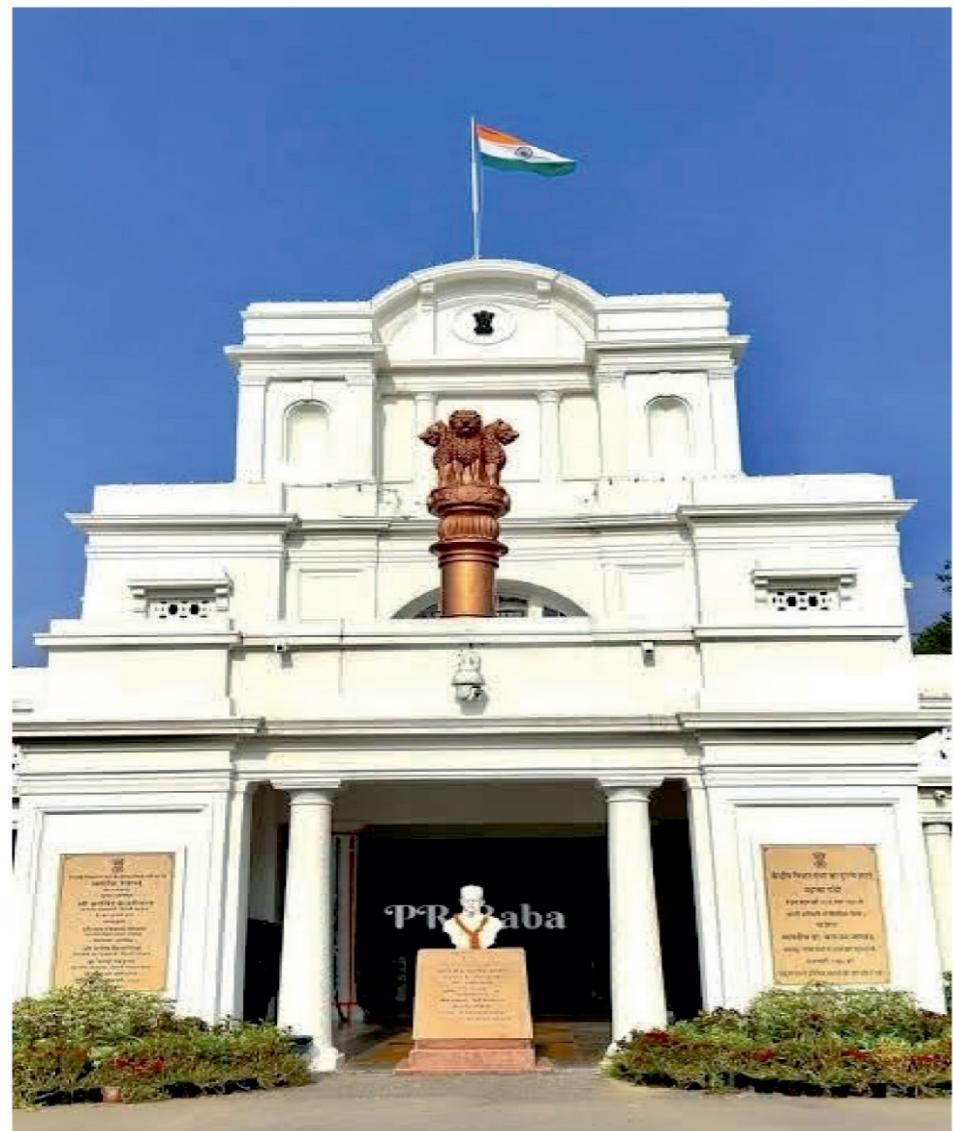


Delhi Government is eliminating the Punjabi language of the Sikh Gurus



Germany to station liaison officer in India for security

New Delhi (Agency)
India and Germany's bilateral military ties are on an upswing, and in a significant move to take it forward, India is prepared to host a German liaison officer. The decision holds significance in light of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's meeting on Monday. Chancellor Merz's visit, scheduled for January 12-13, is his first official trip to India since assuming office eight months ago. "The decision has been taken, and a German Liaison Officer will be joining the

Information Fusion Centre - Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). The documentation is in advanced stages, and the officer will get posted before June," said sources. The IFC-IOR, established in December 2018, has emerged as a key platform for enhancing safety and security in the IOR. Since it was established, the Centre has hosted International Liaison Officers from 15 countries. It collaborated with 57 maritime security constructs and 25 partner nations. There have been exchanges at the training front between the two countries.

DMK places protesting teachers under house arrest in Chennai, Opposition hits out

Chennai (Agency)
The MK Stalin-led DMK government in Tamil Nadu has come under sharp criticism after several leaders of the Intermediate Teachers' Association were placed under house arrest in Chennai amid a statewide protest by secondary grade teachers demanding implementation of the ruling party's 2021 election promise on equal pay for equal work. The teachers' agitation entered its 17th day on Monday. Protesters are seeking enforcement of DMK manifesto promise No. 311, which commits to "equal pay for equal work" for intermediate teachers.

KIIT RANKED THE COUNTRY'S 5TH BEST UNIVERSITY IN ATTRACTING FOREIGN STUDENTS

The Sikh Times

Bhubaneswar, January 9: Odisha is steadily emerging as a preferred hub for foreign students pursuing higher education. Reflecting this trend, KIIT is the country's 5th best university in attracting foreign students. According to a recently published NITI Aayog report, Odisha figures among the top 10 states in India in terms of attracting international students. Odisha is placed better than neighbouring states like West Bengal, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. So also, Bhubaneswar city has emerged better than Kolkata and Hyderabad.

As envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, internationalization of higher education has been accorded top priority. Though KIIT is located in the State of Odisha, a Tier-II city at Bhubaneswar, it presently hosts over 2,000 international students from 70 countries out of a total of 2,362 foreign students enrolled across various universities in eastern India along with a strong global alumni base of

more than 5,000 international students.

KIIT's flagship IndiaTrek initiative

hosted an impressive 350-member delegation in 2025

KIIT has been able to attract nearly 350 international visiting faculty members and Ph.D. scholars from leading global institutions such as Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Washington, and City University of New York (CUNY), The University of Tulsa, University of Virginia, Seattle University, etc., during the current academic session. These scholars visited the University, interacted with students, and spent 10-15 days on campus, besides visiting places of tourism importance. IndiaTrek is a flagship initiative of KIIT, conceived as a cultural-academic immersion platform that brings together international delegates, diplomats, scholars, and youth leaders to experience India's educational ecosystem, cultural heritage, and social development models.

KIIT Attracts Over 1,000 Foreign

Delegates Annually; Nobel Laureates Continue to Visit Campus

KIIT attracts over 1,000 foreign delegates



annually. It is worth mentioning that more

than 3,50,000 delegates from across the country have visited KIIT & KISS to grace various events. So also, many Indian dele-

coming to KIIT to participate in various sports events.

The institution has hosted about 25 Nobel Laureate lectures. These achievements have been made possible due to the blessings of the Almighty, as well as the goodwill, national and international rankings, and accolades received by KIIT & KISS, the world-class infrastructure including sports facilities, and the profound societal impact of Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder of both institutions. KIIT has facilitated extensive international academic exchange by hosting faculty members and enabling the exchange of students from across the world. These engagements are held through Global Faculty Programmes, the Global Immersion Programme, and the Credit-Based Study Abroad Programme.

Photo Caption : A 21-member delegation from Harvard University, USA, on a visit to KIIT & KISS recently. Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Founder, KIIT, KISS & KIMS, is seen among them.

News box

Cough syrup batch flagged for excess ethylene glycol impurity in Haryana**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Haryana's food and drugs administration (FDA) on Friday issued an alert after a batch of a cough syrup formulation was found to contain ethylene glycol (EG) impurity above the permissible limits, declaring it "not of standard quality". "The product flagged is Almont-Kid — with manufacturing date Jan 2025 and expiry date Dec 2026 — which was manufactured by M/s Triditus Remedies at Phase-II Industrial Area, Hajipur (Bihar)," the FDA order stated. The state drugs controller-cum-controlling & licensing authority, in its order dated Jan 9, said the alert was issued after an official report was received from Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation, East Zone, Kolkata, which found the formulation adulterated due to the EG impurity.

Ethylene glycol is a toxic chemical used in industrial products and is not meant to be present beyond specified limits in medicines. Health experts say exposure to high levels of EG can lead to serious adverse effects, particularly in children, including kidney damage. The order, however, does not mention any reported adverse incidents linked to the batch in Haryana.

The FDA directed that the sale and distribution of the identified batch — No AL-24002 — be stopped with immediate effect. Retailers, wholesalers, distributors, hospitals and medical practitioners across Haryana were instructed not to sell, distribute, prescribe or use the batch of Almont-Kid (Levocetirizine Dihydrochloride and Montelukast Sodium Syrup). The department advised consumers to check the batch number on the label and avoid using the identified batch. Pharmacies and hospitals were also asked to immediately withdraw any remaining stock and cooperate with enforcement teams during inspections.

Man crossing expressway rammed by car in Gurgaon, driver on the run**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

A 45-year-old man was killed after being hit by a speeding car while crossing the expressway near Pachgaon Chowk on Saturday night. The car driver fled the spot after the accident. A case was registered at Manesar police station on the complaint of the victim's son. The deceased was identified as Safi Mohammad, a native of Parsu village in the Auraiya district of Uttar Pradesh. His son, Hasan Ali, stated that he came to Gurgaon on Saturday night along with his father and family members Arbaz and Chandbabu. According to the complaint, a truck driver from Auraiya dropped them near Pachgaon Chowk. From there, the group began walking along the service road, with Safi Mohammad walking behind the others. When they started crossing the highway to head towards Gurgaon, a speeding car coming from Delhi in the Delhi-to-Jaipur lane struck Safi Mohammad. "The driver escaped with the vehicle," the officer added. A case was registered against the driver under sections 106 (death by negligence) and 281 (rash driving).

Ghaziabad cops bust interstate insurance fraud gang**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

Police have arrested five people for allegedly cheating victims across multiple states by posing as representatives of insurance companies and selling fake insurance policies, officials said on Saturday.

The accused were arrested from the Nandgram area and have been identified as Rishabh Kumar Srivastava (39) from Gorakhpur, Vinay Gupta (55) from Agra, Ashish Pawar (31) from Bulandshahr, Himanshu Tyagi (28) from Vijaynagar in Ghaziabad, and Yashpal Verma (32) from Gorakhpur.

Piyush Kumar Singh, additional deputy commissioner of police (cyber), said the arrests were made by a team from the cyber crime police station. "The Cyber Crime police station team arrested members of an interstate gang involved in cyber fraud by calling people as representatives of various insurance companies and selling insurance policies fraudulently," he said.

Police recovered 12 mobile phones, 12 ATM cards, eight SIM cards, one cheque and a Hyundai Venue car allegedly used in the crimes. Singh said investigations so far have uncovered four fraud cases spanning four states. During interrogation, the accused told police that Sarvan Tiwari, Vicky Dhawan and Himanshu Chaudhary, all absconding, had earlier run a life insurance call centre and possessed customer data related to insurance policies. "Using the same data, we call customers and commit cyber fraud in the name of life insurance policies," Singh said.

He added that Sarvan Tiwari had contacted the arrested accused and prepared them for cyber fraud. Along with other gang members, including Veer and Bunty alias DD, they allegedly convinced victims to transfer money by offering false assurances of higher policy benefits. Fake payment receipts were then sent to victims.

According to police, Rishabh Srivastava, Ashish Pawar, Vinay Gupta and Himanshu Tyagi provided bank account details, withdrew the money using cheques and ATM cards, and shared the proceeds among themselves.

Based on call logs and account details, police have so far identified frauds involving Rs 16,680 from a Maharashtra resident, Rs 78,000 from another Maharashtra resident, and Rs 95 lakh from a Chhattisgarh resident. Further cases are under investigation. Singh said Rishabh Srivastava and Vinay Gupta had previously been jailed in 2022 in connection with cybercrime cases registered in Surat, Gujarat. Efforts are on to arrest the remaining gang members.

The accused have been booked under sections related to cheating and forgery under the BNS, along with relevant provisions of the IT Act.

5 mths, 500 villages: How dogged policing tracked down 15-year-old boy's tormentor; victim's arm shredded in fodder-cutter**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The road to justice can be long. This one cut through nearly 500 villages in Haryana and UP in a search that took five months and burnt more than 10,000 km worth of fuel. This was a search to find Anil, a man accused of kidnapping a teenager, making him work as a bonded labourer and torturing him. It began last July after the boy - frail and maimed - was found by locals in Badoli village of Palwal. The 15-year-old has his left arm missing. He was dumped in the middle of nowhere and told to go. Anil, a dairy and water was all he could remember of his captor. He had one more piece of information, that Anil had two daughters, Riya and Siya. Locals alerted police and a PCR van took him to hospital in Nuh. When he was being prepared for surgery, he escaped barefoot and without clothes. In acute pain, the boy climbed into a hilly area and reached Tauri in Nuh and took shelter at a deserted bus stop late at night. He walked back towards Nuh city, where a teacher found him, took him to a local health centre and informed police. His family in Bihar's Kishanganj was contacted. It took

a while for the boy to get over his trauma and reveal his ordeal. "The victim was so traumatised he didn't initially reveal what happened to him to Palwal or Nuh police," a Govt Railway Police (GRP) source said. "It was only after a local newspaper in Rohtak published a report about his plight that we got the alert at Bahadurgarh." GRP filed a case under 75, 79 of Juvenile Justice (care and protection of children) Act, 2015 and under BNS sections 118(2) (voluntarily causing grievous hurt using dangerous weapons or means), 125 (rashness or negligence that endanger human life or personal safety), 127(4) (wrongful confinement for ten days or more), 137 (kidnapping), 146 (unlawful compulsory labour), 289 (negligent conduct with respect to machinery) and 3(5) (act done by multiple persons) because the boy had gone missing from Bahadurgarh railway station in Jhajjar on May 27. He had got off to find water, wandered too far, and missed his train, Farakka Express, that he was taking from Jind to his native place with his father and brother. When the GRP unit gleaned the details, they were shaken.



They learnt the boy's left arm was shredded in a fodder-cutter and the severed limb was thrown into a waterbody. Soon after the accident, the bleeding minor was driven for hours along highways and then left to cope on his own in Haryana. The captor had not taken him to hospital, just left him there with Rs 7,500 in cash. The boy left his Kishanganj home to work in Kangra in Himachal Pradesh. But when he wished to come back, his father Rishidev and brother Kailash went to Kangra to bring him back. They were on their way to Kishanganj in Farakka Express when the boy separated from them when he got off at Bahadurgarh. On July 29, Rishidev got

a call from Nuh police, saying his son had been admitted at PGH Rohtak the next day. "We were devastated to see him in such a miserable condition. He told me that his employer and his family didn't give him proper food or let him wear slippers," Rishidev said in his police statement. By Nov, the boy had undergone three surgeries. But the search for Anil went nowhere. The family lost hope and took him back to Kishanganj. The GRP unit, however, did not quit. They had determined they would do whatever they could to get justice to a boy no one really was looking out for. While he recovered, GRP officials had begun reaching out to sarpanches with the clues they had - dairy owner Anil, two daughters Riya and Siya.

They began with Haryana districts, mapped out possible areas based on his description of a waterbody. Initially, the search focused on villages around stormwater drains. Parallelly, GRP approached the Haryana education department, CBSE and other state boards to scan enrolment records for any Anil with daughters Riya and Siya.

Fake gold scam gang busted, 1 arrested in Gurgaon**Noida.(Agency)**

A 22-year-old member of an interstate gang was arrested for his alleged involvement in fake gold frauds and chain-snatching cases. Police recovered six coin-shaped pieces of a metal resembling gold and Rs 40,000 in cash from his possession. The arrest was made on Saturday by the Sector 43 crime branch team from IFFCO Chowk following a complaint registered at Kherki Daula police station. Police said the complainant received a phone call on Jan 7 from two men who later met him at Bhangro Chowk and sought financial help. When he refused, they claimed to have found gold while digging and offered to sell it to him at a cheaper rate. On Jan 9, the complainant met the men again at the same location, where they showed him seven coin-shaped pieces



Kumar told police that the woman sent him a link to download the application on Sept 11 and also assured him of high returns. To gain his confidence, she first assisted him



in withdrawing Rs 5,000 as 'profit'. Believing it to be genuine, Kumar went on to transfer Rs 51 lakh to multiple bank

accounts through more than 70 transactions between Sept 11 and Nov 6, as instructed. When Kumar later attempted to withdraw the full amount shown as profit on the application, the accused demanded additional payments in the name of transaction fees. Suspecting fraud, he stopped further transfer of money and lodged a complaint on the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal on Nov 29.

SHO of the Cyber Crime Police Station, Vijay Rana, said a case has been registered against unknown persons under Section 318(4) (cheating) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita and relevant provisions of the IT Act. "Banks concerned have been approached to trace the accounts where the money was transferred," he said, adding an investigation is underway.

NGT allows Ghaziabad hospital to resume operations & asks it to keep compliance papers ready**Noida.(Agency)**

National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday allowed a Ghaziabad-based hospital to resume its construction and demolition operations, which were closed by an order of Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) for violation of environmental norms last year. The principal bench, comprising chairperson Justice Prakash Srivastava and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel, while disposing of appeal, directed the management of M/s Mohan Hospitals to approach CAQM with a detailed representation showing compliance, along with all supporting material, within two days. "On receipt of the said representation, CAQM will take appropriate decisions in terms of clause 6 within a period of one week," the tribunal said. It also instructed UP Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) to

initiate action for imposition of environmental compensation for the past violation by following the principles of natural justice within a period of four weeks. The bench, however, made it clear that EC proceedings shall not come in the way of the CAQM's decision regarding resumption of construction activities. Challenging the closure order that came under section 12(2)(xi) of the CAQM Act on May 8, 2025, counsels for the appellant, advocates Rahul Khurana and Hasil Jain, told the tribunal that the impugned order was passed without complying with the principles of natural justice, as they were not given a chance to explain their side and no show-cause notice was issued. The counsels further submitted that the needful remedial action was taken by the appellant and deficiencies were cured. He pointed out that intimation about the remedial action

was sent to the regional office of the UPPCB, Bulandshahr, on May 27, 2025, but no response was obtained. Counsel for CAQM Dr Abhishek Atrey told the commission that though communications were sent to the UPPCB, no report was obtained regarding compliance. "It is the UPPCB which has to verify and levy the EC," he said. Having heard both sides and on perusal of the record, the tribunal noted that the CAQM order showed that no opportunity of hearing was given to appellant before passing the impugned order. The tribunal noted, "During the inspection of the construction and demolition activities of the appellant, certain violations were noticed, concerning dust pollution, so an order was passed by CAQM directing the closure of all activities in project."

