

We did it, EU chief tells PM Modi as 'mother of all trade deals' announced

New Delhi.(Agency)
Describing India and the European Union as "two giants who chose a win-win partnership," Ursula said the deal is expected to cut around 4 billion euros in tariffs, providing a major boost to businesses on both sides and strengthening supply chains.

European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen on Tuesday hailed the historic trade pact with India, calling it the "mother of all deals". The EU chief, who was in India as chief guest for 77th Republic Day, said the pact marked a new chapter in the partnership between the two sides.

"We did it... we delivered the 'mother of all deals,'" she said while delivering a joint statement along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Council President Costa. Describing India and the European Union as "two giants who chose a win-win partnership,"

Ursula said the deal is expected to cut around 4 billion euros in tariffs, providing a major boost to businesses on both sides and strengthening supply chains. The agreement would significantly deepen economic ties and reduce trade barriers, she added. She also thanked India for the reception during her visit and said the experience of being the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations was deeply moving.

"Thank you very much for the

exceptional hospitality we experienced. It was such an honour for us to be your chief guests at the Republic Day yesterday. This is a memory I will carry for a lifetime because the sense of communion

was so powerful. People filled the streets, united in pride and joy of belonging to the Indian nation and rightfully so," she said.

Earlier, PM Modi called the agreement a 'remarkable example of cooperation between the world's two largest economies' and emphasised the positive outcome for several domestic sectors, including textiles, gems and jewellery, and leather goods.

"The deal represents approximately 25 per cent of global GDP and nearly one-third of global trade. It strengthens our shared

commitment not only to trade but also to democracy and the rule of law," the PM said. India-EU bilateral trade remains a key pillar of the partnership, crossing USD 190 billion in 2024-25. India exported USD 75.9 billion worth of goods and USD 30 billion in services to the EU, while EU exports to India stood at USD 60.7 billion in goods and USD 23 billion in services.

The India-EU free trade agreement is expected to take at least six months to be formally signed following legal vetting by both sides. Talks began in 2007, were put on hold in 2013, and resumed in June 2022.



'Darpok' Rahul Gandhi directed attack on house: Ex-Congress leader's big claim

Shakeel Ahmad, a three-time MLA and a two-term MP from Bihar, said he was being targeted and faced threats after calling Rahul Gandhi a 'darpok' (coward) and an insecure politician.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former Congress leader Shakeel Ahmad has alleged that Rahul Gandhi had directed party leaders to attack his residences in Bihar, days after he called the leader of the opposition a 'darpok' (coward) and an insecure politician. In a series of sharp allegations, Ahmad, a three-time MLA and a two-term MP from Bihar, said he was being targeted and faced threats after publicly criticising Rahul's leadership. "Rahul Gandhi has directed leaders to attack my house just because I said certain things about his leadership," Ahmad, who quit the Congress after the debacle in the Bihar elections last year, said.

Separately, Ahmad also shared a screenshot of a WhatsApp message on X that he alleged was circulated by members of the Congress party. The message calls on local and district-level

leaders to burn Ahmad's effigy in protest over his remarks on Rahul.

The former Congress leader claimed that some party colleagues "secretly informed" him that orders were given to



attack his residences in Patna and Madhubani on January 27, under the pretext of burning his effigy.

WHAT IS THE CONTROVERSY?

The controversy erupted last week after Ahmad called Gandhi a 'darpok' (coward) and 'dictatorial' in scathing remarks amid the party's declining electoral fortunes.

Without mincing any words, Ahmad alleged that Rahul was only promoting young leaders who sang his paean in the party and felt "uncomfortable" in the presence of senior leaders who have a public standing.

However, Ahmad emphasised that his criticism was constructive and rooted in concern for the Congress. "I pointed out Rahul Gandhi's mistakes as and when they happened. I told him that he should continue visiting temples," he said.

The former Congress leader singled out Krishna Allavaru, the party's Bihar in-charge, as being behind the threats. "There could be outsiders who may attack me at the direction of Allavaru," he alleged. He also claimed that Allavaru mistreated him at the behest of Rahul.

