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Protest In Bengal Against BSF; 'Let Women Object': Mamata Banerjee

In a heated escalation, Mamata Banerjee blames the BSF for pushing Indians into Bangladesh and attacks the Centre for blocking MGNREGA and housing scheme funds.

KOLKATA. (Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday called on women across the state to step forward and raise their voices against what she described as atrocities committed by the Border Security Force (BSF) in border side regions. Addressing a Trinamool Congress rally at Rashleela ground in Cooch Behar, Banerjee urged women to lead the resistance. "Let our mothers and sisters come forward and speak out against the BSF's actions in the border areas," she said, adding that she wanted to see whether Bengal's women could prove "braver and stronger" than those affiliated with the BJP.

The Chief Minister also appealed to residents to stay united and not be intimidated by Central forces. During an administrative meeting in the district on Monday, she had already instructed the police to respond swiftly to any reports of harassment by the BSF.

Reiterating her stance, Banerjee assured people that no detention camps would be set up in Bengal under her government. "No one will be pushed back. As long as the Trinamool Congress is in power, there will be no detention camps here. We will not bow down to the BJP," she said.

"We are working to bring back the remaining four Bengali-speaking Indian



nationals from Bangladesh," she said, noting that one of them, a pregnant woman, Sunali Khatun, and her eight year old son had already been reunited with their family in Birbhum. "Despite having valid citizenship documents, the BSF pushed them into Bangladesh," she alleged.

In June, six residents of Paikar village in Murarai, Birbhum, were reportedly forced across the border by the BSF on suspicion that they were Bangladeshi citizens. Referring to this, Banerjee linked the issue to the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. She claimed the Election Commission might announce dates for next year's Assembly polls soon after releasing the final voters' list to prevent legal challenges.

She further alleged that names of genuine voters were being removed during the revision process, even claiming that "people who are alive are being marked as dead" in the updated rolls.

In rare unity, Rahul Gandhi's air pollution discussion call gets government nod

Rahul Gandhi pressed the Lok Sabha for an urgent and structured discussion on worsening air pollution, calling it a cross-party public health emergency. The government signalled readiness, with Kiren Rijiju saying a discussion will be scheduled soon.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Friday pushed for an urgent and structured discussion on India's worsening air pollution in Parliament, framing it as a public health emergency that cuts across party lines. The government signalled it was willing to take up the discussion.

Rising to speak during Zero Hour, the Congress leader said India's biggest cities were living under a blanket of poisonous air.

"Most of our major cities are living under a blanket of poisonous air. Millions of children are getting lung disease. Their future is being destroyed. People are getting cancer. Older people are struggling to breathe. This is an interesting issue because I'm certain that there will be full agreement between the government and us on this issue," Gandhi said.

Furthermore, the former Congress president stressed that this was one of the rare issues on which the House could find complete unanimity. "This is not an ideological



issue," he said, adding that both the government and the Opposition shared the responsibility to respond. He urged the government to allow a full debate and

commit to concrete measures. Responding to Rahul Gandhi's suggestion, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said the government was ready for a discussion on the issue and the Business Advisory Committee of the Lok Sabha can allot time for the same.

"The issue raised by Rahul Gandhi was also brought to notice in the Business Advisory Committee. From Day 1, the government has made it clear that it is ready to discuss all important matters and find solutions, taking along suggestions from the Opposition. We will see how we can take up this discussion. We will come back and let us see how we can structure this discussion. We are ready to take up this matter," Rijiju said.

Jagan Mohan Reddy's Party Says Silk Shawls Scam 'Longstanding' Issue, Blames TDP

New Delhi. (Agency)

In Andhra Pradesh, the faith has once again been shaken by revelations of a major fraud involving the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's (TTD) shawls and dupatta supplies.

For years, TTD had been procuring items labelled as "pure silk," only to discover they were actually made of synthetic material.

"A major scam involving silk dupattas. A shawl costing around Rs 350 was being billed at over Rs 1300, leading to a total supply exceeding Rs 50 crore. TTD has requested an ACB probe into this matter," said Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam's (TTD) chairperson BR Naidu.

TTD vigilance probe revealed that the so-called mulberry silk shawls and dupattas supplied to the temple were actually polyester. The fraud, which spanned from around 2015 to 2025, is estimated to have resulted in losses exceeding Rs 54 crore.

Central Silk Board laboratories conducted tests and confirmed that the items lacked genuine silk certification. The case is now expected to be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB). This decade-long fraud has led to intense exchanges between the ruling TDP-led NDA and the YSRCP.

Former Chief Minister YS Jagan's party, YSRCP, has accused the scam of not being a recent occurrence but rather a longstanding issue during the TDP's tenure. YSRCP leaders

argue that inadequate monitoring and unchecked procurement practices from the past years allowed this scam to remain undetected. The party also accuses the current NDA government of exploiting the issue for political gain and using it as a weapon against its opponents. YSRCP state spokesperson and former TTD Chairman Bhoomna Karunakar Reddy strongly criticised the coalition government, accusing it of repeatedly harming Hindu sentiments and using Tirumala as a



political platform to target YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and the YSRCP. Karunakar Reddy pointed out that the government had not released inquiry reports or taken appropriate action in response to the scam.

He further accused the current TTD Chairman, BR Naidu, of failing in his duties and turning the shrine into a political stage.

"Samajwadi To Majawadi": BJP Slams Siddaramaiah On Flight Travel Expenses

Siddaramaiah's economic advisor and Congress MLA Basavaraj Raya Reddy, responding to the criticism, said he is using it for official tours.

New Delhi. (Agency)

BJP leader CT Ravi took a dig at Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after newly released government records revealed that the state spent more than Rs 47 crore on his helicopter and chartered aircraft travel between May 2023 and November 2025. Questioning Siddaramaiah's 'socialist' image, the BJP leader said he has transformed from "Samajwadi" to "Majawadi" (a political term suggesting his luxury and personal enjoyment).

"From 'Samajwadi', Siddaramaiah is now 'Majawadi'. He avoids roads because of the poor conditions. The people of the state are paying for his air travel," Ravi said.



Siddaramaiah's economic advisor and Congress MLA Basavaraj Raya Reddy, responding to the criticism, said he is using it for official tours.

"He's 79, and he's only using it for official tours. What's wrong with this? It's not a big amount in comparison to the thousands of crores spent by the Prime Minister," he said. Siddaramaiah's air travel expenses were disclosed in a written reply to a question raised by BJP MLC N. Ravi Kumar, who had sought the details. According to the data, the state government spent Rs 12.23 crore on chartered flights for the Chief Minister and his entourage during the 2023-24 financial year. The records list frequent trips between Bengaluru's HAL Airport and districts such as Mysuru, Hubballi, Belagavi and Kalaburagi.

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News box

2 of 4 AQI monitors offline, Gurgaon sees ‘poor’ air

Gurgaon.(Agency)
The city's air continued to remain at 'poor' level on Thursday, with the air quality index (AQI) reaching 268, according to the data from CPCB. Only two of the city's four monitoring stations were working. At NISE Gwal Pahari, the AQI stood at 236 and Vikas Sadan recorded a higher 291. The missing data at Sector 51 and Teri Gram stations raised the possibility of the pollution level being understated. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the city saw a maximum temperature of 24.1 degrees Celsius on Thursday. The minimum temperature was 9.5 degrees Celsius.
The weather department has said no major change in the temperature for the next four days is likely, dense fog in isolated areas has been forecast.In the national capital, shallow morning fog is likely on Friday. Maximum temperatures may be in the 23-25°C range and minimum temperatures around 7-9°C. Minimum temperatures will remain below normal, and winds will stay weak, generally under 10kmph.Saturday and Sunday are expected to bring partly cloudy skies and shallow morning fog. Winds will remain light, mostly below 12kmph in the afternoons and dropping further in the evenings.Mixing depth is forecast at 1100m on Dec 10, tightening to 800m by Dec 12.Air quality is likely to stay in the poor range on Thursday and turn very poor from Dec 11 to 13.Meanwhile, after two consecutive days of poor AQI, Delhi's air quality deteriorated to very poor on Thursday. The AQI was 305 as opposed to 259 a day earlier. No respite is likely in the next few days as air quality is expected to remain in this range.

‘Missing’ voters to be re-verified after SIR rolls pushed to Dec 31

Noida.(Agency)
The district administration has ordered booth-level officers (BLOs) to carry out a fresh round of verification of voters marked as "absent, shifted or dead" (ASD), as part of a final push to clean up electoral records before the draft rolls are published on Dec 31.
The directive follows a decision by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to extend the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration period in six states and Union Territories, including UP, after state chief electoral officers sought more time. Under the revised schedule, UP's enumeration window has been extended from Dec 11 to Dec 26, with the publication of draft rolls moved to Dec 31 from Dec 16.
In Noida, where 1,868 BLOs are responsible for the verification exercise, 1,321 have already completed full digitisation of voter forms. These officers have now been instructed to set up verification camps at their respective booths, publicly announce the names of voters tagged in the ASD category, and confirm their status before the draft list is finalised."BLOs who have completed 100% digitisation have been told to reverify entries marked as absent, shifted or dead. The aim is to minimise claims and objections after Dec 31," said additional district election officer and ADM Atul Kumar.Officials said the district has reached 75% digitisation of electoral forms, but only 58% have so far been mapped against the 2003 base roll used to verify continuity in voter records. Another 17% remain unmapped. Currently, around 4.3 lakh of the district's 18.7 lakh voters, or 23%, are marked in the ASD category.Noida accounts for the highest share of ASD entries within the district. Of its 7.7 lakh voters, 27% have been flagged: over 1% as deceased, 11% as untraceable, 13% as permanently shifted and more than 1% as duplicate entries.In Dadri, which has 7.3 lakh voters, 19.5% fall in the ASD bracket, while Jewar has marked 19% of its 3.7 lakh voters in the category.The pattern is broadly similar in neighbouring Ghaziabad, though officials said digitisation lags at 59%. More than 24% of forms have been mapped with the 2003 rolls, while 37% remain unmapped. Around 36% (over 10 lakh names) of Ghaziabad's 28.4 lakh voters are currently classified as ASD and may be liable for deletion if not verified in time.

Friends’ reunion, a trip from Kerala: All for a bite of Apple moment as first Noida store opens

Noida.(Agency)
Had there been a fan trophy for the occasion, Krishnan would have been a clear winner.In the continuous throng of visitors who wanted to be a part of the "moment" – the launch of the first Apple Store in the city – the young IT professional had made the longest dash."I had missed the Mumbai and Delhi launches as I was not in town at that time. I wanted to see the countdown live," said Krishnan, who flew in from Kerala, undeterred by the IndiGo crisis. He simply had to be here. "I saw videos of the other stores opening and wanted to experience what it's like when the doors open for the first time," the Apple fan gushed during the launch at Mall of India on Thursday, the American phonemaker's first store in UP, second in Delhi-NCR and fifth in India.For Puneet Bhardwaj, who came all the way from Agra, the launch of the Apple store became the backdrop for a special moment – a reunion with his college friends years later. They planned it, all dressed identically, and did their photo op as soon as the gates opened at 1pm. "We did not want to miss the countdown experience, the crowd echoing 3, 2, 1 in unison. We delayed our reunion so that we could do this together," he said.Saddam, who too was at Noida Apple during the launch, said he had taken a day off from work and came from Faridabad to explore the store. "Authorised resellers only keep basic products and don't have an extensive range. If you ask them a technical question, half the time they don't have detailed answers," he said, standing near the display of iPad accessories. The store experience was just as he had expected with 80 trained representatives available at hand to answer all questions thrown at them and demonstrate features to buyers.Existing Apple users said the store had practical benefits for them. "The biggest will be service and expertise," said one. Another said it will spare the drive to Saket for troubleshooting her iPhone.

Map Aravalis and submit clear forest definition, high court tells Haryana

Gurgaon.(Agency)
Punjab and Haryana high court has asked the Haryana govt to place on record a clear and legally sound definition of what constitutes the Aravali forest landscape in the state. The matter will next be heard on Jan 9, 2026, when the state is expected to place its affidavit before the court "mapping the exact area" covered under the Aravalis in line with earlier Supreme Court rulings and a fresh apex court judgment delivered last month.
The bench of Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry on Tuesday — while hearing a public interest litigation filed by activist Harinder Dhingra — directed principal chief conservator of forests (PCCF) Vineet Kumar Garg to "finally place a legally defensible" Aravali map on record, something the state has never done despite recurring ecological conflicts in Gurgaon, Faridabad, Nuh and Mahendragarh. The timing is crucial. The region continues to face pressure from

real estate expansion, road projects, mining and repeated attempts to alter land classifications.PCCF Garg said the department would begin compiling the required information. He told TOI, "The forest department would seek datasets from the mining department and Haryana Space Applications Centre, examine the court's order once received and prepare the compliance report within the stipulated time. We also have Forest Survey of India data, which we will also analyse before submitting."The affidavit is expected to clearly state how much land qualifies as forest based on the SC's interpretation and outline the boundaries of the Aravali ecosystem as recognised in law, not just revenue notations.Precise identification of Aravali forest areas has been central to disputes over the diversion of gair-mumkin pahar land, forest patches falling under the Godavarman ambit and zones where the state has been asked to halt or regulate



construction. Dhingra had sought clarity on the extent of Haryana's Aravali land and the status of forest protection across the range.The bench cited long-standing directions issued by SC in the TN Godavarman forest conservation matter, which for nearly three decades has guided how states must identify and safeguard forest land irrespective of revenue classifications.The HC also relied on the SC's Nov 29, 2025, judgment in an interlocutory application related to the Godavarman case. That order bluntly acknowledged the definitional gap that

has allowed states to interpret the Aravalis in different ways. The apex court noted in paragraph 31: "As against this, Ms Bhati, the ASG, submitted that if the definition of Aravali Hills and Ranges as suggested by the FSI is accepted, it would exclude large areas from the Aravali Hills and Ranges. She, however, submitted that if the definition as suggested by the committee is adopted, a larger area would be included as part of the Aravali Hills and Ranges." Environmental analyst Chetan Agarwal said, "The definitional exercise will have major implications. If the 100-metre height criterion is applied, nearly 90% of Haryana's Aravalis fall out of the definition. Keeping the present scenario in mind, the HC's direction is significant because it requires the state to explain the area using both FSI data and its own records."

Smuggled imports sold at vend via BYOB, evading taxes

Gurgaon.(Agency)
The smuggled imported liquor seized from the city on Wednesday was being sold at a vend, along with legal stock, at a discounted rate. The liquor store, located near Signature Towers on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway, also operated a BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle) facility, which drew a large crowd from across NCR due to the availability of low-priced imported liquor. The price difference gave this vend a competitive edge, allowing it to register sales of Rs 40-50 lakh in a single day.Officials involved in the investigation said the liquor was imported via ships and distributed to urban liquor vends through an organised network. The police are now working to trace this network and identify those involved."We are still investigating how the network operates and how smuggled liquor managed to reach the city, evading customs and excise duty," said an excise dept officer.The smuggled liquor was stored in two specially created rooms behind the vend and sold alongside legal

stock at a reduced rate. Vikram Yadav, who has been in the liquor business for years, said the investigation should focus on how this liquor stock reached the vend and was sold at a lower price. "There is a huge difference in price between the smuggled imported liquor, which does not pay any kind of taxes, and legal imported bottles available at liquor vends. The price difference gives an advantage to those who are involved in such illegal practices," he said.
Another liquor vend owner questioned the efficiency of the excise department in curbing such practices. "How is it possible that some people manage to bring such a large quantity of smuggled liquor and sell it in the open market, and the excise department remains unaware of it?" he asked, calling for an inquiry into the department's operations.In response to the massive seizure of smuggled liquor in Gurgaon, the excise department plans to conduct random inspections and checks of liquor vends to prevent such activities.

“The teams have been asked to conduct random inspections at liquor vends and check their inventory for irregularities, if there are any," said an excise department official.On Thursday, the manager of the liquor vend was arrested in connection with the case. However, owners of the vend, from which around 3,920 cases and 174 bottles of premium imported liquor were seized, remain at large. These bottles, stored at a warehouse located at L-1/L-14A, lacked the mandatory hologram trace strips.The accused, identified as Ajay (26) from Fatehabad's Nadhauri, revealed during the interrogation that he was the manager of the wine shop where the foreign liquor was stored under his supervision. He will be produced in court for police remand. "During police remand, the accused will be intensively interrogated about his involvement in bringing and storing the recovered liquor," said a police spokesperson. Further action will be taken based on the facts uncovered during the interrogation.

Another Nuh lawyer held in espionage, terror-funding case

Nuh.(Agency)
The special investigation team (SIT) on Wednesday arrested another lawyer from Nuh in the Pakistani espionage and terror-funding case, weeks after the arrest of a lawyer from the district.
A resident of Bhagon village in Haryana's Tauru subdivision, Nayub had been detained for questioning three days ago, police sources said. Nayub is an associate of Rizwan, who was arrested on Nov 26.
After sustained interrogation, investigators arrested Nayub on charges of facilitating hawala routes and terror-funding transactions in coordination with Rizwan, who had been practising in Gurgaon and Nuh courts.Police said that Nayub travelled to Punjab several times with Rizwan and also practised law with him in Gurgaon. They also met with an accident in Punjab while they were returning to Nuh with cash.Earlier, after Rizwan's

arrest in Nuh for allegedly spying for Pakistan, SIT nabbed four of his associates in Punjab, in whose accounts he allegedly transferred money. A Jalandhar-based sweet shop owner, Ajay Arora, who allegedly managed money transactions, was arrested.Then investigators arrested Sandeep Singh alias Gagan, Amandeep Singh and Jaskaran of Amritsar, in whose accounts multiple suspicious transactions were made by Rizwan. The investigators swung into action after they traced the movement of cash routed from Pakistan through a hawala network. The money was distributed across Punjab and handed over to operatives linked to narcotics trafficking, according to SIT.During the investigation, Rizwan led SIT to several locations in Amritsar, including Golden Gate, various points on Jalandhar-Attari Road bypass and Shahkot. He claimed to have received cash in multiple instalments

at these sites. At Shahkot, both Rizwan and Ajay identified a sweet shop, run by the latter's family, as the spot for money exchanges.
Rizwan confessed to paying Rs 34 lakh to Ajay in three to four instalments, linking these payments to the money he collected in Punjab and distributed further along the chain. SIT later recovered Rs 55,000 from Ajay, which he described as his "commission amount", from a locker in an almirah at his Shahkot home.The investigation began on Nov 25 when constable Rinku, stationed at Sadar Tauru police station, received information that Rizwan was receiving hawala money from Pakistan's ISI-linked operatives for activities, including espionage and narco-smuggling.transactions in Rizwan's PNB account and his frequent visits to Punjab.

