

Centre shelves Hosur airport plan after Coimbatore, Madurai metro projects stall; TN accuses bias

This marks the second rejection after Tamil Nadu's requests in June and November 2025, with HAL citing interference to its Bengaluru-area military operations. The planned 30-million-passenger facility on 2,300 acres aimed to boost Hosur's electronics and EV industries, create jobs, and ease Bengaluru airport congestion.

Chennai (Agency)
In a major blow to Tamil Nadu's infrastructure ambitions, the Union government has rejected three high-profile projects—the Hosur greenfield airport and the metro rail systems for Coimbatore and Madurai. The decisions, communicated over the past week, have sparked sharp criticism from the state government and triggered political backlash, with the ruling DMK accusing the Centre of unfairly blocking Tamil Nadu's development. **Hosur Airport: Defence Ministry Says No**
The proposed international airport at Hosur, planned across 2,300 acres in Sulagiri taluk, has been turned down by the Ministry of Defence, which stated that the airspace is required for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) operations. This is the second rejection since June 2025,

despite the state submitting a detailed report in November arguing that the airport could coexist with HAL's activities. Additionally, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has sought an impact study to assess whether the Hosur airport would affect traffic at Bengaluru or Salem airports. The project also faces a legal hurdle: an agreement between Bengaluru International Airport and the Centre prohibits new airports within a 150 km radius, which Hosur falls within.

Coimbatore and Madurai Metro: Population and Viability Concerns
The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has returned the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for metro rail in Coimbatore



and Madurai, citing non-compliance with the 2017 Metro Rail Policy. Key reasons include: **Population threshold:** As per the 2011 census, Coimbatore's population is 15.84 lakh and Madurai's is 15 lakh, below the policy's requirement of 20 lakh. **Overestimated ridership:** The Centre

questioned Coimbatore's projected daily ridership of 5.9 lakh, noting it exceeds current ridership of Chennai Metro's 55 km Phase-I.

Engineering feasibility: Narrow roads (7-12 metres) in both cities raised concerns about constructing stations and viaducts without large-scale demolition. **Cost-effectiveness:** The Centre suggested that a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) would be more suitable and financially viable for Madurai, as per the state's own Comprehensive Mobility Plan.

State Government's Response

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging a review of the rejections. State officials argue that both Coimbatore and Madurai are rapidly growing industrial hubs whose

After Hotel Shift, Team Shinde's Fresh Move To Foil Horse-Trading Attempts

According to sources in Shiv Sena, the leader of the group of corporators is likely to be named today.

All documentary work will be completed

New Delhi (Agency)

Determined to prevent defections, Shiv Sena chief Eknath Shinde has decided to complete all paperwork involving the 29 newly elected corporators of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, who were moved to a five-star hotel in Mumbai soon after their poll win.

According to sources in the Shiv Sena, the leader of the group of Sena corporators is likely to be named today. All documentary work will be completed today to remove all possibilities of defections. Names such as Yamin Jadhav, Trishna Vishwasrao and Amey Ghole -- young but experienced corporators -- are being discussed for top roles.

The BMC polls, held after 2017, saw the Devendu Fadnavis-led BJP and its ally, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, win 89 and 29 seats, respectively. The Thackeray brothers, Uddhav and Raj, who fought in alliance with the NCP's Sharad Pawar faction, have won 72 seats together. While the BJP and Shinde Sena have the numbers to cross the majority

mark in the 227-member House, the question of who the mayor will be is likely to dominate the discussions between the allies.

BMC has had a Sena Mayor for decades now, and Shinde, whose mutiny split the Sena, will push for the Mayor post to

Sena, and NCP (Sharad Pawar) won 65, six, and one ward, respectively. This adds up to 72. The Congress won 24 wards, AIMIM eight, and the Samajwadi Party two. If the Opposition decides to join ranks, the tally would go up to 106, eight short of the majority. While this is highly unlikely, it remains a possibility.

It is against the backdrop of this poll math that the Shinde Sena is not taking any chances. Soon after their win, Shinde moved all 29 corporators to a five-star hotel to foil any poaching attempt.

Sena (UBT) chief and Shinde's former boss, Uddhav Thackeray, claimed that the Deputy Chief Minister is actually wary of ally BJP. "Those who had once abandoned a party can do it again," he said. Thackeray's aide and Rajya Sabha

MP Sanjay Raut has said many of the Shinde Sena corporators are new faces. "They are Shiv Sainiks, and they do not want a BJP mayor." In a cheeky remark, he added, "No matter how much you confine them, there are many means of communication; messages.



bolster his claim that his faction is the real Shiv Sena. The BJP, on the other hand, will likely want to claim the mayor's post to make a political point, as the BMC has never had a BJP corporator as Mayor. As for the Opposition, the Shiv Sena (UBT), the Maharashtra Navnirman

Thrashed with belts, rods: Bhopal woman alleges assault over parking dispute

Bhopal (Agency)

A college student in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal has alleged that she and her friends were assaulted by a group of men following a parking-related dispute in the city's Kalpana Nagar area. The incident came to light after the student uploaded a video on social media describing the alleged attack. She has also alleged that even her hair were pulled off during the attack. The student claimed that the altercation began when one of her friends attempted to park a vehicle near a madrasa, a place where they usually park. According to her, some men sitting in an auto objected to the parking and allegedly demanded Rs 1,000, leading to a heated argument.

She alleged that the men then called more people from the locality, after which her friends were allegedly assaulted using rods, belts and other objects. The student further claimed that women who arrived at the spot also assaulted her, pulled her hair and manhandled her.

The student also alleged that during the incident, one of the men raised an objectionable slogan. She said she and her friends immediately called the police, following which they were taken for medical examination. The medical reports

The student claimed that the altercation began when one of her friends attempted to park a vehicle near a madrasa, a place where they usually park. She also alleged that the men then called more people from the locality, after which her friends were allegedly assaulted using rods, belts and other objects.

reportedly confirmed injuries caused by assault.



Based on the complaint, police have registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sahita against the accused. The student said she has been living away from home for studies since 2019, but this was the first time she felt unsafe.

Meanwhile, residents from the Muslim community in the locality stated that the incident stemmed from a parking dispute and should not be given a communal colour. They said the police have taken the accused into custody

and condemned the assault, particularly the alleged violence against a woman, calling it unacceptable.

"We Should Be Gradually Made To Retire": Nitin Gadkari Sparks Buzz

Nitin Gadkari said old generation should be gradually made to retire and the responsibility be given to the new generation.

Nagpur (Agency)

Union minister Nitin Gadkari on Sunday pitched for the next generation taking important responsibilities and the old generation stepping aside when things start running smoothly. Gadkari, 68, was addressing a press conference in Nagpur about the Advantage Vidarbha-Khasdar Audhyogik Mahotsav, conceptualised by him and organised by Ashish Kale, president of the Association for Industrial Development (AID).

Gadkari said Kale has involved the young generation in the Advantage Vidarbha initiative. "I believe that gradually, the generation should also change." Ashish's father is my friend. Now we should be gradually made to retire and the responsibility be given to the new generation, and when the vehicle starts running smoothly, then we should withdraw and do some other work," Gadkari said.

Gadkari, who is AID's chief mentor, said this is the third year of Advantage Vidarbha expo, being held in Nagpur from February 6 to 8.

There are very good entrepreneurs in Vidarbha region in various sectors, Gadkari said. The objective of the three-day event is to establish Vidarbha as a strong and emerging growth hub on India's industrial map, he added. Gadkari also emphasised on the importance of Industrial sector, agriculture and allied sectors and service sector for the development of any region.

The Advantage Vidarbha expo will feature participation of industries from sectors such as textiles, plastics, minerals, coal, aviation, logistics, IT, healthcare, pharmaceuticals, defence, real estate, renewable energy, and startups.

Presiding officers' meet to stress tech use for legislature

Lucknow (Agency)

The 86th All-India Presiding Officers Conference (AIPOC) will be held in Lucknow for three days from January 19 to deliberate on legislative traditions and strengthening democratic values. The 62nd Conference of Secretaries of State Legislatures and Legislative Councils will also be held from at the UP legislature.

Presiding officers, secretaries and eminent representatives from legislatures across the country will deliberate on legislative procedures, parliamentary traditions, conduct of the House, good governance and other contemporary legislative issues during the synchronous conferences, officials said. The inaugural address will be delivered by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and UP Governor Smt Anandiben Patel. At

AIPOC, UP Assembly where Speaker Satish Mahana will present the welcome address.

The conference is being held a few days after the conclusion of the 28th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers, which took place at Parliament's Samvidhan Sadan from January 15 to 16 with the participation of more than 60 delegates from across Commonwealth countries. Official sources said UP Legislative Council Chairman Kunwar Manvendra Singh will deliver the vote of thanks at the inaugural session.

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh and Leader of Opposition in UP Assembly, Mata Prasad Pandey, will also address the gathering. "The topics to be discussed



include leveraging technology for transparent, efficient and citizen-centric legislative processes, capacity building of legislators to enhance efficiency, strengthening democratic governance; and improving the accountability of the legislature to the public," an official statement said.

The conference will conclude with the valedictory address by Speaker Birla. UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Harivansh, Kunwar Manvendra Singh, and Satish Mahana will address the valedictory session.

The 86th All India Presiding Officers' Conference and the 62nd Conference of Secretaries are being hosted by the Uttar Pradesh Assembly, commencing on Monday.

The conferences are aimed at facilitating wide-ranging deliberations on the use of technology, adoption of best practices in legislative assemblies and enhancement of public participation in the legislative process, along with discussions on other issues.

Rs 320-crore bonanza in Varuna: CM Siddaramaiah's legacy move or parting signal?

Mysuru (Agency)

Even before presenting the state budget, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has given a pre-budget gift to his home turf Varuna Assembly constituency, triggering intense political debate across the state.

By laying the foundation stone for development works worth over Rs 320 crore, Siddaramaiah has once again placed Varuna at the centre of the state's political discourse raising a crucial question: Is this a parting gift amid leadership speculation, or a calculated move to cement his legacy?

The timing of the mega foundation-laying ceremony is politically significant. With speculation rife over a possible change of guard in the Congress government, Siddaramaiah chose to make a strong statement from the constituency he represents and nurtured for decades. While

Congress leaders in the district see the move as both symbolic and strategic, signalling authority and continuity, his close aides call it a message that governance, not rumours, defines his leadership.

Siddaramaiah, who now holds the record of being the longest-serving chief minister, launched 154 works spanning 15 departments at an event in Kuppa village coming under Varuna constituency on Sunday. The projects range from infrastructure and urban development to health and social welfare, showcasing a long-term vision rather than short-term optics.

The highlight among the projects is the Rs 100-crore NIMHANS extension and de-addiction centre, a landmark initiative aimed at strengthening mental health services and



tackling alcohol abuse, an issue increasingly affecting rural and urban parts of the state. Siddaramaiah stressed his emotional bond with Varuna during the event and stated that his responsibility to the people goes beyond electoral cycles. He said in 2024, he had launched a slew of development works worth Rs 501 crore, in 2025, he had launched Rs 1,108-crore worth projects and now even before the budget, Rs 320-crore

work has been taken up, totalling nearly Rs 1,932 crore in the last two-and-a-half years in Varuna constituency alone.

He also said in Mysuru district alone, nearly Rs 10,000 crore worth of welfare and development programmes have been taken and said it is his duty to ensure lasting development in Mysuru.

However, the scale of the announcements, especially before the budget and amid the speculation over change of guard in the state, has sparked a debate in political circles whether Siddaramaiah is preparing the ground for the future, possibly for his family or the next generation of leadership from Varuna, or is this a final flourish amid uncertainty over his continuation as CM.

While Congress leaders say that there is no leadership question, opposition parties argue the move resembles

News box

Man gets police uniform stitched, buys SPO card, poses as SI to dodge toll & stay in Gurgaon hotels

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 34-year-old man, who posed as a sub-inspector (SI) to stay in hotels, was arrested on Friday. Mukesh Kumar, who also tried to avoid paying toll tax and flaunted fake authority in public, was arrested by Civil Lines police officials following a complaint lodged by the manager of Gurgaon's Shubham Hotel. Police said the accused drove a rented e-rickshaw in Rajasthan's Khatu and frequently travelled between Jhajjar and Khatu. "To avoid paying toll tax during these journeys and to project influence, he procured a fake special police officer (SPO) identity card from a person in Jhajjar for Rs 500 and got a police uniform stitched from Jharkot Kalan in Delhi for Rs 2,200. He was in an inebriated state when he was arrested," an officer said.

According to police, the hotel manager approached them on Jan 17 after Mukesh, wearing the Haryana Police SI uniform, checked into the hotel and produced an Aadhaar card as identity proof. "The manager grew suspicious when the accused returned later after he paid Rs 600 for the stay and began making unnecessary enquiries about the room. When questioned, the suspect became nervous and attempted to flee but was overpowered by hotel staff and handed over to the police," the officer added. Mukesh, a graduate and resident of Kasni village in Jhajjar district, admitted he posed as the SI to "intimidate people and gain undue advantages". A case was registered against him under relevant sections. From his possession, police seized an Aadhaar card, a PAN card, a fake SPO ID card and the uniform. Mukesh was produced before a Gurgaon court on Sunday and was taken for a one-day remand.

Worker dies in hit-and-run accident in Faridabad

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 20-year-old contract worker died in a hit-and-run accident in Faridabad's Tigaon area on Sunday morning. Mohit, a resident of Chandpur village, was riding to duty around 7.15am when an unidentified heavy vehicle hit him near Karauli and Badrola Chowk. He was thrown onto the road and suffered critical injuries, while he fled.

His brother told police that dense fog had reduced visibility at the time. A case has been registered against an unknown vehicle driver under sections 281 (rash driving) and 106 (death by negligence) at Tigaon police station. Mohit's elder brother, Amit Kumar, said his younger sibling worked as a helper and left home for work as usual in the morning. Dense fog at the time of the accident reduced visibility on the stretch, he added. Cops were alerted by the passers-by who spotted Mohit lying injured on the road.

When a police team reached the spot, they shifted him to a private hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Mohit was unmarried and the youngest among his siblings, his brother said. "On reaching the spot, the youth was found in a critical condition and was taken to hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries."

After the autopsy, the body was handed over to the family. Police said CCTV footage from the area is being scanned to trace the vehicle and its driver.

Three die in Noida, minor injured after truck rams into bike

Noida.(Agency)

Three persons died while a minor boy was injured after a truck hit their bike in the Teela Mod area on Sunday.

Police sent the bodies — Lalit Singh (37), a resident of Delhi, his wife Pinky (34) and their son Aarav (10) — for the autopsy, while the couple's younger son, Neerav (7), was admitted to GTB Hospital in Delhi.

A large crowd gathered at the scene while local people blocked Loni Road. After police reached the spot, they calmed the angry crowd. A long traffic jam occurred on Loni Road. Police removed the truck, which was carrying LPG cylinders, and the bike from the road to restore traffic flow. "We detained the driver — Sanjay Kumar (44), a resident of Loni — and soon police will register an FIR," ACP (Shalimar Garden) Atul Kumar Singh said, adding, "Lalit had tried to overtake the truck and suddenly, he applied brakes after seeing a pothole on the road."

Noida to roll out cloud-based water monitoring system

Noida.(Agency)

To strengthen the city's water supply network, Noida Authority is set to introduce a cloud-based remote monitoring and management system. The project, estimated to cost Rs 1.8 crore, aims to improve oversight of water distribution, quality and infrastructure performance, particularly in areas that frequently report supply-related issues. Officials said the sensor-based system will provide real-time data on key parameters critical to water management. These include the status of water supply, total dissolved solids (TDS) levels, availability of Ganga water, and the functioning of tubewells and rainwells. The data will be consolidated on a centralised digital platform to enable quicker identification of disruptions and faster corrective action.

According to tender documents, the scope of work includes the supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a cloud-based monitoring system integrated with energy conservation devices and a programmable logic controller (PLC)-based centralised control system. The platform will allow officials to monitor water flow, pressure and quality across different segments of the distribution network, while also tracking the operational status of critical infrastructure assets. Officials said the tender was floated three times, with applications invited until Jan 6 in the most recent round.

'We could see only a thin ray of light': Noida techie's final struggle in abandoned pit; authority cracks whip

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Trapped in a flooded pit on a fog-choked night, 27-year-old software engineer Yuvraj Mehta fought for nearly 90 minutes to stay alive — climbing onto the roof of his sinking SUV, calling his father, sharing his location, and flashing his phone's torch again and again through the mist in a desperate bid to be seen. Those at the edge of the pit could hear his cries, but in near-zero visibility, they could only make out "a thin ray of light" before his voice eventually fell silent. The accident occurred around 12.30am in Sector 150 when Mehta, who worked with customer data science company Dunnhumby India in Gurgaon, was on his way home when his Grand Vitara smashed through a damaged boundary wall and plunged into a water-filled excavation dug for a commercial project near ATS Le Grandiose. With no barricading, reflectors or warning lights at the site, the pit — nearly 30 feet deep — was



virtually invisible in dense fog. Mehta, who did not know how to swim, managed to get out of the vehicle and clamber onto its roof as it slowly sank. Within minutes, his father Raj Mehta, a retired SBI director who lives in the same sector, reached the spot after receiving his son's call and WhatsApp location. Police and emergency services were alerted, but rescuers struggled to

locate him in the darkness. Ropes were thrown, a crane was brought in, and ladders were tried — all falling short of reaching him in time. A passerby, Moninder, even jumped into the freezing water and searched for nearly half an hour, but could not find Mehta in the murk. Rescue teams cited thick fog, extreme cold and the depth of the pit as major hurdles. SDRF personnel reached

High Court seeks UP, Noida's reply on Supreme Court order on revised land payout

Noida.(Agency)

Allahabad High Court has asked UP govt and Noida Authority to clarify whether they have implemented the Supreme Court's July 10, 2024, order to pay landowners compensation under the 2013 land acquisition law. A division bench of Justices Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Kunal Ravi Singh sought responses on whether compensation was reassessed and released in line with the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, which generally provides higher payouts through revised market value, solatium and interest.