Illegal mining rampant again in Aravallis after hillock demolition**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

Aravallis are facing continuing violations despite repeated enforcement actions. Fresh incidents of illegal mining of stone and sand have surfaced from Nuh's Aravali belt near the Basai Meo stretch, where illegal miners brought down a hillock in Dec 2024. "Trolleys come in, load the material and leave. By the time officials arrive, everything is gone. We have been raising this for days," Sajid, a resident of Ghata Shamshabad, told TOI.

The forest department received a tip-off that around 15 trolleys were involved in illegal mining activity around Ghata Shamshabad village, following which the department moved the geology and mining department and enforcement authorities for action. On Friday evening, a joint team of the forest department, geology and mining department and Haryana State Enforcement Bureau (HSEB), Nuh carried out a site inspection. However, officials said no individuals were found at the location during the inspection.

An inquiry was initiated into the matter and further action will be taken after verification, officials said. The inspection also covered Ghata Shamshabad, where locals alleged that soil is being excavated from mounds and transported out. Residents claimed 10-15 trolleys of soil were moved from the area. A forest official from Nuh said, "As soon as information was received about illegal mining of stones from the Aravali hills in

Hirwadi village and illegal digging of soil from the soil mounds and theft of stones and soil, action was initiated immediately. A complaint was submitted to officials of the geology and mining department and Haryana State Enforcement Bureau police station, Nuh, and they were asked to take action against the accused as per rules. People of Ghata Shamshabad village also complained about illegal excavation of soil from

the soil mounds in their village. We increased surveillance in Aravallis. Officials said the district administration constituted a task force under the chairmanship of the deputy commissioner to curb illegal mining in the district. Village sarpanches were asked to alert officials immediately if illegal excavation is noticed so that enforcement teams can respond swiftly.

Ghata Shamshabad is a 15-minute drive from Basai Meo, where a 1.5km road was the subject of the ACB investigation into alleged collusion between officials of the land consolidation department and those associated with miners to allow construction on forest and agricultural land. The villages fall close to Basai Meo, which remained under scrutiny over repeated allegations of illegal mining along the Haryana-Rajasthan border.

Officials and locals earlier alleged that miners created a network of routes across villages, using the border belt as a corridor to move extracted material.

Despite the mining ban in south Haryana under Supreme

THE SIKH TIMES

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

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A-144, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Govt rolls out new fee regulation framework for private schools

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The Delhi Government has rolled out a new, transparent and



time-bound framework for the fixation and regulation of private school fees that will come into effect from the 2025-26 academic session with the implementation of the Delhi School Education (Transparency in Fixation and Regulation of Fees) Act, 2025. As part of the implementation, the Directorate of Education has issued detailed direc-

Despite HC safety violation order, business as usual at Majnu Ka Tila

New Delhi: A week after the Delhi High Court directed civic authorities to take action against unauthorised and unsafe commercial establishments in Majnu Ka Tila, the popular food and cultural hub continues to function largely as usual on the ground, though under an unmistakable cloud of uncertainty. The High Court, in its order dated December 24, had flagged serious violations of building norms and fire safety regulations by several cafés, bars and restaurants operating in congested, multi-storey structures in the area. Authorities including the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) were instructed to take corrective action in the interest of public safety. A visit to Majnu Ka Tila shows cafés open, kitchens functioning and visitors mostly students and young professionals, crowding the narrow lanes, especially during evening hours. There has been no visible sealing or demolition drive so far, and no major dip in footfall. Several restaurant owners said they have heard about the court order through media reports but have not yet received formal notices. "Everyone is waiting. We don't know whether we'll be asked to shut down, modify the building or comply with new norms," said a cafe manager, requesting anonymity. According to local sources, initial inspections and awareness notices

NAME CHANGE
I SANTOSH S/O RAGHUBAR SINGH R/O PLOT NO - 14 PP NO 3714 NAJAFGARH GOLDEN ENCLAVE RANA JI ENCLAVE DELHI - 110043, I have changed my name to SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I GYARSI LAL S/O BIHARI LAL GOYAL R/O H.NO 539 BLOCK-B SULTAN PURI DELHI- 110086, I have changed my name to GYARASI LAL GOYAL Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I ARUN KUMAR S/O GYARSI LAL GOYAL R/O G-539 ,G BLOCK SULTAN PURI DELHI- 110086, I have changed my name to ARUN KUMAR GOYAL Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I INDER KUMAR & INDER LAL NARUL S/O CHIMAN LAL R/O E-318 BUDH NAGAR INDER PURI DELHI-110012, I have changed my name to INDER LAL Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I MINKY WO NEERAJ KUMAR R/O E-318 GROUND FLOOR,E BLOCK J J COLONY INDER PURI DELHI-110012, I have changed my name to MINKY TUTEJA Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I HITESH MANOCHA S/O INDER-JEET MANOCHA R/O B-1/60, Ground Floor, Saffdarjung Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi-110029 have changed the name of my minor son SHREYAN MANOCHA aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHRYAN MANOCHA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as NASREEN FATIMA W/O ASIF SUBHANI R/O C-52/B-3, FIRST FLOOR, ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE PART-I, OKHLA JAMIA NAGAR SOUTH DELHI-110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NASREEN ASIF.

NAME CHANGE

I Anita Jain W/O Bhavtaral Jain Add.Plot No 6A Vivekanand Nagar Chalisgaon Road Bhadgaon Jalaigaon Maharashtra 424105 have changed my name to Anita Bhavtaral Jain

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I Keshi D/O Soni Ram W/O Kiori Mal, R/O H.No. 5, Subhash Camp Huts Badarpur, Jait Pur, South Delhi, Delhi - 110044, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Keshi in my pan card no DCPK0791A. The actual name of mine is Keshi, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

tions for the constitution and functioning of School Level Fee Regulation Committees (SLFRCs) in all private schools.

Directorate of Education. Schools have been directed to display and upload the names of committee members on their notice

days in advance. Parents of students admitted under EWS, DG or CWSN categories will not be eligible, and only one parent per family can serve on the committee. For the academic session 2025-26, school managements are required to submit their proposed fee structure to the SLFRC by January 25, 2026. The committee must examine the proposal and pass a reasoned decision within 30 days, which must be publicly disclosed. If the SLFRC fails to take a decision within the stipulated period, the matter will automatically be referred to the District Level Fee Appellate Committee (DLFRC). The DLFRC has been empowered to hear appeals and adjudicate disputes related to school fees, providing parents with an institutional grievance redressal mechanism.

The Directorate of Education

has warned that any delay or non-compliance with

the directions will invite action under the Act and Rules. Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Secretariat, Education Minister Ashish Sood said, "A balanced solution is in the interest of every child; conflict is not our policy." He said the law has been framed as a supplementary measure to the Delhi School Education Act, 1973, with the objective of eliminating arbitrariness and bringing transparency to the fee fixation process. With nearly 37-38 lakh children studying in Delhi,

he said the government considers every child equally important, he added. The timelines issued will apply as a one-time arrangement for the 2025-26 session. From 2026-27, schools will be required to adhere to timelines prescribed under the Act.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, PRIYANKA KHANDELWAL alias PRIYANKA ASHIT KHANDELWAL and SURINDER KUMAR JINDAL and ex-wife of ASHIT KAILASH KHANDELWAL R/O 1-A, Third Floor, Gautam Nagar, New Delhi, Gautam Nagar, Po: Andrewsganj, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi-110049, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide court decree No. P.A.No.109/2024, Judgement, dated 26-03-2025. Further, I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRIYANKA JINDAL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is known to all concerned that Mr. Khush Ram and his wife Smt. Raj Kumari, both R/o H. No. L-1,1808, Gali No. 5, Near Asthal Mandir Sangam Vihar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have severed all relations

with their son name Sh. Jitender Divakar and his wife Pinki Kumar and have disowned and disinherited both of them from all their moveable and immovable properties as they have become quarrelsome and disrespectful to our clients and have been acting against their interests. Anybody dealing with them shall do so at his/her own risk and cost.

Shantu Bagga & Himansu Garg

(Advocates)

Chamber No. 310, Lawyers Block,

Saket Courts Complex,

New Delhi-110017.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as VIDISHA GHANSHYAMAS ACHARYA W/o VINAY DHAWAN, R/o House No 49, Block A Pocket 1, Sector-5, Rohini, Rohini Sector-7, North West Delhi, State: Delhi-110085, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PUJYA DHAWAN.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RUPESH KUMAR S/O JAIPAL SINGH R/o H. No. 464 A, Street NO. 9A Shaheed Bhagat Singh Colony, Karawal Nagar, Dayalpur, North East Delhi, Delhi - 110094

declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as MAMTA in my minor KARUNA KUMARI aged 14 years in her School Records.

The actual name of my wife is MEHANTI KUMARI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I MOHD SAMAD S/O MOHD YUNUS R/O HUTS NO-E-43/D-403, NEW SEMEPURI, EAST DELHI, DELHI-110095, have changed my name from SAMINA KHATOON W/o MOHD YUSUF D/O SALMUDIN, to SAMINA W/o MOHD YUSUF D/O SALMUDIN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as MOHAMMAD KHIEFA S/O SHAKEE AHMAD R/o House No E-1 Old Jasola Village, New Friends Colony Delhi 110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAIF.

NAME CHANGE

I, UMESH RAM S/O RAGHUNI RAM R/O RZ-19, Najafgarh EXTN, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043 have changed the name of my minor daughter SUDHIR aged 15 years and she shall hereafter be known as PRATHIBHA KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as MOHAMMAD KHIEFA S/O SHAKEE AHMAD R/o House No E-1 Old Jasola Village, New Friends Colony Delhi 110025 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAIF.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJIVE KUMAR GARG S/O PM Ramee Ahmed R/o V-81, Vijay Park, V- Block, Gali No.24, Mouli Pur, Delhi-110053, changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I RAJIVE KUMAR GARG S/O PM Ramee Ahmed R/o V-81, Vijay Park, V- Block, Gali No.24, Mouli Pur, Delhi-110053, changed my name to RAJEEV KUMAR permanently.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAMEEL AHMED SALMANI S/o MOHD AAKIB S/O MOHD IDRISH R/D-180 GALLI NO-2 D1-BLOCK ASHOK NAGAR NAND NAGRI NORTH EAST DELHI 110093 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD AAKIB

NAME CHANGE

I, JAMEEL AHMED SALMANI S/o MOHD AAKIB S/O MOHD IDRISH D-180 GALLI NO-2 D1-BLOCK ASHOK NAGAR NAND NAGRI NORTH EAST DELHI 110093 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD AAKIB

NAME CHANGE

I, JAMES RANI PAL W/o Shiv Prasad R/o B-77A, KH. No.16/9, Sharma Enclave, Mubarakpur Dabas Delhi-110081, changed my name to SUNETA PAL permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, JAMES RANI PAL W/o Shiv Prasad R/o B-77A, KH. No.16/9, Sharma Enclave, Mubarakpur Dabas Delhi-110081, changed my name to SUNETA PAL permanently

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NEWS BOX

IShowSpeed stunned as stream sniper White Speed appears again during Kenya tour

World. (Agency)

IShowSpeed was once again stunned and confused during his Africa tour when a familiar face appeared unexpectedly. A viral clip from his Kenya livestream shows the popular streamer clearly at a loss for words after seeing White Speed, the well-known stream sniper, appear despite earlier warnings from management. The moment went viral across social media as fans reacted to Speed's dumbfounded expression and awkward silence. The incident occurred on January 11, 2026, during Speed's visit to Kenya, where hordes of people flocked to witness him streaming in public. The Kenya stream was part of the widely followed "Speed Does Africa" tour by IShowSpeed, which has already drawn huge attention across multiple countries. His Nairobi livestream attracted over 200,000 live viewers and even caused traffic disruptions as fans filled the streets. While the tour has been praised for its energy and fan engagement, the unexpected return of White Speed added a chaotic twist. Speed's team had previously warned the stream sniper to stop following him, making the Kenya appearance all that more surprising. White Speed shows up in Kenya despite warnings from Speed's team.

White Speed, also known online as Gooonki or Tiki Wackowski, first caught attention during Speed's South Africa streams. He is known for closely copying Speed's behavior, outfits, and expressions, often appearing suddenly in public streams. According to past clips, White Speed has claimed that he spent all his money traveling just to follow Speed across locations. His actions have divided viewers, with some finding the situation funny and others calling it concerning. In the Kenya stream, Speed's reaction portrayed him as being uncertain about what to do with the situation. Speed was told to steer clear of White Speed, just like in the past occurrences that triggered the security team to intervene. In the past, there was one instance that involved White Speed hanging on top of a building in South Africa. In the Kenya experience, Speed did not get involved with White Speed.

Indian Army Officer Wins UN Award For Gender-Inclusive Peacekeeping

world. (Agency)

Major Swathi Shantha Kumar, an Indian Army officer from Bengaluru currently serving with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), has been awarded the prestigious UN Secretary-General's Award 2025 for her contribution to gender-inclusive peacekeeping. United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the winners of the Secretary-General's Awards-2025 and praised Major Swathi's project, titled "Equal Partners, Lasting Peace," for strengthening UNMISS's gender-inclusive approach. The award recognises initiatives that promote gender parity and gender-responsive peacekeeping in line with the UN's mandate. Major Swathi's project was shortlisted from nominations received across all UN peacekeeping missions and UN agencies worldwide. It emerged as the winner in the Gender Category, securing the highest number of votes among four finalists through a UN-wide voting process involving UN personnel globally.

Through her leadership, Major Swathi played a key role in improving gender parity by effectively deploying and integrating the Indian Engagement Team. This helped strengthen grassroots-level engagement across the mission's area of responsibility. Under her initiative and command, the team carried out a wide range of operations, including short- and long-distance patrols, integrated riverine patrols, and dynamic air patrols to remote and far-flung corners of the host nation.

These sustained efforts created a safer and more supportive environment for over 5,000 women, enabling them to take part meaningfully in community activities. The initiative also helped build trust and confidence at the local level, improving outreach in conflict-affected regions of South Sudan.

On Camera, Truck Drives Into Crowd Supporting Iranian Protesters In US

world. (Agency)

A man plowed a truck into a crowd gathered in Los Angeles to show support for Iranian protesters, causing them to scramble out of the way and then run behind the speeding vehicle in an attempt to attack it. It was not clear whether there were any injuries.

A video showed the protesters swarming the truck, throwing punches at the driver, and thrusting flagpoles through the driver's side window. The U-Haul truck, with its side mirrors shattered, was stopped several blocks away from where it ran into the crowd and surrounded by police cars. Hundreds of people had gathered in Los Angeles in support of the Iranian people - who are protesting against Iran's clerical establishment - making it the biggest anti-government protests since 2022. The demonstrations began in response to soaring inflation, before turning into violent unrest. The crackdown on the nationwide protests has killed more than 530 people, and even more and feared dead, activists reportedly said. Over 10,600 people have also been detained during the two weeks of protests, the Associated Press reported, citing the US-based Human Rights Activists News Agency. The internet and phone lines have been cut off in the country. Videos sent out of Iran - likely using Starlink satellite transmitters, purportedly showed the protesters gathering in Tehran's Punak neighbourhood. Demonstrators can be seen waving their mobile phones with their flashlights on, while some banged metal as fireworks went off.

Buddhist monks and their dog captivate Americans while walking for peace

In saffron and ochre robes, men walk for peace. The South Asian tradition now resonates in the U.S. as a respite from division.

DUBAI. (Agency)

A group of Buddhist monks and their rescue dog are striding single file down country roads and highways across the South, captivating Americans nationwide and inspiring droves of locals to greet them along their route. In their flowing saffron and ochre robes, the men are walking for peace. It's a meditative tradition more common in South Asian countries, and it's resonating now in the U.S., seemingly as a welcome respite from the conflict, trauma and politics dividing the nation. Their journey began Oct. 26, 2025, at a Vietnamese Buddhist temple in Texas, and is scheduled to end in mid-February in Washington, D.C., where they will ask Congress to recognize Buddha's day of

birth and enlightenment as a federal holiday. Beyond promoting peace, their highest priority is connecting with people along the way. "My hope is, when this walk ends, the people we met will continue practicing mindfulness and find peace," said the Venerable Bhikkhu Pannakara, the group's soft-spoken leader who is making the trek barefoot. He teaches about mindfulness, forgiveness and healing at every stop. Preferring to sleep each night in tents pitched outdoors, the monks have been surprised to see their message transcend ideologies, drawing huge crowds into churchyards, city halls and town squares across six states. Documenting their journey on social media, they — and their dog, Aloka — have racked up millions of followers online. On Saturday, thousands thronged in Columbia, South Carolina, where the monks chanted on the steps of the State House and received a proclamation from the city's mayor, Daniel Rickenmann. The physical toll of the monks' long walk at their stop Thursday in Saluda, South Carolina, Audrie Pearce joined the crowd lining Main Street. She had driven four

hours from her village of Little River, and teared up as Pannakara handed her a flower. "There's something traumatic and heart-wrenching happening in our country every



day," said Pearce, who describes herself as spiritual, but not religious. "I looked into their eyes and I saw peace. They're putting their bodies through such physical torture and yet they radiate peace." Hailing from Theravada Buddhist monasteries across the globe, the 19 monks began their 2,300 mile (3,700 kilometer) trek at the Huong Dao Vipassana Bhavana Center in Fort Worth. Their journey has not been without

peril. On Nov. 19, as the monks were walking along U.S. Highway 90 near Dayton, Texas, their escort vehicle was hit by a distracted truck driver, injuring two monks. One of them lost his leg, reducing the group to 18. This is Pannakara's first trek in the U.S., but he's walked across several South Asian countries, including a 112-day journey across India in 2022 where he first encountered Aloka, an Indian Pariah dog whose name means divine light in Sanskrit. Then a stray, the dog followed him and other monks from Kolkata in eastern India all the way to the Nepal border. At one point, he fell critically ill and Pannakara scooped him up in his arms and cared for him until he recovered. Now, Aloka inspires him to keep going when he feels like giving up. "I named him light because I want him to find the light of wisdom," Pannakara said. The monk's feet are now heavily bandaged because he's stepped on rocks, nails and glass along the way. His practice of mindfulness keeps him joyful despite the pain from these injuries, he said.

