

"They Safeguard Our Shores": PM Modi's Praise On Navy Day

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday extended greetings to all Indian Navy personnel on the occasion of Navy Day, praising the force for its growing self-reliance, steadfast resolve and the valour with which it guards the nation's maritime frontiers.

Navy Day is observed annually on December 4 to commemorate the Indian Navy's achievements and its contribution to national security. The date marks the Navy's success during the 1971 war, when, under Operation Trident, Indian forces sank four Pakistani vessels, including PNS Khaibar, delivering a decisive blow to the Pakistani Navy.

In a post on X, the Prime Minister said, "Navy Day greetings to all personnel of the Indian Navy. Our Navy is synonymous with exceptional courage and determination. They safeguard our shores and uphold our maritime interests. In recent years, our Navy has focused on self-reliance and modernisation. This has enhanced our security apparatus." PM

Modi noted that he would always cherish the memories of this year's Diwali, which he spent with naval personnel aboard the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant.

In a video message, the Prime Minister underlined the Navy's critical role in securing the nation's

Indian Navy is increasing exponentially," he said.

He further emphasised India's longstanding tradition of using strength for global good, stating, "India's tradition has been about power and strength. Our knowledge, our strength and our strength is for the service of humanity and for the security of humanity. Today, when the economic system of the country is dependent on the interconnected world and progressive maritime borders, India's Navy is playing an important role in global stability." Meanwhile, the Indian Navy on Wednesday demonstrated its expanding maritime capabilities in an operational showcase off the Thiruvananthapuram coast in Kerala.

From the indigenous aircraft carrier INS Vikrant to the frontline frigate Udaygiri, the event highlighted the force's multi-domain combat readiness. President Droupadi Murmu, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, witnessed the display from Shangumugham Beach as part of the Navy Day celebrations.

maritime boundaries and economic lifelines. "In the ocean, our Navy is determined to protect the maritime borders and commercial interests of the country. Whether it is offshore petrol vessels, submarines or aircraft carriers. Today, the strength of the



"Children, Elderly Suffering": Sonia Gandhi Demands Action Against Pollution

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Thursday asked the Centre to take action to curb air pollution in Delhi-NCR, saying the children and elderly are suffering.

Speaking to reporters outside the Parliament, Sonia Gandhi said, "It is the responsibility of the Government to do something. Young children are suffering, and it is also difficult for elderly people like me."

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also flagged the issue, alleging that no concrete action has been taken. She added that the Opposition does not want to politicise the issue and

will stand with the Centre when steps are taken to curb pollution. "Which weather should we enjoy? Look at the situation outside. As Sonia ji said, children are unable to breathe. She has asthma, and senior citizens like her are facing breathing difficulty. The situation keeps getting worse year after year. Only statements are made every year; no concrete action is taken. We have all said that the government has to take action, and we all stand with them. This is not a political issue that we would point fingers at each other," the Congress MP said. Earlier today,



Opposition MPs held a protest in front of Makar Dwar on the Parliament premises against the Centre over air pollution in Delhi-NCR and parts of North India. The MPs were seen wearing an oxygen mask and holding a banner to take a

jibe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which read "Mausam ka maza lijiye" (enjoy the weather). The remark on the banner followed PM Modi's address at the start of the Winter Session of Parliament, in which he said so. Raising slogans, the leaders demanded a parliamentary discussion on air pollution. Congress President and Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, and Congress Parliamentary Party President Sonia Gandhi also joined the protest outside the Parliament building.

Andhra Allots 480 Acres For Adani-Google AI Data Centre In Visakhapatnam

Amaravati.(Agency)

Andhra Pradesh government has allotted 480 acres of land in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts to Adani Infra (India) Pvt Ltd, a 'notified partner' of Raiden Infotech India, a Google company, for setting up 1 GW AI Data Centres in the state. The Google entity had informed the state government earlier that Adani Infra (India) Pvt Ltd, AdaniConneX India Pvt Ltd, Adani Power India Pvt Ltd, Bharti Airtel Ltd, Nxtre Data Ltd and Nxtre Vizag Limited (subsidiary of Bharti Airtel) as 'notified partners'.

Raiden has specifically requested that all three land parcels identified by Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd (APIIC) may be allotted to Adani Infra (India), as the primary notified partner, subject to completing survey and handing over possession.



"The Government, after careful examination of the proposal, and as per the approval accorded by the council of ministers in its meeting dated 28/11/2025 hereby accords permission for the transfer of 480 acres of land in Visakhapatnam

and Anakapalli districts to M/s Adani Infra (India) Private Limited," the order issued on December 2 said.

Raiden Infotech India Pvt Ltd, which is setting up Data Centers in a phased manner, with a cumulative investment of over 87,500 crore in Andhra Pradesh will get back Rs 22,000 crore as incentives from the state government over a period of time.

According to the GO, Raiden has requested the government to authorise its notified partners, along with Raiden, to avail all incentives that the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu's regime had promised for the benefit of the Data Centre Project. This project will be built to the same exacting standards that power Google services like Search, YouTube and Workspace, the GO added.

Tradition broken: Rahul Gandhi cries foul over no Opposition-Putin meeting

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Congress MP and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Thursday accused the government of systematically keeping opposition leaders away from visiting foreign dignitaries, a practice he said was respected by previous administrations but has now been 'abandoned'. Gandhi, speaking ahead of Russian President Vladimir Putin's arrival in New Delhi, argued that the Opposition's meetings with foreign delegations were a long-standing parliamentary norm.

"It used to happen during the governments of Vajpayee ji and Manmohan Singh ji. This has been a tradition. But these days, when foreign dignitaries visit or when I travel abroad, the government advises them not to meet the LoP.

We, too, represent India. It is not just the government," Rahul Gandhi said while speaking to reporters outside Parliament.

He said both the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Ministry routinely steer visiting delegations away from the Opposition, calling it an act driven by 'insecurity'. According to the Congress leader, the government does not want the LoP to offer a different perspective on India's position. Rahul Gandhi's allegation came as Putin is scheduled to land in Delhi around 4.30 pm today. PM Modi will host him for a private dinner shortly after arrival, a reciprocal gesture after Putin hosted PM Modi in Moscow last year.

Their formal talks on Friday will focus on expanding defence cooperation, protecting India-Russia trade from external pressure, and exploring collaboration in small modular nuclear reactors, all unfolding against a notable downturn in India's ties with the United States.

Meanwhile, the Congress, invoking the 1955 India tour of Soviet leaders Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev, said today's India-Russia relationship flows directly from that early Indo-Soviet partnership, forged in the closing months of that year. "These ties go back even longer. Exactly 70 years ago the top two leaders of the USSR came to India. Nikolai Bulganin and Nikita Khrushchev were here for an extraordinary 19 days: from November 18 to 30, 1955, and again from Dec 7 to 14, 1955. This followed Jawaharlal Nehru's journey to the USSR six months earlier," Congress general secretary-in-charge Jairam Ramesh said.

Speaking to reporters, Rahul Gandhi said that successive governments once ensured visiting foreign leaders met both the Treasury and Opposition benches, but alleged the current dispensation has broken that tradition.



News box

Only 20% of housing projects in Noida have cleared their dues**Noida.(Agency)**

A comprehensive financial review of 116 group housing projects allotted between the mid-2000s and early 2010s shows the Noida Authority has yet to recover Rs 34,283 crore in dues as of Nov 30.

However, a bulk of this amount, about Rs 26,000 crore, is tied up in projects under insolvency proceedings or litigation, making it effectively unrecoverable in the near term. Of these are Rs 18,703 crore is from nine Amrapali projects and from five Unitech projects, both under Supreme Court supervision. Another Rs 7,300 crore is entangled in 16 NCLT cases. Beyond these, dues from incomplete and completed-but-pending projects add to the financial burden. So far, only 26 projects of the 116 have cleared their payments.

With Rs 13,509 crore pending across five major land parcels, Authority's largest defaulter is Unitech. The biggest liability arises from a 2006 allotment spanning sectors 96, 97 and 98, followed by plots allotted between 2007 and 2011 in sectors 117, 113 and 144. Prolonged litigation, construction halts and the developer's financial collapse prompted the Supreme Court to take over its management and appoint a new board. The court has now barred the Authority from recovering its dues until further orders, effectively freezing the entire Unitech liability. The Amrapali Group, whose nine housing projects, including Silicon City (Sector 76), Zodiac (Sector 120), Sapphire (Sector 45), Princely Estate (Sector 76) and Eden Park (Sector 50), were allotted mainly between 2009 and 2011, owes Rs 5,193 crore. The projects suffered long delays, pushing homebuyers to consumer courts and eventually the Supreme Court. A 2019 forensic audit exposed large-scale fund diversion, leading the court to cancel the developer's registration and appoint a receiver while tasking NBCC with completing the projects. With all financial decisions under court supervision, the Authority cannot pursue recovery.

Sixteen developers, currently before the NCLT facing insolvency proceedings, together owe around Rs 7,300 crore and includes some of the city's most prominent stalled projects, including Granite Gate Properties in Sector 110 (Rs 1,260 crore), Logix Infratech in Sector 143 (Rs 940 crore), Logix City Developers (Rs 800 crore), and Three C Projects in Sector 168 (Rs 700 crore). Supertech Group projects in the tribunal cumulatively add over Rs 1,000 crore more.

Narrow and crowded: 7 Ghaziabad junctions set for revamp**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Ghaziabad Development Authority (GDA) is set to engage Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) to prepare a comprehensive mobility plan for the city. The project will focus on seven roundabouts, which will be revamped to help ease snarls at key junctions. Of these, the Hapur Chungi is set to see a revamp of Rs 150 crore. Other selected roundabouts include Thakurdwara trisection, Madhuban Bapudham roundabouts, Pratap Vihar DPS Chowk, Ajanara Integrity in RNE, Ashiana Chowk, and Bunkar Mart Chowk. "We are in talks with RITES to prepare a comprehensive mobility plan for the city, for which we hope that in five months the agency will submit its report," GDA vice chairperson Nand Kishore Kalal said at a press meet on Wednesday. Currently, Hapur Chungi roundabout sees the merging of traffic from all four directions — Kavindagar, RNE, DM office, and towards the police line. The stretch is notorious for long snarls even during non-peak hours. "To beat the jam at this point, we have come up with a plan to construct an elevated road from RNE towards Kavindagar and Shastri Nagar, which will bypass Hapur Chungi, thus enabling the free flow of traffic to and from the police line side. The stretch will be 1.5km long, have four lanes, and the estimated cost of the project will be Rs 150 crore, for which GDA will use its fund," Kalal said.

The identified roundabouts sees huge traffic influx which over the time has only grown manifold. Officials said that RITES have been roped in to suggest ways to ensure smooth commuting. For example, Thakurdwara is cramped for space, while RNE roundabout is not "scientifically designed", officials explained. While almost all roundabouts invariably witness jams, reasons for traffic congestion may differ. As such, the report from RITES is expected to provide solutions by identifying the exact nature of problems ailing each roundabout.

Noida adding 2.2k connections each mth, 120 MW power demand annually**Noida.(Agency)**

Power demand in the city has been steadily rising, with the discom recording an annual increase of around 120 megawatts (MW), department officials said. The demand can mostly be attributed to more people buying residences in the city and the expansion of commercial and industrial activities. On average, the city adds nearly 2,200 new electricity connections every month, even as about 170 consumers opt for disconnection. Officials said that almost 10 MW of load is added to the system every month. This contributes to the yearly increase. Seasonal variation remains stark, with demand dropping to around 1,600 MW in winter from 3,000 MW during the peak summer months. The district has about 4.5 lakh consumers, of whom about 85% are domestic consumers. They account for 43% of the overall electricity consumption. Commercial users account for only 1% of total connections and use up to 28% of total electricity supplied. Industries make up 2% of the consumers and account for 24% of consumption. However, with industrial zones coming up in the district, the consumption is likely to rise. The remaining 3% includes various other categories, such as agricultural tube wells, contributing to the last 5% of energy use. Meanwhile, the power department is engaged in infrastructure upgrades and repairs of old, dilapidated cables, poles, and transformers. They are ramping up substations to address the rising demand and to address local faults due to pressure on overloaded infrastructure.

Thick smog hangs over Gurgaon, air poor for 5 days**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The city's air quality slipped again on Wednesday, with the AQI rising to 282 from 277 a day earlier. Three of the four CPCB stations were functional. NISE Gwalpahari reported the worst reading at 338 (very poor), while Sector 51 and Vikas Sadan logged readings of 252 and 251 (poor), respectively. Teri Gram did not record data. The city remains in the "poor" band, edging closer to "very poor", and Gwalpahari has again pulled the average up. The region saw clear skies and northwesterly winds up to 10kmph through Wednesday, increasing to 15kmph in the forenoon of Thursday. The short-term outlook stays cold and hazy. Clear skies with mist or haze are expected at night, and shallow fog in the mornings.

Maximum temperatures are likely to hover between 23 and 25°C over the next 24 hours, falling further to 22–24°C on Dec 4 and 5. Minimum temperatures are expected between 5 and 7°C, dipping to 4–6°C later in the week, all below normal for this time of year. Northwesterly or westerly winds are likely to fluctuate between 10 and 15 kmph. Mixing heights are forecast to vary between 950 and 1200

metres till Dec 6, with ventilation indices mostly below the 6000 m³/s threshold needed for effective pollutant dispersion.

With lower mixing depth and slower winds, dispersion conditions remain weak. Given these conditions, the DSS expects Delhi's air to stay in the "very poor" range through Dec 6, with no improvement in the following week. An HSPCB official said the pattern is in line with what they see each winter. "Low temperatures, slow winds, and shallow mixing height are locking pollutants close to the ground. Conditions for dispersion are weak, so we don't expect meaningful improvement until wind speed picks up," the official said. Officials have issued a district-specific advisory for Gurgaon.

With the city trapped in a cold, stagnant air mass, conditions for rapid improvement remain limited. Residents, especially those with asthma, COPD, or heart disease, may need to limit strenuous outdoor activity until the weekend. "Air pollution can definitely make people feel more lethargic and fatigued. When harmful pollutants such as particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), nitrogen

dioxide, and carbon monoxide are inhaled, they interfere with the body's ability to get enough oxygen," said Dr Arunesh Kumar, director & HOD-pulmonologist, Paras Health, Gurgaon



He added, "This means that even though a person is breathing normally, less oxygen actually reaches the bloodstream and organs. As a result, the body has to work harder to maintain basic energy levels, which can make people feel constantly tired or sluggish. In addition, polluted air triggers inflammation and oxidative stress in the body. These reactions affect the brain's alertness and the muscles' efficiency, leading to symptoms like

headaches, muscle weakness, and poor concentration. Many people also experience disturbed sleep or shortness of breath due to high pollution levels, which further adds to fatigue. Over time, continuous exposure can weaken the immune system and drain overall stamina, making everyday activities feel more exhausting than usual."

Meanwhile, Delhi saw slightly better ventilation conditions, which pulled most of the areas out of the severe category by late afternoon. The air quality index at 9am was 371, which was 365 by 11am and 349 by 3pm. The average AQI at 4pm was 342 against 372 on Tuesday. By 9pm, AQI reached the lower range of very poor at 313. It is likely to remain very poor for the next few days. The cool northeasterly winds, reaching up to 15km/hour towards the afternoon, also brought the minimum temperature down by 3 degrees over the past 24 hours. At 6.4 degrees Celsius, it was three notches below normal against 9.6 degrees on Tuesday. The maximum temperature was 23.7 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, against 25.8 degrees a day earlier.

Con bana crorepati: 'Owner' turned up everywhere selling plots he didn't own in Gurgaon**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 27-year-old man, who allegedly cheated around 100 people, was arrested on Wednesday in what police described as one of the biggest property-related frauds uncovered in the district this year. The economic offences wing (EOW-I) arrested Nitish Kumar, an MPhil holder, in a Rs 10-crore fraud. Kumar, who hails from Bihar's Begusarai, posed as the owner of plots that were never his and executed forged sale agreements, EOW officials said. A senior officer said, "In several cases, he sold the same plot to four or five people. So far, 96 victims have been identified. He prepared fake agreements by falsely claiming ownership of land belonging to others." According to police, Kumar, who has been living in Rithoij village in Gurgaon since 2021, ran a property firm named Khatushyam Property and simultaneously operated a private school — Shiv Ganga Public School — in the same village. They said the mix of an educational institution and a property business helped him build credibility among prospective buyers.

An officer said, "The case surfaced on Sept 18 after a complainant approached Bhondsi police station saying, Nitish sold him a plot in Rayan Enclave, Dev Nagar Part-2. Nitish allegedly claimed ownership, executed an agreement to sell, and even gave possession. But within three days, he forcibly took back possession, returning only part of the amount and cheating the buyer of about Rs 30 lakh." When EOW-I began verifying the complaint, they discovered that Nitish followed the same modus operandi with dozens of buyers across the Bhondsi-Rithoij belt. Acting on technical inputs, the EOW-I team arrested Nitish from Rithoij. "Nitish told police that he used the cheated money to purchase agricultural land from farmers in Bihar. Police are also probing whether more people or middlemen were involved in the racket," the officer added.

58-year-old on cycle dies in Gurgaon's DLF-2 hit & run**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 58-year-old man died after being hit by a car while cycling in DLF 2 on Wednesday morning. The incident occurred around 7am on one of the internal roads where Amitabh Jain, a resident of Bougainvillea Marg in the same locality, routinely went cycling. Passersby rushed Jain to a private hospital, where he died a couple of hours later. According to police, CCTV footage shows a white Santro car ramming into the cyclist and fleeing the spot. The vehicle, registered in Delhi, has been traced. "We have identified the car — DL 3C BQ 2461 — and are working to trace the owner. He will be arrested soon," SHO Sunil Kumar said. A relative said, "He shifted to Gurgaon in 2014 and lived here with his wife, who is a senior conservator at Parliament Museum. He would go cycling every morning on Akashneem Marg. When we reached Max Hospital, his pulse was visible and there were no major external injuries. But

his pulse began to drop and around 9am he breathed his last. Their elder son, 29, works at an IT company in London, and their daughter, 25, lives in Bengaluru."