The land was acquired by the Authority for planned industrial development under the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. A declaration under Section 6(1) was issued in Jan 2015. Landowners had challenged the process, and in Jan 2017, the high court quashed

the Section 6(1) declaration, citing procedural lapses in the hearing of objections under Section 5A of the 1894 Act. The Authority took the matter to the Supreme Court. In its 2024 judgment, the apex court set aside the 2017 high court ruling and upheld the acquisition, holding that the high court erred in annulling the entire process — particularly when "a majority of affected landowners either did not file objections or accepted compensation", and when "large-scale development already took place" on the acquired land. The Supreme Court simultaneously issued binding directions on compensation. It clarified that because the 2013 law came into force while the acquisition proceedings were still pending, landowners were entitled to compensation under Section 24(1) of the 2013 Act, not the repealed 1894 law. The apex court ordered that any land

compensation that was not already paid must be released with statutory interest, and added that receiving compensation would not bar landowners from seeking enhancement under the 2013 law. The court also ordered that the limitation period for such enhancement claims would run from the date of its judgment. The matter has now returned to the high court on the plea that these compensation directions have not been implemented yet on the ground, even though the legality of the acquisition has attained finality. During Tuesday's hearing, the counsel for the state govt as well as the Noida Authority sought time to obtain instructions on compliance with the Supreme Court ruling in question. The high court granted the request, and further directed that the earlier 2017 division bench judgment be placed on record, and listed the matter for further hearing on Feb

In Gurgaon, buyers protest delay in handover of flats, call for govt intervention

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Homebuyers have urged authorities to step in and ensure timely delivery of homes after prolonged delays in construction of a housing project in Sector 37C. Residents said they have been waiting for possession for several years despite having made full payments. According to homebuyers' representatives, who protested on Sunday, bookings for the project, Aashiyara, were made in 2018 under the state's affordable housing policy, and buyers claim the entire cost of their flats was paid more than three years ago. However, a portion of the construction work remains pending, with activity at the site reportedly coming to a standstill over the past year.

Officials in the town and country planning department have acknowledged receiving multiple complaints regarding non-completion of the project. Internal communications from the department indicate that the project site was inspected following representations from allottees and construction was found to be incomplete at the time of inspection. The matter has since been escalated to higher authorities for further directions. Documents show that the project received approval under the Affordable Group Housing Policy and that the developer had applied for an occupation certificate in 2024. However, inspection reports noted that finishing work in several towers was still pending, while labour presence at the site was minimal during the visit. Authorities have advised allottees to approach the real estate regulator for redressal of grievances related to possession delays. Goutam Kumar Maiti, president of the buyer's association, said repeated changes in the proposed completion timeline over the years and assurances given during meetings with officials have yet to translate into visible progress on the ground. Many residents said they are facing financial strain as they continue to service home

Man handed two life terms for rape & murder of 5-year-old niece in 2019

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A special Poco court of additional sessions judge Neeraj Gautam awarded two life terms to a Muradnagar man for the rape and murder of his five-year-old niece. While the first life term was sentenced under Section 302 of IPC (murder), the other life term, awarded under Section 5/6 (aggravated penetrative sexual assault) will be effective until the end of his natural life. The man was also sentenced under Section 201 (causing disappearance of evidence) and Section 377 (carnal intercourse against the order of nature). The court found the incident did not qualify as a crime under the rarest of rare category and refused to award capital punishment. However, it imposed a fine of Rs 1.3 lakh and ordered that Rs 1 lakh be given to the parents of the child as compensation. The court gave credence to



the testimony of the minor's uncle, who testified as an eyewitness and confirmed seeing the minor with her uncle, the accused. The case dates back to an FIR registered with Muradnagar police on April 8, 2019, by the minor's father.

The girl went missing the previous night and her body was found the next morning in a nearby field. As per medical findings, cops included Section 376A and Section 377

IPC along with Section 302 and Section 201 IPC. The accused was identified from CCTV footage and was arrested the next day. A chargesheet was filed on June 1, the same year, while the court framed charges on March 13 the next year. The prosecution presented 7 witnesses, including the plaintiff, the minor's father; one of her uncles as an eyewitness; the doctor who conducted the post-mortem; and investigators in the case.

The defence, on the other hand, produced 4 witnesses, including the minor's mother, grandfather, and 2 locals. The defence argued that the prosecution did not prove the CCTV footage under Section 65B of the Indian Evidence Act. The court, however, observed that the eyewitness saw the accused going into the forest with the girl before the incident.

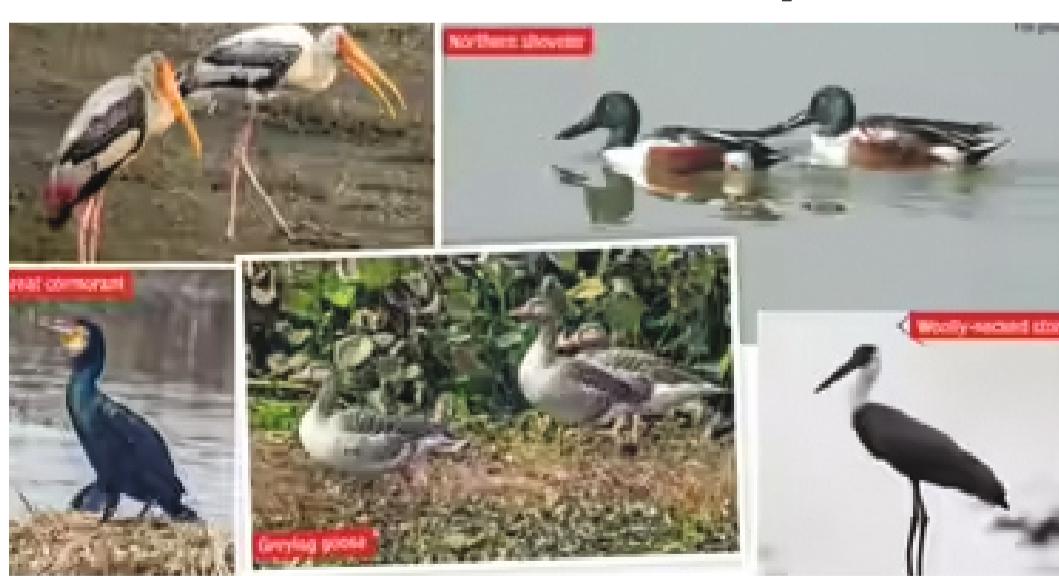
Haryana's Bhindawas wetland logs 9.4k waterbirds, 52 species

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Bhindawas Ramsar wetland has recorded 52 species of waterbirds, with a total count of 9,483 birds during Asian Waterbird Census (AWC) 2026. Amid concerns over the wetland's shrinking habitat and delayed winter migration linked to climate change, AWC — conducted on Jan 17 — was jointly organised by Haryana State Biodiversity Board (HSBB) and Rohtak Wildlife Division of Haryana wildlife department, in collaboration with Wetlands International South Asia (WISA).

"Large parts of the wetland dried up. In many areas, the water surface is covered by water hyacinth and increased human intervention is also impacting the habitat. This winter, migration is comparatively lower," said ecologist and ornithologist TK Roy, who led the bird count.

Roy, who is also the AWC state coordinator (Delhi) for WISA, said Bhindawas — one of Haryana's key wetlands and Ramsar site — is witnessing



"visible habitat stress". He added that waterbirds are a key ecological indicator, as wetlands support breeding and wintering populations and provide vital services such as water purification and biodiversity support. A drop in bird numbers, experts say, often signals pressure on food availability, water quality and habitat integrity.

According to the AWC record, the 2026 count included 27 resident species and 27 winter migratory species, along with three IUCN Red-listed globally threatened species. Among the prominent winter migratory species observed were Northern Shoveler, Common Teal, Gadwall and Greylag Goose, which typically arrive from regions across central and

northern Asia, including Russia and Siberia. Key resident species recorded included Indian Spot-billed Duck, Common Moorhen, and Purple Swamphen. The three globally threatened species recorded during the census were Greater Spotted Eagle (resident), Common Pochard (winter migratory), and Ferruginous Duck (winter migratory). A

wildlife department official said the department regularly monitored the wetland and that steps such as surveillance and periodic field checks are undertaken during

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SUPPLY AND ERECTION WORKS AT LUMDING DIVISION

E-Tender Notice No. TRD-LMG-28 of 2025-26 Dated: 12-01-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Tender No. EL-TRD-NFR-LMG-OHE-MOD47R. Name of the work: Supply and Erection of 160 sqmm G-Jumper to ensure electrical continuity of Overhead Equipment (OHE) wiring, thereby enhancing current carrying capacity suitable for high-speed train operation and improving current capacity in single-line sections within Lumding Division. Tender Value: ₹1,81,24,427.50. Earnest Money: ₹2,40,600/- Date & Time of closing of tender: 15.00 hrs. on 03-02-2026. The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DEE (TRD), Lumding

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STRENGTHENING OF S&T MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

E-Tender No. SNT-38-LMG-2025-26; Dated: 12-01-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work. Name of work : Strengthening of S&T maintenance activities by deployment of technical teams along with supply of required materials for S&T deptt of Lumding Division for 02 years. Tender Value: ₹26,91,61,07,679.56. Bid Security: ₹16,30,50,000. E-tender will be closed at 15.00 hrs. on 27-01-2026 and opened at 15.30 hrs. on 27-01-2026. For details visit: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. DSTE, Lumding

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NAME CHANGE

I, NEETA TUKARAM JADHAV is legally wife of No. 13627523A Rank-L/HAV Name-JADHAV TUKARAM RAMCHANDRA Presently resident of VILL-KHIRKHINDI, PO-EKAMBE, TEH-KOREGAON, DIST-SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415501, have changed my name from NEETA TUKARAM JADHAV to NITA TUKARAM JADHAV for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 03.01.2026 Before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Rajan S/O Chander Bhan R/O A-203 Karan Pura Karam Pura Ramesh Nagar West Delhi -110015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajan Kumar.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SHANIKA alias SADIK KHANAM D/O MOHD ASLAM R/O D-15 New Jafraab Shahdara North East Delhi Delhi -110032 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SADIK KHANAM.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as AWADHESH PAL S/O KANHAIYALAL R/O 2231, 170, TRI NAGAR, GANESHIPURA, PO-ONKAR NAGAR, DIST-NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110035 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AWDESH PAL.

NAME CHANGE

I Rajan Begam W/o Meer Haider R/o Jitapur, Kairon (Bhabua), Kathi, Bihar - 821109, have changed my name to Hamnaz Bibi.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Shri Mati Kamla W/o Ratiram R/o F-70, Balimki, Tughlakabad Village, South Delhi, Delhi -110044 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Kamla.

NAME CHANGE

I Nir Maya Sunar Alias Nirmaya Sunar D/o Mon Bahadur Kami and W/o Sujit Kami R/o Kambal PW, Samdang Kambal GPU, Kambal, East, Sikkim-737107, have changed my name to Nir Maya Kami.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shyam Narayan Priydarshi S/o Keshav Prasad Singh R/o B-49, Jai Vihar Phase-1, Najafgarh, South West Delhi, Delhi -110043, hereby undertake that I, Shyam Narayan Priydarshi want to change my name to Kukku Rajput and Gender as FEMALE.

NAME CHANGE

I Amrit S/o Harish Shettigar R/o Bonla House, Kodamgoram, District-Kasaragod, Kerala - 671323, have changed my name to Amruth H Shettigar.

NAME CHANGE

I, KIRINU TEJ BAHDUR R/O House No-58A P-Block, Sultan puri, DIST- North West Delhi, Delhi -110045 have changed the name of my minor daughter namely NIDHI MAURYA aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as NIDHI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Niru Maya Sunar Alias Nirmaya Sunar D/o Mon Bahadur Kami and W/o Sujit Kami R/o Kambal PW, Samdang Kambal GPU, Kambal, East, Sikkim-737107, have changed my name to Nir Maya Kami.

NAME CHANGE

I, PUSHPA KUMARI R/O 10/10, Sector-10, Noida, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PUSHPA KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE

I, KIRAN RANI W/O NISHANT KUMAR R/O 10/10, Sector-10, Noida, have changed my name to KIRAN RANI.

NAME CHANGE

I, HIBA SHAIDH D/o Shahid Anwar R/o 3163, 3rd Floor, Kucha Taran, Darya Ganj, New Delhi - 110002 do hereby solemnly and declare that my full name including my surname is HIBA SHAIDH D/o Shahid Anwar instead of HIBA should be read for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, VIRENDRA CHAUHAN S/O PRakash R/O 495 POCKET -2, DWARKA SECTOR -19 DELHI-110075, I have changed my name to VIRENDRA KUMAR Permanently for all Future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, PREETI GOYAL W/O NISHANT GARG R/O 10/102 MILAN VIHAR, EXPENSION PATPARGANJ DELHI -110092, I have changed my minor Daughter name to NAYSHA GOYAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJEEV KUMAR MANOCHA S/O DARSHAN LAL R/O FLAT NO-306, SHIVALIK APARTMENT, SECTOR-46, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121010 have changed my name to SANJEEV MANOCHA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK AGGARWAL S/O KASTURI LAL R/O H NO-C-49 RADHEY PURI GALI NO-3 KRISHNA NAGAR, DELHI-110051, have changed my name to DEEPAK KUMAR for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, NEHA ARORA D/O BHARAT BHARAT BHARAT ARORA R/O D-60, MOHAN GARDEN UTTAM NAGAR, DELHI-110059, NEHA ANEJA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I, ZULEKHA BEGUM W/o Mohd Khokhan R/o 384, Indira Gandhi Camp-1, Near SPA Hospital Gate No.1, Taimoor Nagar, New Friends Colony, Delhi-110025, Declare that name of ZULEKHA BIBI and ZULEKHA BEGUM both are same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUGAVATI DEVI W/o Nirdhan Choudhary R/o H No-23, Khirabad Village, New Friends Colony, Delhi-110025, Declare that name of BEENA DEVI and SUGAVATI DEVI both are same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUGAVATI DEVI W/o Nirdhan Choudhary R/o H No-23, Khirabad Village, New Friends Colony, Delhi-110025, Declare that name of BEENA DEVI and SUGAVATI DEVI both are same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SONIYA CHAMBYAL MAMYOTRA W/O RAJEEV MAMYOTRA R/O FLAT NO-001, UPPER GROUND F L O R, B H A R A T RESIDENCY, PLOT NO-95E, CHANDER NAGAR, SECTOR-15, PART-2, GURGAON, HARYANA-122001, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SONIYA CHAMBYAL FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

NAME CHANGE

I Hanuman Singh S/o Ram Dayal R/o G-846, shakurpur, Delhi 110035 have changed my name to Hanuman for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NALAWADE SUBHASH SOPAN is a real father of No. JC-46219N Rank-NB SUB Name NALAWADE SACHIN SUBHASH presently residing VILL-ALJAPUR POST-ADARKI BK TEH-PHALTAN DIST-SATARA (MAHARASHTRA)-415501, have changed my name from NEETA TUKARAM JADHAV to NITA TUKARAM JADHAV for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 03.01.2026 Before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Rajan S/O Chander Bhan R/O A-203 Karan Pura Karam Pura Ramesh Nagar West Delhi -110015, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rajan Kumar.

NAME CHANGE

I, Vishnu S/o Surender R/o 125/25, Gandhi Chowk, Jain Mandir, Gali - Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar-124507, Haryana have changed my name to Vishnu Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as POOJA CHATURVEDI SHARMA D/O ANIL CHATURVEDI W/O AMIT SHARMA R/O C - 419 Second Floor, VTC: Vikas Puri, PO: Tilak Nagar, Sub Dist : Rajouri Garden, West Delhi - 110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIFAA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as INTZAR, son of ANWAR HUSAIN, resident of 10-P, Auchandi Road, Bawana, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as IVAAN.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as POOJA CHATURVEDI SHARMA D/O ANIL CHATURVEDI W/O AMIT SHARMA R/O C - 419 Second Floor, VTC: Vikas Puri, PO: Tilak Nagar, Sub Dist : Rajouri Garden, West Delhi - 110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ROHANN CHAUHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as GAURI WAHINI WAH R/O 2249, First Floor Subz Babi, Dabri East, Dabri, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUNNI LAL KANE.

NAME CHANGE

I MOHAN SINGH KANDARI S/O CHANDAN SINGH R/O 2610, Street-5/5 Main Sagarpur, PO: Nangal Raya, District South West Delhi, Delhi-110046, declare that name of my wife has been wrongly written as SEEMA KANDARI in my minor daughter's NAME SAKSHI KANDARI aged 14 years in her school records. The actual name of my wife is SEEMA DEVI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I VITALLA SIDDAPPA CHALAWHAD, H/D/O Madan Lal Chabria R/o A 206 Panchsheel Apartment, Plot No. 24, Dwarka Sector-4, N.S.T. Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANJAY KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as JASPREET SINGH S/O SATPAL SINGH WADHWA R/O 81 D D Flat, Tigr, VTC, Tigr, PO: Tigr, Sub-Dist: Hauz khas, DIST: South Delhi, State Delhi-110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as JASPREET SINGH WADHWA.

