

PM Modi, Amit Shah, Rahul Gandhi Meet To Pick Chief Information Commissioner

The appointment of information commissioners for eight vacant positions at the Central Information Commission (CIC) will also be decided by the panel.

New Delhi (Agency)
Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, and the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are holding a closed-door meeting to decide the next Chief Information Commissioner. The appointment of information commissioners for eight vacant positions at the Central Information Commission (CIC) will also be decided by the panel. The government had earlier informed the Supreme Court that the officials for the top posts would be selected by the PM-led panel today. The PM chairs the panel that selects and recommends the names for appointment as

Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners under Section 12 (3) of the Right to Information Act. The other members include the Leader of the Opposition and a union minister nominated by the prime minister. The Chief Information Commissioner and 10 Information Commissioners are tasked with reviewing complaints and appeals filed by RTI applicants against unsatisfactory responses by government officials to their applications, according to the RTI Act. The CIC is the highest appellate authority when it comes to RTI-related complaints and appeals. It currently has just two information



vacant, with 30,838 cases still pending. Heeralal Samaria was the last Chief Information Commissioner, who demitted office on September 13 after turning 65. He had been appointed to the CIC on November 6, 2023. Eighty-three applications were received for the Chief Information Commissioner's post in response to its May 21 advertisement, the Department of Personnel and Training had said in an RTI reply to activist Commodore Lokesh Batra (retired). For the vacancies of Information Commissioners in the CIC, the government said that 161 applications were received.

How Chief Information Commissioner Is Appointed
The DoPT issues advertisements in newspapers and through its website to invite applications from interested persons for the appointment of the Chief Information Commissioner. These names are tabulated by the department and sent to a search committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The shortlisted candidates and their applications are then forwarded to the committee led by the PM and other members. Once the Chief Information Commissioner is picked, the candidate is appointed by the President.

40 people died

Woman IPS officer takes on TVK leader seeking more crowd at rally

During Vijay's Puducherry rally, IPS officer Isha Singh was seen snatching the mic from Bussy Anand mid-announcement. The rally in Puducherry was held under strict crowd restrictions.

New Delhi (Agency)
At the first public rally of Tamilaga Vettiri Kazhagam (TVK) chief Vijay since the Karur stampede that killed 41 people, a woman IPS officer intervened and seized the microphone from party leader Bussy Anand after he announced that there was space and called more people inside the venue. As the event began and Bussy Anand stepped forward to speak, inviting people in with the announcement that "there is space, come inside," IPS officer Isha Singh abruptly snatched the microphone from him, preventing his address. She was heard saying, "40 people have died," refusing to permit entry beyond the approved number. The rally, held in Puducherry, was organised under



strict police conditions in the aftermath of the Karur tragedy. Authorities had denied permission

overcrowding. The rally, held at the Uppalam Expo Ground in Puducherry, was organised under strict restrictions imposed by the Puducherry Police. Attendance was capped at 5,000 people, entry was permitted only to those with QR-code passes. Adding to the security scare, a man carrying a gun was detained while attempting to enter the rally venue. Police later said the man was stopped during frisking and taken into custody. TVK cadres were seen jumping barricades while attempting to enter the venue, prompting additional crowd control measures by the police.

for any roadshow, capped crowd strength, and enforced QR-code-based entry to avoid

additional crowd control measures by the police.

Not aware of, nor accepted: Shashi Tharoor denies receiving Veer Savarkar Award

New Delhi (Agency)
Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday firmly denied claims that he is set to receive the "Veer Savarkar Award," stating that he neither knew about the honour nor consented to accept it.

In a statement posted on X, Tharoor said he first learned of the award through news reports while he was in Kerala to vote in the local self-government elections. "Responding to media queries, I clarified that I was neither aware of, nor had accepted, such an award," he said.

Tharoor criticised the organisers for announcing his name without his consent. "It was irresponsible on the part of the organisers to announce my name without my having agreed to receive it," he said, adding that no details had been shared about the nature of the award or the organisation behind it.

'NO QUESTION OF ATTENDING CEREMONY'
With reporters in Delhi continuing to ask whether he would attend the

Shashi Tharoor said he had not accepted the award and would not attend the event, noting that no details had been provided about the nature of the honour or the organisation presenting it.



event, Tharoor issued an unequivocal denial. "In the absence of clarifications about the nature of the award, the organisation presenting it or any other contextual details, the question of my attending the event today or accepting the award does not arise," he said.

How can tickets cost Rs 40,000? High Court tears into Centre over IndiGo chaos

IndiGo chaos: Calling the situation 'alarming', the Delhi High Court pulled up the Centre for allowing the situation to precipitate and taking action against IndiGo only after the crisis had erupted.

New Delhi (Agency)
The Delhi High Court on Wednesday directed crisis-hit IndiGo to compensate passengers who were stranded at airports due to the cancellation of thousands of flights, even as it blasted the Centre for failing to prevent airfares from soaring to Rs 40,000. Calling the situation "alarming", a division bench headed by Chief Justice DK Upadhyaya said the situation was not just about inconvenience to passengers but of the broader economic impact.

"We expect adequate steps will be taken by the Civil Aviation Ministry, DGCA and IndiGo to compensate passengers who were stranded at airports at the earliest," the High Court said. The court also pulled up the Centre for allowing the situation to precipitate and taking action only after the crisis had erupted.

"If there were a crisis, how can other airlines be permitted to take advantage? How can it go to 35-40? You allowed the situation to precipitate," the court said. "Such a situation is not confined to causing inconvenience to the passengers but also affects the economy of the country," it further said.

To this, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma said strict action against IndiGo, India's largest airline, was being taken, and a show-cause notice was already served to the carrier.



"Leader Of Partying": BJP Flags Rahul Gandhi Berlin Trip, Priyanka's PM Reply

Rahul Gandhi will be in Berlin from December 15 to 20 to attend an event of the Indian Overseas Congress. Winter Session ends on December 19.

New Delhi (Agency)
Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, is set to travel to Germany during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament. The BJP has targeted Gandhi and called him a "Leader of Partyan" and accused him of neglecting his duties for frequent trips abroad. The Congress has hit back, citing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to foreign countries.

Gandhi will be in Berlin from December 15 to 20 to attend an event of the Indian Overseas Congress. The ongoing Winter Session ends on December 19.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla said

Gandhi has proved again that LoP means "Leader of Partyan" (tourism) and "Leader of Partying". "Rahul Gandhi is a non-serious politician. People are in work mode, he is in vacation mode," he said. "Recently, during the Bihar elections, he was on a jungle safari. So his priorities are clear. I don't know, he is going for some reason to Germany. But it might be only to spew venom against India. It is a Bharat Badami brigade and a Bharat Badami tour. So he is once again going abroad for his vacation and to defame Bharat," Poonawalla said.

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said Gandhi spends time abroad when Parliament is in session and later says he doesn't get a chance to speak. "He is a part-time, non-serious political leader," he said.



In bid to join hands with Russia, Adani Defence, Bharat Forge 'attend meetings in Moscow' over defence

The goal of the meetings was reportedly to manufacture spares for Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter jet, and other air defence and weapon systems of Russia. Also, Russia reportedly proposed to set up production units in India to make equipment which could be exported to Moscow as well.

New Delhi (Agency)

In what should be seen as a major development, at least half a dozen executives from top arms manufacturing companies from India, including Adani Defence and Bharat Forge, attended rare meetings in Russia in 2025, according to a report by news agency Reuters. The aim of the meeting has been seemingly to discuss probable joint ventures.

When did the meetings begin?

They reportedly began when India's defence business leaders first visited Russia after its Ukraine war started. The Centre is looking to re-establish its defence ties with Russia. Notably, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is pushing to make India a global manufacturing hub of weapons as part of the 'Make in India' initiative. On October 29-30, an Indian defence-

industrial delegation led by India's Defence Production Secretary Sanjeev Kumar visited Moscow and talks took place at that time.

What were the aims of the meetings?

The goal of the meetings was reportedly to

manufacture spares for Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter jet, and other air defence and weapon systems of Russia. Also, Russia reportedly proposed to set up production units in India to make equipment which

could be exported to Moscow as well. Notably, during Putin's recent visit to India, he and PM Modi agreed to reorient their partnership "to joint research and development, co-development and co-production of advanced defence technology and systems."

Who attended the meetings?

Several people from Indian defence firms and also startups that develop drones and artificial intelligence for the military, as per the report. People from Kalyani Group's Bharat Forge attended the meetings, reportedly to secure components for Russian-origin tanks and aircraft and to join hands in future. Adani Defence and Aerospace was represented at the meetings, and an executive from the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers advisory group also attended the meetings.

manufacture spares for Mikoyan MiG-29 fighter jet, and other air defence and weapon systems of Russia. Also, Russia reportedly proposed to set up production units in India to make equipment which

M Kharge's "Chanakya" Quip For Colleague, BJP's 'Internal Fight' Claim

New Delhi (Agency)

The fiery speech of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge during the discussion on the 150 years of Vande Mataram was punctuated by some light moments when the veteran leader responded to a prompt by party colleague and former Union Minister Jairam Ramesh.

Kharge was targeting the government on the fall of the rupee when he referred to Union Home Minister Amit Shah as a key advisor of Prime

Minister Narendra Modi. "You would know, you are the main advisor and prime executive," he told Shah. At this point, Ramesh, who was seated behind Kharge, prompted, "Chanakya". The Home Minister is often referred to as Chanakya, the chief advisor to Mauryan ruler Chandragupta, for his organisational skills and political strategising. Kharge repeated the expression. He then

gestured towards Ramesh and told the treasury benches, "A Chanakya is sitting here too." This evoked a peal of laughter from both sides of the political aisle. Ramesh and Congress MP Digvijaya Singh were seen smiling. Home Minister Shah and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju smiled too.

The BJP used Kharge's remark to claim that the Congress's "internal fight" was out in the open. "Internal Fight out in the open! Mallikarjun Kharge TROLLS Jairam Ramesh," party spokesperson Pradeep Bhandari said, sharing a clip of the exchange.



News box

Suspect flees hospital, but jumps straight into Gurgaon's crime branch office

Gurgaon.(Agency)

He ran from the bee but into the hive. An 18-year-old suspect managed to give a police team that had taken him to Civil hospital for a checkup the slip on Tuesday, but the adjacent compound he jumped into to make a getaway happened to be the office of the crime branch, bringing his short escape bid to a sudden, unexpected halt. The crime branch shares its rear wall with the staff quarters of the hospital.

The suspect, Ashish alias Golu from Charkhi Dadri's Pichopa Kalan, was arrested in a kidnapping and extortion case involving a youth being lured by a gang through LGBTQIA+ dating app Grindr, police said.

Ashish, along with three other gang members, had been in custody since Dec 7. Around 1pm on Tuesday, they were taken to the hospital's emergency section for the checkup following their remand. After the medical examination, all the accused were being escorted back to the police car to be transported to jail when Ashish broke free and made a run for it. "Three of them got into the car. Before getting into the vehicle, Ashish claimed his foot was aching, bent down and broke free from a constable's grip. He dashed towards the hospital's staff quarters," a police officer said. There were four constables escorting the three accused. A five-second CCTV clip later showed Ashish sprinting across the hospital compound, with a stray dog also joining the chase, barking at him.

The commotion startled five residents basking in the sun, while a police officer could be heard shouting, "Pakdo oye!" (catch him!). The brief chase caused a stir as onlookers watched the drama unfold.

Ashish scaled the boundary wall behind the staff quarters and jumped to the other side. A crime branch officer said, "While cops were trying to understand what had happened on the hospital premises, a cook posted in our office saw a person scaling the wall and a policeman running behind him. The cook alerted us and Ashish was nabbed immediately." Police said Ashish and his accomplices were arrested on Dec 7 in Kurukshetra for kidnapping a 20-year-old man and extorting Rs 37,000 from his family to free him. Another victim, whose bank account was used for the ransom, had also been kidnapped by the same gang earlier that day. All victims were rescued by cops. Police seized a black Scorpio car and 11 mobile phones from the gang.

Pump operator dies by suicide in Khandsa

Noida.(Agency)

A 25-year-old pump operator employed with a private company died by suicide at his rented accommodation in Khandsa on Monday. The deceased, Rohit, originally from Chhapra in Bihar, had been living in the city for work. Police said he had been struggling with mental health issues for some time. No suicide note was found.

The incident came to light when Rohit's father, a labourer in the same company, returned home in the evening and found him hanging in his room. He alerted neighbours and informed the police.

A team from Sadar police station reached the spot and initiated proceedings. The room was inspected and the father's statement recorded. "There were no signs of forced entry or struggle. Preliminary probe suggests the deceased was under mental stress. At this point, no foul play is suspected," an officer said. The body was sent for postmortem under Section 194 of BNS, which pertains to inquest procedures in cases of unnatural deaths. It was later handed over to the family for last rites.

Police said they are verifying the circumstances leading to the incident and will update the case diary once the postmortem report is received.

Dead or duplicate: 3.7L names may be struck off voters' list in Noida

Noida.(Agency)

With just two days to go before the SIR enumeration window closes, the administration has begun finalising its draft electoral rolls. As of now, about 3.7 lakh people, which is nearly 20% of all registered voters in Noida, are marked under the ASD (absent, shifted, dead or duplicate) category. These names are likely to be struck off when the draft rolls are published on Dec 16. Officials expect the number of ASD entries to rise further over the next 48 hours, as the SIR drive concludes on Dec 11. District magistrate Medha Roopam said that over 72% of the enumeration forms submitted so far have been digitised, and voters have been mapped to the 2003 electoral rolls in roughly 60% of cases. "The district has put a monitoring system in place to keep the process timely and error-free, and teams have been instructed to prioritise both speed and quality while updating entries," Roopam said.

In neighbouring Ghaziabad, digitisation is moving at a slower pace. About 58% of enumeration forms have been digitised, and 21% mapped. But the district's ASD numbers are significantly higher, with around 9.8 lakh voters, or 35% of the total 28 lakh electorate, under the ASD category. "There are several booths where the same voter has duplicate IDs, and others where more than 100 voters have shifted addresses but remain on the list. These are the cases making up the ASD category. People should not panic. This does not mean a large number of citizens are losing their voting rights," Ghaziabad additional district magistrate Saurabh Bhatt.

Under fresh instructions from the Election Commission of India (ECI), all ASD entries have to be reverified on the ground. "BLOs have been asked to physically visit the addresses of ASD voters to confirm whether they are absent, shifted, dead or duplicate. This is to ensure complete accuracy," a senior official said.

Once the draft electoral rolls are released next week, a claims and objections window will remain open until Jan 15. During this period, voters whose names are missing or whose details are incorrect can seek corrections. From Jan 16 to Feb 7, the administration will issue notices to voters whose enumeration forms could not be mapped to the 2003 rolls. Hearings and verifications will be held during this period.

"It's important for voters to understand that the draft is not final. There will be multiple rounds of corrections and additions. Everyone will have ample time to get their names included," the official added.

Gurgaon's Shankar Chowk footbridge work starts but NHAI says 'no nod'

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The construction of the much needed foot overbridge (FoB) work has quietly begun at one of the city's busiest intersections — Shankar Chowk on NH8 — right under the Cyber City rapid metro station. However NHAI, the land owning agency, says it has not given any permission to construct it. Typically, barricades at public works mention the executing agency, contractor name and project details. In this case, however, the signboards carry no such information. The barricades reads: "Cross Smarter, Cross Safer; Foot Over Bridge Coming Soon".



NHAI officials said, "The work is being done by DLF." However, DLF has neither confirmed nor denied it, maintaining that it "will check internally" if the construction is being done by it. "As of now, we have no information," said a DLF representative. It is mandatory for any agencies, be it govt or private, to take a no-objection certificate from NHAI before carrying out any work on a

national highway. "We have not granted any NOC yet," a senior NHAI official confirmed. Officials across agencies said no one has approached them with the mandatory details of the project. The demand for a safe pedestrian crossing at Shankar Chowk is not new. The absence of a dedicated FoB or underpass forces people to cross the heavy traffic flow on foot, leading to frequent accidents, even

11k staffers, 6-way segregation: Gurgaon to clean up its act after Indore tips

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A meeting on Monday turned into a comparative audit of the systems in two cities — the millennium city and Indore, the cleanest city — with officials agreeing that the former must adopt stronger segregation practices and more technology-driven cleaning if it wants to close the gap with Indore. Indore keeps its streets clean with nearly 11,500 sanitation workers and 800km of daily mechanised sweeping, far outstripping the scale of the MCG's operations. Gurgaon currently has 4,904 sanitation workers, which is only around 42% of the total workers that Indore has. MCG does not have any bio-CNG processing unit. It currently has one landfill, where processing is not taking place. Indore houses Asia's largest bio-CNG plant, capable of processing 550 tonnes per day (TPD).

These and many starting facts came to be known during the sharp reality check for the city's civic machinery — at the internal review on Monday. The numbers were shared by Indore-based waste-management expert Mohan Pandey during a meeting at the MCG office, convened on the initiative of Haryana

industry and commerce minister Rao Narbir Singh. Pandey told senior MCG officials that Indore's top-ranked cleanliness model hinges on strict six-way waste segregation at source, rigorous door-to-door collection and an intensive blend of manual and mechanised cleaning.

Of the 11,500 sanitation workers deployed in Indore, 9,000 are municipal staff and 3,500 are from his waste management company, he said. Senior officers conceded that key elements of Indore's model could be replicated and said actionable steps would be drawn up in the coming weeks.

