

Fresh FIR filed against Sonia, Rahul Gandhi in National Herald case on ED complaint; Congress cries vendetta

FIR cites criminal conspiracy, cheating, breach of trust and misappropriation; Congress calls move "bogus and politically motivated"

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a major setback to Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing has registered a fresh FIR against them and six others in the decade-old National Herald money laundering case. The FIR, registered on October 3, 2025, follows a detailed complaint from Shiv Kumar Gupta, Assistant Director of the Enforcement Directorate's Headquarters Investigation Unit, and invokes charges of criminal conspiracy, dishonest misappropriation of property, criminal breach of trust and cheating.

On November 29, 2025, the Rouse Avenue Court postponed its decision on whether to take cognizance of the ED's chargesheet, deferring the order to December 16 and observing that the accused have a "right to be heard" before any decision is taken.

According to the FIR, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Suman Dubey, Sam Pitroda, Young Indian, Dotex Merchandise Pvt Ltd, Sunil Bhandari and Associated Journals Ltd have been named as accused. Except for Sam Pitroda, who now resides in Oak Brook, Illinois, all others are residents of India. The FIR alleges an elaborate criminal conspiracy to fraudulently take over properties



worth over Rs 2,000 crore belonging to Associated Journals Limited, the original publisher of the National Herald. It states that this takeover was executed by Young Indian, in which Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi held controlling stakes, for a "paltry sum of Rs 50 lakhs only."

It details how the All India Congress Committee gave cumulative loans of Rs 90.21 crore to AJL between 2002-03 and 2010-11 and treated the amount as non-recoverable despite AJL holding valuable properties. The FIR states: "The scheme of fraud was executed by Young Indian purchasing from AICC the right to recover the loan of Rs. 90.21 cr. (given by AICC to AJL) for a paltry sum

of Rs. 50 lakhs and simultaneously, AJL converted the outstanding loan of Rs. 90.21 crore into 9.02 crore equity shares of face value Rs. 10 each in favour of Young Indian, thereby defrauding shareholders of AJL on one hand and also the public donors of AICC by dishonestly inducing AICC to forego its valuable right to recover Rs. 90 Crore advanced to AJL."

The FIR says AJL shareholders were cheated as their shareholding was diluted when Young Indian was issued 99% of the company's shares. It adds: "ED investigation reveals that, Young Indian was effectively controlled by Sh. Rahul Gandhi and Smt. Sonia Gandhi since they together held 76% of shares through a well-thought-out conspiracy."

Young Indian was incorporated on November 23, 2010 with a capital of Rs 5 lakh, and through transfers and allotments, Sonia and Rahul Gandhi each came to hold 38% of its shares. Sam Pitroda and Suman Dubey were the original shareholders with 550 shares each. On January 22, 2011, fresh allotments and transfers brought in Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi as 38% shareholders each, while Motilal Vora and Oscar Fernandes received 12% each.

Politics of harassment: Congress slams Centre after new FIR on Rahul, Sonia Gandhi

The Congress has strongly reacted to the fresh FIR filed against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others in the National Herald case, terming it as an example of the Centre's vendetta politics. The opposition alleges misuse of investigative agencies ahead of crucial elections.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Congress on Sunday accused the Centre of continuing its "vendetta politics" after a fresh FIR was filed against party leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi, calling the move an attempt to intimidate the opposition. Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said on X, "The Modi-Shah duo is continuing with its mischievous politics of harassment, intimidation, and vendetta against the top leadership of the INC. Those who threaten are themselves insecure and afraid. The National Herald matter is a completely bogus case. Justice will ultimately triumph. Satyameva Jayate."

Senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi added that the FIR was "neither wine new nor bottle new nor glasses new", describing it as "a one-trick wonder where no money moved, no immovable property transferred, yet money laundering is invented."



The FIR was filed by the Delhi Police's Economic Offences Wing (EOW) on October 3 based on a complaint by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as part of its money laundering probe into the high-profile National Herald case. The police have pressed charges under IPC sections 120B (criminal conspiracy), 403 (dishonest misappropriation of property), 406 (criminal breach of trust), and 420 (cheating).

Named in the FIR are Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Congress leaders Suman Dubey and Sam Pitroda, entities including Young Indian (YI), Dotex Merchandise Ltd, Dotex promoter Sunil Bhandari, and Associated Journals Ltd (AJL), along with other unknown parties. Most of these entities were already listed in the ED's chargesheet filed before a Delhi court in April; the next hearing is scheduled for December 16.

After Haryana CM Saini, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann visits Japan for 10-day industrial tour

CHANDIGARH.(Agency)

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann will lead a 10-day official visit to Japan starting December 1, heading a state delegation to Tokyo and Sapporo to engage with industry leaders ahead of the sixth Progressive Punjab Investors Summit scheduled from March 13 to 15, 2026. The delegation will include state industries minister Sanjeev Arora, Chief Secretary KAP Singh, and other senior officials.

During the visit, CM Mann is expected to meet representatives of around two dozen leading Japanese companies, including Toyota, Nippon, Panasonic, NEC, and Sumitomo. "The Punjab government will be showing the Japanese companies that it is business ready," an official said, underscoring the state's focus on attracting investment.

The visit follows Mann's recent virtual engagement on November 26 with a high-level Japanese delegation comprising officials from the Embassy of Japan, Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO), Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in India (JCCI), and over 25 leading Japanese companies operating in India.



During the session, Mann pitched strategic tie-ups in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, mobility, electronics, food processing, renewable energy, and global services, inviting Japanese companies to participate in Punjab's industrial transformation. Japanese and Indo-Japanese industry leaders, including senior representatives from Yanmar Holdings and TTC Group, shared positive experiences of operating in Punjab, highlighting the quality of human capital, supportive policy ecosystem, and facilitation by Invest Punjab. The visit comes in the wake of a similar trip by Haryana Chief Minister Nayan Singh Saini in October, who spent three days in Japan securing memoranda of understanding worth over Rs 5,000 crore with Japanese corporations and engaging with ministers from the Ministry of Foreign.

Lalu Yadav Moves To A Quieter Home, Signalling Shift In RJD Politics

Patna.(Agency)

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Yadav, whose houses once symbolised Bihar's most crowded political spaces, has now moved into a new, tightly regulated home, marking a significant change in both his personal life and the functioning of the party. For decades, Lalu Yadav's houses functioned like open political courts. From his chief ministerial home at 1, Anne Marg to the family home at 10, Circular Road, supporters, villagers, journalists, party workers and ministers enjoyed unrestricted access. At times, even cattle and

large groups of visitors were seen inside the premises. That long phase appears to be coming to an end. Sources say the new house rules follow strict entry protocols. Unplanned meetings are avoided, visitors are screened, and even party workers need prior approval. The primary focus of the household is now Lalu Yadav's health and recovery. Medical teams visit regularly, and the home environment is maintained to ensure peace and rest. Political discussions are limited in both number and duration.

During his tenure as chief minister, 1, Anne Marg functioned almost like a public grievance centre. People from across Bihar arrived daily with petitions, journalists waited from early morning, and ministers entered without appointments. Later, 10, Circular Road became the family's permanent political base during Rabri Devi's tenure as chief minister. The gates remained open round the clock, with festivals often turning into political gatherings. Supporters walked in without restrictions, and party workers frequently camped inside the compound.

The structured nature of Lalu Yadav's new home also reflects a political transition within the RJD.

Most organisational work, alliance talks and political strategy meetings are now being handled by Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav.

'Politics trumps economics:' Jaishankar flags global risks in veiled reference to US

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amid ongoing trade tensions between India and the United States, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar flagged the global risks for economies in today's time, stating that the politics nowadays increasingly 'trumps' economics in an 'uncertain world'. While addressing a gathering after being conferred an Honorary Doctorate by IIM-Calcutta, Jaishankar highlighted the significance of diversifying India's supply sources to guarantee the country's national needs.

"This is an era where politics increasingly trumps economics... and that is not a pun.... In an uncertain world, it is all the more important that we continuously diversify supply sources to guarantee our national needs," Jaishankar said.

"The United States, long the underwriter of the contemporary system, has set radically new terms



of engagement. It is doing so by dealing with countries on a one-on-one basis," he noted. He further said that China has "long played by its own rules", and was doing so even now.

Jaishankar's remarks come against the backdrop of trade tensions between New Delhi and Washington after US President Donald Trump

levied 50 per cent tariff on Indian goods, including a 25% penalty over India's purchase of Russian oil. He then said that the other countries respond by hedging against all contingencies.

"Faced with such pulls and pressures of globalisation, of fragmentation and of supply insecurity, the rest of the world responds by hedging against all contingencies," Jaishankar said. He noted that a third of global production currently takes place in China which puts the spotlight on the "resilience and reliability" of supply chains.

"Conflicts and climate events have added to the possibility of that disruption," Jaishankar said. India's gap with some of the more successful Asian economies is fast narrowing in terms of infrastructure – highways, railways, aviation, ports, energy and power.

Some Bharatiya people don't know our own languages: RSS chief Bhagwat

NAGPUR.(Agency)

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday expressed concern over the declining use of Indian languages and mother tongues, saying the situation has reached a point where "some Bharatiya people do not know our own languages". Speaking at a book release event in Nagpur, Bhagwat appealed to society to introspect on the erosion of linguistic heritage. "There was a time when entire communication, sharing, daily business was in Sanskrit. Now, some American professor teaches us Sanskrit, when in reality we should have been teaching it to the world. Many children today do not know some very basic and simple words and often speak at home in a mix of their mother tongue and English," he said. "The situation

has reached a point where some Bharatiya people do not know our own Indian languages," the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief said.

He maintained that English-medium education was not to blame, but the reluctance to speak Indian languages at home was aggravating the situation. "If we speak our language properly in our home, things would be better. But we do not do it," he said. Even seers now reach out in English, which is understandable, but still indicative of changing linguistic preferences, Bhagwat noted.

Referring to Sant Dnyaneshwar, he said the saint brought the knowledge of the Bhagavad Gita into Marathi for a better understanding of society. "Now the problem is that there are not



enough words in the English language that capture the essence and depth of the thoughts or concepts expressed in our languages. A single word used by Dnyaneshwar often requires multiple English words without fully conveying the intended meaning," he said.

Citing an example, he pointed to Kalpavriksha, the wish-fulfilling tree from mythology in Indian tradition. "How will you translate Kalpavriksha in English?" Bhagwat asked, stressing the limitations of translating culturally rich concepts into a foreign language. He said such examples highlight why Indian languages must be preserved and strengthened. Bhagwat further said that Indian philosophical traditions emphasise unity despite physical differences.

"Where there is faith, we all are an expression of the one," he said, recalling how a seer once told foreign visitors that debating whether there is one God or many was unnecessary since the existence of the divine itself was central.

At a Nagpur event, RSS chief urges families to revive mother tongues at home, says rich concepts like Kalpavriksha lose meaning in English and Indian thought demands a balance of knowledge, karma and faith.

News box

2 Atal canteens open at IMT Manesar

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) has launched two Atal Shramik Kisan Canteens at IMT Manesar's sectors 4 and 5. Workers from industrial areas can enjoy meals for just Rs 10. Under the scheme, HSIIDC plans to open five canteens in total, with construction underway for the remaining three. Infrastructure for HSIIDC canteens is being developed through the corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives of companies. The canteens will be operated by self-help groups (SHGs) and are expected to create new employment opportunities for locals. "The launch of canteens further strengthens this mission and is an important initiative towards improving the living standards of industrial workers," said an HSIIDC official.

At present, around 375 such food canteens are operational at various locations across the state. The canteens are operated by the labour department, Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board (HSAMB), sugar mills, and HSIIDC. The state is also coming up with a dedicated portal for the subsidised food canteens operating in the state, ensuring that information about



them is accessible with the click of a button.

Haryana State Rural Livelihood Mission is also preparing to standardise the menu that also includes food items made from millets. All these canteens will have a uniform menu. Plans are underway to offer breakfast at these canteens and also serve South Indian dishes to labourers and farmers.

Drunk man walks to edge of terrace, falls to death in Badshapur

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 30-year-old man fell to his death from the terrace of a building after a drinking session with his friend. The incident occurred in the early hours of Saturday at Centre Homes PG in Badshapur.

Ajit Balhara, a resident of Rohtak, had arrived in Gurgaon two days earlier, hoping to secure a job. He was staying with his friend Saurav, who said that the two had spent almost the entire Friday evening drinking together before deciding to sleep on the terrace of their accommodation. "We were just relaxing and talking about our plans. I never imagined something like this could happen," Saurav told police. According to investigators, Ajit woke up around 4am to relieve himself. Disoriented from the liquor, he wandered close to the edge and lost his balance, plunging to the ground below. The sound of his fall startled neighbours, who rushed out to find Ajit gravely injured. Ajit was taken to a nearby hospital, but was declared dead on arrival. Police and forensic teams arrived soon after, and the body was sent for an autopsy before being released to the family. "We have initiated inquest proceedings and will take further action if any foul play is suspected," a police spokesperson stated.

Prone to crashes & jams, NHAI set to shut DME-Shahberi loop

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) will close the curved loop connecting the Delhi-Meerut Expressway (DME) to NH9 near ABES Engineering College during peak hours starting Monday to ease congestion and reduce accidents at one of the busiest merge points on the corridor. The closure will remain in force from 6am to 9pm daily.

The loop was opened just a year ago following prolonged demands from residents, especially those in Crossings Republik, who sought easier access between NH9, the expressway and the Shahberi road. But what was meant to improve connectivity has instead become a bottleneck on a high-speed corridor that handles an enormous traffic load. Officials said the DME and NH9 together see nearly 4 lakh Passenger Car Units every day, with about 50,000 PCU on the expressway alone. At this volume, the additional access point soon transformed into a choke point, significantly slowing down traffic and creating risky merge conditions. "The DME is designed as an access-controlled expressway to ensure a smooth, uninterrupted journey from Delhi's Sarai Kale Khan to Meerut," an NHAI official said. "In 2024, we added one more access point at the 18.6km mark for local commuters. But over time, it has become the most accident-prone stretch. After careful assessment, we decided the cut will remain closed during peak hours starting Monday." The project, along with a similar access cut at Lal Kuan, was announced in Jan last year and former Ghaziabad MP and Union Minister Gen (retd) VK Singh laid the foundation stone. Built at Rs 9.5 crore, both cuts were meant to offer controlled, limited access without disrupting high-speed movement along the expressway. NHAI had then maintained that the revised plan, connecting Shahberi road with curved loop extending from NH9, would streamline traffic without compromising safety. Officials now insist the closure is a necessary step to restore safety and flow on the DME that was never designed for such unregulated merging. Residents of Crossings Republik and nearby areas told TOI the immediate implications were worrying. Before the cut was built, commuters coming from Pratap Vihar could not directly access Shahberi road. After it was built, the loop became the only feasible crossing point, and with its near-daylong closure now they were back to square one. "Jaywalking across the expressway is not an option," a resident said, pointing out that the remaining alternatives, a vehicular underpass near the Continental Carbon factory and a narrow pedestrian underpass, meant a long detour that was too cramped to handle regular footfall.

When 'poor' is better: AQI improves in Gurgaon, but is set to dip again this week

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The city's air quality improved on Saturday after two days in the 'very poor' category to record at 262 (poor), down from Friday's 320. Gwalpahari recorded the worst air with an AQI of 313, placing it once again in the 'very poor' category. Sector 51 (282) and Vikas Sadan (234) remained in the 'poor' category. Data from Teri Gram was unavailable due to insufficient readings. Throughout the month, the AQI has stayed between the 'poor' and 'very poor' range and forecasts indicate little improvement in the coming days. According to System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting and Research (SAFAR), the air quality is expected to remain in the 'very poor' range for the next six days. On Saturday, surface winds from the northwest started calm and increased to around 10kmph in the morning, rising to below 15kmph in the afternoon, and falling again to below 10kmph during the evening and night. PM2.5 concentrations reached 368 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Gwalpahari, more than 24 times the WHO safe limit of 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Sector



15 recorded 343 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and Vikas Sadan 303 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. PM10 levels were also high, with 371 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ in Gwalpahari, nearly eight times the WHO limit of 45 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Sector 51 reported 243 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and Vikas Sadan 166 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. For the context, Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) annual safe limits are 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM2.5 and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM10. Meanwhile,

minimum temperature on Saturday was 11.3 degrees Celsius, up from 9.6 degrees Celsius on Friday. The maximum temperature was 24.8 degrees Celsius, compared with 23.9 degrees Celsius the previous day. For the next three days, IMD has forecast a fall of 2 to 4 degrees Celsius in minimum temperatures as dry air persists across the region. Moderate to

shallow fog may occur in isolated parts of the state, which could further slow the dispersion of pollutants during the early morning hours. Delhi, meanwhile, witnessed a remarkable, if brief, improvement in air quality on Saturday, with the air quality index dropping to the poor level by 5pm for the first time in days. By 8pm, AQI was 290 and it was 287 an hour later — the cleanest air Delhiites breathed in weeks. Better wind speeds and improved ventilation helped clear pollutants that accumulated amid stagnant conditions over the past several days. Forecasts, however, indicate that the relief may be temporary, with pollution levels expected to return to the very poor category over the coming days. According to Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology's Air Quality Early Warning System, the air quality is likely to be very poor from Nov 30 for a few days.