No one gives jobs’: How murder-accused tag has made them unemployable despite bail in Akhlaq case

Noida.(Agency)
For the men once named as accused in the Akhlaq murder case, life has never returned to normal. The "murder accused" label has followed them long after their release on bail, shutting most doors to employment and leaving families in a limbo.The 2015 murder case, which began with an FIR naming 10 persons and later expanded to 18 accused, has left its mark on every individual involved. Two of the accused, Ravi and Rohit, have died — one in judicial custody and the other in a workplace accident. Three were declared juveniles. The rest, now out on bail, have found themselves virtually unemployable, with both govt offices and private companies unwilling to hire them.
Rupendra (32) was a law student when he was named as the main accused. Unable to find work, he now sells chole-kulche from a thela in the village, a far cry from his earlier ambitions.Vivek (30) continues to work as an electrician, while his younger brother Sachin, who was a minor at the time, works as a labourer.



Brothers Hariom and Shriom also earn daily wages, having failed to secure stable jobs.Sandeep, who was unemployed before the incident, now runs a small auto-parts shop. Saurabh is jobless, but his brother Gaurav has managed to find work with a private company in Greater Noida. Vinay, once a home guard, lost his job after his arrest and remains unemployed. Hariom, previously jobless, now drives a

van, ferrying schoolchildren. Puneet, another minor at the time, works as a security guard.Arun, now 40, still works as a vet in Bisada, but the case, he said, had destroyed his professional network. "I was arrested after the incident and spent 18 months in jail. I had a toddler and my wife was pregnant at the time. She delivered our baby while I was still in jail. I spent nearly Rs 7-8 lakh on the legal battle. After

bail, I lost my network and my livelihood suffered. Alongside my vet work, I now buy and sell fly ash to make ends meet," he said.Vishal Rana (29) was pursuing a pharmacy degree when he was arrested. He spent nearly 22 months in jail, abandoned his studies, and struggled to find work after his release. "The case was in the limelight for years, and it tarnished the name of Bisada and the people involved. No

private company offers jobs to those whose names are in police records.
After a lot of struggle, Vishal has started a restaurant in Surajpur area," his father, Sanjay Rana, recalled.

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Delhi wakes up to toxic smog as AQI hits 333, remains in 'very poor' category

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The national capital woke up to a blanket of toxic smog on Saturday morning, with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) hitting 333 at 7 am in the 'very poor' category, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Despite a slight improvement from the recent weeks, several parts of the city remained shrouded in a dense layer of toxic smog. Many areas, including Ghazipur Mandi, Anand Vihar, and Wazirpur, reported thick haze early this morning, with visibility remaining significantly reduced. According to CPCB, many regions of the National Capital fell into the 'very poor' category. The area around Anand Vihar was blanketed in a dense layer of toxic smog, with an AQI of 366 in the 'very poor' category. According to CPCB data, Sonia Vihar

recorded an AQI of 352, Wazirpur measured 359, while Ghazipur Mandi recorded 366. Bawana recorded the highest AQI of

Board (CPCB). The India Gate and Kartavya Path area is blanketed by a layer of toxic smog that covers the city. The AQI (Air Quality

According to AQI categorisation, 0-50 is 'good', 51-100 'satisfactory', 101-200 'moderate', 201-300 'poor', 301-400 'very poor', and 401-500

ment issued on Friday in response to a question raised by MP Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee in the Rajya Sabha, asking whether it is a fact that "one in every seven deaths in Delhi can be attributed to the city's toxic air as claimed by several studies and reported in the media". The Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Kirti Vardhan Singh, responded by saying various studies have been conducted by academic and research institutes on the impact of air pollution. During the year 2025, not a single day the AQI has reached the severe plus level in Delhi. The government continues to take measures to address the issue in Delhi-NCR. The government has established the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) under the

Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas Act, 2021, to oversee air quality management in Delhi-NCR and adjoining areas. The Commission has been addressing the issue of air pollution in Delhi-NCR in a collective, collaborative, and participative mode involving all major stakeholders. The Commission has issued 95 Statutory Directions to guide and direct various actions toward the abatement of air pollution in the region and has prepared a Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to tackle pollution during peak winter months. The government has also implemented stricter emission norms for polluting activities in NCR and conducts regular review meetings to monitor progress.

Illegal firearms supply nexus busted; 4 held

New Delhi: Four persons were arrested after the Delhi Police unearthed a nexus supplying illegal firearms to the national capital from Uttar Pradesh, an official said on Friday. Those arrested have been identified as Babu, alias Aslam, (22) Santosh, alias Sandeep Chauhan, (32) Mohammad Bilal (22) and Azeem, alias Gatua (35). According to the police, the crackdown began after a tip-off was received on November 19 that Babu, who was previously involved in robbery, murder and theft cases, would arrive in Model Town to deliver a firearm to one of his associates. Based on the input, a trap was laid and Babu was apprehended from the spot. The cops recovered a cream-colour pouch from his jeans belt, which contained two pistols and five live cartridges, Joint Commissioner of Police (NR) Vijay Singh said in a statement. During interrogation, the accused said he had been earlier arrested in 2024 in a firearm-related case. Babu came into contact with Santosh, who used to procure illegal firearms from Aligarh in UP and supply them in Delhi. Based on Babu's disclosure, co-accused Santosh was also arrested and two sophisticated weapons and three country-made pistols were recovered from his possession, the Joint CP added.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arun Malhotra S/O: Parveen Kumar Malhotra, R/O House No. 14, Road No. 42, West Punjabi Bagh, Punjabi Bagh, PO: Punjabi Bagh, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi - 110026, have changed the name of my minor daughter Myrah Malhotra aged 13 years and she shall hereafter be known as MYRAH MALHOTRA.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Rahul Sehgal S/O Mr. Ramesh Chander Sehgal in respect of Built-up Upper Ground Floor, area measuring 84 Sq. Yds., i.e., 70.23 Sq. Mtrs., without roof rights, built on Property bearing No. 1/5098, on Plot No. 27, out of Khasra No. 204, situated at Village Sikdarpur, in the abadi of Gali No. 4, Balbir Nagar, Illaqa Shahdara Delhi-110032 by virtue of Family Will dated 04.07.2020, executed by Mr. Ramesh Chander Sehgal S/O Late Mr. Ram Sahai Sehgal and said property to be sold to Sunita Gupta and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot no. 20, Koushambhi near HODFC Bank, U.P.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Ashish Sharma S/O Mr. A.K. Sharma in respect of Plot of land area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 301, situated at Village Kondli in the Abadi of Pandit Mohalla, Delhi by virtue of Notarized G.P. regd. SPA, ATS and Will dated 28.04.2025, executed by Mr. Shri Niwas S/O Mr. Net Ram and said property to be sold to Sudha devi and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

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E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204.

For development works of villages in Khamano block under 15th Finance Commission

With the support of Punjab Government, water supply schemes will be improved

The Sikh Times

Malagar khamano
Fatehgarh Sahib, 12, December: The Central Government has released funds of about Rs 50 lakh for the year 2024/25 under the 15th Finance Commission for the development works of villages in Khamano block under the historical district Sri Fatehgarh Sahib. These funds were confirmed by BDPO of Khamano block Madam Vanita. In this regard, she said that the Punjab Government and the concerned Central Government are paying special attention to the development works of the villages. Under the initiative of the Punjab government, funds worth about three crore 59 lakh rupees have been released by the central government under the Fifteenth Finance Commission and under these funds, expenditure is being made for supply schemes, streets, drains,

special garbage dumps etc. under block Khamano. These funds

these development works. Regarding these funds, the sub-divisional engi-



will be spent in 77 villages of block Khamano. He said that under the transparency of the Punjab government, these funds are being spent with complete honesty and under the rules. Estimates for necessary works are being sought from the sub-divisional engineers of various departments such as the water supply and sanitation department. He said that the current MLAs of the constituency, members of parliament and the panchayats of the block are fully cooperating for

neer of the water supply and sanitation department Gagandeep Singh Virk said that the estimates of repairs, machinery etc. of about 8 water supply schemes under the block were sent to the concerned BDPO office, the rest are being sent to the villages under other schemes. Estimates are being prepared regarding pipelines in the. He said that with these funds, the basic water facilities of the people of the rural areas of the block Khamano will be greatly improved.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SAMO DEVI W/O NANWA R/O H. No.-9-90, GALI NO-4 PUNJABI BASTI, ANAND PARVAT, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110005, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SUMMAN DEVI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RAVINDER son of Shri SEVA RAM, residing at 439, Block C-1, Sultanpuri Delhi-110086, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAVINDER KUMAR in my minor daughter BHAVINA aged 16 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is RAVINDER, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I Charanjeet S/O Om Prakash Add House No C - 10 Street no 6 Rajapuri Uttam nagar Delhi 110059 Changed my name to Charanjeet Budhiraja

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Aditya Sablania S/O Yoginder Kumar, R/O 11647 Sat Nagar, Gali No-1, karol bagh, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110005, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Yoginder Kumar Sablania in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my father is Yoginder Kumar, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Be it known to all public that my client Mr. Irshad Alam, aged about 67 years old and his wife Mrs. Nikhat Parveen w/o Sh. Irshad Alam both presently residing at House No. 27/24, Block-A, Khanpur Extension, Dr. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi-110044 have severed all relations with his son namely Entesham Alam s/o Irshad Alam and his legally wedded wife Khushboo Khatoun d/o Mr. Kalamuddin disowned them from all their immovable and movable properties here and all across the country due to their disobedience and bad behaviour. My clients shall not responsible for their any acts and deeds in any manner whatsoever.

NISCHAL SHARMA
ADVOCATE
OFF: 101, CENTRAL MARKET
DAKSHIN PURI
NEW DELHI-110062

NAME CHANGE

I Ridhima D/o Late Bhaskar Tiwari R/o 24/169-70, Shiv Hanuman Mandir Ke Pass, Tilak Nagar, Bilaspur, Chhattisgarh - 495001, have changed my name to Shrida Tiwari.

NAME CHANGE

I Taufique Alam S/o Md. Tauhid Hussain R/o Post-Kargahar, Sasaram, Rohtas, Bihar - 821115, have changed my name to Md.Pintu Alam.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SHWETA KUMAR W/O NEERAJ KUMAR R/O T-3-2102, GODREJ WOODS, SECTOR-43, NOIDA, GAUTAM BUDDHA NAGAR, UTTAR PRADESH-201303 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHWETTA BALI BABBAR I have changed my name only not my religion. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection

NAME CHANGE

I, Dharmendra Kumar son of Sri Rajveer Singh, r/o C-1/105, C-1 Block, Vinod Puri, Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045, have changed my name from Dharmendra Kumar to Arvind Chauhan and be known as Arvind Chauhan for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I SPARSH D/O SUNIL PARCHA R/O 1806/52 NAI WALAN KAROL BAGH CENTRAL DELHI 110005 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SPARSH PARCHA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is informed that my client Khalil Khan, Son of Bahadur Khan, R/O A-70, Khurso Nagar Alvi Chowk Basti, Hazrat Nizamuddin, South Delhi, Delhi-110013, had disowned his son Naim via newspaper publication dated 03.02.2017. My client now revokes the disownment of Naim and restores all relations and rights with him. However, Naim continues to remain disowned and debarred. Anyone dealing with him does so at their own risk and responsibility. My client shall not be liable in any manner.

Deepak Singh Advocate
Chamber No. 310, Lawyers Block
Saket Courts Complex
New Delhi-110017
M-9999684758

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that We, KRISHAN PAL aged about 46 years S/O Mr. LAKHMI CHAND & Mrs. JAGRITI aged about 48 years W/O Mr. KRISHAN PAL BOTH RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO. 3, GALI NO. 6/C, MOLAR BAND EXTN. BADAPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044, have separated/debarred our disobedient son namely "PANIKAJI KUMAR" aged about 31 years & his wife namely "DOLY PANCHAL" aged about 30 years, they have been residing separately from our home. We have disowned/disinherited them from our moveable and immovable properties. If any person's deal with any consideration amount they have sole responsible.

NAME CHANGE

I, GOSAVI SHESHABAI GUNDUGIR Mother of No-17009827W Rank-HMT Name-GOSAVI SHANKAR GUNDUGIR Presently residing at VILL-BHOSGA, PO-DASTAPUR, TEH-LOHARA, DIST-DHARASHIV, MAHARASHTRA-413602, have changed my name from GOSAVI SHESHABAI GUNDUGIR to SHASHIKALA GUNDUGIR GOSAVI for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/11/1960 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1968 vide Affidavit dated 12/12/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, GOSAVI SAROJA Wife of No-17009827W Rank-HMT Name-GOSAVI SHANKAR GUNDUGIR Presently residing at VILL-BHOSGA, PO-DASTAPUR, TEH-LOHARA, DIST-DHARASHIV, MAHARASHTRA-413602, have changed my name from GOSAVI SAROJA to SAROJA SHANKAR GOSAVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 12/12/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, KULDEEP S/O SATYADEV R/O PHASE 2 SAILOK COLONY SANTA GANDHI ROAD SANTA MIL CHANDAU SI SAMBALH UTTAR PRADESH-244412 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KULDEEP VERMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, SANDEEP KHATEEK S/O SHRI RAMESH KHATEEK R/O KHATIK MOHALLA, PURANI CHHAVANI, GWALIOR, MADHYA PRADESH-474010, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDEEP KUMAR KHATIK S/O RAMESH KHATIK FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Corrigendum

The advertisement published in the newspaper on dated 05.12.2025 regarding the E-Auction for the Contract of 06 Sites of Deluxe Pay & Use toilets at Railway Stations over Delhi Division originally scheduled to be held on 22.12.2025 at 12:00 Hrs has been rescheduled.

Accordingly, the new date and time for the E-Auction shall be as under:

Revised E-Auction Schedule

E-Auction catalogue No-'PaynUse11-2025'

Date: 29.12.2025

Time 12:00 Hrs

All other terms and conditions of the original notice shall remain unchanged. No. 7PUB/TN/Pay&UseToilets/ Auction/2022 Date: 12.12.2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NAME CHANGE

I NARESH KUMAR VERMA S/O P L VERMA R/O H No-22-E, West Sagarpur, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi, Delhi-110046 have changed the name of my minor son SURYAANSH aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as SURYAANSH VERMA.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Sunita alias Sunita Gupta W/O Pawan Gupta R/O 13/141, Halka Madan, Nai Ki Mandi, Shahaganj, Agra, UP-282010 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Usha Kumari Sunita.

NAME CHANGE

I, Alok S/O Suresh Mehta R/O D-904, Orchard Avenue, Sec-93 Hayatpur Gurgaon Haryana - 122505 Have changed my name to Alok Kumar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, SOBIN KUMAR S/O NATHU MAHTO R/O H. No-59, 2nd Floor, Flat No-5, Gali No-19, Jain Road Bhagwati Garden Extn Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059, have changed the name of my minor Daughter AARYANA RAJ alias AAYUSHI MEHTA aged 10 Years and she shall hereafter be known as AARYANA RAJ.

NAME CHANGE

I, VIKAS MAKHLIA S/O RAMESH CHANDER R/O H No-27 Third Floor Road No -77 Punjabi Bagh Delhi-110026, have changed the name of my minor son AARAV MAKHLIA aged 15 Years and he shall hereafter be known as AAROV MAKHLIA.

NAME CHANGE

I, VUNGNGAIH LUN wife of No.-15684670N, Rank-HAV, Name-N DOUKHANILAL residing at VILL-BUNGUMUAL, PO-NEW LAMKA, TEHSIL&DIST-CHURACHANDPUR, MANIPUR-795006, have changed my name from VUNGNGAIH LUN to VUNGNGAIHLUN for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/12/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, No.-15684670N, Rank-HAV, Name-N DOUKHANILAL residing at VILL-BUNGUMUAL, PO-NEW LAMKA, TEHSIL&DIST-CHURACHANDPUR, MANIPUR-795006, have changed my minor daughter's name JOY NUN-HOIH to JOYNNUNHOIH for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 12/12/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, M THANGAVEL Father of JC-314339X Rank-NB SUB Name-T KARNAN Presently residing at VILL-P-SAN-GARALINGAPURAM, PO-T RAMANATHAPURAM, TEHSIL-PERAIYUR, DIST-MADURAI, TAMIL NADU-625535, have changed my name from M THANGAVEL to THANGAVEL M for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1964 instead of my correct date of birth as 15/03/1964 vide Affidavit dated 12/12/2025 before Notary Public Delhi

NAME CHANGE

I, M. GURUVAMMAL Mother of JC-314339X Rank-NB SUB Name-T KARNAN Presently residing at VILL-P-SAN-GARALINGAPURAM, PO-T RAMANATHAPURAM, TEHSIL-PERAIYUR, DIST-MADURAI, TAMIL NADU-625535, have changed my name from M GURUVAMMAL to GURUVAMMAL T for all future purposes and in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1965 instead of my correct date of birth as 28/07/1971 vide Affidavit dated 12/12/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJSHREE D/O RATTI KANT JHA R/O FLAT NO-G-05, BRAHMAAPARTMENT, PLOT NO-7, SECTOR-7, DWARKA, SOUTH WEST DELHI-110075, have changed my name to RAJSHREE JHA for all future purposes.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS! IMPORTANT NOTICE

In order to clear extra rush of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run following special trains as per details given below:-

Train No. 02417/02418 Prayagraj - New Delhi - 03 Trips			
Train No. 02417		Train No. 02418	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
----	23:20	Prayagraj	04:30
11:40	----	New Delhi	----

DAYS OF RUN: 02417 Ex. Prayagraj on 14.12.2025 and 02418 Ex. New Delhi on 13.12.2025 & 15.12.2025.

STOPPAGES: Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Etawah Jn., Tundla Jn. & Aligarh Jn. Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, AC 3 Tier Economy, Sleeper & General.

Train No. 04081/04082 New Delhi - Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra - New Delhi Special Express Train 03 Trips			
Train No. 04081		Train No. 04082	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
----	23:45	New Delhi	10:00
12:00	----	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20

DAYS OF RUN: 04081 Ex. New Delhi on 13.12.2025 and 04082 Ex. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra on 13.12.2025 & 14.12.2025.

STOPPAGES: Panipat Jn., Kurukshetra Jn., Ambala Cantt Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar Cantt, Pathankot Cantt, Jammu Tawi & Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 3 Tier Economy & General.

