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Nitin Nabin my boss, I am a worker: PM Modi welcomes new, 'millennial' BJP chief

New Delhi.(Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday showered praise on Nitin Nabin, the youngest to take charge as the BJP national president, calling the latter a "millennial" who will carry forward the legacy of the party. "When it is about the party, Nitin Nabin is the boss, and I am a party worker," the PM told BJP workers. The Prime Minister commended Nabin for successfully completing all duties assigned to him with full responsibility, while speaking about his generation, wherein people heard the news on the radio in childhood and are now well-versed in using AI.

"To put it in the language of today's youth, Nitin ji himself is, in a way, a millennial. He belongs to the generation that has witnessed major economic, social, and technological transformations in India. He belongs to the



generation that received information from the radio in their childhood and is now an active user of AI. Nitin ji possesses both youthful energy and extensive experience in organisational work. This will be very beneficial for every worker of our party," PM Modi said.

The 45-year-old Nabin is the son of late BJP leader and ex-MLA Nabin Kishore Prasad

Sinha. He is an undefeated five-time MLA from the Bankipur Assembly Constituency in Bihar. A millennial is someone who was born between 1981 and 1996. Being born in 1980, the new BJP chief is technically on the cusp of being a millennial.

The Prime Minister further said that the responsibility of the BJP chief is not limited to the party itself, but it is also to secure coordination within the NDA. Calling the party a culture and a family, PM Modi said that the BJP provides a platform for debutants. "The BJP is a culture. The BJP is a family. Here, we have relationships that go beyond mere membership. The BJP is a tradition that is driven by process, not by position. Our presidents change, but our ideals do not. The leadership changes, but the direction remains the same. The BJP's spirit is national, because our connection is local. Our

roots run deep in the soil. That is why the BJP provides a platform for regional aspirations. It makes them the foundation for national ambitions, and that is why today people from every corner of the country are with the BJP, are joining the BJP, and not only that, anyone who wants to begin their political journey finds the BJP's entry point to be the best and safest option," he added. Nitin Nabin won the election to the post of the BJP chief unopposed after emerging as the lone candidate in the organisational poll. He succeeded JP Nadda, who is currently a Union Minister. At the time of his candidate announcement, Nabin held the road and construction, and urban development portfolios in the Nitish Kumar-headed NDA government in Bihar. The 45-year-old later resigned to contest the BJP presidential election.

Poland Seeks New Trade Partners, Says India Has Shown Willingness To Engage

Speaking to the reporters in Delhi, Radoslaw Sikorski said that "India has shown willingness" to engage with Poland.

New Delhi .(Agency)

Polish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Radoslaw Sikorski, outlining the importance of his visit to India, said Poland has faced "increased tariffs" and is seeking new trade partners, emphasising the need to create a free trade environment.

Speaking to the reporters in Delhi, Radoslaw Sikorski said that "India has shown willingness" to engage with Poland. "When faced with increased tariffs from some regions of the world, we seek new trade partners, and India has shown a willingness to engage. We need to demonstrate to the world that there are regions in the world that still believe in free trade," he said.

This comes after the US, last year, signed a trade agreement with the European Union, of which Poland is also a part, imposing a 15 per cent import tariff on most EU goods. Meanwhile, India and the

EU have reached the last phase of negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement. Polish Deputy PM said that the collaboration between the EU and India has a large potential, and highlighted the commission's predictable single market

Commission, makes it a predictable single market... In our system, we can't make such turns like in other parts of the world, which makes us an attractive trade partner and investment destination," he said.



approach that can be beneficial for its partners. "While some industries are sensitive, the agricultural sectors of India and the EU are more or less compatible... So there is a large potential... The EU's nature as a confederation, with its checks and balances between member states, the European Parliament, and the

Commission, makes it a predictable single market... In our system, we can't make such turns like in other parts of the world, which makes us an attractive trade partner and investment destination," he said. He remained optimistic that the FTA would reach a successful conclusion. "We are optimistic that the ongoing negotiations between India and the European Union on a free trade agreement will reach a successful conclusion, benefiting both India and the EU." India-EU FTA is expected to be completed during the visit of the European Council President, Antonio Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who will visit India to represent the EU at the 16th EU-India Summit, scheduled for January 27. Radoslaw Sikorski, who met EAM Jaishankar on Monday, said that the discussions covered several pressing issues in our neighbourhood, as well as global affairs.

"BJP In Delhi Pulling Strings Of BMC": Team Uddhav On Mumbai Mayor Tussle

Sanjay Raut referred to the Shinde camp as "40 chors" (thieves) who have abandoned the self-respect that once defined the Shiv Sena.

New Delhi .(Agency)

In a blistering attack, Shiv Sena (UBT) heavyweight Sanjay Raut has claimed that the fate of Mumbai's next Mayor will now be decided in the "gullies of Delhi" rather than the heart of Maharashtra. Speaking to reporters on Tuesday, Raut took aim at Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his faction, accusing them of surrendering Mumbai's pride to the BJP high command. The veteran leader's remarks come amidst reports that the seat-sharing and post-allocation for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) are being finalised in meetings with Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other top leaders in Delhi.

"A Historic Humiliation"

"This is the first time in history that Mumbai's Mayor will be decided in Delhi by Amit Shah," Raut declared. "For decades, the voice of Mumbai was heard from Mumbai itself. Now, the BJP high command is sitting in the capital, pulling the strings of our city's highest office." Raut didn't hold back in his criticism of the Shinde camp, referring to them as "40 chors" (thieves) who have abandoned the self-respect that once defined the Shiv Sena. He alleged that the deputy chief minister and his loyalists are frequenting Delhi not for the state's welfare, but to "beg" for power.

The 'Matoshree' Legacy

Invoking the memory of late Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, Raut suggested that the current state of affairs would have been intolerable to the patriarch. "In my entire political career in Mumbai, we never once went to Delhi for such things. If Balasaheb Thackeray were alive today, he would have given them one tight slap and made them sit right here in Mumbai," Raut remarked.

Karnataka leadership change: 'CM and I will abide by top brass' call', reiterates Dy CM DKS

Bengaluru .(Agency)

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who returned to Bengaluru after his three-day visit to Delhi on Monday, said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and he are bound to follow the Congress high command's decision on leadership change. "The CM and I have reached an agreement that we will abide by the decision of the high command. You (media) are worried about your TRP," Shivakumar hit back at media persons.

Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress president, said that the high command will take a decision at an appropriate time. "The

MLAs will have their desires... there is nothing wrong with it," he said when asked about a section of legislators backing him for the top post.

Shivakumar said that the party came to power not just because of his hard work, but also because of every worker who burned the midnight oil in all 224 constituencies. "All 140 MLAs are also my supporters. CM Siddaramaiah is also supporting me. Do you know what the CM and I have spoken about? We know what we spoke in the presence of Rahul Gandhi, high command... what we have decided after sitting together (over



breakfast meetings). Can we discuss this issue openly in front of you (media)? Only time will answer everything," Shivakumar said. He took exception to news reports that

claimed that he did not meet Rahul Gandhi in Delhi, though it was earlier reported that he met the latter on the sidelines of the preparatory meeting held to discuss the upcoming Assam Assembly polls. "The media unnecessarily wrote that Rahul Gandhi did not meet me. The other day you (media) carried a photograph of me and Rahul Gandhi sitting together and discussing, and the next day you are saying that there was no meeting. The high command will take the final decision. The CM and I have made it clear many times. So, there should be no confusion," Shivakumar said.

Army raises objection with Bengal Guv over Mamata's remarks on officer using Fort William for SIR work

Kolkata .(Agency)

The Indian Army's Eastern Command has sought the intervention of West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose in connection with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent allegation that a senior army officer was using the command base at Fort William and working on the SIR exercise at the behest of the BJP. According to a senior official at the Lok Bhavan, two Army generals from Fort William, the command headquarters, met Governor Bose last week and submitted a communication which reportedly objected to Banerjee's claims.

Although the details of what transpired at the meeting were not immediately clear, the Lok Bhavan official said that Bose had taken serious note of the matter and brought it to the attention of competent authorities at the Centre. "The army officers are understood to

have spoken to the Governor and requested his intervention in the matter.

The Army is peeved with the chief minister's recent remarks suggesting that a commandant of the forces was working for the BJP while remaining posted at Fort William," the official told PTI.

Without elucidating further details on the identity of the officer concerned, the chief minister claimed on January 13 that the Army personnel was using the command base to carry out political activities in the wake of the controversial SIR of electoral rolls in the state. "I have information that a commandant at Fort William is working on SIR to lend support to the BJP. He is sitting there and doing the work of the BJP party office.

I request them with folded hands to desist from such activities," Banerjee had said while



addressing a press conference from the state secretariat, Nabanna. Following last week's meeting at the Lok Bhavan, it is understood that the Bengal Governor has approached the Defence Ministry in this connection and has brought to its notice the gravity of the matter, the official said. "Let me first verify for myself what she said. If this violates any constitutional propriety, I will certainly

intervene," Bose had said earlier when asked to respond to Banerjee's comments.

When contacted, a senior official at Fort William confirmed that the meeting had taken place at the Lok Bhavan. "Two of our officers met the honourable governor recently regarding the comments made by the honourable chief minister of West Bengal. They discussed the issue with the honourable governor, who assured them that he would look into the matter," the official said. In an already charged political atmosphere in poll-bound Bengal, where the ongoing Election Commission's exercise of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has drawn up sharp fault lines between the ruling TMC and its prime challenger BJP, with the Left and Congress also throwing their hats in the ring, Banerjee's comments triggered sharp reactions from across parties.

Governor RN Ravi on Tuesday skipped the customary address to the Tamil Nadu Assembly in a new flashpoint between the MK Stalin government and Tamil Nadu Raj Bhavan.



minors) and over 33 per cent increase in incidents of sexual molestation of women", the Governor's office complained.

The "rampant prevalence of narcotics and drugs... and a sharp increase in drug abuse

cases among young people, including school students, is a very serious concern", Governor Ravi said, also flagging "atrocities, including acts of sexual violence, against Dalits and Dalit women". A "steady decline in standards of education and widespread mismanagement in educational institutions" and lack of elections to "several thousand village panchayats" were also flagged.

News box

4 of gang that stole chains from elderly walkers arrested in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Four persons, who targeted elderly citizens out on morning walks, were arrested on Sunday. Police said the drug-addicts would engage the morning walkers in conversation before snatching gold ornaments. Narendra alias Virendra (40), Balkishan (50), Sumit alias Dheela (31) and Deepak (22) — all residents of Indira Colony in Rohtak district — had allegedly snatched a gold bangle from an elderly man near Surya Vihar Road on Oct 25, 2025. A crime branch team from Sector 17 arrested the four accused from Dujana-Rohtak Road in Jhajjar following sustained surveillance, analysis of technical inputs and tip-offs from reliable sources. "The accused admitted to drug abuse and involvement in crimes such as theft, snatching and robbery. Elderly people were their preferred targets, as they could be easily engaged in conversation," a police officer said. The accused were produced before a court on Monday. Deepak was sent to judicial custody, while Narendra, Balkishan and Sumit were remanded to three days of police custody. According to police, the victim was on his morning walk around 6am when one of the accused approached him on a scooter and struck up a conversation about old-age pension schemes. Within moments, three other men arrived on a bike and joined the discussion. Taking advantage of the situation, the group snatched the bangle from the man's hand and fled the spot on the scooter and bike. A case was registered at Sector 09A police station, following which the crime branch initiated an investigation. Police said Narendra faces 16 cases registered across Hisar and Rohtak districts, including assault, theft, snatching, and fraud. Sumit has three cases of theft and snatching registered against him in Hisar, while Balkishan is involved in three cases related to robbery, fraud and is a proclaimed offender in the same district.

Councillors flag garbage pickup lapses by new companies in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG councillors on Monday raised serious concerns over inadequate deployment of vehicles for doorstep waste collection and failure to ensure waste segregation. This comes barely a week after the civic body awarded six-month work orders worth Rs 9.6 crore to four private agencies. The issue was flagged during a review meeting chaired by mayor Raj Rani Malhotra and attended by MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya and senior officials. Councillors said that the agencies failed to provide the required number of vehicles despite the work formally commencing. Calling the lapse "serious", councillors said the shortfall at such an early stage pointed to weak implementation and monitoring. They also highlighted that the waste collection vehicles were not compartmentalised, defeating the purpose of source segregation. "There are multiple wards in the city which are facing the problem of inadequate vehicles being provided by these agencies. This is a new tender and it is not what we expect right at the beginning of the work," said a councillor, who was present in the meeting, requesting anonymity. For example, in ward number 10, there is a requirement of 12 vehicles to cover the entire area for doorstep waste collection. However, they provided only three vehicles. "There is a gap of nine vehicles. I received complaints from the residents, as waste collection won't be 100% because of an inadequate number of vehicles. We raised the issue at the meeting today (Monday)," said Mahabir, councillor of ward number 10, adding, "I was given assurance by the MCG officials in the meeting that the problem will be resolved by Thursday."

Deplorable and unsafe': Residents flag poor upkeep of park, open gym in Noida's Sector 19



Noida.(Agency)

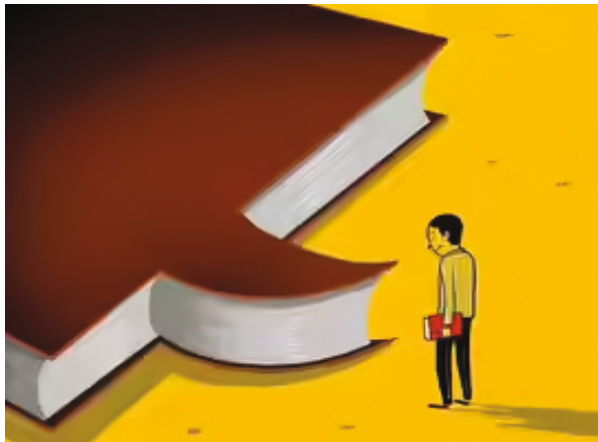
Home to nearly 20,000 residents, Sector 19, one of the earlier sectors of Noida, faces deplorable conditions in its main park as well as the open gym facilities. Complaints from residents highlight issues of neglect and poor upkeep that persisted for months, with little to no action taken by authorities. RC Gupta, president of the Sector 19 RWA, said that the sector's main park in C block is in shambles. "Garbage is scattered everywhere, and the lack of cleaning is alarming. This is impacting hundreds of residents, particularly our senior citizens who visit the park daily," Gupta said. He also called for the approval of a revamp for the open gym in the park to accommodate the growing number of senior citizens who rely on these facilities for their health and wellbeing. Residents noted that despite Noida Authority allocating significant funds for the park's maintenance, these resources are not being utilised. "The open gym, which should be a facility for promoting fitness, is in a deplorable state. We urge the authority to take this matter seriously," Gupta added. The RWA voiced their concerns regarding the state of the park and the gym to horticulture department officials, emphasising the need for immediate action. "Despite repeated complaints to the authorities in recent months, there was no improvement," said Laxmi Narain, RWA general secretary.

Haryana Institute of Public Administration module for colleges to identify student distress

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) is preparing to roll out a training module to help colleges and universities in the state identify student distress early, respond to crises in a standardised way and build emotionally safer campuses, with the aim of preventing suicides among students in higher education. HIPA said the initiative is designed to bridge the gap between existing guidelines and on-ground implementation, giving institutions uniform tools, procedures and training standards to support student wellbeing. The module will focus on preventive, promotive and responsive mental health measures, including a framework for early identification of distress, standardised crisis-management protocols, faculty sensitisation guidelines and institution-level action plans.

The plan was shaped through a first-of-its-kind workshop that brought together six subject experts and 25 principals and faculty members from colleges and universities across Haryana. Among the experts were Dr Nand Kumar from AIIMS and Prof Vikas from NIT Kurukshetra. Deliberations were anchored in the directions of the Supreme Court, National Task Force (NTF) and advisories and frameworks issued by University Grants Commission (UGC), with a strong emphasis on preventive, promotive and institution-driven strategies. The seminar was convened amid growing national concern over rising psychological stress, academic pressure and suicide incidents among



students. With Supreme Court, NTF and UGC issuing directives to strengthen institutional mental health systems, the workshop focused on developing a practical, scalable model that Haryana's higher education institutions can

implement. Participants took part in rigorous brainstorming and highly interactive sessions spanning academic, psychological, administrative and policy-level interventions. Discussions centred on strengthening institutional mechanisms for early identification, support and crisis response, while promoting a culture of care and wellbeing on campuses.

Based on expert inputs, structured group discussions and consensus-building exercises, the draft training module is now in the final stage of consolidation. HIPA said the final module — along with implementation strategies, institutional action plans and training rollout mechanisms — will be released shortly by the director-general, HIPA, in collaboration with the higher education department.

Gurgaon shocker: Man chases mobile snatchers, beaten to death with bricks and stones; 3 arrested

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 28-year-old housekeeping staffer was allegedly beaten with bricks and stones in Nathupur after he chased three men who snatched his mobile phone near a liquor shop late on the night of Jan 14. Birbal Oran, who suffered grievous injuries in the assault, died two days later at PGI Rohtak. Oran, who was from Bengal's Jalpaiguri district, worked in DLF phase-2 area and stayed in a rented room in Nathupur. Police said he was standing near a liquor shop in Nathupur Mandi when the accused grabbed his phone and tried to flee. When he ran after them, they allegedly attacked him with bricks and stones, leaving him severely injured on the street. He was taken by an ambulance to the govt hospital in Sector 10, before



being referred to PGI Rohtak because of the seriousness of his condition. Police said doctors declared him unfit to give a statement, and he died during treatment on Jan 16. A murder case was registered at DLF Phase-3 police station on a complaint by Oran's sister, who came to Gurgaon

after the family was informed about his condition. "On Monday, joint teams of Sikandarpur crime branch and Nathupur police outpost arrested three accused from Nathupur Bihari Mandi. They were identified as Naresh Kumar (24) from Madhubani, Raju Kumar Jha (28) from Sarsa, and Vipin Kumar (23) from Darbhanga in Bihar. During preliminary interrogation, the accused confessed to snatching the mobile phone and assaulting the victim when he tried to stop them," said Sandeep Kumar, a police spokesperson. Police said Naresh Kumar has two previous theft cases registered in the city and an NDPS case in Assam. Investigators said further inquiry was underway to determine whether more people were involved.