At 4pm on Saturday, the city's average AQI stood at 305, an appreciable decline from Friday's 369 and Thursday's 377. By 5pm, it further improved to 300, entering the poor zone.

10 Ghaziabad BLOs get awarded for performance

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

The district administration has honoured booth-level officers (BLOs) who excelled during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). In the first round of recognition, 10 BLOs received performance-based incentives. Pooja Rani from assembly constituency 56 (Sadar) was awarded Rs 10,000 as she was the first to complete 100% digitisation, while nine others received Rs 5,000 each. The rewards, announced earlier this week, were presented on Saturday. "There were a lot of challenges, especially that people were not returning the form after receiving it. I had to visit homes at least 5-6 times to get it back from them. I am very happy to get the cash prize and we have also been promised a two-night stay at a 5-star hotel," BLO Rani said. Earlier this week, the administration also announced that the top two BLOs in each constituency would receive Rs 10,000 each, while those ranked third, fourth and fifth would get Rs 5,000 each. In addition, the top five performers will also get a family lunch at a hotel hosted by the electoral registration officer.

We are scanning every form that has come in, matching it with existing voter entries and flagging mismatches. Standardisation of entries is happening simultaneously so the final roll is clean," district election officer and district magistrate Ravindra Mander said. He added that teams have been instructed to close all pending uploads in the next few days. Meanwhile, the digitisation of enumeration forms, which is the last step in the SIR exercise, is almost 37% complete in Ghaziabad as of Saturday. Mander also urged residents to cooperate in the process. "Every voter must return the counting form. This is the only way to avoid deletions or errors. BLOs will be at their booths on Sunday, and people should come forward and submit their details," he said. Addressing concerns about voters who have not received their counting forms, he said most such cases arise from address-related issues. According to him, if a voter has changed their address or the address printed on their EPIC is different from their current location, BLOs are often unable to locate them, which results in

Reflective tapes to crash barriers: As fog blankets Gurgaon, police intensify steps to avert accidents at expressway blackspots

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Amid a worrying rise in road accidents this year, the city traffic police have stepped up their winter safety preparations by installing 25 crash tyre barricades at key points along the Gurgaon-Delhi expressway (NH 8) and adjoining stretches. Reflective tapes have also been placed on around 300 vehicles. The steps follow data showing 900 accidents and 377 deaths in the district this year as of Oct 31, underlining the urgent need for better visibility during the fog season. According to traffic police data, two-wheeler riders remain the most vulnerable, with 430 accidents causing 140 deaths and 300 injuries. Pedestrians accounted for 150 deaths in 290 crashes, while 17 cyclists died in 29 accidents. As many as 24 car-driver deaths were recorded in 66 car accidents, reflecting the high risk of winter driving in

vulnerable during winter or heavy fog. Following the directions of DCP (traffic) Rajesh Mohan and ACP (traffic) headquarters/highway Satyapal Yadav, officials installed the crash tyre barricades at fog-prone and high-risk stretches. These include IFFCO Chowk, Signature Tower, Atlas FOB, the Lemon Tree cut traffic light, areas near HUDA City Centre and Crowne Plaza, and Sector 44. The reflective barricades are meant to improve visibility at night and in fog, helping drivers identify diversions and road edges from a safe distance. In a parallel initiative, reflective tapes were placed on around 300 bicycles, rickshaws, auto-rickshaws, tractor-trolleys, trucks and school buses. Reflective jackets were also given to those who are frequently out on the roads at night, like truck drivers. DCP Mohan said, "Roads become more

Woman snubs marriage offer, ex-boyfriend shoots her dead in Noida house

Noida.(Agency)

A 23-year-old woman was shot dead in front of her sisters by her ex-boyfriend who pumped a bullet into her chest when she refused to marry her on Friday night. Originally from Amroha, Soni, the victim, had been working as a clerk at a private company. She stayed in a modest one-room house in Yakubpur village with her two younger sisters, Kusum (17) and Pushpa (14), and a younger brother, Rupesh (15), who was away attending a relative's wedding at the time of the attack. According to police, Soni met Krishna (25) three years ago while both were employed as domestic workers at a high-rise society in Sector 142. Their friendship soon blossomed into a relationship, but Soni grew increasingly unhappy with Krishna's aggressive behaviour. The woman was not very happy with Krishna as he was very aggressive. A few times, he had even slapped her over trivial issues," a senior police officer said. Four months ago, Soni decided to end the relationship and moved

to a new building, hoping to escape Krishna's persistent advances. For the past 15 days, she had even stopped taking calls from him. Undeterred, Krishna tracked her down and arrived at her house on Friday evening, just as she returned from work. Kusum recounted the terrifying moments leading up to the shooting. "It was surprising that Krishna came to the house. Soni didn't allow him to come home because of his bad behaviour towards her. Krishna knocked on the door, and when we opened it, he pushed us inside, barged in and locked the gate. He said he just wanted to talk," she told TOI. The conversation quickly escalated

into a heated argument. "Soni tried to throw Krishna out, but he overpowered her. When she started dialling the cops, he snatched her phone and threw it away. He fired three rounds into the wall as he tried to force her to accept her marriage proposal. When Soni tried to open the door to run to the police station, he placed his gun on her chest and pulled the trigger," Kusum sobbed. Neighbours, alarmed by the sound of gunshots, rushed to the scene. "People started knocking on our door. But Krishna opened the door and threatened them with the gun before escaping from the building," Kusum said. Neighbours called police, who took Soni to a nearby hospital. She, however, succumbed to her injuries. Shakti Mohan Avasthy, DCP (central Noida), confirmed that an FIR had been registered against Krishna under Section 103 (murder) of the BNS. "Five teams have been formed to nab the accused. Police are checking CCTV cameras and trying to trace the accused with the help of surveillance,"



5-year-old boy's tonsils removed over chronic swelling, mom blames Delhi-NCR pollution; doctors report rise in allergy cases

Noida.(Agency)

In a post underlining the toll air pollution in Delhi-NCR is taking on people's health, a woman said her five-year-old son needed surgery to have his tonsils removed for pollution-linked complications that he developed after the family moved to Noida two years ago. Sakshi Pahwa of Sector 143 said her son began suffering from chronic allergies, nasal blockage, swollen tonsils and breathing problems, and no treatment helped. "We moved from Sirsa to Noida two years ago, and soon after, my son began suffering persistent coughs and colds. At first, we thought it was just seasonal flu, but his condition steadily worsened. Continuous allergies, dust and pollution made it difficult for him to breathe," Sachin Kamboj, the child's father, told TOI. "We tried homoeopathy and allopathy both, nothing worked." The doctor who treated him said persistent exposure to polluted air or other allergens may have triggered the enlargement of his adenoids and tonsils, ultimately making surgery — adenoidectomy and tonsillectomy with turbinate reduction — unavoidable to clear the child's airway and improve breathing. The surgery was performed at a private hospital in Gurgaon last week. According to the discharge summary, the child suffered severe breathing difficulties caused by enlarged

adenoids and tonsils, along with turbinate hypertrophy (swelling inside the nose). This led to blocked nasal passages, making it hard to breathe through the nose, causing heavy snoring during sleep, and pain or discomfort while swallowing. The obstruction significantly affected normal breathing, particularly at night, forcing the child to struggle for air. "During the Covid lockdown, cases of such inflammations nearly disappeared. However, they have surged again recently, suggesting that pollution may play a significant role in triggering respiratory issues like adenoid and tonsil inflammation," said Dr Shashidhar, who treated the child. "Pollution also provokes allergic reactions and directly affects the respiratory system. It is therefore crucial for everyone to take proactive measures

to protect their health." Meanwhile, doctors have noted a sharp rise in allergy cases linked to pollution. "Over the past few months, we have seen a 20-30% increase in allergy and sinus cases. Erratic weather, prolonged viral infections, and consistently high pollution levels are the

From nuts & bolts to lions & elephants: Jungle Trail comes alive this Monday

Noida.(Agency)

The city's newest attraction, Jungle Trail Park, built entirely from 500 tonnes of iron waste, will open to visitors on Monday. Conceived as a celebration of reuse and imagination, the park features more than 700 life-sized animal sculptures representing six continents, from elephants, tigers and lions to camels and exotic birds. Deputy director (horticulture) of the Noida Authority, Anand Mohan Singh, said the project will be inaugurated by Noida MLA Pankaj Singh. Entry is priced at Rs 120, with free admission for children under three. A planned opening by Uttar Pradesh's chief minister was postponed due to scheduling constraints, he added.

Located near the Mahamaya Flyover, the nearest metro station to the park is Okhla Bird Sanctuary. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 22 crore, the park was developed on a public-private partnership (PPP) model by the Noida Authority in collaboration with Z-Tech. Divided into four themed zones, the park offers an immersive wildlife experience, with each animal and artistic installation at the park designed using scrap materials like nuts, bolts, rods, chains, and fuel tanks.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110099

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/23465

Delhi schools prioritise proximity in nursery admission criteria

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: For thousands of parents preparing for nursery admissions in Delhi, one factor is set to dominate the process this year - how close they live to the school. As private schools across the city began uploading their criteria for the 2026-27 academic session on Friday, distance has emerged as the most influential parameter, with several schools assigning more than half of the total points to proximity alone. Delhi private schools use a 100-point system for "open seats" - 75% of seats not reserved for EWS, DG (Disadvantaged Group) or CWSN (Children with Special Needs) categories - to rank applicants, with points awarded for criteria like proximity to the school, sib-

lings in the school and alumni



I n d r a p r a s t h a International School in East of Kailash has similarly placed emphasis on proximity, offering 50 points to children living within a four-km radius or in areas served by its transport network. Under its "status of the child" category, the school has allotted 30 points for first-born children and 20 for second born, along with 10 points each for siblings, alumni and staff wards. Sudha Acharya, Principal of ITL International School, Dwarka, said their parameters this year would continue to prioritise distance, sibling preference, alumni connection and staff wards. "Proximity remains the most practi-

cal factor for us," she said. "Giving weightage to siblings and alumni helps strengthen long-term family associations with the school," Sudha said. The Directorate of Education (DoE) has released the full schedule for admissions. Application forms will be available from December 4, and the first list of selected candidates will be published on January 23. Under the revised structure, the foundational stage includes Nursery and KG, followed by Class 1. For the upcoming session, a child must be between three and four years of age for Nursery, four and five for KG and five and six for Class 1 as on March 31, 2026. Schools may allow up to one month of relaxation in age at the discretion of the head of school. All recognised unaided private schools are required to upload their admission criteria and point systems for open seats, excluding the

NAME CHANGE
I AFROJ W/O MOHD YASIN R/O F-582 G/F GALI NO 18 NR CHICKEN SHOP KHAOORI KHAS KARAWAL NAGAR NORTH EAST DELHI 110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BRUJESH YADAV FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I, PRATHINA DO RAJESH BATHLA R/O NO-6137, RAJAT STORE NEAR LAXMI BAZAR NEHRU LANE, GURGAON-122001, HARYANA HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO PRATHINA ARORA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
I, BIRJESH KUMAR YADAV S/O RAMAWADH YADAV R/O HOUSE NO-674, NARSINGHPUR (102), GURGAON, HARYANA-122004, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BRUJESH YADAV FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE
I MOHAMMAD HASAN S/O SIRAJ AHMED R/O H NO-2242 GALI NO 22 BABA SURDAS COLONY TILPAT AMARNAGAR FARIDABAD HARYANA 121003 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD HASAN

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NEWS BOX

What Is T-Dome That Taiwan Plans To Build To Counter China Threats

MOSCOW . (Agency)

Taiwan's government has proposed \$40 billion in extra defence spending over several years, with the focus on developing a multi-layered air defence system dubbed "T-Dome." The system will be designed to protect the democratic island against a potential attack by Chinese fighter jets, missiles or drones.

China claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to annex it. Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te has promised to speed up construction of the T-Dome to create "a safety net" for Taiwan and counter what he calls China's "intensifying" threat to the island and region.

Here is what we know about the T-Dome:

What is it? The T-Dome was announced by Lai on October 10 and has drawn comparisons with Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system. But there are key differences. While the Iron Dome is designed mainly for short-range weapons, the T-Dome will face a "much wider array of threats", Taipei-based security analyst J. Michael Cole said. This is aimed at PLA aircraft, ballistic and cruise missiles, as well as, increasingly, drones, said Cole, using the acronym for China's People's Liberation Army. Taiwan already has air defence systems, including the US-built Patriot and domestically-made Sky Bow systems. And it is waiting to receive National Advanced Surface-to-Air Missile System fire units from the United States. The T-Dome will integrate these with radars, sensors and other advanced technology to provide what Lai describes as "high-level detection and effective interception". "If you do not integrate these detection devices, then those air-defence missiles, whether for counter-fire, counter-attack or counter-drone purposes, can't achieve efficient interception or effective fire coordination and allocation," Defence Minister Wellington Koo has said. The T-Dome will have to major components, said Su Tzu-yun, a military expert at Taipei's Institute for National Defense and Security Research. It will have a command and control system that "collects radar data, identifies threats, decides which interceptor should fire, and coordinates all units so they react within seconds," Su said.

Macron To Host Zelensky In Paris To Discuss Conditions For "Lasting Peace"

world. (Agency)

President Emmanuel Macron will on Monday host his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky for talks in Paris, the French presidency announced, as Washington seeks to push a plan aimed at ending the war between Kyiv and Moscow. The two leaders will discuss "the conditions for a just and lasting peace", said the official on Saturday, as a senior Ukrainian delegation headed to Washington and Zelensky confronted political turbulence at home after removing his top aide Andriy Yermak. "We will welcome President Zelensky to Paris on Monday to move the negotiations forward," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot said in comments to the *La Tribune Dimanche* newspaper to be published on Sunday. "Peace is within reach, if (Russian President) Vladimir Putin abandons his delusional hope of reconstituting the Soviet Empire by first subjugating Ukraine," he added. Read | "Trump's Ukraine Peace Plan Goes In Right Direction, But..."

France's Macron in a warning to Moscow, Barrot added, "Vladimir Putin must accept the ceasefire or accept exposing Russia to new sanctions that will exhaust its economy, as well as intensified European support for Ukraine." Macron and Zelensky have been in intense contact in this phase of the war, which was sparked by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, with the Ukrainian leader last visiting the Elysee a fortnight ago on November 17. Barrot added that despite the political turbulence in Kyiv, Zelensky has "full legitimacy to lead Ukraine towards peace."

Oscar-Winning British Playwright Tom Stoppard Dies At 88

World. (Agency)

British playwright Tom Stoppard, who won an Oscar for the screenplay for the 1998 movie "Shakespeare In Love", has died at the age of 88, United Agents said on Saturday. "We are deeply saddened to announce that our beloved client and friend, Tom Stoppard, has died peacefully at home in Dorset, surrounded by his family," the talent agency said.

"He will be remembered for his works, for their brilliance and humanity, and for his wit, his



irreverence, his generosity of spirit and his profound love of the English language," it said.

"It was an honour to work with Tom and to know him." To non-theatre-goers, Stoppard is best remembered for his work in cinema, which included the "Indiana Jones" and "Star Wars" franchises and an Oscar in 1999 for his screenplay for "Shakespeare in Love", which scooped a total of seven Academy Awards that year. Born in Czechoslovakia in 1937, he fled his home during the Nazi occupation and found refuge in Britain.

