhi Pollution Problem": Top Court

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court remarked on Thursday that it has no magic wand to solve the pollution problem in the Delhi-NCR (National Capital Region). A bench comprising CJI (Chief Justice of India) Surya Kant and Justice Joymala Bagchi was hearing a request for an urgent hearing by the court-appointed lawyer, Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh, in the Delhi air pollution matter.

The bench said that all reasons for the worsening air quality should be identified. "We are also residents of Delhi-NCR; we also face this hazard (bad air quality), but we must acknowledge that there is no one reason for this problem," the bench said."What magic wand



can a judicial forum exercise? I know this is hazardous for Delhi NCR... Tell me what we can direct so that we can make some directions and there is clean air immediately," it added. The bench's remarks came after Senior Advocate Aparajita Singh said that the annual pollution problem in Delhi-NCR was a health emergency. Singh told the Supreme Court that there were solutions on paper, but nothing was happening on the ground. The bench flagged the pattern of the issue of severe pollution levels being revived only during peak winter months. "This matter is listed in a ceremonial way during the Diwali season. After winters, it disappears.

After Senyar, 2nd cyclone brewing in Bay of Bengal; Tamil Nadu, Andhra on alert

Cyclone Ditwah News: A new cyclone named Ditwah is likely to form in the Bay of Bengal, prompting alerts in parts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Authorities urge caution as heavy rain and strong winds are expected along coastal areas later this week.

New Delhi.(Agency)

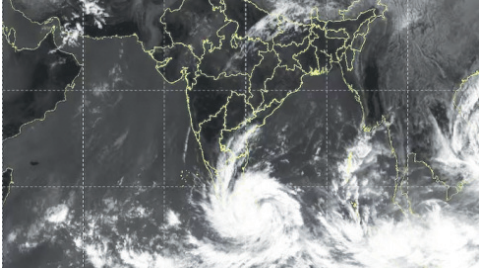
Even as Cyclone Senyar continues to weaken, a fresh storm is brewing in the Bay of Bengal, prompting the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to urge coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh to stay alert.

In its bulletin issued on Thursday, the weather bureau said a depression over the southwest Bay of Bengal and the adjoining Sri Lanka coast had intensified into a deep depression. The IMD warned that the system is "very likely to intensify into a cyclonic storm within 12 hours".

Once it does, it will be named Cyclone Ditwah. Landfall timing is still uncertain, but the weather agency expects heavy rain, strong winds of 80-90 kmph, and rough seas along the coasts of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry

and south Andhra Pradesh later this week.

The system is likely to "continue to move north-northwestwards across the southwest Bay of Bengal and



adjoining Sri Lanka and intensify further," the IMD said. Most models show the weather system lingering over the same region for at least the next 24 hours before gaining strength.

A pre-cyclone watch (yellow message)

is now in effect for North Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and South Andhra Pradesh. Officials said the storm is expected to track nearly parallel to the Sri Lanka coast before emerging over the southwest Bay of Bengal off the Tamil Nadu-Puducherry stretch by November 29.

Forecasters said the depression is expected to oscillate around southeast Sri Lanka and adjoining waters for the next two days before beginning a more decisive push towards the Indian coast.Meanwhile, Cyclonic Storm Senyar, active over the Strait of Malacca and parts of northeast Indonesia, is losing steam.

The IMD said Senyar will weaken into a deep depression before drifting eastwards and fading into a low-intensity system by Thursday evening.

IMEI Tampering Unit Busted In Delhi In Major Success In Combating Cybercrime

Five men have been arrested, and 1,826 phones and laptops with IMEI tampering software were recovered during Operation Cyberhawk.

New Delhi.(Agency)

An illegal mobile manufacturing and IMEI tampering unit has been busted in Delhi's Karol Bagh in a major success in combating cybercrime. Five men have been arrested, and 1,826 phones and laptops with IMEI tampering software were recovered during Operation Cyberhawk.IMEI is a unique 15-digit serial number assigned to mobile phones that can be used to identify and track a specific device.The accused allegedly tampered with this unique number to avoid detection of devices that were either stolen or meant for use in cyberfraud.

Besides finished and semi-finished

smartphones and keypad models, the police also recovered specialized software, IMEI scanners, thousands of mobile body parts, and printed IMEI labels.

The Karol Bagh police station had been monitoring suspicious mobile phone activity in the Beadonpura area for the past 15 days. The police received continuous inputs that an illegal mobile phone assembly and IMEI tampering business was operating on the fourth floor of a building in the area.

After confirmation, the team was instructed to catch the accused red-handed and dismantle the unit. On November 20, the team raided Aditya

Electronics & Accessories located on the fourth floor of a commercial building in Beadonpura.

During the raid, five people were found fitting old mobile phone motherboards into new body parts. IMEI-changing software was running on their laptops.

The phones that were ready with new IMEIs were also being packaged there.All five accused -- Ashok Kumar, Ramnarayan, Dharmendra Kumar, Deepanshu, and Deepak -- were arrested on the spot.The accused claimed they bought old and damaged mobile motherboards and stolen phones at low prices from scrap dealers in and around Delhi.

Don't have magic wand: Supreme Court says no single reason for Delhi pollution

The Supreme Court said the situation in Delhi-NCR was hazardous amid deteriorating air quality. The CJI said the matter has become ceremonial every year during Diwali.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it did not have any magic wand to solve the Delhi pollution issue, which it observed had become ceremonial every year during Diwali, while acknowledging the severity of the crisis. Chief Justice (CJI) Surya Kant, who previously said he faced breathing problems during morning walks, called the situation in Delhi-NCR "hazardous"."What magic wand can a judicial forum exercise? I know this is hazardous for Delhi NCR... Tell me, what can we direct so that there is clean air immediately?" CJI Surya Kant said. The air quality in the national capital has oscillated between 'very poor' and 'severe' categories over the past two weeks - a recurring problem in Delhi during the winter.

'LET US HAVE REGULAR

MONITORING'

The apex court made the observation while the amicus curiae assisting the bench flagged the "alarming situation" in Delhi. Senior advocate Aparajita Singh described the present conditions as a "health emergency".

To this, the Supreme Court underscored that judicial institutions have their limitations in tackling such issues. Justice Kant said domain experts and scientists could comprehensively assess the factors behind the toxic air in Delhi.

"We all know what the problem is.. We need to identify all the reasons. There is no one single reason... Only domain experts and scientists can look into that. Then we have to see what the solutions can be in each region," the CJI said.The



court emphasised that a long-term solution was needed and said it would regularly monitor the situation. "This matter is listed in a ceremonial way during the Diwali season. After winter, it disappears. Let us have regular monitoring," Justice Kant, who took over as CJI from BR Gavai last week, said. The matter has been listed on Monday.

PREVIOUS COURT HEARINGS

The apex court has been in the thick of things over the pollution crisis in the national capital. Previously, it directed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), the anti-pollution watchdog for Delhi-NCR, to take "any proactive measure" to arrest the dip in air quality. It also asked the CAQM to direct Delhi schools to postpone sports competitions and outdoor activities scheduled for November and December.