Ahmad's remarks have earned him the ire of Congress, with Manickam Tagore calling him a " betrayer" and "Jaichand". Legend has it that Jaichand, a former king, sided with foreign invaders and betrayed Prithviraj Chavan.

Not normal to tolerate Pak's continued use of terror as instrument of state policy: India at UNSC

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a strongly-worded retort in the UNSC, India said it is not normal to tolerate Pakistan's continued use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy, as New Delhi hit back at Islamabad's envoy for advancing a "false and self-serving" account of Operation Sindo.

India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish, delivered a sharp response to comments made by Pakistan's Ambassador to the UN, Asim Iftikhar Ahmad. Ahmad spoke about Operation Sindo, Jammu and Kashmir and the Indus Waters Treaty in his remarks at the UN Security Council open debate on Monday on 'Reaffirming International Rule of Law: Pathways to Reinvigorating Peace, Justice, and Multilateralism.'

Harish said Pakistan, an elected member of the Security Council, has a single-point agenda - to harm India and its people. With Ahmad telling the Council that Pakistan's response to Operation Sindo "established that there can be no 'new normal' based on coercion or impunity", Delhi slammed Islamabad, with Harish asserting that terrorism can never be normalised as Pakistan wishes to do.



"We have heard talk from the Representative of Pakistan about the new normal. Let me reiterate again that terrorism can never be normalised as Pakistan wishes to do. It is not normal to tolerate Pakistan's continued use of terrorism as an instrument of state policy," Harish said, adding that India will do whatever is required to protect and ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

"This hallowed chamber cannot become a forum for Pakistan to legitimise terrorism," Harish said. Harish said Pakistan's envoy "advanced a false and self-serving account" of Operation Sindo, launched by India in May last year, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pulwama attack that killed 26 civilians. "The facts on this matter are clear. Pakistan-sponsored terrorists killed 26 innocent civilians in a brutal attack in Pulwama in April 2025. This august body itself called for holding the perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism accountable and brought to justice. That is exactly what we did," Harish said. Harish's reference was to the press statement issued by the Security Council in April last year.

Mamata Banerjee May Visit Delhi In February To Protest Against SIR: Sources

New Delhi .(Agency)

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to visit Delhi in February to register a major protest against the Election Commission of India (ECI) over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral roll. The move comes amid an ongoing political clash in the state over the SIR exercise.

According to sources, Mamata Banerjee is upset about the alleged deaths linked to the SIR

CM Rekha Gupta, Delhi Ministers attend Republic Day Parade

Lucknow .(Agency)
Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and members of her Cabinet attended the 77th Republic Day parade at Kartavya Path on Monday, as President Droupadi Murmu unfurled the national flag and the national anthem marked the start of the celebrations. The iconic marching song "Kadam Kadam Badhaye Ja" echoed along Kartavya Path as contingents of the Indian armed forces led the parade. Marching alongside them were select students from Delhi University, who had trained for weeks at the Republic Day NCC camp at the Cariappa Parade Ground in Delhi Cantonment.

Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood, in a post on X, highlighted the Ministry of Education tableau, calling it "a remarkable

showcase of India's evolving education landscape". He said the tableau reflected the transformative journey of school education under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and reaffirmed the vision of building a skilled and future-ready generation as part of Viksit Bharat. Delhi, however, did not feature a tableau this year. In total, 30 tableaux, 17 from States and Union Territories and 13 from various Ministries, Departments and Services, rolled down Kartavya Path during the parade.

The Delhi government's tableau proposal for Republic Day 2025 had not been approved by the expert committee, a decision the



previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government had criticised as biased.

It was not immediately known whether the current Delhi government sent a proposal this year. According to officials, Delhi has

presented its tableau seven times over the past two decades. The parade also witnessed several firsts. A mixed Scouts contingent, wearing heavy thermal gear and performing an operational role, participated for the first time. The contingent was led by Lt Amit Choudhary, a second-generation Army officer, making the moment both a professional milestone and a tribute to his father, who had marched in the 1990 ceremonial parade. It comprised personnel from Ladakh Scouts, Dogra Scouts, Arunachal Scouts, Kumaon Scouts, Garhwal Scouts and Sikkim Scouts. The theme this year was 150 years of "Vande Mataram".