The SHO said the autopsy would be conducted on Thursday after Jain's son arrives from London. The body has been kept in the local mortuary. A case has been registered under sections 281 (rash driving), 106 (death by negligence) and 324(2) (mischievous) of BNS at DLF Phase 2 police station. The family of Jain, who earlier ran a chemist shop in Delhi's Malka Ganj area, is struggling to come to terms with the loss. "He was a travel enthusiast and recently went on a bike trip to Jaipur. Everyone is in shock. He underwent a liver transplant nearly 10 years ago and to think that someone who survived that died in a road accident is heartbreaking," the relative added. Pedestrians, cyclists and two-wheeler riders remain among the most vulnerable road users. This year, around 15 cyclists

have died in over 25 accidents in the city, while last year saw 18 deaths in 27 incidents. Overall, 428 people have lost their lives in around 1,000 road accidents in Gurgaon till Nov this year, compared with 442 fatalities during the same period last year. A total of 478 people were killed in road crashes in 2024. "The internal roads of our colony have virtually turned into a thoroughfare between NH8 and MG Road, especially for cabs and outsiders. Security has been reduced to a formality as anyone can drive in without being stopped. The guards are just there for name's sake and speeding vehicles inside the residential lanes put lives at risk. It is the developer's responsibility to ensure a secure living and the least they can do is introduce proper access-controlled entry into the colony. Every entry point should have a boom barrier and monitoring system. It is extremely unfortunate that such an incident happened," said.

Paradiso buyer wins Rs1.7cr refund over unsafe flat, Rera orders developer to pay with interest**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority (Rera) has directed Chintels India Pvt Ltd to refund more than Rs 1.7 crore, along with interest and compensation, to a homebuyer whose flat in the Chintels Paradiso complex was declared unsafe for human habitation. The ruling adds to mounting pressure on the developer, whose project in Sector 109 is likely to be brought to the ground after all six towers were declared unsafe due to severe structural defects. The complainant, Kumar Manglam Dalmia, had bought a 2,050 sq ft unit — Flat No 703 in Tower H — for Rs 1 crore. Initially booked in 2011, the flat was transferred to his name in 2012. But was never handed over as Tower H remained unfinished, showing cracks, seepage and poor-quality interiors even before Feb 10, 2022, when the living rooms in Tower D collapsed

vertically through five floors, killing two residents. Following the collapse, the administration brought in experts from IIT-Delhi to examine the structural integrity of the towers. Their investigation pointed to widespread chloride contamination in the concrete, corrosion of steel reinforcement bars and multiple construction deficiencies. IIT engineers concluded that repairs were neither technically feasible nor financially viable. While Tower D was evacuated

immediately after the cave-in, Towers E and F were declared unsafe in March 2023, G in June 2023, H in July 2023, I in Jan 2024, C in Aug 2024 (done by CBRI), A in Oct 2024 (CBRI), and finally B in Dec 2024 (also CBRI).

Many residents, including Dalmia, approached the Supreme Court seeking rehabilitation and safety protocols. The court accepted a proposal from the district administration offering two alternatives. First, financial compensation at Rs 6,500 per sq ft plus interior costs, stamp duty refund, shifting charges and rent until payment is completed, and second, reconstruction of the entire project, with rent paid to homeowners until completion. A valuation committee put the worth of Dalmia's unit at Rs 1,70,51,397, a figure that later became the benchmark in his compensation claim before the RERA

immediately after the cave-in, Towers E and F were declared unsafe in March 2023, G in June 2023, H in July 2023, I in Jan 2024, C in Aug 2024 (done by CBRI), A in Oct 2024 (CBRI), and finally B in Dec 2024 (also CBRI).

Many residents, including Dalmia, approached the Supreme Court seeking rehabilitation and safety protocols. The court accepted a proposal from the district administration offering two alternatives. First, financial compensation at Rs 6,500 per sq ft plus interior costs, stamp duty refund, shifting charges and rent until payment is completed, and second, reconstruction of the entire project, with rent paid to homeowners until completion. A valuation committee put the worth of Dalmia's unit at Rs 1,70,51,397, a figure that later became the benchmark in his compensation claim before the RERA

Haryana's 'serial killer mom': How one locked storeroom exposed chilling trail of kids drowned in tubs**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

It began like any other village wedding — blaring band music, relatives rushing about, children running up and down the stairs. But somewhere amid the lights, laughter and baraat chaos in Naultha village, a predator moved silently. A woman in a bright salwar suit, blending easily into the crowd, watched a six-year-old girl skip past her — and felt the familiar, dangerous pull. Within hours, little Vidhi would be found face down in a plastic tub, the "accident" that would finally unmask one of Haryana's most chilling child-killing sprees — a woman who police say targeted children she believed were "more attractive than hers", murdering four of them, including her own son. The Killing Method

families as tragic accidents. In her statement, officers said, Poonam admitted she was driven by an urge to harm children she thought were "better looking than her own", and killed her 3-year-old son because she feared he had seen her commit one of the murders. Poonam, a farmer's wife from Bhawar village in Sonipat and mother of a four-year-old boy, was arrested on Tuesday. Police said she lured Vidhi into filling a tub with water, asked her to carry it into a storeroom, drowned her, locked the door from outside and then calmly returned to the wedding festivities.

Poonam SP Bhupendra Singh said the control room received a call on December 1 reporting that a six-year-old girl had been found drowned inside a house in Naultha, about 15km from Panipat. A police team found Vidhi lying face down in a plastic tub in a first-floor storeroom, her head submerged. The scene seemed suspicious from the start. A forensic team examined the

room, and a board of doctors at Civil Hospital later suspected homicide. The cases 1st case Sister-in-law's 9-year-old daughter Ishika found drowned in Jan 2023 2nd case: Her 3-year-old son Shubham died later in 2023rd case: Cousin's 6-yr-old kid found drowned in Aug 20254th case: 6-yr-old Vidhi found dead in a water tub on Dec 1. Poonam was her aunt. The chilling wedding Based on a complaint by Vidhi's grandfather, Pal Singh, a case was registered against unknown persons at Israna police station. Vidhi had travelled from Bhawar with her family for the wedding. Late Monday night, amid the bustle of the baraat setting off, Pal received a call that the child was missing. His wife, Ompti, and Vidhi's mother, Rakhi, searched the house in a nearby street. Around 2am, when Ompti climbed to the first floor, she noticed the storeroom door locked from outside. When she opened it, Vidhi lay motionless, face down in a tub full of water. The child's father rushed her to Israna Medical College, where she was declared dead.

Police began questioning everyone present at the wedding. Officers noticed inconsistencies in Poonam's account and grew suspicious.

During sustained interrogation, she broke down and confessed — not just to Vidhi's murder, but to three earlier killings using the same method. Married in 2019, Poonam killed her firstborn, Shubham, in 2023 when he was three, police said. According to her statement, she first killed her sister-in-law's nine-year-old daughter, Ishika, in January 2023 by drowning her in a water tank at their Bhawar home. Fearing that Shubham might reveal what he saw, she drowned him next. Both deaths were accepted as accidents by the family.

Then, in August this year, she murdered her cousin's six-year-old daughter, Jiya, at her maternal home in Siwah village — again by drowning her in a tub. No one connected the pattern until Vidhi's death forced investigators to look deeper. Police said Poonam confessed that on Monday night, when most guests.

THE SIKH TIMES

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

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

Editor-in-Chief

Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob: 9654077232, 9971359517

Website : www.thesikhtimes.in

Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Experts explore AI-enabled sensor networks to tackle urban air pollution

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: As several Indian cities reel under severe air pollution, experts on Wednesday gathered at a national workshop organised by IIT Kanpur's Airawat Research Foundation (ARF) to discuss how AI-enabled low-cost sensor networks can help cities generate hyperlocal, real-time air quality data. Held at the India International Centre, the workshop brought together experts from academia, industry and government to discuss expanding dense sensor networks, setting common data standards and using AI for pollution forecasting. A major theme of

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as CHAWANG WO GHAN SHYAM, R/o U-44, Mata Chowk, Welcome, Seelampur, PO: Seelampur, Dist: North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as REKHA DEVI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Varun Pradeep Hedaoo S/o Pradip Baburao R/o C4 Type 4, Tower 5, East Kidwai Nagar, South West Delhi-110023 Have Changed my Name to Varun Pradeep Hedaoo for All Future Purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, HAR KOUR W/O PREM SINGH R/o H-506, NIT-5 FARIDABAD-121001 HAVE CHANGE MY NAME TO HAR KAUR ARORA FOR ALL PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, Asmeena Begum, W/O Naik Mohammad is residing at Room No. 31 SNCOS Mess, 13 BRD, AF Palam New Delhi 110010, have changed my name from Ravinder Kaur for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Asmeena Begum, W/O Naik Mohammad is residing at Room No. 31 SNCOS Mess, 13 BRD, AF Palam New Delhi 110010, have changed my name from Ravinder Kaur for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes. Henceforth, Ish Kumar and Ish Kumar Lakhpal refer to the same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJEEETA KUSHWAHA wife of NO-1466033K, Rank-HAV, Name-PAPPU KUSHWAHA residing at VPO-KUSHWAHA MAHANTH PATTI, TEHSIL-KASIA DIST-KUSHINAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-274401, have changed my name from SANJEEETA KUSHWAHA to SANGITA KUSHWAHA for all future purposes, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 10/07/1985 instead of my correct date of birth as 12/07/1986 vide Affidavit dated 04/12/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, No. 4189004W, Rank-EX-HAV NAME-RAMESH KUMAR S/o RAM NIWAS residing at VPO-SIRSALI, TEHSIL-CHURU, DISTT-CHURU RAJASTHAN-331029, have changed my mother's name from PHULI DEVI to PHULVATI YADAV for all future purposes, in my Army service record my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1950 instead of her correct date of birth as 11/10/1952 vide Affidavit dated 04/12/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ish Kumar Lakhpal, S/o Rajender Kumar, R/o House No. 1025, Pocket-1, Sector-C, Vasant Kunj, South Delhi-110070, have changed my name to Ish Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE</

NEWS BOX

Venmo Responds After Users Report Widespread Outage, Issues With Fund Transfer

World. (Agency)

Venmo, the mobile payment giant, suffered a major outage on Wednesday with thousands of users in the United States reporting issues with the app loading, login, and fund transfer across Android and iOS, according to Downdetector, which is an outage monitoring site. Users took to social media platforms to claim they were unable to send or receive payments, and many were frustrated with the lack of updates from Venmo. But in a late-night post, the company updated the customers by saying that they are aware of the issue, and a team is working on fixing it. The outage began on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, during peak evening hours in the US, with reports flooding in on Downdetector. At around 3:50 pm (PT), more than 4,000 users reported problems, which kept rising, and at around 5:00 pm, more than 60,000 reports were logged, according to Swikblog.

Social media reaction

"@Venmo kind of scary when all your payment info goes missing. App doesn't work. Cannot get a hold of anyone in customer service. Did y'all get hacked?" said one user. Another user slammed the platform for not responding, saying, "@Venmo if there's an outage you prob need to acknowledge it, so we can stop panicking about our funds and cards not working...just a thought." "@Venmo It's amazing that you can leave thousands of users without access to their money for hours, and not release any sort of statement at all," a third user wrote.

"Not a single explanation as to why venmo is down and nothing about what caused it or when it's going to be up and running. People are expecting their paychecks and paying bills and this happens at the 11th hour? shame on @Venmo," one user said.

US Air Force F-16 Jet Bursts Into Flames During Training In California

WORLD. (Agency)

A US Air Force Thunderbird F-16C Fighting Falcon has crashed during a training mission in the Southern California desert. The pilot survived the crash by ejecting safely, according to a statement by the US Air Force. The brief statement from the Air Force did not provide details on the circumstances of the crash but said it is under investigation, and further information will be released by the 57th Wing Public Affairs Office. A video of the crash was shared widely on social media, showing the pilot making a timely ejection while the fighter jet drifted slowly toward the ground. The plane burst into flames after coming into contact with the ground. According to the US Air Force, the crash happened around 10:45 am on Wednesday during a training mission "over controlled airspace in California".

The jet was assigned to the Air Force's elite demonstration team based at Nellis Air Force Base, according to a report by the Los Angeles Times.

The pilot received "non-life-threatening" injuries during ejection and is being treated at a hospital, according to the San Bernardino County Fire Department. In a statement, the San Bernardino County Fire Department said it responded to the "aircraft emergency" near Trona, an unincorporated community in the Mojave Desert about 180 miles (290 kilometres) north of Los Angeles.

What Israel's Plan To Reopen Rafah Border Crossing Means For Gazans

WORLD. (Agency)

Israel said Wednesday that it would reopen the Rafah border crossing in the coming days, allowing Palestinians to leave Gaza. That could be a major development for residents of the devastated strip, for whom leaving has been extremely difficult - if not impossible - for most of the war. The announcement has raised hopes that thousands of sick and wounded people in Gaza will finally be able to access the care they need. Gaza's health system was decimated by the two-year war, rendering advanced surgical procedures out of reach. But, there are complications. For one, Israel says Palestinians wanting to leave Gaza will have to get Israeli and Egyptian security approval. It's unclear what criteria that will involve. Another key dispute: Israel says that until militants in Gaza return all the hostages they took in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war, it will only allow Palestinians to exit Gaza, not enter. Egypt, meanwhile, says it wants the crossing immediately opened in both directions, so Palestinians in Egypt can enter Gaza. That's a position rooted in Egypt's vehement opposition to Palestinian refugees permanently resettling in the country.

Before the war, Rafah bustled with goods and people passing to and from Egypt and Gaza. Although Gaza has four other border crossings, they are shared with Israel, and only Rafah links the territory with another country. After Hamas-led militants invaded southern Israel in 2023, killing roughly 1,200 people and taking 251 others hostage, Egypt tightened its restrictions on traffic through the Rafah crossing. After Israel took control of the Gaza side in May 2024 as part of its offensive that has killed more than 70,100 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, it closed the crossing except to the occasional medical evacuation. The ministry does not distinguish between militants and civilians, though it says roughly half of those killed have been women and children. 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. A reopened Rafah crossing would make it easier for Palestinians in Gaza to seek medical treatment, travel internationally or visit family in Egypt.

The 14 short videos and still photographs depict Epstein's estate on Little Saint James island in the US Virgin Islands.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Democrats in the US Congress released photos and videos Wednesday showing the luxury island home where convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein allegedly forced underage girls into sex with powerful men. The images of Epstein's former Caribbean hideaway shed little new light on the complex scandal.

However, they could add pressure on the Trump administration to comply with a requirement to release all the investigative files compiled during years of probes into Epstein's activities -- with potentially embarrassing and politically explosive repercussions. The 14 short videos and still photographs depict Epstein's estate on



Little Saint James island in the US Virgin Islands. Images show a luxurious villa, landscaping down to the seashore and a large outdoor swimming pool. A chalkboard in one room is inscribed with words that include "deception," "power," "truth," and "political." Other words have been redacted by the Democrats who released the images. President Donald Trump fought for months to prevent release

of the Epstein files held by the Department of Justice. However, on November 19 he caved to pressure from Congress, including from his Republican Party, and signed a law compelling release of the materials. It remains to be seen how many of the extensive files will see the light of day, with the authorities likely to cite the need to protect ongoing investigations. Epstein, a successful financier, cultivated rich and

powerful friends, and frequently hosted them at his lavish Caribbean home. He was convicted in 2008 on two sex crime counts, including solicitation of prostitution with a minor. He served only about a year in detention with unusually lenient conditions. He then avoided more serious charges until 2019 when he was arrested and charged with sex trafficking of minors. He died in pre-trial detention in New York the same year and the death was ruled to be a suicide. Trump and his allies spent years pushing theories about powerful Democrats being protected over involvement with Epstein, framing the case as a potent symbol of how rich men can hide behind lawyers, money and connections. But Trump himself was a longtime friend of Epstein, raising questions over what he knew about the notorious figure. After starting his second presidential term in January, Trump switched from having called for release of the investigative files on Epstein to calling the scandal a "hoax" and resisting any release.

Lebanon 'far from' diplomatic normalization or economic relations with Israel, PM Salam says

BEIRUT. (Agency)

Lebanon's prime minister said Wednesday that his country was "far from" diplomatic normalization or economic relations with Israel, despite a move toward direct negotiations between the two countries aimed at defusing tensions. Prime Minister Nawaf Salam's comments to a small group of journalists in Beirut came in contradiction to a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Israel would send an envoy to talks with Lebanese diplomatic and economic officials, which he described as an "initial attempt to create a basis for relations and economic cooperation" between the two countries. Lebanon and Israel both announced the appointment of civilian members to a previously military-only committee monitoring enforcement of the U.S.-brokered ceasefire that halted the latest war between Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah a

year ago. The civilian members — Simon Aram, an attorney and former Lebanese Ambassador to the U.S., and Uri Resnick, the Israeli national security council's deputy director for foreign policy — took part in Wednesday's meeting of the mechanism. Along with Israel and Lebanon, the committee includes representatives of the U.S., France and the U.N. peacekeeping force known as UNIFIL. Lebanon and Israel don't have diplomatic relations and have been officially in a state of war since 1948. The move to hold civilian talks appeared to be a step toward the direct bilateral talks between Israel and Lebanon that Washington has pushed for. However, Salam said Lebanon is still committed to the 2002 Arab peace plan that conditions normalization of diplomatic relations with Israel on the creation of a Palestinian state — a prospect to which Netanyahu's administration has been adamantly

opposed. "Economic relations would be part of such normalization, so then obviously anyone following the news would know that we are not there at all," Salam said. A debate over weapons His comments also come amid fears of a new escalation by Israel against Hezbollah in Lebanon. Since the November 2024 ceasefire, Israel has continued to launch near-daily attacks in Lebanon that it says aim to stop the group from rebuilding its capabilities after suffering heavy blows in the recent war. Lebanon has been deeply divided over calls for Hezbollah to disarm. In August, the Lebanese government announced a plan to consolidate all weapons in the hands of the state by the end of the year, but it later backed off of the deadline. Hezbollah officials have said the group will not consider disarmament until Israel withdraws from all Lebanese territory and halts its attacks.