Palestinian death toll has surpassed 70,000 since the Israel-Hamas war began, Gaza ministry says

WORLD. (Agency)

DEIR AL-BALAH: The Palestinian death toll has surpassed 70,000 since the Israel-Hamas war began, Gaza's Health Ministry said Saturday, while a hospital said that Israeli fire killed two Palestinian children in the territory's south. The toll has continued to rise after the latest ceasefire took effect on Oct. 10. Israel still carries out strikes in response to what it has called violations of the truce, and bodies from earlier in the war are being recovered from the rubble. The Health Ministry says the Palestinian toll is now 70,100. The ministry operates under the Hamas-run government. It is staffed by medical professionals and maintains detailed records viewed as generally reliable by the international community. The war began with the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which killed around 1,200 people and militants taking more than 250 hostages. Almost all of the hostages or their remains have been returned in ceasefires or other deals. Staff at Nasser Hospital, which received the bodies of the children in

southern Gaza, said the brothers, ages 8 and 11, died when an Israeli drone struck close to a school sheltering displaced people in the town of Beni Suhaila. Israel's military said it killed two people who crossed into an Israeli-controlled area, "conducted suspicious activities" and approached troops. The statement didn't mention children. The military said it also killed another person in a separate but similar incident in the south. At least 352 Palestinians have been killed across the territory since the ceasefire between Israel and Hamas took effect on Oct. 10, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which doesn't differentiate between civilians and combatants. Israel says its strikes are aimed at militants violating the truce. Both Israel and Hamas have accused the other of violating the deal. Hamas again urged mediators on Saturday to pressure Israel to stop what it called ceasefire violations in Gaza. A U.S. blueprint outlining the future of Gaza, which has been devastated by more than two years of

war, is still in the early stages. The plan to secure and govern the territory authorizes



Friday and opened fire when they were confronted by residents, killing at least 13 people. Israel said it conducted the operation to apprehend suspects of a militant group planning attacks in Israel, and that the militants opened fire at troops, wounding six. Israel also has escalated strikes in Lebanon, saying it's targeting Hezbollah sites and asserting that the militant group is attempting to rearm. Hezbollah called on Pope Leo XIV to "reject injustice and aggression," in reference to the near-daily Israeli strikes, despite a ceasefire that ended the 14-month war between the two sides a year ago. The pope is visiting the region on his first foreign trip. In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Israeli soldiers were accused by Palestinians of executing two men on Thursday after footage aired by two Arab television stations showed troops shooting a number of other fronts in the region in recent weeks. Syrian officials said that Israeli forces raided a Syrian village on

Rubio and Witkoff are meeting with Ukraine's negotiators in Florida as Trump pushes to broker a deal

WEST PALM BEACH . (Agency)

Top Trump administration officials are meeting Ukrainian negotiators in Florida this weekend, pushing to broker an end to Russia's war in Ukraine and setting the stage for key talks planned this week in Moscow with Russian leader Vladimir Putin.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Special Envoy Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of President Donald Trump, were expected to sit down with a Ukrainian delegation to further hash out the details of a proposed peace framework — talks that come at a sensitive moment for Ukraine as it continues to push back against Russian forces that invaded the country in 2022. On Friday just before the Florida sit-down, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky announced the resignation of his powerful chief of staff, Andrii Yermak, who up until that point had been the country's lead negotiator in talks with the US. The announcement came after

Yermak's home was searched by anti-corruption investigators. Zelensky's government has been roiled by fallout from a scandal over \$100 million embezzled from the energy sector



through kickbacks paid by contractors, causing newfound domestic pressures for Zelensky. It was only a week ago that Rubio had met with Yermak in Geneva, with each side saying the talks had been positive in putting together a revised peace plan. Now, the Ukrainian delegation includes Andrii Hnatov, head of Ukraine's armed forces; Andrii Sybiha, Ukraine's

foreign minister; and Rustem Umerov, head of Ukraine's security council. Zelensky has said. Diplomats have been focused on revisions to Trump's proposed 28-point plan developed in negotiations between Washington and Moscow. That plan was criticized as being too weighted toward Russian demands. It had initially envisioned Ukraine ceding the entire eastern region of the Donbas to Russia — a sticking point for Kyiv. The plan — which Trump has since downplayed as a "concept" or a "map" to be "fine-tuned" — would also impose limits on the size of Ukraine's military, block the country from joining NATO, and require Ukraine to hold elections in 100 days. Negotiators have indicated the framework has changed, but it's not clear how its provisions have been altered. Trump said on Tuesday that he would send Witkoff and perhaps Kushner to Moscow this week to meet with Putin about the plan.

Hondurans to elect new president in close race under the shadow of Trump's surprise intervention

TEGUCIGALPA . (Agency)

Hondurans will elect a new president on Sunday while still grappling with US Donald Trump's sudden intervention in what was expected to be a close contest, the latest signal of the United States' renewed interest in Latin America. Among the five presidential candidates on the ballot, polls indicated three had a chance to win and were finishing in close competition. They are Rixi Moncada, 60, who served as finance and later as defense secretary in the current administration of President Xiomara Castro before leaving to run for president for the social democrat LIBRE or Liberty and Re-foundation party; Salvador Nasralla, who is making his fourth bid for the presidency, this time as the candidate for the conservative Liberal Party; and former Tegucigalpa Mayor Nasry "Tito" Asfura, who carries the mantle of the also conservative National Party. Castro promises to "democratize" an economy



still defined by extreme wealth and poverty. Nasralla casts himself as the outsider who can clean up the country's endemic corruption. And Asfura is trying to restore the National Party as a pro-business force tarnished by previous bouts of presidential corruption. Honduras' security situation has improved in recent years as homicides across the region continue to fall, but it still has Central America's highest homicide rate. Hondurans say security and jobs remain their top priorities, despite an economy that has strengthened during Castro's administration. The presidential contest had mostly focused on candidates trading accusations of plans to manipulate the vote until this past week when Trump endorsed Asfura while attacking his opponents. Then Trump shocked Hondurans by announcing Friday that he would pardon ex-President Juan Orlando Hernández, who was serving a 45-year sentence in a US prison for helping drug traffickers moving cocaine to the United States.

"Imran Khan Is Alive": Lawmaker Says Regime Pressuring Him To Leave Pakistan

Earlier this week, several social media handles from Afghanistan claimed that Imran Khan had been murdered inside Rawalpindi's jail.

WORLD.(Agency)

Refuting the rumours about Imran Khan's death, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) Senator Khurram Zeeshan on Saturday said the former Prime Minister is alive and currently lodged in Adiala jail. He added that Khan is being kept in isolation as a tactic to pressure him into leaving Pakistan. Speaking to ANI from Pakistan, Khurram Zeeshan, who is affiliated with Imran Khan's party, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), said the regime in the country is threatened and scared

of Imran Khan's popularity, which is why they have not allowed any pictures or videos of him to be released.



Earlier this week, several social media handles from Afghanistan claimed that Imran Khan had been murdered inside Rawalpindi's jail. The rumours have coincided with the Pakistani authorities not allowing Imran's sisters to meet him for the past month, despite court orders. "It is very unfortunate. It's been almost a month of his isolation, and his family, his lawyers, and even the senior leadership of Pakistan

Tehreek-e-Insaf have not been allowed to meet him. This is a complete violation of human rights. It seems they are trying to force him into something," he told ANI. Putting an end to the rumour mills, Zeeshan said, "In the last few days, we have been given a guarantee we have been assured. He is alive and currently lodged in Adiala jail. He is okay." On being asked what sort of deal the Pakistani government is trying to strike with Imran Khan, the Senator said he has been asked to leave the country and stay silent. "They are trying to strike a deal with Imran Khan, asking him to leave the country. They even promise him concessions if he goes abroad and stays silent at a place of his choice. But Imran Khan will never agree to it. The kind of leader he is, he will never approve it," he added. Despite his imprisonment, Khan's influence continues to grow.

Russian attacks kill three as diplomatic efforts to end war in Ukraine gain momentum

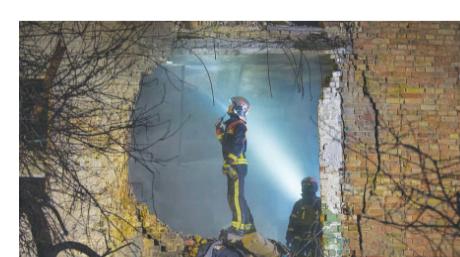
KYIV .(Agency)

Russian drone and missile attacks in and around Ukraine's capital killed at least three people early Saturday, officials said, as the country's representatives traveled to the U.S. to work on a renewed push to end the war. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on X that the delegation, headed by national security chief Rustem Umerov, was on its way to "swiftly and substantively work out the steps needed to end the war." A U.S. delegation is then expected to travel to Moscow for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the second half of next week. The Kyiv City Military Administration said two people were killed in the strikes on the capital, and a woman died, and eight were wounded in a combined missile and drone attack on the broader Kyiv region, according to the regional police. Mayor Vitali Klitschko said that 29 people were wounded in Kyiv, noting that falling debris from intercepted Russian drones hit residential buildings. He also said the western part of Kyiv had lost power. U.S. President Donald Trump

last week released a plan for ending the nearly four-year war. The 28-point proposal heavily favored Russia, prompting Zelensky to quickly engage with American negotiators. European leaders, fearing for their own future in the face of Russian aggression, scrambled to steer the negotiations toward accommodating their concerns.

Trump said Tuesday that his plan to end the war had been "fine-tuned" and that he's sending envoy Steve Witkoff to Russia to meet with Putin and U.S. Army Secretary Dan Driscoll to meet with Ukrainian officials. He suggested he could eventually meet with Putin and Zelensky, but not until further progress has been made in negotiations. Zelensky announced Friday that the resignation of his powerful chief of staff, Andrii Yermak, who was also the country's lead negotiator in talks with the U.S., after anti-corruption investigators searched Yermak's residence. The unprecedented search at the heart of Ukraine's government was a blow to the Ukrainian leader, risking the disruption of

his negotiating strategy at a time when Kyiv is under intense U.S. pressure to sign a peace deal. Zelensky will travel to Paris on Monday for talks with French President



Emmanuel Macron. Macron's office said the two leaders will "discuss the situation and the conditions for a just and lasting peace, in continuity with the Geneva discussions, the American plan, and in close coordination with our European partners." In Russia, a major oil terminal near the port of Novorossiysk stopped

operations Saturday after a strike by unmanned boats damaged one of its three mooring points, according to a statement from the Caspian Pipeline Consortium, or CPC, which owns the terminal.

Andriy Kovalenko, head of the Center for Countering Disinformation at the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, confirmed that Ukraine had carried out the attack. "Ukrainian special forces worked on the Russian Federation, its energy sector and infrastructure. In particular, naval drones managed to destroy one of the three oil tanker berths of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium in the Novorossiysk area," he wrote on Telegram. Months of Ukrainian long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries and terminals have aimed to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue the war. Meanwhile, Kyiv and its western allies say Russia is trying to cripple the Ukrainian power grid and deny civilians access to heat, light and running water for a fourth consecutive winter, in what Ukrainian officials call "weaponizing" the biting cold.

NEWS BOX

Former Ambasamudram ASP Balveer Singh resumes TN posting after Madras HC relief

Chennai. (Agency) IPS officer Balveer Singh, who is facing multiple charges for alleged custodial torture of more than 10 suspects while serving in Ambasamudram in Tirunelveli, has been transferred from his present posting in Tihar Jail in Delhi to the Special Task Force (STF) in Erode. The actions comes days after the Madras High Court stayed the proceedings against Singh, in connection with the custodial torture case, on November 21. As per an order dated earlier this week, Singh, who was on deputation as deputy commandant with the Tamil Nadu Special Police (TSP) VIII Battalion stationed at Tihar Jail in Delhi, has been transferred and posted as assistant superintendent of police/deputy superintendent of police in the STF, Erode. Singh came under intense scrutiny in 2023 following allegations that he had subjected many to custodial torture, and allegedly plucked out the teeth of a few suspects using pliers, during interrogations when he was serving as the ASP of the Ambasamudram sub-division. Following multiple cases registered by the CB-CID, Singh was suspended and was not considered for promotion from ASP to SP. He was later deputed to the TSP battalion in Delhi. His transfer became public after photos and videos of his farewell at the Delhi battalion got circulated on social media.

Lahaul-Spiti admin extends limited traffic window on Manali-Leh Highway up to Zingzing Bar

Keylong. (Agency)

Revising its earlier winter travel restrictions, the Lahaul and Spiti district administration has allowed regulated vehicular movement on the Manali-Leh National Highway up to the Zingzing Bar-Sarchu stretch until December 7.

The decision follows a comprehensive review conducted by Deputy Commissioner and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) Chairperson Kiran Bhadana with senior officials from Leh, BRO authorities, and the police. The section beyond Zingzing Bar toward Sarchu had been declared closed on November 20 owing to rapidly deteriorating weather and safety concerns. However, during a virtual meeting recently, officials examined updated ground reports, weather projections, and BRO's latest assessment. With conditions showing improvement, the administration has now issued fresh permission for controlled movement on this high-altitude corridor.

As per the order released from the DC Office, Keylong, vehicles will be permitted to travel in both directions between Zingzing Bar and Sarchu strictly between 9 am and 3 pm until December 7. Authorities have underlined that these time restrictions are mandatory, noting that early sunsets, the formation of black ice, and sudden atmospheric shifts make movement outside the permitted window extremely hazardous. The police have been tasked with monitoring and regulating traffic flow in accordance with real-time weather and road conditions.

World Kheer Day: MILKMAID honours century-old dessert tradition

Kochi. (Agency)

Nestlé MILKMAID, a household name synonymous with delightful desserts, has announced the launch of World Kheer Day on November 30, celebrating India's enduring love for the traditional sweet dish.

Kheer, a dessert that unites India despite regional variations, has been an integral part of festivals, homecomings, and everyday celebrations. MILKMAID has played a key role in keeping this cherished tradition alive, offering an easy and convenient way to prepare rich, creamy kheer.

Manav Sahni, Head of Dairy Business, Nestlé India, said, "World Kheer Day is our way of celebrating a dessert that connects generations across the country. Kheer is prepared differently in every region, but it holds the same warmth and nostalgia everywhere. With MILKMAID, we hope that our consumers can enjoy rich and creamy kheer, which tastes amazing." Across India, kheer takes many forms: rice kheer in the North, sabudana kheer for fasting days, sheer khurma during Eid, shivayanchi kheer in Maharashtra, payesh in Bengal, kheeri in Odisha, and payasam in the South.

While the names and ingredients differ, the emotion it evokes remains universal, a symbol of warmth, togetherness, and shared joy.

For over a century, Nestlé MILKMAID has made dessert preparation simple and delicious.

This World Kheer Day, the brand encourages everyone to make their favorite kheer using MILKMAID, with recipes and preparation ideas available on the MILKMAID website.

Heavy rainfall likely in several districts in Andhra under influence of Cyclone Ditrwah

The minister urged residents in weak structures to shift to safer places and advised people to stay indoors during heavy rain, take farm precautions and avoid trees or hoardings during strong winds.

Vijayawada. (Agency)

In view of Cyclone Ditrwah, the AP State Disaster Management Authority (APSDMA) has sounded high alert and advised fishers not to venture into sea, as speed of winds along the south coastal region is expected to reach around 45-65 kmph. Authorities urged public to remain vigilant, with heavy to very heavy rainfall likely in several districts over the next two days. "People living in low-lying areas have been advised to take necessary precautions. Warning messages are being sent, and residents must stay alert due to the risk of flash floods," APSDMA Managing Director Prakhar Jain said.

He added that Cyclone Ditrwah, now moving over the southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining northern Sri Lanka, advanced 10 kmph northward in the past six hours. The system is centred 120 km from Karaikal, 220 km from Puducherry, and 330 km from Chennai. It is expected to continue moving north-northwest

and approach north Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and adjoining south coastal Andhra by early Sunday. Disaster Management Minister Vangalapudi Anitha held a review meeting with



APSDMA officials and stressed the need for timely cyclone updates to field-level officials and the public. She directed that all control rooms operate round-the-clock and that administrative machinery remain on maximum alert at the ground level.

Officials briefed the minister that heavy rainfall

is expected on Sunday and Monday in parts of Prakasam, Nellore, Sri Sathy Sai, Kadapa, Annamayya, Chittoor, and Tirupati districts. Following the briefing, Anitha directed the district collectors to enforce precautionary measures and ensure zero loss of life.

She instructed officials to continuously monitor the cyclone's intensity, promptly alert likely-affected districts, and deploy SDRF and NDRF teams for emergency operations. The minister urged residents in weak structures to shift to safer places and advised people to stay indoors during heavy rain, take farm precautions and avoid trees or hoardings during strong winds.

The public can contact the SDMA for emergency assistance through 112, 1800-425-0101. On Monday, heavy to very heavy rain is expected in Prakasam and Nellore districts, with heavy rainfall likely in Krishna, Guntur, and Bapatla districts. Moderate to heavy rain is expected in Eluru, NTR, Palnadu, Kadapa, and Annamayya districts.

With UDF, NDA snapping at LDF's heels, Guruvayur set for close fight

THRISSUR. (Agency)

In administering a temple town that attracts nearly 5 crore devotees annually, the task of running Guruvayur municipality can be at times overwhelming. With another local-body election round the corner, discussions in Guruvayur revolve around what political front can offer practical solutions to the problems faced by both residents and visitors. After the municipality was formed in 1995, it was the UDF that had the first go at governing it. But since 2000, it has been all the LDF. In the last five terms, the town has favoured the left, and with an increasing majority. However, the growing influence of the UDF and the NDA in recent years threatens to play spoilsport, and a close contest could be in the offing.