Golden Globes stars wear anti-ICE pins to honor Renee Good, highlight immigration enforcement deaths

YANGON. (Agency)

Some celebrities donned anti-ICE pins at the Golden Globes on Sunday in tribute to Renee Good, who was shot and killed in her car by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer this week in Minneapolis. The black-and-white pins displayed slogans like "BE GOOD" and "ICE OUT," introducing a political angle into the awards show after last year's relatively apolitical ceremony. Mark Ruffalo, Wanda Sykes, Jean Smart and Natasha Lyonne wore the pins on the red carpet, and other celebrities were expected to have them on display as well.

Since the shooting Wednesday, protests have broken out across the country, calling for accountability for Good's death as well as a separate shooting in Portland where Border Patrol agents wounded two people. Some protests have resulted in clashes with law enforcement, especially in Minneapolis, where ICE is carrying out its largest immigration enforcement operation to date. "We need every part of civil society, society to speak up," said Nellie Stamp of Working Families Power, one of the



organizers for the anti-ICE pins. "We need our artists. We need our entertainers. We need the folks who reflect society." Congressmembers have vowed an assertive response, and an FBI investigation into Good's killing is ongoing. The Trump administration has doubled down in defending the ICE officer's actions, maintaining that he was acting in self-defense and thought Good would hit him with her car. Just a week before Good was killed, an off-duty ICE officer fatally shot and killed 43-year-old Keith Porter in Los Angeles. His death sparked protests in the Los Angeles area, calling for the officer responsible to be arrested. Organizers bring grassroots push to Golden

Globes parties

The idea for the "ICE OUT" pins began with a late-night text exchange earlier this week between Stamp and Jess Morales Rocketto, the executive director of a Latino advocacy group called Maremo. They know that high-profile cultural moments can introduce millions of viewers to social issues. This is the third year of Golden Globes activism for Morales Rocketto, who has previously rallied Hollywood to protest the Trump administration's family separation policies. Stamp said she always thinks of the 1973 Oscars, when Sacheen Littlefeather took Marlon Brando's place and declined his award to protest American entertainment's portrayal of Native Americans. So, the two organizers began calling up the celebrities and influencers they knew, who in turn brought their campaign to the more prominent figures in their circles. That initial outreach included labor activist Ai-jen Poo, who walked the Golden Globes' red carpet in 2018 with Meryl Streep to highlight the Time's Up movement.

Bride, groom among 8 killed in gas cylinder blast at wedding in Pakistan's capital

A government administrator, Sahibzada Yousaf, said authorities were alerted about the blast early Sunday and officers are still

World. (Agency)

A gas cylinder explosion early Sunday after a wedding reception at a home in Pakistan's capital killed at least eight people, including the bride and groom, police and officials said. The blast occurred as guests who

had gathered to celebrate the couple were sleeping at the house, causing part of the house to collapse,



according to the Islamabad police. Seven people were injured. In a statement, police said the explosion occurred in a residential area in the heart of the city. A government

administrator, Sahibzada Yousaf, said authorities were alerted about the blast early Sunday and officers are still investigating. He said some nearby homes were also damaged. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif expressed grief over the loss of lives and offered condolences to the victims' families, according to a statement from his office. He directed health authorities to ensure the injured receive the best possible treatment and ordered a full investigation.

Many Pakistani households rely on liquefied petroleum gas cylinders because of low natural gas pressure, and such cylinders have been linked to deadly accidents caused by gas leaks. Police said investigations were ongoing.

from being used in judicial proceedings. The executive order, made public on Saturday, says that if the funds were to be seized for such use, it could "undermine critical U.S. efforts to ensure economic and political stability in Venezuela." Venezuela has a history of state asset seizures, ongoing U.S. sanctions and decades of political uncertainty. Getting U.S. oil companies to invest in Venezuela and help rebuild the country's infrastructure is a top priority of the Trump administration after Maduro's capture.

The White House is framing the effort to "run" Venezuela in economic terms, and Trump has seized tankers carrying Venezuelan oil, has said the U.S. is taking over the sales of 30 million to 50 million barrels of previously sanctioned Venezuelan crude, and plans to control sales worldwide indefinitely.

Britain in talks with NATO to counter Russia, China in Arctic

LONDON. (Agency)

Britain is discussing with NATO allies how it can help beef up security in the Arctic to counter threats from Russia and China, a government minister said Sunday.

Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander said the talks are "business as usual" rather than a response to recent threats by US President Donald Trump to take over Greenland.

Trump has said that he would like to make a deal to acquire Greenland, a semi-autonomous region of NATO ally Denmark, to prevent Russia or China from taking it over. He said Sunday night that making a deal for Greenland would be "easier" and insisted the US needed to acquire it. "One way or the other, we're going to have Greenland," he told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew back to Washington. Greenland, with a population of around 57,000, is defended by Denmark, whose military is dwarfed by that of the U.S., which has a military base on the island. Denmark's prime minister has warned that a takeover would threaten NATO. Trump dismissed that idea on Sunday, proclaiming himself the savior of NATO for encouraging member countries

to boost their defense spending. "I like NATO," he said. He then questioned "whether or not, if we needed NATO, would they be there for us? I'm not sure they would." In fact, NATO's Article 5 common defense guarantee, which treats an attack on one member as an attack on them all, has only been invoked once, in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks on the United States, leading to NATO's operation in Afghanistan. Tensions have grown between the US and Denmark since the Trump administration renewed its warnings against Greenland. Jesper Møller Sørensen, Denmark's ambassador to the US, fired back at newly tapped US Greenland envoy Jeff Landry, who said in a social media post that the "US defended Greenland's sovereignty during (World War II) when Denmark couldn't." Sørensen responded that Denmark has always stood alongside the US, particularly after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, and that only Greenlanders should decide their future. "Let's continue to address security

challenges in the Arctic as partners & allies," Sørensen wrote. Danish officials are meeting with Secretary of State Marco Rubio this week. The UK agrees with Trump that Russia and China are

of our NATO allies to ensure that we have an effective deterrent in that part of the globe against (Russian President Vladimir Putin)," Alexander told the BBC. Britain's former ambassador to the US, Peter

Mandelson, who was sacked last year because of his friendship with the disgraced financier Jeffrey Epstein, said he did not think Trump would take Greenland by force. "He's not a fool," Mandelson said. "We are all going to have to wake up to the reality that the Arctic needs securing against China and Russia. And if you ask me who is going to lead in that effort to secure, we all know, don't we, that it's going to be the United States." Ed Davey, leader of the Liberal Democrat Party, suggested Britain offer to deploy troops to Greenland in a joint command with Denmark.

"If Trump is serious about security, he'd agree to participate and drop his outrageous threats," Davey said. "Tearing the NATO alliance apart would only play into the hands of Putin."



increasingly becoming more competitive in the Arctic Circle, Alexander said. "Whilst we haven't seen the appalling consequences in that part of the world that we've seen in Ukraine, it is really important that we do everything that we can with all

NEWS BOX

Nashik ACB traps two PSIs in bribery case**Nashik. (Agency)**

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) caught a government guesthouse canteen operator and his son red-handed while accepting a bribe of two lakh rupees in exchange for securing anticipatory bail in a criminal case. The bribe was reportedly being accepted on behalf of two Police Sub-Inspectors (PSIs) from the Mumbai Naka police station. A case has been registered against both police officers and the father-son duo in this matter. The complainant, Ketan Bhaskarao Pawar, has a case registered against him for assaulting and disabling an animal and attacking a government employee.

To avoid arrest in this case and to secure bail from the court, the investigating officers from Mumbai Naka police station, PSI Dattatraya Gode and PSI Atul Kshirsagar, had demanded two lakh rupees.

The task of accepting the bribe amount on behalf of the police officers was undertaken by Ramesh Ahire (61), the canteen operator of the Government Guesthouse (Sinhagad), and his son Kalsupesh Ahire (28).

The ACB team had set a trap behind the guesthouse. As soon as the father and son accepted the two lakh rupees in cash from the complainant, the team arrested them.

AP: NH project creates four Guinness records in a week**Vijayawada. (Agency)**

In a landmark achievement for India's infrastructure sector, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), through Rajpath Infracon Pvt. Ltd., has successfully achieved multiple Guinness World Records for continuous laying of bituminous concrete on the Bengaluru-Kadapa-Vijayawada (BKV) Economic Corridor (NH-544G) near Puttaparthi. On January 6, 2026, two Guinness World Records were created for the longest continuous laying of Bituminous Concrete—28.896 lane kilometres in 24 hours—and the highest quantity of Bituminous Concrete laid continuously—10,655 metric tonnes in 24 hours. These records are the first of their kind globally under a six-lane highway project.

Building on this historic momentum, two more Guinness World Records were successfully achieved between January 5 and 11, 2026. These include the most quantity of Bituminous Concrete laid continuously—57,500 metric tonnes—and the longest continuous stretch of Bituminous Concrete paving—156 lane kilometres, surpassing the previous world record of 84.4 lane kilometres.

Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu acknowledged the visionary support of the central government in advancing India's highway infrastructure. The meticulous execution, involving advanced machinery, rigorous quality checks, and collaboration with institutions such as IIT Bombay, reflects India's engineering excellence and commitment to world-class development, he stated. The Chief Minister has lauded this extraordinary achievement and congratulated the NHAI, the State officials, and Rajpath Infracon Pvt. Ltd. for their exemplary execution, technical excellence, and commitment to quality.

Fake cops, officials visit, threaten shop owners, claim Bengaluru bakers' association**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Fraudsters impersonating Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) officials, assessment officers, Crime Branch personnel, GST officials and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) officers have been visiting commercial establishments across the state and threatening shop owners claimed DB Pratap Shetty, president of Karnataka State Bakeries, Condiments, and Small Entrepreneurs Association.

Association members are now planning to approach Home Minister Dr G Parameshwara on Monday and request him to act against the alleged widespread harassment of small traders by these impostors.

He said there is also rising harassment by petty rowdies, worsening the situation. Instead of acting against these atrocities, the police are targeting these small businesses and seizing cigarettes, he claimed. The police have seized large quantities of cigarettes from shops and allegedly asked traders to visit police stations to collect their goods after paying fines ranging from Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. The association demanded that the police immediately return the confiscated cigarettes, and warned a statewide bandh if no action is taken against the fake officials. Shetty suggested that the state government should consider a complete ban on the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and tobacco, to prevent selective enforcement or harassment of traders.

Concerns rise over illegal fuel tankers operating without clearance in Bengaluru**BENGALURU. (Agency)**

Bengaluru's crowded streets are seeing a serious concern with the unchecked movement of illegal mobile fuel tankers called bowsers operating without the mandatory safety clearances. An investigation found that over 50 petrol bunk owners in and around the city are running these unauthorised vehicles, raising fears of a major accident in densely populated neighbourhoods.

Former Petroleum Dealers Association president BR Ravindranath said "99.99%" of these bowsers do not comply with safety norms prescribed by the government and oil companies. "The rules are stringent and meant to ensure safety, but these illegal operations ignore them completely. Something drastic has to be done," he said. A source said these bowsers are used to refuel tourist buses in crowded areas and pointed out how dangerous it is as in many of these parking areas there are 20-30 buses and thousands of people at any given

time. While oil companies do operate licensed door-to-door fuel delivery services under strict Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) guidelines, officials and industry representatives say a parallel illegal network has emerged.

Small trucks are reportedly fitted with fuel tanks and dispensing pumps, allowing bunk owners to deliver diesel directly to customers. Industry sources estimate that over 50 bunk owners are operating such unauthorised bowsers. By supplying fuel directly to construction sites, industries and apartment complexes running diesel generator sets, dealers are able to secure bulk sales, often at a premium and, in some cases, outside official billing channels.

Many of these vehicles allegedly do not possess the mandatory Form XIV licence required for transporting and dispensing Class B Explosives such as diesel. Safety experts warn that these

bowsers pose a "catastrophic" risk as they carry between 1,000 and 12,000 litres of highly flammable fuel through residential areas and busy office spaces.

"A minor road accident, a spark, or even static electricity during fuel

which restricts licensed bowsers to designated areas; the use of substandard hoses and pumps prone to leakage; and untrained drivers who are unaware of emergency procedures for spills or flash fires.

Apart from safety concerns, law-abiding petrol dealers say the illegal trade is hurting legitimate businesses. "We spend crores on safety infrastructure and compliance, but illegal tankers are delivering fuel directly to clients without any accountability," said a petrol dealer. Despite repeated complaints to the Department of Food and Civil Supplies and local police, illegal operations are continuing, often clandestinely. Industry bodies and safety experts are now demanding immediate action, including joint inspections by the RTO and PESO, seizure of unauthorised vehicles, and strict penalties for retail outlets

found filling illegal bowsers. Explaining the rollout plan, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that in the first phase, integrated buildings will come up within the Outer Ring Road limits, followed by district headquarters in the second phase and constituency centres in the third phase. In the initial phase, 39 sub-registrar offices across Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal and Sangareddy districts are being grouped into 12 clusters, with dedicated buildings for each cluster.

He noted that the foundation stone for another integrated sub-registrar office at the Telangana Academy of Land Information and Management (TALIM) in Gachibowli had already been laid by the Chief Minister and the building is expected to be inaugurated by June. Importantly, the Minister said all 12 integrated buildings are being constructed by private developers without placing any financial burden on the government, with a mandatory condition that the developers will maintain the buildings for at least five years.



transfer could trigger a massive fire or explosion," said a retired fire safety official. "Unlike authorised tankers, these vehicles often lack protective double layered tanks, emergency shut-off valves and proper grounding systems. This concept itself is dangerous."

Among the key violations flagged are the absence of geo-fencing,

Porur-Vadapalani metro line to open by mid-February**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Chennai Metro Rail conducted a successful trial run on the Porur-Vadapalani downline section on Sunday, moving closer to the commissioning of the Phase-II network. Commercial operations on the stretch are expected to begin in the first or second week of February, said MA Siddique, managing director of Chennai Metro Rail (CMR).

The trial, conducted at a speed of 15 kmph, covered a 5.5-km elevated up line, including a 3.5-km double-decker section. A trial on the downline is scheduled in the next four to five days. The Porur-Vadapalani section is among the first Phase-II stretches to reach the trial stage. Siddique said the Porur-Poonamallee Bypass alignment,

originally planned for commissioning in December 2025, was extended up to Vadapalani to improve passenger connectivity and early integration of Phase-II with the operational Phase-I network. A link bridge has been built at Vadapalani to provide physical connectivity between the two phases. The stretch is expected to connect up to Power House by June 2026, with stations between Vadapalani and Porur becoming operational by then.

Trains on the stretch will initially be operated manually, despite being driverless, as the automatic signalling system is yet to be fully commissioned. Driverless operations are expected to begin after four to five months of testing.

Once fully operational, the 16-km stretch from Vadapalani to Poonamallee Bypass is expected to be covered in about 30 minutes. Ten trains will be operated on the



corridor. Services between Porur and Poonamallee Bypass are planned at a frequency of around seven minutes, while alternate trains will operate between Porur

and Poonamallee. Access to the Phase-II Vadapalani station will initially be through the Phase-I station, Siddique said, adding that fares will remain unchanged.

Siddique said an interim speed certificate was issued by the Railway Design and Standards Organisation followed an inspection by the Commissioner of Railway Safety on December 31, during which certain observations were made and clarifications sought from RDSO. "We have forwarded the observations to RDSO. Once its comments are received, we will obtain the permanent speed certificate. This will be followed by a statutory safety inspection," Siddique said.

MFB to begin investigation into Goregaon blaze that claimed 3 lives

Speaking to The Indian Express, Ravindra Ambulgekar, chief fire officer of Mumbai, said, "The fire broke out late night when cylinder blast was ruled out as the victims were sleeping. We will carry out a full-fledged investigation to find the cause."

Mumbai. (Agency)

A day after the fatal blaze in Mumbai's Goregaon claimed three lives, the Mumbai Fire Brigade (MFB) on Sunday announced an investigation to find the cause of the fire. Preliminary reports had suggested a cylinder blast as one of the probable causes but officials have ruled out that now.

Speaking to, Ravindra Ambulgekar, chief fire officer of Mumbai, said, "The fire broke out late night when cylinder blast was ruled out as the victims were sleeping. We will carry out a full-fledged investigation to find the cause." Electricity supply to the slums have been disabled, officials said. In the blaze that erupted early Saturday in a chawl inside the congested Bhagat Singh Nagar in Goregaon West, three members of a family, including a 12-year-old child, died.

According to MFB officials, the housing structure was illegal and since it was located inside the slums it didn't have any fire fighting system in place. An



by the residents. "Cases of cylinder blasts are very common during summer season. Many of these slum residents hoard cylinders illegally, leading to such incidents. Therefore, it is important to take action before any danger happens," said a civic official.

CHIRAG BUILDTEC PVT. LTD.
Corp. Off.: ROF Group, Building No. 80, First Floor, Sector-44, Gurgaon-122003, Ph. 0124-4399399

Notice is hereby given to the Public at large that the following booking of commercial shops in the Affordable Housing Project "ROF Galleria 95" being developed by M/s CHIRAG BUILDTEC PVT.LTD situated at Sector 95, Gurugram, Haryana vide license no. 17 of 2016 dated 25.10.2016 are falling under list of defaulters due to non-payment of installments of their Units till its due date or any other reason, the information/reminders of which has been given them according to terms of the Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013, dated 19/8/2013 (as amended)

Therefore, all the person/allottee (s) are hereby informed to clear their outstanding payments and/or submit their claims/objections in writing, if any, to the undersigned company/developer along with the relevant documents to support their claims/objections within 90 days from the date of publication hereof failing which their allotment shall be cancelled. In the absence of remittance of all the outstanding payments or claim within the stipulated period above, it shall be presumed and/or deemed that the allottee (s) or concern has no such claims/objections by virtue of this notice and, if any, the same have been waived or abandoned without any reference to such claims/objections made thereafter and necessary action will be taken as per rules for the process of re-allotment.