GMDA asks Gurgaon metro to test if a flyover is feasible on Old Railway Road

Gurgaon.(Agency)

GMDA has asked Gurgaon Metro Rail Ltd (GMRL) to examine whether an elevated road can be built alongside a proposed metro corridor on Old Railway Road, a move aimed at easing chronic congestion in the old city. The directive was issued at a meeting chaired by GMDA chief executive officer PC Meena on Monday to review the alignment of elevated road corridors planned alongside two upcoming metro projects — the Millennium City Centre-Cyber City line and Gurgaon railway station-Bhondsi corridor. Senior officials from GMRL and Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC) attended the review. Stressing the need for coordinated planning, Meena said road and metro infrastructure must be designed together to avoid bottlenecks in the future. "Unified planning of GMDA's road infrastructure with the proposed metro corridor along Old Railway Road and

Gurgaon railway station-Bhondsi stretch was discussed, with emphasis on conserving right of way to meet future metro ridership and road traffic needs," he said. Officials said the agencies agreed to explore integrated solutions that could accommodate both an elevated road and metro infrastructure within the same corridor. But the biggest hurdle is space — especially along the densely built-up Old Railway Road, where the right of way is already tight. People familiar with the discussions said GMRL flagged reservations over GMDA's proposal for a four-lane elevated road from Rajiv Chowk towards the railway station, looping near the Sector 5 junction and connecting near Atul Kataria Chowk. The 7.4km project is estimated to cost about Rs 750 crore. Metro officials said the railway station-Bhondsi corridor could not be taken underground and would have to be elevated. The Millennium City Centre-Cyber City line

is also planned as an elevated corridor, with interchange stations proposed at Sector 5 and Subhash Chowk. Both lines are planned to share a common depot at Sector 33. Officials said taking the metro underground would require an additional depot and more land for the interchange at Sector 5. GMDA, meanwhile, is planning the Rajiv Chowk-Atul Kataria Chowk elevated road with multiple entry and exit ramps. The Old Railway Road stretch between Rajiv Chowk and Sector 5 overlaps with the proposed alignment of the Bhondsi-railway station metro corridor, and GMDA has already initiated the tendering process to prepare the detailed project report (DPR) for the road. HMRTC officials cautioned that fitting two elevated structures into the same corridor may be near-impossible in parts. "The available right of way is already constrained, and the road width further reduces at several locations.

MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya said, "The initiative reflects the civic body's focus on long-term water conservation. Laying a dedicated pipeline for treated water is a practical step towards protecting drinking water resources while maintaining green spaces. Similar models can be replicated in other areas of the city." Officials added that once approved, the project marked a key step towards sustainable urban infrastructure and improved water management in the city. The municipal corporations across the country are also generating revenue by utilising and selling the STP water. For example, Surat generates revenue of Rs 140 crore by selling sewage treated water to the textile industry. Surat set up 3 sewage treatment plants with capacities of 40 MLD, 35 MLD and 40 MLD, and around 115 MLD of sewage treated water is sold to the textile industry.

26 BLOs skip voter camps in Gzb, to face dept action

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Departmental action has been initiated against 26 booth-level officers (BLOs) in Ghaziabad for remaining absent without permission during voter camps on Sunday. The camps were meant to read out draft electoral rolls and assist eligible or left-out voters with Form 6 applications. Meanwhile, BLOs in Ghaziabad and Gautam Budh Nagar have begun door-to-door visits to serve notices to unmapped voters ahead of hearings starting Jan 21. The inspections were conducted on Jan 18, when a special campaign was conducted for receiving claims and objections to the draft electoral rolls. All BLOs were mandated to be present at their polling stations to read out the draft voter list and assist eligible and left-out voters in submitting Form 6 along with declarations and supporting documents. District magistrate Ravindra Mander, who is also the district election officer, had directed all electoral registration officers and assistant electoral registration officers to inspect polling stations across the



district. During these inspections, 26 BLOs were found absent without prior approval. "Departmental proceedings were initiated against them, including withholding of salaries until further notice, and their work will be reviewed by supervisory officers from their respective departments," the DM said. Meanwhile, BLOs in the

two districts have started a door-to-door exercise of delivering notices to unmapped voters during SIR. Such voters will be required to present specified documents during hearings with additional electoral registration officers (AERO). Hearings will begin from Jan 21 at 21 locations in Ghaziabad and 35 locations in GB Nagar to ensure all such cases are heard before the Feb 27

deadline. Ghaziabad ADM (Revenue) and deputy district election officer Saurabh Bhatt said, "BLOs started delivering notices door to door to electors whose status is unmapped. After delivering the notice and receiving a copy of the document required from the voter, the BLOs also have to upload the details on the BLO app." According to officials,

notices are being served at the residence of the elector or a family member by the concerned BLO. The acknowledgement of receipt, along with a photograph.

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Yogi government's labor, employment, investment and social security model changes picture of UP

Lucknow : Uttar Pradesh, which was once counted among states from where people migrated for employment, is today presenting a new model of employment generation, industrial development and social security under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. In the past nearly nine years, the impact of Yogi government's policies is now clearly visible on the ground. Where earlier youth and workers were forced to leave the state for employment, now sufficient opportunities are available near their homes for them. There is no compulsion now to leave the state for employment, education, health and security. Youth and workers who had gone out of the state ear-



lier are also returning now. The place of migration has been taken by 'reverse migration', which is writing a new story of development, self-reliance and inclusive prosperity in the state.

During Yogi government's tenure, large-scale employment has been generated through industrial investment, MSME expansion, employment

fairs and skill development schemes. There has been a historic decline in unemployment rate and lakhs of youth have got employment in government and private sectors. More than 53 thousand skilled workers have been registered on Seva Mitra portal operated by Employment Department, who are being directly linked to employment.

Through Invest UP, single window system, transparent processes and 'ease of doing business' reforms have increased investors' confidence. Expressway network, airports, industrial corridors, defense corridor, medical colleges and logistics hubs like infrastructure projects have brought industries to districts. Uttar Pradesh is included among the top

states in the country in terms of employment and factory units, due to which permanent jobs have been created at local level. Currently, more than 30 thousand factories are operating in the state, whose number was not even half till 2017. In the past nearly nine years, the number of employment opportunities in their home districts for youth, workers and women has increased manifold.

Yogi government has not only given employment, but also prioritized the security, education and future of workers and their families. Atal Residential Schools are being operated in every division for children of registered workers and children who became orphans during Covid period. Each school provides residential educa-

tion to 100 boys-girls.

Government has prepared strong security shield for workers. On death at workplace 75 lakh, on permanent disability 73 lakh, on partial disability 72 lakh, on death due to accident of registered worker 75 lakh, on general death 72 lakh, 725,000 funeral assistance and on accident/death of unregistered worker 71.25 lakh assistance is provided. These provisions have largely eliminated the insecurity of workers.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

(Through e-tendering)

Tender No. 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1466	Dated: 19.01.2026
Name of work with its location	Improvement works in section under Sr. DSTE-II for enhancement of reliability and focus on PRIME items.
App. Cost of the work (₹)	Rs. 4,28,84,688.50/-
Bid Security (₹)	Rs. 3,64,400.00/-
Address of the office	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annex-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for uploading the tender/closing of the tender	Tender uploading 19.01.2026 / closing date & time- 10.02.2026 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where the complete details of the tender can be seen etc.	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at the S&T Branch, 3rd Floor, DRM Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

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BALLAST RETAINING WALLS, TOE WALLS AND SLOPE PITCHING WORKS

E-Tender Notice No. KIR/Engg./01 of 2026 Dated: 06-01-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. 1. Brief Description of work:** Epoxy grouting of exposed reinforcement, provision of insp. steps, construction of ballast retaining walls, toe walls, slope pitching works, etc in Bridges No 32DN, 33DN, 34DN, 34UP, 35UP, 35DN, 36UP, 36DN, 37UP, 37DN, 38UP, 38DN, 39UP, 39DN, 40UP, 40 DN, 41UP, 41 DN, 42 UP, 42DN, 43 UP, 43DN, 45UP, 45 DN, 46 UP, 46DN, 47UP, 47DN, in between New Jalpaiguri-Aluabari Road under SSE/W/Kishanganj. **Tender Value:** ₹4,40,61,242.04/- **Earnest Money:** ₹3,70,300/- **Tender No. 2. Brief Description of work:** Epoxy grouting of exposed reinforcement, provision of insp. steps, construction of ballast retaining walls, toe walls, slope pitching works, etc in Bridges No 48 UP, 48DN, 49 DN, 50 UP, 50 DN, 51 UP, 51 DN, 52 UP, 52DN, 53 UP, 54 UP, 54 DN, 55UP, 55 DN, 56 UP, 56 DN, 58 UP, 58 DN, 59 UP, 59DN, 60 UP, 60 DN, 63 UP, 63 DN, 64 UP, 64 DN in between New Jalpaiguri-Aluabari Road under SSE/W/Kishanganj. **Tender Value:** ₹3,94,30,641.43/- **Earnest Money:** ₹3,47,200/- **Tender No. 3. Brief Description of work:** (1) New Jalpaiguri :- Construction of Duty Room & Dairy Room with attached toilet & bathrooms at 4BN/RPSF/New Jalpaiguri. (2) At New Jalpaiguri:- Repairs & renovation of Officer (GO's) Rest House at 4BN/RPSF/New Jalpaiguri. (3) New Jalpaiguri:- Renovation of BQM Office and 05 nos. Store Rooms with Toilet & Bathroom. (4) 4BN/RPSF/New Jalpaiguri:- Special Repair of Staff Quarter and other ancillary work under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/New Jalpaiguri. (5) New Jalpaiguri:- Multi Parking shed (28mtrs X 12 mtr), and connecting C.C. Road 200 mtrs. at Maitha garage of 4BN/RPSF/New Jalpaiguri. (6) New Jalpaiguri :- renovation of recreation hall of 4bn/RPSF/New Jalpaiguri. **Tender Value:** ₹5,40,31,337.12/- **Earnest Money:** ₹4,20,200/- **Tender No. 4. Brief Description of work:** At Thakurganj & Naksalbari: Provision of deep tubewell- 200/300 & Over Head water storage tank of capacity 100000 Litre under the jurisdiction of SSE/W/Thakurganj. **Tender Value:** ₹2,78,13,580.36/- **Earnest Money:** ₹2,89,100/- **Date & Time of closing of tender:** At 15.00 hrs. & opening at 15.30 hrs on 04-02-2026. The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Railway Manager (W), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

E-AUCTION IS INVITED FOR LEASING OF SLRs OVER LUMDING DIVISION

E-Auction for the contract of leasing of SLRs for 03 years in trains originating from Lumding Division has been invited. **Auction Catalogue No.: Lease-LMG-03-26. Rate Unit: Per Trip Licensing Fee. Auction Start Date & Time (All Lots) : At 11:00 hrs. on 28-01-2026.**

Seq No.	Lot No./Category	Lot End Date & Time
AA/1	15630-SLR-F1-SHTT-TBM-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	11:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/2	15616-SLR-F2-SCL-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	11:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/3	12504-SLR-F1-AGTL-SMBV-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	11:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/4	15418-SLR-F1-SHTT-APDJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/5	13126-SLR-F1-SANG-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/6	12520-SLR-F1-AGTL-LTT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/7	15641-SLR-F1-SCL-NTSK-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/8	15618-SLR-F1-DLCR-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	12:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/9	15663-SLR-F1-AGTL-SCL-25-3 (Parcel-SLR)	12:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/10	15626-SLR-F1-AGTL-DGHR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/11	13182-SLR-F1-SHTT-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/12	20501-SLR-F1-SCL-SDAH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/13	15817-SLR-F1-SKHV-NHLN-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/14	15616-SLR-F1-SCL-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/15	15618-SLR-F1-DLCR-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	13:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/16	15610-SLR-F1-SANG-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/17	15664-SLR-F1-SCL-AGTL-25-2 (Parcel-SLR)	14:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/18	12502-SLR-F1-AGTL-KOAA-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/19	14619-SLR-F1-AGTL-FZR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/20	12516-SLR-F1-SCL-CBE-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/21	15418-SLR-F1-SHTT-APDJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	14:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/22	15418-SLR-F2-SHTT-APDJ-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:00 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/23	15618-SLR-F2-DLCR-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:10 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/24	13176-SLR-F1-SCL-SDAH-25-3 (Parcel-SLR)	15:20 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/25	13174-SLR-F1-SBRM-SDAH-25-4 (Parcel-SLR)	15:30 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/26	15616-SLR-F1-SCL-GHY-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:40 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/27	12508-SLR-F1-SCL-TV-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	15:50 hrs. on 28-01-26
AA/28	20507-SLR-F1-SCL-ANVT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR)	16:00 hrs. on 28-01-26

Initial Cooling off period is 30 minutes. Successive lots closing interval 10 minutes. Lot wise closing time can be viewed in e-Auction module of IREPS. **Note :** Prospective bidder are requested to visit e-Auction leasing module on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in for more details.

Divisional Railway Manager (C), Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

Serving Customers With A Smile

NAME CHANGE

I, RAM ASHRE S/O BHAYALA R/O 63.H-2, BLOCK JHUGGI, JAHANGIR PURI, DIST. NORTH WEST DELHI, Delhi-110033, have changed the name of my minor daughter KAJAL aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as ANJALI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit Kumar S/O Suraj Prakash R/O H No-6, Street No-5, Geeta Colony, Block No 5, Gandhi Nagar, East Delhi-110031, have changed my name Rohit for all future purposes.

S&T WORK

E-Tender Notice No.: KIR.N-2025-K-69; dated: 09-01-2026. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** S&T work in connection with provision of RUB/LHS in Lieu of Level Crossing No. NC-86 at KM 1767-8, NC-97 at KM-192/1-2 & NC-88 at KM 1793-4 in between Kumedpur-Eklakhi. **Tender Value:** ₹28,15,417.31; **Earnest Money:** ₹56,300.00. **E-tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs.** on 03-02-2026 and **opened at 15:30 hrs.** on 03-02-2026. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs of 03-02-2026 in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

DRM (S&T), Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers with a smile

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

Tender Notice No. : S/66/015/25-26; Dated: 09-01-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works:-

SN. 1; Tender No. Nj255233;

Closing/ Opening Date: 02-02-2026

Brief Description & Qty: Supply, Installation, Testing and commissioning of EOT Crane-10/ST. Consignee:- SSE/D/Siliguri Jn., NFR; Qty: 04 Nos.

SN. 2; Tender No. Nj285001;

Closing/ Opening Date: 02-02-2026

Brief Description & Qty: 06 VLY Kit for Compressor Overhauling consisting of 53 items to ELGI Pt. No. 072496789 for HHP Diesel Locomotive. Consignee:- SSE/D/Siliguri Jn., NFR; Qty: 20 Sets.

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

Dy. Chief Material Manager, New Jalpaiguri

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY

"Serving Customers with a smile"

NAME CHANGE

I, No-6945364A Rank-NK Name-BABUL PAYOUT Rank of ARUP PAYOUT Presently residing at VPO-2 NO PHUTUKI, TEH-KALABABARI, DIST-JORHAT, ASSAM-785104, have changed my minor son's name from ARUP PAYOUT to ARUP PAYUN for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 20/01/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-6504953N Rank-SEP Name-RIAZUL HOQUE Presently residing at VILL- AIRANJONGLA PT 1, PO- A. M. CO. ROAD, DIST-DHUBRI, ASSAM-783323, have changed my mother's name from REJIA BIBI to REJYA BIBI for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/10/1980 instead of her correct date of birth as 05/05/1981 vide Affidavit dated 20/01/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHMA RANI W/O MUKESH MITTAL R/O F-52, ARYA SAMAJ ROAD, UTTAM NAGAR, WEST DELHI, Delhi-110059, have changed my name to SUSHMA MITTAL for all future purpose.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Mukul S/o Praveen Kumar R/o B-1/17, Gali no. 1, Ramesh Enclave, Kirari Suleman Nagar, PO: Sultanpuri C Block, DIST: North West Delhi, Delhi-110086, declare that name of my Father has been Wrongly written as Parveen Kumar in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my Father is Praveen Kumar.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAKESH KUMAR CHOUDHARY S/O HARE KRISHAN CHOUDHARY R/O WZ-550, F/F FRONT SIDE, FLAT NO-201, NANGAL RAYA, DELHI-110046, have changed my name from RAKESH KUMAR CHOUDHARY to RAKESH KUMAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as ASHWANI KUMAR S/O VED PRAKASH R/O A-247, SHAKUR PUR, SHAKUR PUR I BLOCK, NORTH WEST DELHI, Delhi-110034 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as YUVRAJ PRAKASH.

NAME CHANGE

I, PARVEEN W/O SURJIT KUMAR R/O House No. 41294, Street No-4, Shankar Garden, Line Part-3, Bahadurgarh, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana-124507, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PARVEEN BALA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as AYUSH S/O SHYAM LAL R/O J-162, Vishnu Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as AYUSH DHIMAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, UPENDRA KUMAR S/O CHANDRIKA SINGH R/O House No. B-3407, Gali No-7, Near Molar Band SSB School, Omnagar, Jaipur, South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed the name of my minor daughter BABY OF NEETU aged 08 years and she shall hereafter be known as DIVYA KUMARI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ujjwala Dubey W/o Sunil Dubey R/O Kh.No-24/8, Gali No-11A, Bharat Vihar, Begumpur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed the name of my minor son Sahitya Dubey aged 13 years and he shall hereafter be known as Anubhav Dubey.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto Known as VISHAW NATH MAHTO S/O RAGHUNATH PRASAD R/O A-591, Gali No.16, Mahavir Enclave Part 2, South West Delhi, Delhi-110045 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known BISHWANATH PRASAD

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Gyanender Singh S/o Rudra Singh R/O Jhuggi No-5, Near 843 Kothi, Sector-2, RK Puram Sect-1, South West Delhi, Delhi-110022 declare that name of mine and my mother has been wrongly written as Gyanender and Swara in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and my mother are Gyanender Singh and Shohra Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, SUMAN DEVI, wife of SURENDER SINGH, residing at H.No. 133 P/O, ALI CHANDI Delhi-110039, do hereby declare that my correct name is SUMAN and my correct Date of Birth is 01/05/1971. I hereby request that my correct name and Date of Birth be updated in all official/service records of my husband for all official purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Devendra Kumar S/o Laxman Dass R/O, H.No-C-91, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar, Delhi-110018 have changed my name to Devender Kumar.