NAME CHANGE

I, DEEPAK AGGARWAL S/o BUDH RAM, R/o Plot No- L-78/140, 2nd Floor, Street No-5, Main Sagarpur, PO: Nangal Raya, District South West Delhi, Delhi-110045, have changed the name of my minor daughter namely LAKSHMI GARG aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as LAVYA GARG .

NAME CHANGE

I, RUPESH KUMAR R/O 10/10, Sector-10, Noida, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RUPESH KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, KIRAN RANI W/O NISHANT GARG R/O 10/102 MILAN VIHAR, EXPENSION PATPARGANJ DELHI -110092, I have changed my minor Daughter name to NAYSHA GOYAL.

NAME CHANGE

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NAME CHANGE

I, KIRAN RANI W/O NISHANT GARG R/O 10/102 MILAN VIHAR, EXPENSION PATPARGANJ DELHI -110092, I have changed my minor Daughter name to NAYSHA GOYAL.

NAME CHANGE

I Ravi Kumar Gulati/ Ravi Kumar S/o Suraj Singh R/o A1/278, 1st floor, Tilak Puri Bus Stop, Janakpuri, B-1, S.O, Delhi - 110058 have changed my name to Ravi Gulati for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SHIFA SHARMA D/O AMIT SHARMA R/O C - 419 Second Floor, Vikas Puri, VTC, PO: Tilak Nagar, Sub Dist : Rajouri Garden, West Delhi - 110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIFAA SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as YASHRAJ CHAUHAN Alias ROHAN CHAUHAN S/O ATUL CHAUHAN R/O House No-WZ-1026, Near Satyam Cinema Khamper, Patel Nagar, New Delhi, Central Delhi, Delhi-110008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ROHAN CHAUHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as INTZAR, son of ANWAR HUSAIN, resident of 10-P, Auchandi Road, Bawana, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as IVAAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as POOJA CHATURVEDI SHARMA D/O ANIL CHATURVEDI W/O AMIT SHARMA R/O C - 419 Second Floor, VTC: Vikas Puri, PO: Tilak Nagar, Sub Dist : Rajouri Garden, West Delhi - 110018 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as POOJA CHATURVEDI SHARMA.

NEWS BOX

A Look At Prince Harry's Legal Battles With British Newspapers

United Kingdom. (Agency)

Prince Harry is to return to London this week for the trial into his claims that a UK newspaper group unlawfully gathered information, in the royal's last case in his long-running crusade against the media. The trial, expected to last up to nine weeks, is scheduled to start at London's High Court on Monday. Prince Harry has had a turbulent relationship with the media and blames the press for the death of his mother Princess Diana, killed in a Paris car crash in 1997 as her car was pursued by paparazzi.

He and his wife Meghan stepped back from royal duties in 2020 and relocated to California, in part blaming relentless media attention.

Here is a breakdown of his legal cases:

Associated Newspapers

Harry along with musician Elton John, actor Elizabeth Hurley and others are suing the publisher of the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday newspapers alleging breaches of privacy. They accuse the newspapers of hiring private investigators, tapping phone calls and impersonating individuals to get medical information. Their lawyers said the events took place between 1993 and 2011, but some took place as late as 2018. The firm denies the claims and the trial is set to last nine weeks. Media law expert Mark Stephens told AFP the central question was whether the newspapers "truly stand apart from unlawful news gathering of that era or were they simply never dragged into the limelight" during earlier cases. In a separate case, Harry sued Associated Newspapers for libel in 2022 over a story about a legal battle he was having with the British government over his security arrangements.

The Mail on Sunday published an article suggesting Harry, also known as the Duke of Sussex, had tried to keep the legal challenge secret. The company argued the piece did not cause "serious" reputational harm and expressed an "honest opinion".

Harry lost the first part of the case and The Mail on Sunday later said he had withdrawn the claim before it went to trial.

News Group Newspapers

Harry settled his case against News Group Newspapers -- part of Rupert Murdoch's global media empire -- just before the trial was set to start in January last year.

CEO Of Iran's 2nd Largest Telecom Firm Fired For Failing To Block Internet

Iran. (Agency)

The chief executive of Irancell, Iran's second-largest mobile phone operator, was dismissed for failing to comply with the government's decision to shut down the internet, the Fars news agency reported Sunday. In an unprecedented move, Iran cut off all communications on January 8 without warning, as calls intensified for anti-government protests, initially sparked by the economic crisis. Access to the internet has been virtually impossible in Iran since then, although restrictions began to ease Sunday for some foreign websites, such as Google. "Alireza Rafiee was removed from the position of CEO of the company after about a year of activity," Fars reported. "Irancell disobeyed the orders of the decision-making institutions in implementing the announced policies regarding the restriction of internet access in crisis situations," the agency said. "The relevant institutions decided to dismiss the CEO of Irancell, citing 'failure to comply with the announced rules in crisis situations,'" Fars added.

Iranian authorities have announced they are planning to restore internet access "gradually".

On Sunday morning in Tehran, AFP journalists were able to access the global internet, although most internet service providers remained blocked. The reasons for the limited connectivity were not immediately clear. Access to Google was restored on Sunday "via all mobile phone lines and internet service providers", according to state television.

Counter Of 'Islamic NATO' 'Mediterranean Quad' Could See India Join 3+1, Eyes On UAE

Dubai. (Agency)

United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan will visit India today (January 19). The trip comes at a time of turbulence across the region. Concerns are rising over potential US attack on Iran, while Saudi Arabia and the UAE are at odds in Yemen. Pakistan is working with Turkey and Riyadh to form a military alliance along the lines of an Islamic NATO. It has raised strategic concerns for India. According to Eurasian Times, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan signed a defense pact last year. The agreement ensures that any attack on one is considered an attack on the other. Turkey could now join this pact. Meanwhile, India and the UAE are watching developments closely. Both countries may explore new alliances to counterbalance this emerging bloc.

A New 'QUAD' In The Making

Greece, Cyprus and Israel have formalised a trilateral military cooperation plan. The agreement includes joint exercises, unmanned systems, electronic warfare training and sharing expertise on regional stability. India has been invited to join this '3+1' summit and strategic forum. New Delhi already shares close ties with all three countries. The initiative follows a trilateral summit and includes detailed bilateral action plans. The plans point to a stronger security coalition to address shared threats, particularly as a strategic message toward Turkey. India joining Israel, Greece and Cyprus could create a powerful regional bloc.

Saudi, Pakistan And Turkey Alliance

The potential India-led Mediterranean Quad counters the growing influence of the Saudi-Pakistan-Turkey axis.

CBS investigative show '60 Minutes' airs Trump deportations report a month after being pulled

World. (Agency)

"60 Minutes" on Sunday aired its story about Trump administration deportations that was abruptly pulled from the newsmagazine's lineup a month ago, a move that had triggered an internal battle about political pressure that spilled out into the open. Correspondent Sharyn Alfonsi made no reference to her dispute with CBS News editor-in-chief Bari Weiss in the story about deportees who had been sent to El Salvador's notoriously harsh CECOT prison. When the segment was struck from the Dec. 21 episode on Weiss' orders, Alfonsi told her "60 Minutes" colleagues that it "was not an editorial decision, it was a political one." Weiss had argued that the story did not sufficiently reflect the administration's viewpoint or advance reporting that had been done by other news organizations earlier. The story shown Sunday included no on-camera interviews with Trump administration officials. But it did include statements from the White House and Department of Homeland Security that were not part of what Alfonsi

had used before her story was pulled. Some of statements, which were carried in full on the "60 Minutes" website, were dated prior to Dec. 21. "Since November, '60 Minutes' has made several attempts to interview key Trump administration officials on camera about our story," Alfonsi said. "They declined our requests." Alfonsi did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press on Sunday. She said in her email that the administration's refusal to consent to on-camera interviews was a tactical maneuver designed to kill the story. CBS says it was always going to air the piece. CBS News, in a statement said, that its "leadership has always been committed to airing the '60 Minutes' CECOT piece as soon as it was ready. Tonight, viewers get to see it, along with other important stories, all of which speak to CBS News' independence and the power of our storytelling." Alfonsi's report was the second of three on Sunday's show, with

the lead story being Cecilia Vega's report from Minneapolis about ICE enforcement efforts and the protests to its tactics.

The initial decision to sideline Alfonsi's



CECOT story became a flashpoint for critics who said the appointment of Weiss, founder of the Free Press website who had no previous experience in television news,

represented an attempt by the network's new corporate leadership to curry favor with Trump. While pulled from the broadcast in December, Alfonsi's original story mistakenly became available online. CBS News had fed a version of the newsmagazine to Global Television, a network that airs "60 Minutes" in Canada, which posted it on its website before the last-minute switch removed the piece. That enabled sharp-eyed viewers to see what Weiss had rejected, offering the opportunity to compare it to what "60 Minutes" eventually put on the air. The body of the story was unchanged. It included a brief clip of President Donald Trump saying the prison operators "don't play games," and one from White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt saying that "heinous monsters, rapists, murderers, sexual assaulters, predators who have no right to be in this country" were sent there.

Hon'ble PM Flags off Two Amrit Bharat Trains from Assam

Assam : In a significant milestone for strengthening railway connectivity in the Northeast, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi flagged off two Amrit Bharat Express train services for the people of Assam and the Northeast region today. This landmark event marks the introduction of the first non-AC Amrit Bharat Express train services from this region. The two newly introduced services are the Dibrugarh - Gomti Nagar (Lucknow) Amrit Bharat Express and the Kamakhya - Rohtak Amrit Bharat Express. The trains were flagged off virtually from Kaliabor, Assam. The event was graced by the presence of several distinguished dignitaries, including the Governor of Assam Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya, Chief Minister of Assam Dr. Himanta Biswa Sarma, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Shri Pabitra Margherita, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Textiles. At Kamakhya, Shri Chandra Mohan Patowary, Cabinet Minister of Assam & Smt. Bijuli Kalita Medhi, MP (Lok Sabha) & in Dibrugarh Shri Prasanta Phukan, Cabinet Minister of Assam, Shri Rameswar Teli, MP (Rajya Sabha) alongwith others were present. These new Amrit Bharat trains will substantially enhance long-distance rail connec-

tivity between Assam and key destinations across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana and adjoining regions, directly benefiting lakhs of passengers including students, traders, working professionals and families from the Northeast. The Amrit Bharat Express trains are designed with a focus on enhanced passenger comfort, safety and affordability, featuring modern coaches, improved riding quality and passenger-friendly amenities, making long-distance travel more accessible for the common man. The Dibrugarh-Gomti Nagar Amrit Bharat Express will provide improved access from Upper Assam to major educational, medical and

commercial centres in North India, while the Kamakhya-Rohtak Amrit Bharat Express will strengthen connectivity from Guwahati to important industrial and administrative hubs in Haryana and the National Capital Region. Enroute, these services will cater to numerous important stations, ensuring broad based socio-economic benefits across the regions they traverse. The flagging off of these two new Amrit Bharat Express trains reflects the Indian Railways sustained focus on bridging distances, strengthening national integration and accelerating the pace of development in the Northeast region.

Workshop Organized at Maples Academy Under National Road Safety month



Center Budhana, Umang Srivastava, Eye Examination Officer, Dr. Garima Verma, Principal, Dr. Kshitij Kumar, Vice-Principal, Ananya Gang, Director, Kapil Mittal and Dr. Rajiv Kumar. Following this, the Principal welcomed all the guests by presenting them with bouquets.

KIND ATTENTION RAIL PASSENGERS!

Introduction of New Amrit Bharat Express Trains between Howrah - Anand Vihar (T) and Dibrugarh - Gomtinagar Stations

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to introduce following New Amrit Bharat Express Trains as under:-

Train No. 13065/13066 Howrah - Anand Vihar (T) - Howrah Amrit Bharat Express Train (Weekly)

Train No. 13065	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
---	23:10		Howrah	10:50	---
00:01	00:03		Bandel Jn.	09:05	09:07
01:04	01:06		Barddhaman	07:53	07:55
01:55	01:57		Durgapur	06:52	06:54
02:26	02:28		Asansol Jn.	06:20	06:22
04:00	04:05		Dhanbad Jn.	05:00	05:05
04:30	04:32		NSC Bok J Gomoh	04:25	04:27
04:55	04:57		Parasnath	04:04	04:06
05:55	05:57		Koderma Jn.	03:07	03:09
07:25	07:30		Gaya Jn.	01:45	01:50
08:12	08:14		Anugrah Narayan Road	00:24	00:26
08:30	08:32		Dehri-on-Sone	00:08	00:10
08:48	08:50		Sasaram	23:53	23:55
09:25	09:27		Bhabua Road	23:24	23:26
10:45	10:50		Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	22:40	22:45
11:50	12:00		Varanasi Jn.	21:40	21:50
13:06	13:08		Jaunpur City	19:26	19:28
14:20	14:25		Sultanpur Jn.	18:30	18:35
14:54	14:56		Nihalgarh	17:43	17:45
16:50	17:00		Lucknow Jn.	16:05	16:15
19:56	19:58		Shahjahanpur Jn.	11:48	11:50
20:58	21:00		Bareilly Jn.	10:36	10:38
22:38	22:48		Moradabad Jn.	09:05	09:10
23:30	23:32		Gajraula Jn.	07:27	07:29
00:13	00:15		Hapur Jn.	06:44	06:46
01:41	01:43		Ghazaband Jn.	06:01	06:03
02:50	---		Anand Vihar Terminal	---	05:15

Train No. 13065 Ex. Howrah on every Thursday from 22.01.2026 and 13066 Ex. Anand Vihar (T) on every Saturday from 24.01.2026.

ACCOMMODATION: Sleeper & General.

Train No. 15949/15950 Dibrugarh - Gomtinagar - Dibrugarh Amrit Bharat Express (Weekly)

Train No. 15949	ARR.	DEP.	STATIONS	ARR.	DEP.
---	21:00		Dibrugarh	12:40	---
21:35	21:37		Moranhat	11:00	11:02
22:23	22:25		Simaluguri Jn.	10:10	10:12
23:15	23:25		Marijan Jn.	08:40	08:50

DAYS OF RUN: 15949 Ex. Dibrugarh on every Friday from 30.01.2026 and 15950 Ex. Gomtinagar on every Sunday from 01.02.2026.

ACCOMMODATION: Sleeper & General.

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

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NEWS BOX

Maoist IED blast claims young tribal life in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur

Bijapur.(Agency)

A 20-year-old villager was killed in an improvised explosive device (IED) blast triggered by Maoists in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Sunday.

The incident occurred in Kasturipad village under the Usur police station limits when Aya Kuharami, a resident, ventured into a nearby forest area. According to police officials, his foot accidentally stepped on a pressure-activated IED planted by Maoists, leading to a powerful explosion that grievously injured both his legs. Despite being rushed for medical treatment, the youth succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

Aya Kuharami, son of Budhra Kuharami, was only 20 years old. His death has plunged the village into mourning and left the family devastated. Residents said such forest routes are routinely used by villagers for daily livelihood activities, making the presence of hidden explosives particularly dangerous. In the aftermath of the blast, security forces launched intensive search and sanitisation operations in the surrounding forested area. Bomb disposal squads have been deployed to detect and neutralise any unexploded devices, amid fears of further threats to civilians.

Police officials reiterated that Maoists often plant IEDs to target security forces, but innocent villagers are frequently the ones who fall victim. The administration has issued an appeal urging residents to remain extremely cautious while entering forest and interior areas and to immediately report any suspicious objects or movements to the nearest police station or security camp.

Six Maoists, including senior area commander killed in Chhattisgarh

Bijapur/Raipur.(Agency)

Security forces achieved a significant breakthrough in the ongoing anti-Maoist campaign in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, with six armed Maoist cadres, including a senior area commander, killed during a sustained two-day operation in the forested National Park region. The joint operation, involving the District Reserve Guard (DRG), CoBRA and the Special Task Force (STF), is still in progress, with intensive search operations continuing in the surrounding areas.

Jitendra Yadav, Bijapur superintendent of police, said that fresh exchanges of fire on Sunday led to the recovery of two more bodies of uniformed Maoists, along with an INSAS rifle and a .303 rifle.

With this, the total number of Maoists neutralised since the launch of the operation on January 17 has risen to six, including four women cadres. A total of six graded weapons, two AK-47 rifles, one INSAS rifle, one carbine and two .303 rifles, have been seized so far.

The operation was launched after specific intelligence inputs indicated the presence of heavily armed Maoists belonging to the National Park Area Committee in the northwestern forest and hill tracts of Bijapur. Security teams encountered resistance soon after entering the area, leading to intermittent but intense firefights over the past two days. Preliminary identification has confirmed four of the slain cadres as DVCM Dilip Bedja, a key commander of the National Park Area Committee, ACM Madvi Kosa, ACM Lakkhi Madkam, and party member Radha Metta. Identification of the remaining two Maoists is underway.

Accident involving private bus and truck on Malegaon-Manmad road, four dead, 20 injured

Nasik.(Agency)

A horrific accident occurred early on Monday morning on the Malegaon-Manmad Highway, resulting in the death of four people on the spot. Two others are seriously injured, and more than 20 passengers sustained minor injuries. The accident took place near Varhane village in Malegaon taluka around 3 AM.

A private bus coming from Pune towards Malegaon collided head-on with a pickup truck coming from the opposite direction. The impact was so severe that the pickup truck was completely embedded in the front of the bus, causing extensive damage to the bus's front section. Chaos ensued at the accident site after the collision.