Place: Gurugram (Haryana)

Key reforms to make registration Dept transparent: Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy

Hyderabad. (Agency)

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, on Monday said the government is implementing key reforms to make the Stamps and Registration Department completely transparent and corruption-free, in line with the vision of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

The Minister was speaking after laying the foundation stone for an Integrated Sub-Registrar Office being constructed by SSR Builders at Kukatpally mandal in Medchal-Malkajgiri district.

He said integrated sub-registrar offices with state-of-the-art facilities and corporate-level standards are being developed across Telangana in a phased manner to improve public convenience and administrative efficiency.

Explaining the rollout plan, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said that in the first phase, integrated buildings will come up within the Outer Ring Road limits, followed by district headquarters in the second phase and constituency centres in the third phase. In the initial phase, 39 sub-registrar offices across Hyderabad, Ranga Reddy, Medchal and Sangareddy districts are being grouped into 12 clusters, with dedicated buildings for each cluster.

He noted that the foundation stone for another integrated sub-registrar office at the Telangana Academy of Land Information and Management (TALIM) in Gachibowli had already been laid by the Chief Minister and the building is expected to be inaugurated by June.

Importantly, the Minister said all 12 integrated buildings are being constructed by private developers without placing any financial burden on the government, with a mandatory condition that the developers will maintain the buildings for at least five years.

Bengaluru's Kalena Agrahara Lake restored back to life with Finance Minister Sitharaman's efforts

The Finance Minister, who was elected Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, released Rs 75 lakh from her MPLADS to fund the lake's revival.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

The Kalena Agrahara Lake off Bannerghatta Road was once an illegal dump yard with continuous inflow of raw sewage and marred by multiple issues. But thanks to Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the water body is now brimming with life.

The once majestic lake was dying a slow death, when rejuvenation work began in 2017. Sitharaman, who was elected Rajya Sabha MP from Karnataka, released Rs 75 lakh from her MPLADS to fund the lake's revival. Sharing an update on the lake's restoration on her social media on Sunday, along with other developmental works taken up through her MPLADS funds in Karnataka, the minister said the Kalena Agrahara Lake's restoration has delivered significant environmental, social and urban resilience benefits. The lake, spread across 7.3 acres, has a length of 278 metre (main



bund). The MPLADS funds were utilised for the removal of sludge from the lake bed to enhance the impounding capacity, strengthening of the main bund and formation of the ring bund using desilted earth, including revetment and turfing.

"Ecologically, the rejuvenation improved water quality through sewage diversion and natural filtration, revived native aquatic and bird biodiversity, and strengthened groundwater recharge in surrounding neighbourhoods," Sitharaman said. From an urban sustainability perspective, she said the lake now acts as a flood buffer during heavy monsoon, reducing runoff pressure on city drains.

"Socially, the restored lake has emerged as a community green space, supporting recreation, walking and environmental awareness, while also moderating local microclimate and improving air quality," she said.

Needed: A fresh policy framework to engage the US

The new year began well for India-US relations. Most of December went without US President Donald Trump's annoying pinpricks, usually accompanied by brazen insults from his courtiers in the administration. December offered a welcome change from the rest of Trump's first year in office during his second term and hope sprang for a rosier 2026 in the hearts of Indian diplomats in Washington. India's public unfailingly gets worked up over everything that emanates even from outright non-entities in Washington. If Indians dispassionately scrutinised relations with the US, they will realise that two remarks by Trump about India so far in the new year were not *suo motu* presidential statements. US Senator Lindsey Graham got Trump into talking about India aboard Air Force One on January 4. Graham dragged India into his press gaggle while explaining the status of his Senate Bill to impose severe secondary sanctions on countries buying discounted Russian oil. Trump had to intervene. In the second instance the following day, at the annual policy retreat of Republican members of the House of Representatives, Trump spoke longer about India. But he spoke in response to an earlier reference to tariffs at the retreat. One certainty about India-US relations in 2026 is that they are not headed for any great heights, unlike in the Bill Clinton or George W Bush presidencies. It will not even be like the four years of Trump's immediate predecessor, Joe Biden. Since the Narendra Modi government has decided to be passive and not confront or challenge Trump at every turn—like China's tit-for-tat attitude—it is unlikely that bilateral relations will nosedive.

Overall, New Delhi-Washington engagement will be on a plateau. The earlier hopes of a thriving multi-faceted bilateral partnership have already been belied with Trump in the White House. These expectations mostly fructified from 2021 until the US drifted into election mode at the end of 2023. To use a railway terminology, the engine of this engagement is now routinely chugging along and will continue to do so. It will not become a bullet train, as many in India had fervently hoped.

Such a depressing assessment is because the Trump administration has no India strategy or policy. It requires two hands to do high-fives. At the moment, only India's arm is raised. The American one is sheathed and lowered. Sadly, this policy paralysis extends to the Capitol Hill as well. The twin chambers of the US Congress, which stood shoulder-to-shoulder with India for 30 years in advancing the New Delhi-Washington bonhomie is de facto leaderless, having become doormats to the president. Rare exceptions involve defending legislative privileges.

The present Congress has none of the earlier passion for India on Capitol Hill, at best a minimal interest when prodded by lobbyists hired by the Indian mission on Embassy Row. Therefore, the most important pillar of Indian foreign policy for a quarter century since Clinton's visit to India—the relationship with Washington—has become unstable. It is unnerving for South Block, where policymakers of the ministry of external affairs sit, because they had taken this relationship for granted to be on perpetual rise.

It is not uncommon for the foundations of foreign policy in every country to change, often because a country's politics has changed. Bangladesh is one example. The US is another. What the architects of Indian foreign policy must ponder is whether the switch in the US to a Make America Great Again approach will be permanent. A reasonable conclusion is that even after Trump ceases to be president, Trumpism may outlast him. The Republican Party has been recast in Trump's ideology—some would say lack of any ideology. It would be well nigh impossible for his successors in the Grand Old Party to put the genie back in the bottle.

AS 2026 begins, diametrically opposite claims about China's economic future abound. Some paint an optimistic picture, arguing that fears of crisis are overstated; others remain pessimistic, warning that debt, demographics and geopolitics point to prolonged stagnation. The reality lies somewhere in between. A more realistic reading suggests that China's economy in 2026 is navigating a narrow corridor—buoyed by manufacturing strength and state capacity but constrained by unresolved structural stresses. Understanding this in-between condition is crucial not only for China but also for the global economy and countries like India, which must increasingly engage with China as both a competitor and a system-shaping actor. Although the official growth target for 2026 will be announced at the annual NPC session in March, most projections place China's growth in the mid-4 per cent range. On paper, that figure suggests stability. In practice, it conceals the uneven composition of growth. Unlike earlier phases of China's rise, today's expansion is not anchored in broad-based domestic demand or a buoyant property sector. It is sustained instead by selective strengths—above all, manufacturing and exports—while large segments of the domestic economy remain subdued. For all the hype surrounding President Xi Jinping's 'dual circulation' strategy, China's growth in 2025 remained export-driven, as efforts to revive domestic demand struggled amid persistent overcapacities. China's

principal source of resilience remains its extraordinary manufacturing capacity, which has been strengthened in recent years by a rapid expansion in advanced manufacturing. Chinese firms have deepened their dominance across various sectors, including electric vehicles, batteries, machinery, electronics and renewable energy equipment. The composition of China's trade surplus underscores this shift. Phones and telecom products contributed approximately \$151 billion, while computers another \$70 billion. In comparison, the automotive sector recorded a surplus of \$66 billion in the first 10 months of 2025—up sharply from a deficit just three years earlier. Supported by industrial policy, infrastructure and scale, Chinese manufacturing remains competitive even as global demand slows.

Having weathered tariffs imposed during the Trump administration and recorded a trade surplus approaching \$1 trillion, China may appear to be in robust health. Much of this performance reflects its ability to redirect exports constrained by US tariffs towards Southeast Asia, Africa and Latin America. Exports have thus compensated for weak domestic consumption, allowing China to sustain growth without resorting to the kind of large-scale fiscal stimulus seen in earlier downturns.

However, in an increasingly volatile geopolitical environment, it remains uncertain how long China can rely on an export-led growth model. Manufacturing strength alone does little to restore confidence or correct

because its contribution to overall economic activity has already declined—from about 25 per cent to 15 per cent—suggesting that much of the adjustment may already be behind them. Persistent overcapacity continues to fuel deflationary pressure, raising the real burden of debt, squeezing corporate margins and dampening spending. While Beijing has signalled a willingness to be more proactive in managing local government debt and containing financial stress, there is little appetite for a return to property-led stimulus. The emphasis instead is on restructuring liabilities and managing adjustment. This approach was evident in early January 2026, when lenders agreed to defer interest payments for China

Vanke, easing immediate pressure while leaving underlying vulnerabilities unresolved. That confidence was also reflected in Xi Jinping's New Year address, which downplayed near-term economic strains while highlighting advances in innovation, artificial intelligence and high-end manufacturing.

Crucially, China's internal adjustment will not remain confined within its borders. A growth model reliant on exports amid weak domestic demand is likely to generate external tensions. China's trillion-dollar trade surplus has already drawn sharp reactions. During a recent visit to Beijing, Emmanuel Macron warned that failure to address trade imbalances could prompt the EU to take countermeasures. Similar concerns are emerging across Southeast Asia and Africa, where Chinese exports are attractive but also pose a threat to local manufacturing. Accusations of overcapacity and unfair competition are

resulting in tariffs, regulatory barriers and calls for de-risking.

For India, China's economic trajectory in 2026 offers neither a story of imminent decline nor a model to emulate. It highlights the tension inherent in sustaining growth through external demand while domestic confidence remains fragile. As China leverages manufacturing strength to offset internal constraints, the implications for India are strategic rather than immediate: intensified competition, pressure on domestic industry and a narrowing margin for complacency.

India's challenge is not to mirror China's scale, but to build its own sources of competitiveness, technological depth and policy credibility. In a fragmented global economy, the real test will be whether India's growth enhances strategic autonomy rather than dependence.



the legacy of debt-driven expansion—a reality underscored by the strains facing China Vanke. Once a benchmark developer, Vanke is now grappling with severe liquidity pressures, having been forced into negotiations with banks and insurers after failing to secure debt extensions in late 2025. These developments underscore the limitations of export-led resilience in restoring domestic confidence.

Efforts to revive domestic demand face additional constraints. Consumer subsidies aimed at boosting purchases of goods, such as electric vehicles and televisions, are approaching saturation, even as households shift their spending towards services. Policymakers continue to struggle with how to stimulate demand in the service sector. Some analysts argue that authorities are less alarmed by the property slowdown

Battleground Bengal: Political one-upmanship reaches fever pitch

The Tribune Editorial: The nasty faceoff between CM Mamata Banerjee's party and the ED reflects the growing overlap between criminal investigation and electoral politics.

THE battle lines have hardened sharply in West Bengal, the poll-bound state which the BJP desperately wants to wrest from the Trinamool Congress (TMC). The nasty faceoff between Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's party and the Enforcement Directorate (ED) over raids at the office of a political consultancy firm reflects a troubling trend: the growing overlap between criminal investigation and electoral politics. What should have been a routine legal process has spiralled into a Centre-state conflict, raising questions that go well beyond West Bengal. The ED insists that its searches under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act are part of a probe into an alleged coal smuggling racket; the consultancy firm, I-PAC, is suspected of receiving hawala funds. The TMC, however, has accused the agency of crossing a red line by seizing party campaign material that has nothing incriminating about it. The optics have only made matters worse. The CM landed at the raid sites and allegedly obstructed the ED



probe; the TMC is calling it a natural reaction to an assault on electoral fairness. Investigative agencies cannot

function without fear or favour if the political leadership interferes in their work, but nor can democracy thrive if probes are perceived as timed and targeted to destabilise rival parties in the run-up to elections. The ED's expanding footprint in Opposition-ruled states has fuelled allegations of selective action. The Calcutta High Court now carries a huge responsibility. Its scrutiny of both the ED's conduct and the chief minister's actions must be swift, transparent and anchored firmly in law. Clear judicial guidance on the limits of search and seizure, especially involving political material, is essential to prevent future misuse. Also, any attempt to derail an investigation should not go unpunished. The ultimate challenge is to uphold the rule of law in a heavily polarised political environment.

India in a worrisome foreign policy spot

When people can dream and design in their mother tongue, innovation becomes truly bottom-up.

FOR the first time since India's 1998 nuclear tests, when the US imposed sanctions and the two governments virtually stopped talking to each other, India's relations with its most powerful partner have hit a dangerous new low. In the last few days, the taunting has come from the highest echelons of the White House, portraying PM Modi as a supplicant. "Sir, may I call you," the PM is supposed to have asked President Trump. Yes, America's Great White Hope is believed to have answered. Last time a Prime Minister—Dr Manmohan Singh—was seen as genuflecting to an American President (when in 2008 he told George W Bush, 'India loves you'), the country had exploded in righteous anger. Only 24 hours ago, the Ministry of External Affairs denied Modi's supposed comment. But it has been awful to watch the descent into the abyss.

To see the Indian elite, the unique and great inheritors of a civilisation that connects back to a hoary past, ridiculed and mocked by America because Delhi dared to protect its own national interests—in this case, refuse to lower tariffs on certain agricultural commodities and refuse to stop buying cheap Russian oil—has been deeply disquieting. As US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick told a journalist, the US gave India "three Fridays," or three weeks, to agree to the trade deal with the US. Modi was supposed to personally call Trump to sign off. But the PM didn't make that call. When the Indian side finally got back, Lutnick told them it was "too late". Certainly, none of this is new. India is—especially—used to Western leaders dressed up as emperors throwing their weight around. Inside the Ministry of External Affairs as

well as outside, everyone understood the hypocrisy that was waged by the Big Powers, especially during the Cold War; the media revelled in exposing them. The problem is that at least for the last 20 years or so, India thought it was on the same side as the Americans. We got



their jokes, our kids went to their colleges—Indian parents scrimped and saved to buy the golden dollars to send them—and our IT whiz generation won the H1-B lottery to make America great again and again. We were equals. Or at least we thought we were.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, who is easily one of the smartest men in Modi's Cabinet, was part of the transformation from the old India to the new, because as one of India's top diplomats he was trained to be friends

with people on both sides of the fence. Jaishankar's father, K Subrahmanyam, back in 1971, had ticked Henry Kissinger off for America's "great tilt" towards Pakistan in the run-up to the Bangladesh war. (Why, Subrahmanyam told Kissinger, would you support

Pakistan when millions of East Pakistanis are streaming into India escaping the massacres carried out by the Pakistani army, about ten million at last count, and don't you remember what the Jews, your own community, had gone through with Hitler?) In the new world order, Jaishankar was perfectly positioned to explain India's unique position as an ancient nation with a long memory of colonisation to a global audience shaken up by Trump. So what went wrong? Why is Trump's America laughing at Modi's India when we were both supposed to be on the same side, not least as we sought to save the world against China? Why are our new best friends turning against us?

There are many answers, some pleasant, some not so convivial. First, Trump's ego—he believes the world must permanently kowtow in his direction. But when Modi refused to call Trump back to sign off on the trade deal, the Americans turned the screws differently—they put out that there would no longer be such a deal, and India would be slapped with 500 per cent tariff for buying Russian oil. India became so nervous as a result that, among other things, it even refused to condemn the capture of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. The words, "territorial integrity and sovereignty," that have for decades been a sort of moral anthem for India, which were also used to chastise Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, were simply dropped for the US.

Second, it is increasingly clear that India is not relevant to Trump's world view. He is not interested—as previous US administrations for several decades, including the Democrats who brought India into the de facto nuclear fold by signing the Indo-US nuclear deal in 2008—in shoring India up so that it can be the local hegemon that contains China. Trump is certainly concerned about China's rise, but he has publicly said he will directly deal with Beijing. Third, Trump doesn't care that India, an old friend, ally and rising regional power, is upset. He does not remember that Modi in 2019 bailed him out in his own election by exhorting the Indian diaspora with the slogan, "Abki baar, Trump sarkar." It is said that he won't forget that Modi refused to also see him when he came to the US in 2024 to meet the Bidens. He hates the fact that India has publicly denied, several times, that he did not broker the end to the Op Sindoos standoff.

India is in a worrisome foreign policy spot today. The Americans are toying with Delhi. The Chinese are brooding and watching on the northern border. Bangladesh, the country that India helped liberate, is angry that its favourite cricketer is persona non grata—they have decided not to play matches in India during the coming T20 World Cup. India's enemy, Pakistan, is cosying up to the Americans. UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan paid his maiden official visit to Pakistan in the last week of December. South America is unlikely to forget India's prevarication on Venezuela. Nepal is in a crisis.

That leaves Russia and Western Europe and Israel and Iran. Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi is likely to visit Delhi in the coming week. Maybe Delhi can begin the clawback from the abyss with him. But here's the other problem: If it does, Trump is likely to be even more furious.

J&K: BSF constable dies in Bandipora fire incident

Srinagar.(Agency)

A Border Security Force (BSF) constable died in a fire incident in the Bandipora district of Jammu and Kashmir late Sunday night, officials said.

The fire broke out in a BSF barrack in the Madar area of Bandipora at around 2:30 am, completely destroying the wooden structure. The BSF constable, identified as Ramesh Kumar, a resident of Jalandhar in Punjab, was inside the barrack at the time of the incident and could not save himself. He succumbed to burn injuries, officials said.

The body was shifted to the District Hospital Bandipora for medico-legal formalities. Police have taken cognisance of the incident.