NAME CHANGE

I MD KUDRAT S/O MD SALIM R/O NO-45, GALI NO-18 CHHURIYA, MOHALLA, TUGLAKABAD VILLAGE, BADARPUR, DELHI-110044 have changed my name to MOHD KUDRAT ANSARI for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I DHARAM SINGH YADAV S/O RAMAVATAR SINGH R/O PLOT NO-34, A SHIVA ENCLAVE VIKAS NAGAR UTTAM NAGAR DELHI-110059, I have changed my name to GHARAM SINGH Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I SIDHARTH SHARMA S/O RAJESH SHARMA R/O WZ-182, 2ND FLOOR LAJWANTI GARDEN OPP. TIHAR JAIL NAGAR RAYA DELHI -110046, I have changed my name to SIDHARTH SHARMA Permanently for all Future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I GANESAN SELVARAJ S/O M SELVARAJ R/O D-11616, 16A FIRST FLOOR PALAM KUNJ, PALAM EXTENSION SECTOR -7 DWARKA DELHI 110077, I have changed my name to SELVARAJ GANESHAN Permanently for all Future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I HARI SHANKAR KHANDELWAL S/O RATI RAM R/O H.NO-8, E-2 BLOCK SULTAN PURI DELHI-110086, I have changed my name to HARI SHANKAR Permanently for all Future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SALEEMUDDIN S/O Wasluddin R/O H.No.550, Gali No.24, Near Kamal Nursing Home, Jafraabad, Delhi-110053, have changed my name to SALIMUDDIN permanently

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Ankit Jain S/O Surender Kumar Jain, R/O 73 jain building, lamba bazar paan mandir, Muzaffarnagar, Muzaffar Nagar City, Uttar Pradesh, 251002, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Ankit Kumar Jain.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAJ KUMAR S/O BRIJ LAL MAGGO R/O S-1/22, OLD MAHAVIR NAGAR, TILAK NAGAR, DELHI-110018 have changed my name to RAUJ KUMAR MAGGO for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHAHINA PERVEEN W/O ABDUL RAB R/O H NO-1701, GALI TAKHT WALI, SUI WALAN, DARYA GANJ, DELHI-110002 have changed my name to SHAHINA PARVEEN for all future purpose

NAME CHANGE

I, Girish S/O Virender Nagar R/O H. No.-1, Street No.-1, Near Voter Id Card Office, Village Garhi Mendu, Garhi Mendu, PO: Bhajan Pura, DIST: North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Krish Nagar.

NAME CHANGE

I, Manish Jain alias Manish S/O Late Dharam Singh R/O L-1-3/121, Sangam Vihar, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi - 110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Manish Jain

NAME CHANGE

I Rama Pad Das S/O Radha Charan Das R/o 508-C, Gali No-5, Govindpur, Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi-110019 have changed the name of my minor daughter Dhriti Das aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as Dhritika Das.

NAME CHANGE

I Robin S/o Attar Singh R/o House No A-11/288, Street No.11, Sonia Vihar Part-3, Karawal Nagar, Dayalpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 have changed the name of my minor son Ishu Mogya aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as Alok Mogha.

NAME CHANGE

I Robin S/o Attar Singh R/o House No A-11/288, Street No.11, Sonia Vihar Part-3, Karawal Nagar, Dayalpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094, have changed the name of my minor son Ravi aged 9 years and he shall hereafter be known as Alex Mogha.

Public notice

It is for general information that I Arjun Sharma S/o Hazari Lal R/o Gali No - 22, Nai Basti, 52/74 A/14-2, Anand Parbat, Central Delhi, Delhi - 110005, declare that name of mine has been Wrongly written as Arjun in my Driving Licence no. DL04 19970166309. The actual name of mine is Arjun Sharma.

Religion change

I, Bhavesh Lamington S/o Raju Lamington R/O Q-30, 3rd floor, Private Colony, Sirinwaspur, South Delhi, Delhi -110065, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced Islam and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 20.01.2026, and changed my name Bhavesh Lamington to Yusuf.

NAME CHANGE

I, Gurcharan Singh S/o Hamam Singh R/O Village Jatpur, Jatpur, PO: Jatpur, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi-110044, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Charansingh.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ramavati Devi alias Ramavati Gupta, D/o Tilak Dhar Sahi W/O Ramiyak Gupta R/O 20388, Block-20, Kalyanpuri, East Delhi, Delhi - 110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Rama Gupta.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I SURESH CHANDER S/O GURUDEEN, R/O T- 23/10 RAILWAY COLONY KISHAN GANJ PADAM NAGAR MALKA GANJ DELHI 110007, declare that name of mine and my wife has been wrongly written as SURESH CHAND and SANGEETA DEVI in my minor son namedly RAJ AGED 12 YEARS and my minor daughter namedly SHALU aged 13 years in his/her school records. The actual name of mine and my wife are SURESH CHANDER and SANGITA DEVI, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I ZIAULHAQUE S/O MOHD HABIB ANSARI R/O - A- 604, PANDAV NAGAR PATEL NAGAR DELHI-110008, I have changed my name to ZIA UL HAQ Permanently for all Future purpose.

NEWS BOX

Yogi met and congratulated the newly elected BJP National President



New Delhi/Lucknow : Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath met the newly elected National President of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Nitin Nabin, in New Delhi and extended his congratulations, wishing him a successful and impactful tenure. On Tuesday, the Chief Minister presented a bouquet to the new National President at the BJP office. The CM congratulated and wished him the very best for a successful tenure through a post on his social media platform, X. In his social media post, the Chief Minister wrote, "I am fully confident that under the able leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Nitin Nabin would take the sangathan to new heights with dedication and commitment. By following the path of Antyodaya, upliftment of the poorest of the poor, the new National President would further reinforce the spirit of "Nation First" among party workers." CM Yogi said that Nitin Nabin's capable leadership, rich organizational experience, and far-sighted vision would infuse fresh energy and direction into the party while further strengthening democratic values. He also expressed confidence that Uttar Pradesh would continue to benefit from his guidance.

Many Injured As Over 100 Vehicles Crash, Pile Up In Michigan Amid Snow Storm

Iran. (Agency)

More than 100 vehicles smashed into each other or slid off an interstate in Michigan on Monday as snow fueled by the Great Lakes blanketed the state. The massive pileup prompted the Michigan State Police to close both directions of Interstate 196 Monday morning just southwest of Grand Rapids while officials worked to remove all the vehicles, including more than 30 semitrailer trucks. The State Police said there were numerous injuries, but no deaths had been reported. Pedro Mata Jr. said he could barely see the cars in front of him as the snow blew across the road while driving 20-25 mph (32-40 kph) before the crash. He was able to stop his pickup safely, but then decided to pull his truck off the road into the median to avoid being hit from behind. "It was a little scary just listening to everything, the bangs and booms behind you. I saw what was in front of me. I couldn't see what was behind me exactly," Mata said. The crash is just the latest impact of the major winter storm moving across the country. The National Weather Service issued warnings about either extremely cold temperatures or the potential for winter storms across several states starting in northern Minnesota and stretching south and east into Wisconsin, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. A day earlier, snow fell as far south as the Florida Panhandle and made it harder for football players to hang onto the ball during playoff games in Massachusetts and Chicago. Forecasters warned Monday that freezing temperatures are possible overnight into Tuesday across much of north-central Florida and southeast Georgia. The Ottawa County Sheriff's office in Michigan said multiple crashes and jack-knifed semis were reported along with numerous cars that slid off the road. Stranded motorists were being bused to Hudsonville High School, where they could call for help or arrange a ride.

UAE Signs \$2.5 Billion Gas Deal With Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd

world. (Agency)

The UAE announced on Monday a new liquified natural gas (LNG) deal with a state-run Indian company valued at more than \$2.5 billion dollars. The contract, signed between ADNOC Gas -- a subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company -- and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd, provides for the supply of an annual half a million tonnes of LNG over a 10-year period, the Emirati company said. The deal "brings the total value of contracts being supported and operated by ADNOC Gas to over \$20 billion", and will make India the UAE's largest natural gas customer, ADNOC Gas said. From 2029,



Indian firms will account for just over a fifth of ADNOC Gas's annual 15.6-million-tonne output, according to the company. The latest deal was finalised on the sidelines of a visit by Emirati President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to New Delhi, where he met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In a joint statement, the two leaders hailed growing trade between their countries since a 2022 agreement, and committed to doubling it to \$200 billion by 2032.

Mann Govt delivers major relief to farmers, approves 68.50 per quintal subsidy on sugarcane

CHANDIGARH :

Farmers stood at the centre of a high-performing Cabinet meeting on Tuesday as the Punjab Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, approved a ₹68.50 per quintal direct subsidy out of the fixed State Agreed Price (SAP) for sugarcane growers, reinforcing Punjab's position as the state offering the highest sugarcane price in the country.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Council of Ministers chaired by the Chief Minister, which also delivered a series of significant approvals spanning healthcare reform, public fitness initiatives and urban governance, underlining a decisive, outcomes-driven policy push by the government.



Disclosing the decisions taken by the Cabinet, the Chief Minister's Office stated that the subsidy of ₹68.50 per quintal out of the fixed State Agreed Price will be paid directly to sugarcane farmers on behalf of private sugar mills for the crushing season 2025-26. Punjab already offers the highest State Agreed Price for sugarcane in the country at ₹416 per quintal, reflecting

an increase of ₹15 from the previous year. This ensures that Punjab's cane growers remain the best compensated in the country and the present decision will further strengthen income security for farmers.

As part of the Punjab government's sustained focus on public health and wellness, the Cabinet also approved the creation of 1,000 additional posts of

Yoga Trainers under the 'CM di Yogshala' project. It was stated that a budgetary provision of ₹35 crore will be made for this initiative during the financial year 2026-27, aimed at promoting a healthy and fit Punjab.

In another key decision to strengthen healthcare services, the Cabinet approved the complete transfer of Civil Hospitals at village Badal in Muktsar district, Khadur Sahib in Tarn Taran district, Community Health Centre Jalalabad, and the Tertiary Care Centre in Fazilka district to Baba Farid University of Health Sciences (BFUHS), Faridkot. The transfer will enable residents of these areas to access improved treatment and diagnostic services, leveraging the university's advanced medical infrastructure and expertise.

The Cabinet also accorded approval for formulation and notification of directives under Section 4 of the Punjab Management and Transfer Municipal Act, 2020, to facilitate the transfer of municipal properties belonging to Punjab government departments, boards, corporations, and other public sector undertakings for public purposes. This decision is expected to

give fresh momentum to development projects across the state, ensure uniformity in land allocation, and prevent misuse of public land. A committee headed by the Deputy Commissioner of the concerned district will recommend the allotment process, subject to approval by the state government.

To accelerate development through optimal utilisation of land resources, the Cabinet approved a policy for transfer by sale or exchange of abandoned and active paths (rastas) or water courses (khals) located within all government-licensed projects inside municipal limits. This policy is aimed at unlocking stalled development potential and improving urban planning outcomes.

Hindu Student, 8, "Forced To Leave" London School Over 'Applying Tilak'

World. (Agency)

An eight-year-old Hindu student was forced to move schools in London, United Kingdom, after facing discrimination for applying a Tilak-Chandlo, a sacred religious symbol worn on the forehead. According to Insight UK, a social movement and advocacy body representing the British Hindu and Indian community, the staff at Vicar's Green Primary School in London asked the child to explain and justify his religious practice -- an approach the organisation described as "entirely inappropriate for a minor".

Moreover, it is alleged that the headteacher at the school monitored the child during break times in a manner the child found intimidating, leading him to withdraw from play and isolate himself from peers.

It was also alleged that the eight-year-old was removed from positions of

responsibility within the school solely because of his religious practice, an act that, if proven, constitutes direct religious discrimination under the Equality Act 2010, where religion is a



protected characteristic. "No child should feel watched, singled out, or isolated because of their faith, especially not from a person of authority," an INSIGHT UK spokesperson said. "Such experiences can have lasting emotional impacts and raise serious safeguarding questions."

The parents of the pupil, along with other Hindu parents, reportedly made repeated and reasonable attempts to educate and engage the headteacher and school governors on the religious significance of Hindu practices, including the Tilak-Chandlo. But, it was reported that rather than engaging constructively, these efforts were reportedly dismissed with unacceptable answers, with school leadership demonstrating an unwillingness to acknowledge or understand Hindu religious observance.

"This was not a good-faith dialogue - it was an imbalance of power, where Hindu religious practices were scrutinised, minimised, and ultimately rejected," said an Insight UK spokesperson. The advocacy group flagged that religious discrimination at Vicar's Green Primary School has forced at least four children to leave the school.

US To Send Aircraft To Greenland Amid Tensions Over Trump's Takeover Bid

world. (Agency)

The US will deploy a North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) aircraft at the Pituffik space base, Greenland, as tensions rise over President Donald Trump's move to acquire the semi-autonomous Danish territory. NORAD said that the aircraft will arrive at the base to support various long-planned activities. They also said that this action is taken in coordination with Denmark and Greenland. "North American Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD) aircraft will soon arrive at Pituffik Space Base, Greenland. Along with aircraft operating from bases in the continental United States and Canada, they will support various long-planned NORAD activities, building on the enduring defence cooperation between the United States and Canada, as well as the Kingdom of Denmark," NORAD said in a post on X. "This activity has been coordinated with the Kingdom of

Denmark, and all supporting forces operate with the requisite diplomatic clearances. The Government of Greenland is also informed of planned activities," they added. NORAD routinely conducts sustained,



dispersed operations in the defence of North America, through one or all three NORAD regions (Alaska, Canada, and the continental U.S.). The US move follows a multinational military exercise led by Danish forces amid the tensions with Washington over Donald Trump's threats to acquire

Greenland. Germany, Sweden, France, Norway, the Netherlands, and Finland have sent small numbers of military personnel to Greenland to join the exercise in a move to ensure the safety of the Arctic.

Denmark had also invited the US to join the military exercise.

Meanwhile, strengthening his push to acquire Denmark's territory, Trump threatened to impose tariffs on Denmark and other European countries, including the UK, unless they agree to sell Greenland.

In his post, Trump claimed the move is necessary for national security, citing China's and Russia's interest in the territory. He offered to negotiate with the European nations but warned of escalating tariffs of 10 per cent from February 1, 2026, and 25 per cent from June 1, 2026 if a deal wasn't reached, stating it was "time for Denmark to give back" after years of US support.

'We Don't Award It': Norway PM As Trump Links Nobel Prize To Greenland Threat

world. (Agency)

Norway's Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store found himself in an unprecedented predicament when US President Donald Trump linked his push to acquire Greenland to his failure to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Store said he wrote back to Trump, "clearly explaining" that Nobel Prizes have nothing to do with the Norwegian government and are awarded by an independent body.

"I have clearly explained, including to President Trump, what is well known, the prize is awarded by an independent Nobel Committee, and not the Norwegian Government," he said in a statement, confirming he received a message from Trump after he and Finnish President Alexander Stubb contacted the US President to oppose proposed tariff hikes against several European countries.

"I can confirm that this is a text message that I received yesterday afternoon from President Trump. It came in response to a

short text message from me sent earlier the same day, on behalf of myself and the President of Finland," Store added.

What Trump Said

The explanation came after Trump sent a message to the Norwegian Prime Minister over the weekend, claiming that one reason he is pushing to acquire Greenland is that he didn't win the Nobel Peace Prize. Trump told Norway's prime minister that he no longer felt bound to think "purely of peace", as tensions mounted between the United States and its European allies over the Arctic territory. The message was disclosed by an official in the prime minister's office and first published by PBS. "Considering your Country decided not to give me the Nobel Peace Prize for having stopped 8 Wars PLUS, I no longer feel an obligation to think purely of Peace, although it will always be predominant, but can now think about

what is good and proper for the United States of America," Trump wrote. Trump



also questioned Denmark's claim to Greenland, a self-governing territory within the Danish Kingdom, and asserted sweeping security demands. "There are no written documents; it's only that a boat landed there hundreds of years ago, but we had boats landing there also," he wrote. "I have done more for NATO than any other

person since its founding, and now, NATO should do something for the United States.

The World is not secure unless we have Complete and Total Control of Greenland. Thank you!" he added. The White House defended the president's position by framing it as a matter of national security. "President Trump believes Greenland is a strategically important location that is critical from the standpoint of national security, and he is confident Greenlanders would be better served if protected by the United States from modern threats in the Arctic region," White House Deputy Press Secretary

Anna Kelly told news agency IANS. According to copies of the exchange, Trump's message was a response to an earlier text from Store that was co-signed by Finland's president, Alexander Stubb. The two European leaders urged de-escalation and asked to speak with Trump directly.

Matrimonial fraud: Man who cheated Bengaluru techie of Rs 1.53 crore nabbed

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A 32-year-old married civil engineer, against whom a software engineer had filed a complaint accusing him of cheating her of Rs 1.53 crore under the pretext of marriage, has been arrested by the Kengeri police.

The accused met the victim on a matrimonial website, claiming to be a businessman and introducing his wife as his sister to dupe her. The accused has been identified as Vijesh B, alias Vijay Raj Gowda, a resident of Kengeri and a native of Tumakuru. The police said a 29-year-old software engineer filed a complaint stating that she was cheated of Rs 1.53 crore by Vijay Raj, whom she met on a matrimonial website in 2024. He claimed to be running multiple businesses in the city and reportedly told her that he owned assets worth Rs 715 crore in Bengaluru. He persuaded her to invest in a joint business venture, through which he allegedly collected Rs 1.75 crore from her in phases, while also promising to marry her.

He claimed that cases had been registered against him following ED raids and that his bank accounts had been frozen. He allegedly showed her fake court documents to support his claims and continued to extort money, police said.

The police added that Vijay Raj later took the victim to his house to introduce her to his family members, during which he introduced his wife as his sister. The victim later learnt that the woman was his wife and that he also had a child. When the victim demanded the return of her money, he allegedly paid Rs 22 lakh but later threatened to kill her and her friends if she continued to demand the remaining amount.