Gurgaon's figures, presented by additional municipal commissioner Ravinder Yadav, underscored the contrast: the city currently uses 400 vehicles for door-to-door collection and relies on 18 machines for night-time mechanised sweeping. Waste from 14 secondary collection points is transported to Bandhwari, he said. Yadav added that a new RFP for waste collection has been finalised and tenders will be issued shortly. Pollution-control efforts, including regular road dust removal and treated-water spraying

through anti-smog guns and tankers, are ongoing, he said. It is an attempt to take lessons from the cleanest city of the country. We are consistently working towards improving the city's sanitation," said the additional commissioner. In July this year at the national ULB conference held at Manesar, officials from Indore made a presentation on the best practices adopted by them. It was presented that the residents of Indore segregate the waste into six streams — dry, wet, domestic hazardous, plastic, sanitary and e-waste. The vehicles for waste collection also have six compartments to transport six streams of segregated waste, ensuring 100% waste segregation. The corporation in Indore ensures 100% processing of waste and keeps track of even 1 gram of waste, the officials said during the presentation. Indore mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav emphasised, at the presentation, public participation behind Indore's consistency in being the cleanest city in the country.

"The public brought the behavioural change and made 100% segregation at source possible. They treat their neighbourhood and ward as their home

Mixing bleach and acid-based toilet cleaners lands Ghaziabad woman in ICU

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

A 32-year-old woman was admitted to ICU after inhaling toxic chlorine fumes emitted when she inadvertently mixed a bleach-based bathroom cleaner with an acidic toilet cleaning liquid on Sunday evening. According to hospital officials, the woman was cleaning her bathroom at her Indirapuram house when the combination triggered a chemical reaction that released chlorine gas — a highly irritant substance known to cause inflammation and damage to the airways when inhaled in concentrated amounts.

Within moments of exposure, the woman began experiencing sudden difficulty in breathing, persistent cough, and tightness of the chest. Her condition deteriorated rapidly, causing her to collapse in the bathroom itself. Her family took her to

Yashoda Medicity. "She was brought to the emergency ward with signs of significant respiratory compromise, including a respiratory rate of 32 breaths per minute, a pulse of 135 per minute, severe wheezing, prominent stridor, intractable dry cough, and an inability to speak full sentences. Her condition pointed to a combined upper and lower airway injury linked to chlorine toxicity, a condition rarely seen and often unrecognised by people," said Dr Ankit Bhatia, senior consultant at Yashoda Institute of Respiratory Medicine and Interventional Pulmonology. Doctors immediately initiated aggressive respiratory support. She was placed on high-flow humidified oxygen and given repeated bronchodilator nebulisations along with intravenous steroids to reduce

airway inflammation, antihistamines, and IV fluids. Due to the risk of delayed airway swelling and chemical pneumonitis, she was shifted to the ICU for close monitoring. Over several hours, her symptoms gradually improved, with reduction in stridor and wheezing. Her oxygen saturation levels normalised as well. However, she continues to remain under observation, as delayed lung complications — including pulmonary oedema and respiratory failure — can develop even after initial recovery," Dr Bhatia added. The science behind the incident is simple but often overlooked, experts pointed out. "Mixing bleach with acidic cleaners causes a chemical reaction that releases chlorine. Inhalation of this gas can inflame and injure the airways.

Dues not paid under rehab policy, Greater Noida to crack down on realtors

Noida.(Agency)

Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) has hired Currie and Brown to assess defaulting builders as it starts to withdraw benefits from defaulters of the stalled-project policy. The move aims to revive stalled real estate projects, with Rs 1,382 crore recovered from Rs 4,749 crore in dues. Despite challenges, 17,334 housing units have been registered so far. Last month, GNIDA board decided to withdraw all benefits under the state govt's stalled-projects policy from projects whose developers neither paid dues nor came forward to avail the scheme. Out of the 98 projects identified under the policy to revive legacy stalled real estate projects in December 2023, 13 that deposited all dues were granted a three-year window to complete construction, while 85 were issued demand notices for 25% of net dues. Court stays have frozen recovery in over 50% of the projects. Of the total dues, Rs 865 crore pertains to additional farmer compensation, recovery of which is presently stayed by the Allahabad High

Court. Excluding this stayed portion, GNIDA estimates Rs 2,502 crore to be recoverable. GNIDA CEO Saumya Srivastava said the 98 projects fall into four clear groups based on their payment status and legal position — fully paid projects, partially paid projects beyond 25%, projects with only 25% paid, and projects with no payment at all. The first group includes 13 projects that deposited 100% of their dues (Rs 175 crore) prior to the policy and were granted a three-year zero-period extension, and 21 projects (Rs 756 crore) where developers have paid premium and lease rent (Rs 221 crore), with only additional compensation of Rs 549 crore under court dispute. In these projects, authority dues stand almost realised. The issue of additional compensation is sub judice. Here, the focus is on completion and delivery," Srivastava said. These projects are currently under physical assessment through ground and drone surveys conducted by Currie and Brown to evaluate construction progress and pending work. In the second

group, 22 projects' developers have deposited the mandatory 25% upfront and also made partial payments towards the remaining 75%. Of the Rs 960 crore dues in this category, Rs 482 crore has been recovered. Nearly Rs 300 crore of this balance is owed by two large projects — AIMS Golf Town Developers and SJP Infracon. The former accounts for the largest unpaid amount, having paid only Rs 64 crore of its Rs 233 crore dues. Meanwhile, SJP has paid Rs 38.5 crore of its Rs 153 crore dues. These developers have been issued demand notices multiple times between May 2024 and June 2025. Sixteen of these projects, including AIMS Golf Town and SJP Infracon, are affected by court stay orders, restricting the Authority from taking coercive recovery action. GNIDA plans one-to-one discussions with the developers to negotiate recovery in these cases. In the third group, sixteen projects have deposited only the initial 25% and failed to pay the balance within the stipulated time. The total dues after Covid benefits for these projects amount to Rs 987 crore,

of which developers have collectively deposited Rs 230 crore so far.

GNIDA has already issued recovery certificates (RCs) in three cases, including projects of Earthcon Construction, DAR Housing, and Ideal Realty Solutions.

Twelve out of the 16 projects are currently protected by stay orders of the Allahabad High Court, largely in matters related to additional compensation. In this category, Patel Advance JV's project in Techzone-IV presents a special case, as its dues are yet to be finalised due to pending litigation related to zero-period benefit and additional compensation. The project carries provisional net dues of Rs 301 crore, of which Rs 74 crore was paid, but recovery action has been kept on hold until liabilities are formally determined by the competent authority.

GNIDA has ordered site-level verification of these projects to determine reasons for delay, extent of construction, creation of third-party rights, and buyer impact. "We need a proper assessment before deciding the

next course of action," Srivastava said, adding that CEO-level meetings will follow once the consultant's report is submitted.

THE SIKH TIMES

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

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A-144, 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

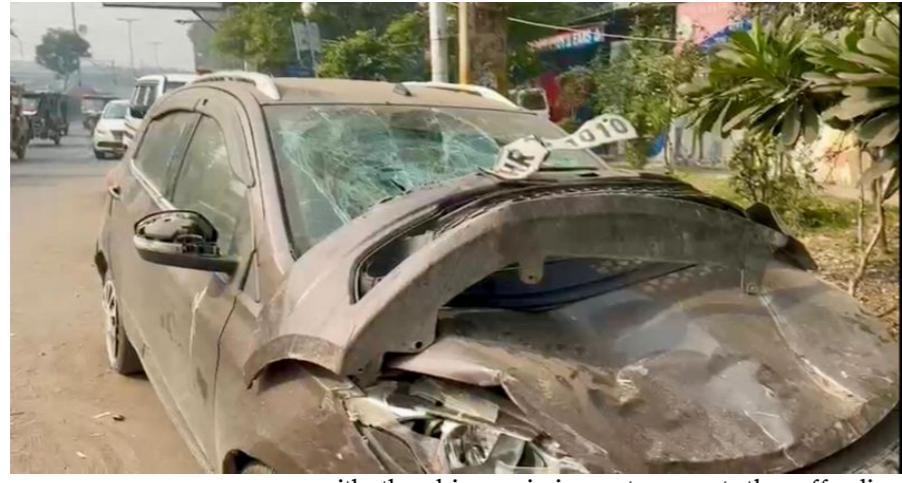
Email : sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Three lives snuffed out in 2 separate incidents in Delhi

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: In the first incident, two persons, including an elderly man, were killed after a speeding car allegedly ran over them in West Delhi on



Wednesday, the police said. The deceased had been identified as Munni Raj (48), a resident of Anand Parbat, and Surajpal (74), they said. The police received infor-

Gurugram MC issues RFP for empanelling waste management agencies

Gurugram: The Gurugram Municipal Corporation (MC) has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for empanelling agencies for collection, segregation, transportation, processing and disposal of garbage from bulk waste generators (BWGs), officials said, adding that the step has been taken to improve solid waste management in the city. Interested agencies can apply through a document available on the MC's website: www.mcg.gov.in. According to the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, all institutions, premises, or establishments that generate over 100kg waste daily are considered BWGs. The agencies will be initially empanelled for three years, with a two-year extension based on performance and mutual agreement. The contract may also be terminated in the event of unsatisfactory performance or violations of rules. According to the rules, BWGs must segregate waste into three categories: biodegradable, non-biodegradable and hazardous waste.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of General Public that my client Mr. Balaji Chandra Pal Singh & Mrs. Shobha Rani Agarwal are the owners of Property as Residential Apartment No. M2B-013, on 1st Floor, in having a super area 177.400 Sq. Mtrs. (1010 Sq. Ft) in Residential Complex known as, "DLF EXPRESS GREENS", Situated at Village & Tehsil, Manesar, Distt Gurgaon Haryana who has lost Allotment Letter dated 16.09.2008, Apartment Buys Agreement dated 20.02.2009 & Possession Letter dated 23.07.2015 in favour of Mr. B.C.P. Singh & Mrs. Shobha Agarwal. In case anybody finds the above said document and any person having any claim/s in respect of the above said property in any manner whatsoever are hereby required to give notice of the same to the undersigned at the address given below within 15 days from the date of publication hereof together with copies of documents on the basis of which such claim be deemed that there is no claim against the said property and my client may proceed with its intended object as mentioned above.

DR. RAJESH K GUPTA
Advocate
F-4/23, Dilshad Colony
Delhi-110095
8882766856
regalboan@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE

I, SARWAT W/O MOHAMMAD ISMAIL residing at A-19/147C, DDA FLAT INDER LOK DELHI 110035 have changed my name to SARVAT for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that, I, Naresh Abaji Khotele S/o Abaji Kaliram Khotele R/o MQ-178, Sector-2, Near Vijay Stedium, Jayant, Jayant Colliery, Singrauli, Madhya Pradesh-486890, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Khotele Naresh Abaji and Khotele Abaji Kaliram respectively in my Service Record of Northern Coalfields Limited. The actual name of mine and my father is Naresh Abaji Khotele and Abaji Kaliram Khotele respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that, I, MOHD ISMAIL S/O MOHD YAHIAI residing at A-19/147C, DDA FLAT INDER LOK DELHI 110035 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD ISMAIL for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that, I, AMANDEEP SINGH S/o RAJ KAPOOR SINGH, R/o Flat No.101, Shiv Apartment, RZF-95, Street No.41, Sadh Nagar Part-2, Palam Colony, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as RISABH aged 09 year in my service Record. The actual name of my minor son is ARMANA, which may be amended accordingly.

Public Notice

It is for general information that, I,

mation about the incident around 6:10 pm. A PCR van shifted the injured persons to a hospital. When the police reached the spot, they found the car involved in the mishap abandoned at the spot,

under Sections 281 (rash or negligent driving) and 125-A (act of rashness or negligence causes "hurt" to another person) was registered at the Moti Nagar police station and efforts were being made

altercation over money at their Chhawla residence in southwest Delhi, the police said on Thursday. The police said they received a PCR call around 9:15 am regarding a body lying inside a car at Deenpur Extension. During enquiry, it was found that the woman was in a live-in relationship with Virender Singh (35), a resident of Deenpur Extension. The accused was so intoxicated that though he managed to carry the woman's body to his car, allegedly with an intention of disposing of it, he was unable to drive and returned home, an official said. The official said the accused, who was married and had children, was living with a bus company, allegedly

pinned the woman to the bed and throttled her with his elbow. After killing her, he called two friends, a man and a woman, who allegedly helped him carry the body to the car. The friends left soon after, and Virender attempted to drive away to dispose of the body. However, due to his heavy intoxication, he could not continue beyond around 100 metres and returned home. Leaving the body in the car, he went upstairs, resumed drinking and eventually fell asleep, the police said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MUKESH KUMAR SHARMA S/o VIDHYA DHAR SHARMA, R/o B-23, Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MUKESH SHARMA my minor daughter namely SAANVI SHARMA, aged 15 years in her School Record and Aadhaar Card No.447633100881. The actual name of mine is MUKESH KUMAR SHARMA, which may be amended accordingly

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MUKESH KUMAR SHARMA S/o VIDHYA DHAR SHARMA, R/o B-23, Janta Colony, Shivaji Vihar, Tagore Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110027, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MUKESH SHARMA my minor daughter namely SAANVI SHARMA, aged 15 years in her School Record and Aadhaar Card No.447633100881. The actual name of mine is MUKESH KUMAR SHARMA, which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

I, MOD SHAMIM S/O MOD SALIM R/O H.NO.4928A-34, GAI NO.3, NEAR BILAL MASJID, EAST OLD SELAMPUR, GANDHI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD SHAMIM PERMANENTLY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, MOD SHAMIM S/O MOD SALIM R/O H.NO.4928A-34, GAI NO.3, NEAR BILAL MASJID, EAST OLD SELAMPUR, GANDHI NAGAR, DELHI-110031, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD SHAMIM PERMANENTLY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, VARSHA KUMARI D/o Joginder Kumar R/o H.No.16/72, Hardhyam Singh Road, Block No.1, Bapa Nagar, Karol Bagh, Delhi-110005, have changed my name to VARSHA permanently

NAME CHANGE

NEWS BOX

Elephant conservationist Iain Douglas-Hamilton passes away at 83

world. (Agency) Iain Douglas-Hamilton (83), who pioneered in the protection of elephants, throughout his life passed away on Tuesday. Iain, an ardent elephant enthusiast, was instrumental in the conservation of African elephants. He fought against illegal ivory poaching and trade, describing the ivory poaching crisis as an 'elephant holocaust'. He also pushed for a worldwide ban on the commercial trade of ivory, and as a result, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was signed in 1989. However, the convention did not completely aid in putting an end to the trade. Henceforth, Iain's continued efforts pushed then Chinese president Xi Jinping and US president Obama to agree on a near-total ban on the countries' import and export of ivory in 2015.

He also founded 'Save the Elephants', a charity in 1993, aimed at safeguarding the elephants and providing a wholesome understanding of elephant behaviour.

Over decades of efforts, he emphasised the use of trackers and collars to protect elephants from poaching. The BBC quoted 'Save the Elephants' CEO as saying, "Iain changed the future not just for elephants, but for huge numbers of people across the globe. His courage, determination and rigour inspired everyone he met." In his five-decade-long career as a zoologist and conservationist, he protected our planet's most intelligent and much beloved pachyderm.

Pope Leo criticizes Trump's bid to 'break apart' US-EU alliance, insists on Europe role in Ukraine peace

ROME. (Agency) Pope Leo XIV insisted Tuesday that Europe must have a role in any Ukraine peace deal and criticized what he said was the Trump administration's effort to "break apart" the long-standing US-European alliance. Leo spoke to reporters after meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who is on another tour to rally European support for Kyiv.

The American pope said they discussed the need for a ceasefire and the Vatican's efforts to facilitate the return of Ukrainian children taken by Russian authorities. Leo was asked about the US peace proposal and the seeming sidelining of European powers in the process. Speaking as he left his vacation home in Castel Gandolfo, Leo insisted that Europe's role was crucial to any deal. "Seeking a peace agreement without including Europe in the talks is unrealistic, given the war is in Europe," he said. "Guarantees are also being sought for security today and in the future. Europe must be part of this, and unfortunately not everyone understands this, but I think there is a great opportunity for European leaders to unite and seek a solution together."

Zelenskyy has said there are three documents in the peace agreement being discussed with US and European partners, a framework document of 20 points, a second document with security guarantees, and a third document about Ukraine's recovery.

Leo was asked about the US peace plan for Ukraine but appeared to respond to a broader question about the Trump administration's views on the US-Europe alliance. Just last week, the Trump administration released its US national security strategy, which questions the US-European alliance and stresses a desire to improve US-Russia relations.

Democrat wins Miami mayor's race for the first time in nearly 30 years

MIAMI. (Agency)

Democrat Eileen Higgins won the Miami mayor's race on Tuesday, defeating a Republican endorsed by President Donald Trump to end her party's nearly three-decade losing streak and give Democrats a boost in one of the last electoral battles ahead of the 2026 midterms. Higgins, 61, will be the first woman to lead the city of Miami. She spoke frequently in the Hispanic-majority city about Trump's immigration crackdown, saying she has heard of many people in Miami who were worried about family members being detained. She campaigned as a proud Democrat despite the race being officially nonpartisan and beat Trump-backed candidate Emilio Gonzalez, a former city manager, who said he called Higgins to congratulate her.

"We are facing rhetoric from elected officials that is so dehumanizing and cruel, especially against immigrant populations," Higgins told The Associated Press after her victory speech. "The residents of Miami were ready to be done with that."

With nearly all votes counted Tuesday, Higgins led the Republican by about 19 percentage points.