Train No. 04062/04061 Delhi Sarai Rohilla - Sabarmati - 08 Trips			
Train No. 04062		Train No. 04061	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
----	08:10	Delhi Sarai Rohilla	23:30
00:30	----	Sabarmati	05:15

DAYS OF RUN: 04062 Ex. Delhi Sarai Rohilla on 21, 24, 27 & 30.12.2025 and 04061 Ex. Sabarmati on 22, 25, 28 & 31.12.2025.

STOPPAGES: Delhi Cantt, Gurgaon, Rewari Jn., Alwar Jn., Bandikui Jn., Gandhinagar Jaipur, Jaipur Jn., Kishangarh, Ajmer Jn., Beawar, Marwar Jn., Falna, Abu Road & Palanpur Jn. Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: 1st AC, AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

Train No. 08403/08404 Puri - Delhi Jn. - Bhubaneswar Special Express Train 02 Trips			
Train No. 08403		Train No. 08404	
ARR.	DEP.	ARR.	DEP.
----	11:45	Puri	----
13:30	13:35	Bhubaneswar	06:30
20:30	----	Delhi Jn.	23:00

DAYS OF RUN: 08403 Ex. Puri on 15.12.2025 and 08404 Ex. Delhi Jn. on 16.12.2025.

STOPPAGES: Khurda Road (for Train No. 08403 only), Bhubaneswar, Cuttack Jn., Jaipur Keonjhar Road, Bhadrakh, Balasore, Jaleswar, Hijli, Midnapore, Bishnupur, Bankura, Adra Jn., Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Gomoh, Parasnath, Koderma, Gaya Jn., Dehri On Sone, Sasaram Jn., Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn., Mirzapur, Prayagraj Jn., Fatehpur, Govindpuri, Tundla Jn. & Aligarh Jn. Stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & General.

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Please join us  **NORTHERN RAILWAY**
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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Re: All that piece and parcel of Property bearing No. C-3/197, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds. i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs. Situated at in the abadi of Nand Nagri, Delhi, hereinafter referred as the 'said property'.

NOTICE is hereby given to general public that our client, Mr. Firoz Khan (hereinafter called the 'owner') is the absolute owner of the said property vide Relinquishment Deed dated 06.09.2024 executed by Mrs. Nanahi Begum, Mrs. Iram Bano, Mrs. Firdosh and Mrs. Jannat. The said owner has also informed that initially Mr. Mahaveer Singh was the owner of the said property including other property which have been transferred to Mr. Munna Khan, Mr. Shabu Deen, Mr. Babu Deen, Mr. Jalaludeen and Mr. Jamaludeen on POA basis vide GPA and ATS dated 13.11.1995. Thereafter, these owners have executive partition deed among themselves and Mr. Munna Khan became the owner of the said property. But after the death of Mr. Munna Khan on 17.12.2022, leaving behind legal heirs namely Mrs. Nanahi Begum, Mrs. Iram Bano, Mrs. Firdosh, Mrs. Jannat and Mr. Firoz Khan and out of them four legal heirs relinquished their respective share of the said property in favour of Mr. Firoz Khan vide a Relinquishment Deed dated 06.09.2024. Hence, Mr. Firoz Khan has become the owner of the said property. The said owner has also informed that the said property is not mortgage anywhere and there is no dispute or any litigation pending upon the said property.

Any person including Bank/s, Financial Institutions/, relative/s having any claim, right, title or any interest of any nature whatsoever upon or upon the said property is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing, with documentary evidence, by Registered AD Post, to the undersigned at the address mentioned herein below within 07 days of publication of this notice and in the event of no response having been received to the notice, the title of the owner in respect of the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client/owner, in any manner whatsoever.

Shivkant Arora Advocate
For M/s Interfective Law Offices
A-74, Lower Ground Floor,
Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

NEWS BOX

Afghan polio survivor's sock factory provides hope by employing disabled workers

HERAT. (Agency)

In a tiny room in the center of Herat, Afghanistan's westernmost city, Shahabuddin uses his hands to propel himself along the floor to a freshly-made pile of socks waiting to be sorted and packaged. A double amputee since a roadside bomb took both his legs a decade ago, when Afghanistan was mired in conflict between U.S.-led forces and Taliban insurgents, the 36-year-old father of four had struggled to find work. Unemployed for the last decade, he had been forced to rely on relatives for his family's survival. But a new sock production workshop in Herat employing only disabled workers has given him new hope. "I became disabled due to the explosion. Both my legs were amputated," Shahabuddin, who like many Afghans goes by only one name, said during a brief pause in his work in early December. "Now I work here in a sock factory, and I am very happy that I have been given a job here." The workshop is the brainchild of Mohammad Amiri, 35, a former grocery shop worker who started the business about a month ago. Amiri, himself disabled by childhood polio, wanted to create jobs and help provide income for other people with disabilities, particularly as many of them were injured during the conflict and have no other means of income. He teamed up with another polio survivor to start the sock factory with a workforce of men disabled either through traumatic injuries or because of congenital issues or other reasons. They make four types of socks: long and short, for winter and summer. "The factory, which is funded and supported by people with disabilities, began operations last month and currently employs around 50 people with disabilities," Amiri said. "They are busy in the production, packaging and sale of socks in the city." A combination of decades of conflict, a weak health care system and struggling economy have contributed to high levels of disability in Afghanistan. Data from a 2019 Model Disability Survey conducted by The Asia Foundation nonprofit organization indicates that nearly 25% of adults live with a mild disability, while 40% have moderate and about 14% have severe disabilities.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai's national security trial verdict on December 15

HONG KONG.(Agency)

Hong Kong pro-democracy media tycoon Jimmy Lai will receive the verdict in his national security trial on December 15, a court website showed.

Lai, who turned 78 this week, is charged with foreign collusion under Hong Kong's national security law, which Beijing imposed following huge and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests in 2019.

The founder of the Apple Daily newspaper has been behind bars since late 2020, reportedly in solitary confinement, with Western nations and rights groups calling for his release. Lai's case is scheduled for a 60-minute hearing "for verdict" before a three-judge panel at 10 am (0200 GMT) on Monday, according to a court diary item seen on Friday. Aside from the collusion offence -- which could land him in prison for life -- Lai is also charged with "seditious publication", with prosecutors citing 161 items including op-eds with Lai's byline. Hong Kong authorities have repeatedly rejected criticism related to Lai, saying that his case was "handled strictly on the basis of evidence and in accordance with the law". During his trial, which began in December 2023, Lai denied calling for sanctions against China and Hong Kong as a whole and said he never advocated separatism or violent resistance. "The core values of Apple Daily are actually the core values of the people of Hong Kong... (including) rule of law, freedom, pursuit of democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly," Lai said in his testimony. Lai is a British citizen, and his son Sebastian voiced new concerns last week over the mogul's health.

"1 H-1B Worker Equals 10 Illegal Aliens": US Pollster's "De-Indianise" Call

World . (Agency)

Mark Mitchell, a leading US commentator and pollster, stirred a row after suggesting that major US firms should "de-Indianise" themselves. He said he wants to launch a consultancy to help corporations with the process. His remarks, posted on X, have sparked social media discussion about the role of Indian professionals in America's technology sector.

"I have never in my life wanted anything more than this: to build a new corporate consultancy helping major firms de-Indianise," Mitchell posted.

The statement came days after Mitchell, the head pollster at Rasmussen Reports, criticised the growing number of Indian professionals in the United States under the H-1B visa programme during a podcast.

Attack On H-1B Visa Speaking at 'The War Room' podcast with Stephen Bannon, Mitchell hit out at Indian dominance in the H-1B visa programme and said sending back a senior H-1B developer working at top firms like Apple was economically the same as deporting ten illegal aliens. "But for every single H-1B, you know, senior developer at Apple that we send back, that's the equivalent economically, probably, of deporting ten illegal aliens. So, I don't know why we didn't do that yesterday. And the idea, yes, a lot of these people are entry level, but a lot of them are making a tonne of money," he said in the podcast released on December 8. The American pollster claimed 12 million American tech workers were left jobless because the "foreign-born workforce" has 'indicated' Silicon Valley.

Bangladesh's ex-PM Khaleda Zia placed on ventilator support: Doctors

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Evercare Hospital since November 23 for multiple health complications.

DHAKA . (Agency)

Former Bangladesh prime minister Khaleda Zia's health condition has deteriorated and she was placed on ventilator support, doctors said. "Her breathing difficulties increased, her oxygen level fell, and carbon dioxide levels rose," according to a statement on Thursday by the chief of the medical board cardiologist Shahabuddin Talukdar. It said the 80-year-old former premier was previously being treated with High Flow Nasal Cannula and BiPAP support, but as there was no improvement, she was placed

on elective ventilator support to give rest to her lungs and other vital organs. "The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson has been undergoing treatment at Dhaka's Evercare Hospital since November 23 for multiple health complications. The statement said the three-time premier was kept under round-the-clock medical watch by a team of local and foreign specialists, as several of her vital organs continue to be under severe stress. Her kidney function has stopped completely, and she is undergoing regular dialysis," the board said, adding she currently needed blood transfusions. The board detected problems in her "aortic valve" as well. "As her fever persisted and echocardiography showed issues in the aortic valve, a Transoesophageal Echocardiogram (TEE) was performed. It confirmed infective endocarditis, a serious



infection of the heart valve. Treatment for this has been started according to international guidelines," the statement read. It said that on November 27, the doctors detected her "acute pancreatitis" while Zia was being administered high-quality anti-biotic and anti-fungal drugs for "severe infections". Her personal physician and BNP standing committee member AZM Zahid Hossain has briefed the media on her health several times,

but this is the first time the medical board has issued a statement detailing her condition. In its statement, the board urged people not to circulate speculation or misinformation about Zia's condition and to respect her privacy and dignity. "Our medical team is working with the highest level of care, attention and sincerity." Zia was hospitalised on November 23 after she developed a chest infection that affected both her heart and lungs, and four days later, she was shifted to the coronary care unit (CCU) after several of her health complications worsened. She was scheduled to be flown to London last week with the medical board's consent but her scheduled departure was delayed as an air ambulance offered by Qatar could not reach Dhaka. The doctors later decided the former premier should receive continued treatment at the Evercare Hospital until she was deemed fit for the flight.

Japan issues tsunami advisory after 6.7 magnitude quake in country's northeast

KATHMANDU . (Agency)

Japan on Friday issued a tsunami advisory after a 6.7 magnitude earthquake shook the country's northeast, according to the Japan Meteorological Agency. The quake occurred off the east coast of Aomori prefecture, in the north of Honshu, the main Japanese island, at a depth of 20 kilometers (12.4 miles) at 11:44 a.m. local time, JMA said. The Pacific coast of Hokkaido, Aomori, Iwate and Miyagi prefectures could see a tsunami of up to 1 meter (3.2 feet), the agency added. Damage and injuries weren't immediately clear. An advisory is a lower level of caution than a warning.

Friday's quake followed a 7.5 magnitude earthquake earlier this week in the north that caused injuries, light damage and a tsunami in Pacific

coastal communities. At least 34 people were injured in that quake on



Monday off the coast of Aomori, the northernmost prefecture of Japan's main Honshu island.

A tsunami more than 2 feet (0.6 meters) above tide levels was measured in Kuji port in Iwate prefecture before all tsunami advisories were lifted. Power was knocked out for hundreds of

homes but was mostly restored Tuesday morning.

Authorities had warned of possible aftershocks. Officials said after Monday's quake there was also a slight increase in risk of a magnitude 8-level quake and possible tsunami occurring along Japan's northeastern coast from Chiba, just east of Tokyo, to Hokkaido.

The agency urged residents in 182 municipalities in the area to monitor their emergency preparedness in the coming week, reminding them that the caution is not a prediction of a big one.

The quakes occurred in the coastal region, where a magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami in 2011 killed nearly 20,000 people and destroyed the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant.

Myanmar military strikes a hospital in a rebel-controlled area, killing 34 and injuring 80 people

BANGKOK . (Agency)

An airstrike by Myanmar's military destroyed a hospital in an area controlled by a leading rebel armed force, killing 34 patients and medical staff, according to a rescue worker and independent media reports Thursday. About 80 other people were injured in the attack Wednesday night on the general hospital in Mrauk-U township, an area controlled by the ethnic Arakan Army in the western state of Rakhine. The military, which took over Myanmar's government in 2021 and has been fighting ethnic militias and armed resistance forces since then, has not mentioned any attack in the area. Wai Hun Aung, a senior official for rescue services in Rakhine, told The Associated Press that a jet fighter dropped two bombs at 9:13 p.m. with one hitting the hospital's recovery ward and the other landing near the hospital's main building. He said he arrived at the hospital early Thursday to provide assistance and recorded the deaths of 17 women and 17 men. He said that most of the hospital building was

destroyed by the bombs, and taxis and motorbikes near the hospital were also damaged. Rakhine-based online media posted photos and videos showing damaged buildings and debris



including medical equipment. The hospital has been the main source of health care for people in Rakhine, where most hospitals have closed because of Myanmar's civil war, said Wai Hun Aung. It was reopened after doctors gathered in Mrauk-U to provide much-needed medical services. Mrauk-U, located 530 kilometers (326 miles) northwest of Yangon, the country's largest city, was captured by the Arakan Army in

February 2024. The Arakan Army is the well-trained and well-armed military wing of the Rakhine ethnic minority movement, which seeks autonomy from Myanmar's central government. It began its offensive in Rakhine in November 2023 and has seized a strategically important regional army headquarters and 14 of Rakhine's 17 townships. Rakhine, formerly known as Arakan, was the site of a brutal army counterinsurgency operation in 2017 that drove about 740,000 minority Rohingya Muslims to seek safety across the border in Bangladesh. There is still ethnic tension between the Buddhist Rakhine and the Rohingya.

Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, established by elected lawmakers who were barred from taking their seats in 2021, condemned the airstrike. The organization urged the international community to pressure the military to end its actions, take action against perpetrators and provide humanitarian assistance as soon as possible.

China's new 'condom tax' draws skepticism and worries over health risks

SURIN. (Agency)

China will soon start collecting a value-added tax on contraceptive drugs and products for the first time in over three decades, a move aligned with Beijing's effort to get families to have more children after decades of limiting most to one child. "Contraceptive drugs and products" will not be tax-exempt as of Jan. 1, according to the country's newest value-added tax law. Products such as condoms will be subject to the usual 13% value-added tax imposed on most products. While state-run news outlets have not widely highlighted the change, it has been trending on Chinese social media, drawing ridicule among people who joked they'd have to be fools not to know that raising a child is more expensive than using condoms, even if they are taxed. More seriously, experts are raising concerns over potential increases in unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases due to higher costs for contraceptives. The ruling Communist Party's past "one-child" policy was enforced from about 1980 until 2015 with

huge fines and other penalties and sometimes with forced abortions. In some cases, children born over the limit were deprived of an identification number, effectively making them non-citizens. The government raised the birth limit to two children in 2015. As China's population began to peak and then fall, it was lifted to three children in 2021. Contraception has been actively encouraged and easily accessed, even for free. "That's a really ruthless move," said Hu Lingling, mother of a 5-year-old who said she is determined not to have another child. She said she would "lead the way in abstinence" as a rebel. "It is also hilarious, especially compared to forced abortions during the family planning era," she said.

In 2024, 9.5 million babies were born in China, about one-third fewer than the 14.7 million born in 2019, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. That's despite a higher-than-usual birth rate driven by a traditional preference to give birth in the Year of the Dragon, according to Chinese astrology.

As deaths have outpaced births in China, India overtook it as the world's most populous country in 2023. The effect of the



tax "on encouraging higher fertility will be very limited. For couples who do not want children or do not want additional children, a 13% tax on contraceptives is unlikely to influence their reproductive decisions, especially when weighed against the far higher costs of raising a child," said Qian Cai, director of the Demographics Research Group at the University of Virginia. Still, imposing the tax is "only

logical," said Yi Fuxian, a senior scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

"They used to control the population, but now they are encouraging people to have more babies; it is a return to normal methods to make these products ordinary commodities," Yi said. As is true in most places, most responsibility for birth control in China falls to women. Condoms are used by only 9% of couples, with 44.2% using intrauterine devices and 30.5% female sterilization, followed by 4.7% male sterilization, according to research released by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2022.

The rest use the pill or other methods. Given the authorities' longstanding invasive approach to their personal lives and bodies, some women are offended by the authorities' effort to again influence their personal choices about childbearing. "It is a disciplinary tactic, a management of women's bodies and my sexual desire," said Zou Xuan, a 32-year-old teacher in Pingxiang in China's southern province of Jiangxi.

NEWS BOX

Security forces recover arms, explosives; arrest suspect in Manipur

Imphal. (Agency)

Security Forces on Wednesday recovered a substantial cache of arms and explosives during intensified intelligence-based combing, cordon and search operations in Jiribam district, even as police arrested one individual linked to extortion and criminal activities in Kakching on Thursday.

According to police, the recovery was made from the adjoining foothill areas of Jairolpokpi and Uchathol under Jiribam Police Station. The items seized include two Pompi guns, two improvised explosive devices weighing 2 kg each, one para illumination bomb, one 12-bore single-barrel gun with an ammunition pouch, and four country-made single-barrel guns.

Security forces also recovered 46 rounds of ammunition of various calibres, 33 empty cases, three Pompi shells, three Baofeng walkie-talkie sets, and one walkie-talkie charging base. The operation is part of ongoing efforts to curb armed activity and prevent possible attacks in the district, officials said. In a separate operation the same day, Manipur Police arrested an active cadre of the KCP

Victim's parents move SC against acquittal or computation of death sentence

Shimla. (Agency)

The family of four-year-old murder victim Yug Gupta has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Himachal Pradesh High Court's September 23 judgment that commuted the death sentences of two convicts and acquitted the third.

Family sources told UNI that Yug's father, Vinod Gupta, has filed a Special Leave Petition (SLP) before the apex court, which has been accepted for hearing.

The case, which shook Shimla in 2014, saw the district and sessions court convicting Chandra Sharma, Vikrant Bakshi, and Tejinder Pal on September 5, 2018, awarding all three the death penalty for kidnapping, torturing, and murdering the child. The conviction was based on more than 100 witness testimonies and a 2,300-page CID charge sheet.

However, the High Court modified the verdict on September 23, 2025. A division bench of Justices Vivek Singh Thakur and Rakesh Kanthla held that the record did not show the convicts to be beyond reform and reduced the death sentences of Chandra Sharma and Vikrant Bakshi to life imprisonment "till their last breath." Tejinder Pal was acquitted for lack of evidence.