"Failed Myself": Doctor Who Sold Ketamine To Matthew Perry Says Sorry In Court

world. (Agency)

The doctor who supplied ketamine to Friends star Matthew Perry has been sentenced to 30 months in federal prison. Salvador Plasencia, a 44-year-old California physician, was among five people charged after a lengthy federal probe into how Perry got ketamine through an underground network in Hollywood. Plasencia, who pleaded guilty in July to four counts of distributing ketamine, showed remorse before his sentencing. "I want to raise him right," he said of his two-year-old son. "I also think about how to explain this to him."

The actor, who had spoken for years about his struggles with addiction and depression, was found dead at his Los Angeles home in 2023 at age 54. US District Judge Sherilyn Pease Garnett acknowledged that Plasencia did not supply the fatal dose that killed Perry but said his actions nonetheless contributed to the circumstances that led to the actor's overdose. "You and others helped Mr Perry on the road to



such an ending by continuing to feed his ketamine addiction," the judge said. "You exploited Mr Perry's addiction for your own profit." Mr Plasencia kept pushing... he literally was offering to sell ketamine," she said, as per the BBC. Perry had been legally using ketamine as a treatment for depression, but when his primary doctor limited his supply, he turned to Plasencia, who admitted he knew Perry was addicted yet sold to him anyway. Court filings show Plasencia texted another doctor, calling Perry a "moron" he could profit from. "There was nothing moronic about that man," Perry's mother, Suzanne

Morrison, told the court, citing those messages. "You called him a 'moron'... He was even a successful drug addict... this was a bad thing you did." Perry's father, John, and stepmother, Debbie, wrote that the actor's "recovery counted on you saying NO," asking how a doctor "whose life is devoted to helping people" could participate in enabling his addiction.

His mother and stepfather described the doctor as a "jackal" who repeatedly violated his Hippocratic oath - a doctor's promise to protect patients and do no harm. Perry's sister, Madeline Morrison, said, "The world mourns my brother. He was everyone's favorite friend." "Celebrities are not plastic dolls that you can take advantage of. They're people. They're human beings with families," she told him. Addressing the family, Plasencia said, "I failed myself. There is no excuse. I can't undo what's been done. I know that. I should have protected him, as his mother said. I'm just so sorry."

Pak-Origin Man Arrested In US With Car Full Of Guns To Carry Out Mass Shooting

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A Pakistani immigrant has been arrested in the United States for allegedly planning a mass shooting on the school's campus. The suspect, identified as 25-year-old Luqmaan Khan, was taken into custody after a cache of guns, ammunition, body armour, and a manifesto explaining plans to "kill all" and achieve "martyrdom" were recovered from his possession, according to the US Department of Justice (DoJ).

Khan, a student at the University of Delaware, was arrested on November 24 after cops found him in his pickup truck in a park after hours and decided to search the vehicle. During their search, officers found a .357 calibre Glock handgun loaded with 27 rounds inserted into a microplastic conversion firearm brace kit in the vehicle. They also found three more loaded 27-round magazines (one in the storage slot of the conversion kit, which converted it into a semi-automatic rifle), a loaded Glock 9mm magazine, an armoured ballistic plate, and a marble composition notebook. The DoJ release said. In the handwritten notebook, Khan discussed additional weapons and firearms, how they could be used in an attack, and how law enforcement detection could be avoided once an attack was carried out. The notebook also referenced a member of the University of Delaware's Police Department by name. It included a layout of a building with entry and exit points under which the words "UD Police Station" were printed. Phrases like "kill all" and "martyrdom" were mentioned throughout the manifesto, ABC 6 reported. Police said the content of the notebook was all "premeditated assault plans" and obvious "warfare techniques". The full motivation behind the alleged attack remains unclear, but according to a New York Post report, Khan told police after his arrest that becoming a martyr was "one of the greatest things you can do." Khan was reportedly born in Pakistan but has lived in the US since he was a "youth" and is an American citizen, according to the New York Post report.

After the arrest, the FBI raided his Wilmington home and recovered an AR-style rifle equipped with a red-dot scope, along with a second Glock pistol - this one equipped with an illegal device that converted it to a fully automatic machine gun capable of shooting 1,200 rounds per minute. Eleven more extended magazines were found, along with deadly hollow-point bullets and a bulletproof vest. None of the weapons found in Khan's possession were registered. He was charged with illegally possessing a machine gun on November 26, two days after his arrest. He remains behind bars as the FBI investigates the case further.

Sleepy Don Trump's health under fresh scrutiny

NEW YORK. (Agency)

He still mocks his predecessor as "Sleepy Joe" Biden. But it was Donald Trump who seemed to be fighting to stay awake at a cabinet meeting. The 79-year-old, the oldest man to be elected US president, repeatedly had his eyes closed as his top team took turns praising his leadership in front of the cameras. The incident put the Republican billionaire's health under fresh scrutiny, even as he and his aides were pushing back against earlier speculation on the issue. The White House strongly rejected any suggestion that Trump was snoozing on Tuesday. "President Trump was listening attentively and running the entire three-hour marathon cabinet meeting," Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt said in a statement to AFP on Wednesday. Leavitt highlighted Trump's "amazing" answer at the end of the meeting when he raged against Somali immigrants. "This epic moment put an exclamation point on President Trump's ninth Cabinet meeting of his second term -- all of which have been entirely open to the press for the whole world to see." Sharper than 25 years

ago. In fact, at the start of Tuesday's lengthy meeting, Trump had brushed off suggestions that he was running out of steam. "You always find something new, like, 'is he in good health? Biden was great, but is Trump in good health?'" Trump said to reporters, branding them "crazy". He repeated a familiar riff about how he "aced" a cognitive health test and said: "I'll let you know when there's something wrong. There'll be some day that's going to happen to all of us. But right now I think I'm sharper than I was 25 years ago." But minutes later Trump could be seen closing his eyes for stretches of several seconds at a time as cabinet members listed the administration's achievements on his first year back in power. He even appeared to do so as Secretary of State Marco Rubio, seated right next to him, described Trump as the "only leader in the world" who could help end the Ukraine war. All this came less than a month after Trump, who turns 80 in June, also appeared to close his eyes for a time during an event in the Oval Office on lowering drug prices. The focus on Trump's health sharpened in late

November after a New York Times article said he had sharply reduced his public events, domestic travel and working hours compared to his first term. MRI test Trump rallied against the "hit piece" while Leavitt



held up print-outs during a briefing this week of previous New York Times stories that she said had played down concerns over Biden's health.

The anger in the White House has been fueled by what they allege was a media cover-up of Democrat Biden's health while

in office. Trump loves to contrast his vigor with that of Biden, who dropped out of the 2024 election at the age of 81 after a disastrous debate performance raised concerns about his age and acuity.

But the health of US presidents is always a global concern, particularly given the punishing demands of the job, and now Trump's is back in the spotlight. He faced mockery on late night TV over the cabinet meeting, with long-time critic Jimmy Kimmel running footage of Trump with his eyes closed on his show on US broadcaster ABC. Tell us again how sleepy Joe is, will ya?" said Kimmel. Social media users also queried whether Trump was tired after a flurry of more than 160 late night and early morning Truth Social posts between Monday and Tuesday, although staffers are known to post some of his messages. Matters have not been helped by the fact that Trump has long faced criticism for limited transparency around his health.

NEWS BOX

Son arrested for murder of mother in Aluva amid property dispute

KOCHI. (Agency)

In a disturbing twist, the police have revealed that the woman who was reported to have collapsed and died in the courtyard of a house in Aluva was in fact murdered by her son.

The accused, Binu P R, 38, belonging to Rajakumari in Idukki district but currently residing at Desom, Aluva, was arrested on Wednesday for murdering his mother, Anitha, 58, over a property dispute.

The woman, who had been under treatment for mental health issues, was brutally assaulted by Binu using a stick and a grinding stone, resulting in her death, said a source with Ernakulam rural police.

Anitha was found lying near a washing stone outside their rented house around 5pm on Sunday. Though Binu rushed her to the Aluva government hospital, she was declared dead on arrival.

Murder charges were invoked in the case, initially recorded as one of unnatural death, after inquest proceedings and subsequent investigation revealed alarming details, the officer said. "During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, admitting that he attacked his mother. A long-standing property dispute over 1.5 acres the woman owned in Idukki led to the murder," said a police officer.

He said Anitha had been living at a care home for the past 20 years, after being abandoned by her mother in childhood and later by her husband 12 years into their marriage. She was the mother of three sons, and the accused, Binu, was the second.

Vijayawada division sets record by completing 10.7 km sleeper renewal on busy BZA-VSKP route in one month

**VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)**

The Vijayawada Division (BZA) of South Central Railway (SCR) has set a new benchmark by completing 10.70 km of Through Sleeper Renewal (TSR) in the ADEN/Eluru sub-division during the current month. This marks the highest-ever monthly progress on the division's trunk route, achieved without any train cancellations or diversions.

The milestone is particularly significant as the work was carried out on the Vijayawada-Vishakhapatnam (BZA-VSKP) main line, one of the busiest and most heavily loaded corridors of Indian Railways. The achievement was driven by the proactive leadership and monitoring of Divisional Raiwal Manager (DRM) Mohit Sonakya, attended Track Relaying Train (TRT) traffic blocks. The Operating Department, under Sr DOM and AOM/Coaching, arranged 28 traffic blocks in a month—the highest ever in South Central Railway.

Using the TRT machine, officials replaced old grooved sleepers with wider 350-kg sleepers, a task too difficult to perform manually. Completing 10.70 km of sleeper renewal in one month is unprecedented, work that usually requires over three months.

Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar Jayanti celebrated in Pune

PUNE. (Agency)

A grand programme was held in Pune on Wednesday to mark the 250th birth anniversary of Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar, the valiant warrior of the Maratha Empire, a pioneer of the freedom struggle, who compelled the British to kneel.

Santosh Shinde, the State spokesperson of Sambhaji Brigade today, said that Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar blew the trumpet of war against British injustice and fought directly for Swarajya. In the Battle of Hadapsar, he crushed the British and forced them to flee. His valor was so formidable that even the Peshwas stepped back, he said.

Today is a day to remember this great warrior who shook the British and carved his name in history, he added.

While addressing the gathering Shinde said We once fought the British of that era; today we must fight the modern British — meaning injustice, inequality, and mental slavery. Awakening society with the thoughts and ideals of Yashwantrao Holkar is the need of the hour, he added.

In those days, battles were fought with swords against the British — today, we must fight the modern British with ideas, intellect, and unity. We must all come together against injustice, corruption, casteism, division, and mental slavery, he said in a release.

During the program at Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Holkar Garden, a floral garland was offered to the image of Maharaja Yashwantrao Holkar by PMC Assistant Commissioner Surekha Bhange.

85 lakh names may be off TN draft SIR rolls

This amounted to 13.24% of Tamil Nadu's total electorate of 6.41 crore as per the latest electoral roll, based on which the enumeration forms were distributed.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

With eight days left for the enumeration phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls to be completed, the number of forms that remained "uncollectable" so far in Tamil Nadu stood at 84.91 lakh, indicating that these many voters' names may potentially be removed from the draft electoral rolls to be published on December 16, 2025. This amounted to 13.24% of Tamil Nadu's total electorate of 6.41 crore as per the latest electoral roll, based on which the enumeration forms were distributed.

As per a report generated on Wednesday morning by officials engaged in monitoring the progress of the exercise, those classified for now as "Permanently Shifted" accounted for the maximum of 44.22 lakh among the 84.91 lakh classified as "uncollectable".

Among the remaining, 26.18 lakh have been classified as "Deceased", 10.73 lakh as "Absent", and 3.5 lakh marked as "Already Enrolled (Duplicate)" as of now.

However, in a release on Wednesday evening, the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) emphasised that the work is still under

way and the list of uncollectable forms is being shared with the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of political parties before preparing the draft roll to ensure transparency.

EC data show percentage of 'uncollectable'



SIR forms varies widely between districts. It stressed that the list of uncollectable forms along with the reasons such as Absent, Permanently Shifted, Dead or Duplicate will be finalised only after December 11, the last date of the enumeration phase.

The data accessed by , meanwhile, showed that

the percentage of forms that remained uncollectable varied widely between districts as of Wednesday, with Ariyalur having the lowest of 4.3% (around 23,000) of its total electors of 5.31 lakh and a whopping 31.78%

(12.73 lakh), nearly one out of every three electors, of the total of 40.05 lakh electors in Chennai. The capital district was followed by Chengalpattu where 20.7% (5.78 lakh) of forms remained "uncollectable".

Importantly, the report offered insights into the actual number of enumeration forms digitised and forms that have not been returned, a clarification that has been repeatedly sought by many political parties from the Election Commission of India (ECI). The commission, in its periodic updates, has been highlighting that the total number of enumeration forms distributed and the total number of forms digitised by including all the "uncollectable" categories also under "digitised". As of Tuesday, TN's numbers stood at 99.45% (6.38 crore) for forms distributed and 94.32% (6.05 crore) for forms "digitised".

Mobile cancer screening van reaches over 5,000 in Thane district

Thane.(Agency)

A mobile cancer screening initiative in Thane district has received an exceptional public response, reaching more than 5,000 citizens during a one-month health campaign.

The programme, conducted from November 3 to 29, was carried out under the guidance of Thane District Magistrate Dr. Shrikrishna Panchal and Chief Executive Officer Manoj Ranade.

The initiative aimed to promote early cancer detection, ensure timely medical intervention and strengthen community awareness about cancer risks. Health officials reiterated that early diagnosis significantly improves treatment outcomes.

As part of the effort, a diagnostic van offering free cancer screening travelled through multiple villages and operated according to a fixed schedule across five tehsils—Kalyan, Bhiwandi, Ambernath, Murbad and Shahpur. The screening focused on oral, breast and cervical cancers.

District Surgeon Dr. Kailash Pawar and District Health Officer Dr. Gangadhar Parge reported that the service reached a substantial number of residents in a short period.

Screening figures show that between November 3 and 29, 2,441 citizens were tested for oral cancer, 1,492 women for breast cancer, and 1,210 women for cervical cancer, bringing the total number of screenings to 5,143.

Health authorities identified 53 individuals as suspected cancer cases. These include five suspected cases of oral cancer, 34 of breast cancer and 14 of cervical cancer. Samples from eight of the suspected patients have been sent to a laboratory for confirmatory testing.

Mumbai realtor, son booked for duping 18 investors of Rs 31.26 crore

According to the Mumbai police, the alleged scam came into light following a complaint from a pharma businessman who invested Rs 8.26 crore between April 2021 and May 2023 in a real estate project of the accused.

Mumbai. The Andheri police booked two directors of a real estate firm in Mumbai on Wednesday for allegedly defrauding 18 investors to the tune of Rs 31.26 crore on the pretext of annual interest returns of 18 per cent. The investigation against the accused, identified as Jaykumar Gupta and his son Suyash Gupta, was transferred to the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) as the swindled amount exceeded Rs 10 crore, according to senior inspector Umesh Machinder of the Andheri police station.

The suspects have allegedly used the money to invest in a redevelopment project in Jogeshwari, he said.

According to the police, the alleged scam came into light following a complaint from an Andheri-based pharma businessman, Mahesh Doshi, 71, who operates a medicine manufacturing factory in Gujarat's Vapi. In 2021, Doshi was seeking an investment opportunity, and he was then introduced to the

suspects through one of his acquaintances, Chirag Shah. The two men pitched an ongoing redevelopment project by Ranbir Real Estate and Development LLP located in Jogeshwari



(East). Doshi reported that he, along with his family members, met with Jaykumar Gupta and Suyash at Shah's office in Andheri (West) on March 19, 2021. The Guptas claimed that they have been in the real estate and transport businesses for the past two decades, and were both directors at Ranbir Real Estate and

Developers LLP.

They allegedly told Doshi that their partnership was redeveloping a piece of land in Majas village along Meghwadi Sarvodaya Nagar Road, Jogeshwari, and that they required money for the project. They promised that three buildings would be constructed, with one building containing 215 flats and six shops, which would be built by the landowner. The Guptas had the right to sell the flats in the two other buildings, the police said.

Victims promised an interest rate of 18% Jayakumar and Suyash Gupta offered Doshi an investment opportunity in the project, promising an annual interest rate of 18 per cent on the investment until the principal amount is returned. They stated that interest payments would be made every three months. Between April 2021 and May 2023, Doshi and his family members invested Rs 8.26 crore.

HMDA expects Rs 5000 crore from Neopolis land auctions

On November 24, two land parcels measuring 9.90 acres fetched over Rs 1,356 crore. Plot 18 (5.31 acres) fetched Rs 137.25 crore per acre, while plot 17 (4.59 acres) received Rs 136.50 crore per acre.