The court has also sought reports from Punjab and Haryana on measures taken to curb stubble burning by farmers, one of the factors that worsens air quality in the northern states during winter.

NEWS BOX

Sanju Samson, Rohan Kunnummal script SMAT history with record opening stand

New Delhi. (Agency)
Sanju Samson and Rohan S. Kunnummal delivered a historic start to Kerala's Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign, stitching together the highest opening partnership in the tournament's history. Their unbroken 177-run stand powered Kerala to a 10-wicket win over Odisha at the Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow, chasing down 176 in just 16 overs after opting to field.Rohan Kunnummal dominated the chase with a blistering 121 not out off 60 balls, an innings packed with 10 sixes and 10 fours. Samson anchored the other end with an unbeaten 51 from 41 deliveries and finished the match with a clean strike over long-on to reach his half-century.Earlier, Odisha posted 176 for 7, with Samantray top-scoring with 53 off 41 balls and Sambit Baral adding 40 from 32. Despite the early momentum provided by Swastik Samal and Gaurav Choudhary, Odisha struggled to build on their starts. Kerala's bowlers kept control throughout, led by Nideesh's four-wicket haul, while KM Asif and Ankit Sharma chipped in with key breakthroughs to prevent any substantial partnerships.Once Samson and Kunnummal walked out, the match quickly drifted out of



Odisha's reach. Their stand not only surpassed all previous opening records in the competition but also underlined the authority with which Kerala approached the chase. Neither batter offered a chance as they kept the run rate high and ensured the middle order was not required.Earlier this month, Sanju Samson was at the centre of one of the biggest trades in Indian Premier League history. The long-time Rajasthan Royals mainstay has been traded to five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK), with RR receiving veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and England's Sam Curran in return. Samson will feature for CSK from the next season at his existing price of ?18 crore, while Jadeja's fee has been revised from Rs 18 crore to Rs 14 crore. Curran, meanwhile, moves to RR at his current price of Rs 2.4 crore, the league confirmed.

Ian Botham slams Bazball, England: If that's the way you play, might as well go home

England great Ian Botham slammed Bazball and said that Ben Stokes and his men might as well return home if they aren't ready to change their approach after the humiliating loss in Perth. England were completely outclassed by a Travis Head special as Australia completed the match in two days and won by eight wickets.

England's Bazball approach came under scrutiny yet again as it was deemed reckless by the likes of Michael Vaughan and R Ashwin following the loss. The latest to criticise Bazball is Botham, calling it horrendous and said England will need to fire up quickly and adapt from Bazball."It was horrendous, there's no other word for



it," Lord Botham told PA News Agency."England need to fire up and fire up quickly. I'm fed up of hearing, 'this is the way we play'. If I hear it once more, I think I'll throw something at the television."Botham also warned England that the series could end 5-0 if they don't decide to change their approach.
"If that's the way you play, you might as well go home now because it's going to be 5-0. They probably won't like me saying that but they need to need to get their heads around it. I want more pride when I see people pulling that sweater on," said Botha
'STOKES, ROOT DESPERATE TO MAKE AN IMPRESSION'
Botham also challenged Joe Root and Ben Stokes to up their game or risk the chance of their legacies getting affected.People remember you for what you've done over here," he told the PA news agency.

Kris Srikkanth's cheeky solution to India's Test woes: Avoid playing home matches

Speaking after India were whitewashed 0-2 by South Africa on Wednesday, Kris Srikkanth joked that India should stop playing at home to halt the slide. The sad part? In their current state, it doesn't sound entirely outrageous.

MANCHESTER, England. (Agency)
Former India captain Kris Srikkanth echoed the disappointment of millions of Indian cricket fans after the home side were whitewashed by South Africa in Guwahati on Wednesday, November 26. A team that once obliterated touring sides and built a fortress envied across the cricketing world has now lost five of its last seven Tests at home.On Wednesday, India barely put up a fight. Set a Himalayan target of 549, India had eight wickets in hand on Day 5 of the

second Test to survive. Yet they were bundled out in little more than a session, crumbling to 140. South Africa sealed a 408-run win, handing India their heaviest defeat in Test cricket in terms of runs.The decimation was complete. India floundered on a spicy pitch in the first Test in Kolkata. When the conditions eased in Guwahati, India were expected to compete, but were instead overpowered again. After posting 489 in the first innings, South Africa bowled India out for 201. And when the pitch began assisting spin in the second innings, the Proteas showed composure to reach 260 for 5 before declaring. India, in response, could not survive even two full sessions.Speaking on his YouTube show, Srikkanth appeared concerned by India's diminishing ability to win at home. Barring Bangladesh and West Indies, India have not beaten any Test side in a series under coach Gautam Gambhir, who took over last year. New Zealand dealt the first blow by whitewashing a three-Test series in India, and South Africa completed the demolition job this year."Now the problem is you are getting caught on spinning tracks and regular fast-bowling tracks. What do they want now?

In Kolkata he said this was the kind of track they wanted. Fine. The pitch in Guwahati was a good batting pitch. Nothing wrong with it. Simon Harmer bowled beautifully,"



Srikkanth said. Then came his tongue-in-cheek solution. "I have a good idea for India to do well. India should play in neutral venues. "All Test matches of India should be played in England. There, you get capacity crowds. Indians can plan holidays to the UK and go and watch the matches. You said Indians did very well in England, so they will do well again. "No more home Tests in India," he quipped. After the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit

Sharma and R. Ashwin, India began the new World Test Championship cycle with a youthful squad overseen by Gambhir and led by Shubman Gill.They travelled to England for the five-Test Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy and secured a thrilling 2–2 draw. It could easily have been 1–3, but Mohammed Siraj produced a spirited spell on the final day of the series to pull off an improbable win.India carried that momentum into a 2–0 win over West Indies in October. However, the defeat to South Africa has laid bare deeper problemsNot in 40 years have India lost two home series within the space of a year. Their inability to bat against spin — and the manner in which overseas spinners have outclassed them — has become a glaring
KING'S PRECIOUS LITTLE ONE
Srikkanth also took aim at head coach Gambhir for his bizarre response following the latest defeat. Asked whether he still believed he was the right man for the job, Gambhir pointed to past achievements: India winning the Champions Trophy and Asia Cup under him, and performing well in the England Tests during his tenure.The defiant tone irked many — Srikkanth included.

If India qualifies for WTC final, it will be a miracle: Aakash Chopra after SA loss

New Delhi. (Agency)
Former cricketer Aakash Chopra has claimed that it will be a miracle if India qualify for the World Test Championship 2025-27 final after their 0-2 series loss to South Africa. The Proteas wrapped things up with a 408-run win against India in Guwahati, ending their 25-year wait for a series win on Indian soil.
This was India's fourth loss in the ongoing WTC 2025-27 cycle, meaning that they're currently fifth in the standings with a percentage of 48.15. India have just nine Test remaining in the current cycle but won't play the long format until August 2026, when they will tour Sri Lanka.This will be followed by another away series against New Zealand and then five Tests against Australia at home in 2027.Speaking on his YouTube channel, Chopra said that he feels India won't make it to the final. The former



cricketer feels it will be impossible to achieve a clean sweep against Australia at home."We are number five in the WTC table. I don't think we will be able to qualify. If we qualify, it will be a miracle. We are going to face Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka and New Zealand in New Zealand and then five matches against Australia at home. Achieving 100 percent points against Australia is next to impossible. We have less than 50 percent points, which is not a good thing," said Chopra.