The local race is not predictive of what may happen at the polls next year. But it drew attention from the two major national political parties and their leaders. The victory provides Democrats with some momentum heading into a high-stakes midterm election when the GOP is looking to keep its grip in Florida, including in a Hispanic-majority district in Miami-Dade County. The area has shifted increasingly rightward politically in recent years, and the city may become the home of Trump's presidential library. Tonight's result is yet another warning sign to Republicans that voters are fed up with their out-of-touch agenda that is raising costs," said Ken Martin, the chair of the Democratic National Committee, in a statement.

Some nationally recognized Democrats supported Higgins, including former Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. U.S. Sen. Ruben Gallego and former Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel traveled to Miami on Sunday and Monday to rally voters for the Democrat who served as a Miami-Dade county commissioner for seven years.

What to know about the US Justice Department's Jeffrey Epstein files

And don't expect a "client list" of famous men who cavorted with Epstein. Though such a list has long been rumored, the Justice Department said in July that it doesn't exist.

NEW YORK. (Agency)

The clock is ticking for the US government to open up its files on Jeffrey Epstein. After months of rancor and recriminations, Congress has passed and US President Donald Trump has signed legislation compelling the Justice Department to give the public everything it has on Epstein—and it has to be done before Christmas. On Tuesday, a federal judge said the department could release grand jury transcripts and other documents from the sex trafficking case brought against Ghislaine Maxwell,

Epstein's former girlfriend. Judge Paul A. Engelmayer had previously rejected the Justice Department's unsealing requests before the transparency law was passed. In Tuesday's ruling, he cautioned that people shouldn't expect to learn much new information from the records, saying they "do not reveal any heretofore unknown means or methods of Epstein's or Maxwell's crimes."

Last week, a different federal judge gave the department permission to release transcripts of a grand jury investigation into Epstein's abuse of underage girls in Florida. While there's sure to be never-before-seen material in the thousands of pages likely to be released in the Florida transcripts and other Epstein-related records, a lot has already been made public, including by Congress and through litigation. And don't expect a "client list" of famous men who cavorted with Epstein. Though such a list has long been rumored, the Justice Department said in July that it doesn't exist. Here's a look at what's expected to be made public, what isn't, and

a refresher on how we got to this point:

Who is Jeffrey Epstein?

Epstein was a millionaire money manager known for socializing with celebrities, politicians, billionaires and the academic elite who was accused of sexually abusing



underage girls. His relationships with powerful men, including Trump, former President Bill Clinton and the former British prince Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, have been the subject of endless fascination and speculation. Neither Trump nor Clinton has been accused of wrongdoing. Andrew has denied abusing anyone. Police in Palm Beach, Florida,

began investigating Epstein in 2005 after he was accused of paying a 14-year-old girl for sex. The FBI then joined the investigation, but Epstein made a secret deal with the US attorney in Florida to avoid federal charges, enabling him to plead guilty in 2008 to a relatively minor state-level prostitution charge. He served 13 months in a jail work-release program. In 2019, during Trump's first term, Manhattan federal prosecutors revived the case and charged Epstein with sex trafficking, alleging he sexually abused dozens of girls. He killed himself in jail a month after his arrest. In 2021, a federal jury in Manhattan convicted Epstein's longtime confidante and former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell of sex trafficking for helping recruit some of his underage victims. She is serving a 20-year prison sentence. What's in the Justice Department's Epstein files? Records related to the aborted Florida investigation, the Manhattan investigations, and anything else the Justice Department did to examine Epstein's dealings in the time in between.

Nepal charges dozens, says corruption inflated an airport's costs by \$74 million

KATHMANDU. (Agency)

Former Nepali ministers, officials and a Chinese company were charged with corruption over financial irregularities during the construction of an international airport. The Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority filed on Sunday cases against 55 people and the China CAMC Engineering Company Limited, one of the biggest such cases in the Himalayan nation, accusing them of inflating construction expenses by more than USD 74 million.

It remains unclear when the hearing will begin. Two officials of the Chinese company have been named in the charges filed at the Special Court in Kathmandu, which handles corruption cases related to government dealings. The bidding agreed on with the government in 2012 was set at USD 169.6 million, but Nepali officials increased the amount to a little over USD 244 million "in collusion with the Chinese company," the commission said. The airport, at the resort city of



Pokhara, 200 kilometres west of Kathmandu, was built with a loan from China Exim Bank. It was expected to draw foreign tourists to the picturesque city, the starting point of many trekking routes in Nepal.

However, it failed to attract international flights since operations began in 2023, according to local reports. Court cases

in Nepal can take months if not years to be resolved.

Corruption is widespread in the South Asian country. In September, massive demonstrations against corruption led by youth, which left dozens killed, forced the government to step down and an interim administration was installed.

'Taking back power from big tech': Social media ban for children under 16 starts in Australia

MELBOURNE. (Agency)

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese welcomed a world-first social media ban for children younger than 16 that took effect Wednesday as families taking back power from tech giants but warned the implementation would be difficult. Parents reported distraught children discovering they'd been shut out of platforms as the landmark law took effect. Some young children reported fooling the platforms' age estimation technology by drawing on facial hair. Parents and older siblings are also expected to help some children circumvent the restrictions.

"This is the day when Australian families are taking back power from these big tech companies and they're asserting the right of kids to be kids and for parents to have greater peace of mind," Albanese told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

"This reform will change lives. For

Australian kids ... allowing them to just have their childhood. For Australian parents, enabling them to have greater peace of mind. But also for the global community, who are looking at Australia and saying: well, if Australia can do it, why can't we?"

Albanese later told a Sydney gathering of reform supporters, including parents who blame social media for a child's suicide.

Facebook, Instagram, Kick, Reddit, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube and Twitch face fines of up to 49.5 million Australian dollars (\$32.9 million) from Wednesday if they fail to take reasonable steps to remove the accounts of Australian children younger than 16. Australia to report by Christmas if social media ban is working. The ban will be enforced by Australia's eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant. She said the platforms already had the technology and personal data about their users to

enforce the age restriction with precision. She would send the 10 targeted platforms on Thursday notices demanding information on how the age restriction was being implemented and how many accounts had been closed.

"We will provide information to the public before Christmas on how these age restrictions are being implemented and whether preliminarily we see them working," Inman Grant said.

"The responses to these notices will form the baseline against which we will measure compliance," she added. Communications Minister Anika Wells said the age-restricted platforms "may not agree with the law and that's their right — we don't expect 100% universal support," but that all had undertaken to comply with the Australian law. She said more than 200,000 TikTok accounts in Australia had already been deactivated by Wednesday.

North Korea's ruling elite prepares for once-in-five-years party meeting

SEOUL. (Agency)

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and other top officials have gathered to discuss preparations for the ruling party's first full congress in five years, state media reported Wednesday. The top-level meeting will set new priorities as the US and South Korea seek a resumption of talks with North Korea.

The Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim presided over a plenary meeting of the Workers Party's Central Committee on Tuesday. It said participants began discussing unspecified key issues related to the party congress and reviewing this year's state policies.

KCNA gave no further details, but observers say the plenary meeting will likely last a few days and set an official agenda for the party congress, which is expected to be held in January or February.

The congress, the top decision-making organ of the Workers' Party, was revived by Kim in 2016 after a 36-year hiatus. Experts say Kim aimed to increase the party's authority as part of efforts to solidify his grip on power. The focus of outside attention on the congress is whether Kim will respond to US and South Korean efforts to improve ties. North Korea has steadfastly



rebuffed the US and South Korea's calls to resume talks since Kim's high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019, but some experts say Kim could return to talk with the US next year. In an apparent response to Trump's repeated outreach, Kim suggested in September that he could return to talks if the US drops "its delusional obsession with denuclearization" of North Korea.

Meanwhile, South Korea's military said North Korea fired several artillery rounds off the North's west coast on Tuesday. Observers say the artillery launches were likely part of the North Korean military's wintertime training. Last year, Kim declared that his country was abandoning its long-standing goal of peaceful unification with South Korea and ordered the rewriting of the North's constitution to mark the South as a permanent enemy.

Trump's speech on combating inflation turns to grievances about immigrants from 'filthy' countries

MOUNT POCONO. (Agency)

On the road in Pennsylvania on Tuesday, US President Donald Trump tried to emphasize his focus on combating inflation, yet the issue that has damaged his popularity couldn't quite command his full attention. The president told the crowd gathered at a casino and resort in Mount Pocono that inflation was no longer a problem and that Democrats had used the term "affordability" as a "hoax" to hurt his reputation. But his remarks veered wildly to include grievances he first raised behind closed doors in his first term in 2018—and later denied saying—asking why the US doesn't have more immigrants from Scandinavia. "Why is it we only take people from s—hole countries, right?"

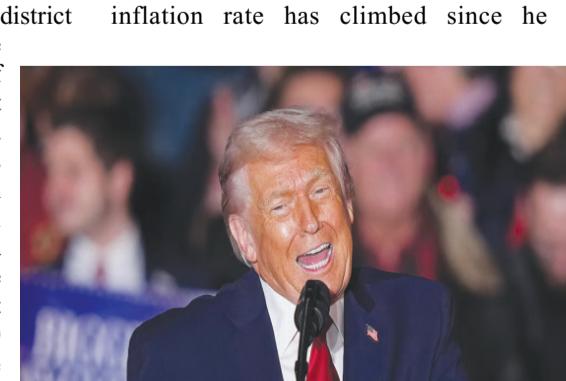
Trump said onstage. "Why can't we have some people from Norway, Sweden, just a few?" Trump said he objected to taking immigrants from "hellholes like Afghanistan, Haiti, Somalia and many other countries." He added for emphasis

that those places "are a disaster, right?"

Filthy, dirty, disgusting, ridden with crime." Tuesday's gathering in his swing state—and in a competitive House district—was an official White House event, yet it seemed more like one of his signature campaign rallies that his chief of staff said he would hold regularly ahead of next year's midterms. But instead of being in an arena that could draw several thousand attendees, it was held in a conference center ballroom at the Mount Airy Casino Resort in Mount Pocono, a small town of about 3,000 residents. Voters starting to blame

lasting inflation on Republicans. Following dismal results for Republicans in last month's off-cycle elections, the White House has sought to convince voters that the economy will emerge stronger next year and that any anxieties over inflation have nothing to do with Trump. He displayed a chart

comparing price increases under his predecessor, Joe Biden, to prices under his own watch to argue his case. But the overall inflation rate has climbed since he



announced broad tariffs in April and left many Americans worried about their grocery, utility and housing bills. "I have no higher priority than making America affordable again," Trump said. "They

caused the high prices and we're bringing them down." As the president spoke, his party's political vulnerabilities were further seen as Miami voters chose Eileen Higgins to be their first Democratic mayor in nearly 30 years. Higgins defeated the Trump-endorsed Republican Emilio Gonzalez. The president's reception in the county hosting his Tuesday rally showed he could still appeal to the base, but it was unable to settle questions of whether he could hold together his 2024 coalition. Monroe County flipped to Trump last year after having backed Biden in 2020, helping the Republican win the swing state of Pennsylvania and return to the White House after a four-year hiatus. As home to the Pocono Mountains, the county has largely relied on tourism for skiing, hiking, hunting and other activities as a source of jobs. Its proximity to New York City—under two hours by car—has also attracted people seeking more affordable housing.

NEWS BOX

Surat health worker dies in honeybee attack, wife injured

Surat. (Agency)

A health worker of Mahuva taluka in Surat district died – his wife suffered severe injuries – after a swarm of honeybees attacked the couple while they were working in an agricultural field.

According to details received from the Surat district health department, the incident took place in Vagheshwar village in Mahuva taluka on Sunday evening.

The village resident Jitubhai Sumanbhai Patel (45) was working in the fields with his wife Meenaben Patel (40). A swarm of honeybees from a nearby tree attacked the couple, severely injuring them.

Hearing them shout, the labourers from nearby fields rushed them to the Community Health Centre in Tankal village. Jitubhai Patel was declared dead on arrival. After receiving primary treatment, Meenaben was transferred to a private hospital in Kharel town in the Navsari district.

Mahuva taluka Health officer Dr. Manoj Chaudhary said, "We have come across such an incident about the attack of a swarm of honeybees on our multipurpose health worker. We have sent our medical officer to the village and he will gather information and report it to us. He was working as a multipurpose health worker at our Tankal health centre."

Laxmiben Patel, a relative of Jitubhai Patel, said, "Along with his job at Tankal Health Centre, Jitubhai was working in the fields during his extra time. Jitubhai and Meena have two children, and they both are going to school. The condition of Meenaben is still critical, and she is under medical treatment."

Tankal Community Health Centre, Dr. Ketan Patel, said, "After examining the dead body of Jitubhai, we have found that he had incurred over 150 stings from honeybees on his face and other parts of his body. The impact of stings made by honeybees affected the heart of the patient and caused his death."

GBA aims to mop up Rs 2Kcr through premium FAR

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is aiming to mop up around Rs 2,000 crore through premium FAR (Floor Area Ratio) route.

It has urged the public, landowners and developers to make use of the opportunity and called upon them to prepare building plans including the proposed premium FAR and submit them for approvals.

A move aimed to facilitate higher-density developments and optimal utilisation of high-value land within Bengaluru city limits, premium FAR is the additional built-up area that developers can acquire over and above the permissible FAR by paying a premium charge to the government.

In a press statement on Tuesday, the GBA Chief Commissioner, M Maheswar Rao, stated that provisions have been made under Section 18(B) of the KTCP Act, 1961, and Rule 37(E) of the Planning Authority Rules to allow the use of Premium FAR (Floor Area Ratio) in addition to the basic FAR. Under Section 13(E) of the KTCP Act, 1961, amendments have been introduced to the zoning regulations of the Revised Master Plan (RMP)-2015 by inserting Chapter 11 titled "Premium FAR Granted by Levy of Premium Charges," and a notification to this effect was issued on April 2.

Stating that the High Court has upheld the state's decision to introduce premium FAR, Rao said that applicants may obtain additional FAR (Premium FAR) beyond the basic FAR by considering the prevailing guidance value. "Charges applicable as per the guidance value must be calculated and paid to avail the additional FAR. By paying the prescribed charges, applicants may obtain a premium FAR up to 0.4 (40%) of the basic FAR."

Bengaluru second in rooftop solar installations

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Bengaluru Urban was ranked second compared to other Indian metropolis in the installation of rooftop solar panels and the number of household benefiting from it, according to a report from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

But the state government officials say that Karnataka lags behind the target set by the central government for the installation of solar rooftop panels under the Pradhan Mantri-Surya Ghar Mukt Bijli Yojana scheme.

The ministry in its response to Bangalore South MP Tejavi Surya's question in Lok Sabha stated that there are 4,984 solar roof top installations in Bengaluru Urban and 386 in Bengaluru Rural, making it a total of 5,370 installations in BESCOM limits.

The MNRE also said that 11,854 households in Bengaluru Urban and 386 households in Bengaluru Rural have benefited from the scheme. Bengaluru Urban lagged behind Mumbai covering 18,223 households under the scheme with 428 installations in Mumbai and Mumbai Suburban.

As per the report there are a total of 18,99,494 installations benefiting 23,79,580 households, as on November 30, 2025 in India. Of which 13,176 installations are in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, benefiting 41,955 households.

The central government has set a target for each state to achieve in terms of number of installations and households availing the scheme.

HC rejects higher alimony plea of wife divorced from husband over 'onion-garlic dispute'

The court accepted the submissions of the husband that he did not have a high-paying job and had the responsibility of his parents as well as his son, who was studying computer engineering.

Vadodara. (Agency)

The Gujarat High Court recently dismissed the petition of a woman seeking enhancement in the alimony granted by the family court while passing the decree of divorce with her husband of 23 years and an order for alimony in May 2024. The court accepted the submissions of the husband that he did not have a high-paying job and had the responsibility of his parents as well as his son, who was studying computer engineering.

Incidentally, the couple's marriage, solemnized in March 2002, had fallen apart due to differences over consumption of onion and garlic as the wife followed a particular Swaminarayan religious sect while the husband's family did not follow any dietary restriction. The husband had filed an application under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, before the family court on the ground that he had been subjected to cruelty and the wife had deserted him, when she left their matrimonial home with her child. The family court, while awarding the decree of divorce, passed an order in May 2024, granting a

monthly maintenance of Rs 8,000 per month for the period of July 2013 to July 2020 and thereafter enhanced the maintenance to Rs 10,000 per month July 2020 onwards. The woman had contended that the maintenance



had not been paid for 18 months.

In her petition before the HC, the woman's counsel submitted the woman was not challenging the aspect of divorce as the dissolution of marriage was acceptable to her but the grievance was regarding the quantum of alimony. The oral order of Justice Sangeeta Vishen and Justice Nisha Thakore of the

Gujarat High Court, delivered November 27, notes the submissions made by the woman petitioner that her husband was a partner in a fabrication factory owned by his father and earned Rs 80,000 to Rs 1 lakh per month while the woman had no "independent income to maintain herself".

In the submissions made by the husband, it was contended that the woman was qualified and can maintain herself as she is earning Rs 15,000 per month and had suppressed the fact. The High Court order also noted the family court judge, while deciding the maintenance amount, had considered that the woman had, in a statement submitted in a previous criminal complaint, also stated she was working. The respondent husband had contended his mother used to cook separate food for the petitioner – without onion and garlic – while the food for other family members was cooked with onion and garlic. However, "owing to the rigidness exhibited by the appellant-wife, applications were filed before the Gujarat State Legal Services Authority.