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

Delighted by the response from the first and second rounds of e-auctions of four high-value prime land parcels in Neopolis Layout at Kokapet last week, which generated revenues of Rs 2,708 crore, the remaining two prime parcels will go under the hammer on December 3. The state government expects over Rs 1,200 crore from these plots.

Plot 19 (4 acres) and plot 20 (4.04 acres), totalling 8.04 acres, in survey numbers 239 and 240, will be auctioned between 11 am and 2 pm through MSTC Limited on Wednesday. HMDA has fixed a minimum upset price of Rs 99 crore per acre.

On November 24, two land parcels

measuring 9.90 acres fetched over Rs 1,356 crore. Plot 18 (5.31 acres) fetched Rs 137.25 crore per acre, while plot 17 (4.59 acres) received Rs 136.50 crore per acre.

Similarly, on November 28, Plot 15 (4.03 acres) and Plot 16 (5.03 acres), totalling 9.06 acres, fetched over Rs 1,352 crore. One acre fetched a record Rs 151.25 crore, and another fetched Rs 147.75 crore per acre.

HMDA will also auction one plot in Golden Mile Layout (1.98 acres) and two plots in Moosapet (14.66 acres) on December 5. It has fixed a minimum upset price of Rs 75 crore per acre for Moosapet and Rs 70 crore per acre for Golden Mile Layout. Overall, HMDA expects over Rs 5,000 crore from these auctions.

Plot 19 (4 acres) and plot 20 (4.04 acres), totalling 8.04 acres, in survey numbers 239 and 240, will be auctioned between 11 am and 2 pm through MSTC Limited on Wednesday. HMDA has fixed a minimum upset price of Rs 99 crore per acre.

On November 24, two land parcels

Flats on Pallikaranai marsh: Madras HC to study ground truth report

The identification of digital boundary and delineation of the wetland are yet to be conducted.

Bengaluru. (Agency)

The Madras High Court on Wednesday said it would take a decision on the public interest litigation petition filed by an AIADMK advocate against construction of a residential complex allegedly on the Pallikaranai marshland after perusing the report of the ground truthing exercise, which is aimed at determining the boundaries of the marshland.

Stating that the Supreme Court had directed undertaking ground truthing, the first bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G Arul Murugan said, "We have asked for the report. If that report comes, we will decide what to be done on the matter."

The bench said it has to balance both sides as "it cannot set its eyes to one

side", and so is awaiting the report.

The petition — filed by advocate J Bezhnev — alleged that Brigade Enterprises Limited was given environmental clearance for



constructing a high-rise residential building complex with four blocks in Perumbakkam village, on the Pallikaranai marshland, on January 20, 2025, by the state environment impact assessment authority. Within three days, the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority issued permission for the construction.

Advocate General P S Raman, representing the government, informed that 99.4% of the ground truthing exercise has been completed and the remaining work will take just a day's time; the ground truthing work is being done by the Tamil Nadu Wetland Authority in conjunction with the authorities of the Union government. Once the work is completed, the report will be filed in the court, he said, adding that the next stage is to identify the zone of influence and decide what activity can be permitted in this area.

Senior counsel P Wilson, appearing for the Tamil Nadu Wetland Authority, submitted that the ground truthing exercise has been completed and a report has been submitted in the Supreme Court.

North Chennai bears brunt, more rain likely

Vyasarpadi, where water was cleared using 3 pumps, inundated again

CHENNAI. (Agency)

With Ennore recording nearly 15 cm of rainfall in nine hours ending 5.30 pm on Wednesday, several areas have been inundated with rainwater entering the houses. Some other parts of North Chennai including Mullai Nagar in Vyasarpadi, Perambur, Kumaran Nagar in Redhills, and a few other parts of the city continued to face water inundation due to the rains since Monday.

Residents of Ennore, especially those from Ward 1—VOC Nagar, Sathyavani Muthu Nagar, Ulaganathapuram, Kamraj Nagar and surrounding areas — told TNIE that water entered around 60 houses from the afternoon following incessant showers.

When they attempted to reach the GCC relief centre at Kathivakkam Government High School, they found it locked; it was opened only later in the evening, they said. Senbagam 1 (59) of Sathyavani Muthu Nagar said that despite the

area having stormwater drains, water kept entering homes. "Even sewage drains are overflowing. No pumps have been arranged to clear stagnant water, no food is being distributed, and power has been cut. We are not able to step out of our houses. All three streets in Sathyavani Muthu Nagar are facing the same situation," she said, adding that the locality usually does not face such flooding. Karima A (39) of VOC Nagar said water had entered homes up to 1.5 ft or above, damaging appliances including washing machines and refrigerators.

Another resident questioned the lack of swift relief despite three days of heavy rain in Ennore. In Perambur, Venkatraman Street, Bharathi Road, Subramanian Street, Patel Road, Nelvayal Lane, Rajeswari Street and Ramakrishnan Street were flooded with sewage, said Raghukumar Choodamani of the Perambur

Neighborhood Development Forum, calling the situation

Stagnation that began Tuesday worsened on Wednesday, sources



"horrible". Kumaran Nagar in Red Hills saw knee-deep water with fire and rescue services personnel using boats to rescue residents.

In Mullai Nagar, Vyasarpadi, where stagnant water had been almost cleared using at least three heavy

duty pumps each earlier on Wednesday, the situation turned to severe inundation again with 2-3 feet of waterlogging later in the day after rains resumed in the afternoon. The pumps were being operated continuously as of 7 pm on Wednesday to drain the area. Pumps were also deployed at Pattalam, where waterlogging was relatively minimal. All 22 subways remained open after Ganesapuram subway was cleared. In T Nagar, Habibullah Road, Dr Nair Road and Pushpa Nagar Main Road in Nungambakkam saw waterlogging, though stagnation began receding by evening. GCC said 6.25 lakh food

First step in Manipur: Return of the natives

Close to three years after mindless ethnic bloodletting broke out between the Kuki-Zo group of tribes and the majority Meitei community in May 2023, overt violence has ceased in Manipur—but the state remains bitterly divided physically and psychologically. Over 60,000 conflict-displaced people from both sides of the divide continue to languish in several relief camps, unsure of their and their children's future. They have also become prone to depression and even suicide cases among them are on the rise. The trouble is, both the warring sides continue to see and push for amelioration of their side of the suffering and their understanding of what a solution should be, missing out in the process the fact that the losses and sufferings brought by the violence is shared on both sides. They also tend to forget that Manipur is multi-ethnic, and a solution cannot be a bilateral matter only between them. Another major community, the Nagas, have begun asserting this, and all need to note this seriously. Any reconciliation would have to begin with a comprehensive plan for the displaced on both sides to return to their abandoned homes and rebuild their lives. This would also mean opening up the highways for free movement either way for all. The responsibility for making this happen cannot just be of the government alone, but also by what conflict resolution and mediation expert John Paul Lederach called "the moral imagination" of the people in his book of the same title. It contends that just as hostility begets hostility as a response, goodwill will be reciprocated with goodwill. If one side, for instance, unilaterally opens up and welcomes back displaced people, or assures free passage to those wishing to access health facilities in Imphal or outside the state, the iceberg of mutual suspicion would begin to melt, paving the way for a settlement of the crisis across the table. The side to first exercise empathy and see their own sufferings shared by the other side and take courage to reach out, is the one blessed with moral imagination—not the one to blink first in this masculine contest for belligerency.

There will probably be entrenched, vested interests of those who reap a sense of power and other benefits from the conflict. They would therefore want its continuance—if not as open violence, then as a 'frozen conflict'. These are the elements, as and when they become evident, that the government must tame even if use of the State's coercive power becomes necessary.

Reconciliation will not be easy, but it's not impossible. There have been atrocities by both sides and, as in any conflict, there are hawks and doves within. But only the hawks are heard and seen. Again, in a charged, conflict-ridden atmosphere, even the doves often speak the hawks' language without actually meaning them. The inference is that what's seen and heard cannot be the summary of the mood of this entire conflict landscape, although many parachute journalists and NGO fact-finders have ended up trying to make it seem so, complicating matters. Once the displaced have been allowed to return and reclaim their homes, and free movement is ensured across the 'buffer zones' established by the government, the larger issues that caused the conflict can be addressed and settled. Among these are the questions of illegal immigration and unequal development between the state's valley and the hills.

AS a one-time chief negotiator on climate change for India (2007-10), one has watched with growing despair the continual dilution of goals directed towards tackling an existential crisis for humanity. To properly assess the outcome of the recent climate summit at Belem (Brazil), a lesson in climate history may be in order.

Since the high point of universal collaborative intent enshrined in the historic UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992, the trajectory of the annual multilateral negotiations among the conference of parties (COP) to the Convention has been a decidedly downward attrition process. I was present at Rio when the UNFCCC was adopted by acclamation, and the optimism was palpable. Yet within just a few years, one faced a systematic and cynical effort on the part of developed nations, led by the US, to eviscerate the UNFCCC and transform what was to be a legally binding agreement into a voluntary 'pledge and review' set of commitments. This was achieved through the unilateral trashing of the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, which was adopted in December 1997 and in which 37 industrialised countries negotiated binding targets for absolute reduction in their greenhouse gas emissions. This would result in an average of 5.2% reduction in total emissions as compared to the 1992 level. These binding targets were to be achieved in what was known as the first commitment period (2008-13) after which there would be a second commitment period (2014-19) in which further reductions would be negotiated. During this 10-year period, developing countries would not be required to accept reductions in their emissions. At the end of this grace period, it was likely that both developed and developing countries would commit to reduce their emissions but in accordance with the principle of equitable burden-sharing. The Kyoto Protocol had strict compliance procedures. If at the end of the first commitment period a country had a shortfall in achieving its target of reduction, then not only would it have to make up for the shortfall in the second commitment period but also have to add 30% more to its new negotiated target as a penalty.

The US, which had signed the Protocol, declined to ratify it. Then, several industrialised countries like Canada, Australia and Japan unilaterally violated the treaty, far surpassed their respective emission targets and refused to

adhere to the treaty's compliance procedure—and got away scot-free. Could one imagine a developing country being allowed to violate an international treaty it was a party to in this brazen manner? Why were they not held to account? This set the stage for serial non-compliance with commitments by developed countries.

The Copenhagen climate summit in 2009 was perhaps the last occasion when developing countries, in particular India, China, Brazil and South Africa—the so-called BASIC group—tried to hold the line against the erosion of the UNFCCC principles. But thereafter the process of attrition has continued apace. A much-diluted Paris Agreement was adopted by consensus in December 2015.

before taking this major step but neither did these partners hold it to account. China got away with a serious violation of the UNFCCC. The US-China agreement became the template for the Paris Agreement. The developed countries had succeeded in co-opting China in their evisceration of the UNFCCC.

The Paris Agreement was greeted with intemperate hype a decade ago. Then French President Francois Hollande said, "In Paris, there have been many revolutions over the centuries. Today is the most beautiful and most peaceful revolution that has just been accomplished—a revolution for climate change." Since then the US has walked out of the Agreement for the second time under President Donald

Trump. It is committed to the revival of the fossil fuel industry and calls climate change a hoax. The world's largest economy is missing in climate action and this will inevitably influence the economic calculus of other countries, which may see climate action as putting them at a disadvantage vis-à-vis the US.

The just-concluded 30th COP in Belem was billed as the "COP of Truth" and the "COP of Implementation." But the truth is that even the much-diluted commitments of the Paris Agreement have not been achieved nor can one say that the stage has been set for their implementation in the post-COP30 period. The year 2024 was the warmest on record, with temperatures rising 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels. Whatever fresh commitments have been submitted so far for the next global stocktake put global warming on a path to reach over 2.5-3°C by the end of the century. A UN Special Report has already warned that even a

1.5°C rise could lead to irreversible and catastrophic consequences for the global ecology. We have already passed that turning point. Yet COP30 promises a "Global Implementation Acceleration" to underscore the "Belem Mission to 1.5°C." But how?

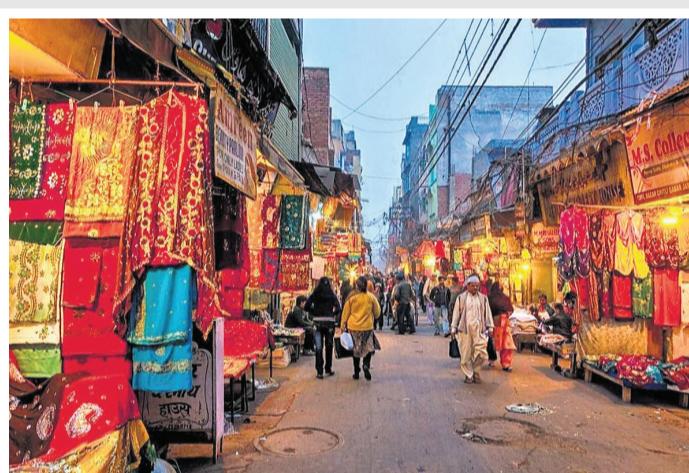
The conference adopted the Mutirao Decision, which resolves to limit "both the magnitude and the duration of any temperature overshoot." But how will this be possible when it is acknowledged that the "carbon budget consistent with achieving the Paris Agreement's temperature goal is now small and being depleted." If truth be told, in a divided and fragmented world, climate is not a priority.

This was made possible by China abandoning the BASIC group and reaching a bilateral agreement with the US, which safeguarded their narrow interests while sacrificing the global good. China was allowed to keep increasing its emissions to reach a level comparable to the US. More importantly, China reinterpreted the crucial Common but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capabilities (CBDR) principle by adding the words, "in accordance with national circumstances" to the original wording in the UNFCCC. This hollowed out the CBDR principle since it could now be interpreted differently by parties according to what they claimed as "national circumstances." This was a mortal blow to the equity principle. China did not consult its BASIC partners

November a blip on GST trend, consider sin tax on junk food

The blip was expected after the Union government's consumer-friendly reforms in September shrank the GST levy on common goods to two slabs of 5 percent and 18 percent.

Goods and services tax collections are a good barometer of the Indian economy. It is also the foundation of the government's capital expenditure. No wonder then that November's GST collections created concern as it slowed to a year's low of Rs 1.7 lakh crore, down from Rs 1.96 lakh crore the previous month. Year-on-year, too, the growth rate of 0.7 percent was the slowest since the pandemic. This was expected after the Union government's consumer-friendly reforms in September shrank the GST levy on common goods to two slabs of 5 percent and 18 percent. Meanwhile, conscious of eroding revenue and the end of the GST compensation cess next year on 'sin' products like tobacco and pan masala, the government has rushed two Bills in the Lok Sabha to ensure tax income from these products remains unchanged. To put it in context, the overall GST picture remains robust. Collections have tripled since the tax was first implemented in 2017. Last fiscal recorded the highest-ever gross GST collections at Rs 22.08 lakh crore, a 9.4 percent increase over the previous year. Even the October 2025 collection was 4.6 percent higher than the



same month a year ago. This reflects stricter compliance and a rapid increase of registered taxpayers from 65 lakh in 2017 to over 1.51 crore now. November must be seen as a temporary blip caused by the economy adjusting to the

new baseline rates. The move to reform the onerous GST slabs came not a day too soon. Sales across several large segments like cars and consumer goods rose because of the concessions. After all, taxation is not an end in itself. A rollback that improves sales and consumers' living standards is justified. On the other hand, coming down hard on sin products like tobacco will continue to be subject to debate. Most nations have used the policy tool for raising revenue, knowing well the somewhat inflexible demand on the users' side. At present, tobacco products are taxed at 28 percent, with the compensation cess taking the effective rate to anything between 40 and 290 percent. If taxation is indeed to be used to coax habits away from unhealthy products, there needs to be another debate—on the GST rates for ultra-processed foods, whose consumption the government repeatedly warns us to moderate or avoid.

Oil diplomacy | An opening to bridge the Gulf

Iran and Saudi Arabia are cautiously getting closer. Their non-oil trade is booming and Iran needs huge investments to upgrade its oil infrastructure. It gives Washington a chance to wean Tehran away from Beijing's debt-trap diplomacy

In the midst of the insistent Ukraine war and the ominous Iran-Israel conflict, volatility prevailed through the year. Uncertainty chased oil prices higher as the conflicts threatened to polarise regional politics and disrupt supplies through the Strait of Hormuz. There exists a wide chasm between perceptions and reality as rational afterthoughts temper valuations. With the route intact, the risk premium was contained. Tel Aviv's efforts to unseat the present regime in Tehran are reminiscent of a similar agenda decades earlier. The closure of Suez Canal after the Arab-Israel war in November 1956 lasted five months. It had a catastrophic effect on the British and French energy situation. The strategic waterway facilitated two-thirds of Europe's oil movement, and Egypt's nationalisation of this conduit prompted the UK and France to align with Israel in a plan to overthrow President Gamal Abdel Nasser. West Asia's dominance in oil at that time left no option but international mediation. The disruption had ramifications for Europe and Asia alike. With UN intervention, US President Dwight Eisenhower prevailed upon Britain, France, and Israel to withdraw. The crisis dented British and French influence as it permanently impacted the region's power equation. Nikita Khrushchev's opportune support to Egypt was the beginning of the Soviet Union's friendship with Arab nations, thereby impacting global dynamics for decades. Despite sectarian and political differences, OPEC members align in the face of existential crisis.