Eighth Yellow Line trainset for Bengaluru metro reaches depot, testing to begin soon



BENGALURU.(Agency)

All six coaches of an eighth trainset meant for Namma Metro's Yellow Line reached the Hebbagodi Depot on Monday, marking another step towards enhancing the passenger services on the corridor. A senior official of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said the coaches will first be assembled into a full trainset and then subjected to a series of mandatory tests.

“The train will undergo comprehensive static and dynamic trials, including signalling integration and running for a stipulated minimum number of kilometres. These tests will be conducted during night hours after passenger services are halted for the day,” the official said. Only after successful completion of these trials will the train be inducted into commercial operations.

On the proposed improvement in train frequency, the official said a decision would be taken once the timetable is finalised. “We will assess whether the additional trainset will be deployed to enhance services during peak hours or non-peak hours. Details on any frequency enhancement will be announced before the train is introduced into passenger service,” the official added.

Next-Gen post office opened at IIT-Madras

CHENNAI.(Agency)

In a bid to rework campus-based postal facilities for a younger, digitally native user base, the Tamil Nadu Postal Circle of the Department of Posts inaugurated a Next Generation (N-Gen) Post Office at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras on Monday.

The facility was opened by Prof V Kamakoti, director of IIT Madras, in the presence of Dr Jane Prasad, registrar of the institute, and senior postal officials including G Natarajan, postmaster general for Chennai City Region, and Major Manoj M, director of postal services for the region. The N-Gen format is part of a national programme to modernise post offices located within educational institutions, recasting them as youth-centric , technology-enabled service hubs while retaining core postal functions.

Unlike conventional layouts, the space has been re-imagined with contemporary interiors, improved lighting and seating, and curated artwork to create an open, informal ambience. The aim is to reduce friction in accessing public services and align the experience with the expectations shaped by private-sector service environments.

Operationally, the post office offers the full suite of services, including speed post and parcel services, savings bank accounts, postal life insurance, Aadhaar-related services and digital payment options. Smart counter systems, clearly demarcated service zones, and expanded waiting areas are intended to reduce queues.



Most multi member ward panels in MMR civic polls saw same party sweep

Mumbai . (Agency)

Nearly two out of every three multi member panels elected in wards across eight municipal corporations in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region MMR comprised candidates from the same political party limiting wider political representation within individual wards data from the recent municipal polls show.

Of the 208 multi member wards across the eight municipal corporations 132 wards or 63.46 per cent saw all elected members belonging to the same political party. In contrast, panels with members from different political parties which could have ensured broader representation were rare. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation BMC was the only civic body in the MMR region that did not follow the panel system electing one corporator per ward.

Under the multi member ward system a single ward elects three or four corporators instead of one. A municipal corporation is made up of several such wards.

Pune Grand Tour: Fergus Browning tops prologue, Harshveer Singh top Indian

Pune . (Agency)

Australian cyclist Fergus Browning, representing the Terengganu Cycling Team from Malaysia, emerged as the fastest cyclist in the Prologue race of the Pune Grand Tour on January 19. Browning completed the 7.5 kms prologue in 8:05:89 minutes and also bagged the ‘Yellow Jersey’, which he will don in the upcoming stages of the race.

Among the home contingent, Harshveer Singh Sekhon of the Indian National Team emerged as the fastest Indian and the third-fastest Asian. His finish time was 08:42:07 which secured him the 26th starting position for Stage 1. He was followed by Vishwajeet Singh at 08:47:33, and Naveen John at 08:49:44, placing them 35th and 43rd respectively, on the starting grid for Stage 1.

Kochi Metro’s feeder bus service completes one year, clocks around 14 lakh passengers

KOCHI.(Agency)

The Kochi Metro Rail Limited’s (KMRL) urban feeder bus service has completed a year of operations, clocking around 14 lakh passengers and reinforcing its role as a critical last-mile link to the metro rail and water metro networks.

“The feeder bus service is a key pillar of Kochi Metro’s integrated mobility vision,” said KMRL managing director Loknath Behera.

Launched on January 16 last year, the all-electric feeder network was designed to plug accessibility gaps that limited optimal use of Kochi’s mass transit systems. In its first year, the network expanded to six major routes and was operated by a fleet of 15 electric buses. Backed by seven charging stations and a dedicated depot, the buses collectively cover about 2,300km a day, adding up to nearly seven lakh km annually.

The Aluva-CIAL corridor emerged as the top-performing route, while services linking the Medical College and Kadavanthra-Panampilly Nagar also reported strong ridership. A notable feature has been data-driven operations. Analytics-

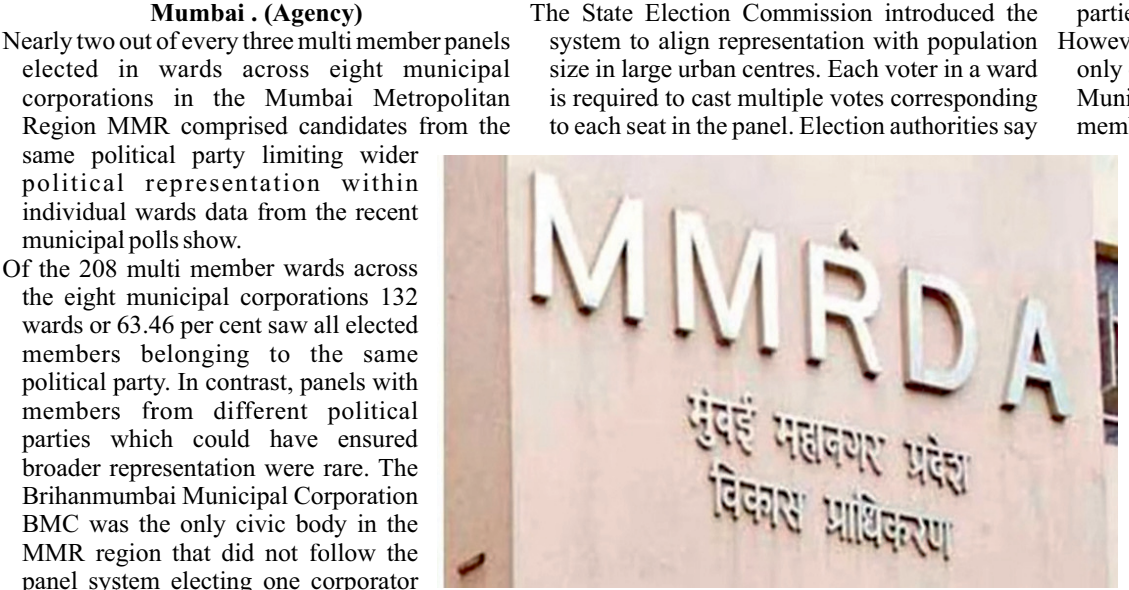
25 bonded labourers from Chhattisgarh rescued from Tiruvallur brick kiln

CHENNAI.(Agency)

As many as 25 bonded labourers from Chhattisgarh, including families with children, were rescued from a brick kiln at Kannur village in Tiruvallur on Saturday following a joint inspection by revenue, labour, and police officials.

The rescue operation was carried out based on a tip-off received by the assistant commissioner of the Labour Welfare Board regarding suspected bonded labour at KDM Brick Chamber in Kannur village. A team led by Tiruvallur revenue divisional officer (RDO) S Ravichandran, along with the tahsildar, revenue inspector of Mappedu and police personnel, conducted an inspection.

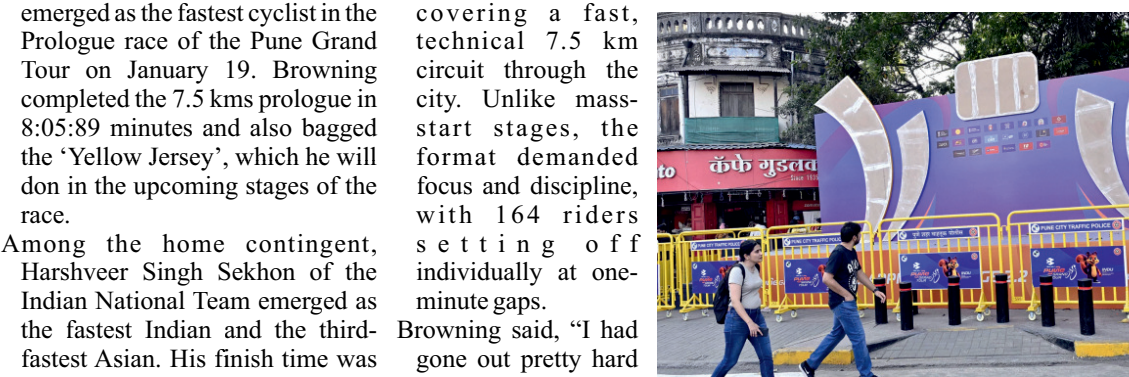
During the inspection, the officials found 12 families from Chhattisgarh, including a two-year-old child, living and working at



the format is intended to provide broader representation in densely populated areas, reduce the number of wards while retaining proportional representation and encourage cooperation among corporators from different

The Prologue stage officially launched the five-day event. It ran from Goodluck Chowk to the Deccan Gymkhana bus stop, covering a fast, technical 7.5 km circuit through the city. Unlike mass-start stages, the format demanded focus and discipline, with 164 riders setting off individually at one-minute gaps.

Browning said, “I had gone out pretty hard and, with the downhill coming to the finish, you just try to hang on and go as fast as you can,” Browning said after finishing first in Prologue. Talking about the race he said, “It was amazing. I’m



unfolds.” he adds.

Dylan Hopkins from Australia, representing Thailand’s Roojai Insurance Winspace, finished second with a finish time of 08:06:33. Estonia’s Andreas

Over 15 pc workers found ineligible during physical verification: Nardev Singh Kanwar

Hamirpur.(Agency)

Over 15 percent of workers found ineligible during physical verification, said Nardev Singh Kanwar, the chairman of the HP Building and other construction workers welfare board at evening.

He said that the process of physical verification and e-KYC of approximately 4.76 lakh registered workers is underway to weed out ineligible individuals and ensure that eligible workers benefit from the Board's various welfare schemes. Speaking to reporters after a quarterly review meeting with labor welfare officers from all districts at the Board's headquarters on Monday, Nardev Singh Kanwar said that so far, physical verification has been conducted for approximately 19,480 workers across the state, of whom 2975 were found ineligible. This means that more than 15 percent of the workers have been found ineligible so far.

The number of ineligible individuals could be quite surprising after the verification of all registered workers is complete. He said that in the recent Board of Directors meeting chaired by the Chief Minister,

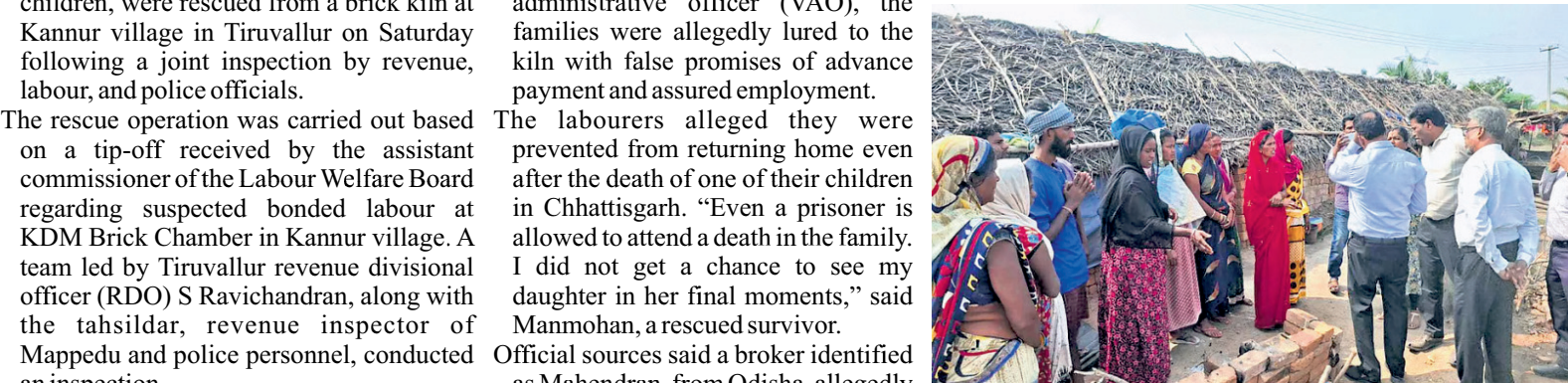
25 bonded labourers from Chhattisgarh rescued from Tiruvallur brick kiln

work. However, after bringing them to the kiln in Kannur village on December 17, the broker allegedly left the site without paying

the promised amount. The licenced kiln owner, Parimala, later assured the families a daily wage of Rs 650 along with proper

food and accommodation. However, the promises were not honoured, the labourers alleged. “Once the broker left us, we were forced to work at the brick kiln for more than 14 hours a day without adequate food or shelter. We were given only poor-quality ration rice and were constantly yelled at,” said R Urmila Bharathwaj, another victim told.

They further claimed they were initially engaged only for brick moulding, but were later forced to perform all stages of work, including sun-drying and kiln-firing. “This resulted in burn injuries to one person. Even then, we were not allowed to go to a hospital and only basic first aid was arranged at a medical shop,” she added.



Body of 9-yr-old girl found in closed degree college in Kanpur

Kanpur.(Agency)

The body of a nine-year-old girl was found hanging inside a classroom of a closed degree college linked to Uttar Pradesh cabinet minister Rakesh Sachan, triggering shock and outrage in the area.

The incident came to light late Monday night at Baba Baijnath Degree College, which has remained shut since 2016.

The girl, identified as Vaishnavi alias Rani, was found hanging from a ceiling fan with a dupatta, police said on Tuesday. A television was reportedly playing inside the room at the time. The college watchman alerted the police after discovering the body. A forensic team was called to collect evidence from the spot.

Vaishnavi, a Class 2 student of a primary school in Kripalpur, had been living with her maternal grandmother (nani), Mamta, inside the closed college premises. After the incident, Mamta has gone missing, and her mobile phone has been switched off, raising serious suspicion.

Police officials were also surprised to find that the girl’s school ID card listed her grandfather as her father and her grandmother as her mother. Vaishnavi’s biological mother, Laxmi, had remarried Manjeet, a resident of Babupurwa. Manjeet told police that Vaishnavi was from Laxmi’s first marriage and was being looked after by her grandmother, while he, Laxmi, and their two daughters lived separately in Babupurwa.

According to Manjeet, he last met Vaishnavi on Raksha Bandhan, when she did not mention any distress. He said he received a late-night call from the watchman informing him about the incident, after which he rushed to the college with his wife.

The watchman, Kamta, said Mamta usually checked the gate every night but did not appear on Monday. During his round, he found the room door open and later discovered the child’s body hanging inside.

Cabinet minister Rakesh Sachan called the incident “deeply tragic” and said Mamta had been working at the college for several years. He added that police have been asked to conduct a thorough investigation and trace Mamta as soon as possible.

When car gizmos drive you crazy

I’VE just bought a new car and that has primed me to talk about cars this week. It’s a much more interesting subject, you will agree, than our politics, which has settled into a groove not unlike the exit drain from your septic tank and (pardon me) is the same old crap every morning.

I started driving in the Sixties; that was about when I started using after-shave since no girl would give me the time of day, forget about a slice of the evening. These initial forays were in my dad’s cars; he replaced the old one every four or five years because his job involved extensive touring and the roads those days were more like the pock-marked cheeks of Om Puri than that of the lady from Mathura. My dad was Calcutta born, bred and toasted (he played for Mohun Bagan), and so naturally bought only Landmasters and Ambassadors. No tougher cars have ever been built — with these rugged pioneers, one didn’t even need these ubiquitous XUVs, SUVs, MUVs and CUVs of today. In later years, however, my dad gravitated to the Maruti, in recognition of the fact that the Ambassadors were becoming outdated and obsolete, like their All India Service namesakes in South Block today. Those were the days of innocence: a car was supposed to get you from place A to B in reasonable comfort and hopefully in one piece. It consisted basically of three components — an engine, a body and four tyres. I’ve bought four cars in my entire misspent life — a second-hand Fiat in 1982, a second-hand Maruti 800 in 1991, a Hyundai i20 in 2010 and now the Venue. That amounts to a car every decade: it’s no coincidence that the Pay Commission is also set up every decade, what? My problems started with the i20 and have reached total fruition with the Venue. For starters, I have paid more for just the insurance for the Venue than I did for the whole ruddy Fiat in 1982. More to the point, I thought I was buying a car, not a variant of a Boeing 747. There is so much instrumentation these days that the whole thing looks like a cockpit rather than a dashboard. One spends more time looking at the dials than the road: little wonder our accident rates are going up, notwithstanding Mr Gadkari’s 38 km of new expressways built every day. Or maybe because of them. We no longer use the left hand to move the gear lever; cars now have automatic transmission, releasing the left hand for texting on the cell or scratching our testimonials in the time-honoured North Indian manner. For those who don’t want to scratch, there’s something called IMT (Intelligent Manual Transmission), but that’s only for those who have an IQ of more than 70, which means that this variant is not available in large parts of the country.

In my time, we were happy to have a stereo with two speakers; now there just has to be a small TV screen, six speakers and surround sound, even though one is surrounded by the sound of blaring horns and shrieking sirens.

In my halcyon but simple days, when lost, one stopped at a chaiwalla or taxi stand and asked for directions. No more. For one, all the chaiwallas have become ministers; two, the taxi chaps have become “business partners” of Ola and Uber and communicate only through apps and QR codes; and three, there’s now something called GPS and Satnav — two charming ladies who sound like Girl Guides and guide you to Meerut when you actually want to have paranthas in Murthal. They also turn deaf when you need them the most, no doubt powdering their noses in Palo Alto or Guggenheim, while you’re stuck under the Ashram flyover. Consider, if you will, the biggest scam of all — the sunroof. Do we need this? Really? It makes sense for a meerkat in the Kalahari desert or a marmot in the More plains of Ladakh to occasionally stick his neck out for fresh air, but a dude in Delhi or Mumbai or Kanpur? Who needs a sunroof when the daytime temperature is 40° Celsius for seven months.