'Girls are being cheated': Patidar group demands stricter marriage registration rules, meets Dy CM

Gandhinagar. (Agency)

A group of Patidar community members Monday held a meeting with Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi and Minister of State for Law Kaushik Vekariya seeking changes in the marriage registration process and implementation of 10% EWS reservation in the local body elections.

After the meeting, the leaders of the group said that the ministers have assured them of making changes in the law for the registration of marriage soon. The government is also considering implementing 10% EWS reservation in the local body election after considering legal aspects, the group said. The group has been running a statewide campaign against registration of marriages after elopement without knowledge of parents, especially of the girls. It has organised around 20 public meetings in different parts of the state on the issue.

Notably, most of the leaders in the campaign were active in the 2015 Patidar quota agitation under the banner of Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS). Some of the prominent names in the campaign, including Dinesh

Bambhaniya, Varun Patel, Manoj Panara, Dharmik Malaviya, and Purvin Patel were present at the meeting with Sanghavi and Vekariya at Swarnim Sankul I building in New Sachivalay complex. Swarnim Sankul I houses



the offices of Chief Minister, Deputy Chief Minister and other Cabinet rank ministers. Addressing media persons after the meeting, Dinesh said their main demand is that the registration of marriage ought to be done at the address of the woman mentioned in her Aadhaar card. They also demanded that parents

of the girl, if they seek so, get some time to register their objection to the registration of the marriage after getting a prior notice.

"The registration of marriage should be done at the taluk level of the girl's address by an officer of the rank of Deputy Mamlatdar or Taluka Development Officer. Currently, it can be done by an officer of the rank of talati-cum-mantri (revenue clerk) anywhere in the state," Dinesh said. "To meet our demand, no amendment to the law is required. It can be done by modifying the rules under the Gujarat Registration of Marriages Act," he explained.

Varun said that they have also raised the alleged registration of marriages without following due process at some places in districts such as Banaskantha, Panchmahal and Amreli. "We have demanded action in those cases and the Home Minister (Sanghavi) has given instructions to officials to make arrests in those cases after suo moto registering FIR against persons concerned at the earliest," he said. Speaking to, Varun said, "(Many) Marriages are being registered by taking money illegally.

'Release goats worth Rs 1 crore into forests': Maharashtra minister Ganesh Naik's plan to curb leopard attacks

Nagpur. (Agency)

Maharashtra Forest Minister Ganesh Naik on Tuesday announced a plan to address the rise in leopard attacks on humans in the state: releasing goats into forests to prevent the animals from entering human settlements in search of prey.

Naik made the statement during a calling attention motion on leopard attacks, which was discussed at the legislature's Winter Session in Nagpur.

"If four people are killed in leopard attacks, the state must pay Rs 1 crore as compensation. So, I told officials, instead of paying compensation after deaths, release goats worth Rs 1 crore into the forest so that leopards do not venture into human habitats," Naik said, while replying to the motion raised by NCP(SP) MLA Jitendra Awhad. A majority of such cases are concentrated in the Pune, Nashik and Ahilyanagar districts.

"Earlier, they were described as forest animals, but now their habitat has shifted to sugarcane fields. The behaviour and living patterns of leopards have changed. There are no fruit-bearing trees left in the forest areas, due to which...leopard and other carnivores are venturing out of the forest areas. I have asked the forest officials to plant fruit-bearing trees..." Naik said, responding to a query.



Naik also informed the House that the state government has sent a proposal to the Union government to move the leopard from Schedule I to Schedule II under the Wildlife Protection Act.

Objecting to Naik's response, Congress leader Nana Patole said, "As a member of Lok Sabha in the past,

I had served in a committee related to wildlife issues. I can assure you that the Union government will not approve the state's proposal to change the leopards from Schedule I to Schedule II."

Independent MLA Sharad Sonawane from Junnar in Pune district said, "Leopard menace is maximum in my constituency, where 55 people have died in leopard attacks. There is a rescue centre in my constituency; its capacity should be increased."

Naik said the state government has decided to increase the intake capacity of the leopard rescue centre in Junnar. "A new rescue centre is also proposed in Ahilyanagar to curb the leopard problem," he added. As all party MLAs continued to raise the issue, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule announced that division-wise meetings with MLAs and forest and revenue officials would be held to find solutions to the issues.

Child part of accused trio in Vasai jeweler's stabbing; attempt to murder case filed

Kalu Singh, 47, was alone in his shop the day when the man, woman and child visited. A police officer said the incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed and the accused trio were clearly seen in the CCTV footage walking outside Ambika jewellery shop, the shop owned by the victim.

Mumbai. (Agency)

A jeweller was allegedly stabbed at his shop by three persons — a man, woman and child — in Waliv, Vasai (east) on Tuesday around 12:30pm. Waliv police have registered a case of attempt to murder against unknown persons. The jeweller was admitted to hospital and was unconscious.

Kalu Singh, 47, was alone in his shop the day when the man, woman and child visited. A police officer said the incident was captured on a CCTV camera installed and the accused trio were clearly seen in the CCTV footage walking outside Ambika jewellery shop, the shop owned by the victim.

Singh was arranging gold jewellery sets in a showcase, when the man stabbed the jeweller with a knife in the abdomen. After the incident, the trio fled in a car. The incident was found out when the jeweller walked out ornaments, so it was unclear if the accused's intention to stab Kalu was a robbery attempt or an act of revenge. Police said the victim's statement will be recorded once his condition was stable. Several police teams were formed to nab the accused. A local crime branch was also conducting an investigation.



Man kills friend, cuts body into pieces, throws them in 3 borewells in Kutch village after fight over girl

Police said the friends had an argument after Kishor allegedly sent a message to Ramesh's girlfriend, who blocked the latter. The friends reached a compromise, later.

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A man in his early twenties allegedly killed his friend, cut his body into pieces and threw them in three borewells and buried the remaining body in a cotton field at Muru village in Nakhatrana of Gujarat's Kutch region, police said.

According to police, the accused, identified as Kishor Lakhmshi Maheshwari, along with a minor, killed his friend Ramesh Puja Maheshwari, 20.

Both Kishor and the minor were booked on Tuesday. Police said the friends had an argument after Kishor allegedly sent a message to Ramesh's girlfriend, who blocked the latter. The friends reached a

compromise, later. On December 2, when the duo were having dinner at the cotton field, the issue cropped up and Kishor hit Ramesh with a spade multiple times, killing him, police said.

Kutch (West) SP Vikas Sunda said in a statement: "On December 3, Rajesh Maheshwari lodged a missing persons complaint for his brother Ramesh, who had been missing for the previous 24 hours. Nakhatrana police launched a search for him."

"During the search operation, several people were questioned and police recovered Ramesh's phone from Kishor, making him a possible suspect. The two had also

recently fought over a woman. During questioning, Kishor kept changing his statements," Sunda said. Explaining the sequence of



events, Sunda said, "When Kishor messaged the woman who was in a relationship with Ramesh, she blocked Kishor, leading to an

argument between the friends. They had then reached a compromise and had become friends again. However, Kishor was deeply affected by the incident and he invited Ramesh to his cotton field for dinner on December 2. They went on his bike and on the way, they met a minor, who was their common friend, and all three went to the farm."

"At the farm, the topic of the woman came up again, leading to another altercation. During this fight, Kishor hit Ramesh with a spade

multiple times," the SP said. Speaking about the disposal of the body, murder weapons and other evidence, Sunda said, "As per Kishor's confession, he cut Ramesh's head and put it in borewell-1 and threw several rocks on top of it. He then cut both of Ramesh's hands and threw them in borewell-2. In borewell-3, Kishor dumped the pickaxe and dagger used in the murder. He then collected the mud where Ramesh's blood had spilled, filled it in a sack, and dumped it in an unused well on the premises in a bid to destroy evidence. He then dug a pit in the cottonfield and buried the torso and lower part of Ramesh's body there."

Over 3.22 lakh applications for BPL ration cards pending across Karnataka

SHIVAMOGGA. (Agency)

As many as 3,22,468 applications for below poverty line (BPL) ration cards are pending across Karnataka, with the highest number reported from north Karnataka districts and Bengaluru. The backlog has been recorded in Belagavi, Kalaburagi, Vijayapura, Raichur and Koppal districts.

Replied to an unstarred question raised by MLC Balkhees Banu during the ongoing legislature session in Belagavi, Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister K H Muniyappa tabled district-wise data on the pending applications.

According to the figures, Belagavi tops the list with 39,019 pending applications, followed by Kalaburagi with 36,037, Vijayapura with 24,293, Raichur with 18,111, Bengaluru with 18,035, Bidar with 17,671, Bagalkot with 13,658, Dharwad with 12,337, Koppal with 11,446 and Ballari with 10,709 applications.

The minister said the verification process of all pending applications is currently underway. He also categorically denied allegations that BPL cards were being converted into non-priority household (NPHH) cards, which are issued to above poverty line (APL) beneficiaries.

"No BPL card has been converted into an NPHH card," Muniyappa told the House.

Raising the issue, Banu said poor families, daily-wage workers, auto-rickshaw drivers and street vendors were facing serious hardship due to the alleged conversion of BPL cards into NPHH cards.

She also drew the minister's attention to the plight of beneficiaries suffering from serious health conditions such as cancer, heart ailments and kidney diseases, who were finding it difficult to access subsidised food grains and medical support.

Responding to the concerns, Muniyappa said if any BPL card had been temporarily shifted to NPHH status, eligible beneficiaries could submit a fresh application to the local tahsildar along with relevant documents within 45 days of the conversion.

IndiGo crisis | When saying sorry is less than adequate

The week gone by has been one of rage. The months of November and December 2025 will be remembered by IndiGo Airlines and most certainly by those who used it for travel as months of trauma. And drama. IndiGo cancelled as many as 2,000-plus flights (the number climbing by the hour even as you read this) with a decision that left hundreds of thousands of passengers in the lurch. It began with delays announced in installments of 30 minutes, in true-blue heritage airline style, and then most ended with cancellations. These many cancelled flights meant cancelled plans and loss of time, energy, carefully-laid plans and money, as far as passengers were concerned. Some missed weddings, some missed funerals, and some missed very important meetings. In short, large-scale cancellations by India's largest airline meant putting thousands of lives and plans in disarray. As these many people grappled with their personal losses, the airline went contrite. It took full-page advertisements in newspapers to say sorry. These apology ads, coming in the wake of a genre of faux apology ads taken by many a brand across the world, sadly did not mean much to those affected.

India went angry. There were a set of people who went ballistic on the airline and its management systems. Television channels and newspapers were filled with rage. Social media went a step further with memes of every kind that decimated a brand built assiduously, one well-managed flight at a time, over the past 19 years. The now-common device of rage-bait was used and social media algorithms went berserk upping the ante of this movement. Hashtags of every kind went viral, including one that said #MakeThemPay. All of India got involved in this debate of the airline traveller who lost his travel. Everyone with a smartphone pitched into the debate.

In many ways, this crisis exposed the soft-underbelly of brand IndiGo. The brand seems to carry a lot of negative weight for sure, with a whole host of loyal passengers willing to do a quick flip on it. Many berated the airline for being one without empathy for its users. Many criticised the cost-cutting measures seen in its bony seats. Even more pitched in to recall every disgruntlement they have ever had on their travels. Nothing was forgotten. This critique had its own levels on the passion scale of involvement. It was from a reasonably low level of a whine to a rabid call for action. In the bargain, everyone forgot the many flights flown by the airline to date, the conveniences availed with connections to remote locations not catered to by any other airline, and the rather uneventful run of the airline to date, especially with a large crisis. The airline has always been nifty and clever in its branding. Its call sign is 6E (and that's meant to be sexy). Its play with words is always a pleasure to devour. It even took out an ad campaign 10 years ago that said, 'Sleep with your wife'. It was all about same-day return flights from metros. Taking the same genre of talk ahead, I remember seeing one that said, 'We do it 28 times a day'. It meant the frequency of their Delhi-Mumbai flights, of course. Brand IndiGo meant being ahead of the race, being savvy, being safe, being reliable, and most importantly, being on time. The airline invented for itself a time standard of its own even, the IndiGo Standard Time. Remember? Therefore, when all hell breaks loose, consumers question. An airline that claims for itself a platinum status for delivery will always be under acute customer scrutiny. IndiGo got its unfair and fair share of flak over the week. Even as I write this, there is rumour of stiff and punitive action against the airline by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and, indeed, the government itself. Airlines in India have become the lifeline of the nation at the upper end of the pyramid of decision-making. An airline that owns 63 percent of this share cannot afford to fault. When it does, it disrupts. It disrupts lives, imagery, and most importantly the basic craving of wanting to lead a predictable life, at least when it comes to travel.

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin's two-day visit to New Delhi was his first trip to India since the onset of the Ukraine conflict in 2022. Hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the summit emphasised the enduring strategic partnership between the two nations, nurtured during decades of Cold War-era cooperation. The visit elicited considerable global interest since the US and the European Union have sought to 'isolate' the Russian President over his war against Ukraine. The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Putin with regard to war crimes in Ukraine. Hence, the Indian decision to receive him with customary summit pageantry and related protocols had its own strategic significance. Modi welcomed the Russian leader at the airport with his trademark embrace, underscoring the rapport between the leaders. The visit took place amid escalating US pressure on India to curb Russian oil imports and defence purchases; both sides reaffirmed that their ties were to external pressure".

Moscow has been a traditional supplier of military equipment and major platforms (tanks, ships, aircraft) to India since the mid-1960s, but contrary to pre-visit expectations and speculation, no major defence deals were announced during Putin's visit.

The reference in the joint statement was relatively bland and noted that military and military-technical cooperation had traditionally been a pillar of the Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership between India and Russia. It added: "Responding to India's quest for self-reliance, the partnership is reorienting presently to joint research and development, co-development and co-production of advanced defence technology and systems." The emphasis was on joint manufacturing in India of spare parts, components, aggregates and other products for maintenance of Russian-origin arms and defence equipment under the Make in India programme through transfer of technology; setting up of joint ventures for meeting the needs of the Indian armed forces; and preparing for subsequent exports to mutually friendly third countries. The Modi-Putin summit signalled a potentially strategic pivot in India-Russia defence relations, moving beyond the traditional buyer-seller dynamic towards deeper collaboration. This aligns with India's Atmanirbarta (self-reliance) initiative in defence manufacturing, aiming to further reduce import

dependency — it dropped to 36 per cent (Russian share, 2020-24) from a high of 72 per cent (2010-15).

It is instructive that despite acquiring substantive military hardware from the Soviet Union in the mid-1960s (the first MIG fighter aircraft, Petya/Kamorta-class ships and tanks), India never managed to obtain any design knowhow from its close ally. Thus the bulk of the Soviet/Russian-origin equipment that was ostensibly 'manufactured' in India largely involved assembling kits/components that were imported. This meant that whether it was the ordnance factories or HAL

upgrades like the WS-10 turbofan engine (reverse-engineered from the Russian AL-31F), active electronically scanned array (AESA) radar and domestically produced weapons systems.

The Su-27 itself originated in the Soviet Union (designed in the 1970s, entering service in 1985), making the J-11 a direct adaptation of Soviet technology. This design breakthrough allowed China to reduce its import dependency, acquire self-sufficiency and then export this fighter, with Pakistan being a major buyer.

India acquired its first Sukhoi, the Su-30, in 1997, but the

prevailing national ecosystem remained inhibited and import dependency continued, with France emerging as an alternative supplier for fighter aircraft (Rafale). Putin's visit witnessed a revival of interest in the fifth-generation Su-57 fighter jets, with India seeking source code access and stealth enhancements. Whether this potential acquisition will complement the indigenous Tejas remains a moot point at this stage.

There is no denying the fact that Moscow (both during the Soviet era and afterwards) has provided invaluable technological assistance to India in certain niche areas that are strategically critical — both missiles and underwater nuclear propulsion (INS Arihant) are a case in point. The joint-venture BrahMos missile is a success story, and the current visit has listed a lighter variant of this missile as a

potential area for cooperation. Design knowhow of major military equipment is akin to the crown jewels of a nation and this kind of knowledge cannot be bought off the shelf. It is illustrative that even the USSR/Russia, with whom India has had a very robust military supplier relationship, has not parted with design knowhow. Putin's visit will be consequential if India is able to prioritise Atmanirbarta in an earnest and resolute manner and reorient the partnership with Moscow to realise the full potential of joint R&D, co-development and co-production of select advanced defence technologies. But this will be an arduous journey and many cobwebs would have to be cleared within the Indian ecosystem. Even for Moscow, there are red lines regarding how deep the military cooperation with Delhi can be and how Russia will allay Beijing's anxiety. Likewise, Delhi has to remain cognisant of Washington's strictures pertaining to the engagement with Russia.