Whether to ward off the threat of oligopolistic Anglo-American oil majors in the 1970s, or to ensure price stability in the late 1990s and early 2000s. However, over the past decade, geopolitics motivated the members to engage in solipsistic pursuits. Azerbaijan, a predominantly Shiite Muslim OPEC+ member, remains a key provider of energy to Israel despite international criticism, meeting 40 percent of the latter's demand while seeking military defence systems and support. Azerbaijan's 10 percent stake in Tamar, Israel's large gas field, indicates deeper interests. Beijing endorsed diplomacy as it mediated a Saudi-Iran rapprochement in 2023, counterbalancing Washington's declining influence in West Asia. However, China shied away from providing territorial security to Iran in the recent Israel-Iran conflict despite its relationship with the Islamic republic that blossomed as sanctions were re-imposed during Trump's earlier presidency. Saudi Arabia and Iran hold 28 percent of the global oil reserves and provide a third of China's imports. With the signing of a purported 25-year Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2021 between Tehran and Beijing, the latter is investing in Iran's infrastructure, seeking a steady flow of

heavily-discounted Iranian crude. The highly-fragmented oil production and emerging frontiers in South America and Africa underscore Tehran and



Riyadh's shared vulnerability. Notwithstanding ideological differences, Tehran is privy to the relevance of forging economic relations with Arab Gulf States to negotiate through Western sanctions and emerge from isolation. Iran's non-oil exports to Saudi Arabia rose 99 times in March-December 2024. But a cautious trust pervades their yet-fragile accord as Riyadh remains apprehensive of Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

Iran and Saudi Aramco produce light to heavy crudes of similar grades. Though the Iranian crude has a

higher sulphur content, the two largest producers are aware of their distinct presence in products much favoured by refiners for better processing gains. Iran's ageing hydrocarbon infrastructure needs investments in excess of \$250 billion, with \$150 billion in oil alone, for the next decade and a half to enhance production to 5.5 million barrels per day. Last week, Iran's state oil company Petropars started development of Farzad B, a key gas field it shares along the kingdom's maritime borders in the Persian Gulf. These factors could alter Iran-Saudi relations and induce Tehran to gradually steer away from China's 'debt trap diplomacy' as it succumbs to the allure of Riyadh's growing economic power. This is the right time for the US to review its economic policy. Revisiting the 1954 Consortium Agreement that led to the nationalisation of Iranian oil companies and Shah Reza Pahlavi's exit in 1979 could offer US oil majors an opportunity to re-enter the territory. Iran could be a gateway in their endeavour to shore up profits and scout for low-cost, high-yield projects. Washington's recent reprieve to Syria and a 1.65-million-barrel Saudi oil grant to Damascus could also revive Iran's access. The evolving amity between Washington and Riyadh provides Tehran a chance to capitalise on its chary embrace of the kingdom.

NEWS BOX

Stone-pelting, vandalism: Tension at Banaras Hindu University after students and security staff clash, over 100 booked

Lucknow. (Agency)

Tension erupted at the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) campus late Tuesday evening after a clash broke out between hostel students and the university's security personnel, leading to vandalism and stone-pelting. Police said two former students and over a 100 unidentified persons have been booked on charges of rioting, use of criminal force without grave provocation, and related offences. No arrest has been made so far, they said. According to sources, tensions flared after a vehicle allegedly hit a student.

Police reached the campus on receiving information about the disturbance. Assistant Commissioner of Police (Varanasi) Gaurav Kumar said the situation had been brought under control by the time the police intervened.

Kumar said the clash initially broke out between students and security guards: "We were informed by university officials, and a police team was immediately dispatched." He added that the Proctorial Board has initiated an inquiry into the matter.

Despite several attempts, university officials could be reached for comment. Based on a complaint filed by the BHU Assistant Security Officer, police said an FIR has been registered at the Laka police station against two former students — Ankit Pal and Ankit Singh — and around 100 unidentified persons.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Saravanan T confirmed that an FIR has been registered in the matter. Station House Officer of Laka police station, Raj Kumar Sharma, said the complainant alleged that the incident began when two former students on a speeding motorcycle struck a student inside campus Tuesday.

Rs 1.14-crore heist: DIY YouTube-inspired burglars land in Bengaluru jail

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Hebbagodi police have arrested two men who learned theft techniques from YouTube and broke into a businessman's house and decamped with Rs 1.14 crore in cash and 16 grams. The accused are HK Srinivasamurthy (39), a resident of Vigneshwara Nagar and native of Bengaluru South district, who owns an apparel shop in Chickpet, and BN Arun Kumar (39), a resident of Magadi Main Road who works as an electrician.

The police said that on November 8, the duo broke into the house of businessman Sunil Kumar R (35), who lives in an apartment in Hulimangala, and escaped with cash and gold. Srinivasamurthy is a distant relative of Sunil and was aware of his business dealings. He had suffered losses in his business and was facing financial difficulties, following which he conspired with Arun Kumar to commit the theft.

The police added that the duo had been gathering information about Sunil Kumar's house for the past few months and had made two unsuccessful attempts.

To avoid detection, the accused did not carry a mobile phone during the burglary. Srinivasamurthy wore a helmet and mask, climbed the rear compound of the apartment, forced open the flat's front door, and stole the cash and gold, while Arun waited in a car nearby. After analysing footage from over 90 CCTV cameras, police traced the car used in the theft and arrested both accused.

Drugs worth Rs 29 crore seized in Bengaluru; two foreign nationals held

BENGALURU. (Agency)

In three separate operations, the Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) seized 10.36 kg of MDMA crystals and 8 kg of hydro ganja, worth approximately Rs 28.75 crore. Two foreign nationals were arrested in two of the cases. Police said the seized drugs were stockpiled for sale during the New Year celebrations.

In the first case, 25-year-old Nancy Omary Lawa, a Tanzanian national, was arrested based on a tip-off. Police raided her house and found 9.25 kg of MDMA crystals worth Rs 18.50 crore. She had come to India in 2023 on a tourist visa.

After staying in Delhi, she moved to Bengaluru, worked as a hair stylist, and lived in a rented house at P&T Layout, Sampigehalli. She allegedly got MDMA from Delhi and sold it at higher prices to known customers, the police said.

In another case, Emmanuel Idiko (28), a Nigerian, was arrested near the basketball court at Lalbagh South Gate while attempting to peddle drugs. He arrived in India on a business visa in 2021 and moved to Bengaluru in 2022.

According to the police, he sourced MDMA from foreign peddlers in Delhi and Goa at lower prices and distributed it in Bengaluru through another foreign national. Police seized 1.115 kg of MDMA worth Rs 2.25 crore. He had earlier been booked under the NDPS Act at Govindapura Police Station in February 2024 and continued peddling after his release in April.

Gul-e-Sahir: A new, 'lyrical' flower variety dedicated to eternal poet Sahir Ludhianvi

The bright, yellow-coloured blooms of the variety were displayed for the first time at the two-day annual Chrysanthemum Show of the varsity, that concluded Wednesday at PAU.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Over 45 years after his passing, the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) in a tribute to legendary poet and lyricist Abdul Hayee Sahir, who later adopted Sahir Ludhianvi as his pen name, has named a chrysanthemum flower variety after him, called Punjab Gul-e-Sahir.

The bright, yellow-coloured blooms of the variety were displayed for the first time at the two-day annual Chrysanthemum Show of the varsity, that concluded Wednesday at PAU. Though agriculture and art seldom cross their paths, according to the scientists, the flower variety has been named after Sahir as they found its "buds blooming in a lyrical way", much like Sahir's classics such as 'Main Zindagi ka saath nibhaata chala gaya...', 'Kabhi kabhi mere dil mein khaaata aata hai', 'Abhi na ja chod kar ki dil abhi bhara nahi...', among others, that continue to rule the hearts even today.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Dr Parminder Singh, professor and head, department of floriculture, PAU, said that the variety "Punjab Gul-e-Sahir" has been developed by selecting,

open pollinated, seedlings of another chrysanthemum variety "Basanti."

"Of all chrysanthemum varieties having yellow blooms we have till now, this one has the brightest and the most beautiful flowers. The idea to name it after Sahir Ludhianvi was that of

lyrically, like Sahir's songs and poems. Dr Gill decided to dedicate it to Sahir, who was the pride of Ludhiana and the entire country," said Dr Parminder Singh.

It is an early flowering variety that requires 102 days for flowering and plants are 38 cm in height with compact growth habit. Flowers are "Korean type" (small flowers) wherein the disc florets are visible. The variety produces 88 flowers per plant with flowering duration of 28 days. This variety is best suitable for pot culture.

"We are spreading the word about the variety by supplying its cuttings to agriculture centres across the country as PAU is the main centre for chrysanthemum propagation. Those who want to buy its plants can do so from the PAU Ludhiana campus, gate number 2," said Dr Singh.

Sahir's alma mater SCD Government College, Ludhiana, also has a botanical garden "Gulistan-e-Sahir" dedicated to their illustrious alumnus, who otherwise was "expelled" from the college by then principal, allegedly for sitting in lawns with a girl.

Dr APS Gill, our former senior scientist, who had started working on this variety decades ago. Dr Gill retired in 1995 and that time the work on the variety was still ongoing. It was completed by Dr Madhu Bala," he said.

"The way there is rhythm in Sahir's lyrics, we found the buds of this variety blooming

examined the snake's condition. He opened its mouth and started giving CPR mouth to mouth. After about half an hour of continuous attempts, the snake started showing movements, and in the next couple of minutes it went into the bushes. The local farm labourers took a picture of Mukesh giving CPR to the snake and uploaded it on social media. The picture has since gone viral on social media.

Talking to, Mukesh Vayad said he has been working as a snake rescuer for the last 10 years. "I have received training from the Snake Research Institute at Dharampur in Valsad," he said.

Talking about the rescue act, he said: "After learning about the incident, I reached the spot and found that it was a rat snake, a non-venomous one. I touched the body and found no response. I opened the mouth of the snake

and gave CPR about 20 times, tapping its heart in intervals. After half an hour of such repeated actions, the snake got its respiration and later showed movement and moved to the nearby bushes."

Surat-based Wildlife Biologist Krunal Trivedi, however, warned against the general public performing such a rescue act. "Only a properly trained person, that too in the presence of an expert and veterinarian, should do such an act.

Due to electric shock or falling from a height, the rat snake might have become unconscious.

The method adopted by Mukesh is not recommended. In such situations, an Endotracheal Tube of appropriate size is used to give artificial respiration for snakes by trained veterinarians as its respiratory pipe is quite narrow," Trivedi explained.

'Wildlife rescuer' gives CPR to resuscitate snake that suffered electric shock in Gujarat's Valsad

Surat. (Agency)

A wildlife rescuer has reportedly saved the life of a snake that fell unconscious after an electric shock by giving it mouth to mouth CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) in Gujarat's Valsad district. The incident took place at Amdha village of Kaprada taluka of Valsad district on Tuesday when a group of farm labourers was engaged in their work. They spotted a snake climbing an electric pole.

The snake reached the top of the pole, came in contact with the high-tension overhead power line and fell to the ground from a height of around 15 feet.

The farm labour spotted the snake and found it unconscious. They immediately contacted Mukesh Vayad, a wildlife rescuer, who resides in the same village.

Mukesh reached the spot and

examined the snake's condition. He opened its mouth and started giving CPR mouth to mouth. After about half an hour of continuous attempts, the snake started showing movements, and in the next couple of minutes it went into the bushes. The local farm labourers took a picture of Mukesh giving CPR to the snake and uploaded it on social media. The picture has since gone viral on social media.

Talking to, Mukesh Vayad said he has been working as a snake rescuer for the last 10 years. "I have received training from the Snake Research Institute at Dharampur in Valsad," he said.

Talking about the rescue act, he said: "After learning about the incident, I reached the spot and found that it was a rat snake, a non-venomous one. I touched the body and found no response. I opened the mouth of the snake

and gave CPR about 20 times, tapping its heart in intervals. After half an hour of such repeated actions, the snake got its respiration and later showed movement and moved to the nearby bushes."

Surat-based Wildlife Biologist Krunal Trivedi, however, warned against the general public performing such a rescue act. "Only a properly trained person, that too in the presence of an expert and veterinarian, should do such an act.

Due to electric shock or falling from a height, the rat snake might have become unconscious.

The method adopted by Mukesh is not recommended. In such situations, an Endotracheal Tube of appropriate size is used to give artificial respiration for snakes by trained veterinarians as its respiratory pipe is quite narrow," Trivedi explained.

Under Panchkula police's 'Operation Clean Up', 89 arrested, including 'most wanted' criminals

Panchkula. (Agency)

Panchkula police has said that under its Operation Clean Up, it has arrested 89 in 64 separate cases, including several notorious and "most wanted" offenders. Police officials said the coordinated action not only led to key arrests but also helped prevent several potential crimes through timely intervention.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Manpreet Singh Sudar said that the ACP Crime, along with in-charges of all crime units and their teams, maintained continuous field presence and focused on curbing theft, vehicle lifting, illegal liquor supply, snatching, robbery, dacoity, arms trafficking and narcotics.

He added that officers often faced direct resistance from criminals but acted with courage and restraint to overpower them.

During the month-long drive, police recovered a significant haul of illegal arms, including five country-made pistols, four other pistols, one revolver, sixteen live cartridges and a knife. These weapons were intended for use in planned criminal activities, many of which were thwarted due to heightened vigilance, a police official said.



Police Commissioner Shivas Kaviraj, meanwhile, has directed all the crime units in the district to continue strict action against offenders. He further instructed all units and station teams to intensify efforts under Operation Hotspot Domination by targeting areas linked to gambling, drug abuse and other illegal activities, with the aim of dismantling criminal networks before they gain ground.

Vlogger killed as motorcycle crashes into divider, head severed: Police

Surat. (Agency)

AN 18-YEAR-OLD youth died after his motorcycle hit a road divider on a flyover in Surat on Sunday, police said on Wednesday. The police identified the deceased as Prince Patel, a vlogger, who was "very fond of his KTM Duke" bike and made several videos, which he posted on social media under the name 'PKR blogger'.

The impact of the collision was such that the "head was severed from the body", police said. According to the Khatodara police, Prince, a resident of Suman Malhar Avas (EWS quarters) in Vesu, left his house on Sunday for some work. Prince, who was "riding at a high speed" while descending from the flyover near Breadliner Circle, lost control over the vehicle and it collided with the road divider. Passerby soon informed the police.

A police team reached the spot and found that Prince had died. The body was sent to New Civil Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Inspector B R Rabari said on Wednesday, "We found that the head was severed from the body and the

bike was severely damaged. We reviewed CCTV footage of the incident and found that Prince was not wearing a helmet and was speeding. We have registered an offence of not having a driving licence, rash driving and no helmet and started a probe."

Rabari added, "We have deployed our teams at the landing point of the flyover at Breadliner Circle, and are

catching two-wheeler riders driving without helmets. Prince worked at an electric shop as a delivery staffer and purchased a second-hand 'KTM Duke' bike from a friend around five months ago. He had saved money for this from his salary. He was the only one earning in his family. His father died a few years ago."

catching two-wheeler riders driving without helmets. Prince worked at an electric shop as a delivery staffer and purchased a second-hand 'KTM Duke' bike from a friend around five months ago. He had saved money for this from his salary. He was the only one earning in his family. His father died a few years ago."

Eligibility required clearing UGC-NET or JRF, and many candidates also held PhDs from reputed universities. With such credentials, where exactly did the process falter? What went wrong in this recruitment cycle?"

Defending the system, a senior HPSC officer said, "The main written exam had 15 questions, and each was evaluated by the same expert to ensure uniformity. Candidates may have earned gold medals in university exams, but for us, the written test is the true measure of subject knowledge."

The result, which was announced Tuesday, triggered sharp reactions from aspirants with many questioned how candidates from Haryana, who perform well in UPSC and other competitive exams in other states, failed to secure even the qualifying score of 35% out of 150.

Only 151 clear English test for 613 assistant prof posts in Haryana

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Only 151 aspirants for assistant professor posts in English at Haryana colleges have managed to clear the subject knowledge test conducted for 613 vacancies. The successful candidates will now face interviews, the schedule for which will be released after verification of documents and eligibility.

The result, which was announced Tuesday, triggered sharp reactions from aspirants with many questioned how candidates from Haryana, who perform well in UPSC and other competitive exams in other states, failed to secure even the qualifying score of 35% out of 150.

While officials of HPSC, which conducted the exam, maintained that the evaluation process was transparent and fair, but suggested

that weak writing skills may have contributed to the outcome.

HPSC started the descriptive format of answers in the second level of the test in 2022. However, this particular recruitment drive for the assistant professors was conducted after a six-year gap, with the last process completed in 2019. According to HPSC, the recruitment process began with a screening test in June, an objective exam with MCQs for 100 marks. Of the 4,424 candidates who appeared, nearly 2,000 were shortlisted for the subject knowledge test, which had a descriptive exam for 150 marks. In the final exam on August 17, 1,950 candidates appeared, but only 151 cleared.

One PhD holder expressed frustration, "I scored 77 out of 100 in the screening test, while the general category cut-off was just 66. I also secured 62% in my master's degree in English. Yet I was declared unsuccessful in the final written exam."

Another aspirant added, "I completed PG in English with 73% marks. In the screening test, I scored 72, but my name is missing from the list of successful candidates. I know people who scored 86, 91, and even 92 in the screening test, and they too failed to clear the exam. The HPSC must provide us with our answer sheets and explain the method of evaluation. The commission has not disclosed the marks of unsuccessful candidates. We will move Punjab and Haryana High Court."

Recruitment activist Shweta Dhull described the outcome as

"particularly shocking for weaker sections. There were 85 posts reserved for Backward Classes (A), but only three candidates passed. Of the 60 seats for the Backward Class (B) category, only three passed out of 36 posts."

EWS, only six were selected." Former Haryana government officer Satish Mehra highlighted the imbalance. "Of the 151 shortlisted candidates, 136 belong to the general category, even though the general quota had 312 posts. In the Deprived Scheduled Castes

UK-returned man who posted about 'Ludhiana's demographic changes' on X arrested

Chandigarh. (Agency)

A UK-returned man staying in Punjab's Rupnagar district was arrested for allegedly "posting social media content to create disharmony and discord" in the state, the Ludhiana police said on Wednesday, identifying him as Arshdeep Singh Saini.