Faster economic growth, deeper reforms are the way forward for India

Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam have the right to a speedy trial

Some commentators suggest that the economy may at long last be on a higher growth track. This is because growth in the last five financial years (2021-26), taking into account the advance estimates for the current fiscal year, averages a handsome 8.1 per cent — the best on record. However, there hasn’t been enough of a structural change in the economy since the launch of reforms in 1991. Much work remains to be done before the economy can gain significant momentum, writes senior journalist TN Ninan in his Edit article The longer road to faster growth. Key macro numbers suggest caution. Many sectors have benefited from reform, like real estate; and manufacturing may at last be getting some momentum, led by the electronics sector, he writes. A productivity uptick depends critically on three structural changes that are yet to happen: A substantially bigger manufacturing sector, greater formalisation of the economy and rapid urbanisation. There is as yet not enough evidence of any of the three, he opines. Meanwhile, talking about the preparations going on for presenting the 2026-27 Budget, our economy needs to grow faster in order to escape the middle-income trap, writes senior financial journalist Sushma Ramachandran in her Edit article Budget must spur all-out reforms. Though the restructuring and recalibration of the GST has been a game-changer for the economy, manufacturing has not yet expanded sufficiently to absorb unskilled or skilled personnel. The Budget should be used as an opportunity to bring about greater ease of doing business in the economy, she writes.

Talking of the global headwinds, widespread demonstrations and rioting have shaken Iran. The ongoing demonstrations appear to represent an existential crisis for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Calls for regime change may be premature, but change within the regime is on the cards, writes former Ambassador to Iran Gaddam Dharmendra in his Edit piece Turmoil puts Iran at a crossroads. The pattern of past protests in Iran, most recently the 2022 anti-hijab demonstrations, is that popular discontent is initially fuelled by either a social (anti-hijab) or economic grievance and thereafter it rapidly transforms into a political uprising. The current demonstrations are following a similar pattern. However, this time around, the diversity of protesters have shifted into a higher gear with an intensity never seen before.

alking of something altogether different, Editor-in-Chief Jyoti Malhotra in her weekly column The Great Game Modi govt’s cultural ambition writes there’s something



topic of discussion and debate, with the Supreme Court holding that they were not entitled to bail effectively for another year. If a trial is delayed without any valid justification, the accused should be granted bail, writes former SC Judge Justice Madan B Lokur (retd) in his Edit Speedy trial is Umar-Sharjeel’s right. The apex court noted that it did not want to apportion blame for the delay in framing charges either on the prosecution or the accused persons. But the cause of delay ought to have been apportioned, he writes. Should Umar and Sharjeel be deprived of their personal liberty due to a somnambulant prosecution and a meandering case? Surely, this was a case that should have been decided within six months and not one where documents were supplied to the accused after three years, he avers. The

Enforcement Directorate conducted raids, part of a money laundering investigation into an alleged multi-crore coal theft scam in Bengal, on the political consultancy firm I-PAC, also the election consultant of Mamata Banerjee’s Trinamool Congress. And the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee seized the initiative, took to the roads in the form of a rally. She turned the incident it into a springboard for political retaliation, writes senior journalist Shikha Mukerjee in her Op-Ed How Mamata turned the ED raid into a rally. While the raids and their timing, months away from the crucial West Bengal Assembly elections, fits the pattern of similar raids on people and organisations, the speed and Mamata’s extravagant response are a measure of how she understood the effect of the action, she writes. Her reaction sets a benchmark for parties in opposition to the BJP afraid of investigations by "agencies", she avers.

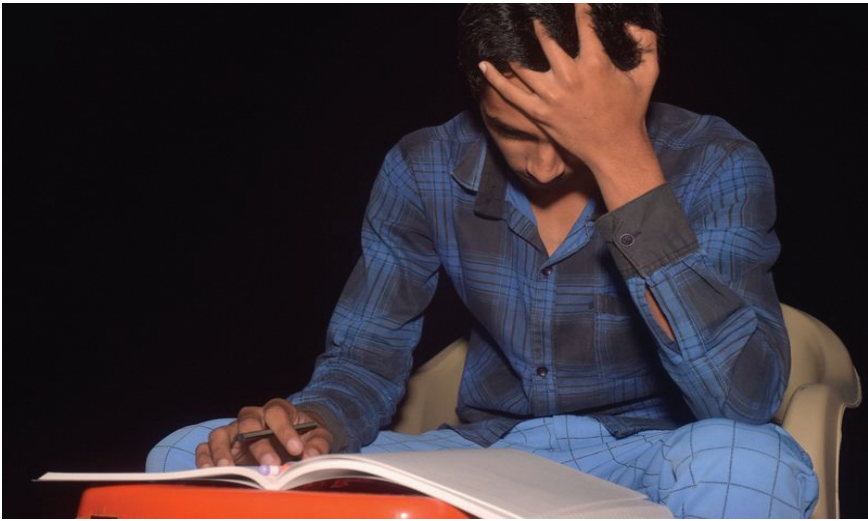
Talking of Punjab, the state’s agriculture remains overwhelmingly dominated by the wheat-paddy cycle accounting for nearly 85 per cent of the state’s gross cropped area. This dominance is a matter of policy design, writes our Deputy Editor Harvinder Khetal in her Op-Ed article Why crop diversification has eluded Punjab. Decades of assured procurement at minimum support prices (MSPs), subsidised electricity for irrigation and a procurement infrastructure unmatched anywhere else in the country explains why crop diversification has remained more rhetoric than reality. Faced with uncertainty, diversification becomes a gamble rather than a transition. Not surprisingly, security trumps sustainability. The solution, therefore, lies in redesigning incentives, she avers.

With the passing of noted ecologist Madhav Gadgil, a void has been created on the ecological front. His report on the Western Ghats, a veritable textbook about managing rivers in ecologically important places, was one of his major contributions to India’s environmental governance. SANDRAP’s Parineeta Dandekar and Himanshu Thakkar write in their Op-Ed article Listening to the land and its people, the Gadgil way that he emphasised that the local communities knew the local environmental aspects better than anyone else and hence they must have a key role in any decision-making process about the use of the local resources. He did not differentiate environmental governance and conservation by the people of the land, they write.

Students’ well-being: SC spells out institutional responsibility

The Tribune Editorial: Its terse reminder highlights how the mental well-being of students is as important as ensuring academic excellence.

THE wide-ranging directions issued by the Supreme Court to address the issue of student distress are a much-needed intervention. These follow submission of an interim report by the National Task Force constituted last year to attend to the mental health concerns of students. The apex court has rightly imposed the accountability clause on higher education institutions (HEIs), both public and private. They cannot shirk away from their fundamental duty to ensure safe, equitable, inclusive and conducive spaces of learning, it has said. A terse reminder highlights how the mental well-being of students is as important as ensuring academic excellence. Any incident of suicide or unnatural death of a student will have to be reported, and an annual report submitted to regulatory bodies. The ruling chalks out a broad framework of institutional responsibility. It’s a



commendable step forward. The significance of prescribing a new way of functioning cannot be

overstated in an ecosystem that prioritises profit over student well-being in case of private institutions, and chooses amnesia for government-run colleges and universities. It’s in ordering the filling of key teaching and non-teaching vacancies, including of Vice Chancellors, within four months that the ruling can be truly impactful. The backlog of pending scholarship disbursements, too, has to be cleared within the same period. HEIs have been asked to ensure that positions are filled within a month from the date on which the vacancy arises. Considering the sizeable number of vacancies across the country, how this plays out is unclear, especially when both the Central and state governments have been equally inept. An overhaul of a flawed system within months is too much to expect. From now on, though, the governments and higher education institutions will find it difficult to seek cover behind lame excuses. Inaction must invite censure.

Touchstones: Reading between the lines

Just as our cinema was destroyed by crass commercial concerns and our music polluted, there is a danger of creativity being gobbled by formulas that sell

As I sit down to write this, the noise of the Maharashtra municipal elections is all around me. By the time you read this column, we will all know who now controls the rich and income-generating public lands and amenities of this important state. The verdict seems to be almost unanimous that Maharashtra, most importantly Mumbai, is now a completely different political landscape from the usual Shiv Sena-BJP duopoly of yesteryears. So much has changed and is evolving but sadly our old political parties are still stuck in a time warp and incapable of responding to these momentous changes. I recall VS Naipaul’s ‘India: A Million Mutinies Now’, written decades ago, where he had a prescient interview with old Balasaheb Thackeray, the undisputed ruler of Bombay (as it was then). Do please read it if you can and you will get an idea of what these bubbling mutinies, so sharply noted by Naipaul all those years ago, have wrought to change the face of Naya Bharat. Unfortunately, our political parties, weakened by dynastic power lines, are unable to see what Bihar has recently shown and what Maharashtra may reveal. UP and the Samajwadi Party will learn something too when the next election there is held. The Congress, of course, the mother (and grandmother) of all dynastic parties, has still not come to terms with the fact that this new India is no longer to be treated like a feudal territory. Ah well, who am I to speak when so many in their own parties are unable to say so openly?

From there, let us move to what else is a big highlight in January: the world-famous Jaipur Literature Festival, or the JLF as it is now billed in the hip-hop language of the young. Almost every writer, famous or new, wants to attend it and publishers from India and abroad, literary agents and regional writers flock there to hear, speak (or at least die trying) to the largest collection of readers and



booklovers anywhere in the world. It was free when it was launched from the cosy precincts of Diggi Palace, situated at the end of a narrow winding lane. It was a venue that gave one the feeling of being among like-minded friends and warmly hosted by the family that ran it. Then came the hordes of the ‘let’s see’ crowds, young students who came to gawp at the filmstars and poets and writers they wanted to see rather than hear and the festival had to be shifted to a five-star hotel that was better equipped to handle unwelcome gate-crashers. However, something changed when that happened and a completely new kind of ‘booklover’ entered the scene. Among them were young aspirational writers (no matter whether they were published or not), those bag

ladies (as I used to call them) who came to shop in Jaipur’s famous markets and some who came to chatter amongst themselves as they swanned from one session to another. Some new forms of literary activists also took birth. Literary agents, marketing and PR firms, hustlers and movers who offered to introduce you to important people — you can get the drift of where that would take this serious gathering of yore. Publishing houses, too, were quick to sense that book sales were plummeting alarmingly and unless they tackled this looming problem, many would have to shut shop (some had to). Regional writing, which was hitherto an invisible phenomenon, suddenly became important as translations made headlines at important

international prizes and won huge dollar prizes. It seems to me as if writing became an alluring vocation (if that is the word) and every person was dying to write and be published. So while on the one hand, the old bookshops and publishing houses are struggling to survive, there is an avalanche of writers who are willing to do whatever it takes to publish or be damned. They offer to buy back the entire first print-run, pay some PR agency to place excerpts in digital newspapers and websites, find a ghost writer or a freelance editor to write and edit their work. And then, there is ChatGPT, AI and god knows what else to do the blood and sweat work. I myself have been offered tempting amounts from famous industrial houses to write an ‘autobiography’ or memoir of the founding worthy, who can hardly speak two sentences in a coherent language. There is more. The trick is to be in the limelight by picking on an area that has not yet been mined to death. It started with religious divides, gender, sexual exploitation, caste, class and emotional violence and now as the floodgates are open for hearing what few would be comfortable reading in the raw, it is just plain rubbish. Health, self-care, skill development, beauty and food — these sell by the kilo, believe me. At the local book fair (currently on in Delhi), people probably spend more on the chaat, samosas and cutting chai than cutting writing. Before I sound like a crochetie old woman (I am one, unfortunately, having just turned 75), I am actually fearful of what we are offering to our young readers. Just as our cinema was destroyed by crass commercial concerns and our music polluted when the lines between classic and popular became blurred, there is a danger here of creativity being gobbled by formulas that sell. Watch out!

Choose the perfect

Perfume

for your zodiac sign!



perfumes for the people falling under this zodiac sign are the notes of rose, angelica, mild cinnamon, sandalwood, benzoin, soft lavender and other spicy and oriental fragrances. Musk, pepper and myrrh impress them a lot.

Taurus: Taurus are known for their loyalty, reliability, patience, love and self-indulgence. They love earthy fragrances, floral scents, rose, amber, jasmine, sandalwood, and bergamot. Grapefruit, Vetiver, Oak-moss, Geranium and Neroli sprinkle positivity to them.

Gemini: Gemini's are versatile, witty, intellectual, lively, curious, and likes to be noticed. Accordingly violet, angelica, gardenia, amber, leather, tuberose, sandalwood, jasmine, coriander, nutmeg, common balm, coriander and narcissus support Gemini to be cool and artistic.

Cancer: People who are cancerians are emotional, imaginative, cautious, protective, moody, clingy, and creative. Mild fragrances with a classic, feminine touch are the notes which tempt them the best. Jasmine, honey, magnolia, Tahitian vanilla with a dose of amber or leather, white lily of the valley are some of the most loved fragrances by them.

Leo: Leos are generous, creative, faithful, enthusiastic, bossy, self-obsessed and arrogant. Shades of neroli, lemon, rose, cardamom, jasmine, bergamot, jasmine sambac and ambrette seed enlighten their personalities.

Virgo: People under this zodiac sign are immensely shy, meticulous, reliable, analytical, perfectionist and nurturing. The fragrances matching their traits are fresh shades of rose, neroli, lily and mandarin. Any mild and classic shade is suitable and perfect for Virgos.

Libra: Librans are found to be very diplomatic, romantic, charming, self-indulgent, intellectual and jealous. Joyful and bubbly shades of fragrances like fruity-floral, a mix of grapefruit, iris, and rose and any other playful shade of perfume is considered to be appropriate for Librans.

Scorpio: People falling under this zodiac are determined, emotional, magnetic and secretive in nature. Sensual, passionate, mischievous, attractive floral and musk perfumes like woody notes, spicy black pepper, musk and chocolate are the fragrance notes which are most chosen for Scorpios.

Sagittarius: Optimistic, good-humoured, honest, wise, active, wanderlust, daring and open-minded are the characteristics that define a Sagittarius. A lovely amalgamation of honeycomb, cypress and bay leaf is the most suitable perfume for the ambitious and fiery Sagittarians.

Capricorn: Capricorns are very practical, prudent, self-disciplined, reserved, loyal and realistic in nature. Cool and refreshing notes such as pink wood, wood moss, jasmine, herbs, warm woods, Tahitian Vanilla and frankincense are the most loved fragrances by Capricorns.

Aquarius: Friendly, humanitarian, spontaneous, honest, independent and unpredictable are few traits that determine an Aquarian. Elegant, simple and classic notes like sweet vanilla, citrus, lotus leaves, neroli, rosemary prove to be great to provide a soothing influence on them.

Pisces: They are sensitive, sympathetic, artistic and imaginative and are fond of lively fragrances. Baby freesia buds, jasmine, pink water lily, bleached sandalwood, vanilla, whipped marshmallow, southern gardenia, creme brulee and cedarwood are the choicest fragrances that are prized by them.

Personality traits based on your zodiac signs can take you to your signature scent with the right assortment of notes for your mood, says an expert.

Rohit Kumar Agarwal, founder of Perfumebooth, an online destination for fragrances, lists which perfume ingredients perfectly fit each zodiac sign.

Aries: Aries are generally adventurous, energetic, confident, quick-witted, impulsive, aggressive, and passionate. The best well-matched

Change your hair

Care routine every decade

Just like your skin, your hair can be affected as you age. It not only starts to turn grey, but also begins to lose pigment and its texture. Says hair professional Aryn Manji, "Just like the way you change your skin care routine according to the age (teens, 30s, 50s, 60s and beyond) are in, the same should be followed with your hair as well."

The hair is said to be at its peak in the twenties. It then begins to age chronologically, which is determined by your age as well as the age of your hair (for example, the hair nearest to your scalp is younger and the longer portions and ends are older and often, weak due to external factors like excessive heating, colouring etc.)

Teens

At this age, the hair is in full bloom, healthy and bouncing. Beautician Nisha Mulchandani says, "Girls at this age tend to use various styling products on their hair — this could further damage your hair. It is very important to choose a product that is suited to your hair type." Maintaining a good lifestyle at this age is also crucial.

20s and 30s

A hairstyle that spells fun and style should be adopted at this age. It should suit your face and lifestyle. But remember, your hair starts becoming finer, especially around the crown and hairlines, due to shrinking follicles, so include supplements rich in iron and zinc in your food.

40s and 50s

In 40s and 50s, the hair pigments begin to decrease and cells do not renew themselves as they used to before. Therefore, you will notice your hair



greying more than what it used to in your 30s or 40s. If you are planning to colour your hair, you must choose a good brand of colour that will not damage your hair but strengthen and nourish it.

60s and beyond

This is the time when your hair not only turns grey, but also begins to thin a bit. Protect your hair by moisturising and keeping it away from extreme temperatures. Follow a healthy diet and avoid using harsh hair products.

Essential hair care regime

No matter what your age is, it is crucial to follow a particular hair care routine to prevent your hair from breaking as you age.

Night-time care: Before you hit the sack, make sure to tie your hair up in a bun or a braid. This will prevent your hair from breaking off.

Anti-ageing leave-in treatment: An anti-ageing leave-in treatment will keep your hair soft and easy to brush and blow-dry. They come in various forms — oils, creams, elixirs etc. A good anti-ageing leave-in treatment will also help combat brittleness and hair loss. It also protects your hair and keeps it moisturised.

Nourishing your hair with essential creams: If you thought nourishing creams were only for your face, you are wrong. There are many hair creams available in the market that make sure that your hair gets its care. It doesn't matter what type of hair — oily or dry — these creams are suited for all hair types.

How to avoid

summer acne!

During summers, most people experience sudden acne breakouts on their face, upper back and chin due to excessive sun exposure. Binge on fiber rich food and maintain a proper cleansing routine to keep acne away, says an expert.