Family members, speaking to , expressed deep anguish over the judgment. They said the acquittal of Tejinder, who allegedly kept Yug confined and assisted in transporting him in a cardboard box, had "shattered" them. They demanded that he not be issued a passport and that no parole be granted to Chandra Sharma.

Vinod Gupta stated that despite enduring an 11-year struggle, the family continues to believe that only the death penalty would constitute justice for their son. "We have full faith that the Supreme Court will restore the punishment awarded by the trial court," he said. The infamous crime still sends shivers down the spines of Shimla residents, who recall how, in 2014, a four-year-old child was kidnapped for ransom, forced to consume liquor, tied to a heavy stone, and drowned in a Municipal Corporation water tank.

Mahayuti finalises election strategy for upcoming civic elections



Nagpur. (Agency)

The ruling Mahayuti alliance has reportedly finalised its formula for seat-sharing in the upcoming municipal corporation elections.

The agreement outlines how the three constituent parties — the BJP, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP — will contest in key municipal bodies across Maharashtra.

According to sources, the three parties will jointly contest elections in major corporations including Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli, Nashik and Nagpur. In Mumbai, discussions on seat-sharing have progressed significantly, with both sides moving towards a consensus. The Shiv Sena (Shinde) is said to be firm on a 50:50 formula, while final adjustments are being negotiated.

However, in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, the strategy will be different. Here, the BJP and NCP (Ajit Pawar) will contest separately, rather than as allies.

Both parties have strong local bases in these two cities. To ensure maximum opportunities for local leaders, avoid internal conflict, and prevent rebellion, the alliance has decided not to enforce a unified formula in these regions. By contesting independently, the parties hope to win more seats collectively and push opposition parties to the sidelines — a move seen as part of Mahayuti's broader electoral strategy.

3,341 ha land acquisition delay stalls key Railway projects in Karnataka: Vaishnaw

As per the agreement, land is to be provided free of cost by the State.

MANGALURU .(Agency)

Several key railway projects in Karnataka has been stalled owing to delays in land acquisition by the state government, even as the Centre has significantly increased budgetary support for infrastructure development in the region.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, overall, Karnataka requires 9,020 hectares of land for various projects, of which 63% (5,679 ha) has been acquired, while 3,341 ha is still pending.

Dharwad-Belagavi via Kittur new line project (73 km), sanctioned on a 50:50 cost-sharing with Karnataka, has been held up entirely due to pending land acquisition.

As per the agreement, land is to be provided free of cost by the state. The other projects facing significant delays due to land acquisition include 333 ha pending for Shimoga-Rannebennur new line (96 km), 581 ha pending for Belgaum-Dharwad new line (73 km), 488 ha pending for Shimoga-Harihar new line (79 km), 337 ha pending for

Whitefield-Kolar new line (53 km), and 206 ha pending for Hassan-Belur new line (32 km). Responding to queries on delays and cost escalations, the minister said completion of



timelines depend on factors such as land acquisition, statutory clearances, forest permissions, utility shifting, topographical challenges and law and order conditions — all of which can affect both cost and time.

The Centre, is geared up to execute projects, but timely progress depends heavily on the support and cooperation of the state government, he said. Vaishnaw said the annual outlay for Karnataka has risen from Rs 835 crore per year during 2009-14 to Rs 7,564 crore in 2025-26, an increase of more than nine times. As of April 1, 2025, a total of 25 sanctioned projects, including 15 new lines and 10 doubling works covering 3,264 km and costing Rs 42,517 crore, fall completely or partly within Karnataka. Of these, 1,394 km have been commissioned so far, with an expenditure of Rs 21,310 crore.

Recently completed projects include the Kottur-Harihar, Hassan-Bengaluru, Bidar-Gulbarga and several other doubling projects across Shivamogga, Bengaluru, Mangaluru, Arsikere and Hubballi regions.

Meanwhile, major ongoing projects such as the Hospet-Hubli-Londa-Vasco doubling, Hotgi-Gadag doubling and new lines like Gadag-Wadi, Bagalkot-Kudachi, Tumkur-Rayadurga and Tumkur-Davangere continue to progress, the minister said.

Karnataka's neglect of detention directive irks HC

BENGALURU . (Agency)

The Karnataka High Court on Thursday expressed its displeasure in the state government not considering its order to follow the guidelines in cases booked under the GOONDA Act. The court said the guidelines issued by the Coordinate Bench were to be circulated to the authorities concerned, namely, the Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department; Principal Secretary, Law Department; Director General and Inspector General of Police; Secretary, Department of Parliamentary Affairs, etc.

Unfortunately, nothing seems to have changed, despite such guidelines being issued by this Court. Cyclostyled orders are being passed by the detaining authorities. Illegible copies of the documents are furnished without translations. If the guidelines are followed, the detainee raising objections regarding illegible copies will be considerably reduced, the court observed. A division bench of Justice R Devdas and Justice B Muralidhara Pai made these

observations while allowing a petition by Prathiba Talapati from Hubballi seeking quashing the order dated June 3, 2025, passed



by the Commissioner of Police of Hubballi-Dharwad to detain Dawood Nadaf, invoking the provisions of the Karnataka Prevention of Dangerous Activities of Bootleggers, Drug

Offenders, Gamblers, Goondas, Immoral Traffic Offenders, Slum Grabbers and Video or Audio Pirates (GOONDA) Act, 1985.

The counsel for the petitioner submitted that the impugned order does not comply with many of the guidelines issued by a Coordinate Bench of the high court in the case of Jayamma versus Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru, for the benefit of the stakeholders, having regard to the provisions contained in the GOONDA Act.

The first guideline issued was that the detention order should be in writing and should be communicated to the detainee, soon after it is passed. Secondly, every detention order should be supplied with the translated legible version of all the scripts and documents relied upon, in the language the detainee understands, so as to enable him or her to effectively give a representation to the concerned, the counsel said.

In 3 years, over 14,526 children died in 7 districts of Maharashtra, says Minister Prakash Abitkar

Health Minister Prakash Abitkar informed the Assembly that Palghar district reported 138 infant deaths in the last 6 months.

Mumbai . (Agency)

Maharashtra Public Health Minister Prakash Abitkar on Friday informed the Legislative Assembly that 14,526 children in the age group of zero to five have died in seven districts of the state over the past three years. Abitkar's written reply came to a question raised by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA Sneha Dubey.

According to the reply, Pune, Mumbai, Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Nagpur, Amravati, Akola, and Yavatmal districts reported 14,526 child deaths between 2022-23 and 2024-25. The minister also admitted that 138 infant deaths have been recorded in Palghar district in the last six months.

As per the Sustainable Development Goals-2030 of the United Nations, the neonatal mortality rate should be brought down below 12 per 1,000 births.

The minister also referred to the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2023, released by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India in September 2025, which estimated Maharashtra's neonatal mortality rate at 11 per 1,000 births. Abitkar said the state

government has adopted multiple measures under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) to reduce malnutrition. These include regular health examinations, the Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Amrut



Aahar Yojana for pregnant women, targeted interventions for SAM children, the Nutrition Campaign, the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, and the 'Suposhit Maharashtra' initiative.

Maharashtra: Lokayukta Bill passed; Chief Minister now within Lokayukta's ambit

Nagpur. (Agency)

The Maharashtra Legislature approved the Maharashtra State Lokayukta Amendment Bill, 2025, in both houses after incorporating three minor revisions proposed by the central government. The updated law, which will come into force once the governor gives assent, grants the state's anti-corruption ombudsman the authority to investigate the Chief Minister, cabinet ministers and other public officials on allegations of corruption.

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who introduced the Bill in the assembly, said on Thursday that the centre had sought three adjustments to the earlier version of the Lokayukta Bill passed by the assembly in December 2022 and the council in December 2023. The changes include updating references to three criminal laws that were recently renamed by the central government, modifying the appointment clause so that the current Lokayukta remains in office until a new one is appointed and explicitly placing officers appointed by the state to bodies such as MahaRERA under Lokayukta

jurisdiction. A key provision requires a two-thirds majority in the assembly to begin an inquiry against the chief minister, a move officials say enhances accountability. The legislation replaces the earlier 1971 Act, offering a more comprehensive mechanism to curb corruption within the government.

Fadnavis clarified that the second amendment specifically aligns the Bill with the new titles of the IPC, CrPC, and Evidence Act, all of which were renamed last year. The third amendment, he said, resolves ambiguity over whether the Lokayukta can act against officials in statutory authorities created under central laws but appointed by the state. Bringing such officers within the Lokayukta's ambit removes the ambiguity.

Under the new framework, the Lokayukta may investigate the chief minister and the council of ministers, subject to procedural approvals: a two-thirds assembly vote for the chief minister, the governor's sanction for ministers and authorisation from the chief minister along with inputs from the chief secretary for IAS officers.

SIMI to ISIS: Why this little village near Mumbai keeps getting raided by intelligence agencies

The recent ED raids have once again shone the spotlight on Borivali-Padgha village on the outskirts of Mumbai and its rise to infamy.

Mumbai . (Agency)

For the past decade, Borivali-Padgha, a village in Maharashtra's Thane district, located 53 km north of Mumbai, has frequently figured in the news and public perception as a centre of subversive activities. It has also consistently remained on the radar of national security agencies. In the last two years alone, the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the Enforcement Directorate (ED), the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), and the Thane rural police have carried out multiple raids here, including large coordinated searches in 2024 and 2025. In the most recent raid on Thursday, the ED conducted searches at 40 locations across

multiple states and districts, including the Padgha-Borivali region, as part of a money-laundering probe linked to cases registered by the NIA and Maharashtra ATS against Pune-based individuals allegedly connected to ISIS activities in the state.

A look at why this village repeatedly draws such massive scrutiny, its political and social landscape, and the long shadow cast by one of its most prominent residents, the late Saquib Nachan.

The history of the settlement

Borivali-Padgha's documented history dates back to the Shilahara



Dynasty (7th-10th century), when the region formed part of the northern Konkan administrative

belt. Arab traders arriving at Bhiwandi port in the 12th century established a settlement in neighbouring Borivali, which later merged, socially and economically, with Padgha.

The community that emerged from this mix—largely Muslim and economically self-sufficient—built sturdy homes, many of which still stand. Prominent families such as the Mullas, Nachans and Khots grew influential as landowners and timber traders. The area is home to 5,780 residents, of whom 83 per cent are Muslims, as per the

2011 Census.

Borivali-Padgha's residents have a record of political participation. During the freedom movement, Muslim women from the village led a Swadeshi protest, burning British goods in Borivali's square, an event attended by Sarojini Naidu.

This political consciousness saw the village transform into a base for a range of ideological currents, ranging from leftist activism to Islamist student mobilisation. Before its ban in 2001, the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) had a visible presence in the area, something that later became a reference point in intelligence assessments.

Uttarakhand school children to get escorts to prevent animal attacks

Dehradun. (Agency)

Uttarakhand government will provide escort facilities to school-going children to safeguard them from wild animal attacks in the hill areas.

An instruction to this effect was passed by the Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in view of rising man-animal conflicts in the hill areas of the state.

Speaking to the forest department officials, Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday ordered that adequate arrangements must be made jointly by the district administration and forest department to provide escorts to the school going children as the cases of man-animal conflicts, mainly leopard attacks, have increased in the recent past.

"In areas with greater fear of wild animals attacks, the forest department and district administration must arrange for an escort facility to drop and pick school children from their homes to schools" said Dhami to the officials.

Directions from the chief minister came in the review meeting called in response to rising man-animal conflicts in Pauri Garhwal hill region of the state.

Dhami instructed the officials to take adequate and effective measures to eliminate man-wildlife conflict in the state.

He said "It must be ensured that the Forest Department teams reach the incident locations within 30 minutes of receiving information about animal attacks. The responsibility for this must be fixed on concerned Divisional Forest Officers (DFOs) and Range officers. Apart from this financial assistance should be provided to the affected people immediately."

Due to the recent rise in leopard and bear attacks leading to loss of 3-4 lives in Pauri, the Chief Minister also directed the forest authorities for immediate removal of the DFO from his divisions.

Dhami asked the forest department to prepare and submit an action plan within two weeks to provide assistance for the livelihood of the family of a man-animal conflict deceased who was the lone livelihood earner for his or her dependants.

Rising influence of the Patrushevs in India-Russia ties

Bullets are bullish. The adage that war fills coffers is finally ringing true for India as the conflict in Ukraine is poised to enter its fourth year in less than three months.A single sentence in the ‘outcome documents’ released half-way through Russian President Vladimir Putin’s visit to India on December 5 is pregnant with bullish possibilities. The description of this particular outcome hides more than it reveals—a memorandum of understanding that “entails cooperation in various sectors of maritime domain such as shipping, ports, joint mineral exploration, research and development”.Two weeks before Putin’s arrival in New Delhi, a visit to Goa by Nikolai Patrushev, chairman of Russia’s Maritime Board, prepared the ground for what augurs to be the biggest military-industrial project to emerge from the 23rd annual India-Russia summit this month. The Maritime Board has identified Goa Shipyard as the base for production of frigates, corvettes, anti-mine and landing vessels as well as ice-breakers. Russia has also proposed continued production of Project 1135.6 class ships in Goa based on upgraded designs and state-of-the-art technology. Two such ships, Triput and Tavasya, based on Russian models, were launched for the Indian Navy in July last year and March this year, respectively.On November 20, the Russian foreign ministry’s readout on Patrushev’s visit quoted him as saying, “Our countries can jointly build up their own fleets, strengthen cooperation between them, establish robust and sanctions-resistant maritime logistics, and develop marine science and technology.”The crux of the statement originated from grievances by head honchos of Goa Shipyard about delays in “material supply obligations” for collaborative naval projects with Russia. Both sides agreed that these challenges were because of “extraordinary global circumstances”—a euphemism for the war in Ukraine and supply chain disruptions.The current challenge on the strategic and commercial horizons for Russia’s thriving shipbuilding sector is the Ukraine conflict. Midway through the war, Franco-British missiles supplied to Ukraine penetrated the defences of Russia’s Black Sea fleet headquarters in Sevastopol, which was part of Ukraine until 2014. Major shipyards in Crimea have been affected by sanctions on supply of German engines and disruptions in getting ancillaries such as turbines from Ukraine.

If Goa Shipyard and Mormugao port become hubs for the activities of Russia’s Maritime Board, ships could be built in Goa for Russia to at least partly compensate for production stoppages along the Black Sea, which is vulnerable to attacks from Ukraine. Patrushev was understandably guarded in his open meetings on Goa’s maritime infrastructure. “The enterprise is subordinate to India’s ministry of defence due to its military orientation, but we have very good prospects for cooperation,” the authorised English translation of Patrushev’s remarks said.The annual summit turned a new page in India-Russia engagement, which is best described as familial diplomacy. Patrushev, who has been by Putin’s side as one of his most trusted aides since he became prime minister in 1999 and later president, is said to have an excellent chemistry with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The two men met every time Patrushev came to India as secretary of Russia’s Security Council, the equivalent of a national security adviser.In late September, as the groundwork for Putin’s visit was under way, another Patrushev arrived in India—Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Patrushev. He is Nikolai’s son and was Russia’s agriculture minister for six years before his promotion as deputy prime minister in charge of agriculture.During and after the visit, he initiated efforts to increase the market share of Indian shrimp products in Russia. The landed prices of Indian shrimp products in their biggest market, the US, have increased by 58 percent, thanks to the steep tariffs supplemented by anti-dumping duties.

A red herring called Macaulay

India should focus on an education system that fosters scientific temper and creates an inclusive society

THE Ramnath Goenka Memorial Lecture, delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently, has opened a Pandora’s box regarding the enduring legacy Thomas Babington Macaulay left behind in India — his ‘Minute on Education’ (February 2, 1835) and the legal system framed in 1860 and later.The focus has not merely been on pedagogy, which is value-neutral, but also in terms of what the students imbibed as ideas and practices through printed literature and other sources.

The PM accused Macaulay of ‘Shiksha vyavastha ka samool naash’ (destruction of the education system), breaking the back of kaushal (skill), shattering self-confidence, throwing the entire knowledge system into the dustbin, condemning Indian heritage and culture instead of taking pride in them and rejecting local languages. All these developments produced an inferiority complex among Indians, he claimed. Blaming previous governments, particularly those of the Congress, the PM said these tendencies were concretised after Independence.It is indeed welcome that the Prime Minister is turning his attention to the state of education in the 12th year of his reign. Alas, the reality is not very bright. On October 19, 2020, addressing the centenary convocation of the University of Mysore, PM Modi highlighted the growth of higher education institutions such as IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and IIITs across the country during his rule. However, faculty appointments, admissions, funds and infrastructure as well as controversies regarding textbooks continue to cast dark shadows. The number of government schools has decreased (around 90,000 fewer between 2014-15 and 2023-24), while the number of private schools has gone up. These are serious imbalances.

As a Law Member of the Governor-General’s Council of India, British historian, poet and Whig politician Macaulay claimed to have presented his Minute on education that changed the entire course of education in India. Addressing the Committee of Public Instruction, he based his argument on the central theme of the Charter Act of 1813 that set aside a sum “for the revival and promotion of literature and the encouragement of the learned natives of India, and for the introduction and

promotion of a knowledge of the sciences among the inhabitants of the British territories”.However, it is doubtful whether he said what is being attributed to him: “I have travelled across the length and breadth of India... I propose that we replace her old and ancient education system, her culture, for if the Indians think that all that is foreign and English is good and greater than their own, they will lose their self-esteem, their native culture and they will become what we want them, a truly dominated nation.” That’s because on February 2, 1835, he was in Calcutta, not in London.

Indeed, in referring to “the learned natives of India”, he set



the tone for racial superiority even before he came to his central argument. The essential argument of his Minute was regarding not wasting public money on education in ‘Sanskrit’ and Persian. He stressed spending public funds on an education system that imparted education in science and the contemporary knowledge system in the West in English.