Ex-IAF chief explains why India fielded MiG-21 vs Pak F-16 during Balakot dogfight

New Delhi .(Agency)

The Indian Air Force's (IAF) tactical decisions during the 2019 Balakot dogfight led many to question why MiG-21 Bison fighter jets were deployed against the more advanced Pakistani F-16s. Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 Bison was shot down during the engagement leading many to wonder whether deploying the MiGs during the dogfight was a sound decision. During a recent discussion on The Lallantop, India Today's sister website, former Air Force chief BS Dhanoa addressed concerns over the choice of aircraft, acknowledging that questions had been raised about whether

more advanced planes could have been deployed during the engagement.

He clarified that the selection was not a matter of preference, but dictated by the immediate operational realities faced by the IAF. When asked during the discussion why MiG-21 Bisons were flown if the IAF knew it would face F-16s, Dhanoa responded, "Did we have better planes?"

"There were only MiG-21s in Srinagar, and the Su-30s couldn't enter the area where the dogfight took place because the region's topography wasn't suitable. HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) was supposed to deliver 27 upgraded



Mirage 2000s capable of operating there, but we had only seven. We had the LCA (Tejas fighter jet too, but no weapons to support it," he said.

"The MiG-21s were deployed because we had no other choice. If you ask me

personally, the MiG-21 shouldn't have been there at all. Even our Prime Minister has said the outcome would have been different if we had Rafales. When the enemy strikes, we have to fight with what we have, there's no other option," the former IAF chief added.

On February 26, 2019, MiG-21 Bisons engaged Pakistani F-16s following the Balakot airstrike on a Jaish-e-Mohammed terror camp, carried out in retaliation for the Pulwama attack. The next day, Pakistani jets attempted to strike military installations in Jammu and Kashmir, prompting the IAF to scramble MiG-21s.

process in the poll-bound state. Despite writing several letters to the Chief Electoral Officer, she is dissatisfied with the response from the poll body. Party insiders say this has pushed her to take the protest to the national stage.

Top Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders told that Mamata's planned visit to the national capital will also be aimed at building a broader opposition consensus against the SIR. However, the date of her visit has not been finalised yet. Some within the party said that she may visit Delhi while the Parliament session is underway.

The SIR process began in West Bengal on November 4 and the same day, Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee led a march on the streets of Kolkata.

Recently, the TMC National General Secretary hinted that the party chief would visit Delhi to highlight the situation in the state and intensify political attacks on Chief Election Commissioner Ganesh Kumar.



News box

Haryana govt extends manual sweeping contracts of six agencies in Gurgaon till March 31

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Urban local bodies (ULB) department has approved an extension till March for six private agencies engaged in manual road sweeping in the city, clearing the way for the resumption of sanitation services that were disrupted due to delayed payments. The extension, approved at a cost of Rs 127 crore to be paid to the contractors hired by the MCG, covers the period from Sept 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, officials said. CG officials said sanitation services were affected after payments to the agencies were withheld in the absence of ULB clearance, leading to workers staying away from duty. With the approval now in place, payments will be released and operations are expected to normalise. The six agencies were originally hired in Sept 2023 for a two-year contract to carry out manual road sweeping. "We have received the approval for the extension and forwarded it to the engineers to proceed further," said MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya. The delay in approval had led to mounting public complaints and raised concerns over administrative bottlenecks affecting essential civic services. In Dec last year, MCG submitted a Rs 470-crore proposal to the ULB department for integrated manual and mechanised road sweeping across the city. Under the proposal, the estimated expenditure is Rs 145.5 crore for zone 1, Rs 64.2 crore for zone 2, Rs 81.8 crore for zone 3, and Rs 179.4 crore for zone 4. The proposed scope of work includes special cleaning arrangements for tourist and high-footfall areas, with provisions for multiple cleanings, night sweeping where required, and additional manpower during weekends and national holidays. Officials said this proposal, once approved, will replace the extended contracts.