"Being a town with annual visitor numbers comparable to the entire population of Kerala, a major challenge we faced was management of waste. Through effective interventions, the LDF-led council introduced practical solutions



that have changed the face of Guruvayur. Earlier, devotees to the temple couldn't walk barefoot through the town streets due to piles of waste and open defecation. But, now, the situation is entirely different. We have sanitation workers managing the waste over three shifts. Shavakotta, which used to be the dumping yard of Guruvayur, is now a children's park," M Krishnadas, municipality chairman, told . Implementation of the Guruvayur

drainage canal project, mooted 50 years ago, has been another milestone as far as Guruvayur is considered, he said.

However, BJP councillor Shobha Harinarayanan questioned the claims. "The canal project has been an utter failure as the Valiyathodu is still full of sewage and septic waste, despite spending crores. If the municipality could achieve anything, it was only because of central funds. The municipality and devaswom had at their disposal '100 crore under the Prasadam project, for which Guruvayur was selected. But, the LDF-led municipality's lack a vision failed to put the money to good use," she said.

BJP has two seats in the municipality, including Guruvayur, where the Sree Krishna temple is situated. "Since 2016, people in Guruvayur have been backing the development agenda of the BJP. This will reflect in the upcoming election," said Niveditha Subrahmanian, Thrissur West committee president.

In Olavanna, a veteran emergency responder takes on leading fronts

Kozhikode. (Agency)

A 60-year-old local hero, known for his four decades of volunteer work as an emergency responder, is in the electoral race in Olavanna panchayat's ward 16. Madathil Abdul Azeez is contesting as an independent after being denied a seat by the LDF. This is not his first political rodeo. Azeez previously won a ward seat in 2015 under the UDF banner before joining the CPM. By running independently, the community's indispensable first responder is now forcing a direct contest, challenging the party that overlooked his service. Azeez's unique service record makes him an indispensable asset to both police and rescue agencies. Over the last 42 years, he has personally recovered 4,228 dead bodies – a grim tally encompassing everything from retrieving drowned victims to exhuming decomposed remains and shifting disaster casualties during crises like the 2001 Kadulundi train tragedy and the Nipah and Covid-19 outbreaks.

His latest success involved leading the difficult search in September for the skeletal remains of Vijil K T, a youth whose body was dumped in a seven-foot-deep swamp near Sarovaram Biopark. After leaving the UDF and joining the CPM, I was active in social work and cultural activities. Initially the party leadership kept telling me that they are considering me for the panchayat

election, but when the candidate list was announced I was excluded," said Azeez. He is now running against LDF's official candidate, Karuppal Prakashan, UDF's Abdul Mujeeb and NDA's Rathnan K.

Azeez said his exclusion was met with condemnation by local residents who recall his prompt response during floods and health crises. "It's fine if I'm



removed from the party. The public is with me," Azeez asserted. "They have seen me for decades. Unlike other ward members, the public doesn't have to wait for a reply from me in times of crisis or any other needs. I always prioritise public concerns and that's what I have been doing for the last 40 years," he added.

Ashtamudi's clams surge after 3 years of slump, fishing ban from Dec 1

Kollam. (Agency)

Nov 30 (UNI) The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) has reported promising early signs of recovery in the short-neck clam (Paphia malabarica) population of Ashtamudi Lake, one year after the launch of an extensive stock-enhancement programme.

Citing fresh field data indicating widespread spatfall and a modest rise in standing stock, CMFRI has recommended the enforcement of a three-month fishery closure from December 1, coinciding with the peak spawning phase of the rejuvenating resource, sources said.

Under the sea-ranching initiative led by Principal Scientist Dr M. K. Anil, CMFRI's Vizhinjam Regional Centre had released three million (30 lakh) hatchery-produced clam seeds into the lake last year.

The intervention followed severe stock depletion that began after the 2018 floods drastically reduced natural seed availability.

Monitoring results have been highly encouraging. The ranned clams recorded an 80 percent survival rate and reached a marketable size of 34

Cyclone Ditrwah: Red alert for north TN, Puducherry and south Andhra coasts

Chennai. (Agency)

Cyclonic Storm Ditrwah over the southwest Bay of Bengal continued its slow north-northwesterly drift on Saturday, delivering heavy rainfall across coastal Tamil Nadu. Moving at a sluggish 8-10 kmph, the system remained nearly stationary for several hours, positioned about 220 km south-southeast of Puducherry and 330 km south of Chennai. According to the Regional Meteorological Centre (RMC), Chennai, the system is very likely to persist on its north-northwestward track and approach the southwest Bay, close to the north Puducherry-south Andhra Pradesh coast, by early Sunday. As it skirts the shoreline, Ditrwah is expected to come within 50 km of the Tamil Nadu coast by early Sunday and close to 25 km by evening.

By Saturday afternoon, the cyclone showed clear signs of weakening. Its core appeared exposed and the convective structure significantly disrupted after traversing the Sri Lankan landmass. Intrusion of dry air further eroded the system's organisation. Although a brief window of night-time intensification exists, forecasts suggest the system may continue to drift up the coast in its present weakened state. Despite this weakening trend, the IMD already issued, cautioning that Ditrwah would continue to bring heavy to very heavy rainfall to several coastal districts.

Rainfall activity is likely to persist till December 1. Delta districts have already borne the brunt, with Nagapattinam experiencing intense spells since Friday. Coastal pockets recorded between 175 and 250 mm as feeder bands repeatedly struck the shoreline. For the KTCC region—Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, Chennai and Chengalpattu—the most significant rainfall is expected on Sunday.

Fire at KGH cardiology block triggers panic; 43 patients evacuated safely in Visakhapatnam

Visakhapatnam. (Agency)

Panic gripped King George Hospital (KGH) in Visakhapatnam on Saturday morning after a fire broke out in the Cardiology Department, prompting the emergency evacuation of patients. The blaze, suspected to have been caused by a short circuit, resulted in no injuries.

Relatives of patients at the cardiology block told TNIE that the incident left them anxious, especially coming just days after a major power outage at the hospital. They described KGH — the main government hospital serving North Coastal AP, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh — as 'the lifeline of the region' and questioned how two such incidents could occur in quick succession.

According to the Office of the Superintendent, KGH, smoke was first noticed between 9.30 am and 9.40 am in the Dr NTR Medical Services Trust office room inside the Cardiology Block. Staff immediately disconnected the electricity supply and



shifted 43 patients to the Gynaecology Block and Family Planning Ward.

The Fire Service Department was alerted through the emergency number 101 and reached the spot within five minutes. The fire

was brought under control within ten minutes. The property loss is estimated around 2 lakh. South Constituency MLA Vamsikrishna Srinivas visited the location soon after

receiving information. After inspecting the area, he said no one had been harmed and assured that steps would be taken to prevent similar incidents.

He directed the concerned medical officer, Dr Vani, to report any shortcomings observed during the response and warned that negligence by doctors or staff would not be tolerated. KGH, one of the oldest and busiest government hospitals in Andhra Pradesh, handles more than 1,000 out-patient cases daily and is a crucial healthcare facility for patients across the region.

A construction-related cable damage on 6 November caused a 10-hour outage that cut power, water and vital equipment to several wards, prompting demands for infrastructure upgrades.

Relatives at the cardiology block told that the latest fire has deepened their concerns about safety at KGH and urged authorities to take immediate action to prevent recurring incidents.

Emboldened Pak bodes ill for regional peace

The Durand Line has again become a flashpoint and the rumbles have grown louder over the last two months. First, Pakistan carried out a strike on Kabul in October, which it claimed targeted the head of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Later that month, skirmishes ensued between the Afghan Taliban forces and the Pakistani military along the 2,640-km border, with casualties claimed on both sides. Qatar and Türkiye weighed in to organise peace talks, but three rounds of parleys ended in a deadlock, though an unwritten ceasefire was agreed upon. Earlier this month, the fragile truce was shattered when a suicide bomber killed 12 people in Islamabad. A day earlier, an explosive-laden vehicle had rammed into the gate of a military school in South Waziristan. The conflict ratcheted up this Monday, when three suicide bombers targeted the headquarters of a Pakistani paramilitary force in Peshawar, killing six. On Tuesday, a Pakistani air-strike across the Durand Line killed nine children and a woman.

The primary bone of contention between the neighbours is the TTP, apart from Pakistan forcing Afghan refugees to return and blocking Afghan trade routes. Pakistan has accused Kabul of giving safe haven to the TTP, which has claimed most attacks on Pakistan's forces and civilians in recent years. The outfit, which emerged in 2007 after a merger of various Pashtun factions to assist the Afghan Taliban against the American and Nato occupying forces, has been designated a 'terrorist' organisation by the US and the UN working in tandem. Kabul, which has denied harbouring the TTP, has countered that Islamabad is supporting the Islamic State Khorasan (ISIS-K) and drone flights over Afghan airspace. Pakistan obfuscated the reply because it has agreements in place to allow American drones flying from its bases for surveillance over Iran.

The enmity, however, goes far back from the present—to the disputed Durand Line, named after Henry Mortimer Durand, foreign secretary of colonial India who in 1893 imposed the border to separate Afghanistan from colonial India. The same agreement included Baluchistan in British India. The line runs through the heartland of the Pashtuns, splitting Afghanistan's largest ethnic group. An angry Afghanistan voted against the recognition of Pakistan as an independent country at the UN in 1948 and refused to recognise the Durand line. The divisive imprint left by the British has not been accepted by Kabul's rulers till date. In recent weeks, Pakistan has accused India of using Afghanistan as a proxy and blamed India for the failure of the peace talks. India has rejected Pakistan's allegations and suggested that the two sides sort out their problems peacefully.

The cross-border clashes and bomb blasts in the capitals followed Afghan foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's first visit to Delhi, and India's decision to upgrade its embassy in Kabul and provide further humanitarian aid. So far, only Russia has officially recognised the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. India may follow suit. Pakistan's hackneyed playbook of blaming India ignores its historical mistrust with Afghanistan. Pakistan's confident expectation that under Taliban 2.0, Afghanistan would kowtow to its wishes and support its strategy of using the country for 'strategic depth' has been rudely shattered. The closure of trade routes has created economic problems for both. Landlocked Afghanistan has claimed a loss of around \$200 million a month owing to the shutdown.

President Donald Trump now has another conflict that he wants to resolve "very quickly", as he stated at the recent ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur. But ever since Trump expressed his desire to reclaim the Bagram air base in Afghanistan, speculation has heightened about America's intentions. Bagram can allow the US regular surveillance over Iran and Central Asia. Also notable is the US military's recent joint exercises with the Bangladesh military in Chattogram, close to Myanmar's border and its use of a 'humanitarian' corridor to provide 'aid' to the Arakan Army and Rohingyas.

TWICE, over the last month, the BJP-ruled Centre has been forced to withdraw one notification — proposing key changes in the governance of Panjab University located in Chandigarh — and one Bill, proposing changes in the governance of Chandigarh itself, that it intended to bring in the coming winter session of Parliament. The two astonishing reversals have book-ended Prime Minister Modi's journey, on Gurpurb, to Ayodhya and Kurukshetra — except, imagine if his end-destination had been Anandpur Sahib, where thousands of people showed up at the historic site to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the martyrdom of the ninth Guru, Tegh Bahadur, earlier this week. Imagine the headline in *The Tribune*. From Ayodhya to Anandpur Sahib, Modi Stitches the Faiths Together. The PM's journey would have both underlined and evoked the incredible message of the Guru's martyrdom back in 1675, when he gave his life to defend the right of a man to follow a different faith, a Hindu. Instead, as *The Tribune*'s editorial, *A Symbolic Slip*, noted, the PM chose to go to Kurukshetra in BJP-ruled Haryana nearby, donned saffron headgear and repeatedly spoke in glowing terms of the Guru's sacrifice. So why didn't the PM come to Anandpur Sahib, and say what he had to say from the holy land? The irony is that Modi knows both Punjab and Punjabis well. During the Emergency years, as an underground activist in Gujarat, he evaded arrest by sometimes disguising himself as a turbaned Sikh. In the mid-1990s, as the party's national secretary, he was in charge of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, based in Panchkula, and travelled across Punjab. As PM in 2019, he visited Gurdwara Ber Sahib in Sultanpur Lodhi, sat in perfect vajrasana and prayed at the shrine dedicated to the first Guru, Nanak, en route to inaugurating the Kartarpur Sahib corridor. Modi put aside his distaste for Pakistan — earlier that February, the IAF had launched airstrikes in Balakot — and made sure the road and all special facilities were on stream to connect Dera Baba Nanak with Kartarpur Sahib, so that Sikh devotees could pray at the gurdwara associated with the last 18 years of Guru Nanak's life.

In 2022, Modi told a Sikh delegation which came to see him, "Going to gurdwaras, spending time in service, getting langar, staying at the homes of Sikh families has been a part of my life..." Earlier this week at Anandpur Sahib, the AAP-organised event jostled with the Akali Dal-cum-SGPC commemoration of the Guru's martyrdom. Much news time was spent parsing why and whether the parallel events threw a spanner in the overall devotion that Punjabis feel towards their Guru — the answer is a resounding No. Modi's presence, if he had gone, would have only added to the intimate chaos that only Indians understand and revel in. It seems the Punjab

The judgement reaffirms people's right to dignified, ethical, and equitable care and is in line with the Supreme Court's ruling that the right to medical care is an integral part of the fundamental right to life

The Kerala High Court's order stating that hospitals cannot deny initial life-saving care for non-payment of advance or lack of documents is a landmark. It underscores the fact that the right to life overrides all other considerations and settles the formalities-versus-treatment tussle that often hampers the timely delivery of healthcare. This is significant in a country where emergency medical care, despite the legal framework, suffers on accessibility, quality, and cost. Insistence on paperwork and advance payment defeats the purpose of emergency life-saving treatment. The direction was delivered on an appeal by private hospitals and the Indian Medical Association against certain provisions of the Kerala Clinical Establishments Act, 2018, which requires hospitals to display the list of services offered and the baseline rates for common procedures. The court ordered clinical establishments to screen and stabilise patients in need of emergency attention and ensure their safe transfer for further care, if needed, with proper documentation.



Hospitals must ensure that, along with the discharge summary, all investigation reports are handed over to the patient. Upholding the validity of the Act, the court held the provisions are neither vague nor disproportionate, and conform to global standards. The judgement reaffirms people's right to dignified, ethical,

and equitable care and is in line with the Supreme Court's ruling that the right to medical care is an integral part of the fundamental right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution. What that means is that a government has a constitutional obligation to provide health facilities and protect citizens' right to health. The Kerala government was only fulfilling its responsibility while legislating to ensure transparency and fairness in the care provided by private medical institutions. The legislation is founded on the necessity of ensuring public health, ethical standards, and quality of care. As the state argued in the court, balancing the autonomy of hospitals with necessary regulations is essential for an effective healthcare system that prioritises the well-being of patients and the integrity of medical practice. Now that the law has been upheld, the government must make the private institutions fall in line. There should be no compromise on timely care, sharing of records, or quality of service. The right to life is universal and must be upheld at all times.

Claiming Arunachal | Drawing maps in the mind

Maps can depict the world both as it is and as desired. China is using its own idealised map of Arunachal Pradesh to legitimise expansionism, not unlike European explorers who claimed territories across the world in this manner. China's ploy involves its Three Warfares doctrine



passport. This rerun of an old story got global attention perhaps because the Indian woman in question is resident in the UK. From the 2000s, China has caused diplomatic uproars by stapling plain paper visas to the passports of visitors from Arunachal Pradesh, including athletes and officials. It even denied visas, arguing that it was absurd for Chinese residents to need a visa to visit China. Arunachal athletes headed for the 2023 Asian Games could not travel.