He mentioned in the document: “I would strictly respect all existing interests. I would deal even generously with all individuals who have had fair reason to expect a pecuniary provision. But I would strike at the root of the bad system which has hitherto been fostered by us. I

A debate on reforms that delivered only rancour

What might have been a sober discussion in Lok Sabha on systemic reform slid into a point-scoring exercise between the home minister and the leader of opposition

The two-day Lok Sabha debate on electoral reforms should have been an opportunity to clarify procedures, strengthen transparency, and reaffirm institutional neutrality at a time when public trust in democratic processes is increasingly brittle. Instead, it descended into a familiar political joust between the Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah—each armed not only with arguments, but with history, grievance, and sharp-edged jibes.Rahul Gandhi levelled a sweeping charge of “institutional capture”, accusing the Election Commission of operating without accountability and alleging “vote chori” through opaque voter-roll practices, questionable deletions under the ongoing Special Intensive Revision, and a lack of transparency in electronic voting machines’ architecture. He demanded machine-readable electoral rolls, full technical disclosure of EVMs, access for parties to examine them, protection of CCTV evidence, and removal of immunities shielding election commissioners. His warning— that a future government would “change the law retrospectively”— was as much political



messaging as it was a call for reform.Amit Shah’s rebuttal was equally political. He dismissed the opposition’s claims as “manufactured narratives”, arguing that SIR is a constitutional exercise conducted by the Election Commission independent of the government. When pressed on alleged voter-roll manipulation, he countered with the question of whether “infiltrators” and non-

would at once stop the printing of Arabic and Sanscrit books, I would abolish the Madrassa and the Sanscrit College at Calcutta. Benares is the great seat of Brahmanical learning; Delhi, of Arabic learning. If we retain the Sanscrit College at Benares and the Mahomedan College at Delhi, we do enough, and much more than enough in my opinion, for the eastern languages.”He further said: “If the Benares and Delhi Colleges should be retained, I would at least recommend that no stipends shall be given to any students... The funds which would thus be placed at our disposal would enable us to give larger encouragement to the Hindoo College at Calcutta, and to establish in the principal cities throughout the Presidencies of Port William and Agra schools in which the English language might be well and thoroughly taught.”He argued that a lac (lakh) rupees granted by the Government of India must not be wasted on scholarship for the students of ‘Sanskrit’ and Persian and on the publication of books in these languages, since the books in English sold more. Then came his aim, “We must at present do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern; a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect”. Further, his pithy remark, “a single shelf of a good European library was worth the whole native literature of India and Arabia”, indeed offends us as Indians.

Howsoever racist Macaulay must have been, the statement above sounds more from the pen of an administrator, contemplating a utilitarian logic for the fund having been allocated for education.

The colonial administration he represented stood for extracting resources for the metropolis, not for charity. We should ask

ourselves in the same spirit: did it harm us?I will conclude with two personal experiences with two generations. A product of Macaulian education from my parents’ generation, a doctor was well-versed in Urdu, but he quickly learnt administrative Hindi. My father, an officer in the Bihar Police, had proficiency in English, Hindi and Sanskrit. Beginning my education in Bihar, I found that Hindi-medium textbooks inculcated nationalism.Instead of drawing a red herring, we should keep building and refining an education system that is modern, contemporary, fosters scientific temper and creates an inclusive society.

citizens should remain on electoral rolls—reframing the debate around national security rather than institutional procedure. He invoked historical episodes to turn the “vote chori” charge back at the Congress, citing precedents from the Nehru, Indira, and Sonia eras to argue that the opposition lacked moral authority to lecture on electoral integrity.

What might have been a sober discussion on systemic reform slid into point-scoring. Gandhi’s narrative of democratic erosion met Shah’s counter-narrative of Congress’s past failings. Allegations of voter manipulation were matched with charges of protecting “ghuspathiyas”. Both leaders ended up appealing more to their constituencies than to the substance of electoral reform.And yet, the core question remains urgent: India needs a credible, transparent, error-free system of electoral roll revision, robust auditability, and institutional safeguards that command cross-party trust. Without concrete steps—legislative clarity, procedural reforms, or independent oversight—the debate risks becoming another episode of political theatre. Democracies weaken not only by manipulation, but also by neglect.

The contradictions in offering privileges to extradite fugitives

True moral authority lies not in appeasing foreign courts for extraditing prominent economic fugitives, but in ensuring equal dignity for all those behind bars. Former European colonisers’ demands on this count reveal double standards. An update of our extradition law is overdue

European courts seem keen to legitimise high privileges for other countries’ economic fugitives. Belgian courts have reportedly approved the extradition of one of India’s most wanted economic fugitives only after the Indian government furnished formal, legally-binding assurances. The government undertook to lodge him in a specially-prepared cell at Mumbai’s Arthur Road Jail, conforming to the standards set by the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture—adequate space, ventilation, medical care, nutritious food, media access, and no solitary confinement.

Demands for special privileges are understandable when sought for a country’s own citizens. But insistence on such treatment for those wanted elsewhere is discordant. The trend reflects a newfound love of some countries for wealthy economic fugitives. Oliver Bullough’s 2022 bestseller, Butler to the World: How Britain Became the Servant of Tycoons, Tax Dodgers, Kleptocrats and Criminals, lucidly captures this phenomenon and its corrosive effects. Every individual, including an accused or a convict, is entitled to basic human rights. But demanding special comforts under the guise of human rights reflects troubling double standards and a transactional stance to justice. Using it as an excuse to embrace a fugitive moneybag’s assets is an open endorsement of financial crimes.This is paradoxical especially because many of these countries are founding members of the Financial Action Task Force and signatories to global conventions against money laundering. Their offshore tax havens further expose this hypocrisy. Unless such duplicity is confronted, global public policy’s fight against financial crimes and money laundering risks becoming an empty slogan.Their own

histories offer reminders of these contradictions. Many European countries abolished barbaric prisons barely a century ago. Dismemberment, whipping, and long incarcerations, even for minor offences, were once common. Recall the hero in Victor Hugo’s Les Misérables (1862), an impoverished man imprisoned for 18 years for stealing a loaf of bread. In European colonies, nationalist leaders were left to rot in jails with appalling conditions. Yet, those nations now advocate exalted human rights for criminals from other countries, often to the point of obstructing justice itself.

Almost all the major prisons in India were built by the British, primarily to incarcerate freedom fighters. The Cellular Jail in the Andamans was the most notorious. Others such as Alipore Jail in Kolkata, Naini Jail in Prayagraj, and Yerawada Jail in Pune also served as sites of confinement and torture for countless nationalist leaders.Built in 1926, Arthur Road Jail in Mumbai continues to function as the city’s central prison. It houses a mix of inmates—business leaders, public officials, celebrities, and political figures—with some of them housed in upgraded cells.The need to offer case-specific assurances to foreign courts stems from the presumption that India’s prisons do not meet minimum humanitarian standards. This raises a deeper moral and institutional concern: why should humane treatment be an exception, invoked only when international scrutiny

demands it?A constitutional democracy governed by the rule of law must guarantee humane detention for every person, irrespective of nationality, status, or offence. Ensuring the minimum standards universally, rather than selectively, would enhance the credibility of the justice



system and obviate the need for external assurances in extradition proceedings.If India provides superior detention conditions to extradited fugitives while ordinary prisoners continue to endure substandard or overcrowded facilities, it raises a serious question of discriminatory treatment. Domestic prisoners could justifiably argue that such selective privileges violate the constitutional guarantees of equality and the right to life

with dignity. The State cannot defend this disparity solely on the grounds of diplomatic expediency or international image. India’s limited success in securing the return of wanted persons has been a result of adroit diplomatic and legal efforts, rather than the strength of its extradition law. The Extradition Act, 1962 is out of sync with contemporary global realities. It largely reflects the older paradigm of extradition centred on political offenders and non-financial crimes, discouraging the former while facilitating the latter. Despite amendments in 1993, the law does not adequately address the challenges posed by financial globalisation, India’s own economic liberalisation, the rise of transnational financial crimes, offenders’ increasing ease in crossing borders, and the growing practice of states offering expedited citizenship in exchange for investment.

The Extradition Act is also oblivious to the stonewalling tactics by many Western nations. While India imposes no restriction on the extradition of its own nationals and has been accommodative on such matters, most other nations rarely reciprocate. They often refuse to extradite their own citizens to India and are increasingly becoming intransigent in extraditing even third-country nationals involved in economic offences or other serious crimes.

India’s extradition framework must be strengthened and treaties redrawn to reflect evolving global dynamics and India’s growing international stature. A robust legal and diplomatic strategy, supported by credible, universal prison reforms, would enable India to negotiate from a position of strength and ensure that all fugitives are brought to justice under Indian law.

NEWS BOX

Telangana local body elections: Congress wins majority sarpanch seats

Hyderabad. (Agency)

The State Election Commission (SEC) on Friday announced the results of the first phase of the three-phase Gram Panchayat elections held across Telangana.

According to early indications, the ruling Congress secured a majority of seats, followed by the Bharat Rashtira Samithi (BRS) and the BJP. Independent candidates are said to have won around 455 sarpanch positions.

The SEC also declared results for 3,347 Upa Sarpanch positions. Polling for 3,834 sarpanch seats and 27,636 ward member positions was conducted on Thursday between 7 am and 1 pm. Counting began at 2 pm and continued past midnight. The first phase recorded a high voter turnout of 84.28 per cent.

Yadadri Bhuvanagiri registered the highest polling percentage at 92.88, while Bhadradi Kothagudem reported the lowest at 71.79 per cent. Of the total 53,57,277 eligible voters, 45,15,141 exercised their franchise, including 23,15,796 women, 21,99,267 men and 78 others. The second and third phases of the Gram Panchayat elections are scheduled for December 14 and 17.

Revanth Reddy, TPCC chief mourn passing of veteran leader Shivraj Patil



Hyderabad. (Agency)

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Friday expressed deep sorrow over the demise of former union Minister and senior Congress leader Shivraj Patil.

Remembering him as a statesman with vast experience in public life, the Chief Minister, in a post on social media X, said Patil had served the nation with distinction in several key roles, including Speaker of the Lok Sabha, union Home Minister, and Governor.

Revanth Reddy conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for the departed leader's soul to rest in peace. TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud also mourned the loss, recalling Patil's long and distinguished service to the country in various capacities. He offered his prayers for Patil's soul and extended sympathies to the family members.

AP: Nine killed as bus falls into gorge



Paderu. (Agency)

Nine tourists were killed and 18 were injured, five of them critically, when a tourist bus fell into a gorge at Maredumilli village in the ASR district in the early hours of Friday.

Police said a group of tourists from Chittoor and Tirupati districts were on a pilgrimage. After visiting some places in the Araku region, they were on their way to the Sriram Temple in Bhadrachalam, Telangana. When the bus was ascending the ghat road, it veered off and plunged into a gorge.

Five tourists died on the spot, while four others succumbed to their injuries while being shifted to hospital. At least 18 people were injured in the mishap, and the condition of five of them is said to be very critical. All the injured were admitted to the GGH in Paderu.

Police said the driver was new to the area and was unable to negotiate a steep curve on the ghat road. Visibility was also very poor due to thick fog. As many as 35 people, including two drivers, were travelling in the bus when the mishap occurred. Efforts are on to identify the deceased, police said.

The death toll may rise as the condition of five injured persons remains critical, officials added.

Home Minister V. Anitha and district in-charge Minister G. Sandayaram visited the accident site and met the injured in the hospital.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed shock and grief over the accident. He spoke to officials and directed them to rush to the spot and monitor rescue operations.

Governor of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer also expressed anguish and grief over the bus accident on the Tulasipakalu ghat road in Chinturu mandal of Alluri Sitharama Raju district. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

NGT stays further felling of trees at a Ludhiana distributary

Ludhiana. (Agency)

Hearing the matter on the alleged conversion of forest land for non-forest activities due to the modernisation of minor canal (distributary) from Fatehpur Awana to Ayali Khurd in Ludhiana district, the National Green Tribunal (NGT) Thursday stayed further axing of trees "with immediate effect" until the next date of hearing.

Petitioners Kapil Arora and Kuldeep Singh Khaira, members, Public Action Committee (PAC), submitted that the Regional Officer (RO) Chandigarh, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, had granted approval for change in land use for concreting the channel, permitting the felling of 391 well-grown trees. The petitioners approached the NGT seeking quashing of the order on the grounds that viable alternate methods of concreting — which would have saved over 350 trees — were never examined.

Co-petitioners Jaskirat Singh and Amandeep Singh pointed out that the Supreme Court (SC), in matters concerning tree felling, has consistently held that all alternatives must be explored to minimise ecological loss, and that

development and environmental protection must go hand-in-hand. During the hearing, after submissions from the Forest Department, Irrigation Department, and the Ministry of Environment, it emerged that an amount of Rs



31.98 lakh was deposited as compensation for forest land and trees. However, the petitioners argued that manual concretisation, as successfully adopted in several similar projects in the past, would have avoided the need for felling most trees and substantially reduced project cost. Despite this, the departments failed to examine alternative options and

proceeded with approvals for tree removal.

The PAC submitted that instead of awaiting the tribunal's final order, the departments had already commenced felling of trees, resulting in 207 trees being felled so far.

The forest department confirmed this, they said.

"The NGT bench expressed serious concern over the conduct of several departments, noting that such environmentally harmful practices are recurring, citing the previous case concerning forest damage along the Sirhind Canal. The Bench observed that the departments 'should have waited for the final orders' rather than proceeding unilaterally without considering alternative options or the potential consequences of the case," PAC said.

As per the interim directions by the NGT, the bench has stayed further cutting of trees with immediate effect, directing the Ministry of Environment and the Irrigation Department, Punjab, to place on record the alternatives, if any, evaluated prior to approving tree felling. The next hearing would be in the third week of January.

Two-day 'Kudrat De Rang, Guldawdi De Sang' show begins in Mohali today

Chandigarh. (Agency)

Despite the impact of the 2025 floods, Mohali is all set to host the much-awaited fourth edition of the two-day "Kudrat De Rang, Guldawdi De Sang" Chrysanthemum Show, beginning tomorrow at Jatinder Veer Sarvhitkari Model Senior Secondary School in Sector 71. The annual event, organised under the guidance of Vidya Bharati Punjab, is returning this year on an even grander scale.

'This time 120 varieties of chrysanthemum'

Environmental education coordinator Om Prakash Manauli said chrysanthemum flowers offer immense health benefits and "even doctors have validated their medicinal value". He added that the flower is generally found in 11 forms but, "this year we have received 120 varieties. Over 1,500 pots have already been placed, ready to welcome visitors tomorrow."

According to him, entries have come from 15 institutions and individual participants, including PGI and institutes from Ludhiana. In

the institutional category, prizes of Rs 5100, Rs 2100 and Rs 1100 will be awarded, while the individual category carries cash prizes of Rs 3,100, Rs 2,100, Rs 1,100 and Rs 500.



He stated that the Education Department has urged schools to bring students in large numbers "so that their connection with nature and Chrysanthemum strengthens, and they become more aware of the world of medicinal plants".

The school's expansive medicinal plant garden will also remain open to visitors. It houses several rare and conserved herbal species.

Over 100 medicinal plants also on display

This year's show will feature more than 1,500 chrysanthemum pots. Information sessions on plant care and conservation will also be held. A painting competition for children and the display of over 100 rare medicinal plant species are among the major attractions.

What began in 2022 with just 650 pots has now grown into a major community festival with thousands of entries and participation from numerous organisations. Support has poured in from gurdwaras, schools, associations and several social groups.

Flower significance and art competitions

Highlighting the cultural and health-related significance of chrysanthemums, Vidya Bharati Punjab's general secretary Sandeep Dhuria said the flower "is an integral part of traditional wellness practices".

Book depot scam comes to light, PSEB chairman acts against three employees

Disciplinary action is expected once the charged officials submit their responses.

Mohali. (Agency)

A massive financial irregularity spanning four years at the Punjab School Education Board's (PSEB) regional book depots in Jalandhar and Kapurthala has come to light. Taking strict action, board chairman Amar Pal Singh has taken action against three employees allegedly involved in large-scale book sale-purchase discrepancies between 2018 and 2022.

The scam came to light after board manager Tajinder Sharma raised concerns, prompting the board to order a detailed audit by its auditor Yudhveer Singh Chauhan. The audit revealed glaring mismatch running into crores of rupees between the books purchased and the books sold. Even more disturbing were missing bills for books shown as sold.

"Multiple ledger irregularities, minus balances, incomplete accounts, and serious negligence related to stock charge emerged during the examination of four years of records. Immediate action from senior authorities was necessary," the

report stated.

Based on the audit findings, the board entrusted the inquiry to a retired judge, Parminder Pal Singh. His report identified three officials as responsible for the discrepancies and recommended strict action. Acting on his recommendations, the board completed its local audit examination and has now chargesheeted the three employees posted at the regional book depots in Kapurthala and Jalandhar.

When contacted, chairman Dr Amar Pal Singh told The Indian Express, "After the audit report, three employees have been chargesheeted. They have been asked to present their explanation. Further action will be taken

once their replies are reviewed."

The financial mismanagement spanning incomplete ledgers, overwritten entries, missing stock records and minus balances has raised serious questions about accountability within the department. Further disciplinary action is expected once the charged officials submit their responses.



Samrala SDM recommends FIRs against 30 teachers for missing Punjab zila parishad poll duty rehearsal

Samrala SDM Rajneesh Arora said the FIRs should be registered against the teachers under Section 120 of the Punjab State Election Commission Act.

Chandigarh. (Agency)

The sub-divisional magistrate (SDM) and returning officer of the Samrala sub-division in Punjab's Ludhiana district has recommended the "immediate registration of FIRs" against 49 government employees, including 30 teachers, for missing the Punjab zila parishad and panchayat samiti poll rehearsal duty held Thursday.

Of the 49 employees against whom the FIR has been recommended, at least 30 are teachers, including school principals, elementary teachers, head teachers, assistant professors, lecturers, among others. Speaking to The Indian

Express, SDM Rajneesh Arora said, "Action will be taken against the employees who remained absent from duty as per the prescribed rules of the Election Commission. These employees named in the list will be contacted today via phone and given one chance to mark their attendance for the duty today (Friday)".

"We will be dispatching poll parties tomorrow (Saturday), and those who will be absent again will be booked. I have written to the DSP recommending action against employees who remained absent from rehearsal," he added.

In his complaint to Tarlochan Singh, Deputy Superintendent of Police,



Samrala, Arora said the 49 employees named in the list "should be booked and FIRs registered against them" for missing the poll duty rehearsal.

"The employees named in the list were assigned duties by the Ludhiana District Election Office

for the smooth conduct of the elections, but they remained absent from the rehearsals held on Thursday. The work was adversely affected due to their absenteeism. They should be booked immediately, and FIRs should be registered against them under Section 120 (breach of official duty in connection with election) of the Punjab State Election Commission Act, 1994," he added.

DSP Singh said they have received the complaint from SDM Arora. "First, the employees will be asked for an explanation, and then action will be taken accordingly," he added.