As per reports, four passengers died on the spot, while two others were seriously injured. In addition, more than 20 passengers in the bus sustained minor injuries. Upon receiving information about the accident, the police and local residents immediately rushed to the spot and rescue operations were launched to extricate the passengers trapped in the wreckage.

The injured have been shifted to Malegaon General Hospital, and some are reported to be in critical condition. Meanwhile, the police have conducted a preliminary investigation at the scene and have started further investigations to determine the exact cause of the accident. Due to this horrific accident, traffic on the Malegaon-Manmad road was disrupted for some time.

Hot days, chilly nights puzzle Bengalureans as post-Sankranti temperatures fluctuate

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Post Sankranti, the weather is confusing Bengalureans who are switching on fans during the day and pulling on blankets at night. There has been a shift in temperature, with a noticeable rise in mercury in the past three days, leading to hot days but chilly nights. Street vendors and people working outdoors say the heat has made conditions difficult, especially during peak noon hours. According to India Meteorological Department (IMD), the rise in daytime temperature is largely due to clear skies and calm wind conditions. "With very little cloud cover and almost no surface wind during the day, the maximum temperature feels higher," said N Puvirasan, head of IMD Bengaluru.

He explained that earlier, surface winds had provided some cooling effect, but lack of wind has made the heat more noticeable. He added that while daytime temperatures



have increased, night temperatures remain lower due to calm conditions. IMD officials said the current heat spell is temporary and weather conditions are expected to fluctuate in the coming days.

Scientists noted that the heat has

reduced fog conditions, helping to reduce respiratory-related illnesses, and is also favourable for agricultural activities. Environmentalists, however, warned that urban factors are worsening the impact of rising

temperatures in the city.

"Large parts of Bengaluru have lost tree cover and are now dominated by concrete, glass and steel, all of which absorb and radiate heat," said Bhargavi S Rao, environmental researcher.

She added that changes in building bylaws allowing taller construction on smaller plots have increased heat retention in the city.

According to her, communities living in slums with tin or sheet roofs are particularly vulnerable, along with street vendors, waste workers, auto drivers and gig workers who spend long hours outdoors.

Street vendors across the city have already begun expressing concern over the heat, pointing out the lack of shade and trees in many areas.

While the current conditions are not extreme, experts said the heat is being felt more due to calm winds and urbanisation, and advised residents to take precautions during peak daytime hours.

STP pipeline work halted in Bharyal over forest law violations

Shimla.(Agency)

Even as concerns over smoke emissions from the solid waste treatment plant in Bharyal village were yet to subside, a fresh controversy has erupted over the construction of a sewage treatment plant (STP) in the same area.

Villagers on Sunday stopped work on the laying of a pipeline for the STP, alleging that the executing company has failed to obtain a mandatory No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the Forest Department.

Bharyal village, located about 10 km from the Shimla-Airport Road, has already been witnessing sustained protests against civic infrastructure projects that residents say are damaging the local ecology. Villagers claimed that excavation and pipeline laying were being carried out on forest land without permission. Following complaints, forest officials reached the site and directed that work be stopped until the issue is examined.

Seema Kumari, a resident, said that when villagers questioned company representatives about the Forest Department NOC, they failed to provide a satisfactory reply.

"This is a clear violation of the rules. We were forced to intervene; large tracts of forest land could have been damaged," she said.

After receiving the complaint, the Range Officer deputed a forest guard to the spot and assured villagers that a departmental team would visit the area on Monday to conduct demarcation.

Officials said the demarcation would determine whether the pipeline passes through forest land and under what conditions the work is being executed.

Residents from Bharyal, Rampur, Daanti, Badhari, and nearby villages are also opposing the setting up of a liquid waste treatment facility near a rivulet adjoining the landfall site.

They allege that both the solid and liquid waste treatment plants are being established at the origin of the Gambar khud, threatening to pollute the entire downstream stretch and violating environmental norms.

Recently, a media team, accompanied by former Deputy Mayor Tekinder Panwar, visited the site and observed that pipelines were being laid through reserved forest areas without environmental clearance.

Heavy traffic on roads to Chennai as lakhs return after Pongal break

CHENNAI.(Agency)

With lakhs of people returning to Chennai after the Pongal holidays, railway stations and bus terminals witnessed heavy crowds on Sunday. The GST Road between Chengalpattu and Tambaram, and the Bengaluru bypass stretch from Sriperumbudur to Maduravoyal, faced severe traffic congestion from Saturday midnight.

The highways saw massive congestion not only due to the Pongal holidays but also because the festival coincided with extended weekend holidays. The city's arterial roads, including ECR and OMR, also experienced bumper-to-



bumper traffic.

Trains operating from Madurai, Tiruchy, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, Nagercoil, and various parts of Kerala have been operating with full occupancy from Friday. Similarly, government buses from the southern districts were too overcrowded. Meanwhile, private omni bus fares surged by 30-50% compared to regular rates due to high demand.

Chennai Egmore and Tambaram

railway stations, Tambaram bus stand, and the Kalaignar Centenary Bus Terminus (KCBT) witnessed a heavy rush of passengers from Sunday morning. Many passengers were forced to spend long hours on railway platforms due to limited train services on Sunday.

Similarly, passengers arriving at KCBT had to shell out Rs 500 to Rs 600 for cab services owing to limited bus connectivity to the northern parts of the city. The Tambaram bus stand also saw heavy crowds, with buses from Tiruvannamalai, Tiruchy and other districts bringing hundreds of commuters into Chennai.

Unexpected record surge of devotees during Mauni Amavasya in Magh Mela ; over 4 crore take dip in Sangam

Prayagraj.(Agency)

The bathing ritual for Mauni Amavasya at the Magh Mela in Prayagraj witnessed record surge of devotees with authorities claiming 40 million people taking bath in Sangam today.

Flowers petals were showered on the bathing devotees from a helicopter.

The bathing began at 4 AM this morning but as the sun rose, the crowd of devotees also increased rapidly. By 11 AM, one crore people had already taken a dip in the holy waters. Seeing the massive crowd, the police modified their plans, diverting devotees from crowded areas and guiding them to the bathing ghats via alternative routes.

The weather also cooperated, with bright sunshine throughout the day. The administration reported that by 5 PM, more than 4 crore people had taken a holy dip. Mauni Amavasya is the biggest bathing festival. The Mela authority had estimated that three to three and a half crore people would bathe today, but by 2 PM, 3 crore people had already taken a dip, indicating that the final number would be even higher.

Considering the large crowd, Police Commissioner Jogendra Kumar remained at the ghats from 12 AM

last night, personally supervising the entire arrangement. Special arrangements were made within the city to prevent crowds from gathering in one place. The road from Jonstanganj intersection to the railway station was closed, and barricades were erected on the road from the power house to Civil Lines. Devotees were allowed to proceed on foot towards the Civil Lines railway station side. The traffic plan prepared by Police Commissioner Jogendra Kumar and his team proved very effective; devotees were able to bathe without causing traffic jams in the city. However, controversy arose when Shankaracharya Swami Avimuktешwaranand Maharaj was proceeding towards the bathing area in his chariot amidst the crowd for the Mauni Amavasya bath.

The police appealed to him to go on foot instead of in the chariot, which led to an argument between the people accompanying the Shankaracharya and the police, escalating to a scuffle. The commotion continued for some time, after which the police removed their chariot from the road, which angered Shankaracharya and his followers. They then staged a sit-in protest.

Bengaluru Central City Corporation takes up cleanliness drive on 15 major roads

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Bengaluru Central City Corporation carried out a cleanliness drive on 15 major roads within the corporation limits on Sunday, informed Commissioner Rajendra Cholan. The roads are spread across six assembly constituencies.

In wards 114 and 80 in CV Raman Nagar constituency, work was carried out on Channasandra Main Road, Indiranagar 6th Main, 80 Feet Road, 12th Main, and Kasturinagar 2nd Main. In ward 119 of Chickpet constituency, NR Road, Motinagar, and surrounding areas were cleaned. In ward 111 of Shanthinagar constituency, the drive covered Mother Teresa Road, MG Road, and surrounding roads.

In ward 120 in Gandhinagar constituency, Shanthala Silk Signal to Cottonpet via Police Road was cleaned. In Chamarajpet constituency, work was carried out



on Chalavadi Palya Main Road and in Balek Mandi premises. Finally, in Shivajinagar constituency, Church Road, MM Road, and surrounding roads were cleaned.

The drive included removing unauthorised flexes and banners at the locations. The Forest department joined hands to remove dry branches and twigs from Krishna Rao Park and other areas.

Engineers, supervisors, ga ng men and pourakarimakas participated in the drive. The Manekshaw Parade Ground was surveyed by chief engineer Suguna ahead of Republic Day celebrations to be held at the venue. She stated that necessary preparations were being made, including levelling the

ground using rollers and sprinkling water to prevent dust.

Thiruvananthapuram's Sree Chitra hospital's cardiology department marks golden jubilee

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.(Agency)

The cardiology department at Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology (SCTIMST) celebrated its golden jubilee at the AMC Auditorium.

Inaugurating the event on Saturday, SCTIMST director Dr Sanjay Behari highlighted the department's journey as one of sustained commitment to clinical excellence and academic rigour.

"The cardiology department at Sree Chitra has consistently combined patient-centric care with innovation and high-quality training, nurturing generations of cardiologists who now serve across India and abroad. Ethical practice and scientific integrity have remained its enduring strengths," he said.

Dr. Harikrishnan S, senior professor and cardiology HOD, reflected on the

department's pivotal role in advancing cardiology in India over the past five decades, while continuing to inspire future generations. "The golden jubilee is not merely a celebration of longevity, but of a shared legacy built on clinical excellence, research, innovation, and patient-centric care," he said.

The inaugural session featured addresses by former directors Dr Ajit Kumar V K and Dr Jagannath Mohan Tharakan, former HOD Dr K G Balakrishnan, senior faculty member Dr Narayanan Namboodiri K K, SCTIMST president Kris Gopalakrishnan, Prof Abhay Karandikar, secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Sunil Kumar, head of Autonomous Institutions at DST, and Dr Harikrishnan S. The celebrations brought together senior



clinicians, alumni, policymakers, and young cardiologists from across India and abroad. As part of the golden jubilee, alumni awards and thesis awards were presented to recognise outstanding contributions by

former students and young researchers. A special segment, 'Down the Memory Lane', traced the department's five-decade journey and its landmark achievements.

Ahead of the jubilee celebration, a national cardiology conference was also held as part of the three-day programme 'Back to Basics - 2026', which began on Friday. The workshops featured intensive simulator-based training in coronary, structural, paediatric, and electrophysiology interventions. Sessions included radial and femoral PCI techniques, pacemaker implantation, rotablation, intracoronary imaging, physiological assessment, and virtual 3D CT-based cardiac anatomy, alongside interactive case discussions.

Green outcomes from the red budget folder

Time was when November was one of the most pleasant months in Delhi, with just the whiff of winter in a city of extreme weathers. Not anymore. Foul air has replaced the aroma of roasted peanuts and chhole bhature as conversation starters in the national capital. Citizens have traded their old Celsius talk for a new set of numbers to moan about. Today, the air quality index regularly announced on TV triggers sighs and protests.

Environmental issues have clearly hit India's political mainstream. Public protests erupted not only on the AQI that reached hazardous levels, but also on a new height-based definition of the Aravalli hills, sparking fears of illegal mining and environmental harm and forcing the government to backtrack despite a qualified Supreme Court sanction. A furore over water contamination deaths in Indore, showcased as India's cleanest municipal zone, followed.

The environment ministry faced howls as the new year dawned after it amended guidelines to allow forest zones to have commercial plantations by private entities. The death of environment crusader Madhav Gadgil rang a sombre note on the importance of sustainability. As Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets various interest groups to craft her annual budget for the new financial year, it is time to ask if environmental outcomes should be highlighted in the budgetary numbers so that we can take note of what the government is doing (or not) for sustainability in the world's most populous and fastest-growing economy. Green budgeting is unheard of in India despite decades of avowed political commitment to environmental issues. It tracks fiscal revenues and expenditure allocations by focusing on schemes and measures that affect the environment and sustainability. For starters, it is a sound way to measure public commitment to environmental goals. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development has been promoting green budgeting since 2017, when it launched the Paris Collaborative at its One Planet Summit.

Historically, progressive economists in India have been monitoring health, education and gender issues addressed and outlays allocated as part of their toothcombing of budgetary measures. Such a focused analysis is much needed. But such an effort can invite trouble. The prestigious Delhi School of Economics courted controversy a few weeks ago as the Delhi University's academic panel objected to its syllabus on 'Economics of Gender' that covered some historical and ideological issues. Green budgeting may face similar pitfalls. But there has to be a beginning. Nearly 80 years after independence, India has seen two long spells of economic vision covering roughly 40 years each. The first four decades were a lot about socialist planning and government control, while the following years have seen an obsession with macroeconomic stability and its attendant points: inflation, interest rates and GDP growth. Both these worldviews have unconsciously sidestepped the environmental side effects of growth. We are now looking at a scenario in which one kind of positive numbers results in an unfocused set of negative ones. An agricultural boom in some areas leads to the hazardous burning of stubble. Automobiles driven by a growing middle class result in traffic jams. Mountains of unregulated plastic and other waste pollute the air and water of our cities. The data centres powering the artificial intelligence boom currently under way will also leave a massive environmental footprint because of its humongous energy needs.

INDIA may be in the throes of a political spat with its most important foreign partner, the US, while the economy, as noted financial journalist TN Ninan pointed out in these columns earlier this week, is more shy than sociable—but the government's never-say-die ambition to scale the high cultural heights remains. The first gallery of what's expected to be the world's largest museum, the Yuge Yugeen Bharat, will open by the end of the year. The scale is certainly formidable. As many as 100,000 artefacts telling the story of India, from the Indus Valley civilisation to the present day, will be showcased across 30 galleries in the North Block and South Block, British Raj buildings that have housed the bureaucratic elite in the heart of Lutyens' Delhi over the last hundred years.

There's something about a museum that appeals to the Modi government. Perhaps, like the Bahujan Samaj Party's Dalit leader Mayawati—whose monuments to herself and her mentors, Kanshi Ram and Babasaheb Ambedkar, are littered around Lucknow and the outskirts of Delhi—Modi understands that you may hate them or love them, but monuments are always going to stand the test of time. (That's why statues of Lenin and Marx were first attacked by counter-revolutionaries when it was clear the Soviet Union was falling in end-1991.) And that's why, New Delhi has been slowly rebuilt and reshaped in the last 11 years since Modi became PM. From the Pradhan Mantri Sangrahalaya, or the Prime Ministers' Museum, where there are galleries to every PM, including Modi—which gets a mention on the public address system of the Shatabdi trains coming into Delhi—to Yuge Yugeen Bharat, the demonstration of the RSS and BJP's ambition to carve out a special memory in the heart of India is unparalleled.

The impressive fact is that nothing is too small for the BJP. At the Harivallabh music festival in Jalandhar which celebrated its 150th anniversary in the last week of December, Culture Minister Gajendra Shekhawat was unable to show up—so he sent a video message saying the government would be happy to build an auditorium for India's oldest music festival. The unspoken message that accompanied the loud claps to the video message was that the BJP would do anything to help Punjab recover its diminished heritage—and that it would certainly help if the people of Punjab were to return the favour, by voting them in. That's why it was surprising to see the scarce attention to detail at the exhibition showcasing the Piprahwa Buddha relics recently inaugurated by the PM in Delhi. For those who came late

Modi govt's cultural ambition

THE GREAT GAME: The RSS and the BJP are keen to carve out a special memory in the heart of India

to the story, five small caskets containing jewel stones, bone fragments and ashes of Gautam Buddha were discovered in 1898 by William Claxton Peppe, a British colonial engineer who managed several estates south of the Nepal border, including the Birdpur Estate in a village called Piprahwa. Fast-forward to 2025, when the Peppe descendants decided to auction the Buddha relics in their keep in Hong Kong, leading to a nationwide furore, which in turn pushed the Centre to partner with the Godrej Industries Group to buy the jewel relics and bring them back to the motherland.

"It would make every Indian proud that the sacred Piprahwa relics of Bhagwan Buddha have come home



(to India) after 127 long years..." the PM said at the time. Certainly, the ambition to position India as the rightful inheritor of one ancient civilisation, the Indus Valley, and one ancient school of thought, Buddhism, is striking to see. There they are, the magnificent jewels, in a bulletproof case in front of you. Gaze, then, upon the "stars in silver and gold, discs of gold leaf embossed with Buddhist symbols, and numerous pearls of many sizes...drilled beads, stars and flowers cut from red or white cornelian, amethyst, topaz, garnet, coral and crystal"—all this information gleaned from www.piprahwa.com, because it isn't available at the exhibition, neither regurgitated by the young, blissfully ignorant volunteers present nor offered by Design Factory India (DFI), the company that has put together the show. It may be mentioned here that the DFI's claim to fame is that it has built a museum in Vadnagar on the town's Buddhist connection as well as one in Bhuj, memorialising the 2001 earthquake.

The exhibition also contains stunning sculptures

manifesting the Buddha, sourced from collections in the Indian Museum in Kolkata, the National Museum in Delhi and museums elsewhere in the country. Many of these sculptures once came from parts of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, now in Pakistan, except the word "Pakistan" on the placard has been replaced by "Undivided India." Some paintings have been "recreated"—meaning, they were in such poor shape in the museum in which they were kept that it was not possible to relocate them. Look closely now at the thousand-year-old sculptures. You know they've been cleaned—they have that shiny, polished look, stripped of the accumulated decades of dust and grime. The DFI confirms your hypothesis. You hope the cleaners used good cleaning liquid that does not eat schist—it would be good to know what the process was.