Major fire claims life of 8-yr-old girl, eight others missing in Himachal's Arki

Shimla.(Agency)

A massive fire broke out in the market area of Arki under the Solan district of Himachal late Sunday night, leaving an eight-year-old girl dead and eight persons reported missing, triggering panic and anxiety among residents. The missing include two women, two men, and four children, raising fears of a heavy casualty toll.

According to eyewitnesses, the fire erupted around midnight in a two-storey residential-cum-commercial building located in the congested market area. The ground floor of the building housed several shops, while the upper floor was being used as residential accommodation by labourers from Nepal and Bihar. The flames spread rapidly, engulfing nearby shops and adjoining structures within a short span of time.

The situation worsened as several LPG cylinders kept inside the building and nearby shops exploded one after another, intensifying the blaze.

Loud explosions echoed through the market, causing widespread panic as residents rushed out of their homes in the dead of night to save their lives. Fire brigade teams rushed to the spot soon after receiving information and battled the flames for several hours.

After strenuous efforts, the fire was finally brought under control in the early morning hours. However, by then, multiple shops had been completely gutted, and goods worth several lakhs of rupees were reduced to ashes. An eight-year-old girl was found burnt to death during initial rescue operations. Search and rescue efforts are continuing to trace the eight persons reported missing. Debris is being cleared cautiously to facilitate recovery and rule out further casualties. Local MLA Sanjay Awasthi, who reached the spot, said the fire reportedly broke out around 2:30 am. He stated that the exact cause of the fire is yet to be ascertained and assured that relief, rescue, and rehabilitation measures are being carried out on priority. The incident has cast a pall of gloom over Arki, with authorities maintaining a high alert as investigations continue.

Erratic online garbage billing portal adds to woes of Shimla residents

Shimla. (Agency)

Residents of the state capital have expressed growing resentment over the erratic functioning of the online garbage billing portal, which has remained largely non-functional for the past two months, resulting in delayed payments, mounting arrears and heavy penalties.

The city has approximately 57,280 domestic and 9,730 commercial consumers who are required to pay monthly garbage collection charges according to rates set by the civic body. However, frequent technical glitches following the recent shift to a new online portal disrupted the billing process. Several consumers complained that bills were not generated or delivered, while others alleged that advance bills were issued without justification.

Narinder Sharma, a city resident, told UNI that when he recently visited the municipal office to deposit his household garbage bill, he was informed that the online portal was not operational due to an ongoing upgrade. "For nearly two months, citizens were left with no option. Despite our willingness to pay online, we were helpless," he said.

The problem has been particularly acute during the winter months, when a large section of Shimla's population migrates temporarily to their native villages during the vacation season.

Residents pointed out that garbage generation drops significantly during this period, yet bills continued to be raised in advance. Many such residents prefer to pay bills online while away, but due to the poor execution of the portal, they were forced to stand in long queues at the Deputy Commissioner's office to make offline payments. Adding to public anger is the disproportionate increase in garbage charges. Consumers allege that if a bill is missed due to technical reasons, a 10 percent hike is automatically levied in the subsequent bill.

Citizens argue that penalties imposed due to administrative and technical failures amount to harassment.

'Ji Ram Ji Yojana' is a revised form of MGNREGA: Kapil Dev Agrawal

The Sikh Times

Muzaffarnagar, UP Minister of State Kapil Dev Agrawal said that the 'Viksit Bharat Ji Ram Ji Yojana' will benefit both labourers and farmers in the district. He stated that the government is bringing large-scale reforms and working to expand employment and livelihood opportunities in rural areas so that the impact of welfare schemes becomes clearly visible on the ground. Addressing a press conference held at the auditorium of the Vikas Bhawan on Meerut Road, Minister Kapil Dev Agrawal said that the scheme is a revised version of MGNREGA. He added that the government's objective is to ensure that both farmers and labourers benefit from the scheme, while strengthening the rural system. He said that under this scheme, the government is working towards ensuring 125 days of wages/employment for labourers instead of 100 days, so that workers do not face shortage of work and their income improves. The minister said that earlier, the scope of work under MGNREGA was largely limited to activities such as soil

transportation, land filling and digging ponds. However, under the revised framework, labourers will also be engaged in development works. He said that construction of Panchayat Bhawans,



Anganwadi centres, drains, brick-paved roads (kharanja) and roads will not only boost development but will also create more employment opportunities. The minister further said that the government is also increasing the daily wage rate of labourers from Rs 237 per day to Rs 252 per day. The minister also spoke about making the scheme more transparent. He said biometric attendance for labourers will be implemented and inspections/checks can be conducted

during working hours. He added that wages will be paid by the seventh day, and in case of delay, interest will also be provided. Kapil Dev Agrawal said the scheme will be implemented through joint participation of the Central and State governments. He stated that 60 per cent of the funds will be provided by the Central government and 40 per cent by the State government. He claimed the scheme will remain fully transparent and no irregularities will be allowed. During the press conference, journalists raised issues related to drinking water supply schemes laid by Jal Nigam in several rural areas, which are reportedly non-functional, and the incomplete construction of toilets in houses of poor and weaker sections in many villages. On this, the minister directed the concerned officials to take cognisance of the complaints and ensure disposal of such cases. The press conference was attended by BJP district president Dr Sudhir Saini, RLD district president Sandeep Malik, District Panchayat Chairperson Dr Veerpal Nirwal, CDO Kamal Kishore Kandarkar and others.

Transformer wire theft gang busted, 3 criminals injured and arrested in encounter

The Sikh Times
Manoj Pal

Muzaffarnagar. Shahpur police have busted a gang involved in theft of electricity transformers and power cables, arresting three notorious thieves in an encounter. The accused were nabbed in an injured condition and a huge cache of stolen electrical wire, transformer copper strips and copper coils, aluminium wire, a Santro car and illegal weapons were recovered from their possession. On Sunday night, Shahpur police were conducting a checking drive near the Rajwaha culvert on the road from village Nirmana to village Karaudi. During the checking, two suspicious vehicles were seen coming from the Karaudi side. Police personnel signalled them to stop using torchlight, but both vehicles suddenly sped away towards Nirmana. Suspecting foul play, the police chased them and informed another team to set up a blockade from the front.

During the cordon, one vehicle a Honda City managed to escape, while three criminals in the other vehicle abandoned the car and started firing at the police before fleeing towards the jungle. Police warned

village Fugana, Anil Kumar son of Malkhan resident of village Vahlia and Arif son of Mehboob resident of Morna town. From the spot, police recovered 1.30 quintals of transformer copper strips, 50 kg copper coils, 55 kg aluminium wire, 200 metres of high-tension electricity wire, a Santro car (registration number HR 06 Y 0191) and three country-made pistols of .315 bore along with live cartridges and empty shells. SP Rural Aditya Bansal said that the arrested accused were part of an organised gang that had been involved in transformer and power cable thefts for a long time. Based on the recovery, police have successfully cracked six cases related to theft of transformers and electrical equipment. He added that the accused were previously involved in similar offences and their detailed criminal history is being verified. During interrogation, the accused confessed that they used to steal transformers from isolated areas at night, cut them open and extract copper coils, which were then sold to scrap dealers.



them to surrender, but the firing continued. In self-defence, the police fired back in a controlled manner, in which all three criminals were shot and injured. The police arrested the trio from the spot and admitted them to hospital for treatment. The arrested accused have been identified as Neeraj son of Rajveer resident of

MCG secures Rs 295 crore in property tax collection from defaulters in 2025

Gurugram: The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has made significant strides in recovering overdue property taxes, successfully collecting Rs 295 crore in 2025 from defaulters. The recovery is being attributed to a series of continuous and dedicated actions, including sealing properties, issuing notices, and closely monitoring compliance under the leadership of MCG Commissioner Pradeep Dahiya. As part of the initiative, MCG has issued 410 notices to property tax defaulters, resulting in the sealing of 55 properties for non-payment, despite prior warnings. These actions have directly contributed to

the recovery of approximately Rs 30 crore in property taxes. Through sustained efforts and rigorous actions like property sealing and issuing notices, we have made considerable progress in recovering property tax dues. This campaign will continue with vigour to ensure further strengthening of our revenue collection process," said Dahiya. To enhance recovery efforts further, a recent review meeting was held with zonal taxation officers. During the meeting, several measures were outlined to boost tax collection. Key strategies include converting leads from Sarvam call data into payments, addressing violations

reported in builder areas by the Town and Country Planning (TCP) department, analysing data related to paying guest (PG) accommodations from platforms such as Housing.com and MagicBricks, and reviewing illegal advertisements for PG properties shared by the corporation's advertising branch. As part of a new crackdown, MCG has also decided to focus on tax evasion through PG properties. Property owners using their properties for PG accommodations would now be required to provide proof of non-PG use. If no valid evidence is presented, the property will be assumed to have been used as a PG since the start of the assess-

ment period, which dates back to 2010-11 or when the property was first included within municipal limits. Owners can challenge this assumption by submitting a correction application or appeal. "Ensuring fair and transparent property tax assessments is a top priority. We aim to streamline the process while ensuring that every property owner contributes their fair share to the city's development and infrastructure," Dahiya added. The MCG's continued focus on tax compliance is seen as critical for funding the city's development and strengthening civic services, and authorities have made it clear that similar strict measures would be

implemented going forward.

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Auction Catalogue No. C-AP-ACWTNG-NCB

Seq No. Lot No./Category Description

AA/1 PnU-APDJ-NCB-WRL-37-26-1 Upgradation, manning and

(Pay and Use - Lounges / Waiting / Retiring / Cloak Rooms)

Auction Start Date & Time: 13.00 hrs. & Closing at: 13.30 hrs. on 17-01-2026. Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS.

Note: Prospective bidders are requested to visit E-Auction Leasing Module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Alipurduar Jn.

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Notice is hereby given to the Public at large that the following booking of commercial shops in the Affordable Housing Project "ROF Galleria" being developed by M/s NANI RESORTS & FLORICULTURE PVT LTD situated at Sector 102, Gurugram, Haryana vide license no. 11 of 2014 dated 10.06.2014 are falling under list of defaulters due to non-payment of instalments of their units till its due date or any other reason, the information/reminders of which has been given them according to terms of the Haryana Affordable Housing Policy 2013, dated 19/8/2013 (as amended).

Application No.	Carpet Area (Sq. Ft.)	Shop No.
1054,1055	175.2	G-012, G-014
1344,1343,1382, 1039,1779	177.6	G-054, G-056, G-058, G-062, G-064
1037	287.2	G-070
1301	154.4	G-081
107	164	G-084
1756	115.2	G-100
1001	161.6	G-101
1773	180	G-102
1301A	152.8	G-103

Therefore, all the person/allotee (s) are hereby informed to clear their outstanding payments and/or submit their claims/objections in writing, if any, to the undersigned company/developer along with the relevant documents to support their claims/objections within 120 days from the date of publication hereof failing which their allotment shall be cancelled. In the absence of remittance of all the outstanding payments or claim within the stipulated period above, it shall be presumed and/or deemed that the allottee (s) or concern has no such claims/objections by virtue of this notice and, if any, the same have been waived or abandoned without any reference to such claims/objections made thereafter and necessary action will be taken as per rules for the process of re-allotment.

For NANI RESORTS & FLORICULTURE PVT. LTD.
Place: Gurugram (Haryana) Director

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Tender Notice No.: S/36/2025-26; Dated: 08-01-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1: Tender No. 61/25/5658/OT/207/2025-26;

Closing/ Opening Date: 02-02-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: High Viscosity Nylon (HVN) Liner for use with ERC Mk-V on Wider Base Concrete Sleeper suitable for 60 kg rail conforming to RDSO Drg. No T-6938 and T-6939 with latest alterations to drawings if any as on closing of this E-tender. This is a Safety item. IRS Specification: Specification for High Viscosity Nylon (HVN) Insulating Liners latest alteration T-44-2025 with Corrigendum 6 of 2018 and latest corrigendum if any closing of this E-tender N.B. Each set comprises of one High Viscosity Nylon (HVN) Liner to Drg. No. T-6938 and one High Viscosity Nylon (HVN) Liner to Drg. No. T-6939. [Warranty Period: 30 Months after the date of delivery]. [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages:0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100554, GLASS FILLED NYLON-66 INSULATING LINERS Sub Item: GLASS FILLED NYLON-66 INSULATING LINERS] Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty -62392 Set for SSE/P/Way/TD/Bongaigaon, NFR (Assam), P.L. No. 60110480.

SN. 2: Tender No. 30/25/086A/OT/208/2025-26;

Closing/ Opening Date: 03-02-2026

Brief Description, P.L. No. & Qty: Set of Air Suspension items for LHB Coaches as per annexure attached. [Warranty Period: 72 Months after the date of delivery], [Inspection Agency: TPI, Stage Insp. No, Stages:0] [UJAM Linking: Item: 3100341, Air Spring Assemblies For Coaches Sub Item:- Air Spring assembly (180 KN Capacity) for higher Capacity Loads used on EMU/DMU Coaches for ICF type Bogies]. Item Type: Goods (supply). Qty - 60 Set for SSE/C/IC/Guwahati, NFR (Assam). P.L. No.: 331200301150.

NOTE:- For full details of Tender notice and tender documents, tenderer may log on to the website (www.ireps.gov.in) prospective bidder who intend to participate in above tenders are required to log in themselves with the above website and submit their offer electronically, if they are already registered with IREPS. In case they are not registered with IREPS, they are advised to obtain class-III Digital Signature Certificate from the certifying agencies under Govt. of India IT Act 2000 and participate in the above tenders.

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Honour killing in Etah: Young couple brutally murdered by girl's family

Etah.(Agency)

In a shocking case of honour killing, a 19-year-old woman and her 24-year-old husband were brutally murdered by the woman's family in the Etah district of Uttar Pradesh. The couple had married a month ago at an Arya Samaj temple in Prayagraj after eloping from their homes, police said on Monday.

The incident took place in Gadhia Suhagpur village under the Jaitra police station area, about 30 km from the district headquarters. The victims have been identified as Shivani and Deepak, both belonging to the Lodhi community. Their houses were barely 150 metres apart, and they had been in a relationship for the past three years.

According to police and family members, Shivani returned to her parental home from Prayagraj on Saturday. On Sunday evening around 8 pm, Deepak came to the village to meet her. The two were talking on the terrace of Shivani's house when her family members saw them together. Enraged, the girl's family allegedly attacked both Shivani and Deepak with sticks in front of villagers. Despite their screams for help, no one intervened.

The attackers first slit Shivani's throat, killing her on the spot. They then slit Deepak's throat and threw his blood-soaked body onto the neighbouring roof. Villagers later informed the police by calling Dial-112. By the time the police reached the spot, Shivani had died, while Deepak was still breathing. A video of him writhing in pain has also surfaced. He was rushed to a Community Health Centre (CHC) and later referred to the district hospital, but he succumbed to his injuries on the way. Deepak's cousin Umesh Kumar said the couple had married with mutual consent and that a compromise had earlier been reached between the two families. "Despite this, they were beaten and killed on the rooftop in front of the entire village.

4 Trunk Drains In Rekha Gupta's Plan To Fix Delhi's Waterlogging Issue

Four major drains,

Mundka Halt-

Supplementary Drain,

MB Road Storm Water

Drain, Kirari-Rithala

Trunk Drain, and the

Storm Water Drain along

Rohtak Road (NH-10)

are being developed as

key components of the

'Drainage Master Plan'.

New Delhi.(Agency)
Delhi Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has taken a major and far-reaching step to strengthen the city's drainage system as part of its resolve to develop Delhi into a modern, global and developed capital. Four major drains, Mundka Halt-Supplementary Drain, MB Road Storm Water Drain, Kirari-Rithala Trunk Drain, and the Storm Water Drain along Rohtak Road (NH-10) are being developed as key components of the 'Drainage Master Plan'.

The Delhi government has accelerated the construction and expansion work of these major trunk drains.

The Chief Minister informed that the 'Drainage Master Plan' for Delhi's sewerage and drainage system was originally prepared in the 1970s. Despite rapid population growth and large-scale construction activity, the plan did not undergo the required revisions,



resulting in an increasingly severe drainage situation over the years. She said that the present government has introduced effective changes keeping in view Delhi's geographical conditions, recurring waterlogging and population pressure, and drainage infrastructure is now being constructed accordingly, so that the national capital does not face waterlogging and related problems in

the future. CM Gupta believes that the true identity of any metropolis lies in a robust, scientific and forward-looking drainage system. With this vision, the Delhi Government has prioritised those areas of the capital where residents have long suffered from waterlogging, overloaded sewer lines and related issues. These long-standing problems will now be resolved, bringing relief to the people of Delhi.

To address drainage issues in the Kirari, Mundka, Bawana and Nangloi Assembly constituencies of West Delhi, a 4.5-kilometre-long trunk drain is proposed to be constructed parallel to the railway line. The project is being implemented by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department.

The estimated cost of the drain is Rs. 220.93 crore, and it is designed to handle rainwater from a catchment area of 1,520 acres. The discharge capacity of the drain has been fixed at 760 cusecs to ensure uninterrupted drainage even during peak monsoon rainfall.

The drain will originate near Mundka Halt Station and will run along the railway corridor before merging with the Supplementary Drain. A key feature of this project is the water from several secondary drains along the route will also be integrated into it, creating a unified and streamlined drainage system for the entire area. The work is proposed within railway land limits, for which an MoU has already been signed with the Railways. Administrative and financial approvals are expected shortly, after which the project is targeted to be completed within 15 months. Waterlogging has been a persistent and serious issue in South Delhi, particularly in the stretch from Lado Sarai T-Point to Pul Prahlaipur. Keeping this in view, the MB Road Storm Water Drain project has been incorporated into the 'Drainage Master Plan'. Under this project, the total road length is 11.38 kilometres, while the combined length of drains on both sides will be 22.76 kilometres.

AAP leaders detained during protest against BJP over video of Sikh guru

New Delhi.(Agency)

Several Aam Aadmi Party leaders, including its Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj, were detained on Sunday while staging a protest against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) over an alleged doctored video linked to Sikh Guru Guru Tegh Bahadur.

The protest was held near the BJP headquarters, where AAP leaders demanded a public apology from Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. Before the protesters could reach the BJP office, the Delhi Police stopped them with barricades and detained them. Bharadwaj and several other leaders were taken to IP Estate police station, where they held a sit-in and raised slogans against the BJP.