Jemimah Rodrigues stays back for Smriti Mandhana after wedding postponed, skips WBBL

LONDON.. (Agency)
Jemimah Rodrigues has decided to stay back in India to support teammate and close friend Smriti Mandhana instead of returning to play for the Brisbane Heat in the Women's Big Bash League. The WBBL franchise said that they have allowed Jemimah to miss the remainder of the tournament for her friend.Mandhana was set to marry music composer Palash Muchhal on November 23 before the wedding was postponed indefinitely after her father, Srinivas Mandhana, was rushed to the Sarvhit hospital in Sangli due to symptoms of a heart attack. Adding to the tense situation, Muchhal was hospitalized in Sangli the next day. While early reports had raised alarm, his mother, Amita Muchhal, later clarified that he has now returned to Mumbai and is resting as he continues his recovery. Though brief, the incident reaffirmed the family's choice to put all celebrations on hold."The Brisbane Heat have agreed to a request to release Jemimah Rodrigues from the remainder of the Weber Women's Big Bash League.""Rodrigues returned home to India after the Heat's match against the



Hobart Hurricanes 10 days ago as part of a pre-arranged commitment where she was to be involved in Indian teammate Smriti Mandhana's wedding last weekend."
"However, the celebrations were subsequently postponed due to a health issue with Mandhana's father.""Rodrigues will stay in India to support her teammate, and the Heat has agreed to her not returning

Mohun Bagan appoint ISL winner Sergio Lobera as new head coach

New Delhi. (Agency)
Sergio Lobera has been named head coach of Mohun Bagan for the remainder of the current Indian Super League (ISL) season, following the departure of Jose Molina. The club announced the appointment on Thursday, confirming Lobera's arrival just hours after he officially left his post at Odisha FC. This mid-season change comes as Mohun Bagan seeks to strengthen its bid for domestic success in the ongoing campaign.Lobera is set to take charge of the squad's training beginning November 30. He will work closely with key players including Jamie Maclaren, Jason Cummings, and Vishal Kaith, aiming to quickly integrate his methods and build cohesion in the playing group.The Spanish coach brings significant experience to his new role. Previously, Lobera led Mumbai City FC to both the ISL title and the League

Winners' Shield in 2021, demonstrating his ability to achieve results in the Indian



football environment.Lobera's coaching credentials also include a stint at FC Barcelona's youth academy, a background that adds technical pedigree and

international experience to his profile at Mohun Bagan.His appointment follows a swift conclusion to his tenure at Odisha FC, with both announcements made the same day. This transition signals Mohun Bagan's urgency in finding a proven leader to guide the squad through the remainder of the season.The Mohun Bagan management cited Lobera's deep understanding of Indian football and his track record of building successful teams as the main reasons behind hiring him."It is a tremendous honour for me to take charge at Mohun Bagan Super Giant. This club has rich history, deep emotion and high ambition," Lobera said after completing his formalities."I am committed to building a team that plays with bravery, a clear identity and a winning mentality. This squad has talent and heart --qualities that can dominate Indian football.

The Kohli fortress falls under Gambhir, its cracks far too deep for instant repair

New Delhi. (Agency)
If you were one of those children who smuggled a crackling hand-held radio into school to follow VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid at Eden Gardens, you know exactly what it once meant to beat the mighty Aussies at home. If you grew up watching India morph from a vulnerable, occasionally brilliant side into a ruthless home juggernaut, the journey felt personal. England's 2012 ambush stung, but India's response — an era of dominance rarely seen in Test cricket — felt inevitable.
Sourav Ganguly challenged the world order. MS Dhoni turned resistance into routine. Virat Kohli pushed the ceiling so high that the rest of the world could only look up. Over 21 years, India lost just 13 of 102 home Tests. Under Kohli? Only two defeats across 32 matches — a statistic that reads like a dare.So when Temba Bavuma, smiling in disbelief, said on Wednesday, "Coming here, I would have never thought 2–0 would be the result at the end of the series," it carried a weight far beyond polite victory pride. South

Africa whitewashed a team that once suffocated touring sides on arrival.Bavuma understood the magnitude. He had been part of the 2019 squad that ran into a cyclone disguised as a Test series. Faf du Plessis' side were pummelled 0–3. The psychological unravelling was so complete that du Plessis later admitted: "They did bat first every time, which made it easier, but to put on 500, 600 the scoreboard pressure, the mental toll — you feel there's no hiding. Your body's tired, your mind's tired, and then you make mistakes."For years, teams arrived in India with a defeatist mindset — already half-beaten by the conditions, the aura and the relentlessness of Kohli's men. Batters piled up runs. Spinners spun webs with cruel precision. And the pacers? No longer passengers. Kohli backed them hard, even on tracks designed to break fast bowlers.
The dominance became so normalised that Kohli often had to defend it in press conferences — insisting that "winning at home isn't easy" — even as his side made it

look exactly that. The fortress built over two decades is, unfortunately, beginning to crumble. When New Zealand came to India last year and



stunned the hosts 0–3, many dismissed it as a blip. India had never been whitewashed in a home series of three Tests or more. Yet New Zealand did it with disarming ease — enough to set alarm bells ringing. And this was no second-string Indian side. Virat Kohli, R. Ashwin and Rohit Sharma were still around. Kohli's average had

hovered near 30 since the pandemic, but it was Rohit and Ashwin who endured the real shockers: Rohit scraped together just 91 runs across three Tests; Ashwin took nine wickets in as many matches, outbowled by New Zealand's spinners and, remarkably, by his own compatriot Washington Sundar, who claimed 16 in just two games.That series was the first time Gautam Gambhir's coaching credentials truly came under the scanner. The man forged for clutch moments had taken over the national side after steering an IPL franchise to the 2024 title. Even at his appointment, eyebrows were raised — Gambhir had never coached a senior professional team before. Few coaches would have survived what followed: a 1–3 defeat in the Border–Gavaskar Trophy, India's first series loss in Australia in a decade. The fallout was swift. Ashwin retired midway through the tour. Rohit and Kohli walked away from Tests weeks later, despite signalling their willingness to continue by returning to domestic cricket after the defeat.

Whirlpool India sees historic volume spike, but shares sink over 10% on

CHENNAI.(Agency)
Whirlpool of India Ltd shares delivered one of the most dramatic stock-specific moves on Thursday, 27 November 2025, but the direction was sharply negative rather than a rally. Trading activity in the stock exploded, with nearly 164.33 lakh shares changing hands on the BSE by mid-morning, a staggering multiple compared with its typical turnover for the preceding fortnight. This surge pushed the counter to roughly 1,549 times its average two-week trading volume, signaling intense market interest and heavy institutional participation.