Saini, who describes himself as "Ram Das, Nationalist, Hindu Sikh" on his X handle @the_lama_singh, has more than 13,000 followers.

In a recent post on X, Saini had written: "Ludhiana is the first city of Punjab that will witness, if not already, rapid demographic change, as more and more illegal Bangladeshi continue to settle and capture the business ecosystem, starting with fruit & vegetable, and other menial tasks..."

Addressing a press conference on Wednesday, Ludhiana Police Commissioner Swapan Sharma said that Saini has been using X to share posts that are "provocative, communal in tone, potentially capable of spreading discord and disharmony in society and inflammatory".

The officer added that the Ludhiana police are investigating if the "online inflammatory posts" are part of a "tool kit to spread disharmony in Punjab at the behest of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI)".

"The preliminary monitoring by the Cyber Crime Police Station revealed the objectionable, communal, provocative content capable of spreading discord and disharmony has been targeting various religious groups, including Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims. Furthermore, the responses and the credentials of the followers indicate a planned and deliberate strategy to infuse hatred among various groups and communities in the state of Punjab," Sharma further said.

The Cyber Crime police station of the Ludhiana police has registered a case against Saini on November 28 under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Information Technology (IT) Act.

Shame, mockery of system: Supreme Court on 16-year delay in acid attack trial

The top court was hearing a PIL filed by Shaheen Malik, an acid attack survivor, to help women who have been force-fed acid instead of throwing acid on their faces.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Supreme Court on Thursday expressed its shock at the 16-year delay in an acid attack trial, calling it a mockery of the legal system and took suo moto cognisance of delays in acid attack trial cases. It directed all the high courts in the country to provide information on pending acid attack trials in their jurisdiction.

"What a mockery of the legal system!! This is such a shame. A trial of 2009 is still going on. If the national capital cannot handle this, then who will? We will take suo moto cognisance," a bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Jaymalya Bagchi said while hearing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) concerning the condition of acid attack survivors. The PIL has been filed by Shaheen Malik, an acid attack survivor, to

help women who have been force-fed acid instead of throwing acid on their faces.

"There was an acid attack on me in the year 2009. But now I work for others. There are others who are made to drink acid and they suffer equally. They are made to eat food by food pipe," Malik submitted. She further told the bench that medical aid and compensation is given to women who have faced an acid attack that disfigures their body from outside because the damage is visible. "But women who have been force-fed acid often don't get the timely medical aid or even compensation because the damage is internal and more difficult to prove." The CJI expressed his shock at women being forced to drink acid.

"This issue is shocking. Unbelievable that something like this is still happening," the CJI said and asked Solicitor General (SG) Tushar Mehta to consider proposing



amendments to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 to expressly cover

such acid attack survivors.

The bench, during the course of the hearing, further asked Malik about the progress of the trial in her case. "The attack happened on me in 2009 and nothing happened in the case till 2013, when Dr Parminder Kaur, who was a judicial officer, helped me and had the case opened for hearing. The trial is ongoing in a Delhi court now," Malik told the bench. The bench asked why the trial in the case is still pending after so many years and directed her to file an application in her PIL seeking expeditious completion of her trial, saying it will direct that the trial be held every day. "We want all the high courts to take up the issue and ensure that acid attack cases are heard by fast-track courts and speedy trials are held," the bench said while seeking from all the high courts details of the pending acid attack cases in their jurisdiction.

Navneet Kumar Sehgal resigns as Prasar Bharati head after 1.5 years in office



New Delhi.(Agency)

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has accepted the resignation of Navneet Kumar Sehgal, who stepped down as Chairman of Prasar Bharati, the country's public broadcaster. An official communication issued on Wednesday confirmed that his exit was cleared under Section 7(6) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990, with immediate effect. Sehgal, a 1988-batch IAS officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, had taken over the post on March 16, 2024. He resigned on December 2, ending a tenure that had drawn attention for its abrupt conclusion.

A veteran administrator, Sehgal retired from the civil service in 2023 as Uttar Pradesh's Additional Chief Secretary for Sports and Youth Welfare. His appointment to Prasar Bharati had been approved by a selection panel led by then Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Before moving to the public broadcaster, he was regarded as one of Uttar Pradesh's most seasoned bureaucrats, with over three decades spent in governance, infrastructure, information management, and policy work at both state and central levels. The Prasar Bharati website notes that Sehgal brought "over 35 years of leadership experience" to the role.

India To Have Electronic Toll Collection In A Year: Nitin Gadkari

New Delhi.(Agency)

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Thursday said the current system of toll collection will come to an end within a year and an electronic system will take its place, ensuring a seamless experience for highway users. The new system has been rolled out in 10 places and will be extended across the country within a year, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways said in Lok Sabha during Question Hour.

"This toll system will end. There will be no one to stop you in the name of toll. Within a year, an electronic toll



collection will be implemented across the country," he said. Gadkari also said that currently 4,500 highway projects worth Rs 10 lakh crore are ongoing across the country.

According to an official statement recently released, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has developed the National Electronic Toll Collection (NETC) program, a unified, interoperable platform for electronic toll payments, to streamline toll collection across India's highways.

At the core of NETC is FASTag, a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) based device affixed to a vehicle's windscreen. It allows toll payments to be made automatically from the user's linked account without stopping at the plaza.

New Safety Rules Kicked In For All Airlines. Why IndiGo Was Hit The Hardest

New Delhi.(Agency)

Angry outbursts, desperate requests, and helplessness -- chaos is unfolding at IndiGo counters in airports across the country as the airline battles operational issues leading to delays and cancellations for hundreds of flights and airport woes for thousands of fliers. As fliers take to social media to express their frustration and helplessness, answers the Frequently Asked Questions on the crisis and how you must prepare for your next flight.

What's Behind The Chaos

IndiGo has blamed "a multitude of unforeseen operational challenges" for the situation. These include minor technology glitches, schedule changes linked to the winter season, adverse weather conditions, increased congestion in the aviation system and the implementation of updated crew rostering rules (Flight Duty Time Limitations).



focused on providing pilots and crew with adequate rest to enhance passenger safety.

Key highlights of these new rules are: extended weekly rest periods for flight crew, a changed definition of

night, extending it by an hour, and a cap on maximum flight duty periods and the number of night landings. For example, night shifts for pilots and crew were reduced to just twice in a roster period, as compared to six earlier. As the new regulations kicked in, a lot of crew members could no longer be on duty as per the airlines' earlier schedules. This led to roster chaos and cancellations, and delays.

Why Was IndiGo Worst-Hit

One reason why IndiGo has been hit so hard by the new regulations kicking in is the sheer size of its operations. According to its website, IndiGo operates over 2,200 domestic and international flights daily. This is about twice the number of flights Air India operates in a day. With such a massive scale, even 10-20 per cent of delayed or cancelled flights effectively means 200-400 flights and an ordeal for thousands of passengers.

Haryana Horror: Poonam's "Beauty Complex" And 4 Dead Children In 2 Years

New Delhi.(Agency)

Poonam -- the Haryana woman accused of killing four children, including her son -- first tried to commit murder in 2021. The chosen victim was her niece, Vidhi, then just two-years-old. Vidhi would survive that attack -- her aunt poured a large kettle of boiling tea on her face, a horrific incident her father tried to convince himself was an accident -- but not the second one on Monday. On Monday Poonam allegedly drowned the six-year-old girl, dressed in her finest for a family function, in a tub of water, and left the body to be found by the child's grandmother. Over the past four years Poonam allegedly killed three other children, including her four-year-old

son. Three of the four children were young girls, prompting police to speculate about a 'beauty complex', i.e., Poonam killed the girls because they were 'more beautiful' than her. Why she killed her son is unclear. Police believe Shubham -- killed in 2023, the second of her four victims -- was meant to be a macabre red herring, a ruse to convince those suspicious of Poonam after her first murder. The first was Ishika, the nine-year-old child of her sister-in-law in 2023. The third was eight-year-old Jia, again, cops believe, because she was 'prettier'. The fourth was Vidhi. Poonam was arrested this week. Police sources told she then confessed to the murders.

Details about the three earlier murders have not been released, but Poonam told the cops she killed Vidhi in the storeroom of a relative's house, at which the extended family had gathered to celebrate a wedding. She killed the child, she claimed, by gaining her confidence, persuading her to stand in a tub of water, and then forcing her head under till the kicking stopped. Spoke to Sandeep, Vidhi's father, who demanded she be sentenced to death for her crimes. "I had my doubts about her... but my family always objected to my opinions," he said. "Poonam had a beauty complex and, because she was jealous, she killed my daughter. She should be given.

What's behind IndiGo flight cancellations, delays? Flight duty rules in focus

IndiGo: Large-scale IndiGo flight cancellations and delays continued in Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata airports on Thursday, impacting lakhs of passengers. But what's behind the disruptions?

New Delhi.(Agency)

Another day of large-scale IndiGo flight cancellations and delays hit lakhs of passengers across the country as the airline continued to grapple with one of its most severe operational breakdowns. Behind the chaos seems to be IndiGo's struggles to adapt to the stringent new crew rostering rules that came into force in November. An IndiGo spokesperson admitted that the implementation of updated crew rostering rules (Flight Duty Time Limitations) was one of the factors that impacted the operations. However, experts and pilot bodies pointed out that IndiGo was well aware that the revised FDTL rules, aimed at reducing crew and pilot fatigue, would kick in from November 1. The preparation for it was not in place. Some also suggested that the

chaos might be deliberate to pressure the aviation regulator to roll back the rules.

The result -- pilot shortages forcing massive flight cancellations, delays up to 10 hours in some cases, chaos at airports, with lakhs of passengers feeling the impact. On Wednesday, over 200 flights were cancelled. The cancellations are likely to continue. It has also led to a ripple effect, sending flight fares soaring.

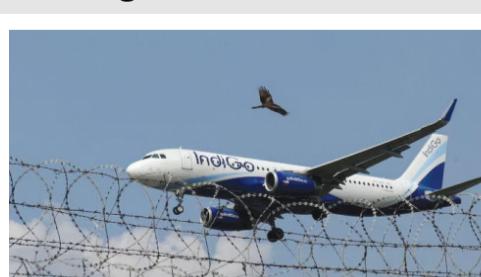
IndiGo's crew constraints have brought into focus the new FDTL norms that came into effect from November 1. In fact, the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), had given airlines a two-year preparatory window before its implementation amid a pushback from several airlines. It has led several to question if IndiGo, despite being well aware of the FDTL norms, deliberately prioritised cost-cutting over long-term stability. The numbers are dire. In November, 1,232 IndiGo flights were cancelled. The airline, known for its punctuality, saw its on-time performance score tumble from 80% and above to 35% on December 2, as per official data. It was the lowest among all

Indian airlines.

INDIGO CAUGHT NAPPING?

Pilot associations said IndiGo was clearly caught napping, unaware of the turbulence that was to follow. "The disruption is the direct consequence of IndiGo's prolonged and unorthodox lean manpower strategy across departments, particularly in flight operations," the Federation of India Pilots (FIP), which comprises 5,000 members, said in a hard-hitting statement.

"Despite the two-year preparatory window before FDTL implementation, IndiGo inexplicably adopted a hiring freeze, entered non-poaching arrangements, maintained a pilot pay freeze through cartel-like behaviour, and demonstrated other short-sighted planning practices," it further said.



NEWS BOX

IND vs SA: Rohit Sharma's eyelash falls, Pant has the most millennial reaction ever

New Delhi. (Agency)

A moment from the India vs South Africa 2nd ODI match went viral on Wednesday, December 3. Opener Rohit Sharma and wicketkeeper Rishabh Pant shared a brief interaction that sent Indian millennials into a wave of nostalgia during the game.

What was the incident? Rishabh Pant noticed that Rohit Sharma had lost an eyelash while fielding at the boundary line. Pant, who was sitting on the bench, quickly picked up the eyelash, handed it to Sharma, and asked him to close his eyes and make a wish. Sharma, who was born in 1987 and must have gone through this childhood ritual hundreds of times, immediately went along with it. He closed his eyes, said a short prayer to the gods, and made his wish. Millennials watching the match quickly noticed the heartwarming moment and helped it go viral across the internet. If Rohit made a wish for India to win the ODI match in Raipur, his prayers did not work. South Africa edged India in Raipur, in yet another nervy encounter in the ODI



series. Chasing 359, South Africa finished the job in 49.2 overs, owing to Aiden Markram's sensational hundred and yet another quickfire cameo from Corbin Bosch at the fag end of the innings. Virat Kohli's hundred was the high point for the Indian team, with the master scoring his 53rd ODI hundred. Kohli batted 93 balls and scored 102 runs, and added 195 runs with Rishabh Pant, who hit his maiden ODI hundred as well. India will now travel to Vizag to play their third and final ODI of the series. The series is level at 1-1 after the first two matches in Ranchi and Raipur. India would be tempted to bolster their batting line-up in the final ODI after hitting slightly below par totals in both matches of the series.

Age does not matter till Rohit, Kohli continue performing with bat: Tim Southee

New Delhi. (Agency)

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma's age should not be held against them as long as they continue to perform, said former New Zealand fast bowler Tim Southee. Speaking during a media roundtable, courtesy of the Sharjah Warriors, Southee explained that both players were still contributing heavily to the Indian side. Virat and Rohit have been India's standout batters over the past year. Even though India recently won the Champions Trophy, there are still murmurs that the two might not remain automatic selections for the 2027 ODI World Cup. The Indian team management has been asked several times whether the pair will play in that ICC tournament, and every time the question has been raised, they have avoided making any commitments regarding the spots of either player. Both Rohit and Virat



have made noticeable adjustments to their batting after the Champions Trophy. These changes have helped them score runs in Australia and now in South Africa. While speaking about the pair, Southee highlighted these improvements and added that as long as they are scoring runs, their age at the start of the ODI World Cup should not matter. "Kohli is arguably the best ever one-day batsman and if he is still performing, then why not? Rohit also scored a hundred a few days ago in Australia, so they are still performing. As long as they are contributing to the side, I believe age is only a number," Tim Southee said during the media interaction. Since the Champions Trophy, Virat Kohli has been India's top run scorer with 311 runs at an average of 77. Rohit is close behind with 273 runs at an average of 68. Southee said that deciding whether to play in the World Cup is a choice that should be left to the two senior players, and if they believe they can contribute in every area of the game, then there is no reason they should be left out of the squad.

Mumbai Indians acquire Oval Invincibles in the Hundred, new name revealed

Reliance Industries, owners of the Mumbai Indians, and Surrey County Cricket Club have entered a partnership, officially announcing the renaming of the Oval Invincibles franchise to MI London in The Hundred.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Reliance Industries and Surrey County Cricket Club have formalized a partnership that sees the Oval Invincibles franchise in The Hundred rebranded as MI London. The move follows several months of delay, with most agreements reportedly finalised in July. The arrival of the Mumbai Indians' ownership further expands the IPL's global footprint and underlines the increasing influence of Indian owners in UK cricket competitions. The announcement signifies a shift for the most dominant team in The

Hundred. Oval Invincibles have won five titles in five seasons, with the women's team securing championships in 2021 and 2022, and the men's team emerging victorious from 2023 to 2025. The rebranding to MI London is expected to bring new commercial strategies and a broader international profile to the franchise. Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited, and Surrey County Cricket Club, today announced their partnership in the Oval Invincibles franchise in The Hundred. This follows the completion of a deal, which gives the organisations 49% and 51% stakes in the franchise, respectively, transferring ownership from England and Wales Cricket Board. As part of this new partnership, from 2026 both the men's and the women's teams will be known as MI London," read the statement. Mumbai Indians' latest expansion adds the UK to its list of franchises, which already includes teams in India, the UAE,



South Africa, and the USA. This strategy reflects a trend where IPL owners continue to establish a presence in multiple cricketing markets, reinforcing the Mumbai Indians' commitment to building a global sports brand. "The Invincibles' winning record and spirit of excellence perfectly embody the MI ethos of passion, resilience, and teamwork. Building on our shared passion for cricket, we look forward to collaborating with our partners at Surrey CCC and building on the legacy of The Hundred's most successful

team," said Akash Ambani. Surrey Chair Oli Slipper added, "We're pleased to have reached an agreement with the Reliance team over our partnership in the Hundred franchise team."

"Reliance bring a significant depth of cricket and business expertise and have had great success with their franchise teams in India and around the world - there's no doubt that they are here to win. They are passionate cricket people and together we will continue the success of our two teams." Other IPL franchises have also invested in The Hundred. The Lucknow Super Giants own a 70% stake in the Manchester franchise, the GMR Group (owners of Delhi Capitals) has a 49% stake in Hampshire, and Sunrisers Hyderabad has complete ownership of Yorkshire. These investments demonstrate the increasing commercial interest and strategic alignment between Indian cricket entities and the UK's professional leagues.

What Gautam Gambhir told Ruturaj Gaikwad after giving No.4 role India batter reveals

New Delhi. (Agency)

India batter Ruturaj Gaikwad revealed the message he got from coach Gautam Gambhir ahead of being used at No.4 for the side in the South Africa ODIs. Known to be an opener on the domestic circuit, and for most of his IPL career, Ruturaj was given the No.4 spot as Shreyas Iyer continues to recover from his injury. However, the selection choice didn't sit well with a lot of fans who criticised the selection process by Gambhir and the team management after his failure in the first ODI. However, the Maharashtra batter shut down the noise by scoring his maiden hundred, that saw the 28-year-old accelerate in fantastic fashion in the second half of his knock. Speaking at the post-match press conference, Gaikwad said it was a privilege for him to have the vote of confidence from the team management. He revealed that Gambhir's word



of advice was to just play his natural game.