This public-private partnership between Godrej Industries and the government is clearly a model for the future. It's not clear, though, whether the Godrej folks have donated the jewel relics to the country or the government has bought them off. Whatever it is, they are home. And so, as the Yuge Yugeen Bharat museum takes shape in the heart of Delhi, a stone's throw away from the PM's new home that is being completed, cast your eyes to Ayodhya, where a museum of Indian temple architecture is being built in the shadow of the Ram Mandir. This is an out-and-

out private partnership, but it's also clear that the government is watching closely. The outstanding design is a brainchild of the Zaha Hadid architectural concern—which lost the contract to build Yuge Yugeen to Debasish Guha's Arcop consortium and the Los Angeles-based Kulapat Yantrasast—while the funding is being provided by a Tatas' subsidiary called Ecofirst. But you are now back home in Chandigarh and so another visit to the Government Museum in Sector 10, which also houses the Buddha Gandhara sculptures—split half-half with the Lahore Museum when India became independent—is essential, if only to see if the spirit of change has travelled to this part of the country. You still inscribe your name in a register, just like if you were visiting an important bureaucrat at the Secretariat—just the museum ticket is not enough. The museum is still desolate. Some exhibits in the miniature gallery have been moved because the roof is being repaired, but work has come to a standstill because funds, seemingly, have run out.

Maha success: BJP-led Mahayuti shines in local body polls

The Tribune Editorial: The BJP has overwhelmingly eclipsed not only its rivals but also its allies in the BMC polls.



JUST over a year after the BJP-led Mahayuti routed the Opposition in the Maharashtra Assembly elections, the ruling alliance has asserted its dominance in the statewide local body polls as well. The BJP has emerged as the single largest party in the high-stakes Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls. The outcome marks a decisive shift in Mumbai's pecking order; as an undivided party, the Bal Thackeray-founded Shiv Sena ruled India's financial capital for decades. Now, the Sena faction led by Deputy CM Eknath Shinde will play second fiddle to the saffron party in the BMC, as is the case in the state government. Even the reunion of the Thackeray cousins after two decades failed to stop the Mahayuti juggernaut. Former CM Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena and Raj Thackeray's Maharashtra Navnirman Sena found it very hard to translate symbolic unity into electoral success. The desperate alliance between the Nationalist Congress Party factions led by Sharad Pawar and his nephew Ajit Pawar

such as Himachal Pradesh and Goa. The local body's new composition will have far-reaching implications for Mumbai's governance, policy priorities and the political dynamics in Maharashtra. The poll verdict is an endorsement of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' mega development pitch, even as the Thackerays' "Marathi manoos" card did not find many voters. The Congress, too, was relegated to the sidelines in the big battles, but it did cause a flutter with its allegation that the "indelible" ink used in the polls could be easily erased. The results have put a question mark over the future of the Opposition's Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance, with its constituents struggling to stay relevant. Maharashtra's most prominent political families—the Thackerays and the Pawars—are now a pale shadow of their former selves.

The BJP has overwhelmingly eclipsed not only its rivals but also its allies.

China's renewed interest in Shaksgam valley

The abrupt attention directed towards the Shaksgam valley coincides with a Chinese delegation's meeting with the BJP and RSS in Delhi.

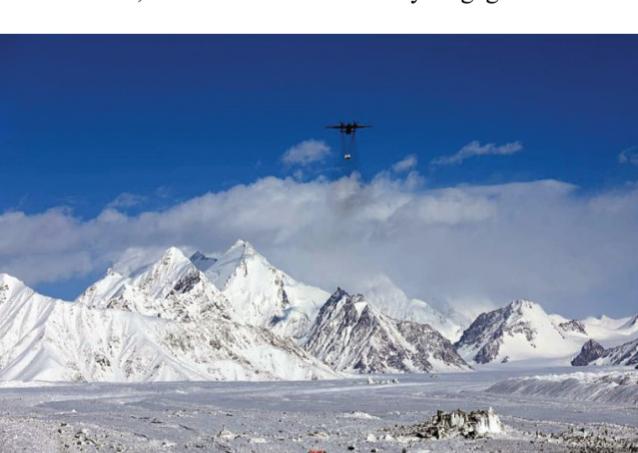
The Indian media recently observed the swift development of China's road network in the Shaksgam valley, which is backed by numerous construction sites, utilising Landsat satellite data from the global land imaging body USGS EROS Center. The abrupt attention directed towards the Shaksgam valley coincides unexpectedly with the Chinese Communist Party delegation's meeting with the BJP and RSS in New Delhi. Such underhand manoeuvres are not new, having taken place multiple times alongside major occurrences. This represents a shrewd strategy utilised by a group that persistently attempts to hinder a positive normalisation process. Consequently, this is the reason India lacks trust in Chinese construction endeavours in Shaksgam, not a recent phenomenon. The People's Liberation Army has been monitoring the Shaksgam valley in West Karakoram since its influence expanded in Depsang (East Karakoram) in 2013. India was undoubtedly not informed regarding the development of a new road in the Shaksgam valley trijunction. The past satellite imagery has shown that China's activities in this area began immediately after the 2017 Doklam tri-junction standoff. Since 2018, China has improved its connectivity to the Aghil Pass. Open-source intelligence satellite images have revealed that China has built a 70-km road in the Aghil Pass area.

China's main objective regarding Shaksgam has been to shorten the travel from Kashgar to Skardu and Hunza via the G-219 highway, which traverses the Karakoram and the Aghil Pass. The present road is part of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). In 1963, Pakistan formally ceded over 5,400 sq km of the Shaksgam region through a boundary agreement. However, the actual territories transferred to China encompassed the Karakoram-Tract, totaling

20,000 sq km in return for approximately 750 sq km. However, according to Article VI of the 1963 Sino-Pak Boundary Agreement, it is stipulated that "The two parties agreed that after the resolution of the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India, the relevant sovereign authority will reopen negotiations with the Chinese government regarding the boundary as outlined in Article Two of the current Agreement, to sign a formal Boundary Treaty to replace the existing agreement." Since 1963, China has regarded the Shaksgam-Karakoram tract as provisional, with sovereignty subject to renegotiation, which should ultimately be resolved between India and Pakistan.

India had the chance to resolve the issue during the conflict in 1972; however, the Simla Agreement signed afterward left the disputes regarding the Siachen Glacier and the Karakoram Tract unresolved. The Simla Treaty did not clarify the final 100 km of the ceasefire line that runs from the end of the Line of Control to the border with China. A decisive military operation in 1972 could have enabled India to reclaim not only the entire Siachen Glacier but also 5,400 sq km of Indian territory in Shaksgam and Karakoram Tract. The second opportunity for India to address the issue arose after the 1999 Kargil war. The theoretical trijunction point of India, Pakistan, and China is presently situated near Indira Col, extending from Sia Kangri Point 7422 to Point 6599, covering a distance of 59 km, where the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) between Indian and Pakistani forces intersects with the Chinese border. From NJ 9842, the AGPL delimitation line follows the Saltoro Ridge, which is under Indian control, although Pakistan disputes this and aims to extend the delimitation line eastward from NJ 9842 to connect with the Karakoram Pass. At present, 75 percent

of the territory of India that was transferred by Pakistan to China is incorporated into the Tashkurgan Tajik Autonomous County in Xinjiang, while the remaining 25 percent is situated in Yarkand Yecheng (Kargil) County. China continues to refer to the Indian Consulate building at Chini Bagh as the Pakistan-India Consulate. Since then, China has been actively engaged in the



extraction of significant quantities of precious metals, gemstones, uranium, gold and copper from the Shaksgam Valley. India has persistently expressed its formal objections to both Chinese and Pakistani officials concerning illegal efforts to change the status quo at the Daulat Beg Oldie-Karakoram Pass. The decision not to open the Karakoram Pass for trade has proven to be a poor strategy, even though the region is not contested and is regarded as an Internal Boundary (IB), rather than the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The conflict has emerged in recent years as the PLA

endeavours to construct a second road through the southern Karakoram range providing the PLA with access to the trijunction point near Siachen. Former Army Chief General Bipin Rawat then dismissed allegations of any Chinese construction in the Shaksgam Valley, claiming that such an endeavour is nearly "impossible" and therefore "not a threat."

It is also accurate to state that the Indian authorities have been overly preoccupied with perceived threats from the Tibetan front, neglecting the significance of the Eastern Karakoram sector. Nonetheless, the strategic placement of the road along the Teram Shehr axis could have profound operational consequences for India in the Siachen, Karakoram Pass, Daulat Beg Oldie, and Depsang regions, potentially escalating tensions with Pakistan. Pakistani military forces, which previously did not have direct access to the Teram Shehr glacier, may now be positioned to cooperate with the Chinese at the trijunction, thereby posing a threat to Indian supply routes to the Siachen Glacier. One possible approach for India might entail military intervention to secure the Teram Shehr glacier. Nevertheless, such a course of action could escalate into a three-front conflict, leading China to initiate additional confrontations in eastern Ladakh.

Over the years, India has significantly enhanced its infrastructure in the Karakoram region. Another alternative for the Indian military is to push beyond the Turtuk Sector to seize the Chorbat Lungpa Valley across the Shyok River and gain control over adjoining villages. This offers a distinctive opportunity to acquire land in Gilgit-Baltistan with minimal demographic impact.

Top 10 fundamentals for

first-time Job seekers

Some of the most successful people started off peeling stacks (and stacks) of potatoes, skinning chickens, washing dishes and clearing tables. They didn't get disheartened by the work required, as they knew that it was just a stepping-stone onto bigger and better things. As a start, here are the top ten fundamentals that all recruiters want fresh grads to know:

It's never to early to start researching the company companies you want to work with and for the position you want. Do your background research regarding the company and the requirements for the position you want when you graduate (size, global presence, \$ value, any recent news, follow them on social media, etc.). If possible, try and talk to someone who

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Gagged, gagged: Delhi gig workers trapped in endless shifts, algorithmic control, vanishing rights

As platforms expand, gig workers fight a sorry state and unsafe conditions, while waiting for better days, reports Ifrah Mufti.

'Write To Me...': Chief Justice Surya Kant Dismisses Plea On 'Judicial Reforms'

New Delhi.(Agency)
Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday dismissed a 'publicity-seeking' petition that sought the formation of a committee to oversee judicial reforms, including requiring every case to be settled within a 12-month period. "We will not let anyone come here for 'judicial reforms,'" the Chief Justice said. "If it is a matter of judicial reforms, I won't allow anyone to come to the court premises. First, put it in writing... whatever it is. Then I will see if it is possible or not. We are all here, we will do it."

The Chief Justice told the petitioner to "write a letter" to him with suggestions. "You want change in the country? Don't need to file such a petition... just write a letter and send it to me." "Don't file petitions just to speak in front of the camera men standing outside."



On the plea for more courts to handle the vast number of cases, the Chief Justice said, "Aap keh rahe hai ek saal mein har court faiisa kare? Aisi kitne courts chahiye apko?" ("You're saying every court should deliver a judgment within a year? How many such courts do you need?") "Court banva dijiye... court banva dijiye. kaha se banva dijiye?" ("Set up extra courts, set up extra courts. Where do we get these courts from?") Both issues had been erroneously intermingled, the court noted, also noting that the petitioner, if so inclined, may submit a letter on the administrative aspects to the Chief Justice with suggestions, if any, for the purpose of judicial reform.

"It goes without saying that any such suggestions are always welcome," the court said.

Delhi continues to witness severe AQI, cold wave conditions to persist

New Delhi.(Agency)
The national capital woke up to severe air quality again on Sunday, as levels worsened over the past two days, prompting the imposition of GRAP IV restrictions across the NCR on Saturday. Cold wave conditions and dense fog were also observed in the morning hours. The air quality index (AQI) stood at 440 in the 'severe' category as of 4 pm on Sunday, after recording 444 during the morning, data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) showed.

The city's AQI is expected to remain in the 'very poor' range from Monday to January 21 due to a lower



ventilation index of 6,000 units and an average wind speed of 10 kmph, not favorable for dispersing pollutants.

For Monday morning, the weather office predicted dense fog at isolated places across the capital, with maximum and minimum temperatures expected around 25°C and 8°C, respectively.

On Sunday, the capital recorded a maximum temperature of 22.7°C, 3.1 degrees above the seasonal average, with slightly cloudy conditions after dense morning fog, according to the IMD. The minimum temperature settled at 5.3°C, 2.3 degrees below normal. The Decision Support System assessment indicated that vehicular emissions contributed 12.47 per cent to overall pollution, while industrial emissions accounted for 7.8 per cent.

New Delhi.(Agency)

"There are nights when I just stand on the road till morning. No orders, no money. Just waiting," he said. It is 2.30 am. The road is eerily quiet with a flickering streetlight. Ali stands there braving the winter chills near Rajender Nagar, his phone clutched tightly in one hand, waiting for his Zomato app to show orders. It has been over an hour, but no luck. The 24-year-old had come to Delhi six months ago to earn enough to help pay for his sister's wedding in Bihar and to fund the treatment of his elder brother, who has been unwell for over a year. Instead, most of what he earns disappears before it reaches home – lost to penalties, vehicle rent, and deductions he barely understands. Ali works from 6 pm to 9 am, a 15-hour shift that stretches across the city's most unsafe hours. When he first arrived in Delhi, he hoped to continue his bachelor's degree at Delhi University. Family emergencies forced him to abandon his

studies. Today, he rents a small room in the Jama Masjid area for Rs 2,500 per month and survives by stitching together two jobs: delivery rider at night and mobile technician during the day in Karol Bagh. Amid growing protests by gig workers in Delhi, even as unions have written to the Labour Minister and approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), alleging exploitative and coercive practices by app-based platforms, the reporter spoke to several gig workers in the capital to know that even when the 10-minute delivery enforcement has been revoked, the other struggles persist.

The price of being logged in for six months, Ali has paid penalties worth Rs 1,150 on five separate occasions. His delivery ID has been

blocked multiple times by Zomato. Each time, he has had to deposit additional money just to resume work. "Instead of saving, I keep paying the company. Penalties, deposits, daily

salary slip, and no ID card. His proof of employment is limited to a uniform and a series of selfies the app demands at pickup points, delivery locations, and random checkpoints. Miss one, and deactivation follows. "How do I prove to anyone that I work for this company?" Only the app knows because they ask us to send a selfie after reaching the location," he said.

Waiting is also labour

Late-night deliveries bring a different kind of fear. Ali said that thieves often stop him, demanding money. He has narrowly escaped several times. "Standing on the road at night is also work. But nobody pays for waiting," he said. Customers cancel orders midway. Addresses change. Complaints are filed casually. Each incident pushes workers closer to penalties or suspension. There is no hearing, no explanation. The client, he said, is treated as infallible.



EV bike rent – everything is from my pocket," said Ali.

Like most gig workers, Ali is not considered an employee. He has no appointment letter, no

Top Renewable Energy-Producing State Rajasthan Needs More Coal Power By 2036

New Delhi.(Agency)

Rajasthan will need 4,400 megawatts of new coal-fired power capacity by 2036 to meet rising electricity demand despite India's top renewable energy-producing state adding more clean energy as it retires some ageing thermal plants, according to a government document. The Central Electricity Authority, a think tank of the federal power ministry, has more than doubled its earlier estimates of 1,900 MW coal-fired power for Rajasthan, according to a letter dated November 27 that was addressed to the state power utility and reviewed by Reuters. Rajasthan is preparing to retire its existing 1,350 MW old coal power projects, the document showed.

The Central Electricity Authority did not respond to a Reuters request for

comment on the letter. India, which meets about a third of its power demand through thermal projects, has set a 2070 net-zero goal, which includes more than doubling national renewable capacity to 500 gigawatts.



Power consumption in India is expected to rise as its economy expands, requiring a 40% increase in coal-fired capacity to more than 307 gigawatts by 2035, as per government data.

With the upwards revision in the state's

coal-based power needs, Rajasthan's power regulator has decided to review its November decision denying a permit for a new 3,200 MW coal power plant, according to a document posted on the regulator's website. The Rajasthan power utility had asked the regulator to review its decision, according to a separate document reviewed by Reuters. The company said additional coal capacity was needed because solar and wind energy was not available round the clock and battery storage systems were not yet ready. The state gets about 70% of its power from renewable sources. The state utility did not respond to Reuters request for comment. Several other states are also accelerating coal power procurement, citing strong demand and the need for reliable, baseload generation.

Local crimes, central control make Delhi unsafe

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Police recently carried out an exercise named Operation Gang Bust claiming they have arrested over 500 criminals. How does that help crime scenario in the national capital.

The crimes which occupy bold spaces like the murder of a Residents Welfare Association woman president in chief minister Rekha Gupta's constituency is typical example of policing having gone wrong at local level. Delhi's constitutional status as a Union Territory with an assembly has long produced a governance inconsistency. Citizens elect a government with expectations of safety, order and responsive administration, yet some critical levers of authority like policing remain outside the control of that government.

The result is a blurred accountability structure where power and responsibility are misaligned, and where failures in law and order often fall into an institutional no-man's land. Under the current

arrangement, public order and police are vested with the Centre through the MHA, while the elected government is left to manage the consequences like public anger, political fallout and a crisis of confidence.