The stock’s price, however, was crushed under the weight of sudden supply. Shares tumbled as much as 13.2 percent during the session, sliding to intraday lows a little above Rs 1,040 on the BSE before stabilising marginally. The trigger for the slump was widespread reporting of a large promoter-linked block sale. At 12.40 PM, the share price almost stabilised at Rs 1074, down 10.57 percent.

Market reports pointed to Whirlpool Mauritius, an affiliate of the global parent, as the likely seller in a discounted block deal that ranged in estimates from 7.5 percent to 11.8 percent of total equity. One account suggested about 1.5 crore shares, representing 11.8 percent ownership, were transacted, while another pegged the sale at roughly 95 lakh shares with a floor price of Rs 1,030—about 14 percent below the market rate at the time. The potential deal size was estimated close to Rs 965 crore. This heavy offering overwhelmed demand and ignited a wave of investor exits, including among retail holders who grew uneasy seeing the parent-linked promoter monetise a significant stake at a discount.

Whirlpool India’s recent financial performance set the stage for heightened sensitivity to negative catalysts. In the September quarter, the company reported a 21.9 percent year-on-year decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 41.80 crore, and a 3.8 percent fall in revenue from operations to Rs 1,647.27 crore. Operating profitability contracted further, as EBITDA dropped steeply and margins compressed, reflecting a mix of soft demand in consumer durables and sustained competitive pricing pressure across key appliance categories.

While the broader market closed the day on firm footing, supported by positive global cues and renewed optimism around possible rate easing, Whirlpool India moved decisively out of sync. Index momentum failed to provide any cushion to the stock because the scale of the block trades abruptly altered the balance of supply and demand. The episode illustrated that even when markets are buoyant, investor confidence can fracture quickly if a high-profile shareholder introduces large discounted supply against a backdrop of earnings pressure.

Nifty hits record high after 14 months; Sensex nears all-time peak

MUMBAI.(Agency)
Stock market benchmark indices extended their previous day's rally in early trade on Thursday, with the Nifty hitting its fresh record high amid favourable global trends on growing hopes of a US Fed rate cut and foreign fund inflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 313.38 points to 85,922.89 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty rallied 90.25 points to hit an all-time high of 26,295.55. The broader index had earlier scaled its record intra-day high of 26,277 on September 27, 2024.

From the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance, Bajaj Finserv, ICICI Bank, Larsen & Toubro, Asian Paints and Mahindra & Mahindra were among the biggest gainers. However, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank, UltraTech Cement and Maruti were among the laggards.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were trading in positive territory.

US markets ended higher on Wednesday. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,778.03 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs) also purchased stocks worth Rs 6,247.93 crore in the previous trade.

"Expectation of a rate cut by the Fed and a possible Russia-Ukraine peace accord have improved sentiments for equity markets globally," VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

SGB 2017-18 Series-IX Matures: Money quadruples, tax-free profit | Explained

New Delhi.(Agency)
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has fixed the redemption price for the 2017-18 Series-IX Sovereign Gold Bonds (SGB). This price is Rs 12,484 per gram. Gold bonds have matured after the completion of 8 years. Investors' money has increased more than 4 times in the last 8 years. Today i.e. on 27 November 2025, this bond is maturing. Investors who persist in this investment till the maturity period have received a return of 330 percent.

Sovereign Gold Bonds profit

People bought this bond in November 2017 at Rs 2,914 per gram. Now its market value is Rs 12,484 per gram. That is, a net profit of Rs 9,570 has been made on every gram. That means it has given returns of more than 330 percent in the last eight years. If an investor had invested Rs 2,91,400 (100 units) in Series-IX in 2017, then today he will get Rs 12,48,400. That means money increased 4 times in eight years.

A total profit of 330 percent in 8 years means a return of about 20 percent CAGR every year. This has only happened due to the rise in the price of gold. Along with this return, interest of 2.5 percent has been received separately every year. Today, the money will come directly into the bank account of investors. The person will not have to pay any capital gains tax on this profit. This feature is available only in gold bonds.

Govt to relax quality control norms for footwear, electronics components

According to industry sources, a high-level committee, constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat, has recommended that several QCOs be either fully revoked or deferred by one to two years

New Delhi.(Agency)
The government is planning to relax Quality Control Order (QCO) norms for footwear and electronics components manufacturing to boost domestic production and exports. According to industry sources, a high-level committee, constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat, has

recommended that several QCOs be either fully revoked or deferred by one to two years. The committee has been set up to remove regulatory barriers and establish a ‘modern, flexible, and trust-based framework for non-financial sectors regulation’. At present, there are 191 QCOs covering 773 products, ranging from furniture and footwear to door hinges, steel, textiles, petrochemical products, and engineering goods, with several more under consideration. The government has already revoked QCOs on synthetic fibres, yarns, plastics and polymers, and base metals. It is also considering suspending the implementation of certain QCOs in steel product categories, except those covering construction materials, pressure vessels, and pipes. The government also plans to revoke the Steel Monitoring System and the No-Objection Certificate (NOC) requirement for the import of non-QCO steel grades. "The QCO measures have been relaxed for the

time being to ensure that the domestic manufacturers scale up. The relaxation will be there till the time the domestic



industries upgrade themselves. We are also seeking consultations from other ministries and it will be an ongoing process," said an official from the commerce ministry.

The QCOs are government regulations mandating that certain products meet specific Indian Standards before they can be manufactured, sold, or imported. Their key objectives include preventing the

import of substandard goods, ensuring consumer access to quality products, and enhancing the global competitiveness of Indian manufacturers. The committee recommended that QCOs for footwear components—such as PVC and rubber—be completely withdrawn. For copper wires used in general engineering applications, the committee has recommended revoking the proposed QCO or deferring its implementation by two years. It has also suggested revoking QCOs for wrought aluminium and aluminium alloys, and pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes. Products proposed to be referred to the IMG (Inter-Ministerial Group) for further review include cross-recessed screws and various furniture and fittings, for which the committee has recommended deferring implementation by one year. The committee has also suggested postponing QCO implementation by one year for household, commercial, and similar electrical appliances.

From crypto to F&O: The hidden tax trap young investors keep missing

New Delhi.(Agency)
India’s young investors have jumped headfirst into markets over the past few years. Easy apps made trading feel casual, crypto looked thrilling, and futures and options (F&O) trading became a favourite for anyone chasing quick moves. But behind the excitement sits something far less glamorous: a tax system that is far more complicated than many new traders realise.

CA Niyati Shah, Vertical Head of Personal Tax at I Finance, said the core issue is often misunderstood. “Markets feel easy because the apps are easy. The tax rules are not,” she said.

CRYPTO PROFITS COME WITH HEAVY TAXES
Crypto remains one of the most tightly taxed categories. Profits on virtual digital assets attract a flat 30% tax, and every transfer comes with a 1 percent TDS. “This structure exists to create a proper trail,” Shah explained. Most deductions are not allowed, losses cannot be set off against other income,

and only the cost of acquisition is typically recognised. That makes thorough record-keeping essential. “People assume crypto works like shares. It doesn’t. Weak records can lead to very unpleasant surprises,”



she added.