Megha Shah, Cosmetologist at Beauty and Curves Clinic, Surat, has rolled out tips that can be incorporated in daily life routine to eliminate or avoid acne in the hot season:

- * Say no to acnegenic foods: No matter how often you crave for those ice creams, chocolates, cakes, and pizzas if you want to take control over your acne say no to sugars and refined flour. Certain sea-food and fatty food can also flare up acne.
- * Avoid food that causes constipation: A fiber-rich diet including citrus fruits, melons, sprouts work wonders for your gut. A properly functioning excretory system prevents constipation and results in a clean, clear face.
- * Cleansing routine: During summers, a lot of dirt and oil gets accumulated on the face, do not forget to wash your face at least twice a day. Use a good exfoliant once a week to shed off dead skin and clean your pores gently. You have to be an ardent follower of a cleansing routine to banish acne during summers. A salicylic acid-based face mask is great to sooth your acne-prone skin. Tea tree oil is also great to avoid acne.

- * Change your moisturiser: Moisturising your skin in summer is as important as moisturising it in winter. Therefore, choosing the right lotion is important. Always go for gel-based lotions that don't make your skin greasy. A non-comedogenic product (that doesn't clog your pores) should be selected to avoid acne.
- * Ingredients in your products: Retinol, glycolic acid, benzoyl peroxide are some great ingredients to control acne especially in summer. A regular application of night cream with any of



these products is a good idea.

- * Early treatment is the key: In case you feel that acne has aggravated beyond your control, you should visit a dermatologist immediately. Depending on the severity of the problem the doctor will suggest advanced procedures like peels that replenish your skin from within or laser treatment such as non invasive Venus Viva that can support curing active acne and associated flaws.

5 days after accident, techie's car yet to be retrieved from Noida water pit

On Friday night, Yuvraj's speeding Grand Vitara car plunged into a water-filled pit while he was returning to his home at Tata Eureka Park in Greater Noida's Sector 150 from his office in Gurugram.

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a major retrieval operation, the Noida authorities on Tuesday brought a crane to lift the Grand Vitara car of the deceased software engineer, Yuvraj Mehta, from the water-filled basement in Noida's Sector 150. The car is still submerged in the water even after five days of the accident. The alleged delay in the retrieval process has raised concerns among the residents.

On Friday night, Yuvraj's speeding Grand Vitara car plunged into a water-filled pit while he was returning to his home at Tata Eureka Park in Greater Noida's Sector 150 from his office in Gurugram. The engineer drowned despite repeated cries for help and a prolonged rescue operation that was carried out in the presence of his father, Rajkumar Mehta. Due to the high water level, the car overturned and began floating. Yuvraj managed to exit the vehicle and called his father, Rajkumar Mehta, informing him about

the accident. His father immediately alerted Dial-112 and rushed to the spot. The death of the software engineer has triggered a political flashpoint between the Aam Aadmi Party and the BJP, as former Delhi Health Minister and AAP leader Saurabh Bhardwaj has taken back-to-back jibes at the alleged failure of the disaster management bodies, falling under the purview of the District Management of Noida, Medha Roopam.

Asking for Roopam's resignation in his first tweet, Bhardwaj wrote, "Tragic death of techie Yuvraj Mehta in Noida drain exposes criminal negligence! Eyewitnesses say SDRF was on site but failed to rescue him in time. They were scared to get into cold water. He screamed for help for 2 hrs while SDRF watched. As DDMA chair, DM Medha

Roopam must be held accountable for botched disaster response. Demand immediate inquiry & her resignation!"



Addressing her as the Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's daughter, Bhardwaj further called Roopam a "corrupt IPS officer."

The alleged delay in rescuing the engineer by

the disaster management bodies like SDRF and the NDRF was first highlighted by the deceased's father, Rajkumar Mehta. In an interview with India Today, Rajkumar raised fingers at both the officials from SDRF and NDRF, who were allegedly hesitant in jumping into the pit, citing freezing conditions and the risk posed by under-construction columns inside the basement. Later, a delivery agent and the eyewitness of the incident, named Moninder, spoke to India Today and echoed the points that Rajkumar mentioned. The accident happened around 12 am amid dense fog. After the car plunged into the pit, the man pleaded desperately for help for nearly two hours.

The police, SDRF, and the fire brigade were all present, but no one helped him. Everyone kept saying, 'The water is cold, we won't go in,' or 'There are iron rods inside, we won't go in,' the delivery agent.

Delhi's three-day 'severe' AQI streak ends, air quality improves to 'very poor'

New Delhi.(Agency)

Delhi's three-day run of 'severe' air pollution ended on Tuesday morning, with the city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) showing a marginal improvement and settling in the 'very poor' category at 395. Despite the improvement, pollution levels remained worrying across monitoring stations. Out of the total stations reporting, 23 were still in the 'severe' category, 14 in 'very poor', and 1 in 'poor', according to data from the CPCB Sameer app.

Wazirpur recorded the worst air quality with an AQI of 445, followed closely by Anand Vihar at 444 and Jahangirpuri at 443. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) classification, an AQI between 0 and 50 is considered 'good'; 51 to 100 is 'satisfactory'; 101 to 200 is 'moderate'; 201 to 300 is 'poor'; 301 to 400 is 'very poor'; and 401 to 500 is 'severe'.

The city had experienced three consecutive days of 'severe' air pollution. On Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, the AQI exceeded the 400 mark, prompting the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to implement Stage 4 restrictions.

Meanwhile, the Air Quality Warning System has forecast that Delhi's air quality is likely to remain in the 'very poor' category on Tuesday and continue at similar levels over the next two days.

Weather conditions provided little relief, with the minimum temperature in Delhi recorded at 7.2 degrees Celsius. Station-specific data indicated minimum temperatures of 8.8 degrees Celsius at Palam, 9.0 degrees Celsius at Ridge, 8.0 degrees Celsius at Ayanagar, and 7.6 degrees Celsius at Lodhi Road, while Safdarjung noted the city's lowest minimum at 7.2 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature is expected to reach 24 degrees Celsius, accompanied by moderate fog.

Delhi LoP Atishi files response, says 'I categorically deny the allegation in its entirety'

New Delhi.(Agency)

Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Atishi on Sunday had issued a written response to the privilege notice served against her, claiming that she has never made any derogatory remark against Sikh Gurus and that no such reference was made by her in the House at any point. In her reply to the secretary of the Assembly, Atishi terms the allegations as vague and unsubstantiated, flagging serious procedural lapses, and seeks the complete complaint, certified unedited official video recordings, and all related communications to enable a meaningful response in keeping with the principles of natural justice.

Amid the row over alleged remarks made by the LoP, the Delhi Assembly secretariat had on January 15 written a letter to her asking her to submit a written reply to the Committee of Privileges. The letter, written by the Delhi Assembly speaker Vijender Gupta to Atishi, stated that the remarks caused disruption despite repeated requests to defer the discussion and asked her to attend the House to clarify the matter.

Following the incident, and in keeping with the principles of natural justice, the speaker asked the member to attend the sitting and clarify the position. However, the member failed to do so. As a result, on January 8, the speaker referred the matter to the Committee of Privileges," stated the letter. The chairperson of the committee has directed her to submit a written statement on the case on or before January 19.

Atishi said in the response, "I categorically deny the allegation in its entirety". She claimed that her reverence for Sikh Gurus is deeply personal and rooted in family values. "I come from a family where reverence for Sikh Gurus is not a matter of political posture but of lived values and deep personal faith; a family from which for generations the eldest son becomes a Sikh to serve the community."

LoP writes to Amit Shah

Atishi has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking an urgent meeting, alleging that the breakdown of law and order has pushed the capital into a climate of fear.

She has alleged that a systemic collapse is marked by a lack of accountability, raising a stark question for citizens: if the country's capital is unsafe, whom can people trust to protect them? She asserts that Delhi deserves safety, not silence.

Punjab Kesari's Printing Presses Shall Continue To Function: Supreme Court

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a reprieve to the Punjab Kesari newspaper group, the Supreme Court on Tuesday directed that printing presses of the vernacular daily shall continue to function uninterrupted notwithstanding the Punjab State Pollution Control Board's decision to snap power supply due to alleged violations.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant took urgent note of the plea of the newspaper group that the publication of certain editions of the news daily will be affected due to the decision of the state's pollution control board.

"Our newspaper should not stop because of an article, our press electricity will be disconnected,"

senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the group, said while mentioning the case for an urgent hearing.

The senior lawyer submitted, "Because



of an article published in the Punjab Kesari against the dispensation of the present government, electricity is cut for printing presses. Hotels of the owners are shut... FIRs are registered against owners". He said the Punjab

and Haryana High Court heard the petition and reserved the verdict. However, the interim relief has not been granted, he added.

The bench took the plea of the newspaper group's plea on board, and said, "Without prejudice to the rights of both sides, and without expressing any views on merits of the, it is directed that printing presses of Punjab Kesari shall continue uninterruptedly, and the status quo shall be maintained with regard to other properties." The counsel for the AAP government said the group was found in violation of pollution norms. The bench said its order permitting printing presses shall continue for a week even after pronouncement of the verdict by the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

PWD audit finds more than 7,500 cameras offline in Delhi

New Delhi.(Agency)

More than 7,500 CCTV cameras across the capital were found to be offline by the Public Works Department (PWD) during its safety audit conducted last year. Launched in 2020, approximately 2.8 lakh cameras have been installed so far by the government, along with various resident welfare associations and market unions. The latest report submitted by the government in response to a question in the Delhi Assembly stated that a total of 7,535 cameras were found to be offline. Power cuts, technical faults, theft or vandalism, and dismantling or relocation of cameras were mentioned as the reasons behind this.

According to a PWD official, "In the



technical fault category, it is mostly the network-providing company that has issues, and there is no relay of the live feed at the Central Command Center (CCC). Then there is theft of parts and power cuts, which are external factors. We are trying to resolve all this in the future tender." The Delhi government plans to install 50,000 additional CCTV cameras across the city, while also prioritising the maintenance of these

cameras. The surveillance cameras are mostly installed in public spaces like markets, roads, inside residential colonies, and business centres, and are connected to the CCC at the PWD headquarters. The department has handed over maintenance of the cameras to Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), which is a public sector unit under the Ministry of Defence. "In the future, for proper maintenance of CCTV cameras, we plan to issue a consolidated tender. Currently, we have a separate company in charge of maintenance work," a senior PWD official said, while stating that the number of dysfunctional cameras is monitored in real-time and keeps changing. While addressing the assembly session in February 2025, PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said that the government plans to increase CCTV coverage in the city.

Sex Harassment Or Follower Farming? Kerala Suicide Ignites Massive Debate

Deepak, a resident of the Kozhikode district, died by suicide after Shimjitha Musthafa shared a video, accusing him of sexually harassing her during a bus ride

New Delhi.(Agency)

Amid the uproar surrounding the suicide of a 40-year-old man in Kerala after a social media influencer accused him of sexual harassment on board a bus, the video of the alleged harassment has gone viral. While some have accused the influencer of deliberately moving closer to the man with the camera on to frame him, others have defended the influencer.

Deepak, a resident of the Kozhikode district, died by suicide after Shimjitha Musthafa shared a video, accusing him of

sexually harassing her during a bus ride. The video sparked strong reactions, with many trolling Deepak. His family members said he was shattered by the social media trial and was pushed to the edge.

Deepak's family filed a police complaint against Shimjitha Musthafa, and a case of abetment to suicide was registered. Investigators say the accused woman is on the run. The woman had earlier claimed she reported the incident to the police. The cops have trashed this and denied receiving any complaint. Amid a social media backlash after Deepak's death, the woman's Facebook and Instagram accounts were taken down.

The Kerala Human Rights Commission has ordered a probe into the matter. The incident has sparked a debate over social media trials, as many point out how

online accusations can lead to tragedies before the law takes its course. Others have said that a hunger for social media



fame and followers was driving influencers to extreme ends.

In one of the videos, Shimjitha is heard saying, "Yesterday, I shared a video from a public bus where a man deliberately touched me without my consent. This was not an accident or a misunderstanding. It was a clear violation of my sexual

boundaries."

"I began recording after noticing a woman in front of me was uncomfortable. Despite knowing he was being recorded, the man still went ahead and touched me. This shows a deliberate act, a lack of empathy and the belief that he would face no consequences."

The video was circulated on Friday. Saturday was Deepak's birthday. His mother said he did not eat anything that day after he learnt that the video was all over the Internet. Relatives said he had told her mother about what had happened, and she had told him she would somehow find a way out. He had also discussed the matter in detail with his friend. Deepak was found dead on Sunday morning. "My child could not bear it. He has not been accused of anything wrong ever," Deepak's mother sobbed.

NEWS BOX

Shreyas Iyer's T20 comeback: Can he force his way into World Cup team

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's ODI vice-captain Shreyas Iyer has found his way back into India's T20I plans, with the selectors adding him to the squad for the upcoming home series against New Zealand. Iyer will be available for the first three matches of the series, scheduled for January 21, 23 and 25, replacing Tilak Varma in the squad.

The call-up marks a timely return for Iyer, who has been on the fringes of the shortest format in recent months. His inclusion comes just weeks before the T20 World Cup, with less than a month left for the marquee event. With injuries and form concerns always a possibility at major tournaments, the selectors appear keen to keep experienced options ready, should the need arise.This marks Iyer's first T20I call-up since the 2023 home series against Australia. He was dropped just ahead of the 2024 T20 World Cup, a decision that came as a setback at the time. Since then, however, the Mumbai batter



has scripted an impressive resurgence in the shortest format.Iyer led Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title in 2024 and followed it up with another strong leadership stint, guiding Punjab Kings to the final in the 2025 season. Individually too, he enjoyed a prolific campaign, scoring 604 runs at a strike rate of 175, numbers that placed him among the standout performers of the tournament.His return to international cricket after a prolonged injury layoff has been mixed so far. Iyer endured a below-par New Zealand ODI series, managing just 60 runs across three matches, including single-digit scores of 8 and 3 in the final two games. While the numbers were underwhelming, the larger focus remains on his form in T20 cricket, where he appears to have rediscovered his best rhythm.

INTENSE COMPETITION IN INDIA'S T20 SET-UP

Shreyas Iyer was a fixture in India's white-ball thinking ahead of the 2024 T20 World Cup, a player whose place in the side seemed beyond doubt. Fast-forward a year, and the picture looks very different.

Saina Nehwal confirms retirement from badminton: Can't push it anymore

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India's ace shuttle and former World No.1 Saina Nehwal has confirmed her retirement from badminton, saying that her body cannot cope with the physical demands of the sport anymore. Nehwal has been out of action for the last two years, with her last competitive game coming all the way back in 2023, when she took part in the Singapore Open.Despite being away from the court, Nehwal didn't formally announce her retirement from badminton."I had stopped playing two years back. I actually felt that I entered the sport on my own terms and left on my own terms, so there was no need to announce it," Saina said on a podcast, as quoted by "If you are not capable of playing anymore, that's it. It's fine."The former world No.1 explained that extensive knee degeneration left her unable to cope with prolonged high-intensity training."Your cartilage has totally degenerated, you have arthritis, that's what my parents needed to know that, my



coaches needed to know that, and I just told them, 'Now probably I can't do it anymore, it is difficult,'" she said.
'DIDN'T FEEL A NEED FOR FORMAL RETIREMENT'

Nehwal said she didn't believe a formal retirement statement was necessary, as her time away from competition made her decision evident."I didn't think it was such a big matter to announce my retirement. I just felt my time was up because I couldn't push much, that my knee is not able to push like before," she said."You train eight to nine hours to be the best in the world, now my knee was giving up in one or two hours. It was swelling and it became very tough to push after that. So I thought it's enough. I can't push it anymore," she added.Nehwal's career took a major hit after a serious knee injury at the Rio 2016 Olympics that threatened to cut it short. While she fought back to claim a World Championships bronze in 2017 and Commonwealth Games gold in 2018, persistent knee problems repeatedly stalled her momentum.

Ricky Ponting's love for The Undertaker: How a WWE poster chokeslammed his bad luck

Ricky Ponting's passion for wrestling great, The Undertaker, sparked a unique superstition during his cricket career. This quirky ritual coincided with his prolific run-scoring, revealed his former teammate Jason Gillespie.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Ricky Ponting's place among cricket's all-time greats is undisputed. The Tasmanian born batter finished his international career as Australia's leading run-scorer in both Test and ODI cricket, with 13,378 and 13,704 runs respectively — remarkable tallies that underline his prolific mastery across formats.But beyond the centuries and captaincy accolades, Ponting had a lesser-known passionate side: his love for

professional wrestling, and in particular, WWE legend The Undertaker. Former Australia fast bowler Jason Gillespie recalled that obsession with a blend of affection and amusement."Ricky Ponting is probably one of Australia's greatest ever players and the leading run-scorer for Australia. He was also a wonderful captain," Gillespie recalled while speaking on SEN's The Sporting Capital."I remember one season — I think it was 1997 or '98 — I was injured and had hurt my back, so I'd spent some time out. The team had come to Adelaide, and I knew Ricky was a massive wrestling fan. He absolutely loved The Undertaker."Gillespie said he gifted Ponting the centre-spread poster of the legendary wrestler, sparking the Australian cricketer's obsession."I had a wrestling magazine where the centre spread was a poster of The Undertaker, so I tore it out. I went in while the Australian boys were training and gave it to Rick. I said, 'Mate, I've got this poster of The Undertaker.' He looked at it, just nodded, and put it straight into his bag.The next day, he went out and

made a hundred. After that, for the rest of the summer, he refused to remove that Undertaker poster because cricket is a very superstitious game — and a lot of



sportspeople are. He said, 'This Undertaker poster was in my bag when I got a hundred, so it's not leaving.'

"He'd put it in his locker wherever he went, and every time he came back, the Undertaker poster would be there. He kept making runs, and it just went on. I don't know how long it

lasted before the superstition finally wore off, but yeah — Rick was a big fan."Ponting's anecdote illustrates a side of elite sport not often discussed: the rituals and beliefs athletes carry with them in pursuit of success. Superstitions are woven through cricket's rich tapestry — from Sachin Tendulkar's practice of putting on his left pad first before going out to bat, to players obsessing over locker-room seats or lucky numbers. The sport's long rhythms and fine margins seem to invite these personal talismans and routines, as players seek a sense of control over unpredictable outcomes.Ponting's exploits on the field speak for themselves. Bursting onto the international scene as a teenager in the mid-1990s, he became a defining figure of Australia's dominant era. He captained the side to back-to-back Cricket World Cup titles in 2003 and 2007 and was a fixture in an Australian team that set new standards in international cricket. His penchant for aggressive stroke-play and tactical acumen made him a thorn in opposing bowlers' sides, and his leadership record remains among the best in the game's history.