In a series of posts on X, AAP accused BJP leaders of circulating a fabricated video involving the Sikh Guru. The party said the clip had hurt religious sentiments and demanded that the BJP take responsibility for what it called a deliberate attempt to create discord.

Bharadwaj said a forensic report had confirmed that the video circulated by BJP minister Kapil Mishra was fake and had been altered by inserting false words. He demanded legal action against Mishra, alleging that the video was used to provoke communal tension and defame former Delhi CM and Leader of Opposition Atishi. Questioning police conduct, Bharadwaj said BJP leaders were allowed to protest outside the AAP headquarters without any action, while AAP leaders were detained while attempting to protest peacefully. He also alleged that the Delhi Police was delaying the investigation despite the Punjab Police completing a forensic examination of the clip within a day. Burari MLA Sanjeev Jha said the Sikh community was deeply hurt by the circulation of the video and accused BJP leaders of using religious sentiments for political gain. He said the AAP would continue its protest until the BJP issued a public apology.

Unanswered SOS: Her panic press in vain

Mandated for Delhi's cab network in the aftermath of the 2014 rape case, panic buttons promised real-time response from the police and cab companies for women passengers in distress.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Unfamiliar routes, shady behaviour, a defunct panic button – on a chilly winter night a regular cab journey from Delhi to Noida horrified Ishika. While heading back from the office, Ishika took a cab for a 40-minute journey, but a few minutes later, she sensed that the routes were unusual. Initially, she kept quiet, assuming that it was an alternative route, but maps suggested otherwise. The cab driver was taking a longer and evidently shadier route. She kept asking the driver about the choice of roads, but he just refused to respond. Helpless, she decided to press the emergency button next to her, but it did not work. She said, "The driver understood that I was pressing the panic button and smirked. He said, 'yeh koi kaam ka nahi hai' (it's of no use)".

Lifeline that does not respond

On paper, the panic button has been mandated by the Delhi government inside commercial vehicles.

The small red switch, usually placed near the passenger seat, somewhere behind the driver's seat, promises instant help. One simple press and an alert is supposed to reach the police control room, followed by real-time location tracking and rapid response.

For several women who use cabs, autos, and app-based taxis on a daily basis, especially in a city that continues to grapple with safety concerns, this button was introduced as a support system. However, on the ground, the promise often collapses the moment the button is pressed. In most cases it appears to be defunct, with no follow-ups.

Across the national capital, many passengers and drivers have repeatedly pointed out that the panic buttons are non-functional, poorly connected, badly maintained, or entirely symbolic. Whether or not they are linked to any control room is a question that remains largely unanswered. In most cases, they have been found to trigger no response, no call back and no police outreach. Drivers also claim that the button exists merely to pass inspection rather than serving as an emergency response mechanism.

No VIP Quota, Local Cuisine: All About First Vande Bharat Sleeper Train

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian Railway is set to introduce the Vande Bharat Sleeper train between Guwahati and Kolkata later this month, marking a major milestone in long-distance, overnight rail travel and further strengthening connectivity between the Northeast region and Eastern India. The central government is making significant preparations for the launch. According to official sources, the Vande Bharat Sleeper train - India's first - will be for the general public and VIP or emergency quota will not be allowed. Top and senior railway officials will also not be allowed to use passes to travel on the Vande Bharat Sleeper Train, they said.

Only confirmed tickets will be issued to passengers, significantly reducing the waiting list, sources said. RAC

(Reservation Against Cancellation) - which guarantees a passenger a seat to travel even when fully booked and allows them to share a side-lower berth, with potential to upgrade to a



full berth if cancellations occur, will also not be allowed. Officials said that passengers will receive a completely upgraded bedroll, including blanket covers. It will be a modern bedroll with better quality as compared to regular trains. The Vande Bharat Sleeper Train passengers will enjoy

improved facilities, transparent ticketing, and uniform rules. They will also be provided with local cuisine onboard. All the staff onboard will be wearing a uniform. The train

will showcase India's culture, official sources said. The Vande Bharat Sleep train has 11 coaches of 3 AC, four coaches of 2 AC, and one coach of 1 AC. Of the total 823 berths, 611 are in 3 AC, 188 in 2 AC, and 24 in 1 AC. It has several features, including ergonomically designed berths with improved cushioning, automatic doors with vestibules for smooth movement, enhanced ride comfort through superior suspension and noise reduction, an automatic train protection system (Kavach), an emergency talk-back system, and disinfectant technology to maintain high sanitation standards.

'Right To Higher Education Can't Be Curtailed Lightly': Delhi High Court

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi High Court has observed that the right to pursue higher or professional education, though not explicitly listed as a fundamental right under the Constitution, imposes an affirmative obligation on governments and cannot be curtailed lightly.

Allowing a writ petition filed by a medical student whose MBBS admission was cancelled amid alleged irregularities linked to the NEET-UG 2024 examination, a single-judge Bench of Justice Jasmeet Singh observed that the government is duty-bound to protect a student's right to continue professional education in the absence of valid, genuine and compelling reasons.

"The right to pursue higher or

professional education, even though not explicitly spelt out as a fundamental right in Part III of the Constitution of India, is an affirmative obligation on the part of the State to ensure this right and the same



cannot be permitted to be curtailed lightly," the Delhi High Court said.

The petitioner secured admission to the MBBS course at Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital in Balangir,

Odisha, after obtaining an All India Rank of 28,106 in NEET-UG 2024.

However, his admission was subsequently cancelled after the NTA withdrew his result based on information shared by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

In the order, Justice Singh observed that the petitioner had secured admission to the MBBS course on the basis of merit through an open entrance examination and that cancellation of such admission would inevitably disrupt his academic progress.

The judgment further took note of the submission made on behalf of the CBI that the petitioner was not arrayed as an accused in the chargesheet filed in connection with the alleged NEET-UG 2024 irregularities, but was cited only as a witness.

Mani Shankar Aiyar Says "Hindutva Is Hinduism In Paranoia", BJP Hits Back

New Delhi.(Agency)

Veteran Congress leader Mani Shankar Aiyar's remarks, in which he said Hindutva is Hinduism in paranoia, have sparked a political row, with the BJP accusing him of insulting Sanatan Dharma.

Aiyar spoke at a debate titled "Hinduism Needs Protection From Hindutva" at the Calcutta Club yesterday. Hosted by the Calcutta Debating Circle on Sunday, the debate had Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra, former MP Swapan Dasgupta, lawyer J Sai Deepak, BJP MP Sudhanshu Trivedi, BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul, historian Ruchika Sharma and veteran journalist Ashutosh as the other speakers.

"Hindutva is Hinduism in paranoia. It asks 80 per cent Hindus to quiver in front of 14 per cent Muslims. Hindutva is a BJP leader slapping a blind, hungry tribal girl because she attends a Christmas lunch in a church. Hindutva raids shopping malls to tear down Christmas decorations. Savarkar described Buddhism as an existential threat to all Hindus. He described it as the ultimate negation of Hindutva, bearing the opiate of universalism and nonviolence. He said it was disastrous to national virility and even the existence of the Hindu race," said Aiyar.

Aiyar said Hinduism is a great spiritual religion, and Hindutva is a political tract. "Hinduism is a great spiritual religion. Hindutva is a political tract. Hindutva came in 1923; for thousands of years before Hindutva, Hinduism faced trial and tribulation and yet survived, flourished, with no need of Hindutva protection... There is no way Gandhi's and Swami Vivekananda's Hinduism can be protected or promoted by Savarkar's Hindutva," he said.

"Savarkar wrote 'Hindus understand themselves as Hindus through acts of violence'. The Mahatma wrote that the Hindu has an old-age civilisation and is essentially non-violent. You've seen that Hindutva vigilantes beat up and even kill anyone suspected of hoarding, eating or transporting beef. Gandhiji wrote it is denial of Hinduism and of Ahimsa to kill a human being to protect a cow," Aiyar said. The remarks drew a sharp response from the BJP's Sudhanshu Trivedi. "Which culture gives you the authority to debate even on religious issues? I would like to ask why the term Hinduism? Why is 'ism' associated with all the religions that originated in India? You have never heard of Islamism and Christianity... The 'ism' world is being associated just to demean, and what Hindutva is, 'Hindu tattva'. The basic immunity of Hinduism is Hindu tattva... Another thing I would like to say, when you cherish Hinduism, it is called Hindutva," he said.

Thick Layer Of Toxic Froth Resurfaces On Yamuna River In Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

A thick layer of toxic froth resurfaced at the Yamuna ghat in Kalindi Kunj here on Sunday, making large stretches of the river nearly invisible, even as experts reiterated that it is disruptive for the river's ecology.

The froth accumulated heavily around boats moored along the riverbank, clinging to their sides. Dust particles were also visibly embedded in the froth that settled along the riverbank. In addition to the froth, garbage was scattered along the riverbank. The waste included plastic materials, discarded bottles, flowers, chopped human hair and even blades.

Environmentalist Pankaj Kumar, who carries out a cleanliness drive every Sunday at the Kalindi Kunj ghat, claimed that the water in December and January has been a lot more polluted than it was before the Chhath festival in October last year. "During the Chhath festival, there was a strong collective effort to clean the Yamuna river; had the government

sustained that momentum, the condition

of the river would've vastly improved in months," Kumar told PTI.

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee's (DPCC) latest report on the Yamuna's water quality -- based on samples collected on December 3, 2025 -- records Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels of 25 mg/l at ITO Bridge, 24 mg/l at ISBT Bridge, and 17 mg/l at Okhla Barrage, against the DPCC's prescribed safe limit of 3 mg/l. BOD is a crucial indicator of a river's health and its capacity to support aquatic life.

On the other hand, fecal coliform bacteria levels -- measured as most probable number (MPN) -- were recorded at 92,000 at ISBT Bridge, 54,000 at Nizamuddin Bridge, and 35,000 at ITO Bridge, as per the December report. Fecal coliform, an indicator of sewage contamination, has a

desirable limit of 500 units per 100 ml and a permissible limit of 2,500 units per 100 ml, as prescribed by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

The CPCB classifies BOD levels

treated, partially treated, and untreated sewage through various drains as the main cause of water pollution in the Yamuna, particularly between Wazirabad Barrage and Asgarpur village.

Pollution at Delhi's Yamuna ghats is creating serious health risks, with toxic froth along the river emitting a strong stench, Atul Kumar of the Earth Warriors group said. He said volunteers cleaning the riverbanks at Kalindi Kunj ghat every Sunday face these hazards while witnessing people who continue to dump waste directly into the river. "Public awareness about river pollution is low, and government measures are insufficient. Although official documents set out restrictions and penalties for dumping waste into the river, these are rarely visible on-site, and most citizens do not check them online," Kumar told PTI, adding that proper signage and stricter monitoring are urgently needed to tackle the problem.



NEWS BOX

Harshit Rana opens up on India grooming him as an all-rounder, eyes ODI No.7 role

New Delhi. (Agency) India fast bowler Harshit Rana has opened up on the Indian team management's plans to groom him into a genuine all-round option in the ODI setup, following his telling display against New Zealand. The 23-year-old said he has been asked to focus on contributing with the bat as well, and put in some runs when the situation demands it. After the match, Rana revealed that the Indian team management is actively grooming him as an all-rounder and sees him as someone who can add valuable runs down the order. Speaking at the post-match press conference, the young pacer underlined how clarity of role and confidence from teammates played a major part in his contribution. "The team management wants to groom me as an all-rounder, and my job is to keep working on that. I am working on it, even in the nets. It was mainly about confidence. When I went in to bat in the match, the confidence my teammates gave me helped a lot. I focused on that and was able to score runs." "As for batting, the team wants me to bat at number eight as an all-rounder. So in the nets, as much as possible, I keep focusing on my batting."

Harshit Rana cameo in Baroda thriller



India had been cruising in the chase with Virat Kohli and Shreyas Iyer stitching together a 77-run partnership before a sudden collapse brought New Zealand back into the contest. Kohli fell for 93 and Ravindra Jadeja departed soon after, leaving the hosts in a slightly awkward position. The decision to send Rana ahead of Washington Sundar at number seven raised eyebrows, especially given Sundar's reputation as a dependable lower-order batter. However, the move soon made sense as it emerged Sundar was carrying a niggle, prompting the team management to reshuffle the order.

"I believe that I can make 30 or 40 runs for the team at number 7, and the management and the team believe that I can do that. When that trust is there, the team environment becomes very good. Seniors back you, youngsters think the same way, everyone thinks positively, and when the team environment becomes that good, things start going well on the field," Rana added.

Hacker hits Bruno: Man United react after rogue X posts on INEOS, Bonnie Blue

NEW DELHI. (Agency) Manchester United have confirmed that captain Bruno Fernandes's X (formerly Twitter) account was compromised after a series of posts appeared on the midfielder's official profile that were out of character — including one calling for the club's owners, INEOS, to be removed. The club on Monday said the account was hacked and authorities are looking into the incident, urging fans not to engage with or amplify the unauthorised messages.

A burst of unusual activity appeared on Bruno Fernandes's X account shortly after 11pm GMT, with his feed suddenly flooding its 4.5 million followers with a rapid series of posts. The messages initially focused on cryptocurrency-related content, including claims about launching a new digital token,



before veering into remarks about money, with one now-deleted post stating: "This is why I need to get paid more." The tone of the posts soon shifted towards Manchester United's on-field troubles, coming just hours after the club's FA Cup exit to Brighton on Sunday under interim manager Darren Fletcher. One message described United as being "in the dumps," while another directly targeted ownership, calling for INEOS to be removed. The erratic sequence of posts continued with further messages tagging adult star Bonnie Blue, followed by references to the England cricket team. The account then went on to mention YouTuber KSI and reigning world darts champion Luke Little, underlining the random and uncharacteristic nature of the activity before the posts were taken down.

WPL 2026: Fresh from MI escape, RCB face tough questions against UP Warriorz

- What role did Nadine de Klerk play in RCB's win against MI?**
- What strategic changes are UP Warriorz implementing under Meg Lanning?**
- Why did White Speed appear in Kenya despite warnings?**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) may have beaten Mumbai Indians (MI) in their previous outing, but they head into Match No. 5 of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 against UP Warriorz on Monday in Navi Mumbai with several questions still unanswered. RCB are well aware they scraped past the finish line from a position where nine times out of ten, teams end up on the losing side. Had it not been for Nadine de Klerk's brilliance, the 2024 champions would have been staring at defeat.

THE PAIN POINT



With only six specialist batters in the squad, RCB remain vulnerable. Any game in which they lose three early wickets could brutally expose their thin batting depth. Radha Yadav, Arundhati Reddy and Shreyanka Patil do offer batting support, but can they consistently produce match-defining knocks like de Klerk? That remains a major question. In the absence of a reliable lower-order cushion, the pressure inevitably shifts to the bowlers, who could find themselves carrying an unsustainable burden over the

course of the tournament.

THE SOLUTION?

If RCB are keen to strengthen their batting ahead of this clash, one option could be to drop Linsey Smith, who conceded 23 runs in just two overs in the previous match. Bringing in Georgia Voll as Smriti Mandhana's opening partner and pushing Grace Harris down to No. 5 or 6 could add much-needed firepower. Even without Smith, RCB still have six bowling options, including Harris — a player who already has

Mbappe pulls away Real Madrid teammates, refuses guard of honour for Barcelona

- Kylian Mbappe sparked controversy after appearing to pull Real Madrid teammates away from offering Barcelona a guard of honour. The incident followed Madrid's 3-2 defeat in the Spanish Super Cup final in Saudi Arabia.**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Kylian Mbappe was at the centre of post-match controversy after a viral video appeared to show the Real Madrid forward pulling his teammates away and refusing to give a guard of honour to FC Barcelona following their Spanish Super Cup triumph on Sunday. Barcelona edged Real Madrid 3-2 in a dramatic final in Saudi Arabia to retain the Super Cup, but it was Mbappe's actions after the final whistle that drew widespread attention. As Barcelona players applauded Madrid while they walked up to collect their medals, the France international was seen gesturing to his teammates and guiding them away, ensuring the gesture was not returned. The

clip quickly spread across social media, with many fans accusing Mbappe of deliberately avoiding a traditional show of sportsmanship. The forward appeared visibly upset after the defeat, reflecting Madrid's growing frustration against their rivals. Sunday's loss marked the third

impact as Barcelona closed out the contest. A Super-Cup final

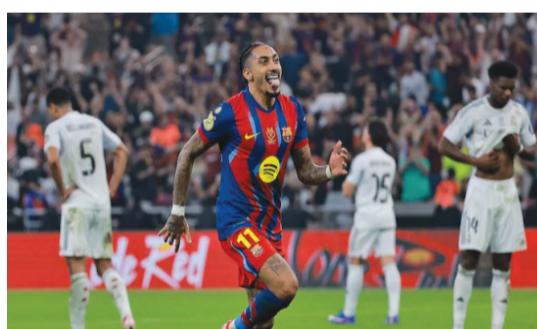
The final itself lived up to its billing. Barcelona opened the scoring in the 36th minute through Raphinha, only for Vinicius Junior to respond with a brilliant solo goal. Robert Lewandowski restored Barcelona's

lead shortly after, before Gonzalo Garcia equalised right on the stroke of half-time to make it 2-2. The decisive moment came after the break when Raphinha unleashed a strike from outside the box that took a crucial deflection past Thibaut Courtois. Barcelona then had to withstand sustained late pressure, including a red card for Frenkie de Jong and Mbappe's introduction, before holding on to secure the trophy. The result also intensified scrutiny on Madrid head coach Xabi Alonso, who later attempted to downplay the importance of the defeat. For Barcelona, the win delivered their first silverware of the season and extended their recent dominance over Madrid, while Mbappe's refusal to offer a guard of honour ensured the final ended with as much controversy as drama.