F&O INCOME IS TREATED DIFFERENTLY
Futures and options (F&O) may feel like speculative trading to a beginner, but tax rules often classify frequent F&O activity as business income. “When trading becomes regular, the tax department sees it as business

activity,” Shah said. That brings obligations like maintaining books of accounts, monitoring turnover for audit triggers and filing accordingly. Losses can be carried forward for years, but only when filings are accurate and on time.

TRADING COSTS HAVE GONE UP
Short-term trading has also become costlier over recent budgets, with higher market levies raising the breakeven point for intraday and F&O traders. Shah said these changes are designed to push investors toward more long-term, stable behaviour.

CRYPTO TRANSFERS FACE SHARPER SCRUTINY
With the CBDT using more data analytics, large or frequent crypto transfers can trigger enquiries. Younger investors who mix trading, DeFi experiments, and peer-to-peer transfers without proper documentation face the highest compliance risk.

Mukesh Ambani meets Samsung Chairman in Seoul to discuss expanding their partnership

New Delhi.(Agency)
Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani and Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm, met Samsung Electronics Executive Chairman Lee Jae-yong in Seoul to discuss expanding their partnership. According to reports, they discussed partnering in new areas, including data centers and sixth-generation (6G) technology. The Korea Times reported that Mukesh and Akash were in South Korea recently and held meetings with Lee Jae-yong and senior executives from several Samsung affiliates at the company’s offices in the Seocho District, Seoul.

Another publication, The Chosun Daily, reported that Mukesh Ambani was briefed on key business developments and new initiatives at Samsung Electronics,

Samsung Display, Samsung SDI,



Samsung C&T, Samsung Heavy Industries, Samsung E&A, and the Samsung Human Resources Development Center. Demonstrations included Samsung’s upcoming

‘Galaxy XR’ extended reality headset and micro RGB display technology. This meeting comes at a time when Reliance, back in India, is rapidly expanding into new-age sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI) and data centers, areas in which Samsung and its affiliates already have a strong presence. Samsung and Jio have a long-standing relationship: the South Korean company partnered with Reliance in 2012 to build Jio’s nationwide 4G network. It is also working with Indian telecom operators on 5G initiatives. According to The Korea Times, Samsung expects to deepen its collaboration with Reliance in areas such as 6G network equipment, AI data centers, and energy storage systems for data center operations.

PSU bank mergers: Do bigger banks mean happier employees

New Delhi.(Agency)
The consolidation of India’s Public Sector Banks (PSBs) is once again on the policy radar, with speculation about a second round of mergers that could reduce their number from the current 12 to perhaps half that figure. The government’s stated aim is to create stronger, globally competitive banks capable of supporting India’s \$5-trillion economy. While size and scale undoubtedly matter in the global financial order, the real strength of a bank ultimately lies in its people. Employee morale, motivation, and cultural integration are as vital as capital adequacy and technology upgrades in ensuring that merged entities truly succeed.

HISTORY OF MERGERS
India’s tryst with PSB consolidation dates back more than three decades. The first post-nationalisation merger took place in 1993, when Punjab National Bank (PNB) absorbed the New Bank of India—a move aimed at rescuing the latter from mounting losses. What appeared to be a straightforward administrative action soon turned into a prolonged episode of organisational turbulence. Employees of the erstwhile New Bank, which had a strong union and close ties with its management, struggled to adjust to the

new environment. Differences in work culture, privileges, and perceived loss of influence created deep resentment. Litigation followed, industrial peace was disturbed, and the combined bank struggled for years to regain normalcy. For nearly three years, no internal promotions took place. The episode became a cautionary tale of how mishandled human integration can undermine even a well-intentioned merger. For almost two decades thereafter, no major PSB merger occurred. But in the 2000s, the State Bank of India (SBI) took the lead, gradually absorbing its associate banks. While the move created a banking powerhouse with global scale, employee integration proved far more difficult. Even after a decade, many staff members of the erstwhile associate banks continue to feel undervalued within the larger structure. The lesson was clear: a legal merger is not the same as an emotional merger.

RECENT CONSOLIDATION
The 2019–20 consolidation drive was the boldest so far, reducing the number of PSBs from 21 to 12 and creating fewer but much larger entities with pan-India presence. Balance-sheet size, capital strength, and operational efficiency



improved measurably. However, frictions soon surfaced beneath the statistics. In one of the recent North-India mergers, the smaller bank, anticipating the merger, had promoted an unusually high number of officers, creating a cadre of relatively young executives holding senior designations. After the merger, this disparity caused heartburn within the parent bank, whose officers saw their own career prospects curtailed by the influx of “younger seniors.”

WHY SCALE STILL MATTERS
Despite these challenges, the logic for consolidation remains compelling. Larger banks enjoy economies of scale, stronger capital buffers, and wider geographic reach. They can fund big infrastructure projects, invest in digital transformation, and compete with private and global peers. For policymakers and regulators, having a few well-capitalised PSBs is

easier to supervise and recapitalise than managing dozens of small, unevenly governed entities. Globally too, banking systems in countries such as China, Japan, and South Korea are dominated by a handful of mega banks that drive growth and innovation.

THE HUMAN SIDE OF INTERGRATION
Every merger involves more than the blending of balance sheets—it is a fusion of cultures, histories, and aspirations. Common issues that have surfaced across PSB mergers include: Disparities in promotion and posting policies leading to perceptions of injustice; Differences in work culture and discipline between regional and national entities; Technological mismatches in IT systems and business processes; Lingering legacy loyalties delaying the formation of a unified identity. It is also a fact that PSBs do not follow a uniform grooming and promotion policy. Smaller banks often promote officers faster, sometimes to higher grades. At one point, the erstwhile Corporation Bank and Allahabad Bank had among the highest numbers of whole-time directors in the industry—a reminder of how uneven HR structures can complicate integration.



Shilpa Shetty

Moves Bombay High Court, Seeks Protection Of Personality Rights



Several actors have been reaching court for protection of their personality rights, and the newest to be on the list is Shilpa Shetty. As per report, Shilpa Shetty has filed a case in the Bombay High Court seeking personality rights protection. The suit includes the names of several websites which use or have used the actress's picture illegally.

Besides this, several morphed pictures and videos of the actress have also surfaced, which have prompted Shilpa to take such steps. As per HT, Shilpa's suit has been filed by advocate Sana Raees Khan. Sana has shared with the publication, "Ms. Shilpa Shetty has built her reputation over decades of work, and no entity can appropriate her name or likeness without consent. The unauthorised commercial exploitation of her identity is an outright assault on her dignity and hard-earned reputation. No individual or platform has the right to exploit her reputation for unlawful commercial gain, and we will ensure strict enforcement of her personality rights. We have moved the Bombay High Court to put a stop to such misuse and to safeguard her identity from being treated as a commodity."