After India Open chaos, Sports Minister pushes SAI to save Olympic dreams

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Taking note of the organisational lapses that plagued the India Open badminton tournament here, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya met officials of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) on Monday to discuss "corrective measures" that would prevent a repeat of the fiasco.

It is reliably learnt that the minister held a meeting with the stadium administrators, who were conspicuous by their absence during the tournament, and sought an explanation for the chaos last week.The lapses have created a "perception crisis" for India in a potentially "make-or-break year" for the country's audacious 2036 Olympic bid.Although Delhi's poor air quality was beyond its control, SAI is under tremendous pressure to explain incidents of bird poop in the field of play, a monkey in the spectators' stand, and poorly maintained facilities, including washrooms and training areas."The minister has taken note and SAI will come up with details of corrective measures in



the next few days," a well-placed source told.Responsible for the stadium's upkeep, SAI has drawn heavy criticism for the chaos that became the talking point at the venue, which is also due to hold the badminton World Championships in August.Danish shutter Mia Blichfeldt had described the conditions as unhealthy and wondered aloud as to how the marquee competition later this year could possibly go ahead at the same venue in a few months' time.What ails SAI?The nodal body responsible for the running of national camps and maintain sports infrastructure in the country was found wanting in every aspect during India Open.The Badminton Association of India (BAI) was left to handle the media storm triggered by the international players' complaints despite taking over the stadium just a few weeks before the tournament."A Deputy Director level officer was needed to take control of the situation, similar to what SAI did during the para-world championships of athletics at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium last year when things passed off relatively well on the organisational front," another source said.

Quiet bat, loud rumours: Why Rohit Sharma can't afford another poor ODI series

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

The New Zealand series has laid bare several issues with the Indian ODI team, as they were hammered at home for the first time by the BlackCaps. An inexperienced, second-string New Zealand scripted a remarkable comeback in the series after losing the first ODI, winning the next two fixtures to seal a historic maiden ODI series triumph on Indian soil.It was India's first home series defeat since 2023, when they were beaten 1–2 by Australia. In the aftermath of the loss, the sword is dangling over the necks of several underperformers who failed to rise to the occasion in the three-match rubber.While many performances came under scrutiny, star opener Rohit Sharma also copped criticism for his modest returns. Rohit failed to make a significant contribution in the three-match series, managing just 61 runs from three innings at an average of 20.33 and a strike rate of 76.25.The experienced batter was unable to convert his starts in the first two fixtures, being dismissed for 26 off 29 balls and 24 off 38 deliveries respectively. Rohit was then dismissed for 11 off 13 balls



in the third ODI, caught at mid-on while attempting to pull Zak Foulkes.

Rohit Sharma's Lean Run Draws Scrutiny Rohit entered the series on the back of terrific form, having won the Player of the Series award in Australia, where he finished as the highest run-scorer with 202 runs from three innings. He also enjoyed productive outings against South Africa, scoring 146 runs from three innings, including two half-centuries.Since the ODI World Cup 2023,

Rohit has scored 868 runs from 20 innings at an average of 45.68 and a strike rate of 103.57, with two hundreds and six fifties to his name. The numbers hardly ring any alarm bells for the veteran batter, who has set his sights on featuring in the next ODI World Cup in 2027.Rohit also silenced critics who never missed an opportunity to question his fitness levels. Since his return in October last year, he has worked extensively on his conditioning, shedding more than 10 kilograms in the process.However, with the tournament still two years away and India's ever-flourishing bench strength pushing hard at the selection doors, Rohit finds himself walking a tightrope. Young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal recently proved his worth in ODIs, scoring a magnificent century in the series decider against South Africa.The southpaw has not had an opportunity since then, with Shubman Gill returning to the 50-over side after recovering from injury.

NZ defeat set to raise selection pressure alarms

Poor performances can often be swept under the carpet if the team does well.

Zadran, Rasooli star as Afghanistan stun West Indies ahead of T20 World Cup

New Delhi. (Agency)

Afghanistan gave West Indies a reality check ahead of the T20 World Cup 2026, handing them a 38-run defeat in their T20I on Monday, January 19, at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium. On a spin-friendly Dubai pitch, Ibrahim Zadran's (87* off 56 balls) and Darwish Rasooli's (84 off 59) laid the foundation for Afghanistan's imposing total of 181 for 3.The score proved more than sufficient for West Indies, who were left bamboozled Afghanistan's disciplined spin attack. Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad shared six wickets between them, applying relentless pressure during the chase and ensuring a comfortable 38-run victory.Afghanistan found themselves in early trouble after losing two wickets in quick succession. Rahmanullah Gurbaz was run out off the very first ball, beaten by Gukesh Motie's direct hit as he fell short of



catch at first slip.When Rasooli joined Zadran at the crease, Afghanistan were reeling at 19 for 2. The duo then forged a monumental 162-run partnership off 106 deliveries, stabilising the innings and

propelling Afghanistan to 181/3 in their allotted 20 overs. Jayden Seales (1/30 in four overs) emerged as the pick of the bowlers for West Indies, while Matthew Forde endured an expensive outing, conceding 51 runs for his lone wicket in four overs.In the second innings, West Indies suffered early blows as openers Brandon King (4 off 4) and Evin Lewis (4 off 11) returned to the pavilion cheaply. The visitors were further reduced to 50/5 as Mujeeb Ur Rahman (2/29) and captain Rashid Khan (2/19) spun a web around the struggling batting line-up. Quenton Sampson (30 off 24) and Matthew Forde (25 off 21) attempted to rescue the innings with a 45-run stand for the sixth wicket off 34 balls. However, Ziaur Rahman Sharifi (3/36) and Noor Ahmad (2/34) ensured the partnership did not develop into a serious threat for Afghanistan.

Has Alcaraz copied Djokovic's serve Serbian great jokes about copyright claim

New Delhi. (Agency)

Novak Djokovic sparked laughter and headlines on Monday after teasing that Carlos Alcaraz's newly revealed serve motion bore such a resemblance to his own that it might deserve a copyright claim. The 38-year-old Serbian, fresh off a dominant opening-round win in the 2026 Australian Open, joked that he had already contacted the world No. 1 about the similarities — and even suggested he deserved a cut of any aces Alcaraz serves this fortnight."As soon as I saw it, I sent him a message," Djokovic said after his straight-sets victory."I said, we have to speak about the copyrights. Then when I saw him here, I told him we have to talk about percentage of his winnings. Every ace I expect, you know, a tribute to me."Alcaraz, who entered the tournament as one of the favourites to complete the career Grand Slam at just 22, was asked about the comparison during his pre-tournament media duties in Melbourne. The Spaniard laughed off the suggestion that he was intentionally

borrowing Djokovic's technique.You wanted to say it's really similar to Djokovic's serve," Alcaraz joked, smiling broadly. "I know you want to! I wasn't thinking about making the same serve as Djokovic, but in the end, I can even see the similarities."Alcaraz stressed that he constantly tweaks his game and that the latest alteration to his delivery came from hours of practice and analysis, not an attempt to mimic another player.

"For me the serve is something that I really want to be better every year," he explained. "I'm just putting constant work on the serve."

WHAT IS DIFFERENT IN ALCARAZ'S SERVING STYLE?

Quite a few noted that Alcaraz's revised serve demonstrates a more rhythmic, fluid motion, with adjustments to his toss and body positioning that appear to offer smoother timing and better balance. Those changes —



though subtle — have produced serve clips that went viral among fans and analysts alike, prompting frequent comparisons to Djokovic's signature delivery.

The World No. 1's change in serving style comes weeks after he parted ways with his coach Juan Carlos Ferrero.

A COMMANDING WIN

On court in Melbourne, Djokovic put on a commanding display in the first round, securing a straight-sets victory over Pedro Martinez. The win marked his 100th match victory at the Australian Open, a historic milestone that places him alongside all-time greats who reached triple-figure triumphs at Melbourne Park.Djokovic's performance was as efficient as it was authoritative, with a high first-serve percentage and minimal break opportunities for his opponent.

The 24-time Grand Slam champion also became the first man to win at least 100 matches in three different Grand Slams with centuries in Wimbledon and French Open too.Alcaraz also progressed in straight sets in his first match, taking down Australian Adam Walton with relative comfort to begin his campaign.

Sensex, Nifty open lower over weak global cues; IT and financials drag market

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Tuesday, continuing its downward slide for the 2nd straight day as global cues weighed in on investor sentiment. IT and financial stocks dragged the market in early trade.The S&P BSE Sensex was down by 269.93 points to 82,976.25, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 69.25 points to 25,516.25 as of 9:30 am. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the volatility in the market is likely to continue in the near-term till some clarity emerges regarding the US- Europe standoff on Greenland tariffs."Since both sides have hardened their positions, the uncertainty will continue for some time. A new development is likely today if the US Supreme Court ruling on Trump tariffs goes against President Trump. But there is no certainty on whether the ruling will happen today. If it does, the ruling might change the scenario completely overnight," he added.Kotak Mahindra Bank was the top gainer, rising 0.86%, followed by State Bank of India, which gained 0.75%. UltraTech Cement moved up 0.60%, ICICI Bank added 0.25%, and ITC rose 0.23%, making them the top five gainers after the opening bell.

Eternal was the worst performer, sliding 2.97%. Bajaj Finance fell 2.65%, IndiGo declined 1.63%, Trent dropped 1.60%, and Asian Paints was down 1.53%, placing them among the biggest laggards in early trade."From the fundamental perspective, there are good news as well as not so good news for the market. The good news is that the IMF has raised India's FY 26 GDP growth rate to 7.3% confirming the robust performance of the economy despite many headwinds," said Vijaykumar.

India to be upper-middle income by 2030, 3rd largest economy by 2028: SBI

New Delhi.(Agency)

India is set to transition to 'upper-middle income' country in next four years in 2030, joining the ranks of China and Indonesia, and become the third largest economy even earlier in 2028, an SBI Research report said on Monday.The World Bank classifies nations as low income, lower-middle income, upper-middle income and high-income countries based on their per capita GNI (Gross National Income) in US dollar.In 1990, of the total 218 countries classified by the World Bank, 51 belonged to low income, 56 to lower-middle income, 29 to upper-middle income and 39 to high-income categories.The latest data in 2024 shows only 26 countries as low income, 50 as lower-middle income, 54 as upper-middle income and 87 as high income. The transition clearly shows countries have moved up the income ladder over the years.India took 60 years to transition to lower-middle income in 2007 from low-income country. Its per capita GNI increased from \$90 in 1962 to \$910 in 2007, an annual growth rate of 5.3 per cent, said the report.It further said India took 60 years since Independence to reach \$1 trillion, \$2 trillion in another 7 years in 2014, \$3 trillion in 2021, and \$4 trillion in another 4 years in 2025.India is likely to be \$5 trillion in another about 2 years, it said.

The report further said India achieved \$1,000 per capita income in 62 years since Independence in 2009, \$2,000 per capita in next 10 years in 2019, and took another 7 years to achieve \$3,000 per capita mark.India is set to touch \$4,000 per capita in another 4 years in 2030 to transition to an upper-middle income country and join China and Indonesia at current classification," the report said.

Lodha signs MoU with Maharashtra to invest 1 trn in data centre park

New Delhi.(Agency)

Mumbai-based Lodha Developers has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Maharashtra to invest Rs 1 trillion, in addition to its earlier investment commitment of Rs 30,000 crore, to develop a 2.5 gigawatt (GW) data centre park in the state.

Once completed, the data centre is slated to be the largest in India. The MoU was signed by Abhishek Lodha, managing director and chief executive officer of Lodha Developers, at the World Economic Forum 2026 in Davos, Switzerland. The data centre will be developed under the government's Green Integrated Data Centre Park policy. The development is expected to create over 16,000 direct and indirect jobs.The park will accommodate several major international and domestic players. Amazon has already acquired a land parcel for its data centre and also made arrangements for its power requirements for the next 15 years. Singapore-based STT Global Data Centres has also acquired a land parcel in the park. Lodha will play the role of developer for several players who are keen on setting up data centres, the company added."Over and above the Rs 30,000 crore commitment last year to develop the data centre park, we have signed another agreement with the government of Maharashtra to invest an additional Rs 1 trillion. The state has already scaled newer heights under the leadership of Devendra Fadnavis, chief minister of Maharashtra. His vision and actions directed towards developed Maharashtra give us immense confidence in committing to such a large investment," Lodha said.Back in 2019, the government of Maharashtra declared integrated data centres as a thrust area for industrial growth in the state. To ensure that data centres thrive, it introduced a policy for green integrated data centre parks in 2024.

Under this policy, data centres, which are significant consumers of electricity, will be powered by green and alternative energy sources. To begin with, three parks will be set up under the programme in the Mumbai metropolitan region.

Gold, silver hit fresh highs: Will safe-haven demand keep driving gains

There is no stopping gold and silver. The two precious metals are on a roll, and experts say the rally may continue in the near term as global uncertainty keeps safe-haven demand elevated.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and silver extended their record-setting run on Tuesday, with both metals touching fresh highs on the Multi Commodity Exchange as investors continued to seek safety amid global uncertainty.Persistent concerns around geopolitical flashpoints and trade disruptions have kept bullion firmly supported in recent sessions.Gold traded close to Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams on MCX, tracking firm global cues. The

broader market remains cautious as tariff tensions and political risks continue to weigh on sentiment. This has pushed buyers toward traditional safe-haven assets while other risk assets see uneven movement.Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, says MCX gold is reflecting global strength with USD/INR holding steady near 90.90 to 91.00. He points out that the rising channel structure is intact and the Rs 1,43,000 to 1,45,000 zone is acting as reliable dynamic support.According to him, every dip is attracting aggressive buying. A sustained breakout above Rs 1,45,000 to 1,45,500 can open the way towards Rs 1,48,000 to 1,50,000. He maintains a strongly bullish bias for the metal.

SILVER CONTINUES TO OUTPERFORM

Silver continued its sharp upward movement and held well above Rs 3.15 lakh per kilogram through the session. Traders attribute the strength to firm

investment demand and encouraging industrial cues. The trend structure remains strong on technical charts.

Ponmudi says silver has delivered a clean breakout and continues to display high-beta behaviour. The rising channel

sit at Rs 3,20,000 to 3,25,000 in the near term, with an extended move possible towards Rs 3,35,000 to 3,50,000. Dips towards Rs 3,05,000 to 3,08,000, he adds, should be viewed as buying opportunities.

RETAIL DEMAND HOLDS UP DESPITE HIGHER PRICES

Physical market rates also firmed up across major cities. Gold was quoted at around Rs 1.47 lakh per 10 grams and silver stayed comfortably above Rs 3.15 lakh per kilo. Retailers say consumer interest has not fallen sharply and buyers appear to be adjusting to higher price levels.

Market participants say the next phase of the rally will depend on how global risk sentiment evolves. Any escalation in geopolitical tensions or weakness in economic data could further strengthen safe-haven demand. A calmer backdrop may encourage some profit booking after the sharp run-up.



remains very steep, and the 20-day EMA near Rs 2,95,000 is providing strong support. He believes the trend stays extremely bullish as long as prices remain above Rs 3,10,000.His next upside targets

ITR refund delayed Here's why it's stuck, how to check the status and whom to contact

New Delhi.(Agency)

For most taxpayers, the tax filing exercise does not truly end after submitting the income tax return. The real sense of closure comes only when the refund amount is credited to the bank account. Although the Centralised Processing Centre (CPC) has made refunds quicker over the years, many taxpayers are still facing delays.

This year, refund delays have largely been linked to income tax notices issued due to mismatches in return details or deduction claims flagged by the system. If your return shows "Processed" but your bank account remains empty, understanding the reason behind the delay becomes important.

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOUR REFUND OR INTEREST DOES NOT ARRIVE

If your refund or the interest payable on it does not come within the expected time, experts say the first step is verification.CA (Dr) Suresh Surana explains, "If a taxpayer's refund or the corresponding interest under Section 244A does not arrive within the

expected time frame, certain remedial steps can be taken.""Firstly, the taxpayer should verify the status of the



refund on the e-filing portal (www.incometax.gov.in) under "View Filed Returns" or "Refund Status," and cross-check the data on Form 26AS, AIS, and TIS to ensure that all tax credits and bank details are correctly reflected," he says.

Dr Surana adds that even if the refund is processed, it may not reach the bank account due to technical issues. "If the refund has been processed but the amount has not been credited, the taxpayer should confirm that the bank

account is pre-validated and linked with PAN for direct credit through the CPC," he says.He adds, "If the refund has failed or lapsed due to a bank account error or expired ECS mandate, taxpayers can raise a Refund Re-issue on the e-Filing portal to request a re-issue of refund to the correct or newly validated bank account."

WHOM SHOULD YOU CONTACT IF THE PROBLEM CONTINUES

If no refund order is visible or the credited amount appears incorrect, further steps may be required. According to Dr Surana, "A rectification request under Section 154 can be filed online through the e-filing portal, citing refund or interest computation errors."If the issue still remains unresolved, taxpayers can raise a grievance on the e-Nivaran portal or contact the Centralised Processing Centre in Bengaluru through the official helpline or written communication. These channels help route the matter to the concerned authority for review.

Why higher labour costs haven't hurt China's manufacturing lead

Kolkata.(Agency)

TChina's rise as the world's factory was linked to one simple idea for years: cheap labour. That idea no longer holds true. Factory wages in China are now far higher than in many other Asian economies.Yet China remains the world's biggest manufacturing hub by a wide margin. The question many businesses and policymakers now ask is simple.If China is no longer cheap, why has it not lost its manufacturing crown?Manufacturing labour costs in China have risen sharply over the past three decades. By around 2022, Chinese factory wages were close to \$8 per hour. In comparison, wages stood at about \$2.3 per hour in Vietnam, \$2.1 in Malaysia, \$1.9 in Thailand and just \$1.1 in India.On cost alone, China should have lost ground long ago. But global output data shows the opposite.

According to Safeguard Global's 2024 manufacturing report, China produced \$4.66 trillion worth of manufactured



goods last year. This accounts for nearly 28% of total global manufacturing output, making China by far the largest manufacturing economy in the world.The United States ranks second with manufacturing output of \$2.91 trillion,

or just over 17% of the global share. Japan follows with output of \$867 billion, while Germany stands close behind at \$830 billion.