Raphinha repays Hansi Flick's faith with Super Cup final brace vs Real Madrid

NEW DELHI. (Agency) Raphinha delivered a defining performance on Sunday night as FC Barcelona edged past Real Madrid 3-2 to lift the Spanish Super Cup, with the Brazilian winger scoring twice in a pulsating final in Jeddah. After the match, Raphinha made it clear that the night carried personal significance beyond the silverware. Speaking after the final, the 29-year-old credited Barcelona head coach Hansi Flick for reviving his belief at a moment when his future at the club looked uncertain. "I always say he was the person who changed everything for me," Raphinha said. "I was leaving the club, had one foot out, and he told me what a player needs. He gives you the confidence to do your job well. That helps things turn out better." Flick, in turn, praised the winger's mentality and influence, highlighting how



his response to adversity lifted the entire team. The German coach underlined that Raphinha's ability to move past missed chances and stay aggressive was exactly what Barcelona needed in a high-pressure final. "His mentality is unbelievable, his dynamic affects the whole team," Flick said. "He missed the first chance but the second one, he was there and scored the

first goal, and it gave the team more confidence. This is what Raphinha brings on the pitch, a lot of intensity, and we need this." The final lived up to its billing, with Barcelona and Madrid trading blows in a breathless first half that ended 2-2. Raphinha opened the scoring in the 36th minute with a composed left-footed finish, only for Vinicius Junior to respond with a brilliant solo effort. Robert Lewandowski restored Barca's lead moments later before Gonzalo Garcia struck on the stroke of half-time to level the contest.

The decisive moment arrived after the break when Raphinha, who had already missed a presentable chance earlier, unleashed a strike from outside the area that took a decisive deflection past Thibaut Courtois. Barcelona then had to withstand late pressure, including a red card for Frenkie de Jong and the introduction of Kylian Mbappé, before holding on to secure the trophy.

a WPL hat-trick to her name.

WARRIORZ NEED SHUFFLING

For the Warriorz, the firepower is clearly there, but their batting unit needs restructuring as they look to get on the board following a 10-run defeat to the Gujarat Giants.

A player of Deandra Dottin's calibre cannot be batting at No. 7 and should be promoted up the order, given she is among the cleanest strikers of the ball in world cricket.

The Warriorz could also consider bringing in Gongadi Trisha in place of Harleen Deol. Trisha is a genuine ball-striker and offers additional value with her handy leg-spin. Kiran Navgire had an off day in the previous match, but considering the impact she can have in this format, the Warriorz should not contemplate moving away from her. Deepa Sharma, too, endured a rare off outing with the bat and will be keen to find rhythm at the earliest.

WPL 2026, RCB vs UPW: Head-to-head

Royal Challengers Bengaluru and UP Warriorz have faced each other six times, with both sides sharing three wins apiece. Last season, their Bengaluru clash went into a Super Over, which the Warriorz won. The two teams have met once in Navi Mumbai, where RCB secured a five-wicket victory.

Michael Carrick emerges as favourite for Manchester United interim manager job: Report

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Michael Carrick has emerged as the frontrunner to become Manchester United's interim manager, with the club moving swiftly to resolve its leadership situation after a turbulent run of results, according to reports.

United have stepped up their search following early exits from both domestic cup competitions, leaving Premier League qualification for Europe as their sole remaining objective this season. Senior club figures have held detailed discussions with Carrick and former head coach Ole Gunnar Solskjær, with a decision expected imminently to allow the new appointee adequate preparation time ahead of the Manchester derby against City at Old Trafford. The report indicates Carrick made a strong impression during his meeting with the club's hierarchy. Sky Sports News reported that the former midfielder stood out in discussions, though Solskjær's enduring popularity and familiarity with the club have also been taken into consideration. "Sky Sports News has been told Carrick was particularly impressive in those meetings, but there is also an awareness of how popular Solskjær was during his



previous stint as head coach," the report stated. Interim boss Darren Fletcher completed his short-term spell in charge following United's 1-2 FA Cup defeat to Brighton. He is scheduled to meet club officials at Carrington to discuss his future role. Further talks, led by director of football Jason Wilcock, are planned for Monday as United aim to finalise the appointment before a demanding sequence of fixtures. United's elimination from both the Carabao Cup and FA Cup represents their earliest domestic cup exits since the 1981-82 season. The club will play just 40 matches this campaign, their shortest season since 1914-15, when wartime conditions curtailed the football calendar. With silverware now off the table, attention has shifted firmly to league form and the pursuit of European qualification.

The timing of the appointment is seen as crucial. After the City derby on January 17, United face a daunting run against Arsenal, Fulham, Tottenham and West Ham. Club directors believe stability and clear leadership are essential if the side is to salvage the season.

Flying solo Why Neeraj Chopra split with Zelezny and what's next for javelin star

NEW DELHI. (Agency) When Neeraj Chopra announced that he had parted ways with Jan Zelezny after just a year of working together, it caught many by surprise. Partnerships with coaches of Jan Zelezny's stature are typically long-haul projects, built around Olympic cycles rather than single seasons. That this ended after just 12 months made it significant — and revealing. The decision came months after Chopra's shocking eighth-place finish at the World Championships in Tokyo, where 25-year-old Sachin Yadav finished fourth with a personal-best effort. It also followed Chopra's split with JSW Sports, the organisation that had backed him since his junior days. In its place, Chopra has launched VEL, his own foundation — envisioned as a high-performance platform to support emerging athletes while giving him greater control over training, competition planning and long-term legacy building. Even so, Chopra was careful to frame his separation from Jan Zelezny with warmth. "Working

with Jan opened my eyes to so many new ideas. The way he thinks about technique, rhythm and movement is incredible, and I learnt a lot from every single session we had together," Chopra said in a statement last week.

What I'm most proud about is the friendship I've built with someone who has been my idol all my life. Jan is not only the best javelin thrower of all time, but also one of the best human beings I have ever met."

Jan Zelezny echoed that sentiment. "Working with an athlete like Neeraj was a great experience," he said. "I'm glad we met and were able to work together, and that I helped him break the 90-metre barrier for the first time." He pointed out that apart from the World Championships, Chopra finished "at worst, second", and stressed that a back injury sustained just 12 days before Tokyo had "significantly affected his chances". "He has huge potential for the coming years," Jan Zelezny added, confirming they would stay in touch.

DIP IN CONSISTENCY

Yet performance trends provide important context. Since winning his first Olympic



three throws crossed 85m that year, while 14 fell short, including nine under 82m. His extraordinary 26-event, 2,566-day streak of finishing in the top two ended at the World Championships in Tokyo, where he placed eighth with 84.03m.

Consistency had long been Chopra's calling card. While the elusive 90m throw took time to arrive, he was the beacon of reliability on the men's javelin circuit. That reputation, however, began to fray after he breached the 90m mark at the season-opening Doha Diamond League last year.

Chopra himself acknowledged the struggle earlier. In July 2025, he spoke candidly about technical confusion. "The coach is very good. The training facility is very good in the Czech Republic. I am able to train really well, but when I am competing, I am not able to get a grasp of the technique. My old and new technique is getting mixed up," he said.

India powers past records as fuel exports hit historic high in 2025

CHENNAI.(Agency)

India's exports of refined petroleum products climbed to a record high in 2025, marking one of the strongest performances ever for the country's energy trade and underlining its growing role as a major supplier of fuels to the global market. The surge was driven by a combination of high refinery utilisation, strong overseas demand for transport fuels such as diesel and gasoline, and favourable price spreads that made it attractive for Indian refiners to ship large volumes abroad. India today hosts some of the most complex and efficient refineries in the world, led by large private operators and state-run firms that have steadily expanded capacity and upgraded processing units to handle a wide range of crude grades. In 2025, these facilities ran at near-maximum levels for much of the year, allowing refiners to take advantage of strong margins in export markets even as domestic fuel consumption remained robust. Higher crude processing translated into greater availability of diesel, petrol, aviation fuel and other products for shipment overseas, pushing exports to an all-time peak. A key driver behind the record performance was demand from Europe and other regions that faced supply tightness due to refinery maintenance, geopolitical disruptions and shifting trade flows. Indian refiners were able to step into this gap, particularly in diesel, which is the country's largest exported petroleum product. India's ability to source a diverse basket of crude oils, including discounted supplies, gave its refiners a cost advantage that allowed them to remain competitive even when global oil prices fluctuated.

The export boom also reflected how India has increasingly positioned itself as a refining and trading hub rather than just a consumer of imported crude. By importing large volumes of oil, processing it domestically and then exporting higher-value refined fuels, India captures more economic value and strengthens its presence in global energy supply chains. In 2025, this strategy paid off as overseas demand and favourable refining margins aligned at the same time.

MSIL to invest Rs 4,960 crore for its new facility in Gujarat

New Delhi.(Agency)

Maruti Suzuki India Limited's (MSIL) board has approved land acquisition in Gujarat to expand production capacity by up to 10 lakh units annually. This move involves an investment of around Rs 4,960 crore for land purchase, development, and preparatory works at the Khoraj Industrial Estate from the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation. "...Board today granted approval to acquire land for expansion of production capacity at



Khoraj Industrial Estate from Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation," said MSIL in a regulatory filing on Monday. This will be the carmaker's second manufacturing facility in Gujarat. As of now, the Hansalpur facility (Gujarat) has three plants with 2.5 lakh each annual capacity.

Websol to invest 3,538 cr in 8 GW solar manufacturing complex at Naidupeta

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has approved a greenfield investment by Websol Renewable to set up a fully integrated 8 gigawatt (GW) solar manufacturing facility (four GW solar cells and four GW solar modules) at MPSEZ-Naidupeta in Tirupati district. The project entails an investment of Rs 3,538 crore and is expected to provide direct employment to nearly 2,000 people.

The project will be developed in two phases over 120 acres, with commercial production scheduled from July 2027 and July 2028. The company said this would make it one of the largest and fastest-growing solar manufacturing projects in South India. To enable low-cost and green operations, the government has facilitated land for a dedicated captive solar power plant of about 300 acres, allowing Websol to run the manufacturing facility on renewable, self-generated power. In addition, Websol has announced a 100 megawatt (MW) captive solar power plant as part of the project to ensure energy security and operating cost efficiency. With this project, Naidupeta and the southern Tamil Nadu industrial corridor are emerging as a key solar manufacturing hub. Premier Energies, Tata Power and Voltsun are also establishing large-scale solar manufacturing facilities in the region, creating an ecosystem of suppliers, logistics, skilled manpower and port connectivity. Sohan Lal Agarwal, Chairman and Managing Director, Websol Energy System, said: "As India advances its renewable energy ambitions alongside the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, the approval received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh allows Websol to make a meaningful and exciting contribution with its expansion plans."

Sensex tumbles over 600 points: 3 reasons why the stock market is falling

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark equity indices extended their slide in late morning trade on Tuesday, with the Sensex tumbling nearly 500 points and the Nifty slipping further into the red as risk appetite evaporated among investors. At around 11:48 am, the Sensex was trading at 82,937.81, down 638.43 points, while the Nifty stood at 25,494.30, lower by 189 points. Losses were broad based as selling pressure intensified across sectors, with both domestic and global forces weighing on sentiment. Economic data and market moves suggest India's stocks have been under pressure for multiple sessions amid a confluence of caution and uncertainty.

GLOBAL UNCERTAINTY, GEOPOLITICAL RISKS

The collapse in sentiment can be traced back to a mix of India-specific issues and broader geopolitical concerns, according to Dr. V.K. Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited. The market has turned distinctly weak, weighed down by a series of India-

specific and global geopolitical events," he said. Vijayakumar highlighted that uncertainty around the US-India trade deal has been exacerbated by conflicting signals from the US administration, and that geopolitical developments in Venezuela, rising tensions in Iran and former US President Donald Trump's remarks about Greenland are intensifying caution among traders. He noted that these events have pushed up the India volatility index, India VIX, suggesting significant volatility ahead. According to him, an expected Supreme Court ruling on Trump-era tariffs did not materialise last Friday and remains uncertain, which, combined with upcoming Q3 earnings from major companies including IT firms and banking heavyweights such as Reliance Industries, will be key determinants of near-term market direction.

SELLING PRESSURE, WEAK TECHNICALS

Technical indicators now paint a cautious picture. The Nifty 50 slipped into the red



early in the session, breaking below the previous day's low and forming a lower low, reinforcing a short-term bearish structure. The index is gradually drifting toward key downside reference levels around 25,444 and 25,140, commonly viewed as pivotal support zones. Analysts note that the Nifty has broken multiple short-term supports and is hovering near the 100-day exponential moving average zone around 25,600–25,550, which now serves as immediate support.

With momentum indicators such as the RSI nearing oversold territory and MACD in negative territory, the technical backdrop

reflects sustained bearish control, leaving scope for further consolidation or mild downside if sentiment does not improve. The Bank Nifty also opened lower and continued to struggle, trading below key moving averages and showing little leadership from heavyweight banking stocks. With immediate support near lower horizontal levels, a decisive breakdown could accelerate selling, while resistance remains capped near recent bands, keeping the upside limited.

INVESTORS TURN CAUTIOUS

Market participants have also flagged a broader shift toward risk-off positioning, with investors remaining cautious ahead of the Q3 earnings season. Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said Indian equity markets opened on a bearish note, continuing a cautious tone that has lingered all week as global cues remained mixed. Geopolitical uncertainties, tariff-related concerns and sustained foreign institutional investor selling have further dampened risk appetite, prompting defensive positioning across portfolios.

Explained: Why HDFC Bank shares remain under selling pressure

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of HDFC Bank extended their decline in morning trade on Tuesday, continuing a weak run amid cautious investor sentiment across banking stocks. As of 10:24 am, shares of the private lender were trading at Rs 932.80, down Rs 6.20, or 0.66 per cent, adding to losses seen over recent sessions. The continued slide in HDFC Bank shares reflects a mix of stock-specific and broader market factors. Investors remain wary as benchmark indices stay under pressure, with financial stocks bearing the brunt of risk-off sentiment amid global uncertainty and concerns around earnings visibility. Market participants point to sustained profit booking in heavyweight banking stocks as one of the key reasons behind the weakness. HDFC Bank, given its large weight in key indices, often sees sharper selling during broader market corrections, amplifying price pressure even in the absence of negative company-specific triggers. Caution ahead of the bank's upcoming quarterly results has also weighed on sentiment. Investors are closely watching trends in loan growth, deposit mobilisation and margins, especially in a high interest-rate environment where funding costs remain elevated.

Any signs of pressure on margins or slower growth could influence near-term stock performance.

In addition, the banking sector has seen increased volatility as investors reassess valuations following a strong run in previous quarters. While HDFC Bank continues to be viewed as a long-term compounding, near-term expectations have moderated, leading some investors to trim positions. From a technical standpoint, traders say the stock remains under pressure as it trades below key short-term moving averages, with selling interest emerging on small rallies.

Until the stock shows signs of stabilisation or broader market sentiment improves, the downtrend is likely to persist in the near term.

Despite the ongoing weakness, analysts maintain that HDFC Bank's fundamentals remain intact, supported by its strong balance sheet, diversified loan book and leadership position in the private banking space. However, in the current environment, the stock is expected to take cues from quarterly earnings, management commentary and broader market direction. For now, investors appear to be adopting a wait-and-watch approach, with clarity on earnings and improvement in overall market sentiment likely to be key triggers for any meaningful recovery in HDFC Bank shares.

With prices at record highs, the real question for investors is not what gold and silver have done, but whether this rally is merely pausing or setting up for another leg higher.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices have surged to record levels, drawing fresh attention from investors as safe-haven demand, central-bank buying and expectations of supportive global policies continue to drive the rally. While prices have cooled slightly after a sharp rise, market experts say the broader trend in precious metals remains firmly positive. According to Ponnudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, the recent pause in prices reflects healthy profit-taking rather than a loss of momentum, with both gold and silver holding well above key support zones.



WHAT IS DRIVING GOLD PRICES

On the international market, COMEX gold marked a fresh lifetime high of \$4,612.70 before consolidating near \$4,582 after a strong rally. Ponnudi said prices are trading comfortably above the rising trendline and the 20-day exponential moving average near

support area," he said, adding that the current consolidation appears to be healthy profit-taking rather than trend weakness. "Persistent safe-haven demand, central-bank accumulation and expectations of accommodative global policy continue to support gold prices." Ponnudi said a sustained move above \$4,600 could accelerate gains towards the \$4,700 to \$4,800 range in

the near term. In the domestic market, MCX gold is trading around Rs 14,0780, after having already marked a lifetime high of Rs 14,1250. Ponnudi said the metal continues to maintain a higher-high and higher-low structure within a rising channel, with the 20-day EMA near Rs 1,38,000 acting as a reliable support. "Pullbacks are consistently attracting buyers," he said. "A sustained move above Rs 1,42,000 could open targets towards Rs 1,45,000 to Rs 1,48,000, while the preferred buy-on-dips zone remains Rs 1,38,000 to Rs 1,39,000."

WHY SILVER IS MOVING FASTER

Silver has outperformed gold in the current rally, supported by a mix of safe-haven flows and rising industrial demand. COMEX silver is trading firm near \$83 after marking a lifetime high and remains well above its short- and medium-term moving averages following a decisive breakout from consolidation.

Bharat Coking Coal IPO day 2: Check GMP, key dates and should you invest

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Bharat Coking Coal IPO remained firmly in focus on Day 2 of bidding, with strong subscription numbers and a steady grey market premium (GMP) keeping listing expectations intact. Investor interest has stayed healthy across categories, even as market participants continue to weigh valuation comfort and post-listing prospects.

LATEST GMP

In the unofficial grey market, the Bharat Coking Coal IPO GMP was trading at a premium of around Rs 10.6 over the issue price on Day 2. The steady premium suggests sustained demand rather than speculative spikes, indicating expectations of a positive

listing if broader market conditions remain supportive. Market watchers note that a stable GMP is generally seen as a healthier signal than sharp, short-lived jumps. However, analysts caution that GMP is an informal indicator and can fluctuate quickly based on subscription trends and overall market sentiment. It should not be treated as a guarantee of listing gains.

SUBSCRIPTION STATUS

As per data available on the BSE website, the IPO continued to witness strong demand early on Day 2. Against 34,69,46,500 shares offered, bids were received for 2,80,61,36,400 shares, translating into an overall subscription of 8.09 times as of 9:56 am. Market participants said the strong early

subscription reflects continued investor interest, though the final subscription numbers and category-wise participation closer to the close of the issue will be key in assessing the quality of demand.