In recent times, several celebrities, including Aishwarya Rai, Abhishek Bachchan, Amitabh Bachchan, Karan Johar, Rishab Shetty, Jaya Bachchan, Hrithik Roshan, and Akkineni Nagarjuna, also moved court to seek protection of their personality rights. The Bombay High Court has recently passed comparable orders for Amitabh Bachchan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, and others, reinforcing stronger protections against the unauthorised commercial use of their names, images, and voice.

What Are Personality Rights?

Personality rights refer to an individual's legal entitlement to control the commercial and public use of their identity. They safeguard attributes that are uniquely linked to a person, such as their name, image, likeness, voice, signature, or even trademark catchphrases, from being exploited without consent. These rights are often broken into two branches – the Right of Publicity and the Right to Privacy. The former protects against unauthorised commercial exploitation, such as using a celebrity's face in advertisements. On the other hand, the right to privacy guards against intrusion into personal dignity, covering misuse through deepfakes, morphed images, fabricated endorsements, or intimate doctored content.

Smriti Mandhana Best Friend Radha Yadav Unfollows Palash Muchhal As Wedding Gets Postponed



Palash Muchhal has been in the news ever since his wedding with the cricket star Smriti Mandhana was postponed. While both families cited Smriti's father's sudden health scare as the reason, several rumours of the music composer allegedly cheating on the cricketer have also been making headlines.

Amid all this, Smriti's best friend and cricketer Radha Yadav has also unfollowed Palash on Instagram. While Palash still follows Radha on the social media platform, the latter has unfollowed the music composer.

This comes hours after several social media reports claimed that Smriti has also unfollowed Palash on Instagram. But it turned out to be false. Palash and Smriti still follow each other on the platform.

Palash Muchhal's Cousin Defends Him

Earlier today, Palash's cousin Neeti Tak also issued a statement addressing the swirling rumours and urging the public to refrain from making assumptions about the singer's character. Sharing a gradient background post, she wrote: "Palaash is going through a critical condition today, you all should not judge Palaash as wrong without knowing the truth... Technology today has come much ahead of humans, that is why people should not judge Palaash in the face of rumours... pray for him."

Why Is Palash's Wedding With Smriti Postponed?

Palash and Smriti were set to tie the knot on November 23 in Smriti's hometown of Sangli, Maharashtra. However, their wedding has been postponed indefinitely due to the cricketer's father's health. According to reports, Shrinivas Mandhana began experiencing chest discomfort on the morning of the wedding and was immediately taken to Sarvhit Hospital and Medical Research Centre. The family decided to call off the celebrations as doctors conducted tests and stabilised his condition. The emotional strain extended to Palaash as well. His mother told Hindustan Times that the singer shared a very close bond with Smriti's father, and the situation deeply affected him. "He cried so much that his health suddenly deteriorated."

Aneet Padda Recalls How She Decided To Become An Actor: 'My Mom Kept Saying...'



Aneet Padda's acting journey started long before Saiyaara. She worked as a model in her teens, appearing in several ads and campaigns. Her acting debut came with a small role in Kajol's Salaam Venky in 2022, followed by the Amazon Prime series Big Girls Don't Cry in 2024. She later featured in the show Yuva Sapno Ka Safar before becoming a sensation after Saiyaara. But do you know what convinced Aneet to take up acting?

"As a kid, I was this oblivious child, always daydreaming," Aneet Padda told Grazia India. "I would memorise the poem and deliver it very blandly, and my mom kept saying, 'You just have to understand what it means. Stop overthinking and say it the way you feel it.'"

Aneet followed her mother's advice and won the first prize in a poetry competition. "I remember thinking, wow, that feels kind of nice. I wouldn't mind another one," she added. Soon after, she started taking part in her school's plays, sometimes even portraying the role of a tree.

However, her teachers noticed her talent. "They noticed the emotion I brought to poetry could naturally translate to a performance," Aneet said. Her principal told her, "You're very good at this. I don't think you know." This was when Aneet felt that she could take up acting professionally.

Aneet Padda has enjoyed a meteoric rise since Saiyaara, but the sudden attention hasn't been all easy. The young actor, who is now gearing up for Shakti Shalini, said she often feels overwhelmed by the love and expectations coming her way. She said, "I'm very sensitive. I feel things deeply.

So, the responsibility of love, that weight of wanting to do right by the people who support you, that can feel pressurising. It's beautiful, but sometimes, it is a lot."

Aneet's fan base has grown rapidly online, where edits, reels and fan pages celebrate her performances, especially her onscreen chemistry with Saiyaara co-star Ahaan Panday. Talking about the love she receives, she added, "I cry once a week looking at the edits my fans make. The effort, the love, I just hope I can do justice to it." Aneet is now working on Shakti Shalini, Maddock Films' upcoming horror comedy.

Ayesha Khan's

Red Gown Look At Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karoon 2 Trailer Launch Is Unmissable

Ayesha Khan, who first grabbed the spotlight with Bigg Boss 17, has been unstoppable ever since. From ruling Instagram to featuring in Dil Ko Rafu Kar Le, she's now gearing up for her much-awaited big-screen debut with the sequel of Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karoon. At the trailer launch of the Kapil Sharma starrer, Ayesha was spotted in a ravishing red gown featuring a plunging neckline. The gown's silhouette beautifully accentuated her body shape, making her stand out effortlessly. Her hair was styled in soft curls, and she opted for a dewy makeup look.

In another paparazzi video, Ayesha was seen chatting with her co-star Parul Gulati, who also looked stunning in a black cut-out dress. Their warm camaraderie was clearly visible in the video.

Kis Kis Ko Pyaar Karoon 2 Trailer

The trailer for the sequel to the 2015 film has finally dropped, promising yet another dose of entertainment. This time too, Kapil's character finds himself tangled in a hilariously chaotic situation involving four wives, setting the stage for a fun-filled ride. Sharing the trailer on Instagram, Kapil's caption read, "4 wives...! Don't try this at home, this stunt is performed by our expert." The film is slated to release on December 12.

A user commented on the trailer, "Looks very promising and very excited to watch the epic comedy." Another wrote, "Comedy ka pitaara." Someone added, "Ghazab paaji, blockbuster hit!" An individual remarked, "This actually looks good... 2-3 jagah genuinely hasa."

Cast and Crew Of The Film

The cast of the film includes Kapil Sharma, Ayesha Khan, Hira Warina, Parul Gulati, Tridha Choudhury, Manjot Singh, Supriya Shukla, Smita Jayakar, Akhilendra Mishra, Vipin Kumar Sharma and Sushant Singh. The film is directed and written by Anukalp Goswami and is being bankrolled by Ratan Jain, Ganesh Jain and Abbas Mustan. It will be interesting to see the comedy king return to the big screen after ruling the digital space with his show, The Great Indian Kapil Show.