(Hindustan Aeronautics Limited), the primary activity was assembling the parts and there was little or no attempt to reverse-engineer or embark on an indigenous design. This inability/reluctance to enter the design domain is in stark contrast to the Chinese example. The most successful reverse-engineering accomplishment by China of Soviet-era military equipment is the development of the Shenyang J-11 fighter jet family from the Sukhoi Su-27 'Flanker'. The PLA Air Force initially acquired Su-27SK fighters from Russia in the 1990s under a licensed production agreement, assembling them as the J-11A using Russian-supplied kits. However, by the mid-2000s, China succeeded in reverse-engineering the aircraft — disassembling, analysing and replicating key components — to produce the fully indigenous J-11B variant without further Russian involvement. This involved copying the airframe, avionics, radar systems and propulsion, then integrating Chinese

Verdict shouldn't turn clock back in Bollywood

The survivor's courage and Dileep's arrest were turning points for the Malayalam film industry in more ways than one



The abduction and rape of a leading actress in the Malayalam film industry—and the subsequent arrest of superstar Dileep—had shaken Mollywood like never before. The survivor's unprecedented decision to pursue the case to its logical end created a stir across Kerala. The investigation into the 2017 incident took a dramatic turn when the police concluded that the attack was not a random act of violence, but part of a larger conspiracy meant to intimidate her. This line of inquiry eventually led to Dileep. After almost nine years and several twists in the trial, the Ernakulam Principal Sessions Court has now acquitted the actor-producer, the seventh accused, while finding the other six accused guilty. Shortly after his acquittal, Dileep claimed that a "conspiracy" had sought to pin the blame on him. The government, however, has decided to appeal the verdict in the high court and has assured the survivor of support until she gets justice.

The survivor's courage and Dileep's arrest were turning points for the Malayalam film industry in more ways than

one. The sexually suggestive jokes passed off as slapstick comedy—a trademark of many Dileep films—began to recede. The industry ushered in a new wave of cinema that was more inclusive and appealed to a pan-Indian audience. The formation of the Women in Cinema

Collective (WCC), which coincided with the case, helped shift long-skewed gender relations in the industry. The Hema Committee, set up to look into allegations of sexual harassment and violence, was another constructive outcome. That the survivor continued her cinematic journey instead of withdrawing from public view was an act of courage that inspired others facing similar ordeals.

While the WCC has vowed continued support to the survivor, the manner in which other industry bodies—including the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists and the Malayalam Cine Technicians Association—have responded to the verdict is worrying. Their swift decision to welcome the actor back into their fold is troubling, especially when the survivor is one of their own and an appeal is imminent. It is the responsibility of every progressive film lover to ensure that this verdict does not reverse the shift in power dynamics and film grammar that the case had helped bring about.

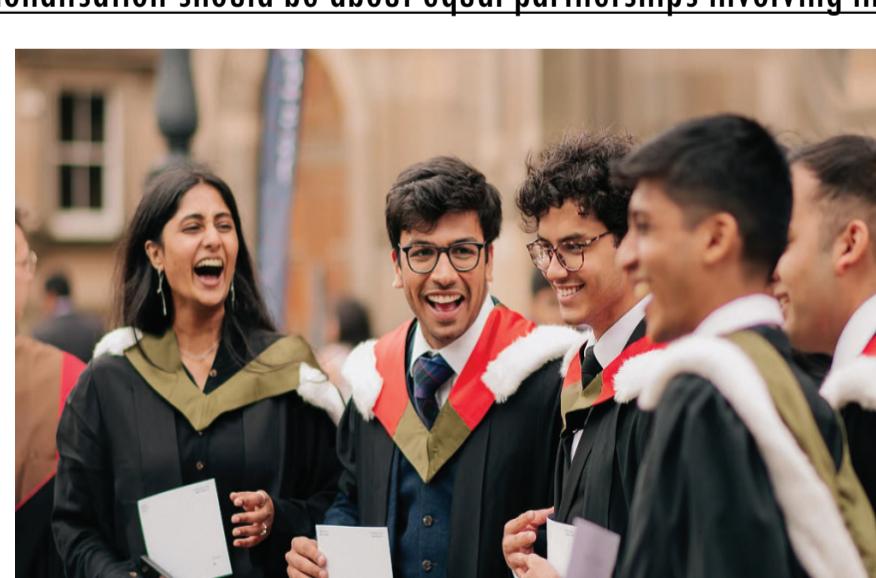
Foreign campuses trigger Indian concerns

By inviting Western universities to set up Indian campuses, are we outsourcing our aspiration to be a global academic hub? The premiums such brands demand will deepen the economic divide in higher education. True internationalisation should be about equal partnerships involving intellectual reciprocity

The decision to allow foreign universities in India is not just a policy shift, but indicates a profound change in the politics and economics of higher education. During his visit earlier this year, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer led a delegation of 14 university vice-chancellors, all of whom were exploring opportunities under the new University Grants Commission rules. The 2023 regulations allow the world's top 500 universities to set up campuses in India. No doubt, it shows India's openness to global partnerships. But behind the rhetoric lies a mix of economic, political, and ideological interests on both sides. The National Education Policy 2020 aims to make the country a global education hub. However, instead of building up its own universities to reach that standard, the government has invited established Western players to fill the gap. And that raises a pertinent question: is India building a self-reliant education system, or merely outsourcing its academic aspirations? From Britain's perspective, the rationale is primarily financial. Once flush with endowments and stable funding, many UK universities are struggling now. Inflation, capped tuition fees, and shrinking government grants have left them running deficits. Making things worse, tighter visa rules have curbed international student inflows, which once contributed £37.4 billion annually to the UK economy. Faced with this challenge, expanding into India appears to be a smart business decision. With millions of English-speaking students and a booming middle class, India is a lucrative education market. It's no surprise, therefore, that Starmer's government is keen to tap into it. However, the worrying concern is that education looks less like a cultural exchange and more like a commercial export.

British university degrees in India are marketed as aspirational, prestigious, and globally recognised. The pitch sounds compelling: 'a UK degree without leaving home'. But the reality is more complex. The costs will almost certainly be higher than those of Indian public universities, and the degrees may not carry the same global acceptance as those obtained by studying in the UK. Graduates of these Indian campuses, although technically earning UK-accredited degrees, may not enjoy the same post-study work rights as their counterparts who study in the UK. Of course, these campuses promise access to international faculty, modern infrastructure, and globally aligned curricula. However, that promise will probably be limited to a small, affluent demographic. Much like India's top private universities, the new foreign campuses may offer quality education, but at prohibitive costs. In a country where public universities still educate the overwhelming majority, this trend risks widening the already deep divide between those who can afford premium education and those who cannot.

This concern becomes clearer when we examine the condition of India's public universities. Many have faced budget cuts and growing administrative control over the past decade. At the same time, the government has actively courted private and foreign players. And now, through this new initiative, the government has conveyed that education is shifting from a public good to



a private commodity. Treating education as a tradeable service undermines it as a public right. Sadly, and quite ironically, India's own attempts at international collaboration haven't fared particularly well. The South Asian University, established in Delhi as a joint initiative of SAARC nations, was meant to be a symbol of regional cooperation. However, political interference, discrimination, and curbs on dissent have tarnished that vision. If India struggles to ensure academic freedom in a regional university it hosts, can it realistically guarantee autonomy for branches of powerful Western institutions? Besides, there's the question of competition.

Indian public universities, already burdened by limited funds, and bureaucratic hurdles, will now face competition from foreign institutions with global brand power and deeper pockets. Even partnerships between the two may become lopsided, with Indian universities relegated to a feeder or satellite status. Over time, this could trigger a quiet brain drain within the country itself, drawing the best faculty, diverting philanthropic funding, and further weakening the public education ecosystem. Although proponents argue that foreign campuses will raise standards and provide global exposure to Indian education, let us remember that real internationalisation isn't about franchised campuses or imported syllabi. It requires equal partnerships: shared research, genuine student exchange, and intellectual reciprocity.

A British university in Gurugram may carry London's prestige, but can it recreate the same academic environment, diversity, or freedom? Will it build communities of learning, or simply expand its market footprint? So, the debate isn't a clash between globalisation and nationalism; it's about the terms of engagement. If India wants to be a true global education hub, it must prioritise equity, autonomy, and accountability. Foreign institutions can add value, but only if they strengthen rather than overshadow Indian universities. Otherwise, India risks turning higher education into a marketplace of imported dreams—glittering on the surface, hollow beneath.

NEWS BOX

Fire breaks out at coaching centre in Ameerpet; students evacuated safely**Hyderabad. (Agency)**

A fire broke out at the Shivam Technologies Coaching Centre in the Mytrivanam area of Ameerpet on Wednesday, prompting staff to evacuate students from the premises quickly.

According to police, the coaching centre's staff noticed smoke and immediately moved the students to safety before alerting the fire department.

Firefighters rushed to the spot soon after receiving the information and began rescue operations. Efforts were underway to bring the blaze under control at the time of reporting.

Leopard enters house in Nagpur's Pardi area; 4 injured, rescue op underway**Nagpur. (Agency)**

A leopard entered a house in the Pardi area of eastern Nagpur on Wednesday, sparking panic among residents and prompting a swift rescue operation by the Forest Department's Transit Treatment Centre, officials said. Four people sustained injuries during the rescue attempt.

According to forest officials, the leopard had been moving through several densely populated localities over the past few days, including Kapsi, Mahalaon, and Bhandewadi. Continuous sightings have left residents anxious, with many saying they are unwilling to let their children outdoors. Following reports of the animal near Pardi Naka and the Kapsi-Mahalaon belt on December 8, forest teams intensified patrolling and search operations. However, the leopard could not be traced until it strayed into a residential home in Pardi on Wednesday morning.

Officials said rapid urban expansion and ongoing construction activities around Nagpur are increasingly pushing wildlife, including leopards, into human habitats.

Meanwhile, Minister of State Ashish Jaiswal told reporters that the government machinery is functioning as required and that efforts to capture leopards across Maharashtra have been ongoing for the past two months. He said the population of tigers and leopards in the state has risen, leading to growing instances of human-wildlife conflict.

"Many MLAs have raised concerns about leopard sightings. A major crisis has come before us," Jaiswal said, adding that incidents are occurring frequently, particularly in regions such as Junnar and Nashik, where forest cover is limited, and leopards often remain concealed.

He said departmental meetings are being held to address the situation and that the state government will discuss the issue over the next three days during the ongoing session.

Three killed, one injured as car overturns in Adilabad**Adilabad. (Agency)**

Three people lost their lives and another was injured when the car they were travelling in lost control and overturned near Tharod in Jainath mandal of Adilabad district in the early hours of Wednesday.

Police said the victims were on their way to Adilabad from Maharashtra when the driver reportedly lost control of the vehicle. The deceased were residents of Jaijawan and Lakshminagar in Adilabad. They were returning home after completing masonry work. The injured person was shifted to RIMS Hospital in Adilabad for treatment.

A case has been registered, and an investigation is underway, police said.

Kerala local body polls phase 2 on Dec 11 for 12,391 wards 1**Kozhikode. (Agency)**

The second phase of the Kerala local body elections will be conducted on December 11, with voting scheduled from 7 am to 6 pm across seven northern and central districts: Thrissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur, and Kasaragod.

A total of 604 local bodies, including 470 grama panchayats, 77 block panchayats, 7 district panchayats, 47 municipalities, and 3 municipal corporations, will go to the polls. Voters will elect representatives in 12,391 wards, spanning panchayats, municipalities, and corporations. The voter list for this phase includes 15,337,176 electors. Of them, 7,246,269 are men, 8,090,746 are women, and 161 are transgender voters. The rolls also feature 3,293 overseas voters.

A total of 38,994 candidates are contesting in this round, 18,974 men and 20,020 women. The largest number of contestants is in grama panchayat wards (28,274), followed by municipalities (5,546), block panchayats (3,742), corporations (751), and district panchayats (681). For the smooth conduct of polling, 18,274 polling stations have been arranged. Among these, 2,055 booths have been marked as sensitive: Thrissur (81), Palakkad (180), Malappuram (295), Kozhikode (166), Wayanad (189), Kannur (1,025), and Kasaragod (119).

UP DGP reviews functioning of IGRS system & cyber crime units**Lucknow. (Agency)**

Uttar Pradesh Director General of Police Rajeev Krishna on Monday chaired a review meeting at the police headquarters to assess the functioning of the IGRS system, cyber crime units, Zero Fatality District initiative, and Mission Shakti centres. The ADGs of zones, IGs of ranges, district police chiefs and commissioners heads joined the meeting via video conferencing.

A presentation was made on the key recommendations of the recently concluded DGP/IGP Conference in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The DGP shared the "Strategic Vision of Policing" outlined by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Union Home Minister and issued directives for its effective implementation across the state.

Emphasising prompt citizen service, the DGP instructed that all public grievances must be resolved in a timely and qualitative manner at the police outpost level. He said the grievance redressal process should remain sensitive, transparent and result-oriented, and stressed the need for fixing clear accountability of outpost in-charges. Reviewing the state's cybercrime response, the DGP noted that systematic action, training and capacity

building had increased the lien percentage from 17% to 24% between September 1 and December 7. He directed that complaints lodged on the NCRP portal be reviewed every half hour in all three shifts. All districts, he

districts with inadequate highway patrolling vehicles, he directed that NHAI PRV vehicles be integrated into patrolling to strengthen accident-prevention measures.

On Mission Shakti centres, the DGP instructed that constables visit villages and urban localities to inform women about the centres' functioning and available services. He stressed that the police must adopt a highly sensitive and empathetic approach at all stages of grievance handling and enhance coordination with assessment teams, counsellors and the DLSA. The DGP further ordered stringent legal action against those involved in cow smuggling, cybercrime and other organised offences.

He said financial transaction trails of such offenders must be probed thoroughly to uncover entire networks and dismantle their economic base. He added that a revised inspection proforma aimed at improving the quality of inspections by gazetted officers would be issued soon. Under the state's zero-tolerance policy, firm, effective and continuous legal action against criminals must be ensured, he stated.

**DHR Celebrates Heritage and Community Spirit as Ghum Festival 2025 Concludes****The Sikh Times**

Maligaon, 10th December: The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) successfully concluded the Ghum Festival 2025 with a grand closing ceremony presided over by General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway, Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava. This year's edition emerged as one of the most successful so far, marked by several first-time initiatives including the Kurseong Literature Festival, the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run, the DHRUMA Music Festival, open-roof cultural performances onboard trains and a series of heritage walks, exhibitions and art showcases. With wider participation, deeper local collaboration and significantly expanded programming, the festival has further cemented its reputation as the premier celebration of hill heritage, culture and the legacy of

the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. DHR also celebrated the

lasting the enduring bond between the local community and the his



26th anniversary of its UNESCO World Heritage Site status with a landmark community event, the inaugural "Iron Sherpa Heritage Run", organised exclusively for the residents of the hills. Beginning at the iconic Darjeeling Chowrasta and concluding at Ghum, India's highest railway station, the run drew nearly 200 enthusiastic participants, symbol-

tic mountain railway. Inspired by its overwhelming success, DHR announced that the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run will become an annual event held every year on 5th December to commemorate DHR's inscription as a World Heritage Site. Following the run, participants and guests enjoyed a unique open-roof cultural programme onboard the Darjeeling -

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director of DHR extended heartfelt gratitude to all partners, participants and supporters, reaffirming DHR's commitment to preserving its rich heritage while building meaningful connections with the people who make it truly special. The Ghum Festival 2025, which commenced on 02nd December with two vibrant sessions, concluded on a high note with the announcement that the next edition of the festival will be held from 28th November to 06th December 2026. DHR looks forward to shaping the Iron Sherpa Heritage Run and the Ghum Festival into signature annual celebrations of heritage, health, culture and community.

"The accident had caused a traffic jam, which delayed the process and the arrival of the necessary personnel to attend to the case... The body was stuck under the wheels as the victim had died on the spot. The junction is such an important one that several PCR vans are always available in the vicinity and there was no delay in the police response." Vadodara Commissioner of Police, Narasimha Komar said the calls to the police are routed through 112 Emergency Response center but the delay occurred due to the wait for a hearse van.

Ghum - Darjeeling train, which showcased the vibrant music, dance and artistic traditions of the hills, transforming the journey into a moving celebration of heritage and community spirit.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director

DPS RK Puram among 5 Delhi schools to get bomb threat mails, students evacuated

This is the third such threat to public spaces in the Capital this month, a police officer said.

New Delhi.(Agency)

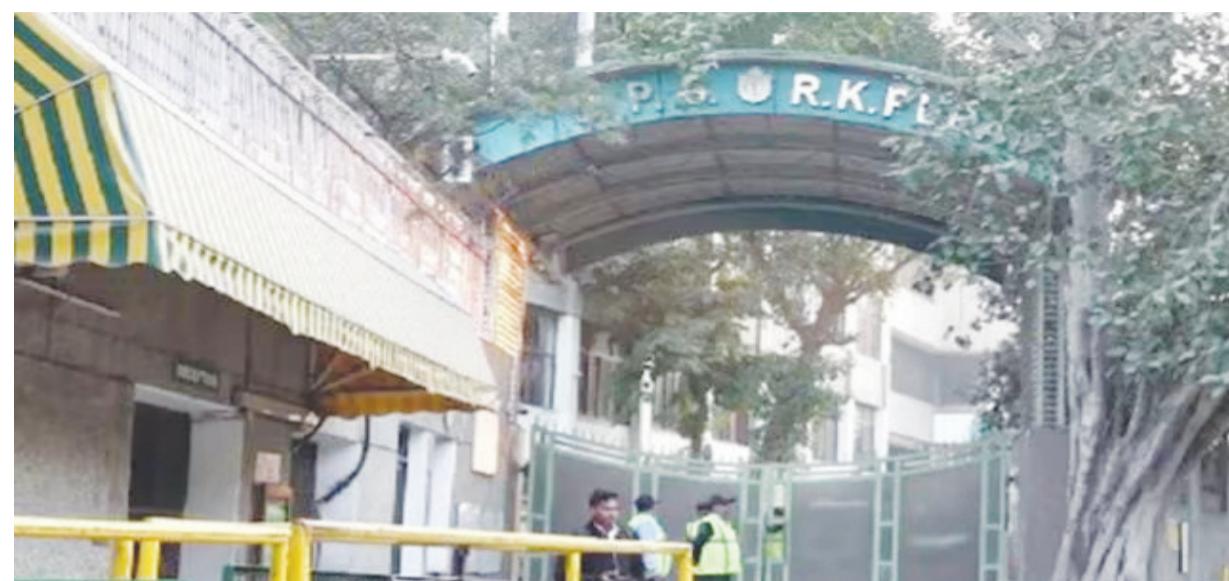
A bomb threat e-mail was received by at least five prominent schools in Delhi — including DPS RK Puram, Modern School, Indian School and Sanskriti School — on Wednesday morning. This is the third such threat to public spaces in the Capital this month, a police officer said.