Gurgaon cops in hot pursuit, SUV stalled in mud: How 23-year-old endured Leopard Trail abduction ordeal

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A 23-year-old woman was abducted in the early hours of Sunday from Leopard Trail, a popular picnic spot in the Aravalis, by a food vendor, Gaurav Bhati (25), who shoved her into a borrowed Scorpio and drove around the city as police trailed him. The chase ended about an hour later when the SUV got stuck in mud at Pandala village, forcing Bhati to flee on foot. He has been arrested and charged with kidnapping and snatching, with police awaiting the woman's magisterial statement before potentially adding sexual assault charges. Bhati had borrowed the SUV from another food vendor, claiming he needed it to buy liquor. Three police teams traced and arrested him within hours. A forensic team collected evidence, and location data is being analysed to reconstruct the sequence of events. Police said a medical examination confirmed Bhati was intoxicated during the crime. During a crime scene recreation in the hills, he tried to escape, tripped on rugged terrain, and sustained a fractured right leg and facial injuries. He was hospitalised under custody and later produced before a local court, which remanded him in judicial custody. The FIR initially registered under BNS sections 137(2) (kidnapping) and 304(2) (snatching) was later updated to include charges of custodial escape and obstructing a public servant in the discharge of official duties.

13 companies fined for water extraction, but Noida says they bought it

Noida.(Agency)

Mutually contradictory claims — by Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB) and Noida Authority — have emerged in the two separate affidavits filed before National Green Tribunal (NGT) in connection with a plea seeking action against builders for illegal extraction of ground water in Greater Noida. The matter is scheduled to be heard on Tuesday.

While UPPCB, in its affidavit dated Jan 23, attached a letter of Greater Noida Authority regarding its decision to impose a penalty calculated at 1% of the project cost on 22 builders, Noida Authority, in its affidavit dated Jan 24, stated that out of the 22 builders in question, 13 of them purchased 3.80 lakh KL STP treated water worth Rs 19 lakh from the authority between 2013 and 2023 for their different construction projects.

The Noida Authority is silent about the remaining nine builders and their source of water procurement. If the information is found to be correct, these 13 projects proponents may not be penalised.

The matter relates to the original application (OA) filed by Prasoon Pant and Pradeep Kumar in 2022 seeking action against 63 real estate construction companies for illegally extracting and using ground water in their construction projects in the Greater Noida region.

The tribunal formed a joint committee which, in its report of April 28 last year, pointed out that out of 63 projects examined, 22 projects were found not to have used ground water. The tribunal then decided to get confirmation from UPPCB and Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA) regarding the source of water being used by them. The tribunal also impleaded Noida on request of the applicant on July 29, 2025. The tribunal, on Oct 30, noted that out of the 22 in question, 10 project proponents submitted their response on procurement of water. It directed the authorities to obtain a response from the remaining builders and verify their claims. Noida, in its affidavit, now has given a list of 13 builders with a list of their 80 projects for which they purchased STP treated water from the authority between 2013 and 2023. GNIDA remained silent.

Moderate' to 'poor' in a day: Low wind speed drives rise in Gurgaon's AQI

Gurgaon.(Agency)

After a brief respite on Sunday, when air quality improved to the 'moderate' category, pollution levels in the city worsened again on Monday as a sharp fall in wind speed led to the build-up of local pollutants across the city. AQI climbed to 276 on Monday morning, pushing the city back into the 'poor' category, according to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) data. Just a day earlier on Sunday, AQI stood at 198, marking the city's first 'moderate' reading in over three weeks. Meteorological data showed surface wind speed dropped from around 12 kmph on Sunday to just 3 kmph on Monday, significantly weakening dispersion conditions and allowing emissions from traffic, construction and residential sources to accumulate near ground level. Sector 51 recorded an AQI of 337, falling in the 'very poor' range, while Vikas Sadan logged 286 ('poor').