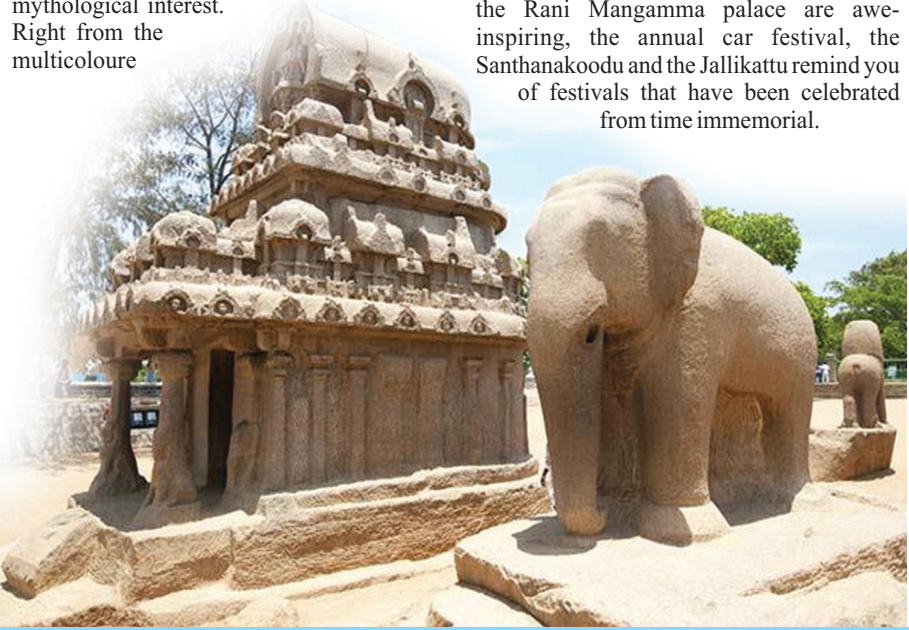


Tamil Nadu's proud of its Heritage

For those who love soaking in some culture and learning about the past heritage, Tamil Nadu can be a good beginning.

The state not only houses a great collection of artefacts in its various mesuems, but UNESCO has recognized some of the sites here as having cultural and heritage importance. As of last year, five more sites including Sri Ranganathar temple in Srirangam, Fort St George in Chennai, Chettinad, Kazhugumalai rock sculptures and Pulikat Lake were included in the tentative list by the ministry for UNESCO's world heritage status. As we celebrate World Heritage Week, Chennai Times lists out some destination that you can visit in the state...

Kanyakumari, at the southernmost tip of the country, is one of those few towns that were ruled by Cheras, Cholas, Pandyas and even the Nayaks. Apart from being a historically important place, it also generates several mythological interest. Right from the multicoloure



d sand on the sea shore to the ancient Kumari Amman temple, from Vivekananda rock memorial and the Gandhi memorial to the more recent 133 ft statue of saint poet Thiruvalluvar, Kanyakumari offers a lot to those who dig history!

Located a few kilometres from Kumbakonam, the Airawateshwar temple at Darasuram is a recognised UNESCO World Heritage Monument. The temple is said to be built by Rajaraja Chola II in the 12th century, and was restored by the ASI.

The rock-carved Ratha temples and cave sanctuaries and sculptures at Mahabalipuram, built by Pallavas in the 7th and 8th centuries, found a place in UNESCO's World Heritage list in 1984. Apart from the 40-plus monuments, and the largest open-air bas-relief in the world, one can also get a taste of rockcarving and sculpture-making first hand there.

Tanjore is a treasure trove for art lovers and history fanatics. The Brihadisvara temple at Tanjore and Gangaikonda Cholapuram, built by the Cholas between the 11th and 12th century, attract hordes of people every day. The inscriptions on the temple walls, the ancient paintings and bronze sculptures provide a window into the past. The Saraswati Mahal library, the Sivaganga park, Thanjavur Maratha palace, Schwartz Church, and the museums are among the other attractions in Tanjore.

As much as Madurai is known for its religious destinations, it's known for it's architectural brilliance as well. While the 1000-pillared halls and porthamarai kulam in Meenaskshi temple, the Nayak Palace and the Rani Mangamma palace are awe-inspiring, the annual car festival, the Santhanakoodu and the Jallikattu remind you of festivals that have been celebrated from time immemorial.

Machu Picchu, the city that was never lost

Although US explorer Hiram Bingham achieved worldwide fame for having "discovered" the Inca citadel of Machu Picchu, all historical evidence points to the fact that the famous archaeological site had never been lost.

Bingham mounted three expeditions - in 1911, 1912 and 1915 - to Machu Picchu, which he dubbed "the lost city of the Incas", but amid his adventures he sidestepped historical information that was found and even failed to mention it to important experts in the area, among them one of his compatriots.

This person was Albert Giesecke, a 29-year-old US academic who was the dean of the Universidad San Antonio Abad in Cuzco and gave him the references and even the name of Melchor Arteaga, the peasant who later guided Bingham to the famous ruins July 24, 1911.

But before Bingham, who is thought to be the inspiration for "Indiana Jones", other people visited the site, although always in search of treasure, mineral deposits or river routes to the Amazon.

The most famous of all of them was Cuzco landowner Agustin Lizarraga, who arrived at the ruins nine years

before Bingham and even wrote on the wall of the Three Windows in Spanish "A. Lizarraga, July 14, 1902".

Lizarraga carried out the first efforts to clean up the ruins along with Justo A. Ochoa, Gabino Sanchez and Enrique Palma, but he drowned in the Vilcanota River in February 1912.

Even before Lizarraga, however, there existed 19th century maps on which Machu Picchu was marked and, going back even further, the first indications of the site date back to 1565, when in the writings of Spaniard Diego Rodriguez de Figueroa it appears bearing the name "Pijchu".

Much of this information was presented in 2003 by Peruvian historian Mariana Mould de Pease in her book "Machu Picchu and the Code of Ethics of the American Anthropological Society".

She provided maps that prove that the Inca citadel had been known and - apparently - looted in the 19th century by German adventurer August Berns.

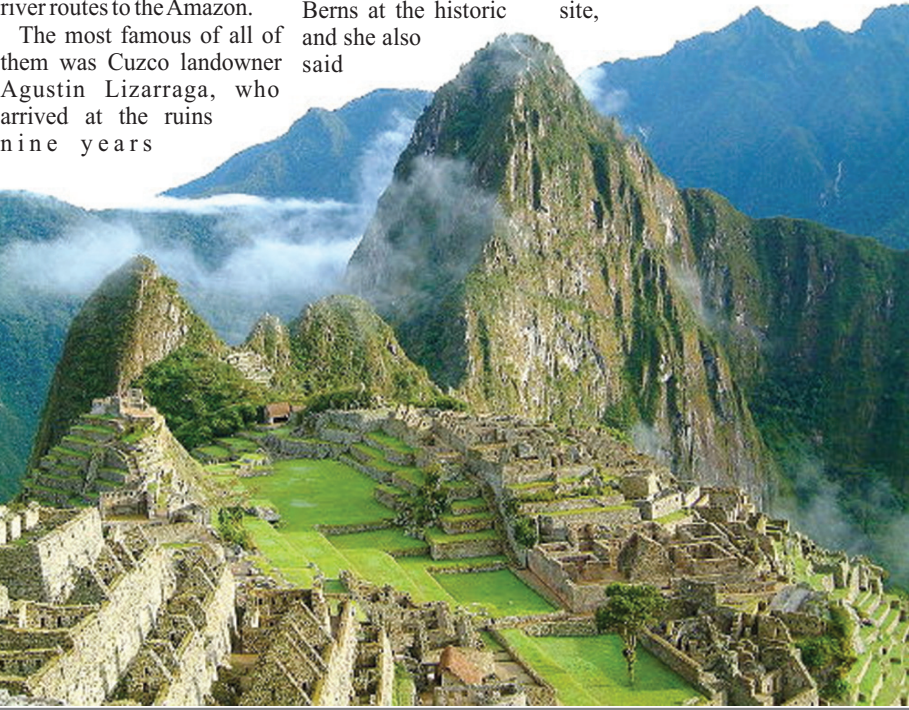
In addition, the historian revealed that Bingham had among his papers the resolution authorising the presence of Berns at the historic site, and she also said