SHOULD YOU INVEST IN BCCL IPO?

According to a note by brokerage firm Anand Rathi, the investment case for Bharat Coking Coal Limited is anchored in its dominant position in India's coking coal segment and its strategic importance to the steel industry. The brokerage highlighted that BCCL is the largest producer of coking coal in the country, accounting for nearly 59% of domestic production, with access to large

How employers can address New labour code's take-home salary and build employee trust

For employers, the reform means more disciplined salary design and tighter governance. Compensation structures that previously leaned heavily on allowances now require rebalancing. Finance leaders will need to review salary templates, update payroll logic, and ensure CTCs align with the wage definition.

New Delhi.(Agency)

The reclassification of wages under India's new labour codes has triggered understandable concern. If 50% of the total CTC must form the Basic component, many employees will see a dip in take-home salary as there will be an increase in mandatory contributions like PF and Gratuity. This is a structural shift by the government of India aimed at

strengthening social security and retirement protection of employees. Allowances and non-core components have historically made up a disproportionately large portion of salary. When Basic was kept lower, contributions towards Provident Fund, Gratuity, and other mandatory benefits were limited. By redefining wages, the law ensures that retirement funds scale proportionately with earnings.

However, to view this change only through the lens of "cash loss" misses the broader purpose. This shift strengthens long-term financial health and creates a predictable savings foundation that employees can rely on, especially in an uncertain economic environment. Recent history reminds us why this matters. During the pandemic, many households experienced sudden income shocks, uncertain job continuity, delayed payroll cycles, and unexpected medical expenses. A significant number of employees, especially in the early

stages of the crisis, were left without adequate financial buffers or emergency reserves. The labour-code alignment attempts to correct that structural weakness by embedding long-horizon financial protection into the salary



construct itself. It may feel uncomfortable in the short term, but it addresses a vulnerability that many employees face at the time of emergency.

FROM THE EMPLOYER PERSPECTIVE

For employers, the reform means more disciplined salary design and tighter governance. Compensation structures that previously leaned heavily on

allowances now require rebalancing. Finance leaders will need to review salary templates, update payroll logic, and ensure CTCs align with the wage definition. Budgeting, too, may see short-term friction. Some organisations will absorb it. Others will restructure CTC allocation. Either way, it demands internal alignment between HR, finance, legal, and management. But the real test is not mechanical. It is communicative.

If employees are left to decode changes on their own, the organisation will pay a cost in morale, trust, and internal credibility. HR will have to explain why this shift is happening, how it protects long-term financial security, and what it really means for wealth creation over a career. The morale risk is psychological, not financial. When employees don't understand the "why" behind a change, they assume cost-cutting or managerial insensitivity. The reform, if poorly communicated, can trigger insecurity and distrust.



Prakriti Kakar

Vinay Anand Set For Royal Wedding At Rajasthan's Fort Barwara

Wedding bells are ringing and they're ringing loud and long. Singer Prakriti Kakar has officially begun a two-week-long wedding celebration with fiancé Vinay Anand. Prakriti, best known for tracks like Hawa Hawa from Mubarak and her recent performance as the opening act at Akon's Bengaluru concert alongside twin sister Sukriti, shared that the wedding ceremony will take place at Fort Barwara near Jaipur. Speaking about the plans, she told Hindustan Times, "The wedding is at Fort Barwara near Jaipur, which will be an intimate ceremony. That will be followed by celebrations in Delhi. There will also be a big reception in Mumbai where everyone who has been part of my journey and industry colleagues will join in. It's going to be two weeks of fun."

The choice of venue, she revealed, was driven by a shared love for Rajasthan's regal settings and a long-held personal dream. Recalling how the decision came together, Prakriti said, "Last year on New Year's Vinay and I happened to visit Udaipur and it was quite clear we would love to get married in a fort or palace in Rajasthan. It was my childhood fantasy. Convincing our parents was a bit of a task but we were very sure about our plan."

With the big day just around the corner, wedding preparations have kept the singer busy even if she's usually

quick with decisions. Talking about finalising her bridal looks, she said, "I'm the most decisive girl when it comes to jewellery and outfits but somehow there had been a lot of back and forth with my wedding looks. Its all done now, I've finalised my lehenga and fittings are done so I'm in a much better place but overall it's been a lot of fun. I've styled most of Vinay's looks and he's the most chilled out groom to be, I wish I could be like him."

The celebrations began on a high note with a surprise bachelorette getaway planned by her sisters and close friends. Sharing details of the special trip, Prakriti said, "My sisters Sukriti and Akriti, along with my girl friends, 12 of us headed to a beautiful villa near the lake. We had different types of games, art activities, T-shirts, balloons and everything was customised with my photos on them. My sisters are the best maids of honour one could have."



Fatima Sana Shaikh Birthday: Career Highlights, Popular Movies And Life Moments

Fatima Sana Shaikh has steadily carved a place for herself in the entertainment industry through consistent performances and a willingness to take on varied roles. Known for her strong screen presence and versatility, the actress continues to evolve with each project.

As she celebrates her 34th birthday on January 11, here's a look at her career highlights,

Khoobsurat and One 2 Ka 4.

First Big Break

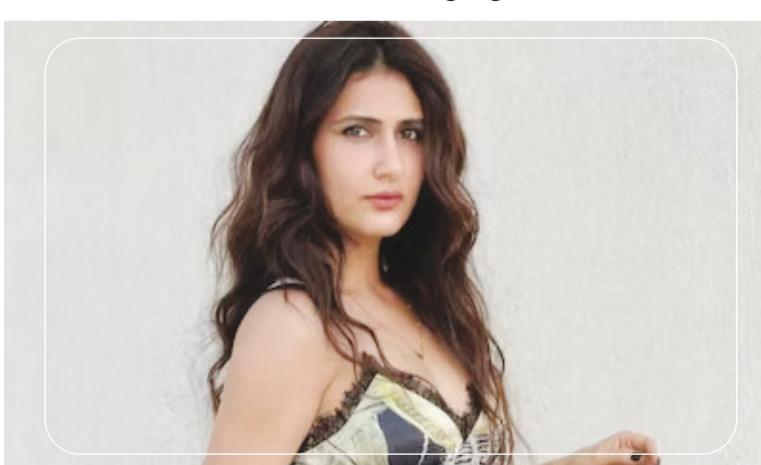
Despite working in the industry from a young age, Fatima got her first big break in Nitesh Tiwari's sports biography drama Dangal in 2016. In the film, Fatima was chosen to portray the role of Indian wrestler Geeta Phogat.

For this role, Fatima had to go through intense training and physical transformation and watched several videos on wrestling to understand their moves and body language. Alongside Fatima, the film also starred Aamir Khan and newcomer Sanya Malhotra.

Dangal gave Fatima her first big break. The film became the highest-grossing Indian film ever, with more than Rs 2000 crore in global earnings.

Streaming Success

Following the success of Dangal, Fatima starred in various popular films and streaming projects. The actress gained immense popularity for her OTT films and series, including Ludo, Ajeeb Daastaans and Modern Love Mumbai.



notable films and defining personal milestones. Fatima Sana Shaikh's Career Highlights. The actress began her career as a child artist in Chachi 420 in 1997. In the film, she essayed the role of Bharti Ratan. As a child, she also appeared in several popular Bollywood films, including Bade Dilwale,



Hrithik Roshan Turns 52: 10 Must-Watch Films That Define The Greek God Of Bollywood



Hrithik Roshan is widely regarded as one of Bollywood's most versatile and magnetic stars. Known for his commanding screen presence, unmatched dancing skills and ability to slip effortlessly into diverse roles, he has carved a unique space in Indian cinema. As the Greek God of Bollywood celebrates his 52nd birthday today, here are ten must-watch Hrithik Roshan films that define his remarkable journey.

Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara: Directed by Zoya Akhtar, this feel-good road trip film follows three childhood friends who embark on a life-changing vacation. Hrithik plays Arjun, a workaholic who learns to embrace life while facing fears through adventure sports and heartfelt moments.

Vikram Vedha: This neo-noir action thriller presents Hrithik in a gritty, morally complex role as a gangster. The film explores the thin line between good and evil through intense storytelling and philosophical conversations with a determined police officer.

Super 30: Based on the life of mathematician Anand Kumar, this inspiring drama showcases Hrithik as a teacher who mentors underprivileged students. The film highlights perseverance, education and the power of determination against all odds.

Dhoom 2: In this stylish action thriller, Hrithik steals the spotlight as Aryan Singh, a master thief who constantly changes disguises. His thrilling cat-and-mouse chase with the police and undeniable charm make the film unforgettable.

Koi... Mil Gaya: This emotional sci-fi drama features Hrithik as Rohit Mehra, a young man whose life transforms after meeting an alien. The film blends innocence, friendship, and fantasy, marking a landmark in Indian cinema.

War: Hrithik delivers high-octane action as a rogue RAW agent in this adrenaline-packed thriller. The film is known for its spectacular stunts, intense face-offs and sleek storytelling. **Lakshya:** A powerful coming-of-age war drama, Lakshya traces Hrithik's transformation from a confused youth to a dedicated army officer. The film beautifully captures personal growth and patriotism.

Mahhi Vij Says Her Soul Is Connected To 'Best Friend' Nadim: 'I Love You; Having You By My Side...'



Actress Mahhi Vij has taken to her social media account to wish her good friend Nadim on his birthday, saying that both he and Mahhi are one, as their souls are connected.

Sharing a picture of her feeding the cake to Nadim, Mahhi wrote, "Yes, we get angry sometimes. Yes, we fight. Yes, sometimes we don't talk for days. But no matter how far the silence goes, it always ends at the same place—us. Because deep down, we both know that Nadim and Mahhi are one. Our souls are connected in a way words can never fully explain." "Wishing him on his birthday, Mahhi wrote, Happy Birthday to the one I chose, not by chance, but by heart. To the one who listens to me even when I don't say a word, to the one who stands by me not because he has to, but because he wants to— you are my family, my safe place, my forever." She added, "You are not just my best friend, you are my comfort, my strength, my home. With you, I can be myself—broken, happy, emotional, imperfect—and still feel completely accepted and loved." Mahhi said how he has stood with her in her life's toughest times.

"Life hasn't always been easy, but having you by my side makes everything lighter, everything stronger, everything better. You hold my hand when I'm weak, you believe in me when I forget to believe in myself, and you love me in ways that heal parts of me I didn't even know were broken," she wrote. She added, "I love you, Nadim—not just for who you are, but for how you make me feel, for how you stand with me, for how you are my heart, my home, my family. Today and always." For the uninitiated, Mahhi recently had parted ways with her husband and actor Jay Bhanushali.

The reports of trouble in the marriage of the popular television couple Mahhi Vij and Jay Bhanushali had been doing the rounds for some time. Both Mahhi and Jay had shared a note on their respective social media accounts announcing their decision to part ways after almost 15 years of being married. The social media post read, "Today, we choose to part ways on a journey called life, yet we continue to have each other's back. Peace, growth, kindness and humanity have always been our guiding values. (sic)."

10 tips for email Etiquette



However, people often forget that they have to use a different, more formal tone for official email correspondence, and end up peppering their emails with too many emojis and abbreviations. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when you're sending out a work email.

1. INTRODUCTIONS ARE IMPORTANT: Always introduce yourself if you are writing to someone you don't know or haven't corresponded with previously. If you've got the sender's address from a mutual friend, mention that

in your email. Introducing yourself is especially important if you're sending out a survey or questionnaire to people whose addresses you have got from a database.

2. ALWAYS RUN A SPELL-CHECK: It's important to run a spell-check for official correspondence, especially if you're sending an email from your phone. You don't want the auto-correct feature to backfire on an official email, after all. Ensure your grammar and punctuation are correct as well.

3. USE THE REPLY-ALL FEATURE SPARINGLY:

Only use the reply-all feature for an email that really needs it. If the reply is meant for only one person, just reply to him/her. And

YOUR E-MAIL!



don't use it to reply to a sender's greetings for the festive season — you could find yourself being blamed for starting an unnecessary email thread.

4. USE BCC FOR GENERIC MAILS:

Use the Bcc field for when you are sending out mails to a very large number of people who may not all know each other. It's also a way to ensure that all your contacts' addresses are not out there for people unknown to them to access.

5. RESTRICT THE NUMBER OF ATTACHMENTS YOU SEND:

Send heavy files via file-hosting services so that you don't clog the recipient's inbox. You could also zip files or resize pictures. If you know you're sending an email to someone who accesses his/her inbox on the phone, don't send several attachments with it.

6. DON'T OVER-ABBREVIATE:

Don't use too many abbreviations or in your email, like FYI, PFA, PDF or FYR. It may confuse the recipient, who may also get the impression that you don't have the time to type out a proper email. If you must use them, restrict it only to the subject line.

7. FORMATTING FUNDAS:

Do not use all caps and bold fonts as this will give the recipient the impression that you are shouting at him/her. The same goes for underlining in the middle of a lot of text. Don't use fancy fonts or multiple font colours either.

8. WATCH YOUR TONE:

Always be careful about how your email sounds. It may be an official email, but it should not sound too abrupt. You shouldn't sound over-friendly either, especially if this is the first time you are corresponding with the recipient. Moreover, don't send out an email if you're upset. Save it as a draft and re-read it when you're calmer.

9. FIX YOUR FORWARDS:

Make it a point to clean up forwards before you, in turn, forward them to other people. Not only does this make the email look cleaner, but it also ensures that you don't give away anyone else's email addresses.

10. CHECK WHO YOU'RE SENDING AN EMAIL TO:

Always check the To field of an unsent email before you send it. You don't want the wrong email being sent to the wrong

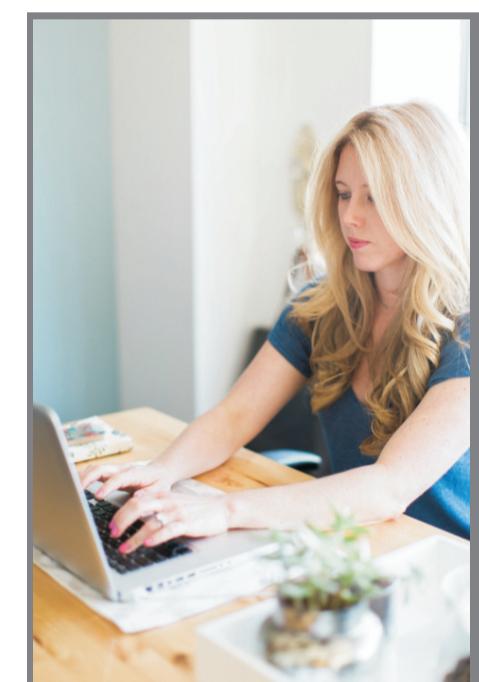
person.

What every official email should contain **Subject line:** This is the first thing that recipients will see in their inboxes and it will determine whether they will read it or not. It should be clear and direct.

Salutation: Always start an email by greeting the recipient by using the word 'dear' followed by his/her name. If you aren't on a first-name basis with the recipient, use a title and a surname.

Concise body: Get straight to the point. If you have more than one issue to address, start with the most important, and list the rest point-by-point.

Sign off: Always sign off on your emails. Phrases like 'Yours sincerely' and 'yours faithfully' are acceptable for formal emails. 'Best regards' or 'kind regards' work in most other situations.



Don't be a social media addict



This is a question that not many people would like to really acknowledge — are you addicted to social media? Do you spend every other minute of your time checking for updates or the latest happenings on the Internet? Are you guilty of sneaking up to your smartphone during work hours and checking your social networking account to see what your friends are up to? Is your smartphone/tablet the first thing you check when you wake up? Does the thought of not having your smartphone with you at all times stress you out? You aren't alone. Statistics have thrown up alarming numbers of people who are addicted to smartphones and particularly, social media.

- Letting go of a habit is easier said than done. Don't, therefore, expect miracles to happen overnight. The first step is to acknowledge the fact that you're indeed glued to social media. This self realisation is the first step in de-addiction process.

- Don't go on an all-out detox from day one. Allow yourself to gradually stop visiting social media accounts at the drop of a hat. Resist the temptation — as difficult as it may be — and tell yourself you can beat the urge.

- Set times in a day when you allow yourself to spend time surfing social media sites. A 10 to 15 minute break during the day and some time late evening could be one option. Alternatively, you could choose the time depending upon your schedule. However, make sure you stick to it!

- While it is fun to let people see what you're up to, 'checking in' on Facebook every time you're out somewhere 'nice' is simply tacky. Not everyone on your friend list really wants to know if you're watching a movie, having dinner at a fancy place or watching the sunset. Use your discretion. And some common sense! And don't get personal in comments on Twitter. Just because you have the power of anonymity, doesn't mean you troll someone.

- Distract yourself with other activities. There is so much more to do that you will miss out on if you're just going to be glued to your smartphone all the time. Don't let your relationships suffer at the cost of technology.

Make the most of your

Internship

In an effort to market themselves to future employers better, students choose internships that help them further their careers. Times have changed and one no longer has to seek assistance from their well-placed relatives to ask for favours.

So how to make the most of the dream internship you've landed up with? Here's taking a look...

- Be prepared and know that you will not be entrusted with the most important jobs. You'll mostly be

assisting your seniors and make their lives a li'l easier. But know that this is a part of the process and will help you in knowing things in and out...

- Showing that you can do boring

jobs well will help further your chances of being assigned more important tasks.

- Observe how others around you are working and adjust. Don't emulate them completely, but understand what's important - where do they go for lunches (cafeteria, eat at their desks or have a separate lunch room altogether). Speaking to those around you (without disturbing them, of course) will also help you learn quite a lot. Their journey might not be similar to yours, but approach matters.

- Unless you are a social media intern or just taking a break for a while, avoid using social networking sites.

- Ask for reviews. Be open to suggestions and ready to take in whatever your seniors have to say of your work. It will only enhance your work-style.

- Dress well. And by that, we do not mean going OTT. But not the way you dress in your college. Ditch those capris, flip-flops, low-waist jeans. It may throw wrong signals. Be fun, be graceful.