China has stolen a march on India, which obsessively renames domestic locations to appropriate them politically, by renaming 27 locations in Arunachal, including mountains and a lake, to appropriate them geographically. This summer, India dismissed China's

renaming project as "vain and preposterous", but it's actually in deadly earnest. Alternative maps can become the persuasive basis for alternative realities. European explorers claimed territories in the Americas, Africa, and Asia in the name of their monarchs, which were essentially signed fictions. Speedily, these fictions became true as the map of the modern world. The same stratagem is at work here. The alternative map of Arunachal Pradesh and alternative Chinese citizenship for its residents are psychological cues intended to acclimate Indians to China's preferred realities. It is part of the Three Warfares doctrine, apparently based on Sun Tzu's ideas, which uses media, psychological, and legal warfare or 'lawfare' to achieve strategic goals

without direct military conflict. Lawfare provides the scaffolding of the strategy by laying legal claim to territory. Psychological warfare builds upon it with the visa game, infrastructure, and real estate developments on both sides of the Line of Actual Control, the People's Liberation Army's incursions, and encounters with Indian civilians. The doctrine has informed PLA's work since it was formally adopted in 2003. In 2020, China constructed a village in Arunachal's Upper Subansiri district. Other new settlements abut the border and are connected to mainland China by expressways. The most colourful incursions left visible traces—rocks were spray-painted '2024' in red during the September 2024 Kapupu incident in Arunachal. Graffiti, food, drinks, and tobacco in Chinese packaging have been deliberately left behind for the delectation of villagers since 2011.

In 2017, China extended a border road in Doklam, at the trijunction of India, China, and Bhutan, leading to a military standoff. If it were finished, the road would have put the PLA within striking range of India's weakest point—the Chicken's Neck, the narrow stretch in West Bengal connecting the Northeast with the rest of India.

In comparison, passport crises involving Arunachali Indians seem relatively tame. In June 2014, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said with a straight face that stapled visas were a "friendly gesture" to allow Arunachali residents to travel freely.

And at the other end of the Himalayas, the other old question remains unanswered: "What about Aksai Chin?" China built a strategic highway through the region in the 1950s, connecting Xinjiang with Tibet. India discovered it only after its completion in 1957. The brief 1962 war confirmed China's hold on Aksai Chin. So, should our school geography books lop off that bit of India, which looks like the nose of a laughing Kashmir? Of course not, because if we abandon our maps, the last laugh would be at our expense.

NEWS BOX

Tiruvannamalai district bans devotees from climbing Arunachaleswarar temple amid heavy rainfall alert

Tiruvannamalai. (Agency) The Tiruvannamalai district administration has issued a notification on Saturday banning the devotees from climbing the Arunachaleswarar temple for the Karthigai Deepam Festival, in the backdrop of heavy rainfall alert issued for the district. A release said that an orange alert has been issued for the district and that as per the report from the Geological Survey of India, the hill climbing path is still unstable, with several loose rocks present at central points where landslides had previously occurred.

"Based on the cyclone alert and the expert committee report, climbing the hill by devotees is temporarily prohibited this year as well, for their safety," the statement said. It further urged devotees to fully cooperate with the safety measures and refrain from climbing the hill.

The police, forest and revenue department officials have been instructed to monitor the climbing path. The festival commenced on November 24 this year and the main event of the festival, the Bharani Deepam will be lit in the early morning of December 3 and the Maha Deepam will be lit on the Arunachaleswarar hill on the same evening. In 2024, due to heavy rainfall caused by Cyclone Miachung, landslides occurred on the hill, killing seven people. Following this, considering the unsafe conditions for climbing the hill, devotees were barred from climbing the hill.

Dhananjay Singh writes to PM, demands CBI probe in codeine syrup case, denies his involvement

Jaunpur. (Agency)

Former MP Dhananjay Singh has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath requesting a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the ongoing codeine syrup trafficking case, after his name also surfaced as a 'suspect' following a key arrest.

The Uttar Pradesh STF recently arrested Amit Singh 'Tata', a close associate of the alleged mastermind Shubham Jaiswal, from Lucknow's Gomti Nagar. Following his arrest, reports emerged linking Amit Tata to Dhananjay Singh, prompting political speculation and demands for an inquiry into Singh's possible role. In a detailed post on X on Saturday, Dhananjay Singh stated that certain political opponents had misled journalists and attempted to spread misinformation about him.

He alleged that the case was being used to tarnish the image of the Prime Minister since it is connected to Varanasi.

Singh wrote that multiple political figures from the opposition were "spreading false allegations" and emphasized that only a central-level investigation could bring out the truth. Stressing that the matter is interstate and sensitive, he urged the Prime Minister and the Chief Minister to order a CBI probe so that "strict action can be taken against the real culprits, and baseless allegations may come to an end." Amit Singh Tata, who was arrested with a Fortuner allegedly linked to a vehicle fleet used by Dhananjay Singh, has previous criminal cases registered against him. This connection triggered demands from several quarters for a deeper investigation into Dhananjay Singh's proximity to the accused. Meanwhile, activist and Azad Adhikar Sena chief Amitabh Thakur has also written to the Uttar Pradesh DGP, seeking a thorough probe into Amit Singh Tata's role.

Thakur cited a viral video purportedly showing Shubham Jaiswal and Amit Tata assaulting individuals—an incident he said warrants immediate legal action.

Environmentalists hold satyagraha in Bengaluru opposing Sharavathi power project

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Hundreds of people sat on a satyagraha in Bengaluru's Freedom Park on Saturday demanding that the State Government drop the ambitious Sharavathi Pumped Storage Power Project in Shivamogga district.

Organised by Parisarkaagi Naavu, headed by former MLA AT Ramaswamy, the satyagraha saw eminent personalities collectively voicing against the 2000 MW power project in the two reservoirs of Talakalale and Gerusoppa. The project will impact the state's only Lion Tailed Macaque Sanctuary and calls for the felling of over 10,000 trees, they claimed. The project will be executed by Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) at a cost of Rs 10,240 crore.

Former Supreme Court judges, Justice N Santosh Hegde and Justice V Gopala Gowda along with actor and environmentalist Suresh Heblekar, MLABR Patil, and pontiffs of various mutts and religious institutions took part in the satyagraha. "The protest in various forms will continue till the government drops the project.

We are not against development, but the question is, is it required. The location where it is proposed is a wildlife sanctuary. The UNESCO protected and heritage site Western Ghats has already been destroyed for various works, this is destruction," Ramaswamy said.

Record-breaking drone show on Dec 9 as part of Telangana Rising Global Summit

The formations will also outline the state's three-zone economic model — core urban region economy (CURE), peri urban region economy (PURE), and rural agricultural region economy (RARE).

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

The state government will stage a large-scale drone show on December 9 over the proposed Bharat Future City during the Telangana Rising Global Summit, with an attempt to secure a Guinness World Record for the longest aerial sentence using 3,000 drones. Officials said the show, presented as a visual tribute to the state's development vision under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, will combine technology and narrative elements to outline Telangana's future plans.

The sentence "Telangana is Rising. Come, Join the Rise," will be formed by LED-fitted drones flying in a coordinated pattern over the proposed Bharat Future City. The attempt

aims to surpass the earlier record involving 2,131 drones. Officials said the display will

complete 100 years of independence. The formations will also outline the state's three-zone economic model — core urban region economy (CURE), peri urban region economy (PURE), and rural agricultural region economy (RARE).

Another segment will depict a Metro Rail route map, reflecting the government's focus on mobility and urban connectivity. The show will conclude with illustrations inspired by the chief minister's statement: "Women are the foundation, farmers are the backbone, and youth the future of our government." The final sequence will highlight programmes aimed at women, farmers and young people.

Officials expect large crowds at the

summit and said the drone show will be one of its key attractions.



open with an illustration of the Bharat Future City skyline, outlining the state's projected development towards 2047, when India

NFR adopts underwater Robotic Vehicles for Strengthening Bridge Safety

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 30th November:

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully conducted extensive underwater and structural inspections of major railway bridges using advanced Remotely Operated Robotic Vehicle (RORV) technology. This includes critical bridges such as the iconic Saraihat Bridge over the Brahmaputra and several important bridges under the Alipurduar (APDJ) Division. These bridges have substructures that remain submerged year-round, making underwater inspection essential for assessing the condition of foundations, wells and piers. The historic Saraihat Bridge, India's first rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra river, spans 1.45 km and connects Pandu and Amingaon. As one of the most vital rail-road lifelines of Northeast India, it was inspected

using a combination of RORV surveys, LiDAR, thermal imaging, deck components. Meanwhile, in the APDJ Division, 18 no's of



Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity (UPV) tests. The assessments covered pier caps, well foundations, underwater scour zones, superstructure stress points, and

defects were detected. During 2024-25, NFR completed underwater inspection of 13 bridges using RORV, and during 2025-26, 34 additional bridges have already been inspected. These insights enhance the accuracy of NFR's structural health monitoring and support timely planning of preventive maintenance. NFR remains committed to utilizing modern inspection technologies to ensure the continued safety and longevity of major bridges across the region. The application of RORV, coupled with advanced digital tools, marks a significant step forward in scientific bridge assessment. NFR will continue strengthening its inspection framework to safeguard critical connectivity routes—especially structures like the Saraihat Bridge and key bridges under NFR, which are central to rail operations across the Northeast.

A BLO in the Chepauk-Thiruvallikeni Assembly constituency said, "In my booth alone, 120 voters were identified as deceased, but relatives of only about 10 of them could recall the exact date of death. Without this information, we cannot update the BLO app to mark the voter as deceased. Keeping these unprocessed forms also leads to confusion, so we have begun classifying such cases as permanently shifted."

The BLO further said that the booth includes several residents who were relocated to Kannagi Nagar, Semencerry, and Perumbakkam Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) tenements. "Many of these residents collected the forms but have not returned them, amounting to more than 250 pending forms. Another 100-150 forms remain undistributed because I'm unable to trace those shifted residents," she added.

Another BLO said that in her booth, 50 voters were identified as deceased, but relatives of only six could recall the date of death, leaving the remaining 44 cases to be classified as "permanently shifted". The BLOs also expressed concerns over mounting workload, noting that many forms still need to be distributed or collected.

Anekal residents in Bengaluru demand repair of neglected roads

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Hundreds of residents from Chandapura, Heelalige, Sampige Nagar, Anantha Nagar and 17 villages in Anekal Taluk raised slogans demanding better roads before the Tasildhar's office on Saturday. The agitators later handed over a memorandum. The Tasildhar has assured the agitators that their concerns will be addressed.

The agitators claim that the road, which starts from Huskur Road and connects Anantha Nagar and Heelalige, has been in a bad shape for the last 20 years and is awaiting asphalt for the same period. As per residents under the banner of the Anekal Citizens' Welfare



Committee, presidents of the Public Works Department and some are under the Gram Panchayat. The representation will be sent to the department concerned. The official also stated that ongoing work on the Singena Agrahara to AMPC Marker in Huskur will be completed. We issued a warning that the work should be done at the earliest and quality should not be compromised," said Shivaram Reddy, a farmer from Chandapura.

A senior resident from Mutthanallur grampanchayat said, 50-plus apartment

community representatives have

come to demand better road

infrastructure and also expressed

concern over the absence of a drain

network at Singena Agrahara to AMPC Marker in Huskur.

Divine intervention: Tamil Nadu's 1,000-year-old temples get meticulous facelift

Since 2022-23, the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments department has been quietly undertaking a mammoth task — restoring hundreds of temples that are over 1,000 years old, keeping their antiquity intact.

Chennai. (Agency)

The towering Raja Gopuram of Sri Uthira Ranganathar Temple, draped in pale green protective sheets, slowly starts emerging from the horizon. Zoom in, the dullness of the sheet is in stark contrast with the steady flow of devotees at the religious institution in Pallikonda, some 30 km away from Vellore city, that has a tale of more than a thousand years to tell.

The enthusiasm around is quite palpable. From the flower vendor on the street to the devotees, all have just one question: "When will the Kumhambishkam ceremony take place?" Quick came the reply from J Hethirajan, the chief priest at the temple for over a decade: "In a few months after the restoration

works." As Kumhambishkam is held once in every 12 years, and the next one is due, anticipation among devotees is high, he tells.

Sri Uthira Ranganathar Temple is just one among the 714 temples identified as more than 1,000 years old based on stone inscriptions, architectural styles, and the hymns composed by saints. The number could soon reach 850, say HR&CE department officials.

The initiative was announced in the state Assembly by HR&CE Minister PK Sekarababu on May 4, 2022, and the state government granted Rs 100 crore to restore the first 80 temples. That was just the beginning, as the state would allocate Rs 425 crore from 2023 to 2025-26. As many as 352 ancient temples have been taken up

for restoration at a cost of Rs 571.55 crore, including donations and temple funds. Consecration has been completed for 71 temples, while work is still going on at 164 temples.

Terminating the ambitious project of restoring the 1,000-year-old temples special, Sekarababu stresses the work is being carried out meticulously by the DMK government led by Chief Minister MK Stalin by following all the norms to protect the state's cultural heritage.

The Abhishayeshwarar Temple in Thukkachi village near Kumbakonam stands as a testament to the initiative's success. After the 1,300-year-old temple was renovated at Rs 5 crore

and consecrated on September 3, 2023, UNESCO recognised Thanjavur's efforts to restore the



makes these renovations challenging. The conservation manual prepared by the HR&CE department makes a key distinction that guides its approach: unlike archaeological monuments, these temples are 'living heritage' — structures in continuous religious use for centuries.

This requires balancing conservation with active worship, necessitating consultation with agama experts, silpashashtra specialists, and local communities along with conservation engineers. S Rajavelu, an archaeologist of the state-level expert panel, explains, "Tamil Nadu has mostly 'living temples', though there are many heritage monuments."

Delhi votes in civic body bypolls; intense battle between BJP, AAP, Congress

Voting began today in 12 Municipal Corporation of Delhi wards, marking a crucial test for BJP's dominance and AAP's comeback hopes after recent assembly elections. The bypolls are closely watched as they reflect Delhi's current political mood and voter sentiment.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a contest seen as the first real check on Delhi's political pulse after the BJP's landslide victory in the assembly elections earlier this year, voting opened this morning for bypolls across 12 Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) wards. The outcome is expected to signal whether the capital's voters are prepared to reinforce the BJP's mandate or offer space for a fightback from AAP. As of 9.30 am, voter turnout stood at 5.4 per cent.

POLLING UNDER TIGHT SECURITY

Balloting began at 7.30 am across 580 booths set up at 143 locations, with voting to continue until 5.30 pm.

The Delhi State Election Commission said 2,320 polling personnel are on duty, backed by 2,265 additional staff, 580 Home Guards and 13 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces to ensure a smooth exercise.

At Shalimar Bagh, where visuals showed a steady flow of early voters, residents spoke of a sense of responsibility. One voter said those elected must be people "who take society forward", while another described voting as a duty to place "country, society, and family in the safest hands".

PRESTIGE BATTLE FOR BJP, RECOVERY TEST FOR AAP

Fifty-one candidates, including 26

women, are contesting. The BJP has fielded the maximum number of women candidates (8), followed by AAP (6) and Congress (5).

Of the 12 wards, nine were earlier with the BJP and three with AAP. The contest is particularly significant in Shalimar Bagh B and Dwarka B, both important turf for the BJP. Rekha Gupta held the Shalimar Bagh B ward before rising to the chief minister's post, while Dwarka B had been represented by West Delhi MP Kamaljeet Sehrawat.

For AAP, these bypolls present a chance to recover lost ground after its defeat in the assembly elections, but the party suffered a setback on



the eve of polling when senior leader and two-time MLA Rajesh T E C H - E N A B L E D

MONITORING, WOMEN-LED BOOTHS

Polling stations are being monitored in real time through webcasting. QR codes at booths allow voters to instantly share feedback after casting their ballot.

Each ward has a Model Polling Booth and a 'Pink Booth' staffed entirely by women, aimed at creating a more comfortable and inclusive voting environment.

COUNTING ON 3 DECEMBER

Ten strong room-cum-counting centres have been set up to store sealed EVMs. Counting of votes will take place on 3 December, when the political impact of today's turnout will become clearer.

Student from Haryana stabbed to death in UK, family seeks government's help

New Delhi.(Agency)

An Indian student from Haryana's Charkhi Dadri was stabbed to death in Worcester in the United Kingdom. The family has demanded swift diplomatic support for a thorough investigation and the repatriation of his body. The fatal attack on the victim, Vijay Kumar, took place late on Saturday in Worcester's city centre. He was found by officers with serious injuries on Barbourne Road in Worcester on November 15 and succumbed to his injuries later.



According to reports, the victim had reportedly quit a government job with the Central Board of Excise and Customs earlier this year to pursue higher education in UK. He was studying at the University of the West of England (UWE) in Bristol.

Charkhi Dadri MLA Sunil Satpal Sangwan posted details of the incident on social media and sought urgent government assistance to ensure the swift repatriation of the student's body to India.

"We also appeal for a transparent, fair, and time-bound investigation so that justice is served and the perpetrators are held strictly accountable," he wrote.

Preliminary local police reports indicate that a physical altercation preceded the stabbing, though the exact motive remains unclear. The British police is yet to issue a formal statement on the incident.