"I was told that I will bat at number four this series and encouraged to enjoy my game. I feel it is a privilege to have that kind of confidence from management to an opener who can bat at four. Hopefully, I can do well in the last match too. Coach told me to enjoy the game and play my natural game," said Ruturaj. "Yes (if it was his best knock). Batting at number four is a challenge for me," said Ruturaj.

'WHEN I AM SET, I TRY TO MAKE IT LONG' Ruturaj opened up on his process while batting and said that he always tries to make his innings a long one once he settles down. After his below-par Vijay Hazare Trophy campaign last year, the Maharashtra batter said his thought was to remain consistent in terms of runs.

"In ODI format, even while I was opening, I always wanted to bat till 40-45 overs and capitalise after that. I know how to play 11-40 overs and rotate strike, find my boundary options. It was just about playing the first 10-15 balls well and keep the process. Whenever I'm set, I try to make it long."

A Virat Kohli ton finally isn't enough: India's 7-year unbeaten ODI streak ends

Virat Kohli's superb 102 in Raipur could not save India, who suffered their first ODI defeat with a Kohli century in nearly seven years. His stand with Ruturaj Gaikwad set up 358, but South Africa chased it down to level the series.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Virat Kohli produced yet another masterclass in Raipur, crafting a sublime 102 off 93 balls, but for the first time in 6 years and 9 months, an ODI century from him did not carry India to victory. His effort, along with Ruturaj Gaikwad's maiden ODI hundred, powered India to 358 for five, yet South Africa chased it down with four balls to spare to level the series.



This was only the eighth instance in Kohli's ODI career where a hundred ended in defeat. The previous occurrence dated back to March 2019. His 53rd ODI ton was built with typical precision: crisp drives, sharp running, and effortless strike rotation. The 195-run partnership with Gaikwad was the highlight of India's innings, and Kohli looked in complete command from the

moment he stepped in.

Despite the imposing total, India found themselves up against unfavourable conditions in the second half. Heavy dew blunted the grip of the spinners and reduced the margin for error for the pacers. The bowling lacked consistency, and South Africa capitalised with a composed, well-constructed chase. Aiden Markram's century anchored the pursuit, Dewald Brevis provided a brutal counterpunch with a 34-ball 54, and Matthew Breetzke's steady 68 kept the visitors ahead of the rate. Even late strikes from Prasidh Krishna and Arshdeep Singh could not prevent Corbin Bosch and Keshav Maharaj from steering South Africa home. For India, the match will be remembered not just for the defeat, but for the end of a remarkable streak — nearly seven years without losing an ODI when Kohli reached three figures. With the series now level at 1-1, all focus shifts to Visakhapatnam for the decider.

Finisher who Raipur loss highlights India's glaring ODI weakness

New Delhi. (Agency)

India arrived in Raipur with a sense of rising rhythm, carried by the glow of Virat Kohli's second successive century and Ruturaj Gaikwad's maiden ODI hundred. Under the bright floodlights and in front of 60,000 spectators, the scoreboard read 358 for 5, a total that felt full, loud and imposing. The atmosphere suggested a night that should belong to India. But cricket, as it often does in India's final overs, posed a question the team still cannot answer. By the time the innings closed, that seemingly commanding total felt like a promise unkept. Dewald Brevis softened the ball and the bowlers in equal measure, but it could not blur the truth India have lived with for years: they do not have a finisher they trust. Aiden Markram's century carried assurance, Matthew Breetzke brought urgency in the middle overs, and Dewald Brevis played with the freedom of someone unburdened by pressure. South Africa's chase unfolded not with chaos but with conviction, levelling the series and exposing



South Africa ahead. Even after his dismissal with 70 needed off 57 balls, the visitors retained clarity. India sensed an opening when Breetzke and Marco Jansen fell in quick succession, and tension rose when Tony de Zorzi limped off with a hamstring issue. For a moment, Raipur held its breath. But Corbin Bosch arrived with

purpose, Keshav Maharaj steadied the chase, and together they restored the calm. India never found with the bat. With 27 required off 30 balls, South Africa barely blinked. India, meanwhile, were left to reckon with the runs they left behind in the final 10 overs.

ARECURRING PATTERN

This series has followed a strikingly similar script. India lose the toss, Kohli scores a hundred, and the team moves past or close to 350. Then the dew arrives, the spinners lose control of the ball, and the match tilts decisively. What should be a tactical contest becomes a struggle against slippery conditions. Around the 25-over mark in each chase, the ball has resembled a bar of wet soap. On flat, unresponsive pitches under lights, bowlers get nothing in return and are reduced to waiting for mistakes rather than forcing them. In Ranchi, South Africa made enough errors to fall 17 short. In Raipur, needing 359, they kept their discipline and won with four balls to spare.

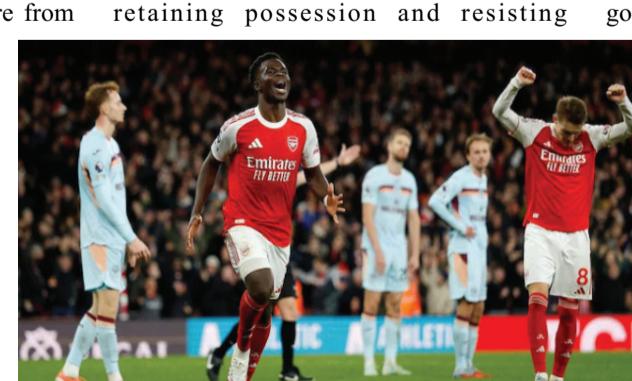
Premier League: Arsenal grind out Brentford win, Chelsea suffer shock loss

Arsenal reinforced their position at the top of the Premier League with a disciplined win against Brentford, extending their unbeaten run. Chelsea, meanwhile, suffered a home defeat to Leeds United, slipping further behind in the title race.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Arsenal strengthened their hold at the top of the Premier League table with a 2-0 victory over Brentford, maintaining a five-point advantage over their closest rivals, Manchester City. First-half and stoppage-time goals secured a composed win at home, pushing Arsenal's unbeaten run across all competitions to 18 matches. Despite not

being at their most fluent, Arsenal's control and resilience, particularly in the face of defensive absences and late pressure from Brentford, kept their title challenge on track. The Gunners had their lead cut to two points after City's 5-4 win over Fulham. The match began with Arsenal taking the lead through Mikel Merino in the 11th minute, setting the tone for a professional showing. Bukayo Saka added a crucial second goal in injury time (90+1'), offering relief after a tense second half and ensuring the three points were secured. While Arsenal controlled possession for significant periods, the match was punctuated by nervy moments. Brentford's Kevin Schade struck the crossbar, threatening to level the score. Brentford later increased their intensity with long balls and crosses, but Arsenal's reorganised back line managed these threats, despite suffering injuries to



Brentford's late physical and direct style. CHELSEA SUFFER SHOCK LOSS In contrast, Chelsea suffered a damaging 3-1 defeat at home to Leeds United, hampering their title aspirations. Leeds took an early

lead through Jaka Bijol in the sixth minute and extended it with Ao Tanaka's spectacular goal before half-time. Pedro Neto reduced the deficit for Chelsea after the break, but Dominic Calvert-Lewin capitalised on a defensive error in the 72nd minute to secure Leeds' win. The defeat leaves Chelsea on 24 points, now in fourth place and nine points adrift of Arsenal. Leeds' victory lifted them out of the relegation zone into 17th place with 14 points. Chelsea's defensive lapses and inability to control Leeds' intensity and counter-attacks were evident, further damaging their standing in the title race.

Aston Villa moved to the third spot on the table with a thrilling 4-3 comeback win over Brighton. After trailing 0-3, goals from Ollie Watkins, Amadou Onana and Donyell Malen got the win for Unai Emery's side in the end.

Investing Rs 5,000 in mutual funds? Why you should not go for multiple SIPs

New Delhi.(Agency)

For many new investors, a monthly SIP of Rs 5,000 feels like a promising first step into the world of wealth creation. But in the quest for "diversification", plenty of beginners unintentionally derail their progress. Dividing this modest sum across four or five mutual funds may look like a good strategy, yet the habit often leads to confusion, panic—and significantly weaker long-term outcomes. To understand why this seemingly harmless approach backfires, IndiaToday.in spoke to certified financial planner and personal finance expert Ritesh Sabharwal, who has a simple message for every first-time investor: simplicity is a superpower.

THE FALSE COMFORT OF DIVERSIFICATION

A common pattern plays out when someone begins their mutual fund journey. They take Rs 5,000 and split it—Rs 1,000 each into large-cap, mid-cap, small-cap, flexi-cap and even a sectoral fund, hoping it will "balance risk" and "increase gains." But the reality often turns out very different. It feels methodical and well-balanced. But according to Sabharwal, this is nothing but "over-diversification dressed up as smart investing." To illustrate, he compares two common approaches. In Strategy A, an investor simply puts the entire Rs 5,000 into a single flexi-cap fund. Over ten years, this grows at 12.2% annually to Rs 11.65 lakh. In Strategy B, the same amount is split into five different categories. Despite all the diversification, the 10-year return nudges only slightly higher to 12.4%, giving a final value of Rs 11.68 lakh. Sabharwal points out the striking part: "The difference is barely Rs 3,000 in ten years—just 0.2% extra. But the effort, tracking and decision-making multiply five times."

THE HIDDEN COSTS THAT HURT BEGINNERS
This added complexity, Sabharwal warns, becomes harmful very quickly. "Many beginners split their Rs 5,000 thinking it's smart diversification. But this one mistake leads to three times higher dropout rates and destroys long-term wealth," he says.

Andhra clears 480 acres for mega Adani–Google AI hub in Visakhapatnam

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Andhra Pradesh government has cleared a major step toward creating one of India's largest AI infrastructure hubs by allotting 480 acres of land in Visakhapatnam and Anakapalli districts for the proposed Adani–Google data centre project. The land has been assigned to Adani Infra (India) Pvt Ltd for the development of a 1-gigawatt AI data centre campus planned by Raiden Infotech India Pvt Ltd, a company linked to Google. The project is part of a broader partnership between Google and AdaniConneX. With an estimated investment of about Rs 87,500 crore, the development is among the biggest technology infrastructure proposals in the country. The state government has also approved an incentive package that includes subsidies and concessions on land, power and utilities to support the construction and operation of the campus. The official order issued on 2 December completes the administrative approval for the land transfer, pending final surveys and handover formalities. The planned campus will be designed to host high-density AI workloads requiring large-scale power, advanced cooling and reliable connectivity. State officials say the project will help position Visakhapatnam as a major centre for AI, cloud services and digital infrastructure, potentially attracting more global technology investments. The government expects the development to generate significant direct and indirect employment and give a boost to allied sectors in the region.

Fitch lifts India's FY26 growth outlook to 7.4% as consumption surge powers momentum

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Fitch Ratings has lifted its forecast for India's economic growth in FY26 to 7.4 percent from its earlier projection of 6.9 percent, citing stronger-than-expected consumer spending and the positive impact of ongoing GST reforms. The upgrade reflects Fitch's view that domestic demand remains the backbone of India's expansion, supported by easing inflation, firmer household incomes and improving sentiment across consumption-driven sectors. According to the agency, consumer spending has accelerated as price pressures have cooled and a series of GST revisions have lowered the cost of several goods. This has given households more spending power at a time when the broader economy is benefitting from resilient services activity, steady urban demand and expanding credit flow. Fitch noted that the reforms associated with the newer phase of GST implementation have contributed to making consumption goods more affordable, thereby pushing demand higher than previously estimated. The upgrade also rests on an improved inflation outlook. With headline inflation moderating, Fitch believes financial conditions may ease further if the central bank opts for additional policy support in the months ahead. The expectation of potential rate cuts has reinforced the view that domestic investment and credit expansion will continue to provide momentum to growth. Even so, Fitch has signalled that growth could taper slightly in FY27 as the extraordinary push from consumption and tax reforms normalises. The latest forecast underscores India's growing reliance on its domestic market at a time when global demand remains uneven and external risks persist. While strong household spending is helping to absorb global shocks, Fitch cautioned that maintaining this pace of growth will require a sustained pickup in private investment, steady job creation and continued progress on structural reforms. High-frequency indicators for services, retail activity and travel suggest that urban demand remains firm, though rural recovery still needs to broaden for a more balanced expansion.

Aequus IPO: Check latest subscription details, GMP and more

The grey market premium for the Aequus IPO is currently around Rs 45.5. Based on this, the estimated listing price works out to approximately Rs 169.5, implying potential listing gains of about 36.69% over the upper end of the price band.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Aequus IPO continued to draw strong investor interest on the final day of bidding, with demand rising sharply across categories. The company, which operates in precision engineering and

aerospace manufacturing, plans to use the proceeds for capacity expansion, debt repayment, and general corporate purposes.

STRONG SUBSCRIPTION

As of 11:16 am, the IPO had been subscribed 5.43 times overall. Retail investors remained the strongest contributors, with the retail portion subscribed 17.70 times. Non-institutional investors followed with 6.52 times subscription, while the employee-reserved category received bids 9.34 times. QIB demand stood at 0.67 times but could pick up closer to the closing hours, which is typical for institutional bids on the final day.

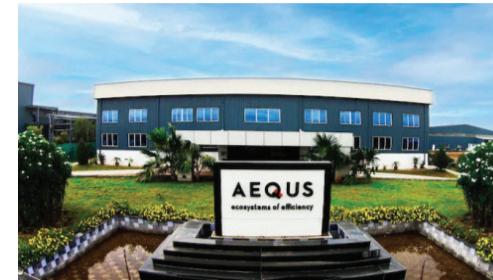
LATEST GMP

The grey market premium for the Aequus IPO is currently around Rs 45.5. Based on this, the estimated listing price works out to approximately Rs 169.5, implying potential listing gains of about 36.69% over the upper end of the price band. While the GMP reflects strong sentiment, it is an unofficial indicator and actual gains will depend on market

conditions and institutional demand at the time of listing.

DETAILS ABOUT THE COMPANY

Aequus is an integrated manufacturing services provider specialising in precision



OEMs such as Airbus, Boeing, Safran Collins and Spirit AeroSystems. Many of these partnerships have lasted more than 15 years, giving the company a degree of stability and visibility in a high-entry-barrier business. The company intends to deploy the funds raised through the IPO towards expanding its manufacturing capacity and repaying certain borrowings. Aequus aims to strengthen its position in the global aerospace supply chain and tap the growing shift towards outsourcing precision components.

SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

Rajan Shinde, Research Analyst at Mehta Equities Ltd, suggested that the Aequus IPO offers investors an opportunity to participate in one of India's most advanced aerospace precision manufacturing platforms. He noted that Aequus is the only Indian manufacturer operating from a single SEZ with fully integrated aerospace capabilities, providing exposure to a high-entry-barrier industry that is increasingly being outsourced globally.

Will gold hold above Rs 1.30 lakh Here's what experts say

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold prices in India held steady on Thursday as the market awaited next week's US Federal Reserve policy meeting. Traders exercised caution with gold futures on the MCX opening at Rs 1,30,799 per 10 grams, slightly above the previous close, before last trading at Rs 1,30,414. At the time of writing, gold was priced at Rs 129,837, down by 0.48%. Silver also saw a decline, valued at Rs 179,890, down by 1.35%. Rahul Kalantri, VP Commodities, Mehta Equities Ltd, described the recent trading session for bullion as turbulent. He said, "Gold and silver traded with sharp intraday volatility, rebounding from the day's lows but failing to sustain gains, ultimately closing flat. Precious metals inched toward fresh highs as market participants reacted to key US economic data and rising geopolitical tensions. The ADP Non-Farm Employment Change report released yesterday came in well below expectations, fuelling speculation about the Fed's next steps. The weak data pushed the dollar index below the 99 mark, giving additional momentum to precious metals. Amid rising

geopolitical risks, investors continue to lean on gold's safe-haven strength." Gold has support at \$4175-4145 while resistance at \$4270-4295. Silver has support at \$57.70-56.85 while resistance is at \$58.95-59.45. In



INR, gold has support at Rs 1,29,450-1,28,750 while resistance at Rs 1,30,950-1,31,700. Silver has support at Rs 1,80,750-1,79,200 while resistance at Rs 1,83,510, 1,84,670. Ross Maxwell, Global Strategy Lead at VT Markets, offered insight on gold's performance in 2025. He stated, "In retrospect, gold's outperformance in 2025 was due to a perfect storm of global and domestic factors. Continuing geopolitical tensions, policy uncertainty, and a

softer US dollar supported safe-haven demand. Real interest rates fell, and central banks continued their recent strong pace of gold accumulation. Additional volatility came from the US government shutdown, inflation concerns, and US-China trade frictions. In India, the softer rupee and wedding-season demand also supported prices. Collectively, these elements constituted a 'perfect storm' for gold." Looking ahead, Maxwell noted that the recent movement in gold prices could represent a period of healthy consolidation. He commented, "For gold into 2026, I see the recent correction as a healthy consolidation after a robust rally in 2025. The fundamental drivers are still there: central-bank purchases, geopolitical uncertainty, a softer U.S. dollar, and cautious global growth. The overarching trend, as long as gold holds its 2025 support levels, is higher, but likely at a more moderate pace. Considering ongoing inflationary pressures and changing monetary policies, steady accumulation or buying on dips is more prudent than waiting for a substantial correction."