As per the officer, the first call was received from Lovely Public School in East Delhi's Laxmi Nagar at 10.40 am. Following the call, the Delhi Fire Services, Bomb Disposal Squads, dog squads and Bomb Disposal Teams were dispatched to the spot.

The campus was evacuated, the police officer said, and the area

was cordoned off. The bomb threat was then declared a hoax, officers said. Police said the threat mail, sent at 10.04 am from wasung@atomicmail.io, claimed that a blast would happen at about 12.04 pm on Wednesday. It mentioned the role of Khalistani groups in planting the explosives. On Saturday, a bomb threat e-mail was sent to the Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) at Delhi's Ashoka Road, police officers said. According to police sources, the mail had come in early in the morning, and was seen by the staff during opening hours. "We would like to inform you that an e-mail was received at IWPC's official mail ID at 4.57 am today stating that RDX-

IED has been planted at the premises of IWPC & DUJ," a statement by the IWPC stated. On December 3, Delhi University's Ramjas and Deshbandhu colleges received bomb threat emails, prompting immediate evacuation of their premises. Both threats turned out to be hoax, said police. This e-mail, sent from Adil_Vasuki@outlook.com, said three RDX were planted in Ramjas and Deshbandhu colleges by ISI-based operatives to 'divert' attention. Police had said the sender, who identified himself as Adil Vasuki Khan, also claimed that he was part of the conspiracy, but now wants to turn informer.



Man absconding for 25 years arrested for murder of roommate

New Delhi.(Agency)

After being on the run for 25 years, a man accused of killing his roommate in North Delhi's Roop Nagar area was finally arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch. The accused, Satish Yadav, allegedly moved to Kolkata, Assam and Bihar to evade arrest, officers said. Police said he was arrested in Bihar's Darbhanga after multiple raids across states. The case dates back to February 6, 2000, when a PCR call alerted police about a murder in North Delhi's Malka Ganj. Officers reached the spot and found one Sajan Singh dead, with his neck slashed. An axe was recovered from the room.

Police said Sajan, Satish and one Ajay had been living together. They worked together at a moulding machine unit for several years. Ajay told police that Sajan and Satish had an argument the previous night over food expenses. The fight escalated and Sajan allegedly slapped Satish and warned of revenge. Based on Ajay's statement, an FIR under IPC Section 302 was registered, but Satish could not be traced despite raids in Delhi and searches in his village in Bihar. A court later declared him a proclaimed offender. Police said that the 2000 murder case came to the notice of Crime Branch officers after years while they were examining case records of unsolved heinous crimes. Soon, a probe began. Head Constable Dhara Singh received a tip-off that the accused was in Bihar, said police. "Inspector Sanjay Kaushik successfully traced the accused to his native village Ramoli in Darbhanga ... on December 7, a raid was conducted. Even as people had gathered to help the accused flee, he was held," said DCP (Crime Branch) Pankaj Kumar.

Red Fort blast case: 8th accused arrested, provided Umar logistical support, says NIA



According to the NIA, Bilal is the eighth accused to be arrested in the case. "The anti-terror agency is working closely with various central and state agencies to unravel all the threads of the conspiracy," the spokesperson added.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday arrested a doctor from Jammu & Kashmir for allegedly harbouring and providing logistical support to Umar Nabi, the doctor who drove the car that exploded outside the Red Fort Metro station in Delhi on November 10.

"The arrested man has been identified as Bilal Naseer Malla, a native of Baramulla and NIA has found that he had knowingly harboured Nabi by providing him logistical support. He is also accused of destruction of evidence related to the terrorist attack," a NIA spokesperson said in a statement.

According to the NIA, Bilal is the eighth accused to be arrested in the case. "The anti-terror agency is working closely with various central and state agencies to unravel all the threads of the conspiracy," the spokesperson added. On Tuesday, Bilal was produced in Delhi before a designated court of Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandra, who remanded him to NIA custody for seven days. The court also extended the NIA custody of Amir Rashid Ali, another accused in the case, who was produced alongside Bilal, by seven days.

Delay in tribal museums, land availability for tribal residential schools: House panel flags issues

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, chaired by BJP MP PC Mohan, originally made recommendations on demand for grants in a report tabled in March.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The parliamentary panel on Social Justice and Empowerment has flagged concerns to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs regarding delays in meeting timelines and targets regarding initiatives such as the Tribal Freedom Fighters' museum and issues of land availability for the construction of Eklavya Model Residential Schools.

The parliamentary panel's report on action taken by the government on its recommendations on demand for grants was tabled in Lok Sabha Tuesday.

The Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, chaired by BJP MP PC Mohan, originally made recommendations on demand for grants in a report tabled in March.

In its March report, the House panel appreciated the Centre's initiative to establish Tribal Freedom Fighters' Museums, acknowledging the heroic and patriotic deeds of tribal idols who

In its response, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs submitted that the onus of identifying land, tendering, selecting the project management consultant, and civil works lay with the state governments. The ministry added that, though, it was taking steps such as visits to the museum sites to monitor work.

In the report tabled Tuesday, the panel said it was not satisfied with the Centre's action-taken response.

The panel said it expected the Ministry of Tribal Affairs to at least assure the committee that it will ensure work on four museums scheduled for completion by November 2025 and one by May 2026 is completed within the stipulated timelines.



are under-represented in mainstream history. However, it pointed out that slow progress in the construction of eight of the 11 museums sanctioned, and sought a strategy for timely completion.

Goa nightclub fire: 'Only a sleeping partner', says co-owner Ajay Gupta; taken into custody in Delhi

Police said Ajay Gupta was detained from the private hospital in Lajpat Nagar on Tuesday evening, where he was receiving treatment for a spinal issue.

New Delhi.(Agency)

One of the three partners of the Goa nightclub, where 25 people lost their lives in a fire, was in Gurgaon on the night of the incident and was later admitted to a private hospital in Delhi, police officers said on Wednesday.

Ajay Gupta was detained from the private hospital in Lajpat Nagar on Tuesday evening, where he was receiving treatment for a spinal issue. Based on property documents, the Goa Police found that Gupta, a resident of Gurgaon, had a share in Birch by Romeo Lane in Goa.

"Gupta was not named in the FIR but during the probe, it was found that he also had a share in the club. An arrest warrant was issued against him and

he has been taken into custody," an officer said.

"A team of the Delhi Police Crime Branch, assisting the Goa Police, took him to its office in Sunlight



Colony after he was discharged on Wednesday morning. He will be produced in court to obtain a transit remand to take him to Goa," the officer said.

During questioning, police said Gupta told them he was a "sleeping partner" with co-owners Gaurav and Saurabh Luthra and was not involved in the club's day-to-day functioning. Police sources said Gupta is a businessman and is involved in real estate projects in Goa. The two main owners of the club, Gaurav and Saurabh, are still at large; the duo fled the country just hours after the fire. The Goa Police on Tuesday said a Blue Corner Notice has been issued by Interpol against the brothers, who are believed to be in Thailand. The brothers had taken a flight to Phuket at 5.30 am on December 7, just hours after the fire at Birch in North Goa's Arpora village, which took place close to midnight.

DDA adopts Swiss Challenge method to end single-bid tender delays

The new system — the Swiss Challenge method — will guarantee DDA secures an amount higher than its reserve price in every case, whether the asset is disposed of through sale or long-term licence.



New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), in a first-of-its-kind reform aimed at ending repeated cancellations of tenders due to single bids, is set to adopt a new bidding method for disposing of land and high-value projects.

The new system — the Swiss Challenge method — will guarantee DDA secures an amount higher than its reserve price in every case, whether the asset is disposed of through sale or long-term licence.

This bidding method allows the initial single bid to be made public and treated as the new reserve price, inviting counter-bids through a competitive process. The original bidder will also have the option to participate in the re-auction, the authority said in the statement.

The move, recently approved by Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, is expected to ensure faster tender finalisation, transparent price discovery and higher revenues for the authority, according to an official statement. Described as a robust, transparent and revenue-maximising mechanism, the method aligns with the DDA's model request for proposal (RFP) structure for high-value, long-term licence projects of up to 55 years. Officials said it protects the authority from delays, cost escalations and stalled projects often caused by single-bid scenarios.

The DDA recently approved the model RFP framework to ensure competitive bidding, accurate price discovery and maximisation of licence-fee revenue. The Swiss Challenge mechanism will complement this framework by ensuring that tenders do not fail due to a lack of competition.

As Delhi battles air pollution, govt imposes Rs 5,000 fine for burning waste, plastic in the open

The collected penalty must be deposited in the Delhi Pollution Control Committee account

New Delhi.(Agency)

As Delhi battles severe air pollution, the Delhi government has empowered frontline enforcement officers to levy on-the-spot fines for the open burning of waste, leaves and plastic among others, a step aligned with National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions issued in the Vardhaman Kaushik vs Union of India case.

In an order issued Tuesday, the Environment Department empowered Deputy Tehsildars and above, as well as Sanitary Inspectors of MCD and NDMC, to levy a Rs 5,000 compensation on anyone

found burning waste in the open, which is a penalty mandated by the NGT's 2015 orders. The collected amount is to be deposited with the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), and all designated officers must submit monthly action-taken reports to the DPCC, as per the order.

The order prohibits

burning of:
Garbage
Leaves
Waste plastic
Rubber
Self-moulding compounds
Any similar materials in the open

The following officers are authorised to levy compensation:

Deputy Tehsildar and above in District Administration

Sanitary Inspector and above of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD)

Sanitary Inspector and above of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)

The collected penalty must be deposited in the Delhi Pollution Control Committee account:

Account No.: 10166741672

IFSC Code: SBIN0005715

Bank: State Bank of India, ISBT Kashmere Gate, Delhi



NEWS BOX

Tactics or too much? Fans divided as Pooran ignores clear stumping chance in ILT20

Mumbai. (Agency)

The ILT20 served up another chaotic night in Abu Dhabi, but nothing drew more debate than Nicholas Pooran's decision to deliberately ignore a regulation stumping. In a league where tactical innovation is almost expected, this one still stunned viewers — and left social media arguing over intent, legality, and the evolving morality of T20 cricket. With the Desert Vipers battling for momentum against MI Emirates, Max Holden arrived at No.3 after Andries Gous retired hurt. But the innings went nowhere. Holden crawled to 42 off 36, and the Vipers were stuck at 117 for 1 after 15.5 overs, their innings meandering when acceleration was required. Then came the moment that lit up the night. On the final ball of the 16th over, Rashid Khan bowled a short, wide delivery that Holden failed to reach despite stepping out of his crease. Pooran collected it cleanly and had the simplest of stumpings available, the kind keepers complete in their sleep. Instead, he froze, held the ball, and let Holden walk back into his crease untouched.



Commentators were baffled, Rashid visibly frustrated, and fans instantly divided. But the twist arrived moments later. Having benefited from Pooran's mercy, Holden was promptly retired out by the Vipers at the end of the over, making way for Sam Curran. The innings suddenly shifted gears, with Shimron Hetmyer and Dan Lawrence injecting the late surge that carried the Vipers to 159 for 4 — a total that proved just enough in a one-run win.

What does the rule say?

The laws here are straightforward: a keeper is not obliged to complete a stumping, and a team is free to retire a batter out for tactical reasons. Pooran's non-stumping was entirely legal, and arguably logical — why dismiss a struggling batter when his slow scoring benefits your team? And yet, the optics were undeniably awkward. Some fans labelled it sharp T20 tactics; others accused it of being against the spirit, with wild conspiracy theories even hinting at fixing. None of that holds water. What the incident truly revealed is a growing reality: in franchise cricket, teams will squeeze every drop of advantage the law allows.

Arshdeep's reel game: What Bumrah must do to get the Kohli treatment

New Delhi. (Agency)

Arshdeep Singh had a hilarious take on how Jasprit Bumrah can feature on his Instagram reels just like how Virat Kohli did recently. Arshdeep's social media game has been on point in the past few months with the Indian players featuring consistently in his funny videos after the matches. Recently, Kohli was a part of one such video after the third ODI against South Africa, which went viral for the star batter's funny jibe at the pacer. During the Cuttack T20I, Arshdeep finally found some company in the 100 T20I



wickets club as Bumrah joined him after dismissing Dewald Brevis. Speaking after the game to the broadcasters, the pacer was asked how Bumrah can feature in his famous Instagram reels. Arshdeep joked that Bumrah still needs to do work on his bowling and take wickets and then maybe he would allow him in a video. "Jassi bhai still needs to take some more wickets to feature on my Instagram. So, if he keeps working on that and keeps taking wickets, he might feature on my Instagram as well," said Arshdeep. Both men picked up two wickets apiece as India thrashed South Africa by 101 runs to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

BUMRAH: THE GENTLE SENIOR

Arshdeep said that Bumrah is a gentle senior, who is never harsh on the youngsters. He said that since both of them are Punjabi, they have easily struck cord with each other.

"The relation with him is very nice. I'd say he is a gentle senior. He's never very harsh on any of the youngsters coming in, and he's very polite with them." "So I'd say the relation is very nice, and we are Punjabi as well, so it's really easy to gel with him," said Arshdeep. Bumrah and Arshdeep have worked as a pair for 14 matches so far.

India blow away South Africa: Should the rest of the T20 World Cup field be worried

IND vs SA, 1st T20I: A dominant 101-run win over T20 World Cup finalists South Africa, achieved despite losing the toss and being forced to bat on a damp pitch on a dewy night, has only strengthened India's standing as the overwhelming favourites in their title defence at a home T20 World Cup.

BRISBANE. (Agency)

There are nights in cricket that tell you more about a team than any statistic or hype ever could. India walked into such a night in Cuttack. Lose the toss, bat first on a sticky surface, deal with winter dew later, and hope the evening does not turn into one of those T20 traps that even champion sides occasionally stumble into. Instead, India produced a performance that should make every other team at the T20 World Cup stop and think about what is coming. Cuttack's red-soil pitch offered a far sterner examination than the lively crowd of more

than forty thousand expected. The ball held up, bounced awkwardly and often refused to come onto the bat. Yet Hardik Pandya was able to find clarity where others only saw disorder. Returning from injury and having skipped training the previous evening, he walked in with purpose, took a long look at the surface and backed his instincts. Since the start of 2024, India have won 26 of their 29 T20Is outright with Hardik in the XI. His presence balances the side, giving them the luxury of batting to No. 8 and still fielding six bowlers. Fit again after the quadriceps issue that kept him out of the Australia tour, India are as close to full strength as they have been.

SOUTH AFRICA BLOWN AWAY

Hardik's unbeaten 59 from 28 balls was the kind of innings that reveals character. He controlled the tempo, attacked selectively and used his power as if the conditions did not apply to him. Two sixes from the second and third balls he faced showed just how sure he was about his game. While wickets fell at

the other end, he kept nudging India towards something competitive. By the time he walked off, India had 175 for 6 on a pitch where rhythm was hard to find.



What made the innings richer was how others rallied around him. Abhishek Sharma and Tilak Varma steadied things after a shaky start. Axar Patel brought calm when the innings needed balance. Jitesh Sharma finished with intent alongside Hardik. It was not perfect, but it was human, a collection of small partnerships stitched together through awareness and resilience. South Africa's

reply unravelled before it could take shape. Arshdeep Singh, recalled for Kuldeep Yadav, struck twice in his opening burst and the chase immediately looked brittle. Aiden

Markram fell to a lovely arm ball from Axar Patel. David Miller edged Hardik behind. Momentum never returned. From then on, India bowled like a side that trusted its methods. They already have three point-of-difference bowlers in Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy, a trio who make picking the ball early a minor nightmare. In a format where deception often matters more than precision, such bowlers are priceless. If Hardik can keep bowling as he did in Cuttack, India will have the luxury to field all three at the 2026 World Cup at home. Varun found grip and drift to remove Donovan Ferreira and Marco Jansen. Dewald Brevis tried to resist, but Bumrah's well-directed short ball ended his fight. There was a brief moment of confusion over replays that could not clearly show Bumrah's front foot, but the wicket stood, and so did India's command of the night.

England greats rip apart Ben Stokes, Bazball and Ashes disaster

New Delhi. (Agency)

They arrived in Australia with swagger, optimism — and a philosophy. The men in England's Test whites, guided by Ben Stokes and inspired by the fearless ethos of Bazball, promised to rewrite the rules of Test cricket. Instead, in the first two Tests of the 2025–26 Ashes, their bold blueprint was dismantled, piece by piece, by a ruthless and disciplined side, which was without their captain Pat Cummins. For starters, Bazball itself was born out of humiliation. After England, under Joe Root, were thrashed 0–4 Down Under in 2021–22, the Test side underwent a cultural reset. Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes built their firebrand brand of cricket with one eye fixed firmly on Australia — an identity robust enough to conquer the one frontier no



England side had breached for nearly 15 years. In Perth and Brisbane, England's failures were not just the result of a superior Australian attack — they were self-inflicted. In the series opener, which ended in two days, England were in the driver's seat, but a session of madness with the bat undid them. In the pink-ball Test, England's lack of preparation showed as they were hammered by eight wickets, falling short of what would have been a deserved innings defeat. Time and again, England batters lunged for glory: driving on the up, going for flamboyant shots, and gifting themselves to the seamers. Their aggressive intent, once the hallmark of their "Bazball" swagger, turned into a pathway of collapse. England had their moments, but like they always say, Bazball needed a little of garnishing of brains. Meanwhile, the bowling and fielding offered no redemption.