Blood clot in eye, swollen face: Teacher beats 6-year-old over counting mistake

New Delhi.(Agency)

A six-year-old student in Chhattisgarh's Balrampur was beaten up by his teacher for making a small mistake in the maths class. The teacher was allegedly drunk, and his beating caused swelling in the boy's face and also left him with a blood clot. The incident occurred on Friday at the Jawakhadi Primary School. After lunch, teacher Uday Yadav came to the school to take the class. During the class, he asked a student named Bhagirathi to recite a number; however, the student made a mistake, and as a result, the teacher started



slapping him repeatedly, which caused damage to the child's health.

The student came home while crying, and when his parents asked whether anything was wrong, he narrated the entire incident. Upon learning the child's experience, his father, Dhananjay Yadav, went to the local police station and filed a complaint. In his complaint, the father stated that the teacher often arrives at class after getting drunk. The incident on Friday was also not an exception.

Following the incident, the local police have registered a case and started an investigation into the incident. The incident caused a stir in the village. The villagers claimed that incidents like this are causing damage to the children's future. The Jawakhadi Primary School has 30-35 students from class one to class five.

Voter List Cleanup Deadline Extended By A Week Till Feb 14 In 12 states

New Delhi.(Agency)

The deadline for the voter list cleanup exercise special intensive revision (SIR) in 12 states and Union Territories has been extended by a week till February 14, the Election Commission said today. The SIR issue is likely to lead to a huge slowdown in parliament during the winter session that would begin tomorrow.

The Election Commission in a three-page order issued today said it has allowed one more week for poll officials to publish the draft list of voters. The enumeration period will end on December 11. Earlier, it was set to December 4. In the fresh order,

the Election Commission said the draft voter list which was scheduled to be released on December 9 will be



published on December 16, and the final list will be published on February 14. Leaders of the

Trinamool Congress and other Opposition parties met Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in Delhi this week, and urged the EC to reschedule the SIR exercise. They requested the EC to plan the SIR exercise in a better manner. The request comes amid reports that booth level officers (BLOs) are under immense pressure as they go from door-to-door to complete the mammoth task in a tight schedule.

Death by suicide of BLOs have been reported from West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh.

Winter Session Begins Tomorrow, Opposition To Take On Government Over SIR

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Winter session of Parliament beginning Monday will see the government push its reforms agenda with a legislation to open up the civil nuclear sector to private players, while the opposition is set to take up the issue of revision of electoral rolls across 12 states and Union territories. The three-week long session of Parliament comes against the backdrop of the overwhelming victory of the BJP-led NDA in the Bihar Assembly elections which is expected to reflect in the renewed push for reforms after a virtual washout of the Monsoon session.

Besides the crucial 'The Atomic Energy Bill, 2025', which seeks to govern the use and regulation of atomic energy in India, the Higher Education Commission of India Bill and eight other draft legislations are also on the agenda for the session which will have 15 sittings.

The government already had to step back from its plans to bring a bill to empower the president to make regulations for the Union Territory of Chandigarh directly, after stiff resistance from across the political spectrum.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has convened a meeting of floor leaders of political parties in Parliament on Sunday to ensure floor coordination during the session. The opposition is likely to take on the government over the issue of Special Intensive Revision of rolls (SIR) besides raking up the matter of air pollution in the national capital.

Among the bills planned by the government, the Higher Education Commission of India Bill seeks to set up a Commission to facilitate universities and other higher educational institutes to become independent and self-governing institutions and to promote

excellence through a robust and transparent system of accreditation and autonomy.

The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, also listed for introduction, seeks to ensure faster and transparent land acquisition for national highways.

Another proposed legislation is the Corporate Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which aims at tweaking the Companies Act, 2013 and LLP Act, 2008, to facilitate ease of doing business.

Also on the government's agenda is the Securities Markets Code Bill (SMC), 2025, which proposes to consolidate provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, Depositories Act, 1996, and Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, into a rationalised single Securities Markets Code. The government also plans changes to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act.

Alongside the statue, PM Modi inaugurated the Ramayana Theme Park, released a special postal stamp and a commemorative coin. He addressed over 15,000 attendees, highlighting the math's big role in preserving Hindu traditions on India's western Konkan coast. He said there were times when Goa's temples and local traditions had to face destruction.

The statue itself, crafted by legendary sculptor Ram V Sutar, known for designing the Statue of Unity, has been presented as the world's tallest statue of Lord Ram. Modi described it as a symbol of unity, devotion and India's cultural continuity.

WHY GOA MATTERS TO DVAITA VAISHNAVITES: SURVIVING PORTUGUESE RULE, CULTURAL PRESSURES

On the surface, Goa might seem like an unlikely location for Lord Ram's tallest statue. But for the Gaud Saraswat Brahmin community and Dvaita Vaishnavites, Goa has always been a spiritual anchor. Dvaita Vaishnavism is a Hindu philosophical tradition founded by the 13th-century saint-philosopher Madhvacharya, which teaches that God and the soul are two separate realities.

Delhi's AQI improves slightly as winds pick up; city's coldest November in 5 years

Delhi faced another day of poor air quality with AQI levels remaining high across the city and NCR, causing discomfort among residents. Despite slight improvements, pollution hotspots continue to pose health risks as winter sets in.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi woke up to another polluted morning on Sunday, with the city's average AQI touching 270 at 6 am, placing it in the 'poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Due to better surface wind movement last evening, Delhi's air quality shifted from the 'very poor' and 'severe' range seen over the past few days to the 'poor' category this morning.

Despite the slight improvement from the severe spikes earlier this month, several pockets in the capital continued to breathe far worse air than the city average, with most monitoring stations today remaining below the 300 threshold. Shadipur recorded the highest pollution levels this morning at 336, followed by

RK Puram at 308, both in the 'very poor' category.

Other major hotspots such as Burari (283), Bawana (295), Sirifort (295), Wazirpur (282), Chandni Chowk (281), Anand Vihar (281), Narela (279), Punjabi Bagh (266) and JLN Stadium (269) remained firmly in the 'poor' zone.

Comparatively cleaner neighbourhoods included Mandir Marg at 157, the only location in the 'moderate' range, while Aya Nagar (225), IGI Airport (227), NSIT Dwarka (228), Lodhi Road (251), Alipur (247), Najafgarh (242) and North Campus (240) stayed in the 'poor' category.

Across NCR, the air also remained unhealthy. Gurgaon recorded an AQI of

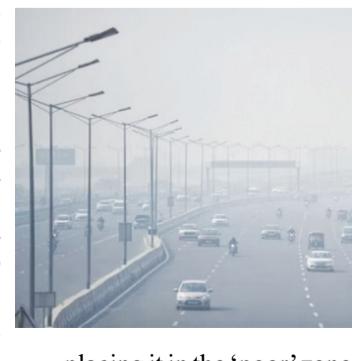
233 and Noida 267, both in the 'poor' band.

Faridabad stood at 178 in the 'moderate' category, while Ghaziabad reported 262,

'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor' with breathing discomfort likely on prolonged exposure, 301-400 'very poor' with risk of respiratory illness, and anything above 401 classified as 'severe', affecting even healthy individuals.

Residents stepping out early reported lingering haze, irritation in the eyes, and breathing discomfort despite the numbers showing mild improvement from last week's toxic highs.

Many said the air "feels heavy" even if visibility appears better in patches. Delhi has now spent nearly half of November in 'poor', 'very poor' or 'severe' air quality, raising concerns over prolonged exposure as winter conditions set in.



placing it in the 'poor' zone.

The readings came against the backdrop of the national AQI scale, where 0-50 is considered 'good', 51-100

NEWS BOX

ICC warns members of 30% reduction in revenue next cycle**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Mumbai batter Ayush Mhatre shattered Rohit Sharma's record following his breathtaking century in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group A fixture against Vidarbha on Friday, November 28. Mhatre became the youngest player in the history of the game to register a century in all three formats of cricket namely First-class, List A and T20. The 18-year-old surpassed Rohit Sharma in the list, who achieved the feat at the age of 19y 339d. Former India under 19 World Cup winning captain also appears in the list on the third spot, having achieved the feat at 20 while Quintin de Kock and Ahmed Shehzad are also in top five. Mhatre produced a magnificent unbeaten 110 off just 53 balls to guide Mumbai to a commanding seven-wicket victory over Vidarbha in their Elite Group A encounter. The young opener unleashed eight sixes—many of them dispatched over the on-side—and struck eight boundaries in total to bring up his maiden T20 century in spectacular fashion. Mhatre's remarkable knock came on the very day he was announced as India's captain for the Under-19 Asia Cup, scheduled to begin on December 12 in Dubai. Courtesy of his



innings, Mumbai chased down the target of 193 with 13 balls to spare, finishing at 194/3 in 17.5 overs. Mhatre got involved in crucial stands with Suryakumar Yadav (35 off 30) of 88 from 59 deliveries for the third wicket and a quick fire 85-run partnership off 35 balls with Shivam Dube (39* off 19) for the fourth wicket. Earlier, Mhatre got his name into the record books as he scored the fastest-ever hundred in the history of youth Tests. He completed the milestone in just 64 balls to help the team chase down 355 to win on the final day of the match. He was in stunning form during the series, scoring 340 runs from four innings as India won the series by 2-0. The teen sensation also had a phenomenal season for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025), scoring 240 runs in seven innings at an average of 34.28 and a strike rate of 188.97. Mhatre has been retained by the franchise ahead of the mega auction for the next season.

2 roads, 1 destination: Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and the art of ODI dominance**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Taking singles is as important as hitting boundaries in ODI cricket and Test matches. Maybe not as much in T20 format. That's something that Virat has done so well in his career." "That's something that we have looked at Virat and tried to learn. Even in the dressing room, we all talk to him and Rohit about how we can get better as batters and how we can rotate the strike a lot more. He is obviously a master of doing that in ODI cricket." It was a reminder that the modern Indian ODI side lives at the intersection of two entirely different batting philosophies. In early 2023, under Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid, India sharpened a more



proactive limited-overs identity — intent from ball one, harder swings in the powerplay, fewer sighters, more damage. The blueprint was borrowed by white-ball sides, coached by Gautam Gambhir. But even as India's blueprint tilted towards Rohit's worldview, the team's most reliable batter continued to thrive through an approach that seems almost old-fashioned in comparison. Two creators. Two styles. Two roads to the same peak. ROHIT SHARMA: THE HITMAN

If the Rohit–Dravid years have a soundtrack, it begins with Rohit's bat in the first ten overs. India's shift toward a front-foot ODI philosophy didn't emerge out of tactical experiments — it took shape because India understood the need for reinvention and the need to catch-up with modern-day demands of white-ball cricket. Rohit's ODI career is a study in boundary dominance. 55.91% of his runs have come in fours and sixes — a figure that places him above nearly every modern great.

Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin shared his views on Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson opening combination for CSK in IPL 2026. He mentioned that Ayush Mhatre and Urvil Patel are also making a strong case for themselves to be in the opening slot.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin has given his take on Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson opening for Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in the Indian Premier League 2025 (IPL 2025). CSK have acquired Samson ahead of the upcoming season via a player trade with Rajasthan Royals (RR) in exchange of Ravindra Jadeja and Sam Curran. With Samson in the team, he's expected to open alongside Ruturaj Gaikwad for the five-time champions.



Recently, Ashwin shared his views on the opening combination, saying that he would be thrilled to see them bat together as they both possess different qualities as a batter. "There is pedigree with Ruturaj Gaikwad and Sanju Samson. Pedigree means you making quality runs and sustaining that for a period of time. We must not forget that. For me, I would love to see both of them go

hammer and tongs at the opening slot. Both of them have different strengths. One is a careerer of the ball, while the other guy hits it hard so both of those qualities are there. So I will look at it in that fashion that I have two good openers," said Ashwin on his YouTube Channel. Ashwin also mentioned that Ruturaj might be willing to bat at number three as he's batting at that position for Maharashtra

as well which will make it tricky for CSK to fit in Urvil Patel in top four. But the early signs are that Ruturaj wants to bat at number 3 because he's also batting at no 3 for Maharashtra. Which begs the question where will Urvil Patel bat? CSK are looking at Andre Russell very hard. Let's see who all are there in the auction. I still think Urvil Patel can play at no 4. But then if he comes at number 4 it becomes completely right handed. But Urvil takes on the powerplay. So if we open with Rutu and Sanju, Urvil can come in at number 3 but Ayush has scored runs. It's a tricky question but we'll see how they solve their top four conundrum," he added. CSK found solid young stars in Urvil Patel and Ayush Mhatre towards the ending stages of their 2024 season. The young duo is performing exceptionally in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, having slammed a hundred each and are making a strong case to play as openers in the upcoming season. With a several talented batters at their disposal, CSK are expected to have a hard time settling their order. It remains to be seen how they fix their conundrum in the upcoming season.

Abhishek Sharma smashes 12-ball fifty in SMAT, emulates mentor Yuvraj Singh**LUSAIL, Qatar. (Agency)**

India opening batter Abhishek Sharma entered the record books with a 12-ball half century for Punjab in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) 2025-26. With his feat, he emulated his idol Yuvraj Singh, who also registered a 12-ball fifty against England during India's victorious campaign in the T20 World Cup 2007. The game is also famous for his six consecutive sixes in an over against Stuart Broad. Abhishek achieved the milestone against Bengal on Sunday, November 30 at Gymkhana Ground, Hyderabad. With his blistering innings, he registered the joint-third-fastest fifty and joint-second-fastest by an Indian in men's T20 cricket.

Abhishek further shattered record books as he went on to score a sensational hundred off just 32 balls, smashing seven fours and 11 sixes in his innings. The southpaw registered the joint fourth-fastest century by an Indian in T20 cricket. The 25-year-old already has the joint-fastest century by an Indian to his name, having



reached the milestone in 28-ball playing for Punjab against Meghalaya during the previous edition of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in 2024.

Punjab post 310 in 20 overs

Abhishek got involved in a massive opening partnership with Prabhhsimran Singh as the duo added 205 runs for the first wicket off 75 balls. Prabhhsimran also slammed 70 off just 35 balls, whacking eight fours and four sixes in his innings. Abhishek was eventually dismissed for 148 off 52 balls after hitting eight fours and 16 sixes during his belligerent innings. Ramandeep Singh (39 off 15) and Sanvir Singh (22 off 8) also played some valuable cameos as Punjab finished their innings on 310/5 in their allotted 20 overs—the second-highest total in SMAT history and fourth highest T20 score overall. Veteran speedster Mohammed Shami had a forgettable day in the field, having leaked 61 runs from his four overs with one wicket. Apart from him, Akash Deep (2/55) and Writtick Chatterjee (0/67) were also taken to the cleaners.

Lionel Messi involved in ugly spat during Inter Miami's East final win**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Lionel Messi was involved in an ugly spat with compatriot Maximiliano Moralez during the Eastern Conference final between Inter Miami and New York City FC on Saturday, November 29. Messi had a war of words with Moralez during the match.

The match saw high tension early, notably when the Inter Miami skipper reacted angrily to a foul by Maximiliano Moralez on defender Maximiliano Falcón. The incident led to heated exchanges between both teams before Messi regained composure, allowing play to continue without further escalation. MESSI INSPIRES MIAMI

Inter Miami secured their place in the MLS Cup final for the first time in club history with a decisive 5-1 win over New York City FC. The victory ensures Miami will host the championship match at Chase Stadium on December 6, where they await either San Diego FC or Vancouver Whitecaps, pending the conclusion of the Western Conference final. Tadeo Allende was the standout performer, scoring a hat-trick to bring his

playoff total to a league-best eight goals in 2025.



Supporting roles were played by Mateo Silvetti and Telasco Segovia, who each added a goal in the second half to ensure Miami's advantage was insurmountable for

NYCFC. The team's attacking depth was evident, contributing to the emphatic result. Messi contributed an assist during the game, taking his tally to 13 goal involvements in just five playoff matches (6 goals, 7 assists). His consistent impact has been a driving force in Miami's historic post-season run.

Strategically, Inter Miami capitalised on their regular-season form, using a well-balanced attack and disciplined defensive structure. NYCFC struggled to contain Miami's offensive threats and was unable to shift momentum despite tactical adjustments after halftime. Miami's coordinated pressing and swift transitions kept NYCFC under pressure for most of the match. With this victory, Inter Miami not only advances to its first MLS Cup final but also sets the stage for Lionel Messi to potentially secure the 47th trophy of his career.

PSG stunned 1-0 by Monaco but retain top spot in Ligue 1 as Marseille held 2-2 by Toulouse**PSG remain top of the standings for now with 30 points from 14 games, one point ahead of Marseille****MARSEILLE. (Agency)**

Paris Saint-Germain suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at the hands of Monaco on Saturday but retained top spot in Ligue 1 after nearest rivals Marseille were held to a 2-2 draw by Toulouse. Japan's Takumi Minamino scored the only goal of the game for Monaco in the principality -- the former Liverpool player's second-half strike inflicting a second domestic defeat of the campaign on PSG. Monaco held on through the closing stages, including seven minutes of stoppage time, after having former Paris defender Thilo Kehrer sent off in the 80th minute. It was a

surprise result with Monaco ending a run of three consecutive Ligue 1 losses which had seen them lose ground on PSG and the other sides at the top of the table.