New UP BJP President to be announced on Sunday, election process to start today

Lucknow. (Agency)

After a long wait, ruling BJP has announced the formal process of organisational election to elect the new Uttar Pradesh party president. The name of new president would be revealed on December 14 even though it could be disclosed on December 13, if only one candidate files nomination.

Senior party leader and former Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey stated that nominations for the post of state president will be filed tomorrow. The nomination process will be held from 1 pm to 2 pm at the BJP state headquarters in Lucknow. According to Pandey, nomination papers will be accepted in the presence of Central Election Observer Vinod Tawde.

Central Election Officer Piyush Goyal will complete the election process on December 14. The formal announcement of the state president's election will also be made on the same day.

Though there are several names doing the rounds for state president, a leader from OBC, particularly of Kurmi community, could be the ultimate choice. Names of Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, central minister Pankaj Choudhury, UP Ministers Swantra Deo Singh, Dharampal Singh and former central Minister Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti are in circulation for the post.

The long-running president selection process within the BJP has now reached a decisive stage, and the party leadership is finalising the name of the new President with an eye on the 2027 assembly elections. It is noteworthy that, as per the constitutional process for electing the BJP state president, the members of the Provincial Council are first selected. One member is elected from each of the 403 assembly constituencies. However, these are elected only from those constituencies where the district presidents have already been declared. The BJP has divided the state into 98 districts.

For the state president election, above 50 per cent of the district presidents are required to be selected, whereas currently 86 per cent of the district presidents have been named. Similarly, elections have been completed in more than 1600 out of 1918 'mandals'.

ED raids 25 locations linked to UP cough syrup syndicate

Lucknow. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) today launched extensive raids across six cities as part of its money-laundering investigation into the illegal trade of codeine-based cough syrup in Uttar Pradesh. Beginning early in the morning, ED teams conducted searches at 25 locations connected to the suspected syndicate in Lucknow, Varanasi, Ranchi, Ahmedabad, Jaunpur and Saharanpur.

In Lucknow, ED officials carried out a major search operation at the luxurious residence of dismissed STF constable Alok Pratap Singh, who is accused in the codeine cough syrup trafficking case. Acting on intelligence inputs, officers searched the premises for several hours and recovered multiple suspicious documents, bank transaction files, digital devices and records allegedly linked to hawala transactions. All seized materials have been taken into custody for further examination.

The ED team arrived at around 6 am at Singh's residence located in Sushant Golf City on Gosainganj Road, adjacent to the house of former Jaunpur MP Dhananjay Singh. Alok

Pratap Singh is currently under STF custody. Meanwhile, in an earlier development related to the same case, Krishna Nagar police arrested two associates of Deepak Manwani—Suraj Mishra and Preetam Singh - who had been on the run. Manwani, a resident of Snehnagar, had been arrested on October 11 after a joint raid by the Drug Department and police led to the seizure of a large quantity of codeine-based syrup, tablets, capsules and injections from his house. According to ACP Krishna Nagar Rajneesh Verma, Manwani admitted during interrogation that he purchased the illegal drugs from Suraj and Preetam to sell to addicts. Another accomplice, Arush Saxena, is still absconding, and a police search is ongoing.

Police apprehended Suraj Mishra yesterday from VIP Road near Baikunth Dham and Preetam Singh from Badshahnagar. Suraj, originally from Sitapur's Ataria Sadanpur, runs a medicine agency named New Mangalam Ayurvedic, while Preetam, a native of Bahraich's Badi Raja village, works at a family restaurant in Purania.

The issue of teachers, especially women, deployed on poll duty in the Punjab zila parishad polls snowballed after they alleged they were assigned far-flung stations, up to 80-110 km from their posting stations. For instance, teachers posted in Samrala and Khanna have been allotted poll duties in Raikot and Jagraon, at the other end of the district, and vice versa, without any arrangements for conveyance or overnight stay. Many other teachers also alleged that they have been given "double duties," as they were already working as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for the SIR project of the Election Commission to revise the voters' list.

Come June, Delhi University’s Veer Savarkar College to start ops. What will it offer?

The last time that DU had set up a new college was in 1995, when Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences had been established, funded by the Delhi government.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Undergraduate programmes in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), Data Science, Entrepreneurship and Development: these are the three industry-aligned courses that Delhi University’s Veer Savarkar College– the varsity’s first new college in three decades–located in South West Delhi’s Najafgarh is set to offer in the next academic year, The Indian Express has learnt.
While the B.Sc (Hons) in Data Science and B.Sc (Hons) in AI and ML programmes will offer 120 seats each, the student capacity for the BBA in Entrepreneurship and Development degree will be limited to 60 seats. Meanwhile, a proposal to create

around 60 teaching posts for the new institution has reached the final stage of approval, an official familiar with the process said. “The construction of the college is about 30% completed and will be ready to open in June 2026, before the next academic cycle begins,” the official added.
Admissions to the college were originally slated to begin this summer, following a March announcement by Vice-Chancellor Yogesh Singh during DU’s 92nd annual court meeting. During that meeting, he had said that the institution would start enrolling students in the 2025–26 academic session.However, procedural holdups stalled the admission process.

By August, senior DU officials told that key approvals from the Ministry of Education



and the Ministry of Finance were still pending, eventually delaying the progress on faculty recruitment and academic planning.

The last time that DU had set up a new college was in 1995, when Bhaskaracharya College of Applied Sciences had been established, funded by the Delhi government.
As per a DU statement issued in March, Veer Savarkar College at Roshanpura village in Najafgarh is set to be developed at a cost of Rs 140 crore.
The college will have 24 classrooms, eight tutorial rooms, 40 faculty offices, as well as department libraries, conference facilities, and a canteen, spread over a built-up area of 18,816.56 sq m. It will reserve two seats in each course for applicants from Roshanpura village, which had donated land for the college.

One seat will be reserved for women.
In January, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone for Veer Savarkar College, alongside two other major infrastructure projects for the varsity – a new campus in Surajmal Vihar and another in Dwarka. Together, these projects represented a combined investment of over Rs 600 crore, intended to modernise and expand DU’s academic footprint. The Eastern Campus in Surajmal Vihar, spanning 15.25 acres, will cost Rs 373 crore and house programmes such as LLB, LLM, and multi-disciplinary courses. Facilities will include modern classrooms, moot courts, computer labs, and cafeterias.

After crackdown on gangs extorting traffic cops in Delhi, Special CP asks officers to report blackmail attempts

New Delhi.(Agency)
In the wake of police busting two gangs involved in extorting traffic police personnel, Special Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Neeraj Thakur has encouraged officers to report blackmail attempts by individuals.
To this effect, the Special CP has instructed the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) to hold Sampark Sabhas—formal meetings led by senior police officers to address the grievances of junior personnel—to motivate officers to come forward and report any attempts to extort money from them. These instructions were issued during a meeting chaired by Special CP Thakur on December 4.
On Wednesday, the police said that they had arrested five men in connection with the syndicate, adding that the two gangs had acquired crores of rupees from commercial vehicle drivers and by blackmailing traffic police personnel. The first arrests in the case were made in the last week of November.
The probe revealed that the accused were actively running parallel systems. One gang sold fake stickers to commercial vehicle drivers for Rs 2,000 to Rs 5,000 per month to bypass entry-point restrictions, while another extorted money from traffic police personnel by fabricating videos of them performing their duties.
According to police, officers are also probing the role of some Traffic Inspectors (TIs) who allegedly assisted the gang and even took a share of the extorted money. The meeting also included discussions on ensuring minimum inconvenience to the general public during VIP movements. The Special CP directed that traffic should be halted only for the minimum duration necessary for security arrangements.

Delhi’s school fee law kicks in: 3 tier-system in place, parents can file complaints with 15% backing

New Delhi.(Agency)
Four months after the Delhi Assembly passed the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Bill, 2025, to regulate fees in private schools amid protests by parents over arbitrary hikes, the Delhi government officially notified the Act on Wednesday with Lieutenant-Governor V K Saxena issuing the Gazette notification, The Indian Express has learnt.
At the centre of the new regime is a three-tier committee structure — a School-level Fee Regulation Committee, the District Fee Appellate Committee, and the Revision Committee. Another key aspect of the Act is that a complaint to the District-level Committee must be backed by at least 15% of the affected parents. The Act makes parents a part of the decision-making process.
However, parent associations had previously raised concerns over the 15% threshold, arguing that it may be difficult to mobilise support, but the mechanism remains intact in the notified rules and now has a codified appeal format and scrutiny process.
Under the new Act, “private unaided recognised schools are strictly prohibited from collecting any fees that are not explicitly defined and sanctioned”. The Act brings under its ambit over 1,500 private unaided schools in the Capital after years of protests by parents.
“All permissible fees must be itemised and disclosed as distinct components,” reads Chapter II of the Act, which categorically prohibits the collection of “excess fee”. The defined fee heads include admission charges, registration charges, security deposit — all of which are non-recurring charges.
Tuition fees have been defined to include “standard establishment costs and expenditures directly related to curricular activities”. It cannot be used to recover capital expenditure, including investments for infrastructure development or any other non-revenue generating assets, according to the Act. Apart from this, term fees, annual charges and development fees have also been defined under the Act.

Birth to death services under one roof: How Delhi’s expansion to 13 districts makes citizen lives easier

Under the new plan, the city gets three new districts — Outer North, Central North and Old Delhi. Meanwhile, areas under Shahdara district have been redistributed in Northeast and East districts.

New Delhi.(Agency)
In a major overhaul, the Delhi government has approved a revamp of the Capital’s administrative structure, reorganising its 11 revenue districts into 13 with an aim to improve coordination and speed up delivery of public services. The new districts will be aligned with the city’s 12 municipal zones, along with the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and Delhi Cantonment Board.
The move aims to enhance ease of living for citizens with an increase in the number of sub-divisional and sub-registrar offices as well as establish mini secretariats in all the districts. “This reform will significantly speed up delivery of public services, and ensure seamless coordination for land records,

property registration, civic services, and grievance redressal for citizens,” a spokesperson for the Delhi government said.
The Capital currently has 11 revenue districts, headed by respective district magistrates, while the city is divided into 12 MCD zones, led by respective deputy commissioners. Under the new plan, the city gets three new districts — Outer North, Central North and Old Delhi. Meanwhile, areas under Shahdara district have been redistributed in Northeast and East districts.
The gazette notification for the redrawing of boundaries will be issued within 15 days and the reorganisation will be completed by the end of this month, said officials. The government has sanctioned a budget of Rs 25 crore for the move.

Ease of living in focus, Delhi now has 13 districts in major revamp
CM Rekha Gupta termed the decision as a “historic” step towards adapting Delhi’s administrative system to the requirements of the 21st century. Gupta added that in a metropolis like Delhi, smaller, balanced, and administratively empowered districts are necessary for improved coordination of services, faster grievance redressal, and effective monitoring.
All of these districts will also have a mini secretariat, where citizens will be able to access numerous services such as revenue offices, and sub-registrar offices at a single location. The number of sub-divisions have also been increased from existing 33 to 39 and sub-registrar offices increased from 22 to 39.

Gangster Lagarpuria, aide convicted under MCOCA

New Delhi.(Agency)
Notorious gangster Vikas Lagarpuria and his associate Dhirpal have been convicted under the stringent Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA) act for running an organised crime syndicate—nearly a decade after they were first booked for the same. The judgment was announced on Wednesday by Additional Sessions Judge Vandana Jain in Dwarka court.
In an order dated December 10, the court said, “..both the accused persons namely Vikas Gulia alias Vikas Lagarpuria and Dhirpal alias Kana are convicted under Section 3 of MCOCA. However, the court acquitted the duo



under Section 4 (punishment for possessing unaccountable wealth on behalf of a member of an organised crime syndicate) of MCOCA.

murder, extortion, robbery, house trespass, and criminal intimidation etc registered at various police stations at Delhi and Haryana.
The first case against him was lodged in 2012 at Chawla police station. The same year, Vikas was booked under Section 3 (punishment for organised crime) of MCOCA at Nazafgarh police station.
Lagarpuria was arrested by the Delhi Police in 2022, after absconding for years in Dubai. Langapuriya was also involved in the 2021 Rs 30 crore heist at the offices of Alpha G Corp Management Services in Sector 84 in Gurgaon. He is currently lodged in Mandoli jail while Dhirpal stays in Rohini jail.

Akhlaq lynching case: Court to now hear UP govt’s petition to drop charges against accused on Dec 18

The defendant lawyer, Yusuf Saifi, told the court that he wanted to file an objection to the govt’s application

New Delhi.(Agency)
A fast-track court in Surajpur will now hear on December 18 the Uttar Pradesh government’s application to withdraw charges against all 19 accused in the 2015 lynching of Mohammad Akhlaq after the prosecution’s lawyer sought to argue the case.
Nearly a decade ago, Akhlaq (50) was lynched by a mob over rumours of alleged cow slaughter and storing its meat at his home in Dadri’s Bisada village.
The court had reserved the case for December 12 after the government moved the application to withdraw prosecution against the accused.
On Friday, the defendant lawyer, Yusuf Saifi, told the court that he wanted to file an objection to the UP government’s application for withdrawal.
Speaking to The Indian Express, Saifi said, “We submitted an application for more time and now the matter is listed for

December 18.”
On September 28, 2015, a mob gathered outside Akhlaq’s house after an announcement from the village temple alleged that he had slaughtered a cow. Akhlaq and his son Danish, who tried to intervene, were dragged out of their home and assaulted until they fell unconscious.
Akhlaq later died at a Noida hospital, while Danish survived after suffering severe head injuries and undergoing major surgery.
Police had registered an FIR at Jarcha police station under IPC sections 302 (murder), 307 (attempt to murder), 147 (rioting), 148 (rioting with deadly weapon), 149 (unlawful assembly), 323 (assault), 504 (intentional insult to disturb peace), among others, based on a complaint by Akhlaq’s wife, Ikraman.

Police filed the chargesheet on December 23, 2015, before the magistrate court in Surajpur, naming 15 people, including a minor, in connection with the

lynching. However, the chargesheet did not specifically mention beef, as the final forensic report was not available at the time. The case was taken up by the sessions court on February 9, 2016, and subsequently transferred to the fast-track court in April 2016. The statement of Akhlaq’s daughter, Shaista, was recorded on August 3, 2016, during the evidence stage of the trial.
On October 15, this year, the UP government filed an application under Section 321 of the Criminal Procedure Code seeking to withdraw all charges against the accused, citing changes in witness statements and evidentiary issues.
The application by Brajesh Kumar Mishra, Joint Director Prosecution, Gautam Buddh Nagar, seeking to withdraw the case read: “Both the complainants and the accused are residents of the same village, Bisada... Despite that, the complainant (Akhlaq’s wife) and other witnesses (Akhlaq’s son and daughter) have changed the number of accused in their statements.”



NEWS BOX

Idolising Virat Kohli, Nikhil Chaudhary dreams IPL stint with RCB legend

NEW DELHI . (Agency)

When Nikhil Chaudhary walked onto the field for Punjab in 2017, Virat Kohli was at the height of his powers, dominating cricket across all formats. Nine years on, while Kohli approaches the twilight of his illustrious career, Chaudhary’s journey has taken a very different trajectory—one that has led him far from India, to a new life in Australia.

For Chaudhary, Kohli has always been more than just a cricketer—he’s an idol. And now, in a twist of fate, there’s a chance he could line up alongside him in the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL). Registered as a local player in the mini-auction, the 29-year-old dreams not just of an IPL contract but of sharing a dressing room with his childhood hero.The story of how Chaudhary landed in Australia is almost cinematic. In 2020, a simple visit to relatives became an unexpected turning point. Stranded due to the Covid-19 pandemic, he found himself staying longer than planned—and gradually, he made Australia his home. From representing Tasmania to pulling on the



jersey of the Hobart Hurricanes in the Big Bash League, Chaudhary has carved a niche for himself far from the land of his birth. But success didn’t come overnight. Chaudhary’s early days in Australia were a grind. He delivered letters for Australia Post, drove for Uber, and even chopped vegetables in a Brisbane restaurant before his cricketing break arrived. The contrast with his early career in Punjab—sharing dressing rooms with Abhishek Sharma and Arshdeep Singh—couldn’t have been starker.Now, with 20 BBL matches and stints in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy to his name, Chaudhary is ready for the next step. The 2025-26 season could be the one where he stakes a claim in first-class cricket. In the ongoing Sheffield Shield, he has already amassed 367 runs at an average of 45.87, including a stunning 163 against New South Wales that has caught the eyes of selectors.And he’s more than just a batter—his leg-spin has yielded a first-class five-wicket haul, adding another dimension to his game.India Today Digital caught up with Chaudhary recently.

Is Gautam Gambhir's fixation on Shubman Gill threatening India's T20 World Cup defence

New Delhi. (Agency)

For months now, the most animated debate around India’s T20I setup has centered on one deceptively simple question: who should open with Abhishek Sharma? The left-hander has sealed his spot with commanding form and unwavering intent, yet the identity of his partner remains a point of national contention. As things stand, vice-captain Shubman Gill continues to be the preferred choice, even as Sanju Samson, the man with three T20I hundreds in 2024, watches from the periphery. To understand how head coach Gautam Gambhir has arrived at this decision, one might need more than selectorial instinct; perhaps an algebraic equation would explain why he remains wedded to an out-



of-form opener less than two months before a World Cup. The Gill question has loomed large over Indian cricket since the summer, yet Gambhir has shown little inclination to entertain the logic or statistics that stand firmly against his chosen man.Samson’s case is straightforward and compelling. Not many players produce three T20I centuries across an entire career, and Samson did it in a single year. His synergy with Abhishek at the top was one of India’s most exciting developments in 2024. But come the 2025 Asia Cup, he found himself displaced, pushed down to the lower middle order, and eventually benched. None of those roles suits his game or reflects the kind of form he has shown.

Gill’s slump raises hard questions

Gill, meanwhile, has retained his place without producing the returns that justify such unwavering support. Thursday’s golden duck against South Africa in Mullanpur was the latest addition to an uncomfortable pattern. He now has no fifty in his last 17 T20I innings. His struggles against Lungi Ngidi only deepened the sense of concern, as he has now been dismissed twice in three balls across the series.

Bazball is great, but England go too far with it sometimes: David Willey

David Willey believes England's Bazball approach is innovative but warns that players must adapt to situations, especially as England trail Australia 0-2 in the Ashes. Willey highlights missed opportunities and calls for accountability and refinement in England's strategy.