New sixer King Shahid Afridi reacts to Rohit Sharma breaking his ODI world record

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi has offered a gracious response to Rohit Sharma surpassing his record for the most sixes in one-day international cricket. Reflecting not only on the milestone but also on his personal memories of Rohit, Afridi recalled their time together at the Deccan Chargers during the inaugural edition of the Indian Premier League, saying he had sensed early on that the young Mumbai batsman was destined for greatness. Rohit eclipsed Afridi's tally of 351 sixes during India's ODI against South Africa in Ranchi on November 30. Afridi's record had stood untouched for 15 years, testament to his own flamboyant power-hitting and the daring strokeplay that defined a generation. Rohit came into the match needing just three more sixes, yet what made his achievement striking was the nonchalance with which he sailed past the landmark. A trademark pull off Marco Jansen sent the historic hit soaring into the stands, triggering a chorus of celebration from a packed JSCA Stadium. "I am happy



that a player whom I have always liked has broken this record. During Deccan Chargers practice sessions, I watched him bat and his class impressed me. I knew that one day Rohit would play for India, and he has proved himself as a classy batter." Rohit had the opportunity to share the dressing room with Afridi during the inaugural edition of the IPL. Rohit and Afridi played nine matches together, hitting 19 sixes in those games for now-defunct Deccan Chargers. Even before Rohit bagged his maiden IPL contract, the Mumbai batter made a mark in the inaugural edition of the T20 World Cup, which India won under MS

Dhoni. Rohit, who was 20 years old then, hit 88 runs in four matches, including a crucial fifty against South Africa in a must-win game.

The numbers underline both players' reputations as game-changers. Rohit now has 355 sixes in just 271 ODI innings, while Afridi ended his storied career with 351 strikes in 369 innings. Yet context matters. Afridi's era featured larger boundaries, less technologically advanced bats and a far healthier balance between bat and ball. In many ways, he pioneered modern six-hitting long before it became a tactical staple. Rohit can finish with more than 400 sixes as the 38-year-old is intent on playing the ODI World Cup in 2027. After retiring from Test cricket earlier this year, there were doubts over whether the senior campaigner would be able to deal with the demands of playing only one format. However, Rohit has worked hard on his fitness, losing more than 10 kilograms and staying in touch to meet the demands of white-ball cricket.

Salah-less Liverpool edge Inter as Chelsea suffer shock defeat to Atalanta

Liverpool and Barcelona strengthened their Champions League push on a night of high drama, while Chelsea slipped further into trouble. Big wins, late twists and rising pressure reshaped the race for the top eight.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Liverpool proved they can still grind out European results without Mohamed Salah, sealing a vital 1-0 win over Inter Milan at San Siro to steady their Champions League campaign. With Salah left out after his public fallout with head coach Arne Slot, it was Dominik Szoboszlai who took responsibility from the spot, burying an 88th-minute penalty to lift Liverpool back



toward the top eight in the league phase. The Reds travelled with a threadbare attack, Cody Gakpo injured, Federico Chiesa ill, leaving 200 million pounds duo Alexander Isak and Hugo Ekitike to lead the line. The pair worked tirelessly but lacked Salah's incision, and Liverpool's best early openings came from midfield runners Curtis Jones and Ryan Gravenberch. A first-half Konate header was correctly

ruled out for handball after a lengthy VAR delay, and Inter threatened through Nicolo Barella and Lautaro Martínez before the decisive moment arrived. When substitute Florian Wirtz drew a foul from Alessandro Bastoni, Szoboszlai stepped up to secure a result that would feel bigger than the scoreline.

Barcelona edge Frankfurt out

Barcelona also delivered a significant statement, battling back for a 2-1 win over Eintracht Frankfurt at Camp Nou. Despite dominating the ball, Barca conceded first to Ansgar Knauff on the counter, raising fears of another frustrating night. But second-half substitute Marcus Rashford transformed the tempo, supplying the cross for Jules Kound's equaliser. Three minutes later, Lamine Yamal floated in a superb ball that Kound headed home again, sealing a comeback that keeps Barcelona firmly in the hunt for an automatic last-16 place.

India's Kush Maini signs with ART for 2026 as he pushes for F1 breakthrough

Kush Maini's move to ART Grand Prix signals his most decisive push yet toward Formula 1. With a stronger platform beneath him, 2026 could become a make-or-break season in his rising career.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian racing driver Kush Maini will continue his pursuit of a Formula 1 future after signing with ART Grand Prix for the 2026 Formula 2 season, marking his fourth consecutive year in the championship. Widely regarded as one of India's brightest motorsport talents, Maini now joins one of F2's most decorated teams in what could become the defining season of his



career. Maini arrives at ART with valuable experience already behind him. Across three seasons in F2, he has collected two race wins and seven podiums, including a landmark victory in Monaco that instantly amplified his reputation. While his most recent campaign ended in 16th place, flashes of raw

pace and composure ensured he remained firmly on the radar of top teams. Before his F2 journey, Maini finished runner-up in the 2020 BRDC British Formula 3 Championship and secured a podium during the 2022 FIA Formula 3 season. That developmental path has shaped him into a well-rounded racer, and ART believe his next step is imminent. "I'm very happy to be joining such a historic team like ART Grand Prix," Maini said after the announcement. "My early interactions with the engineers and mechanics have been extremely positive. I appreciate the determination within the team and can't wait to start working together to see what we can achieve." ART Team Principal Sébastien Philippe echoed the sentiment, praising the Indian driver's maturity. "Kush has shown real speed and composure in Formula 2. His win in Monaco stands out as proof of his potential. We're delighted to welcome him to ART Grand Prix and look forward to 2026." Maini's upward trajectory has also carried him closer to Formula 1. As part of the Alpine F1 programme, he recently drove the A525 during the post-season Young Driver Test in Abu Dhabi, continuing a year of intensive simulator work and private running. The session made him the third Indian ever to take part in an official Formula 1 outing. With ART providing a competitive platform and

Hinge founder Justin McLeod steps down to launch new AI dating platform Overtone

New Delhi.(Agency)

Justin McLeod, the founder of Hinge, is stepping down as CEO after nearly 15 years to build a new AI-led dating platform called Overtone. The move marks a major shift for both McLeod and Match Group, which owns Hinge and is backing the new venture.

In a LinkedIn post, McLeod said he was ready to begin again with a fresh idea shaped by changing times. He confirmed that Jackie Jantos, currently Hinge's President and CMO, will take over as the new CEO. McLeod wrote that the team at Hinge is stronger than ever and will continue its mission under new leadership.

MATCH GROUP BETS BIG ON AI

Match Group said on Tuesday that it is providing pre-seed funding for Overtone, according to media reports. The company described it as an "early-stage" dating service focused on using AI and voice tools to help people connect in a more thoughtful and personal way."

WHAT OVERTONE AIMS TO DO

McLeod says Overtone is designed to help people build real, lasting relationships at a time when the world often pushes us the other way.

The goal is to offer something more personal, more supportive, and closer to what people genuinely want to date.

From AIS mismatches to capital gains confusion: Biggest tax mistakes of 2025

Kolkata.(Agency)

As taxpayers gear up for the 2026 filing season, financial experts say the most common mistakes seen in 2025 were linked to India's fast-changing income patterns. With more people earning from multiple sources, mismatches between what individuals report and what appears in tax records have become increasingly

Sarveet Virk, co-founder and Managing Director of Finvasia, explained why these errors are rising. He said, "Individual finances now span salary, freelancing, digital earnings, interest income and market-linked gains, and each is taxed differently. This creates gaps between what taxpayers report and what appears in the AIS and TIS."

CAPITAL GAINS STILL CONFUSE MOST TAXPAYERS

One of the biggest problem areas in 2025 was capital gains. Many taxpayers struggled with reporting equity, mutual fund and digital asset transactions correctly. Missing details such as holding periods, bonus issues or buybacks often led to wrong classification. Virk said, "In capital gains, missing details like holding periods or corporate actions often lead to misclassification. Even small differences in long-term versus short-term treatment can change the final tax outcome." Incorrect reporting meant many taxpayers ended up with higher tax liability or received notices for discrepancies.

MISMATCH BETWEEN PERSONAL RECORDS AND AIS/TIS

Another key issue was inconsistency between personal calculations and information appearing in the Annual Information Statement (AIS), the Tax Information Summary (TIS) and Form 26AS. "Accuracy also depends on how well existing records match. Form 26AS needs to reflect the correct TDS for each income source, and bank-reported interest and TDS entries must align with what individuals disclose," Virk said. He added that any mismatch can directly affect the final computation during filing.

Vi Business launches Smart Gas Metering solutions for CGD companies

New Delhi.(Agency)

Vi Business, the enterprise arm of telecom service provider Vodafone Idea, has expanded its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) portfolio by introducing Smart Gas Metering solutions for City Gas Distribution (CGD) companies. Vi Business, which deployed India's first smart energy meters in 2018, is now bringing its Internet of Things (IoT) and AMI expertise to the fast-growing natural gas sector. The company says this move will support the government's efforts to modernise the country's utility systems and promote digital metering. "Digital metering is reshaping how utilities operate, and Smart Gas Metering is the next frontier in India's utility transformation. With our proven IoT and AMI expertise, we are committed to supporting CGD operators to modernise their networks, reduce inefficiencies, and deliver better service outcomes by reducing unaccounted gas and enhancing revenue assurance. Vi Business will continue to enable India's utility sector with scalable and future-ready solutions," said Arvind Nevatia, Chief Enterprise Business Officer of Vi.

Vi's new Smart Gas Metering solution uses Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT) technology to offer reliable communication for gas meters. It aims to help CGD operators improve billing accuracy, detect issues faster, and run their operations more efficiently. The company, in a press note, said that according to the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the CGD sector is expected to become India's biggest natural gas consumer by the end of this decade, using nearly one-third of the total gas volume. As demand rises, CGD companies are looking for solutions to reduce Lost and Unaccounted Gas (LUAG) caused by leakage, theft, manual billing errors, and pilferage.

IndiGo flight crisis hits Delhi trade, loss estimated at Rs 1,000 crore: Trade body

CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said that daily flight disruptions have severely impacted the movement of traders, tourists and business travellers, leading to a sharp fall in market activity across the city.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The ongoing operational crisis at IndiGo has begun to ripple far beyond airport terminals, inflicting a massive blow on Delhi's economy. The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has estimated that the airline's large-scale flight cancellations have already resulted in a business loss of nearly Rs 1,000 crore to the capital's trade, industry, tourism and exhibition sectors. CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said that daily flight disruptions have severely impacted the movement of traders,

tourists and business travellers, leading to a sharp fall in market activity across the city. According to him, footfall in Delhi's markets has dropped by almost 25% over the past 10 days as travellers from outside the city have stayed away due to uncertainty around air travel. He said that over 1.5 lakh passengers normally travel daily from Delhi airport, nearly 50,000 of whom are traders and business travellers. However, news of repeated IndiGo cancellations has drastically reduced this movement, resulting in direct losses for wholesale markets, retail hubs and commercial districts. He added that hotels, restaurants, banquets and resorts have seen thousands of cancellations over the past week alone. The impact has been particularly severe on Delhi's exhibition and events ecosystem. Over the last 10 days, large exhibitions covering automobiles, handloom, textiles, home furnishing and auto components have been underway at Pragati Maidan and Anand Mandapam. These events had drawn



thousands of traders and visitors from across the country, but a significant number were unable to reach Delhi due to last-minute flight cancellations.

Travel industry executives say the crisis has now begun spilling into the peak tourism season. Manoj Khandelwal, Director of Manoj Travels, said this period usually marks the start of Delhi's strongest tourism window, running till mid-January. However, the current disruption has already begun to hit Christmas and New Year bookings. Destination weddings have also taken a hit, with entire wedding parties unable to reach venues in

some cases, causing cascading losses to hotels, transport operators, caterers and event planners. The crisis intensified after the aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), directed IndiGo to curtail 10% of its operations following sustained disruption. Acting swiftly, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has now initiated a process to redistribute this curtailed capacity among other domestic carriers.

Top government sources said the redistribution is aimed at restoring passenger confidence and preventing further cancellations.

The move is also intended to send a strong signal to the aviation industry that passengers cannot be taken for granted, and that operational failures will directly impact market share. Under the proposed plan, IndiGo's 10% curtailed operational share may be distributed among airlines including Air India, Akasa and SpiceJet, based on their available fleet strength, operational readiness and passenger handling capacity.

Can trading less really make you more profitable? Zerodha's Nithin Kamath explains

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Nithin Kamath, founder and CEO, Zerodha, has said that most investors actually stand to lose more money when they trade too often. His comments come at a time when many trading platforms encourage heavy activity, especially in volatile markets.

"As a percentage of client funds, our brokerage revenue is 20-25% of our listed peers. That means our clients trade a lot less—75% lesser—as a proportion of their capital," he said on X. He added that this lower activity is not a weakness, but a sign of healthier participation.

RARELY LEADS TO PROFITS
Kamath explained that frequent trading rarely leads to better outcomes. With few exceptions, the more frequently people trade, the lower their odds of being profitable. More activity doesn't mean better returns; it usually means a higher



Aequus lists at 13% premium: Should you book profits or hold

New Delhi.(Agency)

Aequus made its stock market debut on Wednesday with a near 13% premium, giving investors their first clear signal of how the market views the company after one of the most talked-about IPOs in recent weeks. The stock was listed at Rs 140 on both the NSE and the BSE, compared with its issue price of Rs 124.

The listing came after a very strong response to the Aequus IPO, which was subscribed over 104 times during the three-day bidding window. The demand was broad-based, with strong participation from institutional, high net-worth and retail investors, reflecting confidence in the company's aerospace precision manufacturing business. The retail portion of the issue was subscribed 81.03 times, while qualified institutional buyers subscribed 122.93 times. The non-institutional investor category saw subscription of 83.61 times. Such high numbers pointed to investor interest in manufacturing-led growth stories, especially those linked to global aerospace supply chains. The

IPO opened for subscription on December 3 and closed on December 5, with the allotment finalised on December 8. The price was fixed at Rs 124 per share, and retail investors had to apply for a minimum of 120 shares,



requiring an investment of Rs 14,880. Shivani Nyati, Head of Wealth at Swastika Investmart Ltd, said the debut reflected positive market sentiment around the company. "Aequus Limited made an encouraging debut on the stock market, listing at Rs 140 per share on both the NSE and BSE—a 13% premium over its IPO issue price. The positive listing reflects upbeat sentiment driven by the company's

strong positioning as one of India's most advanced and fully integrated aerospace precision-manufacturing platforms," she said. She added that the strong response to the IPO played a key role in supporting the listing. "The optimism also comes on the back of the company's Rs 922-crore IPO, which witnessed exceptional investor demand. The public offer was subscribed 104 times during the three-day bidding window from December 3 to December 5, highlighting strong appetite from institutional as well as retail investors for manufacturing-led growth opportunities within India's expanding aerospace sector," Nyati said.

Nyati noted that while the stock did not see an aggressive spike, the overall tone remains positive. "Despite the moderate listing compared to upper-end expectations, the sentiment around Aequus remains constructive. The company's ability to scale operations, deepen global customer relationships, and benefit from India's rising prominence in aerospace manufacturing makes it a notable long-term candidate," she said.

Meesho share price: Stock lists at 46% premium over IPO price

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of Meesho made a strong start on Dalal Street on Wednesday, listing at a sharp premium after heavy investor interest during its initial public offering. The stock debuted at Rs 162.05 on the NSE and Rs 161.20 on the BSE, marking a gain of nearly 46% over its issue price of Rs 111. The strong listing came after Meesho's IPO saw overwhelming demand across investor categories, reflecting confidence in the company's growth story and its focus on value-led ecommerce. Market participants had widely expected a healthy debut, given the strong subscription numbers and the broader interest in new-age internet platforms. Prashant Tapse, Senior VP (Research) at Mehta Equities Ltd, had earlier said that Meesho was likely to debut at a premium of 25-30%, supported by strong subscription

momentum and investor appetite for its asset-light business model. He noted that short-term investors could consider booking profits on listing,



while those with a higher risk appetite could hold the stock for 12-18 months, given Meesho's presence in fast-growing categories such as fashion, home and kitchen, and beauty and personal care. According to him, the valuation of around Rs 50,096 crore at

the upper price band appeared fair compared to other listed new-age technology companies. The IPO was subscribed 81.76 times overall, highlighting strong demand from both institutional and non-institutional investors. The retail portion was booked 19.89 times, while qualified institutional buyers, excluding anchor investors, subscribed 123.34 times. The non-institutional investor segment saw subscription of 39.85 times. Meesho's public issue was a book-built IPO worth Rs 5,421.20 crore. It included a fresh issue of 38.29 crore shares aggregating to Rs 4,250 crore and an offer for sale of 10.55 crore shares worth Rs 1,171.20 crore. The IPO opened for bidding on December 3 and closed on December 5, with share allotment finalised on December 8.