Gwalpahari, surrounded by relatively greener stretches, reported 173 and remained in the 'moderate' category. Only three of the city's four monitoring stations were operational on Monday. Officials said the deterioration

was driven primarily by meteorology rather than any sudden spike in emissions. Sunday's improvement was aided by higher wind speeds that helped disperse pollutants. With calm conditions returning on Monday, locally

generated pollution got trapped close to the surface," an official from the state pollution control department said.

Jan data underline how persistent particulate pollution was this winter. PM2.5 levels remained in the 'very poor' and 'severe' ranges on most days this month, frequently crossing 300, with multiple peaks above 350. The brief dip on Sunday was one of the few instances when pollution dropped below the 'poor' category, highlighting how short-lived such improvements were.

Health advisories remain in place, with residents urged to avoid prolonged outdoor exposure, especially children, the elderly and those with respiratory ailments. Meteorologists said air quality is likely to remain volatile unless stronger surface winds or another western disturbance improves dispersion in the region.

Efforts to rescue Yuvraj hit by lack of tools, trained hands: Police report

Noida.(Agency)

Police, in a report submitted to the special investigation team (SIT) probing the death of software engineer Yuvraj Mehta, has said that while rescue efforts were initiated soon after teams reached the water-filled trench in Sector 150, the operation was hampered by a shortage of key resources, such as specialised boats, trained personnel, swimmers and modern rescue equipment, sources told TOI.

The report, according to the sources, has laid out a detailed reconstruction of events, beginning with the time when police control room was informed and the subsequent movement and arrival of cops, fire services and other emergency agencies at the Sector 150 site.

A key section of the report focuses on the alleged role of delivery agent Moninder Singh, who jumped into the trench in a bid to rescue Yuvraj. Police recorded that Moninder claimed he was present at the spot at the time of the incident. However, the report says an analysis of his call detail records and mobile location data appears to undermine the claim. According to the findings placed before SIT, Moninder's mobile location showed him far from Sector 150 at the time he claimed he arrived at the scene.

Moninder, who accused the authorities of negligence and delaying the rescue, has also claimed in a video that the police threatened him against making such allegations. Police, in their report, said they examined Moninder's call history, location patterns and activities in detail before recording their conclusions. The report also places significant emphasis on technical analysis linked to Yuvraj's mobile phone. Police examined when the handset was switched off, the timing of the last call made from it, and what the data could indicate about how long he may have remained alive after the incident. Based on call records and mobile data, the report suggests Yuvraj survived for some time and was waiting for help.

Gurgaon abduction: Woman dragged into Scorpio at 3am, rescued after vehicle gets stuck in mud; traced via phone

Gurgaon.(Agency)

A food vendor abducted a 23-year-old woman from Leopard Trail, a popular picnic spot in the Aravalis, shoved her into a borrowed Scorpio and drove around the city with police in pursuit in the early hours of Sunday. The food seller, Gaurav Bhati (25), abandoned the Scorpio and fled when one of its tyres got stuck in mud at Pandala village, around an hour after he had abducted her. Bhati has been arrested and charged with kidnapping and snatching. Police are waiting for the woman's magisterial statement before adding sexual assault charges, sources said. Late on Saturday, the woman and a colleague had driven to Leopard Trail. They reached around 1.30am and spent an hour and a half there. Bhati allegedly harassed the two when they were sitting in their car. When the duo confronted him, an argument started. Amid a heated exchange, Bhati allegedly snatched her phone and began running towards the Scorpio he was driving. When she chased him, he grabbed her and pushed her into

the SUV, locked the door and drove off, sources said. Her colleague tried to intervene, but Bhati pushed him away. As Bhati sped away with her, the colleague informed police and shared details of Bhati's vehicle.