Applying for Meesho IPO Investors should be aware of these red flags

New Delhi.(Agency)

Meesho IPO has attracted strong bidding interest, with the retail portion fully subscribed and a visible grey market premium (GMP) of Rs 49 suggesting robust investor sentiment. Investors evaluating the Meesho IPO are cautioned by brokerage firms to carefully review several risks that may impact the company's growth. According to SBI Securities, "Meesho's significant dependence on its seller ecosystem, the high costs associated with marketing, reliance on outsourced logistics, and intensifying competition from established players such as Amazon, Flipkart, and offline retailers" are considerable challenges. These structural issues could influence Meesho's ability to sustain its existing growth as the e-commerce industry evolves. While noting these risks, SBI Securities also highlighted Meesho's

potential advantages, stating, "Meesho's interconnected commerce and logistics flywheels, the use of GenAI in engineering, and an affordability-focused approach have attracted approximately 23 million annual transacting customers." Nevertheless, the brokerage underscores that external competition and the requirement for effective execution remain substantial areas of concern for prospective investors. The company's IPO consists of a fresh issue of Rs 4,250 crore and an offer for sale worth Rs 1,171.20 crore, drawing significant attention after securing Rs 2,439 crore from over 60 anchor investors, including major names such as SBI MF, GIC, BlackRock, Fidelity, and Axis MF. This strong anchor turnout indicates institutional confidence in Meesho's business model and growth

potential. Swastika Investmart highlighted Meesho's defensible stance in smaller towns, making the firm competitive where larger rivals face challenges. They said, "Meesho turned free cash flow positive in FY25, despite net losses due to one-off items, with valuations considered attractive at about 5.5 times FY25 Price-to-Sales." Bajaj Broking pointed out Meesho's core business model, mentioning, "Meesho's 'Everyday Low Prices' model, efficient tech-led operations, and zero-commission structure allow sellers greater pricing flexibility," valuing the company at approximately 4.7 times FY25 sales. Subscription momentum among retail investors is strong, with the retail individual investor category subscribed 1.38 times. Demand from non-institutional investors is still developing, while qualified institutional buyers.

Having undisclosed foreign income Why is CBDT urging taxpayers to review ITRs

MUMBAI.(Agency)

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has intensified its efforts to ensure compliance with foreign income and asset disclosure by sending SMS and email alerts to taxpayers. This move is part of the second phase of the NUDGE campaign, which began on November 28, 2025. Taxpayers who have not reported overseas income or foreign assets for the financial year are being advised to review and revise their Income Tax Returns (ITRs) by December 31, 2025, to avoid penalties. The CBDT's initiative follows the first NUDGE campaign, which saw a significant number of disclosures. According to CBDT, the first NUDGE campaign, which started on November 17, 2024, resulted in 24,678 taxpayers revising their returns for Assessment Year (AY) 2024-25. This led to the disclosure of foreign



assets worth Rs 29,208 crore and foreign-source income amounting to Rs 1,089.88 crore. For the latest assessment year, the board has identified several high-risk cases where foreign assets may exist but remain unreported. However, the actual number of such cases has not yet been published. Indian taxpayers are legally required to disclose all overseas assets and any income received from foreign sources in their ITR forms. The reporting must be done according to the calendar year, from January 1 to December 31 of the relevant period. For the current cycle, taxpayers need to ensure they have reported all foreign income and assets relating to the calendar year 2024. This requirement is mandated under the Income-tax Act, 1961 and the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015. Taxpayers with foreign assets or overseas income are urged to use the correct ITR form, complete Schedule Foreign Assets (FA) and Foreign Source Income (FSI), and submit Form 67 if claiming relief for taxes paid abroad.

IT and auto lift markets off lows as rupee slide keeps trade cautious

By midday, the benchmarks recovered part of their early losses as investors stepped in to buy quality stocks at lower levels.

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Indian equities spent most of Thursday (December 4), moving in a narrow and cautious range as weak global cues, foreign fund outflows and a sinking rupee kept sentiment restrained through the session. The day began on a subdued note, with early indicators pointing to a softer open after GIFT Nifty signalled pressure on benchmark indices. At the opening bell, the Sensex slipped by around 100 points and the Nifty drifted below the 26,000 mark as investors reacted to persistent selling by overseas funds and nervousness in global markets.

Through the morning, the tone remained

hesitant. A record low for the rupee added to the caution, prompting traders to stay defensive in sectors sensitive to currency swings. Despite the weakness, select pockets of buying helped stabilise the market. As of about 1:15 PM the BSE Sensex was hovering near 85,438 points and the NSE Nifty 50 was trading close to 26,084, showing a modest recovery from the morning slump. IT stocks in particular saw renewed interest, driven by expectations that a weaker rupee could support earnings in the coming quarters. Auto counters also managed to find strength, helping offset declines in energy, metals and banking. By midday, the benchmarks recovered part of their early losses as investors stepped in to buy quality stocks at lower levels. The rebound was modest but steady, reflecting a willingness among domestic institutional investors to support the market even as foreign outflows continued. The broader indices, however, lacked clear direction, and mid- and



small-cap shares displayed uneven movement, with gains in technology and consumer stocks partly overshadowed by weakness in cyclicals. In the second half of the session, markets held on to the recovery but did not gain enough momentum to turn decisively higher. Traders remained wary of global uncertainties, including shifting expectations on interest rates in major economies and the near-term volatility in crude oil prices. Attention also stayed

fixed on domestic macro signals, particularly the rupee's trajectory and the evolving stance of the Reserve Bank of India ahead of upcoming policy updates. By late afternoon, the Sensex and Nifty were trading slightly above the day's lows, supported mainly by technology, auto and select financial names. However, the overall mood stayed guarded. Market participants preferred to wait for clearer cues before taking large positions, and intraday movements reflected a blend of bargain hunting and profit-taking. The session ultimately closed with mixed undertones: mild strength in a few heavyweight sectors, persistent pressure from global and currency-related factors, and a broader market that remained hesitant to break out either way. Thursday's trade illustrated a market that is stabilising after recent volatility but still searching for a firm directional trigger.

Priyanka Chopra

Reveals She 'Felt Really Lost' In Bollywood During Her Early Days

Priyanka Chopra is now a global star and one of the biggest names in the industry. The actress, who turned producer just a few years ago, has backed mostly independent and documentary films, and this was a conscious decision taken by her. The reason lies in her early experience in Bollywood. In a recent interview with PTI, Priyanka Chopra spoke about why she chose to produce the kind of films that she has. While talking about her choices, she shared, "As a producer, I'm empathetic, and our ethos is a lot around wanting to give opportunities to newer filmmakers or filmmakers that want to achieve something that they haven't been able to or are kind of hitting a wall somewhere. My production side kind of comes from what personally moves me."

The actress continued and shared that she often felt lost in her early days and said, "I

didn't know why I was gravitating towards filmmakers and stories that were maybe marginalised or told that they're not what is expected... As I'm talking about it, I think it does come from the fact that when I joined the industry, I didn't have it. I was trying to navigate this crazy movie industry by myself with my parents, who were doctors and who also had no idea about the business. And I kind of felt really lost."

Priyanka Chopra on Workfront

Now, one of the biggest actresses, Priyanka, started her career at the age of 18 after winning Miss World 2000. In her decades-long career, Priyanka has given some of the finest films to Hindi cinema, including *Fashion*, for which she won the National Film Award for



Best Actress for her role as a struggling model.

About Priyanka Chopra's Upcoming Project

Priyanka will soon make an appearance in Varanasi with Prithviraj Sukumaran and Mahesh Babu. The movie, directed by SS Rajamouli, will be released in two parts: the first in 2027 and the second in 2029. For the Varanasi title reveal event, Priyanka wore a traditional lehenga choli and accessorized it with golden and white jewels, flawless makeup, and a stylish hairstyle. Her spouse and her admirers went crazy when they saw how stunning she looked in the outfit.



Rashmika Mandanna

Picks Black Tee And Baggy Jeans For Airport Outing



Rashmika Mandanna has been dominating headlines recently, thanks to her continuous streak of film releases and a tightly packed schedule. Beyond her professional commitments, Rashmika has also attracted attention due to persistent rumours regarding her personal life, particularly her rumoured wedding with actor Vijay Deverakonda. According to reports by India Today, Rashmika and Vijay are said to have gotten engaged privately on October 3, 2025, at Vijay's residence in Hyderabad. The intimate ceremony reportedly included only close family members and friends, keeping the occasion discreet and away from media attention.

This revelation sparked a wave of excitement among fans, many of whom have been eagerly following the couple's relationship since their first collaboration on screen.

Rashmika's Casual and Stylish Airport Look

Despite all the buzz surrounding her personal life, Rashmika was spotted recently at the airport in Hyderabad, looking effortlessly stylish yet low-key. She appeared occupied on her phone but couldn't hide her signature million-dollar smile. Opting to skip the usual photo op, Rashmika walked with her head slightly down, keeping the moment subtle.

She wore a casual ensemble of baggy blue jeans paired with a black shirt, complemented by sleek black sunglasses. Her hair was tied in a neat ponytail, and she completed the look with elegant heels.

Rashmika Mandanna's Career Highs in 2025

2025 has undoubtedly been a milestone year for Rashmika Mandanna. She has delivered multiple box-office hits, including *Chhaava*, *Sikandar*, *Thamma*, and the widely discussed *The Girlfriend*. These films have not only showcased her versatility as an actress but have also strengthened her position as a leading figure in both South Indian and Hindi cinema.

Upcoming Projects: *Mysaa* and *Cocktail 2*

Building on the success of *The Girlfriend*, Rashmika has already teased her upcoming project, *Mysaa*. The first-look poster reveals her in a fierce and intense avatar, promising a character that contrasts sharply with her recent roles. Additionally, she is set to appear in *Cocktail 2*, where she will share the screen with Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.



Shehzad Badesha Admits Being Unhappy When His Father Graced Bigg Boss 19: 'I Wish Shehnaaz Had Come'



Bigg Boss season 19 saw contestant Shehzad Badesha get evicted during the previous weekend ka vaar. Shehzad Badesha, in a conversation with IANS, reacted to being unhappy with his father coming over for the family week instead of his sister, Shehnaaz Gill. He was seen visibly upset upon seeing his father instead of Shehnaaz. "I wanted Shehnaaz to come and guide me about the game. I love Shehnaaz a lot," said Shehzad. "I felt that if my father came, it might affect my game because he didn't know much about what was happening inside, and he might say something unknowingly that would weaken my game. So I really wished Shehnaaz had come."

Shehzad's father, during his stay in the BB 19 house for the family week episode, was seen having a gala time with all the contestants, especially the female ones – for which he was massively trolled over social media. Reacting to the same, Shehzad told IANS, "It wasn't just him. The other side was responding in a similar way too, so why blame only him? If he's getting trolled, let people troll. People will say whatever they want. It doesn't affect us."

Meanwhile, Shehnaaz Gill was seen rooting for her brother while promoting her movie *Ikl Kudi*. She had even spotted a T-shirt that had Shehzad's photo imprinted on it during her movie promotions. The actress was also seen expressing that she is extremely proud of her brother and his game. Shehzad got evicted right before the show's grand finale, set for the coming week.

Talking about the same, the former BB 19 contestant told IANS, "I have no regrets. I had a wonderful time inside the Bigg Boss house. I am thankful to Bigg Boss for giving me that experience."

Jannat Zubair Calls Her Bond With Aly Goni 'Tom & Jerry'



When there is a conversation about food and fun, there's no doubt that Colors TV's popular show *Laughter Chef* comes to mind. *Laughter Chefs Unlimited Entertainment* is back with a brand new season. Season 3 of this cooking show brings back the fan-favourite mix of madness, entertainment, and kitchen chaos.

While mom-to-be Bharti Singh, often regarded as the "Laughter Queen," has returned as the host, celebrity chef Harpal Singh Sokhi once again takes charge as the judge. The season opens the kitchen to both old and new celebrity contestants. The star lineup includes Karan Kundra, Tejasswi Prakash, Debina Bonnerjee, Gurmeet Choudhary, Eisha Singh, Vivian Dsena, Abhishek Kumar, Samarth Jurel, Elvish Yadav, Isha Malviya, Kashmira Shah, Krishna Abhishek, Aly Goni, and Jannat Zubair.

Now, Jannat Zubair has opened up about the vibe of the new season and expressed her excitement to complete tasks with her cooking partner, Aly Goni. She also shared how much she is missing some fellow contestants from the previous season.

Jannat Zubair on What Makes Laughter Chefs Season 3 Bigger and More Exciting

During an interview with Times of India, she discussed the factors that set the new season of *Laughter Chefs* apart from the previous one. She said, "This season is honestly on another level! The kitchen has always been chaotic, but this time it feels like the flame has been turned all the way up. After two superhit seasons, the show is back and it's bigger, crazier, and spicier. We have new jodis and new teams, including our very own team Kaanta and team Churri, who are ready to bring their spark, speed, and full-on fun to the kitchen."

She added, "You'll see lovebirds, best friends, frenemies, reality-show rivals, and complete first-time cooks all trying to survive the same rasoi. Trust me, the kitchen has never seen this much teasing, tasting, tantrums, teamwork, and glamour. What I truly love is that it's still not about being the best chef, it's about chemistry, confusion, last-minute disasters, and those moments where the dish might fail but the laughter always wins."

Jannat Zubair Is Excited To Cook Food With Aly Goni

When asked how excited she is to cook food with Aly Goni, she shared, "I'm genuinely thrilled! Cooking with Aly is a challenge – for him! He's focused, steady, and really serious about getting things right. And now that we're partners, I feel like I genuinely have a shot at winning the most stars this season because Aly cooks well. We have this Tom-and-Jerry style comfort where we'll argue over something silly and then laugh the very next minute."

Jannat Zubair Misses These Contestants From Previous Seasons

The Phulwa actress also revealed the names of her fellow contestants from the previous season. She said, "I'm missing a lot of people this season such as Ankita di, Vicky bhaiya, and Nia. We've made some incredible memories together. But the person I miss the most is Reem. She's not just a friend; she's like my sister, and she was my partner in Season 1. We understood each other without even speaking."

7 temples in Assam to be connected via waterways in Brahmaputra River



In a recent update, the Assam government has got approval from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways to develop 10 waterway projects that will connect seven prominent temples in the state. As per proposal, the waterways will work on a "Hop on & Hop off" basis.

As per the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, the project will be built with an investment of INR 645.56 crore under the Sagarmala Scheme. The Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, has granted approval for the projects.

The Waterways will connect the following 7 temples:

Kamakhya Temple: Kamakhya Temple is one of the prime temples in Assam, India. It is also among the most ancient Shakti Peethas dedicated to the goddess Kamakhya. The temple attracts devotees from across the globe for its unique rituals and the Ambubachi Mela, celebrating the goddess's yearly menstruation cycle.

Pandunath Temple: Pandunath Temple in the Kaziranga National Park is dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple is related with the Pandavas from the Mahabharata, and attracts both devotees from all over.

12 places in India that are most searched by foreign tourists

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Pinterest](#)

Ashwaklanta Temple: Ashwaklanta Temple is dedicated to Lord Krishna and is noted for its peaceful surroundings. The statue of Krishna here is believed to be installed by the legendary sage, Narada.

Doul Govinda Temple: Doul Govinda Temple in Tezpur, Assam, is also dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple is known for its colourful celebrations during the Holi festival.

Umananda Temple: Umananda Temple is another ancient temple built on Peacock Island in the Brahmaputra River. The temple is dedicated to Lord Shiva and is accessible by boat. People can have scenic experiences.

Chakreshwar Temple: Chakreshwar Temple is a beautiful temple in the village of Hajo, Assam. It is dedicated to Lord Shiva and the place is noted for its quiet atmosphere and historical significance.

Auniati Satra Temple: Auniati Satra, founded in the 17th century, is in Majuli, one of the most beautiful and unexplored places in Assam. The place is a prominent Vaishnavite monastery dedicated to Lord Krishna. The temple is known for its rich cultural and religious significance.

As per reports, the waterways will promote river tourism in the state. The plans are to develop 12 floating terminals, two multimodal terminals at Pandu and Jogighopa, and two permanent terminals at Bogibeel and Dhubri.

Paris

Notre-Dame Cathedral set to reopen after five years; know all about it here

After more than five years of meticulous restoration following a devastating fire on April 19, 2019, the iconic Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris is set to reopen this weekend. The highly anticipated event marks a historic milestone for one of the world's most beloved landmarks.

The reopening ceremonies will begin on Saturday afternoon with a symbolic service led by Paris Archbishop Laurent Ulrich. He will strike the cathedral's doors with his staff, a traditional gesture to signify the reopening. The archbishop will also breathe life back into Notre-Dame's legendary grand organ, whose 8,000 pipes—coated in toxic dust from the fire—have been painstakingly disassembled, cleaned, and restored.

24 hours in Paris

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Pinterest](#)

pianist Lang Lang, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, and singers Angelique Kidjo and Hiba Tawaji. Notre-Dame, whose spire collapsed in the tragic 2019 blaze, has undergone one of the most ambitious restoration projects in modern history. Craftsmen, architects, and historians collaborated tirelessly to preserve its Gothic heritage while modernizing safety standards. The reopening of the cathedral is more than just a milestone for Paris.

The Ile de la Cite, home to Notre-Dame, will be sealed off to the public throughout the weekend. Access will be limited to residents and invitees, including clergy and government officials. Shops and tourist services will be closed, and a security cordon will extend to surrounding bridges and a stretch of the Seine's southern bank.

Sunday morning will feature another landmark moment: the consecration of Notre-Dame's new altar during an inaugural mass

led by the archbishop.

The celebrations will include a blend of religious rituals and artistic performances. French President Emmanuel Macron will attend the opening service, alongside nearly 50 heads of state and dignitaries from around the world. The evening will culminate in a spectacular concert featuring international stars such as

Nearly 170 bishops from France and other nations, along with clergy from all Paris parishes, will attend the service. Following the mass, a "fraternal buffet" will be organized for the needy, reinforcing the cathedral's enduring role as a beacon of compassion and community.