BRISBANE. (Agency)

Former England international and current Dubai Capitals all rounder David Willey has called for a more measured approach to England's Bazball style, warning that while the aggressive brand of cricket has been transformative, it can overshadow crucial match situations if not tempered. England currently trail Australia 0-2 in the five-match Ashes Test series, with both defeats exposing moments where game management may



have faltered.Willey acknowledged the excitement Bazball has brought to English cricket but stressed the need for players to adapt to the flow of the match. He noted that Ben Stokes has recognised this and expects the team to refine their approach for the rest of the series."I think the term 'Bazball' is something that's been used more by the media than the players themselves. They're trying to impact the game, but I have my reservations about maybe going too far that way and not taking accountability for when the game dictates something else. The way Stokes talked about it, he's really highlighted

that. I've no doubt they'll be trying to refine that and put that right for the remainder of the series," Willey was quoted as saying by ANI.England's aggressive intent was evident during the Ashes, where they suffered consecutive eight-wicket defeats. In the first Test at Perth, England appeared steady at 76-3, only to lose seven wickets for 88 runs and be dismissed for 164.Willey said England missed crucial moments in both Tests, and better batting in key situations could have changed the outcomes. He believes the team needs to recognise when to absorb pressure instead of always playing aggressively.

"If you look back to Perth, if they'd have batted better in that third innings, there's every chance they could have won that test match and everyone would be sat having different conversations now. And the same again in the second test, there are just key moments where England let them slip and that's ultimately cost them. So I think they'll be really trying to identify those moments and know when to potentially absorb a little pressure and just dig in a little bit rather than play the expansive style of cricket they want," Willey said.

The defeats highlighted the fine line between positive play and recklessness, with England's aggressive philosophy drawing massive scrutiny from the cricketing fraternity. Willey suggested that being able to "absorb a little pressure and just dig in" might be key to success in tighter contests.As England prepare for the remaining Ashes matches, Willey expressed confidence in the team's leadership under Ben Stokes to make necessary adjustments. He expects England to assess their approach and strike a better balance between aggression and situational awareness as they head into third Test scheduled to be played in Adelaide beginning on December 17.

Shubman, Suryakumar's form not a concern, they'll come good soon: Assistant coach

New Delhi. (Agency)

India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate has defended T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav and vice-captain Shubman Gill amid their poor form in the format. Both Gill and Suryakumar continued their dry patch in the second T20I against South Africa in Mullanpur, getting dismissed for 0 and 5 respectively as India failed to chase down the massive target of 214 and lost by 51 runs.The duo has had a long run of low scores in the format, which is an alarming sign for the Men in Blue heading into the T20 World Cup 2026, scheduled to be held in India from February 7 to March 8. Despite their poor run, ten Doeschate feels the lack of runs from



their bats is not a huge concern and backed the batting stalwarts to come good soon. He defended Shubman mentioning that he got a great delivery from Lungi Ngidi in Mullanpur and had been dismissed while attacking in the first T20I in Cuttack.“Shubman, I saw some good signs of a change in mentality on the back end of that Australian tour. I wouldn’t read too much into these two dismissals in this series. In the first game, we asked the guys to go out there and attack the powerplay, and it wasn’t a great wicket at Cuttack, so I’ll let him off for that one. Today, I thought he got a good ball that can happen when you’re short on form,” said ten Doeschate in the post-match press conference.Ten Doeschate also said that both Suryakumar and Gill deserve strong backing from the team management given their class, and he brushed off any concerns regarding their form.“But we also know his class. You look at his IPL record, he stacks up 700–800 runs. We believe in his class, and we believe he will come good. It’s exactly the same with Suryakumar.

Pep Guardiola praises Real Madrid's Rodrygo amid rising Manchester City transfer buzz

Madrid. (Agency)

Pep Guardiola has coached against some of the world’s finest attackers, but even he couldn’t hide his admiration for Rodrygo Goes after Manchester City’s 2–1 win over Real Madrid at the Santiago Bernabeu. On a night shaped by City’s resilience, Madrid’s mounting problems, and Rodrygo’s reminder of his brilliance, it was Guardiola’s reaction to the Brazilian that sparked renewed chatter in the transfer market.City’s victory, secured through goals from O’Reilly and Erling Haaland, overshadowed Rodrygo’s sharp finish — a moment of individual quality that immediately caught Guardiola’s eye. And with Rodrygo having been linked heavily with Manchester City in the previous transfer window, his standout performance came with extra intrigue. Speaking to Movistar+ after the match, Guardiola delivered unusually glowing praise, moments after sharing a brief on-field

exchange with the winger. “I told Rodrygo how good he is. He’s a player from another level this kid is a player on



another level. I’m glad he’s back from injury. He’s very, very good.”Rodrygo’s goal ended a 281-day drought, his last coming on March 4, 2025, and it arrived at a time when Madrid desperately needed a spark. Instead, the night concluded with another setback for Xabi Alonso’s side,

who remain five points behind Barcelona in LaLiga and continue to slide in Europe.Amid the on-field drama, Rodrygo’s future remains a talking point. Manchester City were the last club to formally pursue the Brazilian, and the transfer talks have heated up during Rodrygo's limited involvement in Xabi’s Real Madrid plans this season. Their approach last summer stalled only because Rodrygo opted to stay in Madrid, believing it was not the right moment to move. Guardiola’s praise, however, has naturally reignited speculation about whether City might revisit that interest. Madrid’s current struggles have put Alonso under increasing scrutiny, though senior players including Rodrygo, Thibaut Courtois and Jude Bellingham have publicly backed him. Still, the noise surrounding Rodrygo’s role and future refuses to quieten.

What wrong has Sanju Samson done Uthappa wants Shubman Gill replaced as T20I opener

Robin Uthappa called out India's decision to drop Sanju Samson from the opening slot in T20Is. With Shubman Gill struggling, his criticism has put fresh spotlight on India's T20I selection.

WELLINGTON. (Agency)

Shubman Gill’s ongoing struggles in T20Is have intensified scrutiny on India’s selection calls, especially after his golden duck in the second T20I against South Africa in Mullanpur. Chasing a daunting 214, Gill lasted just one ball, beaten by Lungi Ngidi’s movement and dismissed at first slip. The moment not only jolted India early in the chase but reopened a debate that has dominated discussions for months: why does Gill continue to open despite a prolonged

slump, while Sanju Samson remains sidelined?The frustration stems from the stark contrast in form and opportunity. Samson, who smashed three T20I hundreds in 2024 and developed a potent partnership with Abhishek Sharma, now finds himself pushed out of the XI. Meanwhile, Gill has been repeatedly backed, even as his returns at the top have dipped steadily. With the T20 World Cup inching closer, the decision to persist with Gill has raised questions about whether India are prioritising hierarchy over performance.Speaking on Star Sports after India’s crushing defeat in the Mullanpur T20I on December 11, Robin Uthappa voiced what many Indian fans have wondered: what wrong has Sanju Samson done to deserve this treatment? He questioned why a successful opening pair was dismantled without a convincing explanation from the team management."I beg the question: what did the partnership of Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson do so grossly wrong that they



had to be replaced? I understand Surya in the pre-series conference where he said Shubman has actually been in the T20 squad before Sanju got his opportunity. But when Sanju did get his opportunity, he got three hundreds. He was the first guy among the youngsters here to get hundreds in T20 cricket. It was after that when Abhishek got it, and after that when Tilak actually got it. So he perhaps even inspired the guys and challenged them, because at that point, they were figuring out who was going to be the next opener for India in T20 cricket,"

Uthappa said."So you have a proven opener, who’s averaging just below Abhishek Sharma at this point, and you decided to move him to the middle order and then slowly leave him out. What wrong has he done? is my question. He deserves to have that opportunity," he added. He was equally blunt in his assessment of Gill’s current approach, and emphasised and on what is going wrong for the Test and ODI skipper in T20Is."It’s not working for Shubman at this point, because I also think he’s trying different things. I think he’s trying initially to go toe-to-toe at the same pace that Abhishek is going — that is not how he bats. That is not how he’s been successful in T20 cricket. How he has been successful is by taking that time, those first 10 balls, absorbing the pressure, getting in, and then once he reaches 15–20 balls, I don’t think there is a batter like Shubman Gill until he gets himself out. That’s the kind of batter he is. And I think that’s what works for him in T20 cricket," Uthappa said.

New labour codes: No, your take-home salary isn't reducing. Here's the math

New Delhi.(Agency)
Ever since the new labour codes were notified on November 21, 2025, many salaried employees have been worried that their take-home pay would shrink. Much of the anxiety came from the rule that basic pay and related components must form at least half of the total salary. The assumption was simple: if basic pay rises, provident fund deductions rise, and the in-hand salary falls. The Ministry of Labour and Employment has now made it clear that this fear is misplaced. Officials said on Wednesday that the new codes do not automatically reduce anyone's take-home salary. The key reason lies in how PF is actually calculated. **SALARY CALCULATION MATHEXPLAINED**
Even if an employee's basic pay increases under the new wage structure, PF contributions will continue to be calculated on the existing statutory ceiling of Rs 15,000 unless both the employer and employee voluntarily choose a higher base. This ceiling is what matters for most salaried workers. As long as PF is capped at Rs 15,000, the monthly deduction remains unchanged. The ministry highlighted that nothing in the new law forces PF to be calculated on the full salary. To make this clearer, the ministry shared a simple example. Consider an employee with a monthly salary of Rs 60,000. If Rs 20,000 counts as basic pay and dearness allowance and the remaining Rs 40,000 is paid as allowances, PF will still be calculated on Rs 15,000 so long as the employee has not opted for a higher PF base. Under the old rules and the new codes, the PF contribution remains the same. The employer contributes Rs 1,800 and the employee contributes Rs 1,800, leaving the take-home salary unchanged at Rs 56,400. This explanation has offered relief to many anxious employees who thought the new wage definition would automatically shrink their disposable income. The ministry said the purpose of the revised structure is to bring uniformity and clarity, not to reduce salaries.

UDIN prevented Rs 80,000 crore frauds since 2019: ICAI

NEW DELHI.(Agency)
Ever since India adopted the Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN) for certifications, GST and tax audit reports by practicing Chartered Accountants, the country has prevented frauds worth Rs 80,000 crore, claims Institute of Chartered Accountants in India (ICAI). ICAI president Charanjot Singh Nanda informed the media on Friday that UDIN is first of its kind initiative globally, and it has prevented unauthorized individuals from misusing a CA's name, signature, or membership details, eliminated the risk of fraudulent certifications and strengthened the integrity and reputation of the profession. He says that the initiative has received global attention with ICAI equivalent institutions and bodies from many countries seeking help from ICAI for implementing a similar system. UDIN was implemented in August 2019, and since then over 10 crore UDINs have been generated. To curb the malpractices of non-CAs falsely presenting themselves as CAs and authenticating documents, ICAI introduced the Unique Document Identification Number (UDIN), an 18-Digits system generated unique number for every document certified/attested by full time practicing Chartered Accountants.

Gold Edges Higher To Rs 1,32,599 Per 10 Grams, Silver Slips After Record High

Mumbai.(Agency)
Gold prices inched up on Friday morning, while silver slipped as traders booked profits after the metal hit a fresh record high on the MCX. During early trade, MCX gold futures for February were trading 0.10 per cent higher at Rs 1,32,599 per 10 grams. "MCX Gold has broken out to lifetime highs, trading near Rs 1,32,776 inside a tightening ascending wedge with firm support at Rs 1,31,400," analysts stated. The next resistance zone opens the momentum leg toward Rs 1,34,000 and above," they added. In contrast, MCX silver futures for March were down 0.50 per cent at Rs 1,97,951 per kg. In the previous session, silver had touched an all-time high of Rs 1,98,814 per kg and ended the day with a strong 5.33 per cent gain at Rs 1,98,799. Gold February futures also saw healthy buying, closing at Rs 1,32,469 per 10 grams after rising 2 per cent. Both metals rallied after the US Federal Reserve cut its benchmark interest rate by 25 basis points and hinted at the possibility of another rate cut next year. The dollar index also slipped to 98.30 -- making gold cheaper for global buyers and boosting demand. At the same time, the Indian rupee continued to remain at its record low against the US dollar. The weaker currency is supporting gold prices in the domestic market. Investors are now waiting for key US data, including inflation numbers and the non-farm payrolls report due next week. These indicators will help shape expectations around the Fed's next policy moves. "The US Federal Reserve's decision to cut key interest rates by 25 bps to 3.50 per cent-3.75 per cent amid persistent inflation has reinforced bullish sentiment in precious metals," market watchers stated. Lower rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold and silver, attracting fresh investment flows. With bullion already at record highs, this policy shift adds momentum to the rally, as investors seek safe-haven assets amid economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures," analysts mentioned.

NPS expands investment options: Now gold, silver ETFs and Nifty 250 picks allowed

India's pension regulator issues updated unified investment rules for pension schemes, introducing clearer limits and a wider range of asset classes.

New Delhi.(Agency)
The National Pension System (NPS) is set to become more flexible and potentially more rewarding after the pension regulator opened the door to new investment options. In a major update, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has allowed NPS, the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) and the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) to invest in gold and silver exchange-traded funds, the Nifty 250 index and select Alternative Investment

Funds. The changes were announced through a new master circular issued on December 10, 2025. The circular replaces several older guidelines and lays out fresh rules on how pension money can be invested across equity, debt, short-term instruments, ETFs and other approved schemes. **A WIDER RANGE OF INVESTMENTS**
One of the biggest changes is the inclusion of gold and silver ETFs. This marks the first time NPS schemes can take exposure to precious metals, which are often seen as a hedge during uncertain times. The circular also allows investments in the Nifty 250 index, giving pension funds access to a broader range of companies beyond the largest firms in the market. The circular further permits limited investments in Category I and II Alternative Investment Funds. These funds invest in areas such as start-ups, infrastructure and other long-term sectors, offering an additional source of growth. **CLEAR LIMITS ON DIFFERENT ASSET**

CLASSES
Government securities remain the mainstay of NPS and APY portfolios, with a maximum limit of 65%. This includes central and state government bonds, PSU bonds and gilt mutual funds. The aim is to keep a large portion of pension savings in safe and stable assets. Corporate debt can make up to 45% of the portfolio. This category includes well-rated corporate bonds, Basel III instruments, rupee-denominated bonds from global institutions and bank

deposits. Strict credit rating requirements are in place to ensure quality. Equity investments are capped at 25%. Pension funds can now invest in stocks forming part of the Nifty 250 index, along with select BSE stocks. Most equity exposure must stay within the top 200 companies by market size. **STRONG RISK CONTROLS**
To protect pension money, the regulator has retained strict rules on concentration. No single industry can account for more than 15% of total assets, and exposure to individual companies is tightly capped. Similar limits apply to REITs and InvITs. **WHAT IT MEANS FOR SUBSCRIBERS**
These changes are expected to make NPS more balanced and future-ready. With new options like gold, silver and a wider equity basket, subscribers may benefit from better long-term growth while still enjoying strong risk control.



Keys to new homes first, then redevelopment begins: Pranav Adani on Dharavi plan

New Delhi.(Agency)
Pranav Adani, Managing Director of Agro and Oil & Gas at the Adani Group, outlined key details of the ambitious Dharavi redevelopment project during his first TV interview on Agenda AajTak. He described the initiative as one of the most significant urban transformation projects currently underway and addressed major concerns around relocation and rehabilitation. Dani highlighted that the company's approach is to build new homes for existing residents first and hand over their house keys before any redevelopment work begins on their current settlements. First, we will build your house, we will give you the keys, you will move into the final house first, and then only we will break your slum and do the redevelopment," said Adani. He mentioned that despite several past attempts over the past four decades, Dharavi's redevelopment never moved forward. This time, he said, the project is finally progressing with a concrete plan to build around 200,000 new homes, ensuring residents are moved into these units before any demolition

or redevelopment of old structures begins. Under the government's rehabilitation policy, those who have lived in Dharavi since before 2000 will receive new homes within the redevelopment area. Those who moved in after 2000 will be offered alternative



housing options elsewhere in Mumbai. Adani acknowledged that one of the biggest fears among residents is whether they will actually receive new homes if they vacate their existing ones. Reiterating the company's commitment, he said the keys to new houses will be handed over before any resident is asked to move, a step aimed at building trust and avoiding forced

evictions. The redevelopment plan also includes modern infrastructure, improved connectivity, and a "multi-model development" strategy. A detailed blueprint is already in motion, and work has begun on various components of the project. Beyond Dharavi, Adani spoke about broader infrastructure needs in Mumbai, including the requirement for more airports to match global city standards. He also discussed the group's ongoing and upcoming projects in states like Assam, where airport and infrastructure development is underway. He highlighted business opportunities in Bihar as well, praising the ambition of the state's youth. He pointed to investments by the Adani Group in areas such as smart meters and cement manufacturing as part of a wider push to support economic growth in the state. On the subject of artificial intelligence, Adani predicted that AI will soon become deeply integrated into daily life. Instead of reducing jobs, he said.

Mexico to impose up to 50% tariff on Indian exports

NEW DELHI.(Agency)
As India is still navigating ways to recover from the US tariff heat, Mexico has also slapped a steep tariff on several Indian items. Mexico's Congress has approved a bill that seeks to impose higher tariffs up to 50% on imports from India, China, Brazil and several other countries who are not having free trade agreements with the country. The tariff will take effect on January 1, 2026, after the lower house approves it. The tariff will be imposed on items like auto parts, light vehicles, plastic, toys, textiles, furniture, footwear, clothing, aluminium and glass. The proposed tariffs will range from 5% to 50%. The automobile sector is going to be the worst-hit as Mexico is India's third-largest car export market after South Africa and Saudi Arabia. India's total export to Mexico stood at \$5.7 billion



in 2024-25 with a trade surplus of \$2.8 billion. India's trade surplus with the country has gone up by nearly 12 times from 0.24 billion in 2020-21 to \$2.87 billion in 2024-25. Mexico's new tariffs on Asian imports are broadly aligning with US efforts to tighten trade barriers against China, along with other Asian nations. The Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, an industry group that includes representatives of car exporters like

VW, Hyundai and Suzuki among its members, had previously urged India's commerce ministry in November to press Mexico to "maintain status quo" on tariffs for vehicles shipped from India, Reuters reported. Even export bodies like the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) had written to Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal asking him to begin talks with Mexico on a potential FTA to mitigate the risk of the US tariff. "We have also proposed FTAs with key Latin American countries such as Chile, Peru, and Mexico to get duty-free market access. This will also help us to de-risk from the US," Pankaj Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India, had said. The proposed bill by the Mexican government also include textile sector that could face high tariffs.