They are now provisionally up to sixth, seven points behind the capital side whose only other reverse in Ligue 1 so far this season came away to Marseille in September.

PSG remain top of the standings for now with 30 points from 14 games, one point ahead of Marseille after Roberto De Zerbi's team were denied by Santiago Hidalgo's late equaliser for Toulouse at the Velodrome. It is now over to Lens, who are two points behind the leaders in third but will go top if they beat Angers away on Sunday. "Usually I prefer to watch matches again and analyse them, but today it is easier. We were not precise enough and we made too many individual and collective mistakes," said PSG coach Luis Enrique, whose side was again far from full strength. "Neither team played at a very high level, but they played better than us. It was without any doubt our worst match of the season." Minamino controlled an Aleksandr Golovin cross

before finishing past Lucas Chevalier to open the scoring and Monaco maintained their advantage even after German centre-back Kehrer saw red following a VAR check.



for a foul on Ibrahim Mbaye.

Paul Pogba made another brief cameo appearance off the bench for the hosts, a week after coming on for his first competitive appearance in over two years following a doping ban. "It is satisfying to get back to winning ways, all the more so against one of the best teams in Europe, if not the best," said Sébastien Pocognoli, who has struggled to make an impact since being appointed Monaco coach in October.

Marseille were expected to get all three points at home to Toulouse but produced a sluggish first-half performance following a rousing Champions League win over Newcastle United in midweek. Brazilian forward Emerson ran half the length of the pitch before giving the visitors the lead, which they held until the interval. Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg hit the post for Marseille early in the second half before Aron Donnun saw his chip strike the bar at the other end. Moments after that, Marseille were level when Igor Paixao rounded goalkeeper Guillaume Restes to score, and the home side went ahead on 74 minutes as Hojbjerg headed in a precise Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang cross. Hojbjerg ripped off his shirt in celebration as Marseille appeared to be heading to the top of the table, but Hidalgo -- the young Argentine forward brought on as a late substitute -- silenced the crowd as he headed in a long Mark McKenzie throw in stoppage time to make it 2-2. "Of course we are sad but the league is not over tonight. There are still many months to go," De Zerbi said.

Dalmia Bharat subsidiary gets Rs 266-cr GST relief

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a positive development for Dalmia Bharat Limited, its wholly-owned subsidiary, Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL), has secured a major legal victory after the tax department dropped demands for taxes and penalties totalling over Rs 266 crore.

The adjudicating authority, the Sales Tax Officer in Lalgudi, Tiruchirappalli, has dropped the proceedings related to two show-cause notices issued under the Central and Tamil Nadu GST Acts.

According to a regulatory filing made by Dalmia Bharat to the stock exchanges on Tuesday, the demands pertained to differences observed in taxable turnover and input tax credit (IT) for the assessment years 2019-20 and 2022-23. For 2019-20, a tax demand of Rs 128.40 crore and a penalty of Rs 19.26 crore have been waived. For 2022-23 a tax demand of Rs 59.33 crore and an equivalent penalty of Rs 59.33 crore have been dropped. The total financial reprise for the company amounts to ?187.72 crore in tax and ?78.59 crore in penalty, aggregating to Rs 266.31 crore. The company confirmed that the formal orders were received on the evening of November 28, 2025. In its filing, made under the SEBI Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements Regulations, Dalmia Bharat explicitly stated that "there will be no financial impact on DCBL" as a result of this decision. This outcome removes a significant contingent liability that was looming over the cement manufacturer. The news is likely to be viewed positively by investors, as it resolves a substantial regulatory dispute without any financial outlay from the company. Dalmia Bharat Limited is a leading cement manufacturing company in India.

Big Corporate actions on Stock Market: Dividends, Stock Splits & Spin-off | Details

New Delhi.(Agency)

Many corporate actions are going to take place in the stock market in the coming week starting from December 1, 2025. According to the BSE website, Mini Diamonds India, Engineers India, Computer Age Management Services, Apis India and Hindustan Unilever will trade on ex-date.

Engineers India Interim Dividend

Shares of Engineers India Limited will trade ex-dividend on Thursday 4th December. The company has declared an interim dividend of Rs 1 per share. The record date is also December 4. The dividend will be received by the shareholders on or before 19th December 2025. Computer Age Management Stock Split

Computer Age Management Services Limited's stock split will take place on December 5. One old share will now be converted into five new shares. The record date has been fixed on 5th December.

Hindustan Unilever

Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) is doing a spin-off, which means the company is separating any of its business parts and forming a new independent company. With this, both companies will be able to focus better on their respective work. Generally, shareholders also get shares of the new company, which can benefit them from two different businesses. Hindustan Unilever (HUL) is separating its ice cream company Kwality Walls. Kwality Walls will become a new separate company from 1 December 2025. Its name will be Kwality Walls (India) Limited (KWIL). This new company will be its own listed company i.e. its shares can be bought and sold separately in the stock market. Now the business of ice cream and other products will run separately.

Simens Energy India dividend

On 24 November, Simens Energy India recommended a dividend of Rs 4 per share. If this dividend is passed in the AGM, then it will be available from 18 February 2026. Simens Energy India's profit increased by more than 31 percent to 360 million rupees in the July-September quarter. It was Rs 274 crore in the same quarter last year. The company's earnings went up to Rs 2,646 crore from Rs 2,079 crore last year. The order backlog also increased by 47% to Rs 16,205 crore.

US tariffs bite: India's engineering exports slump 16.7% in October; Asean, EU and UAE shipments weaken

New Delhi.(Agency)

India's engineering goods exports fell a steep 16.71 per cent year-on-year in October 2025 to \$9.37 billion, primarily due to a sharp drop in shipments to the US and a high base effect, the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC) said on Saturday. Exports to key markets recorded widespread declines, with the Asean region seeing an almost 50 per cent fall to \$1.02 billion. The US remained India's top destination for engineering goods, but shipments dropped 14.5 per cent to \$1.39 billion in October 2025, compared with \$1.63 billion a year earlier.

The decline was driven by the combined impact of Section 232 tariffs and reciprocal tariffs, EEPC said.

Exports to the UAE fell 19.3 per cent to \$667 million, while North America and the EU — the top two regions — also witnessed year-on-year declines for the second consecutive month. Significant drops were noted across WANA, South Asia, Latin America and the CIS region. "While a high base effect was one of the reasons for the drop in exports during October this year, it was also a result of the US-administered reciprocal tariffs... The industry believes that trade diversion due to US tariffs is one of the reasons behind the declining exports," EEPC Chairman Pankaj Chahda said. He added that the industry welcomed the government approving over Rs 25,000 crore for the Export Promotion Mission and Rs 20,000 crore for credit guarantee support. The fall in October marked the second monthly decline of FY26 after May, ending a four-month streak of growth.

ITC bets big on organic food market with 24 Mantra

India's organic food market is currently valued at around Rs 10,000 crore, of which packaged organic accounts for Rs 3,000 crore

New Delhi.(Agency)

The organic packaged food segment in India has gained momentum with the entry of large FMCG players like ITC and Tata Consumer Products Ltd. ITC, which recently acquired Hyderabad-based 24 Mantra Organic, is doubling down on the fast-growing packaged organic food market, banking on rising consumer awareness, improved affordability through integrated sourcing, and significant export opportunities. The FMCG major is positioning itself to accelerate growth in a segment growing at

15-20% annually. "Organic is a category of huge interest to consumers, the economy and farmers. There is also a lot of export potential," said Anuj Kumar Rustagi, chief executive, Staples, Food Division, ITC, told TNIE. According to Anuj Rustagi, India's organic food market is currently valued at around Rs 10,000 crore, of which packaged organic accounts for Rs 3,000 crore. Penetration, however, remains minuscule at 0.35% — one-tenth the global average and a fraction of the US's 5.8%. ITC sees this gap as the biggest opportunity. As incomes rise and trust in brands strengthens, Rustagi believes India can "lead the world in organic penetration," particularly in large household categories such as dals — a Rs 1.5-2 lakh crore market where even a 5-8% organic shift presents a multibillion-rupee opportunity. Building a future-ready food portfolio ITC entered the organic segment through Aashirvaad atta, but scale demanded a wider presence and farm-level infrastructure — something that takes 3-5 years to build. "Organic has to start at the farm. Just because you work with farmers doesn't mean the produce is organic,"



Rustagi said. The company valued 24 Mantra's deep backend — a certified network of 27,000 farmers across 1.4 lakh acres. 24 Mantra brings over 140 organic products, enabling ITC to serve households looking to convert their entire pantry to organic — something that would have taken the conglomerate 8-10 years to build on its own. The brand will continue to operate independently from Hyderabad with its leadership retained. "We are not here to tell them what to do — they are the experts in organic," Rustagi said, adding the approach mirrors ITC's decentralized leadership structure. ITC acquired 24 Mantra Organic from

Sresta Natural Bioproducts Private Limited for Rs 472 crore early this year. Rajashekhar Reddy Seelam, founder & managing director, SNBPL, told TNIE that he is excited that ITC would be driving the next phase of growth for 24 Mantra Organic. "We are confident that ITC's institutional strengths in product development expertise and omni-channel distribution network will help in taking 24 Mantra Organic to millions of homes for many generations to come, improve the livelihoods of a large number of farmers across the country," said Seelam. The company will continue with the 24 Mantra Organic brand name, strengthening marketing investments to restore and expand its once market-leading position.

Exports to power next leg of growth

Nearly half of 24 Mantra's current revenue comes from exports — largely to the US and the Middle East. ITC plans to deepen presence in North America and expand distribution to Europe and Canada. "With our institutional resources, we can take this Indian brand global," said Rustagi, noting the growing popularity of Indian cuisine worldwide.

Bank Closure Alert: Banks To Remain Closed On THESE Days Next Week—Check Full State-Wise List

New Delhi.(Agency)

Banks in several parts of India are set to remain closed for two days in the upcoming week, as per the latest bank holiday schedule issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In addition to these regional holidays, banks across the country will also remain shut on Sunday, December 7. It's important to note that bank holidays vary from state to state, depending on national events, regional festivals, and religious observances. Customers are advised to plan their banking activities accordingly. Banks in Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Kohima (Nagaland) will remain closed on Monday, December 1, in observance of State Inauguration Day and Indigenous Faith Day. Bank Holiday on December 3

Banks in Panaji (Goa) will remain shut on Wednesday, December 3, due to the celebration of the Feast of St. Francis Xavier, a significant regional festival.

Will Banks Operate on Saturday, December 6?

Banks across India will remain open on Saturday, December 6, as it falls on the first Saturday of the month. As per the RBI guidelines, banks are closed on the second and fourth Saturdays every month, while the first and third Saturdays operate as regular working days.

When Do Banks Remain Shut?

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) schedules bank holidays across different states to mark important national events, regional celebrations, and religious festivals. This means holiday dates can vary depending on the location. Apart from these observances, banks are also closed every Sunday, as well as on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Banking Services Still Available During Holidays

Even when physical bank branches are closed, customers can continue to access a range of services through online and mobile banking, ensuring smooth and uninterrupted transactions. You can conveniently carry out tasks such as fund transfers (NEFT/RTGS), bill payments, and balance checks from anywhere. In addition, card-related services like applying for debit, credit, or ATM cards, as well as submitting requests for chequebooks, demand drafts, standing instructions, locker services, and account updates, can also be initiated through digital or self-service channels.

RBI Policy, Auto Sales And US Data Likely To Drive Stock Market Next Week

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Delhi: The Indian stock market is preparing for an important week ahead as it enters the final month of 2025, with investors closely watching the Reserve Bank of India's monetary policy meeting, monthly auto sales data, and key US economic indicators. Strong domestic macroeconomic fundamentals and steady global cues are expected to support the market, but uncertainty around interest rates and global inflation trends may keep investors cautious. On Friday, November 28, benchmark indices ended almost flat as traders booked profits and waited for the release of India's Q2 GDP numbers. The Sensex slipped 14 points to close at 85,706.67, while the Nifty fell 13 points to end at 26,202.95. "The index continues to make fresh highs, and the bias remains positive. The next upside levels are placed at 26,500, followed by 27,000," experts said. On the downside, the 20-DEMA around 25,900 serves as initial support, with

the next key level at 25,700," they added. The biggest event for the markets next week will be the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled from December 3 to

two-wheeler, and commercial vehicles could boost confidence in a sustained demand recovery.

Global cues will also play a major role. It is a full trading week on Wall Street, although the flow of US economic data will be lighter as federal agencies resume reporting. Markets will finally receive the delayed September reading of the Federal Reserve's preferred inflation gauge -- the PCE and Core PCE index -- on Friday. Before that, the ADP private payrolls report for November will be released on Wednesday, and investors will track whether it matches the strong September jobs data. Meanwhile, India's trade negotiations with the United States continue to draw attention. The government expects to finalize a trade deal by year-end as most disagreements have been resolved.



Optimistic Stock Market, Impressive GDP Numbers Warrant Change In FII Strategy

New Delhi.(Agency)

The optimistic new market mood and the impressive GDP numbers warrant a change in foreign institutional investors' (FIIs) strategy going forward, according to analysts. There is no evidence of a trend reversal in FII flows. FIIs were buyers in some days and sellers in some other days recently. This is an indication that FII flows may change when the circumstances change. Up to November 29, FIIs sold equity for Rs 15,659 crore and bought equity for Rs 11,894 crore through the primary market. "There are indications of changes. On November 27, both Nifty and Sensex set new records after a long wait of 14 months. Improved corporate earnings in Q2 and prospects of further improvements in Q3 and Q4 have buoyed up the sentiments. The consensus market view is that 15 to 16 per cent earnings growth is achievable in FY27," according to Dr. VK



Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Ltd. The Q2 GDP growth at 8.2 per cent has surpassed all estimates by a wide margin. This smart pick up in growth despite US President Donald Trump tariffs indicates a robust economy which can deliver around 7.2 per cent growth in FY26. "The standout performance is the 9.1 per cent growth in manufacturing and the 7.3 per cent growth in Gross Fixed Capital Formation. The 7.9 per cent growth in consumption expenditure indicates

revival of consumption, which, in turn, can revive investment demand in the economy," said Vijayakumar. Meanwhile, markets extended their winning streak for the third successive week and scaled new record highs, supported by improving global risk sentiment and constructive domestic cues. While early sessions saw bouts of profit-taking, sharp rebound midweek restored bullish momentum, followed by healthy consolidation. By the end of the week, the Nifty gained 0.52 per cent to 26,202.95, and the Sensex advanced 0.56 per cent to 85,706.67. Broader market sentiment has improved, but participation remains selective. Midcaps exhibit relative strength, while Smallcaps remain prone to profit-taking. Institutional demand continues to guide leadership within sectors," said Ajit Mishra – SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd.

From OTPs, KYC to e-Sign: How everyday slips are fuelling a new wave of digital fraud

New Delhi.(Agency)

It often takes just a hurried tap on the phone, a half-read message, or a caller who sounds "official enough" for a person to lose control over their digital identity.

As fraudsters grow sharper with AI, voice cloning and lookalike web pages, the risk no longer lies in major security breaches alone — it begins with the everyday verification steps most consumers take lightly. Today's scammers don't just steal data — they study behaviour. And across India's financial landscape, experts warn that the smallest slip in an OTP, KYC update or e-Sign step can open the door to identity takeover. India Today spoke to Sudipta Paul Choudhury, CMO, QNu Labs, and Jyoti Singh, co-founder, Plus91Labs, to understand how these quiet vulnerabilities are reshaping fraud — and how people can stay ahead of threats that feel increasingly personal.

THE HIDDEN DANGERS BEHIND SHARING AN OTP

Fraudsters no longer rely on crude tricks; they copy entire customer journeys. A familiar logo, a cloned IVR tone, or a text that matches an insurer's format is often enough to break consumer defences.

"Most fraud cases still trace back to the

basics — an OTP shared under pressure, a KYC form filled with gaps, or an e-Sign completed on an insecure link," said Sudipta Paul Choudhury. She warns that the threat has deepened in an era where criminals are collecting stolen data today, knowing quantum-era tools will decrypt it tomorrow. "That's why consumers must treat every verification step with care, avoid sharing codes with anyone, and rely only on secure, quantum-safe systems," she added. AI-driven impersonation is making this even harder for everyday users. Jyoti Singh said people often underestimate how advanced social engineering has become. "The most common mistakes include sharing OTPs during unsolicited calls, entering them on lookalike websites, or responding to urgent prompts disguised as service alerts," she said. "Once an OTP is exposed, fraudsters can take over accounts, approve transactions, or activate services under the user's identity."