This structural disconnect is increasingly visible in Delhi's everyday crime scenario. To be clear, Delhi today

is not facing any extraordinary security emergency. There is no surge of terror activity or insurgent violence that demands exclusive, centralised micromanagement.

The city instead is grappling with

crimes that are local, familiar and deeply personal like murders, extortion, neighbourhood disputes turning violent, and intimidation of community leaders. These are precisely the kinds of offences that require intimate local intelligence, sustained beat policing and swift accountability at the district level.

The murder in Shalimar Marg is illustrative of what has gone wrong. Such a crime is not just an individual tragedy; it is a warning signal of eroding community safety. It reflects failures in preventive policing, intelligence gathering and grievance redressal. Such failures that accumulate over time culminate in a crime most foul like murder. Unfortunately when such an incident occurs, the chain of accountability instead of tightening it scatters. For the Delhi Police, administrative control ultimately lies with the Centre. A grave local crime may not ring alarm bells in the distant corridors of North Block or Sewa Sadan with the same urgency it would in the Delhi Secretariat.



Once completed, the Lakhwar dam can supply around 135 MGD to Delhi. The Renukaji and Kishau projects could add another 275 MGD and 372 MGD respectively, helping stabilise environmental flow in the river and reducing dependence on seasonal inflows.

HP, Uttarakhand dams can help capital create reserves for emergency usage

The Kishau multipurpose project, planned on the Tons river, a major Yamuna tributary, envisages a 236-metre-high dam with a live storage capacity of 1,324 million cubic metres. The project has faced prolonged delays due to inter-state disputes and financial challenges.

Three Delhi metro phase IV corridors get funding from govt

New Delhi.(Agency)

Aiming to expedite the capital's Metro network, the Delhi government has released its share of funds for the remaining three corridors of Phase IV of the Delhi Metro Rail Transit System (MRTS). Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday said these projects will significantly improve Metro connectivity across the capital and further strengthen Delhi's public transport system.

She said the new corridors will provide safe, convenient and time-efficient travel for commuters, reduce dependence on private vehicles and play a key role in controlling pollution. The three corridors are expected to be completed within four years. The three Phase-IV Metro corridors will have a combined length of 47.225 kilometres and are estimated to cost nearly Rs 14,630.80 crore. Of this, the government will contribute Rs 3,386.18 crore, officials said.

The first corridor will run from Lajpat Nagar to Saket G-Block and will be 8.385 kilometres long. It will have eight elevated Metro stations. The second

corridor, from Inderlok to Indraprastha, will be 12.377 kilometres long and will include ten stations—one elevated and nine underground. These two corridors have been placed under a combined financial framework with a total project cost of '8,399.81 crore, of which the Delhi government's share will be '1,987.86 crore, the officials said.

The third and longest corridor will connect Rithala to Kundli, extending Metro connectivity to neighbouring Haryana. This 26.463-kilometre-long corridor will have 21 stations and is estimated to cost '6,230.99 crore. The Delhi government's share will be Rs 1,398.32 crore, while '545.77 crore will be spent in Haryana. Once operational, the Lajpat Nagar-Saket G-Block corridor will pass

through Lajpat Nagar, Andrews Ganj, Greater Kailash-1, Chirag Delhi, Pushp Bhawan, Saket District Centre and Pushp Vihar.

The Inderlok-Indraprastha corridor

areas including Rohini sectors, Barwala, Bawana Industrial Area, Narela, Sanath and Kundli, significantly improving connectivity in north and northwest Delhi.

Officials said the tendering process is underway and basic work has already begun on some stretches. The construction of these corridors will reduce traffic congestion, save commuters' time and promote the use of public transport, helping Delhi move towards a cleaner and more sustainable future.

DMRC rebuilds sub station for Central Vista

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has completed the relocation and reconstruction of the Park Street Electric Receiving Sub Station as part of the Central Vista Project, ensuring uninterrupted power supply to key Metro corridors and support upcoming infrastructure in the city.



will connect Inderlok, Dayabasti, Sarai Rohilla, Ajmal Khan Park, Jhandewalan, Nabi Karim, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Gate and Delhi Secretariat-IG Stadium. The Rithala-Kundli corridor will serve

NEWS BOX

Usain Bolt hints at return from retirement to play cricket at LA 2028 Olympics

New Delhi. (Agency)

Jamaican sprinting legend Usain Bolt has expressed his desire to return to the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028, this time with ambitions of participating in cricket. The sport is set to make its much-anticipated return to the Olympics after a 128-year absence, taking centre stage at the LA28 Games, scheduled to run from 12 to 29 July 2028. As cricket prepares for its comeback at the quadrennial event, Bolt has revealed his enthusiasm to represent his country with a bat and ball. Growing up in the cricket-mad Caribbean, Bolt was originally an aspiring fast bowler before he went on to become the most recognisable sprinter the world has ever seen. Cricket was, in fact, Bolt's first sporting love before he was encouraged to try his hand at track and field by his cricket coach during his high school years. That decision ultimately changed the course of sporting



history, but Bolt has never hidden his affection for the game. Speaking to Esquire magazine, Bolt joked that he would be more than willing to answer the call should Jamaican cricket authorities reach out to him. "I am happily retired from professional sport. I haven't played cricket in a long time, but if they call, I will be ready! [Laughs]," Bolt told Esquire. Bolt is widely regarded as the greatest sprinter of all time, boasting an extraordinary record of eight Olympic gold medals and 11 World Championship gold medals. He retired from athletics in 2017 as the most decorated sprinter in history, having swept the 100 metres and 200 metres titles at three consecutive Olympic Games — Beijing 2008, London 2012 and Rio 2016. Bolt was also named the brand ambassador of the T20 World Cup 2024, which was held in the USA and West Indies. He also played friendly cricket match in India back in 2014 alongside Yuvraj Singh and Harbhajan Singh. Bolt continues to hold the world records in both the 100 metres (9.58 seconds) and the 200 metres (19.19 seconds), which he set at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin — marks that remain untouched more than a decade later.

Walkout, 94th-minute winner: Senegal snatch AFCON title from Morocco in chaotic Final

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

There was drama and chaos in the African Cup Of Nations final on Sunday, January 18 as Senegal walked off the field in protest at a penalty being awarded against them before returning to the field and beating hosts Morocco in extra-time to claim the title. Midfielder Papa Gueye netted the winner in the 94th minute after Real Madrid midfielder Brahim Diaz squandered the chance to win the title for Morocco by missing a last-gasp penalty after a delay in the game was caused by the Senegal team walking off the field. HOW THE DRAMA UNFOLDED IN AFCON FINAL

The chaos erupted in the 92nd minute when Senegal thought they had scored, only for the referee to disallow the goal for a foul inside the Morocco box. But there was more drama to follow when Diaz was deemed to



have pulled down to the ground by El Hadji Malick Diouf and Morocco was awarded a penalty. Officials and players were seen going at each other as referee Jean-Jacques Ndala consulted with VAR and gave the spot kick. This caused Senegal coach Pape Bouba Thiai to order his players to walk off the pitch. The Senegal players made it back to the field only after being convinced by captain Sadio Mane and the game continued almost after 20 minutes. But the advantage was with Morocco as the penalty was still standing and Diaz stepped up. However, the madness of the night was set to continue as the midfielder attempted a panenka kick and Edouard Mendy easily saved his effort. The game looked destined to go to penalties but Gueye had other ideas to complete the fairytale for Senegal. In the 94th minute, he stepped up with a solo effort and then a thunderous shot to send the fans into ecstasy.

Ironwoman in a man's world: India's Renee Noronha aims to rewrite history

In an exclusive chat with India Today, India's youngest female Ironman athlete, Renee Noronha, opens up about her world record aspirations and making a positive change for women in endurance sports.

New Delhi. (Agency)

When you talk to Renee Noronha you almost feel a sense of calmness around her. The athlete, who recently turned 20 years old, speaks with such poise that you tend to easily forget that she is the youngest Indian woman to complete an Ironman challenge when she was 18 years and 49 days. When talking to India Today exclusively, Renee said that she is a family person off the track and loves spending time with her dog, Sky. A 'Swiftie'

at heart, she says attending a Taylor Swift concert was a dream come true moment for her. When I'm not training or I'm not racing, I love spending time with my family. And I enjoy taking my dog, Sky, for walks. I love playing with him, and I also like listening to music. I listen to a lot of Taylor Swift. And I also attended a concert, and that was like one big moment. It was like a dream come true, and listening to her perform, it was amazing," said Renee. But don't be fooled by her smile and calmness. When she is on the track, Renee never fails to deliver and is always looking to better herself and beat her own timings. Having completed Ironman New Zealand in 2024 and Hamburg last year, Renee's goal is not just to smash a world record but to make a change and inspire more women to enter into the world of triathlons.

Gymnastics to Triathlons

For Renee, the start wasn't actually with running, swimming or even cycling. It was actually with gymnastics. The 20-year-old said she was a live-wire as a kid and her parents decided it was best to channel her energy in gymnastics. "I was always a very



active kid. I was constantly doing cartwheels and running around the house. So my parents decided to put me into gymnastics class, and I did that for 10 years," said Renee. But when she was 16, the female Ironman athlete felt she could do more and actually push her limits. "At the age of 16, I felt I could do

more. I wanted to try something different, and that's when I started running. I loved running, and I always felt I could do more, and that's when I started swimming and cycling, and I met my coach, and decided that I want to do an Ironman. And then in 2024, I did my first Ironman," said Renee. While she made the transition sound so easy, it was far from it. The 20-year-old admitted that before she started her swim in Ironman New Zealand, there was a bit of nerves as the weather conditions weren't ideal. "So, before starting the swim, I was a little scared because it was my first time participating in an Ironman challenge. But the swim, it went well, and the biking as well, despite the strong headwinds and the harsh weather conditions. Nothing can really prepare you for race day, cause you, you can't predict what the weather will be like." "A few days before the race, it was nice and sunny, and then on the day of the race, there was like an actual hailstorm, and it was raining. But, during those moments, you just need to trust your training and just keep moving so you keep yourself motivated throughout the whole race," said Renee.

Tata Steel Masters: Praggnanandhaa goes down again, Gukesh held by Forrest

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Defending champion R Praggnanandhaa lost his second game in as many days, going down to Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, even as D Gukesh was held to a draw by the Netherlands' Jorden van Foreest in the Tata Steel Masters Chess here. Having been at the top of his game for a major part of 2025, Praggnanandhaa seems to be running low on steam as a drawn endgame turned into a painful loss against the Uzbek on Sunday. With no points to show after the first two games, Praggnanandhaa is at the bottom of the table and will have to make a strong comeback in the remaining 11 rounds in order to pose a challenge. Meanwhile world champion Gukesh was held to a draw by van Foreest in another hard-fought game. Gukesh took his tally to one point following his second draw. After defeating Praggnanandhaa in the opener,

**ICC tells Bangladesh to play T20 World Cup in India or be replaced: Sources**

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

"The International Cricket Council has warned Bangladesh Cricket Board to either play in India or risk getting replaced by a lower-ranked team in the T20 World Cup. Sources have told India Today that ICC has given Bangladesh time until January 21 to take a call, beyond which the global cricket body will look to replace Bangladesh. The ultimatum from the ICC comes a day after Bangladesh proposed a radical idea, urging the global body to switch their group in the T20 World Cup so that they can avoid playing in India. The BCB made this stance public, following their meeting with the ICC delegation, which travelled to Bangladesh to discuss the ongoing T20 World Cup crisis. At the heart of the dispute is Bangladesh's refusal — so far — to play its scheduled group-stage matches in India, even though the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup is officially co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka from February 7 to March 8, 2026. Bangladesh's fixtures, as released by the ICC in November, place them in a



group whose matches are slated for Indian venues — Kolkata (Eden Gardens) and Mumbai (Wankhede Stadium). The BCB has publicly framed its position as a security-driven decision, insisting it does not want the team travelling to India for the tournament. The ICC, however, has

signalled it is not inclined to rewrite the tournament plan at short notice. Sources said ICC sees no grounds to relocate those matches. The stalemate has intensified because the tournament is only weeks away, forcing the ICC into direct talks with the BCB to avoid a precedent-setting crisis.

Like Nadal on clay: Meet An Se Young, the badminton star impossible to beat

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ratchanok Intanon was asked following the women's singles semi-final at the India Open on Saturday. She paused. A slow, knowing smile spread across her face — a look that spoke louder than any tactical breakdown. One of the world's most versatile shot-makers and a former World No. 1, Ratchanok found herself unable to answer the most haunting question on the badminton tour. Her 11-21, 7-21 dismantling was her 13th defeat in 14 meetings against the reigning Olympic champion, An Se-young. While the 30-year-old Ratchanok — a legend in her own right — conceded she needs more speed to survive, even the youth and power of World No. 2 Wang Zhi-ji offered no resistance. In Sunday's final, the Chinese star was blown away in a mere 43 minutes, falling 13-21, 11-21. It extended An's dominance over her primary rival to 10-0 since the start of 2025. She is stable at the net and she is fast. She is strong, she is comprehensively good in every aspect," Wang admitted. "She has been one of the strongest opponents for me."

**A CODE NOBODY HAS CRACKED**

Over the last 14 months, the badminton world has been searching for a glitch in the South Korean's matrix. None exists. The 23-year-old, instantly recognisable by her trademark headband, is dubbed 'Rambo.' She may lack the rugged physique of the cinematic icon, but once she crosses the service line, she is a one-woman demolition crew. The numbers are staggering. In 2025, An Se-young won 73 matches and lost only four. Her 11 titles equalled Kento Momota's all-time record for a single season, while her 94.8% win rate vaulted her into the

realm of the sport's immortals. She has carried that momentum into 2026, sweeping the Malaysia Open and defending her New Delhi crown on January 18 — her sixth consecutive title.

In the stands on Sunday, the atmosphere was telling. Among the Korean contingent, there were no frayed nerves or desperate cheers — only a quiet, clinical certainty. They watched not with the anxiety of fans, but with the detachment of observers witnessing the inevitable.

LEAGUE OF ONE

In elite sport, top-tier clashes usually imply parity. When Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner meet on a tennis court, the world prepares for a marathon. Yet, a final between the World No. 1 and No. 2 in badminton now feels like a mismatch. An Se-young isn't just leading the pack; she is light-years ahead. She has perfected a terrifying alchemy of defence, offence, and court coverage. Her footwork allows her to retrieve the "impossible" while remaining eerily composed.

Rohit-Kohli in Tests, Jadeja in ODIs: Career-killers New Zealand strike again

INDORE. (Agency)

This loss will sting," former India cricketer Aakash Chopra said after India surrendered their three-match ODI series against New Zealand on Sunday, January 18. Playing at the Holkar Stadium in Indore, Shubman Gill's India failed to chase down 338, losing the decider by 41 runs and, with it, the series 2-1, against what was effectively a B-string New Zealand side. The scoreline hurt. But perhaps, the context hurt more. This is the second time in the last year and a half that New Zealand have handed India a sharp reality check. In 2024, Tom Latham's side walked into India's backyard and whitewashed them 3-0 in Tests, scripting a first in New Zealand cricket history. That defeat had consequences. It fast-tracked a transition that Indian cricket had been delaying — Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Ravichandran Ashwin exited the Test setup soon after. That series loss forced India to confront uncomfortable truths in red-ball cricket. Fourteen months later, New Zealand have done it again, this time in the



ODI format. Michael Bracewell's side may not have arrived with their biggest names, but they left with the same effect: by raising some uncomfortable questions. If history is anything to go by, a home series defeat in Indian cricket rarely stays confined to the boundary ropes. Murmurs begin quietly before turning into agenda items in selection meetings and review panels. This loss will be no different. Perhaps even more so, because India do not play another ODI for the next five months — time enough for introspection to harden into decisions. With the road to the 2027 ODI World Cup beginning to take shape, the spotlight will inevitably turn to the senior players first. Transitions, in Indian cricket, are rarely democratic. But who exactly will pay the price?

Career Killers New Zealand Strike Again
Virat Kohli appears secure for now, having reinvented his batting tempo over the last

three months and adapting to the demands of modern ODI cricket. Rohit Sharma, though, may not escape scrutiny as easily. Against an inexperienced New Zealand attack, he got starts but failed to convert them into the kind of defining innings his reputation demands. There will be those who argue that this was a one-off — after all, Rohit had productive series against South Africa and Australia in

2025 — but doubt has a way of lingering. Only three players in India's ODI squad are above the age of 36. With Kohli largely insulated and Rohit still backed by recent performances, attention is likely to settle on Ravindra Jadeja. "Ravindra Jadeja is a point of concern. It is simply not happening for him. This loss will sting," Chopra said on his YouTube channel. The numbers back up that discomfort. Jadeja went wicketless across the entire series — the first time since 2017 that he has failed to take a wicket in three consecutive ODIs. With the bat, the returns were no better. On Sunday, in what could only be described as a brain-fade moment, Jadeja threw his wicket away when Kohli needed him to simply hold one end. Harshit Rana, a lower-order batter by role, ended the series with a stronger batting impression.

Sensex, Nifty Open Sharply Lower Amid Weak Global Cues, Rising Global Trade Tensions

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian benchmark indices opened the week in the red zone on Monday, tracking weak global cues after geopolitical trade tensions rose due to US administration's comments of additional tariffs on European countries.

As of 9:30 am, Sensex lost 449 points, or 0.54 per cent to reach 83,120 and Nifty declined 148 points, or 0.58 per cent to 25,546. Main broadcap indices performed in line with benchmark indices, with the Nifty Midcap 100 losing 0.42 per cent, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 easing 0.54 per cent. Among sectors, except Nifty FMCG, all indices were trading in the red. IT, media as well as oil and gas were among major losers, down over 1 per cent each.