Price Of LPG Cylinder In India Vs Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal: How Much Do Customers Have To Pay

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tabled data showing the effective price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder in India.

New Delhi.(Agency)
The price of LPG for consumers in India is much lower than in neighbouring Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri informed the Parliament on Thursday. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, the minister also tabled data showing that the effective price of a 14.2 kg LPG cylinder as on November 1 this year in India (Delhi) was Rs 553 for PMUY beneficiaries, while in the case of regular consumers, the price was Rs 853. This is much lower than the prevailing



prices in neighbouring Pakistan (Lahore) at Rs 902.20 per cylinder, Sri Lanka (Colombo) at Rs 1,227.58 and Nepal (Kathmandu) at Rs 1,205.72. India imports about 60 per cent of its LPG requirement, and accordingly, prices of LPG in the country are linked to its prices in the international market. While the average Saudi CP (international

benchmark for LPG pricing) rose by 21 per cent from US\$ 385/MT in July 2023 to US\$ 466/MT in November 2025, the prices of domestic LPG were reduced by about 22 per cent from Rs. 1103 to Rs. 853 during this period, the minister said. He said that for FY 2025-26, the government is providing a targeted subsidy of Rs 300 per 14.2 kg cylinder for up to 9 refills of a

14.2 kg cylinder to the PMUY consumers. For PMUY consumers, the effective price for domestic LPG has been reduced by about 39 per cent from Rs 903 in August 2023 to Rs 553 in November 2025. As a result of various steps taken by the government to improve the affordability of domestic LPG for PMUY consumers, per connection consumption of PMUY beneficiaries (in terms of the number of 14.2 kg LPG cylinder refills taken per year) has increased from 3.68 (FY 2021-22) to 4.47 in FY 2024-25. In order to provide more LPG for cooking in rural and remote areas, oil marketing companies (OMCs) have commissioned 8,017 distributorships, from April 1, 2016, to October 31, 2025, across the country, out of which 7,420 (i.e. 93 per cent) are catering to rural areas. As of November 1 this year, there are a total of 25,587 LPG distributorships across the country. These are served through 214 LPG bottling plants of OMCs located across the country. As a result of these efforts, LPG coverage in the country has improved from 62 per cent in April 2016 to near saturation now, the minister added.



guide for brands, investors and advisers trying to understand this fast-changing world. The index shows a steady rise in luxury prices, climbing 22% between 2022 and 2025. This works out to an annual increase of 6.7%, driven by strong demand across lifestyle and real estate categories. **WELLNESS TAKES CENTRE STAGE**
One of the most noticeable trends is the rise of wellness retreats. Places like Amanbagh and Ananda have become preferred escapes for the ultra-rich, pushing the wellness category up 14.3% annually since 2022. Longevity, mental balance and personalised therapies are becoming central to how the wealthy choose to spend their time and money. **EXPERIENCES OVER POSSESSIONS**
Exclusive experiences, whether cruising through Antarctica or dining at top global restaurants, are now more valuable to many than physical assets. This category has grown 11.6% each year since 2022, showing a clear preference for memories rather than material items. **LUXURY REAL ESTATE AND FASHION STAYSTRONG**
Branded residences equipped with smart technology continue to be a status symbol, rising 10.8% annually.

Alia Bhatt

Looks Stunning In Floral Gown As She Accepts Award At The Red Film Festival

In the pictures posted online, Alia is seen wearing an exquisite strapless, floor-length gown featuring a sweetheart neckline and a beautifully draped bodice. The outfit showcases a soft sandy base embellished with large, pastel-toned floral embroidery in shades of pink, blue and yellow. A delicate sheer cape cascading from one side adds movement and sophistication to the ensemble. Her hair is styled in loose, soft waves tucked behind one ear, paired with muted, polished makeup. With minimal jewellery, Alia allowed her intricately designed gown to remain the highlight of her look.

Alongside the pictures, she wrote, “a gentle reminder of why I love cinema... its power to bridge horizons Honoured to receive the Red Sea Film Golden Globe Horizon award.”

Alia Bhatt Delivers Empowering Speech for Young Dreamers

During the ceremony, the actress took the stage to express her gratitude and share a heartfelt message for young girls with big dreams. In her speech, she said, “I stand here today as truly grateful 5-year old that I got to live my dream and I just want to talk to every girl out there who perhaps feels that her dream is too big or too large or too unachievable. The thing I would say from the little time that I have been working is never shrink your dream to fit in anyone else’s reality. Just hold on to it long enough to show up and do the work everyday and chase the horizon no matter wherever it takes you.”

She further added, “This is an honour to be recognised by the Golden Globes and I am grateful for the opportunity to speak for a new generation of aspiring performers and women who are making a difference in film and television around the world.”The evening also celebrated Tunisian actor Hend Sabry, who was honoured with the Omar Sharif Award.strong>Fans and Celebrities Shower Alia With PraiseSoon after Alia shared the pictures, the comments section was flooded with congratulatory messages from fans and colleagues. Her mother-in-law Neetu Kapoor wrote, “Loveee it,” while actor Hrithik Roshan added, “Beautiful pics.”

What’s Next for Alia Bhatt?

On the work front, Alia Bhatt is gearing up for her next major project, Love and War, directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. The highly anticipated film also stars Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal in lead roles. While an official announcement is awaited, reports suggest that the film is targeting a March 20, 2026, theatrical release.



Malaika Arora ‘Tries Hard’ To Shield Her No-Makeup Morning Face, But Fails



Malaika Arora is a true-blue fashionista, and there’s no second thought in it. The one thing she loves to do is hit the gym right in the morning. Don’t believe us? The actress was seen rushing to her car while wearing gym attire to shield her early-morning, no-makeup appearance. In a video posted on Instagram, Malaika Arora was papped while exiting her residence early this morning. She was captured wearing her gym athleisure, which included an oversized hoodie jacket paired with a pair of loose-fitted pants. The actress was also seen carrying a black duffel bag that appeared to be filled with her gym essentials.

Malaika Arora’s Fans Call Her ‘Cutie’

On the other hand, the 52-year-old finished off her appearance with absolutely no makeup and a pair of white sneakers. She back-brushed her hair in a messy yet sleek bun at the back, adorned with a huge clutch. But soon after, she was spotted by paparazzi stationed there, and the actress rushed to her car to keep her natural look out of view. The video’s caption read, “A quick glimpse of the diva #malaikaarora is the best thing to happen to everyone this morning.” Soon, social media users flooded the comment section with their various reactions. A fan said, “Always gorgeous.” Another called her “cutie”. Other comments read, “Morning mood,” “My mom wants to be like you, she is your fan,” “Pretty girl,” and more.

Malaika Arora’s Appearance In Dubai

The Chaiyya Chaiyya actress captivated audiences with an electrifying stage performance at the grand launch of Shahrukh by Danube, a premium commercial tower named after superstar Shah Rukh Khan. Dressed in a sheer, crystal-encrusted bodysuit, Malaika took no time to capture the spotlight with her magnetic performance. Her moves can give many youngsters a run for their money, and the credit goes to her rigorous fitness regimen.

Hema Malini Gets Emotional Remembering Dharmendra At Prayer Meet: ‘Humein Ek Hit Pair Ke Roop Mein...’



Veteran actor Dharmendra, the He-Man of Bollywood, passed away on November 24. Weeks after his demise, his second wife and actress Hema Malini hosted a prayer meet in his memory in New Delhi. During the prayer meet, Hema, joined by her two daughters Esha and Ahana Deol, spoke about Dharmendra and the king-size life that he lived. Addressing the guests at the prayer meet ceremony, Hema said, “He was cheerful and affectionate; even while standing at the peak of fame, he never considered himself different from others, he always remained grounded. He spoke to people of every background with immense love, affection, and respect. Such a person was Dharam ji.”

“Dharmendra ji se mera association 57 saal ka hai. Jab main film industry mein aayi tab se mujhe unke saath zyada tar filmein karne ka avasar mila. Nearly 45 films—we worked together. Hum dono ko ek hit pair ke roop mein industry bhi pyaar karti thi aur janta ne bhi humein khoob pyaar diya,” she continued while reminiscing about the old days when they shared the screen together.

Speaking about Dharmendra’s career, Hema continued, “In his career, Dharmendra ji acted in more than 300 films and portrayed a wide range of roles, romantic, action hero, serious roles. But he used to love comedy the most. He was very passionate about films; he loved to be in front of the camera.” Dharmendra would have turned 90 this year on December 8th, and speaking about how even after his demise not only the family but the entire nation celebrated him for the man he was, Hema added, “On the 8th of December, he turned 90. We celebrated his birthday, and the entire nation celebrated it as well. People were deeply emotional. Even today, people come to me and talk about him. It is rare for anyone to receive as much respect and admiration as Dharam ji has received. Sometimes I wonder how vast and extraordinary his life has been.”

She concluded her speech by saying, “His life is a celebration. He has influenced so many people in the world and inspired countless others. The entire industry is mad about him.”

Dharmendra passed away on November 24. Previously, his sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol also held a prayer meeting in Mumbai, which was attended by several Bollywood stars including Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Malaika Arora, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit, Rekha, Jackie Shroff, and Suniel Shetty. Dharmendra’s final on-screen appearance will be in Ikki, which is slated to release in theatres on December 25, 2025. Directed by Sriram Raghavan, the film also stars Agastya Nanda and Jaideep Ahlawat in pivotal roles.

Sobhita Dhulipala

Opens Up On Being Married To Naga Chaitanya For A Year: ‘It’s Been Blissful’



CHANDU

Sobhita Dhulipala, who married Naga Chaitanya in Hyderabad last year, reflected on completing one year of marriage and said the phase has been emotional and grounding. In an exclusive chat with News18 Showsha while promoting her partnership with Aadyam, the Made in Heaven actress shared that love, for her, comes from realising you are already complete on your own and a partner simply brings out the parts of you that already exist. In her wedding video that she shared to mark their first



anniversary, Sobhita said, “I don’t know if I believe that a person is incomplete and somebody else comes in and fills that void. Because I think we are complete on our own. And yet, in his absence, I would not be full.”

Elaborating on the thought, she added, “I was feeling quite emotional, so I just spoke from that space at that time. It’s a little bit like Carl Jung’s theory. There are people who believe that we meet our soulmate or

they complete us. I don’t think like that. I feel like we are complete on our own. Some people arrive at that feeling much earlier, some people take a while to realise that ‘okay, I don’t need someone to make me feel like this, it’s within’.

But in that journey, while we reach there, I think there is a longing for someone — I guess someone who complements us, someone who’s the yin to your yang or yang to your yin.

And it’s not like they come and like complete you, but through them you realise those parts of your personality. So in that longing is where I think a lot of love is born.”

Life, she admitted, has busy after marriage. “I thought, after getting married I was going to chill for a bit and explore Hyderabad, but I have been shooting for two films. It’s been over a 160 shoot days, so I’ve been mostly in Tamil Nadu for that. t’s been exciting. Asked how they find time for each other amid busy schedules, Sobhita added, “If you like something, you like to do something, you will make it happen. And it will feel easy. If you don’t like something, even the most convenient thing can feel like, ‘oh, so tough’.”

Asked how the past one year of being married to Naga Chaitanya has been, the actress smiled and said, “It’s been blissful, great. I’ve been in a very, very inspired state creatively. I feel greatly empowered.”

Naga Chaitanya was earlier married to actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, who recently tied the knot with director Raj Nidimoru of Raj & DK fame.



10 foods that boost your Energy

We all hate to work; why? Because we are usually too tired from the previous day's work or because each work day leaves us with little to no energy for a fun evening.

Well, we give you 10 foods that will boost your energy in an instant, guaranteed. Firstly, to pump up your energy you need foods that provide sufficient calories and stimulants. Secondly, you need foods that will increase your metabolism. So pull up your socks, stop making excuses and get ready to do the locomotion.

Glucose - This component is found in carbs. Yes! You need carbohydrates; it is a means of providing energy to the brain, muscle and the nervous system. But bad carbs can increase the level of sugar in the blood that will not only increase your appetite but also the fat accumulation. Hence when it comes to carbohydrates, stick to whole wheat bread, cereals, brown rice - essentially, the good carbs that aren't processed and refined.

Caution: Consume in moderation.

Fiber - It has several reasons to be part of your daily diet, since it curtails certain types of cancer, improves memory as well as energy, and aids smooth digestion. Fiber takes longer to digest, which results in higher energy supply. A great way to start your day is **oatmeal**. Other foods with plenty of fiber are: Fruits, grains, lentils, vegetables, nuts and beans.

Caution: Choose high-fiber foods that aren't loaded with calories or fat. Ex - even though almonds are rich in fiber, you can't eat too many every day.

Dry fruits - Almonds, dried figs and cashews

may be a great accompaniment with alcohol, but there's more to it than meets the eye. Unsalted nuts, closest to their natural state, contain magnesium that converts sugar into energy, while dried figs purge your blood of toxins. However, figs are naturally high in sugar so don't over indulge in them.

Caution: The nuttier you are, the more magnesium you have.

Lean meat - Meat eaters will love this one. Whether you love chicken, pork, beef or turkey you're assured of sustained energy. 'But' it has to be skinned and trimmed, in other words, as lean as possible. Your brain needs two types of chemicals - dopamine and norepinephrine, and both are propelled by tyrosine found in meat.

Caution: Strip the fat, but consume in moderation.

Fatty fish - It's strange that meat has to be lard-free while fish needs to be fatty. But before you reach for those frying pans, what we are looking for is Omega 3 in fish - a natural oil that your body needs for general health. It will enhance your energy as well as help fight heart related ailments.

Caution: Eat in moderation and use healthy cooking methods.

Leafy greens - The key ingredient in leafy vegetables is folate or B-9. It increases metabolism, as well as increases blood count which improves the intake of oxygen. This, in turn, produces energy. Spinach is 'the' veggie for folate. As you may recall Popeye had a surge of energy after he ate spinach, now you know why.

Caution: Wash spinach well and add a little bit of salt to it while soaking prior to

cooking.

Water - Everyone must have told you to drink 8 glasses of water a day. And now you know why. Science says that if you're tired, you're dehydrated, which results in lowering the rate of metabolism. Also no water, no energy and coke, caffeine or tea won't do as substitutes.

Caution: Drink up and make sure the loo is accessible.

Fresh fruits - Slice it, dice it, or mix it. Fruits not only hydrate you, they also give you a glow while improving your energy levels.

Watermelon, pineapple, various berries, oranges, etc are freely available in every market. It can be a midday snack or dessert. You can add fruits to your cereals for breakfast, to some yogurt for a snack, or some nuts and honey for a dessert. Fresh fruits are the most versatile energy foods of all.

Caution: Have a fruit salad as a snack not as a meal.

Additives These, in our everyday lives, imply coffee, tea and chocolates. While some of

us over-indulge in them, which is bad, some consume them within limits. This helps increase your energy levels in an instant. You are alert and bright but for a short **period of time**. Consume in small quantities after long intervals, and you're assured to be awake from nine to five.

Caution: Don't get addicted.

Coconut water - The summer drink as well as a great hangover cure can also boost your energy levels. Coconut water hydrates your system and washes out toxins. Coconut water is organic and loved by the young and old alike.

Caution: Indulge in coconut water but limit the coconut flesh to 1-2 servings a day.



What is Mediterranean diet? Table sugar does not up fatty liver disease

The Mediterranean diet is as one of the healthiest diet option available. It is diet wherein good taste and good health comes in hand-in-hand. A person who follows Mediterranean diet consumes more of legumes, unrefined cereals, fruits, vegetables and more consumption of dairy products. Consumption of meat and meat products is usually very low.

A person who follows Mediterranean diet possess very low risk of developing serious diseases like some types of cancer, type-2 diabetes Alzheimer's and also increases longevity. Mediterranean diet includes fresh, seasonal foods like vegetables, fruits, beans, whole grains, olives, fish and eggs. All these foods are rich in micronutrients, antioxidants, minerals and essential vitamins. Mediterranean diet consists of very less amount of saturated fat, sodium and



A new study has found compelling evidence that shows that consumption of both high fructose corn syrup (HFCS) and sucrose (table sugar) at levels consistent with average daily consumption does not increase liver fat in humans - a leading cause of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD). What is Mediterranean diet?



The findings also added to an already well-established body of science that HFCS and table sugar are metabolically equivalent.

The study, conducted by James Rippe, MD, Founder and Director of the Rippe Lifestyle Institute and Professor of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Central Florida, examined 64 people, who consumed low-fat milk sweetened with either HFCS or sucrose with the added sugar matching the 25th, 50th and 90th percentile population consumption levels of fructose for ten weeks.

The results showed that fat content of the liver was unchanged when the six HFCS and sucrose groups were averaged. Fat content in muscle tissue also remained unchanged over the 10 weeks when the six HFCS and sucrose groups were averaged.

The two largest sources of fructose in the human diet are sucrose (containing 50 per cent fructose and 50 per cent glucose) and HFCS which is present in the human diet in two forms: HFCS-55 (which consists of 55 per cent fructose, 42 per cent glucose and 3 per cent other carbohydrates) and HFCS-42 (which consists of 42 per cent fructose and 58 per cent glucose).



Jin Ji Du Li: Chinese method of healing

Here is the exercise: Stand on one leg while your eyes are closed. If you are not able to stand for less than 10 seconds, it means that your body has degenerated to 60 to 70 years old level in other words, you may be only 40 years old, but your body has aged a lot faster. Many people think that it is an easy one but they discovered much to their surprise that while they could stand easily on one foot with their eyes open, trying the same thing with eyes closed was another story! They couldn't keep their balance for more than two to three seconds before they started wobbling and hopping around.

The Chinese are really very advanced in their knowledge of the human body. Frequent and regular practice can help one recover their sense of balance. In fact, Chinese specialists suggest daily practice of Jin Ji Du Li for one just minute as it help prevent dementia.

The essence of the exercise is that your "eyes must be closed" when you are doing this exercise. You must practice Jin Ji Du Li with your eyes closed.

Specialists say that daily practice of Jin Ji Du Li can help in healing many illnesses or diseases like - Hypertension, High Blood Sugar or diabetes, Neck and Spinal diseases, it can also prevent you from getting dementia. Jin Ji Du Li helps to Strengthen body immunity rapidly It is suitable for everyone generally. It is the basic cure for "Cold Feet Disease" and it can also strengthen the body's immunity. You do not have to wait until you have any illness to start practising Jin Ji Du Li. It is especially beneficial for young people, when they practice it daily while they are healthy, so that their chances of contracting the various illness associated with aging is comparative lower.