India, despite its large workforce and lower labour costs, produced \$490 billion worth of manufactured goods in 2024, giving it a global share of under 3%.Other manufacturing nations such as South Korea, Mexico, Italy, France and the United Kingdom each account for between 1.7% and 2.5% of global output. None come close to China's scale.

EXPENSIVE BUT MORE PRODUCTIVE

The World Economic Forum offers an important explanation. Its research shows that while labour is cheaper in countries such as Bangladesh and parts of Southeast Asia, productivity is also much lower.

Retiring soon Don't let these common tax blunders drain your savings

Retirement promises freedom and flexibility, but it also brings a quiet shift in how money is taxed. Small mistakes made during this transition can slowly drain your savings, often without you noticing until it is too late.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Retirement often arrives with a sense of freedom. No alarm clocks, no office deadlines, and finally, time to focus on yourself. Yet, for many retirees, the first year brings an unexpected challenge, i.e., tax confusion. What was once a predictable salary structure suddenly turns into a mix of pension, interest income and withdrawals, and a small oversight during this transition can quietly eat into hard-earned savings.Many people believe that once the pay cheque stops,

taxes automatically become easier. The opposite is usually true. The first year of retirement is when most tax errors happen, not because of intent, but because of unfamiliarity with how income and rules change after retirement.

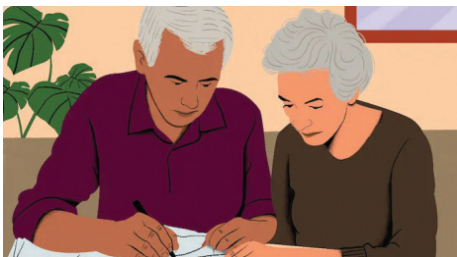
Here are five common tax mistakes retirees often make, and why avoiding them early matters.

NOT FILING AN INCOME TAX RETURN

One of the biggest misconceptions after retirement is that filing an income tax return is no longer necessary. Even if overall income is low, banks may deduct tax on interest earned from fixed deposits or savings accounts. Without filing a return, claiming that money back becomes impossible.Filing also becomes compulsory once income crosses the basic exemption limit. Missing the deadline can attract penalties and unnecessary stress. Even when not mandatory, filing a return helps maintain a clean financial record and avoids future complications.

FORGETTING TO REPORT ALL INCOME SOURCES

Retirement replaces one salary slip with several income streams. Pension, bank interest, fixed deposits, rental income and investment withdrawals may all arrive at different times and from different sources.



In this transition, it is easy to overlook one or more income streams while filing the return. However, missing income can result in penalties if detected later. Careful review of income details before filing becomes especially important during this phase.

WITHDRAWING MONEY IN A TAX-INEFFICIENT MANNER

The first year of retirement often comes with major expenses, i.e., travel plans, home repairs or family commitments. To meet

these needs, retirees sometimes withdraw large amounts from savings or investments.While convenient, lump-sum withdrawals can push income into a higher tax slab, increasing tax liability. A more balanced approach involves spreading withdrawals across years, using exemption limits efficiently and planning cash flows in advance.

MISUNDERSTANDING TAXATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

Many retirees assume that money received after retirement is entirely tax-free. This assumption often leads to trouble. While some retirement benefits enjoy exemptions, others are fully or partly taxable depending on their nature and amount.Pension income is generally taxable, and certain lump-sum receipts may also fall under the tax net. Failing to understand this distinction can lead to under-reporting income and unexpected tax notices later.Turning 60 changes more than just lifestyle, it also changes tax entitlements. Senior citizens enjoy higher exemption limits and additional deductions, particularly on interest income and medical expenses.

Nikki Tamboli

Shares Health Update After Eye Surgery, Says ‘All Is Well’

Bigg Boss 14 fame Nikki Tamboli recently left fans worried after pictures of her from the hospital surfaced on social media. The actress has now shared a health update, reassuring everyone that she is doing well. Nikki’s boyfriend, Arbaz Patel, had earlier confirmed that the actress was diagnosed with an eye infection and developed a chalazion, a small bump near her eyelid caused by infection. In a recent Instagram post, Nikki shared a picture of herself with a bandage covering her right eye and simply wrote, “All is well.”

Chalazion Surgery and Recovery

In a conversation with Hindustan Times, Nikki explained that the chalazion did not improve with a heating pad, which is usually recommended. She said, “However, in my case, it didn’t.” Arbaz also shared a video on Instagram, confirming that Nikki underwent a minor operation to remove the chalazion. “Nikki ko ek chota sa chalazion ho gaya tha, thoda sa bump type ho jata hai woh. Infection ki wajah se hota hai, par abhi humne operate karwaya hai (Nikki got a small chalazion on her eyelid. It is like a bump and



caused by an infection. We’ve gotten it operated),” he updated. Fans quickly expressed their concern on social media, wishing Nikki a speedy recovery. Many thanked her for keeping them updated and sent their best wishes for

her health.

Nikki and Arbaz’s Love Story

Nikki and Arbaz first met on the sets of Bigg Boss Marathi and later became a couple. Nikki revealed that she had joined the show hoping to find love and was immediately drawn to Arbaz. “When I saw Arbaz on stage, it was love at first sight,” she said. While their relationship has been full of support and companionship, Nikki admitted that Arbaz, being three years younger, is still “gradually maturing.”

Work and Passion Projects

Apart from her reality TV fame, Nikki has a passion for cooking and appeared on Celebrity MasterChef, where her dishes received praise from judge Chef Ranveer Brar. However, she exited the show following a clash with co-contestant Gaurav Khanna. Nikki made her acting debut with the Telugu horror comedy Chikati Gadilo Chithakotudu.

Makar Sankranti Celebration

Recently, Nikki celebrated Makar Sankranti by distributing homemade chikkis to photographers at Mumbai airport. She was seen wearing a denim skirt and jacket while sharing the festive treats with the paps. Boyfriend Arbaaz stood by her side and fans and media loved the gesture.



Hina Khan

Calls Her Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai Co-star Shivangi Joshi ‘Little Sister’

Hina Khan and Shivangi Joshi, two of television’s most popular actresses became the talk of the town recently when they were spotted together at Nupur Sanon and Stebin Ben’s reception. The two rose to prominence after appearing on the same show, Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai. Hina played Akshara, while Shivangi captured hearts as her daughter Naira. Now, a wholesome post together has caught the attention of all their fans.

Hina uploaded a lovely photo with Shivangi Joshi on her Instagram Stories. While sharing the post, she praised her and referred to her as a ‘younger sister.’ Later, Shivangi retweeted it, expressing her love for Hina. Hina’s post read, “You will always be my little sister... kitni sundar hai na ye ladki. And remember, I will always be there for you, Kissi.” Shivangi, on the other hand, reposted and wrote, “I love you so much.” Hina is wearing a beautiful brown saree in the picture. Shivangi, on the other hand, sported a green lehenga. She looked stunning in her glam outfit as well.

Hina Khan-Shivangi Joshi Spotted Together

Nupur Sanon and Stebin Ben’s reception was a star-studded affair attended by various high-profile Bollywood and television personalities, among

others. Hina Khan was seen stylishly posing with her on-screen daughter, Shivangi Joshi. In an Instagram video, Hina Khan and Shivangi Joshi were seen stealing the show with their cute camaraderie. They were spotted by paparazzi stationed outside the event for some great photos, and they looked fantastic together.



Hina Khan had performed the part of Akshara Singhania for eight years. She has been a part of the show since its start in 2009. Shivangi Joshi later joined the show in 2016 as grown-up Naira, Akshara and Naitik’s daughter.

Hina Khan’s Latest Work

Hina starred on the reality television show Pati Patni Aur Panga with her husband, Rocky. The show premiered in August and aired through November. Hina married Rocky, whom she had dated for 13 years, on June 2 in a modest ceremony at the latter’s Mumbai home. Shivangi was last seen in Bade Acche Lagte Hain 4.

Nayanthara And Trisha Krishnan’s Pics Break The Internet, Fans React: ‘Unexpected Treat’



Nayanthara and Trisha Krishnan, two of South India’s most popular actresses, were seen enjoying an outing together, and their photos together have gone viral on social media. Fans were surprised to see the two leading actresses pose together for pictures, especially since they were rumoured to have had a fallout years ago. While several media reports suggested that both actresses did not speak with each other for several years, Trisha once clarified there was no such issue between them. Now, fans were surprised and delighted to see their photos together, and they called it an ‘unexpected’ treat!

Nayanthara Poses With Trisha Krishnan

On Monday, Nayanthara and Trisha Krishnan shared a joint post on Instagram that showed them enjoying a relaxing moment on a yacht, against the backdrop of a beautiful sunset. Both actresses were seen smiling and having a great time, and their camaraderie was quite evident. The pictures were shared with red heart emojis in the caption. While Nayanthara was seen in a V-neck black top and jeans, Trisha rocked a black T-shirt with a matching jacket and jeans. Check out the photos below!

Fans React

Fans went berserk and expressed their surprise. One comment read, “The reunion we’ve all been waiting for, decades! OMG, Nayanthara and Trisha together!”, while another one wrote, “How good it feels to see the ruling queens together.” A third comment read, “The most unexpected post,” while another fan wrote, “I can’t believe my eyes.” Another fan couldn’t believe it, and wrote, “Thought it was AI and confirmed after checking Nayan’s account.” Meanwhile, another fan asked, “Ma’am, will we get to see the pair of you both in a strong female-oriented film?”

According to an old report from 2008, Trisha and Nayanthara had a clash with each other over the Tamil film Kuruvi. As per a report by The Times of India, both actresses were initially considered for the role of Devi in the film. Eventually, Trisha was chosen for the role. Despite this news of professional dispute being shared widely, Trisha denied these rumours once.

Sameera Reddy Reunites With Her Musafir Co-Star Sanjay Dutt: ‘Vibe Is Still The Same’



Sameera Reddy shared a fun video with her Musafir co-star Sanjay Dutt, and it has gone viral!

Actress Sameera Reddy decided to take the ongoing “2026 is the new 2016” trend a little further. She looked back not 10 but 20 years in 2006 as she reunited with her ‘Musafir’ co-star Sanjay Dutt. Sameera took to her official Instagram handle and dropped a video in which she was heard saying, “Why 2016 trend, when you can go back to 2006” and shows a throwback picture with Sanjay.

Next, we see Sanjay indulging in some reading. However, as he notices Sameera, he greets her with a warm hug. Posting a clip of the fun meet on social media, Sameera wrote, “@duttсанjay 20 yrs & the vibe is still the same #2006 #2026 #musafir #sanjaydutt (sic).”

She further added the “Saaki” track by Sukhwinder Singh and Sunidhi Chauhan from “Musafir” in the backdrop. Directed and produced by Sanjay Gupta, “Musafir” also stars Anil Kapoor, Aditya Pancholi, Mahesh Manjrekar, and Shakti Kapoor in key roles. Koena Mitra also made her acting debut with the drama.

While Sameera was seen as Sam in the film, Sanjay essayed the role of Billa. A remake of the 1997 American film “U Turn”, the drama received positive reviews from critics. However, despite all the appreciation, “Musafir” failed to perform at the box office.

Set against the backdrop of Goa, the project follows the life of Lucky (Played by Anil Kapoor), a small time criminal who is betrayed by his girlfriend and is now in a race against time to survive.

Up next, Sameera is now gearing up for the release of her upcoming horror-thriller “Chimni”. She will be seen playing the role of Kali in her next. Sameera is known for her work in movies such as “Maine Dil Tujhko Diya”, “Race”, and “Taxi No. 9211”, to name just a few.



Ubtans for the bride-to-be

since time immemorial, brides have used natural treatments to brighten their complexion right before their D-day. In retrospect, we tell you why the 'haldi' ceremony is an important event.

In Indian cuisine, turmeric or haldi as popularly known holds a special place in our homes. This ingredient which is widely known for its anti-inflammatory and anti-bacterial properties is used by households even during weddings. A

special event which is commonly referred to as the 'haldi ceremony' is usually organised at the bride as well as the groom's house, either a day before or on the morning of the wedding day. Beautician Nishi Changlani says, "Haldi ceremony is usually done by North Indians and also in other parts of the country. Punjabis, Sindhis, Bengalis, Rajputs, Maharashtrians as well as Gujaratis have this ceremony. Among these communities, the ingredient is considered to be auspicious and is said to

brighten the skin of the bride on her big day. Down south, there are many communities who follow the haldi ceremony but amongst Mangaloreans, instead of the haldi ceremony, there's something called as Roce — which is primarily taking a bath with coconut milk and oil."

Traditionally, the haldi paste is made using different ingredients according to their individual family customs. Some people even mix it with sandalwood powder, milk and rose water for added benefits. This

paste is applied to the bride and the groom's face and neck, hands and feet along with being applied by their loved ones. The ceremony is witnessed along with traditional songs and dance performances.

In many traditions, the paste is also applied on the unmarried friends and siblings of the bride and groom. It is believed that whoever gets touched by this paste will soon find a life partner.

Why Haldi holds such special place?

To keep evil eye away

Most people believe that the reason for applying haldi is to ward off evil spirits from affecting the bride and the groom. This is why, the bride and groom are usually not allowed to leave their home after the haldi ceremony, till their wedding mahurat. In some traditions, they are also tied a sacred red thread or given some small amulets and other items for protection against evil eye.

Auspicious Colour

The yellow colour of turmeric is considered very auspicious in the Indian traditions. The auspiciousness of this ingredient and its colour ushers in a life of prosperity for the couple, who are starting off their

fair and glowing.

As an Antiseptic Since turmeric or haldi is known for its medicinal properties as well as being antiseptic, an application of this ingredient before marriage would ensure that the bride and groom are blessed with blemish-free skin. It also ensures that the couple is protected against any cuts, bruises or ailments before the wedding.

Purification of the Body Haldi holds such an important place in Indian traditions because it also purifies and cleanses the body. It is known as an effective exfoliating agent. After the haldi ceremony, when the paste is rinsed off, it helps to get rid of dead cells and detoxifies the skin.

Bonus for the Couple Apart from its property of beautification, cleansing and detoxification, haldi is also known to alleviate some of the nervousness that the bride and the groom feel. Curcumin, an antioxidant that is present in turmeric, is known to work as a mild anti-depressant and a natural remedy for headaches as well. So, it is a good way to relieve wedding day anxiety and jitters. Haldi is also known to boost immunity, and also helps to soothe an upset stomach.



Hair plopping the heat-free way to get natural curls

While getting a blow-dry from a professional salon is a sure-shot way to ensure gorgeous-looking hair, sometimes, there isn't enough time for that and wash-and-go is your only option. For working women, hair plopping or plunking is the latest beauty hack, to achieve natural-looking curls, minus the fuss of heat styling products. Because of high levels of humidity during this season, hair tends to get frizzier. If you want to style your curls at home, this technique is a great alternative.

HOW IT WORKS

Hairstylist Sneha Parekh explains the procedure, "It involves wrapping wet hair in a soft cotton T-shirt or a special microfibre towel and letting it dry. It gives you curls that stay intact, prevents hair from excessive frizzing and boosts volume. One advantage of this technique is that when you set your curls on the top of your head instead of the side, it makes the hair bouncier."

WAYS TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR CURLS

Don't wash your hair every day: When you do so, you're actually stripping it of its natural oils, resulting in dry and frizzy hair. Curly hair requires a lot more moisture than straight hair. So, wash your hair two to four times a week.

Find the right shampoo and conditioner: The type of shampoo and conditioner you use has a big impact on your mane. Curly hair requires hydration, so choose a conditioner that has restorative properties.

Want to get salon-like wavy locks without using a curling iron? Try hair plopping -a simple tress technique that gives you defined curls without any styling tools

Detangle your hair after each wash: Use a detangling spray on knots and carefully work through them with your fingers or a wide toothed comb. Do not use a normal comb since it will straighten your hair, eventually making your curls disappear.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO PLOPPING YOUR HAIR

Wash and condition your hair. Apply a styling mousse, cream or gel.

Spread the T-shirt (preferable a long-sleeved one) that you are going to use to wrap on your head on a flat surface (for example, a chair), with the sleeves on the end closer to you. Then, bend over and place your head against the surface, positioning all the hair on it so that the curls are concentrated on the crown.

Take the portion of cloth that is behind your head and flip it up over your neck. Tie the long sleeves of the shirt behind your head in a knot.

Wrap the extra length of the sleeves around to the front and tie the ends in a knot. In the end, it should resemble a turban.

Leave the cloth on for at least half an hour till your hair dries. You can also keep it overnight. The T-shirt will soak the excess moisture and prevent hair from becoming dry, rough and getting split ends.

Easy tips to get rid of dark underarms

Dark under arms can restrain you from wearing sleeveless tops and blouses. Here are a few tips that will help you get lighter underarms.

SAFFRON

Add a pinch of saffron in two tablespoons of mild lotion. Mix it well and apply on your underarms. Not only will it lighten your skin, but it can also rid you of the odour.

APPLES

If you scrub mashed apple into your armpits daily, it can free you from dark spots and odour. Apple contains AHA, which is capable of killing germs and bacteria that cause the darkening of underarms.

ORANGE PEEL

Orange peels contain citric acid which is also used in skin bleach. Dry some orange peels until the it's completely moisture free. Take about two tablespoons of it and mix with some rose water and apply on the affected area. Leave it for 10 minutes and wash it off with cold water.

COCONUT OIL

Coconut oil is a universal therapy for beauty. This remedy involves a slow whitening process. Massage coconut oil on your underarms for about 10 to 15 minutes before taking a bath.

LEMONS

It is known to be a natural bleaching agent; if you rub lemon over your underarms, it helps whiten your skin. Do not forget to apply



moisturiser or body lotion to the armpits after rinsing it off. They are also good antiseptic agents, which helps rid you of underarm odour.

MILK

Milk is equally effective for skin lightening. Milk contains some vitamins and fatty acids that make the skin bright and healthy. Simply apply some milk on your underarms once a day and leave it on for about 15 minutes.

CUCUMBER

Lighten your armpits by rubbing cucumber slices on it. This will bleach your skin and keep it moist for some time.