Immediate support lies at 25,600 and 25,450 zones, while resistance remained at 25,875 followed by 26,000 and 26,100, market watchers said.

Analysts predicted volatile days for stock markets in the near-term amid heightened geopolitical risks. They highlighted US President Donald Trump's disruptive policies impacting international trade and global economic growth. "If President Trump walks his talk and imposes 10 per cent tariffs on the eight European countries on February 1st and follows it up by raising the tariffs to 25 per cent from June 1 onwards, retaliation by the European bloc is almost certain," they said. Asia-Pacific markets traded largely with losses during the morning session as investors parsed key economic data from China along with US President Donald Trump's threats to European countries on additional tariffs for gaining control over Greenland. China's economic growth slowed to its weakest pace in nearly three years in the fourth quarter amid decline in domestic demand.

In Asian markets, China's Shanghai index added 0.13 per cent, and Shenzhen eased 0.01 per cent, Japan's Nikkei declined 1.05 per cent, while Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index lost 1 per cent. South Korea's Kospi advanced 0.85 per cent. The US markets ended in the red in the last trading session as Nasdaq eased 0.06 per cent. The S&P 500 lost 0.06 per cent, and the Dow declined 0.17 per cent.

On January 16, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) sold net equities worth Rs 4,346 crore, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) were net buyers of equities worth Rs 3,935 crore.

IT union NITES files complaint with Labour Ministry against Wipro over delayed onboarding, hiring

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Pune-based IT and ITES union Nascent Information Technology Employees Senate (NITES) on Monday said it has filed a complaint with the Union Labour Ministry against Wipro Limited over an alleged delay in onboarding fresh graduates and misleading recruitment practices. The union has sought intervention from Minister Mansukh Mandaviya.

NITES President Adv. Harpreet Singh Saluja said, "The affected candidates are fresh graduates selected through campus and off-campus recruitment processes conducted by Wipro Limited, including its Turbo and NextGen Talent hiring programs. Letters of Intent were issued to these candidates around May 2025, confirming their selection and detailing the role, compensation structure and onboarding process. In several cases, the company also issued formal onboarding communications confirming a joining date, work location and completion of documentation formalities."

Recently, Wipro, in a quarterly result announcement, had said that it is planning to recruit fresh graduates for specialised roles. He further said, "Over a period of several months, the affected candidates repeatedly approached the company through official emails, calls and written representations seeking clarity regarding their onboarding status. In response, they either received no reply or were provided vague and automated responses referring to business demand, future batches or tentative timelines that were never honoured. No written explanation, confirmed onboarding date or formal cancellation has been issued to date." He added that over 250 affected candidates from multiple states have approached NITES. NITES is prepared to submit all supporting documents, including Letters of Intent, onboarding communications, background verification records and correspondence exchanged with the company for the Ministry's consideration, it said in the letter.

Suzlon appoints Paulo Fernando Soares as President of Europe business

New Delhi.(Agency)

Home-grown renewable energy solutions provider Suzlon Group on Monday said it has appointed Paulo Fernando Soares as President of its Europe business to accelerate growth in the region.

Soares joins the company after a short stint at Sany Renewables in Europe, where he was serving as Managing Director, Suzlon said in a statement.

The company said it is strengthening its global leadership structure to drive the next phase of international growth under its Suzlon 2.0 strategy. With four decades of experience in the wind industry, Soares will lead Suzlon's European operations with a mandate to develop regional capabilities, forge strategic partnerships, strengthen customer engagement, and drive market access across Europe. His track record includes leadership roles in business development, sales, and operations, it said.

Soares' role will also encompass building a robust organisational framework to ensure long-term success across European markets, the statement said, adding that he has served Suzlon previously as well for 5 years, playing a key role in setting up its Asian operations.

Shadowfax Technologies IPO opens today: Check price, GMP and other details

Shadowfax Technologies is set to enter the primary market tomorrow with its much-watched IPO. The issue comes at a time when online shopping and same-day delivery services are seeing steady growth across India.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shadowfax Technologies Ltd, a well-known name in India's fast-growing logistics space, is set to open its initial public offering (IPO) tomorrow, January 20, 2026. The issue has already drawn attention due to the company's strong presence in e-commerce and quick commerce deliveries.

SIZE AND STRUCTURE OF THE IPO

The Shadowfax Technologies IPO is a book-built issue worth Rs 1,907.27 crore. It includes a fresh issue of shares worth Rs

1,000 crore and an offer for sale of Rs 907.27 crore by existing shareholders. While the fresh issue will help the company raise funds for its business needs, the offer for sale will allow current investors to partially exit their holdings.

IMPORTANT DATES TO TRACK

The IPO will open for subscription on January 20, 2026, and close on January 22, 2026. The basis of allotment is expected to be finalised on January 23, while the company is likely to make its stock market debut on January 28, 2026, on both the BSE and NSE.

PRICE BAND AND INVESTMENT DETAILS

Shadowfax Technologies has fixed the IPO price band at Rs 118 to Rs 124 per share. The lot size for investors is 120 shares, which means retail investors need to invest a minimum of Rs 14,880 at the upper end of the price band. For non-institutional investors, the minimum investment is higher. Small NIIs need to apply for 14 lots, while big NIIs must

apply for 68 lots, translating into investments running into a few lakhs and over ten lakh rupees respectively.

ABOUT THE COMPANY



Founded in June 2016, Shadowfax Technologies Ltd is an Indian logistics solutions company focused on last-mile delivery. Over the years, it has built a strong presence in e-commerce and D2C parcel deliveries. The company also handles hyperlocal and quick commerce orders, offering same-day or even within-hours delivery in many locations.

In addition, Shadowfax provides SMS and personal courier services through its Flash app, catering to individual users and small businesses. Its wide service range has helped it become a key delivery partner for online platforms and brands.

GREY MARKET PREMIUM (GMP)

As of January 19, 2026, at 11:00 AM, the latest grey market premium (GMP) for the Shadowfax Technologies IPO stands at Rs 11 per share. Based on the upper price band of Rs 124, the estimated listing price works out to around Rs 135 per share.

This suggests a possible listing gain of 8.87%, though market observers caution that GMP figures are unofficial and can change quickly.

WHAT INVESTORS SHOULD KEEP IN MIND

Shadowfax operates in a competitive but fast-expanding logistics and quick commerce space. The rise of online shopping, same-day delivery, and D2C brands has increased demand for reliable delivery partners.

Bharat Coking Coal opens at 97% premium: Should you hold or sell BCCL shares

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shares of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) made a strong start on their stock market debut, opening at a sharp premium to the IPO price.

BCCL stock listed at around a 97% gain over the issue price of Rs 23, reflecting the very high demand seen during the IPO phase. With such a strong opening, investors are now asking a key question: should they hold the stock or book profits? BCCL was the first mainboard IPO of 2026 and drew massive interest from all investor groups. The public issue was subscribed 143.85 times by the close of bidding. Retail investors subscribed the issue 49.37 times, the non-institutional investor category saw subscription of 240.49 times, and the qualified institutional buyer segment was subscribed 310.81 times, excluding anchor investors. The allotment was finalised on January 14, 2026, ahead of the listing. On listing day, the stock's opening was well above earlier grey market estimates, giving investors sharp gains right from the

start. For those who received allotment, the listing translated into strong notional profits within minutes of the debut.

MARKET VIEW ON THE LISTING

Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP Research at



Mehta Equities Ltd, said BCCL was expected to list at a premium even before the debut. He noted that the stock was likely to list in the range of Rs 32 to Rs 35, implying a 39 to 52% premium over the issue price. According to him, the IPO saw exceptionally strong subscription across QIB, NII, and retail segments,

which clearly reflected investor confidence. He said interest in the issue was driven by the scarcity value of the offering, as it gave investors a rare chance to gain exposure to India's largest and most integrated player in the coking coal value chain. Coking coal is a key input for the domestic steel industry, which added to the appeal.

Tapse said that from a valuation point of view, the issue was priced reasonably, especially for a low-ticket IPO. This helped create an attractive risk-reward balance for investors. He added that the company's dominant position in the coking coal segment and steady demand linked to ongoing steel capacity expansion support a positive medium-to-long-term outlook.

He also pointed out that structural demand trends in the steel sector could continue to support the business over time, making BCCL more than just a short-term listing play for some investors.

Silver Just About 4.2% Away From Crossing The Rs 3 Lakh Milestone

New Delhi.(Agency)

Silver prices have continued their remarkable rally, rising another 22 per cent in January so far, strengthening investor interest and keeping the white metal firmly in focus. The sharp surge has helped silver emerge as the top performer among major asset classes, supported by strong demand and multiple positive global From the April close of Rs 95,917, silver has climbed nearly 200 per cent to settle at Rs 2,87,762 on Friday, a performance usually associated with multibagger stocks rather than commodities. Prices have also touched fresh record highs, with the latest peak of Rs 2,92,960 recorded last week. As silver surged past earlier expectations much faster than anticipated, analysts have been quick to revise their targets upward. Last year, domestic brokerages had projected silver prices at around Rs 1,10,000 by the end of the year, but those levels were crossed well before the midpoint.

The rally did not stop there, with prices going on to hit Rs 2,54,000, more than doubling earlier estimates. As these above-ground reserves shrink, holders of physical silver are demanding higher prices, further pushing rates upward.

At the beginning of 2025, silver was largely overlooked by investors, with few expecting it to

Could India-US Trade Deal Collapse US Senators Back Hard On India's Pulse Tariffs

Kolkata.(Agency)

Talks on the India-US trade agreement have once again hit a snag. Just as negotiators were nearing a breakthrough, two influential Republican senators urged US President Donald Trump to pressure India to remove tariffs on pulses. While the demand may seem small, it directly affects New Delhi's agricultural policies and its strategic push for self-reliance in pulses. Negotiators now face the risk that prior progress on the deal could be slowed or complicated. Senators Steve Daines of Montana and Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, representing America's largest pulse-producing states, called India's tariffs "unfair" and harmful to US farmers. They said that India is the world's largest consumer of pulses, accounting for roughly 27% of global

demand. They argued that high tariffs prevent American producers from accessing this key market. Their main concern is India's 30% tax on yellow peas announced last October, which



took effect on November 1, 2025. The senators said such measures place US exporters at a disadvantage, even when their products are high-quality. They

urged Trump to make pulses a priority in any future trade deal with India. The senators also recalled raising this issue during Trump's first term in 2020, when the letter they sent was directly delivered to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, helping US producers gain a seat at the negotiating table.

They wrote, "As America works to correct trade imbalances, US farmers are ready to help. They have the capacity to feed and fuel the world if trade opportunities are opened." Equal Tariffs For All Nations

While the senators called the tariffs discriminatory against the United States, India's pulse policy is broader. The government initially exempted yellow peas from tariffs until March 31, 2026.

deliver such a sharp rally amid ongoing economic uncertainty and geopolitical tensions. Adding to the bullish sentiment is a shift in global central bank behaviour. After accumulating significant quantities of gold over the past three years, central banks are now reported to be adding silver to their reserves as well. This trend has provided additional support to prices, keeping MCX silver close to the Rs 3 lakh level. With the latest close of Rs 2,87,762, silver is now just about 4.2 per cent away from crossing the Rs 3 lakh milestone.

Can Budget 2026 deliver scale, skills and digital growth for manufacturing

Budget 2026 is expected to play a key role in shaping the future of India's manufacturing sector. From expanding scale to building skilled manpower and driving digital adoption, the industry has clear expectations from the government.

New Delhi.(Agency)

As India moves closer to the Union Budget 2026-27, the manufacturing sector is firmly in focus. Industry experts say the coming year could be vital in shaping India's ambition to become a global manufacturing hub, with policy support, digital adoption and skill development emerging as key priorities.

MANUFACTURING GAINS MOMENTUM

India's manufacturing sector received a strong policy boost in FY 2025-26, helping it strengthen its role as a major driver of economic growth. Rajesh Mehra, Director and Promoter, Jaquar

Group, says the shift in government approach has already started delivering results. "India's manufacturing sector witnessed a decisive policy push in FY 2025-26, reinforcing its position as a central engine of economic growth," Mehra says. "The transition from the National Manufacturing Policy to the National Manufacturing Mission marked a clear shift from intent to execution." According to him, this move focused on ease of doing business, scalability and quality-led growth, while also strengthening the foundations of the Make in India programme. "This policy momentum resulted in expanding production hubs across India and helped move the country closer to a self-reliant manufacturing ecosystem," he adds.

BUDGET 2026 SEEN AS A KEY OPPORTUNITY

Looking ahead, Mehra believes manufacturing will play a central role in India's next phase of growth. "As we approach the Union Budget 2026-27, manufacturing stands firmly at the core of India's next growth phase, with the sector projected to contribute close to 25% of

GDP by 2027," he says. He adds that the industry will closely track the government's continued focus on scale, quality and sustainability. "With manufacturing expected to reach the \$1-



trillion milestone, sustained emphasis on reforms such as PLI schemes and Make in India will be critical to deepen domestic value addition, attract investments and create high-quality jobs," Mehra notes.

GLOBAL CHALLENGES REMAIN

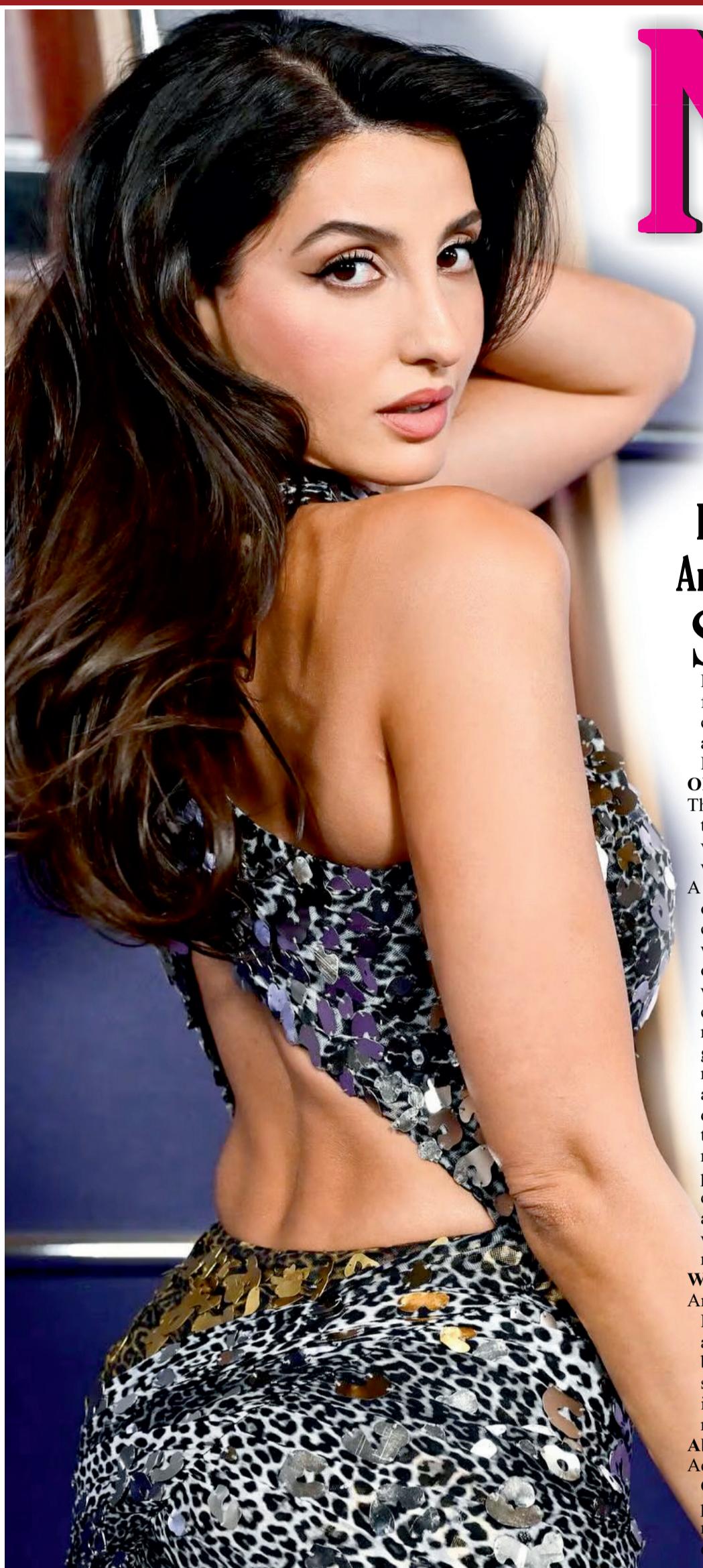
Despite the positive momentum, experts caution that global uncertainties continue to pose challenges. Jitendra Nenavani, Assistant Professor - Operations, K J Somaiya Institute of Management, says geopolitical tensions and fluctuating raw

material prices are adding pressure on manufacturers. India's manufacturing sector is facing a challenging global environment, marked by geopolitical uncertainty and volatility in the prices of key raw materials," Nenavani says. He adds that these factors could slow growth as the sector works towards long-term targets.

To meet its ambitions, Nenavani believes the sector must move beyond incremental changes. "There is a need to focus on strategic execution in two or three critical areas, while also sharpening the impact of existing initiatives such as PLI, Ease of Doing Business and Make in India," he explains.