that British historian Clements Markham, who became president of the Royal Geographical Society in London, also had maps showing the location of Machu Picchu.

Peruvian historian Carlos Carcelen says, meanwhile, that Berns settled in the Cuzco region and founded a lumber and mining company in the late 1880s and then set about looting the artifacts he uncovered at Machu Picchu with the knowledge of the government.

Mould also noted the existence of other maps dated in 1870 and 1874 and said that they constitute "irrefutable proof that Machu Picchu was completely integrated into republican Peru".

With the passage of a century, and with the full acknowledgment of the archaeological world, the consensus exists that Bingham was not the discoverer of the site, although he was certainly the first person to take note of the historical and cultural significance of the citadel, now held to be one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.



Rajasthan is one state of India that gives many images at once when one thinks about it- the vast desert, the Rajputana Heritage, India's largest state and many more. Udaipur, probably the most famous leisure destination in Rajasthan has all of these images...and that too in a good measure!



Udaipur City of Lakes

Places of interest Lakes galore

Udaipur mainly has 5 lakes which are like must watch. Fateh Sagar lake is called the pride of the City of Lakes of Udaipur, it is an artificial lake constructed by Maharana in North of Lake Pichola in 1678 and to the north-west of Udaipur. It is one of the four lakes of the Udaipur city; the other three lakes are: the Lake Pichola (within the Udaipur town), Udai Sagar Lake (13 km to the east of Udaipur) and Dhebar Lake or Jaisamand Lake (52 km south east of Udaipur).

The vintage car museum

The Maharanas of Udaipur once possessed and used regal splendours of automobiles as their luxuries. Grandness was a way of life with the Rajasthan Royals. This museum is a must visit.

The City Palace

This is the second biggest palace in India. It was started by Maharana Udai Singh, completed by his following generation. Located peacefully on the banks of Lake Pichola, this majestic City Palace is the most-visited tourist attraction here.

Saheliyon Ki Bari

Situated near the Fateh Sagar Lake, the



architecture of the garden provides a breath-taking view to any observer. The garden is embellished with numerous fountains in its water pools, and marble elephants.

Food

Udaipur cuisine is debarred of non-vegetarian dishes. Udaipur is famous for its Dal-Baati-Churma, Gatte-Ki-Sabzi, Kachori and Mirchi Bada. Meals are usually comprised of lentils, vegetables and a fantastic variety of spices. Lentil curries, yoghurt soups with deep fried breads and chilli fritters make the favorite

feast. Ocra, dried mango and Sangri (beans) go together with most of the meals.

Climate

The best time to visit Udaipur is between March and September! Udaipur has a sultry kind of climate.

Best time to visit: Winter (Sep to Mar)

Summer (April to August)

How to get there

By air

Udaipur Airport namely Maharana Pratap Airport is located near Dabok at a distance of 22 kms from the city of Udaipur. Many domestic airlines connect the city to all the major cities of India including Jaipur, Mumbai, Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata. Regular air services are available for Delhi and Mumbai too.

By rail

Udaipur Railway Station is located at a comfortable distance from the city of Udaipur. Rajasthan Railways connects Udaipur station with all the other cities of Rajasthan as well as India. There are frequent trains which run to and from Udaipur connecting Jaipur, Mumbai and Delhi.

By road

The city lies on the Golden Quadrilateral National Highway (NH) 8, midway between Delhi and Mumbai, located around 700 kilometers from either city. The East West Corridor which starts from Porbandar and ends at Silchar passes and is intersecting the Golden Quadrilateral and shares the common space from Udaipur to Chittoor. The roads in this part of the country are paved and fit for private vehicles. One can either drive from Jaipur (around 6 hours via Chittorgarh), from Kota (3 hours - four lane highway) or Surat (9 hours), or take a Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) bus from Bikaner House, India Gate in Delhi. Rajasthan roadways.



From hitting the powdery slopes to going hiking, there are a lot of ways to get the adrenalin going this season. Pack the right outfits and gear to go with it...

Winter is here and folks are already in a festive mood. If you're ready to jet-set off on a holiday, here's what you have in store...

Skiing fun

Getting into 'snow motion' is high on everyone's list. Try skiing, for one; the French or Italian Alps are apt. Or go closer to home, to the snowy reaches of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir. Ski breaks with family and friends make for a fun activity. And when the sun goes down, there are also things to do beyond the icy slopes, with winter saunas and wellness regimens, cookouts, log fires, camping out in fancy tents and more.

Snowboarding

The other huge draw is the winter sport of snowboarding. It involves coming down a snowy slope while standing on a board attached to your feet. It has now become one of the fastest growing sports in the world and attained Olympic status in 1998. You can choose a terrain as per your skill level. Snowboarding is considered a great cardio workout allowing a person to burn about 400 calories an hour. It also releases endorphins and acts as a stress buster.

Winter hiking

Get ready for a white holiday

Tackling tranquil trails in the cold air has a charm of its own. Although this comes with its own hazards, such as quick changing weather, short daylight hours and other perils, if you



plan the hike right, you can make it pleasant.

Pack right

Remember to pack the fuzzy tops and sweaters. This is bulky and bound to take up luggage space, so go light on other clothes. Other essentials you will need are ear muffs, mittens, thick socks, hydrating lotions, lip balms and fleece shirts. Also put in one all-weather resistant jacket.

Buy the right shoes

A tough pair of walking shoes are a must. So are snow shoes, which are meant for treading on wet ground.

Psst! a tip is to Look for alternate airports This is prime season, so if you heading to destination X and you wanted airport Y, which is too costly, try another closeby airport instead. Look online and ask around for more affordable hubs.

5 must-haves on your winter shopping list Gifts: Make sure you have everyone's names on the list and tick as you keep buying. Ornaments for the home: Rice lights and decorations, baubles, candles and more. Toys: Buy educative games, soft toys and books.

Turkey: Roast turkey is a must-have for Christmas. Pick this one up before the best birds get sold.

Toppings: Lemon zest, currants, raisins and dryfruits, as you will need these as toppings on desserts.