Amazon to invest \$35 billion in India, create 1 million jobs by 2030

With markets tightening globally, Amazon's \$35 billion India bet underlines confidence in the country's digital demand, logistics scale and workforce depth as growth drivers through the next decade for investment.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Amazon on Tuesday announced plans to invest more than \$35 billion across all its businesses in India by 2030, deepening its long-term commitment to the country's digital economy, artificial intelligence-led transformation and employment generation. The fresh investment builds on nearly \$40 billion already invested in India over the past 15 years. The announcement was made on December 10 at the sixth edition of the Amazon Smbhav Summit in New Delhi, alongside the release of an economic impact report by consulting firm Keystone Strategy. The report said Amazon's cumulative investments, including infrastructure development and employee

compensation, have positioned it as the largest foreign investor in India, the largest enabler of e-commerce exports, and among the top job creators in the country. The company said its future investments will be anchored around three strategic pillars—AI-driven digitisation, export growth and job creation—in line with India's broader digital and economic priorities.

Amazon said it has invested at scale in building both physical and digital infrastructure across India, including fulfilment centres, transportation networks, data centres, digital payments infrastructure, and technology platforms.

According to the Keystone report, Amazon has so far digitised over 12 million small businesses, enabled \$20 billion in cumulative e-commerce exports, and supported approximately 2.8 million direct, indirect, induced, and seasonal jobs across industries in India over the past 15 years. The report said Amazon's economic impact extends well beyond its direct workforce, supporting employment across

packaging, logistics, manufacturing, and technology services, while enabling thousands of small entrepreneurs to scale nationally and globally through its marketplace.



One million more jobs by 2030

By 2030, Amazon plans to generate an additional 1 million direct, indirect, induced, and seasonal jobs in India. These will be driven by continued business expansion, the scaling up of its fulfillment and delivery network, and spillover demand across parallel sectors such as packaging, manufacturing, and transportation. Commenting on the announcement, Amit Agarwal, Senior Vice President, Emerging Markets at Amazon, said the company's growth in

India has been closely aligned with the country's digital ambitions. "We are humbled to have been a part of India's digital transformation journey over the past 15 years, with Amazon's growth in India perfectly aligned with the vision of an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat," Agarwal said.

"We have invested at scale in growing the physical and digital infrastructure for small businesses in India, creating millions of jobs, and taking Made-in-India global."

Big push on AI, exports and digital access

As part of its long-term commitment, Amazon said it plans to democratise access to artificial intelligence across India, making AI tools available to businesses, consumers, and students. By 2030, the company aims to bring the benefits of AI to 15 million small businesses, with sellers on Amazon.in already using AI-powered tools such as Seller Assistant and next-generation selling solutions.

It also plans to enhance shopping experiences for hundreds of millions of users through AI-led innovations such as visual discovery with Lens AI, conversational shopping via Rufus, and multilingual interfaces to overcome literacy barriers.

Dia Mirza

Turns Children's Author, Confirms Five-Book Series In The Works

Dia Mirza is marking her birthday this year with a new creative milestone, as the actor and producer prepares to debut as a children's author. She is currently working on a collection of five books aimed at young readers, with further details expected to be announced closer to their release in 2026.

Confirming the development, Mirza shared that working on stories for children has been a deeply personal experience for her. "This milestone means the world to me but creating for young minds has been one of the most meaningful experiences this year. My son Avyaan is too excited. I have read the stories to him and can't wait for him to see them with the illustrations done. I'll be able to share more when the publishers are ready," she said.

The actor is also celebrating a professional high on the production front. Her film *Panha* recently won Best Indian Short Film at the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF). Reflecting on the achievement, Mirza said, "I've produced two beautiful films. *Panha* has begun its journey with awards and special jury mentions, and our second film is now making its way to festivals. This year reaffirmed a simple truth for me: when your choices reflect your values, life becomes deeper, kinder, and far more rewarding." Mirza's journey in cinema began with an uncredited appearance in the Tamil film *En Swasa Kaatre* (1999). She made her official acting debut in 2001 with *Rehnaa Hai Terre Dil Mein*, directed by Gautham Vasudev Menon, opposite R. Madhavan and Saif Ali Khan. While the film underperformed initially, it went on to achieve cult status after its re-release. Her performance earned her a Filmfare nomination for Best Female Debut, though critic Taran Adarsh noted, "Dia looks like a doll and goes through the mandatory dance movements gracefully, but needs to polish her acting skills."

The same year, Mirza appeared in *Deewaanapan* opposite Arjun Rampal, followed by a series of films through the early 2000s that struggled commercially. These included *Tumko Na Bhool Paayenge*, *Dum*, *Praan Jaye Par Shaan Na Jaye*, *Tehzeeb*, *Kyun! Ho Gaya Na...* and *Tumsa Nahin Dekha: A Love Story*, among others.

She found major box office success in 2005 with *Parineeta* and *Dus*, the latter emerging as one of the highest-grossing films of the year. This momentum continued with *Lage Raho Munna Bhai* (2006), which ranked among the year's biggest hits. Mirza also delivered notable performances in ensemble films such as *Honeymoon Travels Pvt. Ltd.* and *Shootout at Lokhandwala*.



Sara Tendulkar's Glow Is Unmissable In Latest Public Appearance, Fans Say 'Cute Toh Hai'

Sara Tendulkar, the daughter of India great Sachin Tendulkar, often grabs attention with her stunning fashion sense. The 28-year-old was spotted after attending an event in Bandra. Undoubtedly, her soft yet glamorous style generated significant social media buzz. In a video posted on Instagram, Sara Tendulkar was captured while exiting an event in Bandra. She was seen showcasing her sartorial style in a flowy black gown. It featured a deep square neck, full sleeves, and a body-hugging fit. She accessorised her look with black flip-flops and golden hoop earrings. Subtle makeup with a half-done hairdo finished off her overall appearance.

She was being approached by the paparazzi at the entrance of the posh eatery. However, without pausing for a bit, the diva walked straight towards her car and even flashed her cute and shy smile.

Fans' Reaction To Sara Tendulkar's Latest Appearance

The caption reads, "The legendary #sachintendulkar's daughter #saratendulkar is the ultimate style muse! Watch her latest look to prove why her unmistakable swag dominates the celebrity fashion scene."

Reacting to the video, a user complimented her looks, mentioning, "Cute to hai." Many others praised her toned figure and youthful looks. A few users also hinted at her dating rumours with Indian cricketer Shubman Gill. "We got it, Gill Bhaisab," read a comment. A GIF image in the comments section featured Gill's photo alongside a text that read, "Gill da mamla."

Sara Tendulkar And Shubman Gill's Dating Rumours

The duo's dating rumours began surfacing on social media in 2020, fuelled by their subtle social media interactions, Sara's appearances at the cricket stadium during matches, her friendship with Gill's sister, Shahneel Gill and more. Eagle-eyed fans noticed the two of them constantly liking each other's social media posts, with Sara praising Gill's IPL performance in



2020-2021, further churning the rumour mill. In mid-2023, fans noted they had unfollowed each other on Instagram, followed by a video of Gill with another woman, which added to breakup talk. During a candid conversation with Ed Sheeran this year, Gill revealed he was single, and there's no time for relationships, which somehow dismissed their link-up deets. However, again in July 2025, they were spotted at a charity dinner in London, reigniting rumours despite Gill's "single" comments.



Kusha Kapila Shows Her Humble Side With Random Act Of Kindness In Mumbai



Kusha Kapila, who rose to fame on social media for her hilarious and relatable content, is also known for her humble nature. The actress was recently spotted on the streets of Mumbai heading back home. While she was in a rush and did not wait to pose for the paparazzi, she did not fail to notice a mother standing there with her child.

In the clip, Kusha was seen searching her bag for some money to give them but later she went inside the car and took out some cash. She swiftly handed it to them and again went inside her car. Her gesture impressed many of her fans who praised her humbleness. For the night, Kusha was spotted in a white dress with an oversized brown jacket.

Kusha Kapila Opens Up About Her Health Struggles

Kusha Kapila has always been an inspiration for her fans. Among other things, she has been honest about her PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome) journey, especially how it has affected her physical appearance.

In a recent interview on Soha Ali Khan's podcast, All About Her, she recounted her own experience with PCOS, raising light on a disorder that affects millions of women in India. Kusha shared, "I first noticed something was wrong when I spotted extra hair growth as a teenager. I was around 18 or 19 when I was diagnosed with PCOS. I could never understand why weight gain was so consistent in my life.

I got my first period at 10 or 11, and by ninth grade, I had gained weight that just never went away. The doctor said my PCOS was linked to weight, and there was pressure to lose it. But I wanted to take control on my own terms – there's so much shame attached to it."

Kusha Kapila, a social media content creator, is well-known for her funny and engaging material across several platforms. Beyond social media, she has appeared in films like as Bhumi Pednekar's *Thank You For Coming*, Shilpa Shetty's *Sukhee*, and Pashmina Roshan and Rohit Saraf's *Ishq Vishk Rebound*.

'An Angle No Woman Needs To...': Hardik Pandya Lashes Out After Video Of GF Mahieka Sharma



Hardik Pandya's girlfriend Mahieka Sharma recently stepped out for an outing in the city dressed in a stunning black mini dress, and a video of her leaving a restaurant started circulating on social media, which captured an oops moment of the model. This now viral video has angered Hardik Pandya, who has now lashed out at the paparazzi for shooting a video of a girl from such an angle and then circulating it on social media.

After the video of Mahieka went viral on social media, Hardik took to his Instagram and wrote, "I understand that living in the public eye comes with attention and scrutiny; it's part of the life I've chosen.

But today something happened that crossed a line. Mahieka was simply walking down a staircase at a Bandra restaurant when paparazzi decided to capture her from an angle that no woman deserves to be photographed from. A private moment was turned into cheap sensationalism."

"This isn't about headlines or who clicked what; it's about basic respect. Women deserve dignity. Everyone deserves boundaries. To the media brothers who work hard every day, I respect your hustle, and I always cooperate. But I'm requesting you all, please be a little more mindful. Not everything needs to be captured. Not every angle needs to be taken. Let's keep some humanity in this game. Thank you," he further continued and added.

Who Is Mahieka Sharma?

Mahieka completed her degree in Economics and Finance before she transitioned into full-time modelling and acting. She has been featured in several music videos, independent films, and ad campaigns for brands such as Tanishq, Vivo, and Uniqlo.

She has also walked the ramp for top Indian designers such as Manish Malhotra, Anita Dongre, and Tarun Tahiliani, among others. In 2024, Mahieka was honoured with the "Model of the Year (New Age)" award at the Indian Fashion Awards. Mahieka Sharma is also known for her professionalism. In 2024, she faced an unexpected challenge when she developed a severe eye infection ahead of an important show. However, despite the discomfort and irritation, Mahieka chose not to back out of the event. Instead, she walked the ramp with confidence.



One of the biggest challenges of married life is to get along well with your in-laws. Though this goes for both partners in a marriage, it is the woman who is affected the most.

According to research around 60 per cent of all marriages suffer from tension with mothers-in-law that is normally between the woman and her husband's mother. The nagging, meddling mother-in-law is often the cause of worry and the central idea that can help better the situation is to have a positive attitude and to show respect to the older woman.

Positive attitude Just like being a daughter-in-law is new to you taking up the role of a mother-in-law is new to her too. Always try and convey a positive attitude towards her. The older woman is probably just trying her best to fit into her role as a mom-in-law.

Equality Try to treat your mother-in-law and your mother equally. For example if you give your mother a birthday gift, then give your mother-in-law a gift for her birthday too. If you have children, then visit your mother and your mother-in-law with similar frequency.

Sensitivity The fact that the lady has spent a significant part of her life raising her son may make her a little sensitive when another person becomes the centre of attraction of her son's life.

Though most mothers do not consider her daughter-in-law competition, there are some mothers who do. The ones whose life revolved around their child for a long time because they

are a single parent or had only one child are the ones who are most likely to behave in this way. If, for example, your mother-in-law mentions how much her son always liked her home

10 ways to be a Super Daughter-in-law

Here are a few tips to improve your relationship with your mom-in-law



Information Try to keep mother-in-law informed; call and let her know about important events. Keep her in the loop. If you have children, send pictures to your mother-in-law. Grandmothers love getting pictures of their grandchildren.

Advice Your mother-in-law has years of experience. Don't hesitate to take her advice. You may disagree with her and decide to not follow any of her suggestions, but be open to different ideas, at least listen, show respect, and do not take any advice as a personal attack. She is only trying to be helpful.

Children Allow your mother-in-law to take care of your children. For them their grandchildren are more important than their own kids sometimes. If she wants to, let her spoil them a little, i.e. she lets them stay slightly past their bedtime or gives them some more chocolate than you would want to.

Communication Try and talk out things with the family. If something that someone said hurt you, do not keep it bottled up inside you. Discuss with your husband and your mother-in-law any slights or snubs and how it makes you feel.



cooking, do not try to compete by asserting how much he likes your cooking now. This would invariably hurt her.

Respect Treat your mother-in-law with respect. Consider her older and wiser. She may have been through a lot of hardships in her life. In fact, talk to her and ask her about her childhood, growing up, raising kids, and life experiences. When she shares her life with you she will develop a liking for you and that can lead to a strong bond between the two of you.

Expectations Getting to know the family you have married into may take time. Though most daughters-in-law are welcomed into the family with open arms, do not get disheartened if it does not happen. Give them time to know you better.

Be attentive When your mother-in-law is at home be attentive towards her. Sit and chat, show her around town, and if she wants to help you prepare meals, then let her. You two can get to know each other better and bond. If she prefers to sit around being waited on hand and foot, then enlist your husband to help prepare meals and clean up.

Even the ultimate guidebook for mums will not tell you that motherhood is synonymous with chronic tardiness. It's true, children dilly-dally a lot and mums run behind them, but no one seems to get anywhere on time. To avoid the mad rush through the day, you need to ensure that your mornings run smoothly. Here are 12 smart ideas that'll help you speed up the mornings and for getting your kids (and yourself) out of the door on time.

Be up first

We know you're tired, but being the first one out of bed can eliminate a big source of morning stress — getting your kids and yourself ready at the same time. This will help you have a relaxed start to the day; spend time preparing lunch and not scurrying to get things done.

Warning signals

Many kids have a hard time stopping what they're doing and quickly changing course. To help them stay on schedule, give your kids 10-minute, 5-minute, and 2-minute departure warnings. Set a timer -- there are even talking ones on the market that will countdown the minutes for them. They may not have learnt to read the clock, but it puts the idea in their heads that they're doing something else shortly, and they'll have to bring their current activity to a halt.

Prepare the previous night

The key to getting out the door faster is to prepare the night before. Lay out your child's uniform, make sure their bags are packed, and ensure that they've completed their homework, and signed permission slips before they have called it a night.

Set up a morning routine It always helps to establish a morning routine. If it's breakfast time, they know they have to brush their teeth, eat and get dressed with no breaks in between. By doing the same things in the same order, children know what they need to do next and it becomes automatic for them. Time your kids to see how long it takes to get out the door from the moment you say it's time to go. Allowing yourself enough time to get out the door will help you make a stress-free exit.

Make portable breakfast

Serve up healthy, portable breakfast. Milk and cereals are always easy to rustle. Make sure you sprinkle a few almonds and walnuts in the bowl for an added dose of vitamin. Poha, upma, are easy to prepare too. They can be carried around without messing your car. Make sure they have a tall glass of milk before they leave home. This will keep them going through the day.

Get them to compete

For young kids with a competitive streak, this can work wonders. Tell them, the first one down (or up) the stairs is the superhero. Playing 'Who Can Do it First?' can help speed up everything from

How to begin your Mornings at 100 kph

A slow start to the day means low productivity. curates a set of effective strategies to accelerate your mornings



getting your kid dressed to getting them to school on time.

Switch off

If you're addicted to your smart phone, it can be hard to imagine starting the day unplugged. Parents must avoid checking emails and surfing the Internet before dropping off their kids to school in the morning. These create a huge black hole when it comes to time, because it's hard to just 'check one thing really quickly. Inevitably, you'll spend way more time online than you plan. Avoid watching news in the morning too, especially if it distracts your kids from getting going.

Draw a family calendar

Keep everyone's schedule straight with one calendar that all family members can follow. It's a great visual way to consult your schedule. This will not only keep all the members in the loop, it will serve as a reminder. Knowing what your kid needs on what day will help you be more organised in the morning and avoid last minute rushing around.

Early to bed

If you want a 'good' morning, make sure you call it an early night. Children should ideally have their dinner by 7 pm and sleep by 8.30 pm. They shouldn't spend too much time in front of the television as it affects the sleep pattern. No chocolate or other sweets before bedtime as it'll keep them up.

Notes on child's challenges Depending on your kid's age, there are some tasks he/she may not be able to do herself. In that case, figure out what duties trip her up. If tying her shoelaces takes her a long time, consider helping her in the morning instead of repeatedly nagging her to do it herself. If your son spills every time he pours milk into his glass bowl, transfer the amount he needs into a small, easier-to-handle cup.

Let them miss the bus

If your kids are older, let them experience the consequences of constant dilly-dallying. This could mean a red mark in the calendar. But it's okay; that's how they'll learn. If they are chronically late, then take it a step ahead and teach the brat a thorough lesson. Don't drive him to school, let him skip it and study at home. This strategy always works and we can vouch that the next time around he will always reach school on time.

Cut out the dressing drama

Is getting your kid dressed for morning weekend hobby classes the most stressful part? We suggest buy a hanging closet bin and have your kid pick out his/her outfit for the week ahead of time the method, do everything you can to tame the tantrums and tears and reduce the amount of time it actually takes your kid to get dressed for the class.