DIGITAL PUSH AND SKILLED WORKFORCE IN FOCUS

Digitisation, especially for MSMEs, is one of the most urgent needs, according to Nenavani. "MSMEs form the backbone of India's manufacturing ecosystem," he says. "They must not only adopt advanced technologies but also build the capability to use digital tools such as artificial intelligence and blockchain."



Nora Fatehi

Reacts To Alleged Bhushan Kumar Affair Amid Dating Rumours With Achraf Hakimi

Speculation surrounding actor-dancer Nora Fatehi and T-Series head Bhushan Kumar has once again found its way back into online discourse. The rumours, which date back to 2022, had alleged that Bhushan was involved in an affair with Nora despite being married to filmmaker Divya Khosla Kumar. At the time, film critic Umair Sandhu had claimed that the alleged relationship had been ongoing for nearly two years and that Divya was aware of it. Parallel rumours of a separation between Bhushan and Divya also surfaced but were later dismissed by the couple.

Old Reddit Comment Triggers Fresh Buzz

The controversy has been reignited after a TikTok influencer resurfaced a three-year-old Reddit thread discussing the alleged affair. The thread went viral once again when users noticed a comment from Nora herself, in which she reacted with a brief "Wow" followed by a laughing emoji.

A screenshot of the comment was shared on Reddit with the caption referencing Nora's reaction to a TikTok discussing the alleged relationship. The post quickly drew mixed reactions. While some users found the response amusing, others questioned why the actor would react to an old rumour, with one comment reading, "Why even comment? Now it'll just bring more attention."

Who Is Nora Fatehi Reportedly Dating Now?

Amid the renewed speculation, Nora has also found herself linked to Moroccan football star Achraf Hakimi. Dating rumours gained traction after Hakimi liked one of Nora's social media posts, followed by the actor being spotted in Morocco. Fuel was added to the speculation when Nora shared pictures from the country during the Africa Cup of Nations, posing in a red jacket, white crop top, and jeans. While neither has confirmed the relationship, online chatter has continued to grow.

About Achraf Hakimi

Achraf Hakimi is a professional footballer who plays for Paris Saint-Germain as well as the Moroccan national team. Known for his explosive pace and attacking strength as a right-back, Hakimi has previously represented clubs like Real Madrid and Inter Milan, winning several domestic and international titles.



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Sara Arjun

Reveals Vijay Deverakonda Is Her Favourite Telugu Actor

Sara Arjun rose to stardom with her performance in Ranveer Singh's *Dhurandhar*. The actress is currently basking in the success as the film continues to run strong at the box office. However, amid this, she is also busy with the shoot of other films too. Recently, her film *Euphoria* trailer was released, and Sara Arjun revealed the one star who truly inspires her — Vijay Deverakonda. At the recent trailer launch of



Euphoria, Sara Arjun was asked which actor she admires the most and her reply grabbed attention. She mentioned that Vijay Deverakonda is her most admired and favourite star.

Sara Arjun's work

She explained that while she wanted to stick to her original plan, two films — *Euphoria* and *Magic* — stood out immediately. According to her, "These were stories that I felt needed to be told in our society, stories that could spark conversations and reflection. So beyond the hunger of an actor to

perform, I felt, on a human level, a deep urge to be part of bringing these narratives to the screen." Sara added that the themes explored in both films felt especially important for young people today. "For today's youth, which I am a part of, I feel these themes are not just relevant but essential. That is why we chose to do these films first and then continue with my plan of pursuing further studies in acting abroad." But the timeline moved quickly. While appearing for her Class 12 board exams, Sara signed *Magic*. Soon after completing school, *Euphoria* followed. Both projects, she noted, revolve around emotionally demanding teenage characters and helped her evolve as a performer. During the shoot of *Euphoria*, she balanced packed schedules across cities. "While shooting for 'Euphoria', I flew overnight after pack-up to meet Aditya Dhar Sir the next morning and then returned the same day to resume shooting. It ended up being a really fun day."

Vijay Deverakonda's work

Vijay Deverakonda sparked fresh excitement among fans as he officially announced his next film, *Rowdy Janardhana*. It features Keerthy Suresh as the female lead. Sharing the first promo on Instagram, the actor revealed the film's release timeline with the caption, "The Biography of a Wounded man. in 1 year. #RowdyJanardhana December 2026." The promo is packed with gritty action and violent imagery, hinting at a dark, raw narrative.



Farah Khan Reacts In Shock As Cook Dilip Says He Uses Her BMW For Travel



Farah Khan's YouTube vlogs are known for food, fun and unfiltered moments, but it's her cook Dilip who often ends up stealing the show. The filmmaker's latest vlog delivered another laugh-out-loud moment when Dilip casually revealed that he travels around using Farah's BMW, leaving her both shocked and amused. In the recent episode, Farah visited the Mumbai home of Bigg Boss 19 contestant Pranit More along with Dilip. While the trio cooked and chatted about Pranit's journey into stand-up comedy, the conversation took an unexpected turn when Pranit's father brought up a luxury car spotted in one of Farah's earlier videos.

Reacting to the question, Farah laughed it off and clarified that Dilip still commutes on a two-wheeler. She then turned to Dilip to confirm whether he had actually bought a car of his own. That's when Dilip dropped the bombshell, saying, "Aapka BMW wala hain na (Your BMW is there)!"

The room erupted in laughter as Pranit joked that Dilip must be telling everyone back in his village that the BMW belongs to him. The surprise didn't end there. Pranit's father added that he had once seen Dilip travelling in the car with a driver, prompting a stunned Farah to react, "Driver bhi tha? Ubed and ye dono kaha ghum raha tha Lonavala mein (With the driver? Ubed and him are going around with my car but where)?"

Dilip could only giggle at the remark, choosing not to explain further. Dilip has become a recurring star in Farah's vlogs over time. In an earlier video, he spoke about starting his career in Delhi with a salary of just ₹300, before landing a job at Farah's home for ₹20,000. Farah later revealed that his earnings have grown substantially and that he also receives additional income or a share from their YouTube content.

The filmmaker has also expanded her content with Dilip beyond the kitchen. She recently launched a travel vlog series featuring him, which included his first-ever international trip to the Maldives. His growing popularity has even led to brand endorsements, with Dilip appearing in advertisements alongside Shah Rukh Khan and Kiara Advani for Myntra, as well as campaigns for Flipkart and other brands.

Akshay Kumar And Twinkle Khanna Go Paragliding On Their 25th Wedding Anniversary



Akshay Kumar and Twinkle Khanna are celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Earlier today, the 'Jolly LLB 3' actor shared a humorous yet sweet post to wish his wife on this special occasion. Now, Twinkle Khanna has shared a sneak-peek into how they celebrated their wedding anniversary. The couple spent an adventurous day and went paragliding together! In her caption, Twinkle summed up their relationship and joked that they 'literally' encourage each other to fly.

Akshay Kumar And Twinkle Khanna's 25th Wedding Anniversary

On Saturday evening, Twinkle Khanna shared a video on Instagram that shows her and Akshay Kumar enjoying a paragliding adventure. In the clip, Akshay can be heard asking Twinkle if she is sure about jumping as she gets strapped into the harness. Even though she seems nervous initially, she replies, "Yes. All because of you." She then takes the leap and soars through the air while Akshay happily records the moment. The video then shows Akshay getting ready for his turn, with Twinkle asking if he's nervous before he takes off.

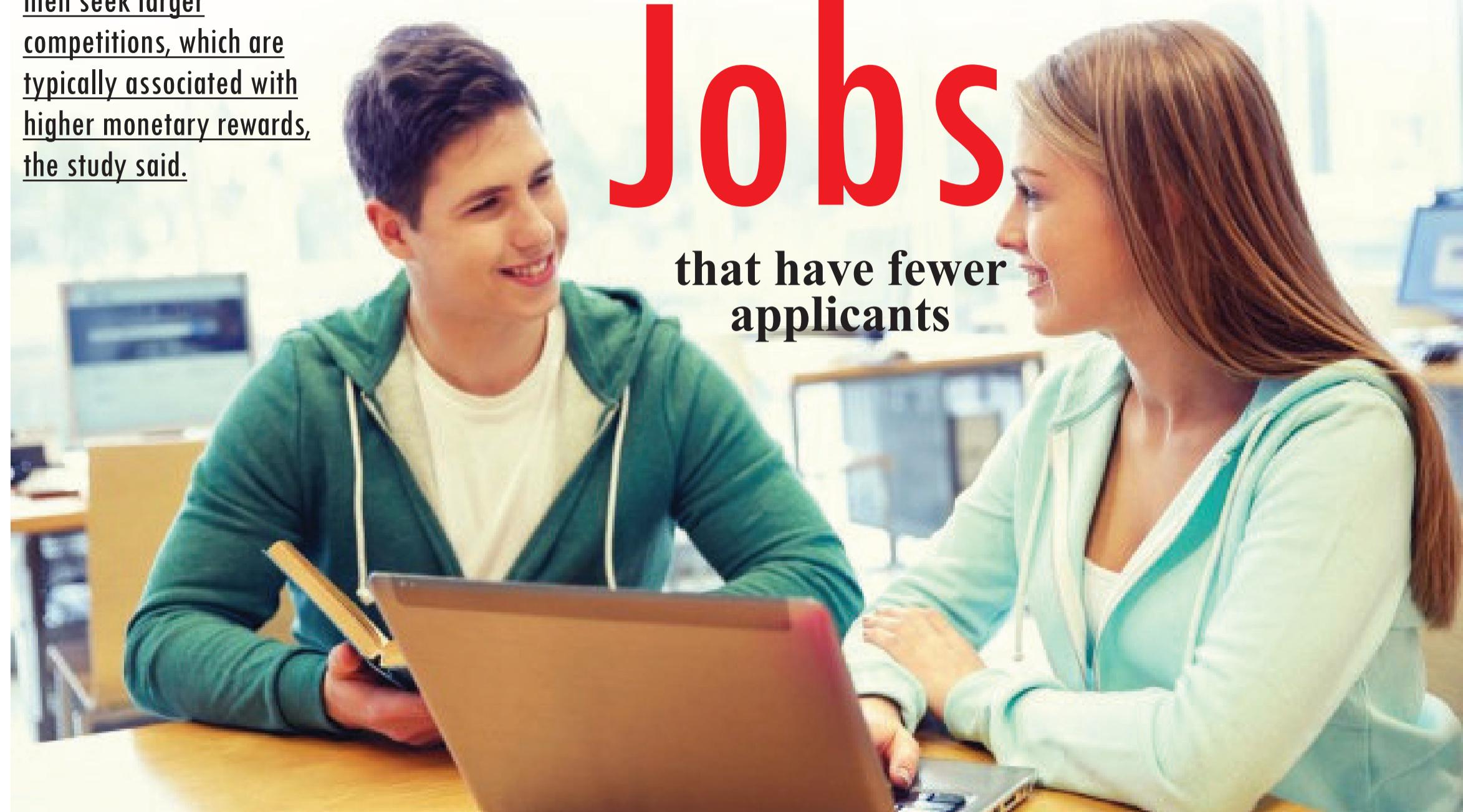
In her caption, Twinkle Khanna wrote, "The best part of our marriage? We always encourage each other to fly. Sometimes literally, like today! Here's to 25 years of love, support and jumping off mountains @akshaykumar." Soon after she shared the post, Bobby Deol, Malaika Arora, Namrata Shirodkar and many others wished them a happy wedding anniversary.

Akshay Kumar's Post For Twinkle Khanna

Meanwhile, in his post, Akshay Kumar recalled his mother-in-law Dimple Kapadia's helpful warning for him as he was getting married to Twinkle Khanna.

He revealed Dimple told him to get ready to laugh in the most weird situations. "When we got married this day in 2001, her mother had said 'Beta, get ready to burst out laughing in the most weird situations because she'll do exactly that'. 25 years and I know ki meri mother-in-law kabhi jhooth nahi bolta hai... her daughter refuses to even walk straight... she prefers to dance through life instead (sic)," he wrote.

Women prefer smaller competitions, whereas men seek larger competitions, which are typically associated with higher monetary rewards, the study said.



When applying for a job, women seek positions with fewer applicants than men - a factor that could partly explain why we see fewer of them in the corporate boardrooms, new research suggests.

The size of a competition - such as the number of applicants to a particular job or the number of people vying for a monetary reward - shapes who enters the competition. Women prefer smaller competitions,

whereas men seek larger competitions, which are typically associated with higher monetary rewards, the study said.

"These patterns of findings can contribute to a better understanding of gender inequality in the workforce," said Kathrin Hanek, the study's lead author from University of Michigan in the US.

"The gender difference in preferences may in part explain pay gaps and the

underrepresentation of women in particular fields or at the helm of large organisations," Hanek noted.

The findings appeared in the Journal of Applied Psychology.

The difference between the genders can be partially attributed to women feeling more comfortable in smaller competitions.

The researchers found consistent gender

differences in the preference for smaller versus larger competitions across a variety of different competition contexts.

For instance, one study examined women's and men's real decisions to enter a small (10 competitors) or large (100 competitors) word-formation task competition.

The results indicated that 53 percent of women but only 41 percent of men preferred

the small competition.

"This research by no means blames women for gender inequality but rather uncovers a novel environmental factor that might contribute to inequality, beyond the well-documented effects of gender biases and discrimination," Stephen Garcia, associate professor University of Michigan.

Fairness at work can boost Employees' health



Fairness at work is likely to bring you positivity as well as good health, says a new research, indicating that an organisation is rated on the basis of the health of its employees.

The findings showed that when perceptions of fairness changed, the self-rated health of employees also changed. Those who experienced more fairness on average reported better health.

"People who feel fairly treated are not only more likely to be motivated at work and go the extra mile for their organisation, but they are also more likely to be healthy, have an active lifestyle and feel positive," Eib added.

Further, the health status of employees may also affect how employees feel treated at work.

The results are detailed in the Journal of Work, Environment and Health.

The team investigated whether perceptions of what they call 'procedural justice', such as the processes in place to decide on rewards, pay, promotion and assignments are related to employees' health.

The findings can help raise awareness among employers and authorities that fairness at work but also health is important to consider increasing satisfaction, well-being and productivity in the workplace and wider society, the researchers said.

"Our study provides a thorough examination of how fairness at the workplace and health of employees is related over time," said Constanze Eib, lecturer at Britain's University of East Anglia.

Also, fairness at work is a crucial aspect of the psychosocial work environment and that changes towards greater fairness can improve employees' health.



Research says the following 10 types are most likely to be gainfully employed. Do you see yourself here?

The cheerleader:

What's a good sport without a happy bunch of cheerleaders? All work and no promotion, makes the company disappear in the market.

So your small law firm maybe known in the circles, but a little push from a marketing guru will make the world aware of your facilities, capabilities, which will result in acquiring more clients. The marketer works in tandem with the founder to position the company that suits his or her vision and build the brand. This personality type is highly assertive, understands urgency and is willing to gamble (even when the founder develops cold feet).

The multi-tasker:

So your company is tiny and everyone is a bit stretched. There are some who just can't handle the pressure, but there are few who can grin and bear it all, and can put their hands in several puddings all at once - be admin one day, and a creative executor the next. These multi-taskers serve as real assets to smaller firms whose budgets are meagre and manpower a handful. Young entrepreneurs are constantly on the lookout for talent that not only can juggle many roles, but also switch parts as and when required.

The obligator:

What's the difference between an accommodator and multi-tasker?? The former is a 'willing personality', while the latter is just blessed to focus on too many things at the same time. But as an owner of a small business, you need an accommodator in your squad, too. Read: These personalities are not spineless 'yes minister' kinds, but understand when they need to up their game, and do whatever it takes to work with impossible demands and deadlines.

Reverse role player:

Small firms have a strong tendency and leaning to employ people who are like-minded, but HR officials reckon that a personality whose views and beliefs are opposite of that of the company would do the latter good and result in growth. He/she would bring in the perspective and insight that owners would fail to notice.

10 types of people who get Better jobs

Sometimes, they'll also serve as mock rivals, thus further enhancing the chances of success and productivity.

The decision maker:

When an entrepreneur has just started off in the business, he/she is always a bit averse to taking big risks and making concrete decisions. They are constantly turning to people who can use their own judgment and give them sound advice. Remember, they need someone who is not afraid to pull the trigger in times of distress. If you're a firm decision maker, then you are just the person your boss needs by his/her side.

The cautious player:

Likewise, if you're the kind of entrepreneur who has a tendency to run with his/her dreams, an employer who likes to play it carefully is always a good hand in the team. You need this type of personality as a counterbalance to risk takers. They are risk-averse, but sometimes you need such people to bring in stability and caution you from getting too excited and taking on more than your resources can manage.

The planner:

A person skilled in drafting policies and plan

ning the next action the company must take is a key member to have in the team. Many serve as efficient executors, but few as effective planners (who essentially run the ship). These are the guys who can identify long-term goals, have a vision for the future and can work on a calculated measure to get there.

The organiser:

It's one thing to be a good strategist, and another to pull it all together. The best ideas go for a toss if you do not have someone who is task-oriented to put them into action. So if you are a master at organising, then it's imperative to add that in your CV.

The analyser:

While the strategist and organiser have their own skill sets to execute the idea into action, it takes an observant kind - who has one eye firmly on the markets and another on the rivals - to help you weigh the pros and cons and work accordingly.

The helper:

If you have wetted your hands in the hospitality business, and are looking to make a switch, be sure you retain the 'service-oriented' trait in your next job, too. A person who has a willingness to help others always makes for a great team player.

They balance administrative qualities, understand urgency and have the patience to deal with finicky clients.