WHEN KYC GAPS BECOME IDENTITY GATEWAYS

Incomplete KYC has quietly become one of the biggest weak points in the insurance

journey. It creates inconsistencies that attackers stitch together using leaked data, allowing them to impersonate customers with far more credibility.

Choudhury describes this as a ticking time bomb. "Incomplete KYC isn't just paperwork gone wrong. It's a

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Bigg Boss 19

Madhuri Dixit

Joins Salman Khan At Weekend Ka Vaar, Fans React

Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit gave Bollywood one of its most iconic on-screen pairings in *Hum Aapke Hain Koun*. The chemistry between Prem and Nisha was unparalleled in the film, making every scene memorable and timeless. Now, fans have the exciting opportunity to see this beloved duo together once again, this time on the sets of *Bigg Boss 19*. Madhuri was present on the show's *Weekend Ka Vaar* segment to promote her upcoming project, *Mrs Deshpande*, which will start streaming from December 19 on JioHotstar. A video of Salman Khan and Madhuri Dixit from the sets has been making the rounds online, where the two can be seen posing together. In the video, Salman is seen looking dapper in a blazer, T-shirt and jeans, while Madhuri appears as radiant as ever in a sleeveless outfit. The popular actress accessorised her look with golden hoop earrings and wore her hair in a high ponytail.

How Did The Internet React To The Reunion

The comment section of the video was filled with heart emojis. One user wrote, "Madhuri and Salman Khan, wow!"

Another added, "Masha Allah!!"

Someone commented, "The combination of Salman and Madhuri has created an extraordinarily lovely moment." Another user wrote, "Oye hoye!"

Not just in the comments section of the video, but fans on X also rejoiced at Madhuri and Salman's reunion on the show's set. One user wrote, "From the charming romance of 1994 to the enduring chemistry of 2025. Madhuri Dixit and Salman Khan are a timeless pairing!"

Another user said, "The iconic duo that defined an era. Salman Khan looking effortlessly handsome next to Madhuri Dixit." Another individual remarked in a tweet, "Prem with Nisha reunion!!"

More About The Upcoming Episode

Apart from Madhuri and Salman's reunion, the *Weekend Ka Vaar* episode is also going to offer a lot of drama yet again. In one of the promos released by the makers, it can be seen that Salman is bashing Ashnoor Kaur for hitting Tanya Mittal with a wooden plank during the *Ticket to Finale* task. Additionally, along with the *Dhak-Dhak* girl, renowned YouTuber Ashish Chanchlani will also be gracing the show.



Deepika Padukone's Sister Anisha Engaged? Wedding With Rohan Acharya May Connect Her To Sunny Deol



A grand new Bollywood-royal-filmmaker family wedding appears to be on the horizon — and Ranveer Singh may just be the accidental matchmaker behind it. According to a report in *Deccan Chronicle*, Deepika Padukone's younger sister, Anisha Padukone, is all set to marry into an influential family, one that connects the Padukones directly to the illustrious Deols. Rumours suggest that Anisha Padukone and Rohan Acharya have been dating for some time now. While neither family has confirmed the news, sources claim that preparations for the wedding are already underway, and an official announcement is expected soon.

How Anisha Padukone and Rohan Acharya's Marriage Links Deepika to the Deols

Anisha, daughter of badminton legend Prakash Padukone and Ujjala Padukone, is a professional golfer and the CEO of *Live Love Laugh*, Deepika's mental-health foundation. Often seen accompanying her superstar sister to public events, Anisha has largely kept her personal life private — until now.

Rohan Acharya, the man she is reportedly set to marry, comes from a lineage deeply rooted in Indian cinema. Based in Dubai, he is the son of Sumit Acharya and Chimoo Acharya. From his mother's side, he is the great-grandson of the legendary filmmaker Bimal Roy, with Chimoo being the daughter of Rinki Roy Bhattacharya and Basu Bhattacharya. Here's where the Bollywood mega-family connection comes in. Rohan's sister, Drisha Acharya, is married to Karan Deol, son of Sunny Deol and grandson of Dharmendra. This makes Rohan the brother-in-law of Sunny's son — and, in turn, Anisha's marriage will make Deepika Padukone distantly connected to the Deols by affinity.

Ranveer Singh's Surprising Role as Cupid

Interestingly, a source revealed that Ranveer Singh may have unwittingly played cupid in bringing the couple closer. "Ranveer Singh could well have played matchmaker. Ranveer's parents and Sumit Acharya are very close. It's a wonderful family, and Anisha and Rohan naturally clicked as they met over several gatherings," the insider shared.

Udita Goswami On How She And Mohit Suri Became A Couple In Goa: During The Shooting Of Zeher...



Udita Goswami was hit with a wave of nostalgia when she visited Goa for an event a little while ago. The actress-turned-DJ revealed she has numerous cherished memories tied to that place, especially in her personal life. The actress, who was seen in films like *Paap* and *Aksar*, later married filmmaker Mohit Suri. During an interview with *The Times of India*, Udita shared that Goa was the place where she and Mohit became a couple.

Udita Goswami Shares Cherished Memories in Goa

Taking a trip down memory lane, Udita recalled, "Goa is where Mohit and I first became a couple. It was during the shooting of *Zeher* after a party on the Caravela cruise. It was Mohit's first as a director and my second as an actor."

She further mentioned, "We have been together since then. We went back to Casa Britona, where we stayed during the shooting of *Zeher* and marked our first anniversary there. The date we got together in Goa was Nov 1. It was quite special!"

Udita, who now lives in Bandra with Mohit and her family, always finds a way to visit Goa. "It's so easy to travel there, especially because it is so close to Mumbai."

I have a lot of memories in Goa. I was here last year with my family for spring break. We celebrated Holi on the beach," she shared. Talking about how much her children like the place, Udita revealed, "My son Karrma loves the beaches here. Mohit and our daughter Devee enjoy water sports." She continued, "And when it comes to me, I just get busy eating the local Goan food. Back in the day when I shot *Zeher*, my introduction scene with Emraan Hashmi was shot opposite the famous Panjim church. Post pack-ups, Tony's Shack in Candolim used to be our favourite. It wasn't so crowded and packed then. In fact, we shot a scene at the shack too."

As a DJ, Udita now often gets to play in Goa, and she "loves" getting the crowd grooving.

Udita Goswami and Mohit Suri's Relationship

Udita Goswami and Mohit Suri started dating during the shooting of *Zeher* in 2005 and later tied the knot in 2013. The couple welcomed their first child, a daughter, in 2015, followed by their second child, a son, in 2018.



Yami Gautam

Gives Sneak-Peek Into Her 'Working' Birthday Celebration, Thanks Fans For Their Wishes

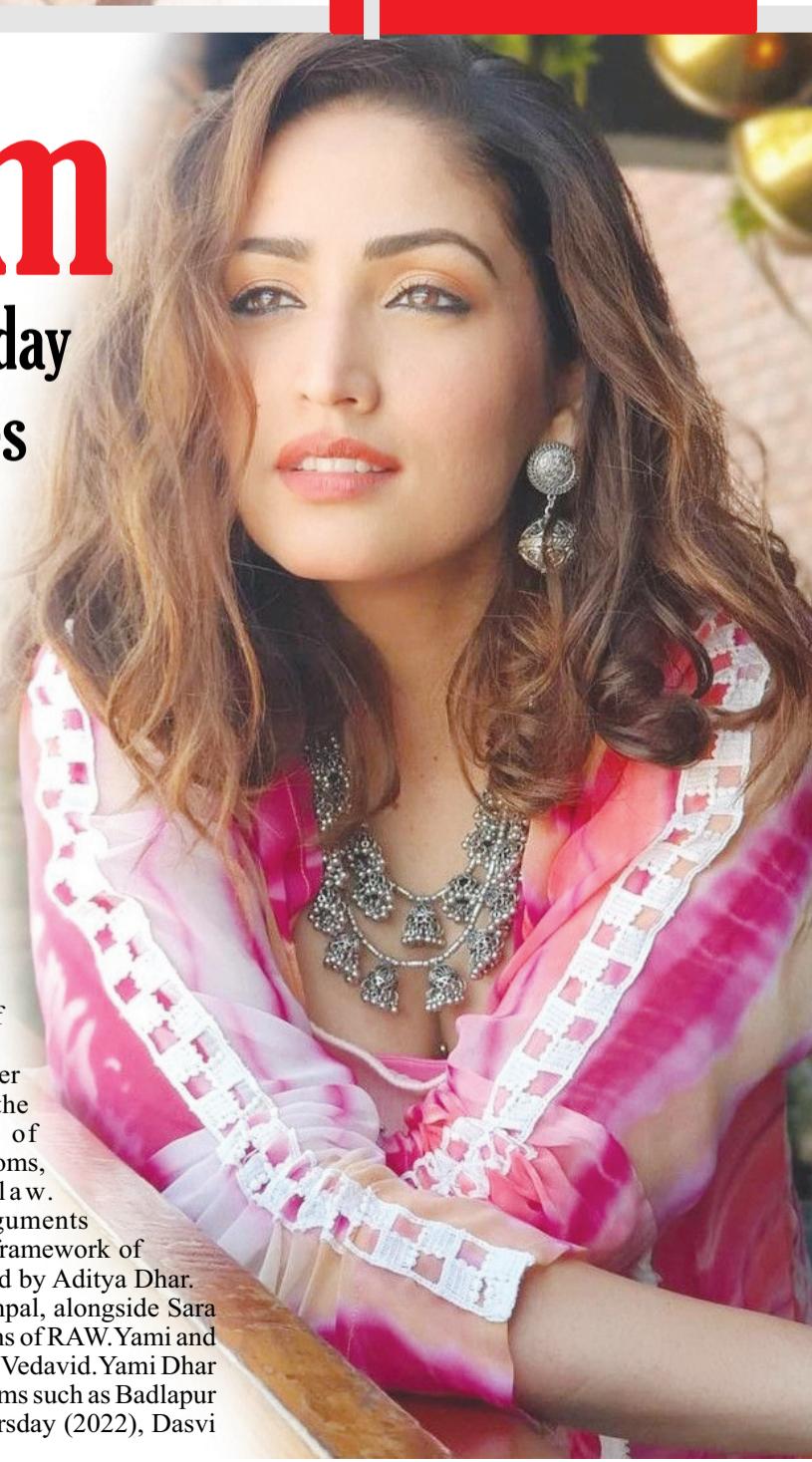
A day after celebrating her 37th birthday, actress Yami Gautam penned a thank you note and said that working birthdays are one of the best. Yami took to Instagram, where she shared a picture of herself cutting her birthday cake with the track "Gehra Hua" from the upcoming film "Dhurandhar" playing in the background.

For the caption, she wrote: "Working birthdays are one of the best birthdays. Celebrated with my home away from home." She added: "I am thankful to each one of you- audience, fans & media members for all your blessings & good wishes. Could feel the positivity with lots of love and for that I shall forever be grateful #GehraHua yeh pyaar gehra raha."

Yami's latest release is "Haq", which delves deep into themes of justice, faith, and women's rights. The film also stars Emraan Hashmi. The film is inspired by the landmark Supreme Court judgement of Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum, which dealt with matrimonial issues of Muslim households.

The narrative explores her pursuit of justice and the complex intersection of personal faith, social customs, and constitutional law. Through courtroom arguments

and testimonies, the film examines how legal systems interpret women's rights within the framework of religious and civil law. Talking about *Dhurandhar*, the upcoming spy action thriller is directed by Aditya Dhar. The film stars Ranveer Singh, Sanjay Dutt, Akshaye Khanna, R. Madhavan, and Arjun Rampal, alongside Sara Arjun. The film is inspired by the real-life incidents, geopolitical conflicts, and covert operations of RAW. Yami and Aditya got married in June 2021. On 10 May 2024, the couple had their first child, a boy named Vedavid. Yami Dhar made her Hindi film debut in *Vicky Donor* in 2012. She gained the spotlight with her work in films such as *Badlapur* (2015), *Kaabir* (2017), *Uri: The Surgical Strike* (2019), "Bala", *Bhoot Police* (2021), *A Thursday* (2022), *Dasvi* (2022), *Chor Nikal Ke Bhaga* (2023), *OMG 2* (2023) and *Article 370* (2024).



Simple ways to become a

Better cook



While eating out is the most popular activity, learning to cook does not seem to be so of late. In fact, it also does not seem to feature among the top-five resolutions. If you are among the health conscious, who plan to eat healthy this year, it is more effective if you learn to cook it yourself. All you need to do

is get rid of the awe around cooking. It is no rocket-science. Just remember some things for a hassle-free, healthy cooking...

► Make a commitment

Always remember that learning is a process and not just a single step. To become a good cook, you will require some

time to master in it. It is much more than reading a recipe and following a set of instructions. Says food blogger Vidhi Rayjani, "Often you may lose hope and just feel like ordering something from your neighbourhood restaurant, but try to remember your goal. Figure out what went wrong in the first dish you made and don't repeat it the next time

around."

► Pay attention

The first rule when you just start out cooking is to be attentive. Turn off your TV, don't talk on the phone or don't surf the internet while you are cooking. Be aware of what the food looks like or what it smells like etc. Paying attention to what you're cooking, also saves you from unwanted disaster. For example, if you have put something on the stove and get busy talking on the phone, chances are that the dish could end up getting burnt as you are distracted.

► Organise well

The trick to becoming a better cook is by keeping everything you need while cooking at hand. Since you are not used to the whole process of cooking, you may forget about having everything prepped and chopped before you begin. Before you start, make sure that you have all the ingredients you require for the dish so that you don't have to do any last-minute running around.

► Taste your food while you cook

Don't wait for your cooking to get done completely. Flavour is built up in layers — when you taste the food in various stages of being cooked, you will get different flavours. For example if you are cooking with tomato, you will notice how the flavour of a tomato sauce deepens as it cooks or how a carrot goes from a simple vegetable to a rich and sweet dessert. Also when it comes to seasoning, always remember that there's more to it than salty or sweet. Many dishes can also be fixed easily with a jolt of acidity.

► Keep it simple

Just like you don't become an excellent driver until you have spent a considerable amount of time on the road, similarly you won't become a chef in a day. Begin by learning a few basics — a vegetable or chicken soup, an omelette, dal and chawal are a few. Repeat them until you are satisfied with the result. Move over to another dish only when you have mastered the simple ones.

► Shop with care

As a beginner, you may feel that the real cooking starts in the kitchen, but you are wrong. It really starts in the market. Select the ripest of fruits, the deeply coloured vegetables or the fresh variety of meats. Devote an extra 10 minutes to choose the best ingredients as it will save you hours of cooking time.

► Get the right equipment

There are a few essential equipments that you need to have. These include a skillet, woks, roasting pans, slow cookers, casserole dishes and salad bowls. Home baker Geeta Subodh says, "Besides these, a well-stocked kitchen includes a saucepan, cutting boards, one for meat and one for vegetables. Use a big cutting board — the bigger the board, the more room you will have for quickly prepping ingredients. You should also have a set of mixing bowls and measuring cups and spoons."

► Keep a well-stocked pantry

You shouldn't think of your kitchen as just an ordinary kitchen. While you are making a shopping list, and as you cook and use the ingredients, keep your pantry in mind. Every time you reach the bottom of your ginger-garlic paste or vinegar bottle, always jot it down on your list, so that you won't come up empty-handed the next time you are about to cook.

Tried fresh fruit popsicles yet?



Want to get your kids to enjoy fruit and still indulge in a chilled treat? How about making some fruit popsicles? They're a healthier alternative to aerated drinks and high-sugar syrups. These popsicles are not just a natural fix, but also make for a smarter dessert idea. They help you stay hydrated and give you an energy boost.

HOW TO MAKE THE COLD POPS

- Mash the fruit in a bowl and spoon it into the popsicle moulds.
- Add some juice or lime water for extra taste.
- Place these in the fridge.
- When semi-set, insert a stick in each and re-freeze.
- When set, run the moulds under cold water to ease out the pops.

DIFFERENT KINDS
There's a lot to try out. Use fresh orange or

mosambi that are always in season. Mix pomegranate (the fruit has a low glycemic-index and is recommended for obese and diabetic patients) with lemon and a little cinnamon. Try hibiscus with pomegranate by mixing hibiscus tea with pomegranate juice, opt for peach pulp with honey or make the popsicles yoghurt-style by adding fresh yoghurt to the mix. With the summer coming up soon, you can also make coconut water popsicles as the fruit is high in potassium and extremely hydrating.



Tried some Gujarati Parsi?

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