Police tracked down the SUV using the woman's phone location. Sources said Bhati drove in random directions, going to Southern Peripheral Road, Subhash Chowk and Sector 74, before taking the woman to a secluded, hilly forested area. However, the Scorpio, which Bhati had borrowed from another food vendor,

stalled as he drove through mud paths. When she screamed for help, he got off and fled. Police reached the spot and rescued the woman. The Scorpio's registration details took them to its owner, who told them Bhati had taken his car to buy liquor. Three police teams that were formed to trace Bhati arrested him within a few hours, police said. A forensic team visited the area and collected evidence. Location data is being analysed to reconstruct the sequence of events, police said. "A medical examination confirmed that the accused was intoxicated at the time of the crime. When Bhati was taken back to the hills for a recreation of the crime scene, he attempted to escape. During the bid to flee, he tripped and fell in the rugged terrain, resulting in a fracture to his right leg and injuries to the face. He was hospitalised under custody," a police officer said. After being discharged, Bhati was produced before a local court and remanded in judicial custody. An FIR was initially registered against him under BNS sections 137(2) (kidnapping) and 304(2)

Micro data centre to digitise monitoring of water supply network

Gurgaon.(Agency)

MCG is planning to establish its first micro data centre for digitising the city's water supply system and its assets. The proposed facility will integrate GIS mapping, artificial intelligence, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems and sensors to monitor water assets across the city in real time. Officials said the initiative is inspired by advanced water management technologies in Israel, known globally for its efficient water systems. Under the project, District Metered Areas (DMAs) will be set up, which will allow authorities to track how much water is supplied, how much is consumed, and how much is lost due to Non-Revenue Water (NRW), including leakages and theft. DMAs are

clearly defined zones within a city's water distribution network where the flow of water is continuously measured and monitored. By isolating these zones, authorities can accurately track how much water enters an area, how much is consumed, and how much is lost due to leakages or theft, helping reduce non-revenue water and improve supply efficiency. "GIS will collect data from all our assets, and ownership and usage will be monitored systematically. By dividing the city into DMAs, we can precisely identify losses and inefficiencies," MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya explained, adding that the centre will help with automated maintenance of the water supply and distribution infrastructure. Initially, the centre will focus on water, but

officials indicated that the data infrastructure could later be extended to other civic services such as sewerage and utilities. The centre of excellence, which is expected to be implemented over a two-year timeline, is being positioned as a long-term investment in smart city infrastructure. Once operational, it will provide actionable insights for planners, engineers, and policymakers, helping streamline services and optimise resource use. The micro data centre will record detailed information about every colony, sector, pocket, and street in the city. The data centre will clearly show the thickness of water pipelines in each street, how many valid connections exist there, and how many litres of water are supplied daily.

STF officers & town planner among 24 conferred awards in Gurgaon on R-Day

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Twenty-four govt officials — across planning, health, transport, information, education, policing and special operations — were honoured for their work at an event to mark the 77th Republic Day on Monday. The district administration also recognised citizens and an organisation for social responsibility. Among those honoured was district town planner Praveen Chauhan for his role in "guiding orderly development and public planning".

Assistant senior medical officer Anuj Garg received an award for his responsibilities as nodal officer for the complaint branch — the CM Window portal — and as district nodal officer of Nirogi Haryana Yojana in the health department. Subha Lata, a nursing officer, was awarded for her service in healthcare delivery. Amarjeet, a transport sub-inspector posted in regional transport authority (Gurgaon), was recognised for his duties in "enforcement and public facilitation". Vishwas Saini, an

information centre assistant from the district information and public relations office, was awarded for supporting public information and communication. The education department accounted for five awardees — district education officer Indu Boken; principal of GSSS Boys Civil Lines Jodhpur; district maths specialist Balwan Singh; assistant Sandeep Kumar; and assistant education officer Jagdish Singh. They were honoured for their contributions to administration, school leadership, academic support and departmental functioning. Junior engineer in the district project coordinator office Poonam Kundu was honoured for supporting development projects and implementation. Special recognition was also given to Maruti Suzuki Limited for CSR initiatives, acknowledging "structured efforts that supported community welfare". Two awards went to STF personnel for major breakthroughs against organised

crime. Vivek Kumar, SI, was honoured for playing a significant role in the arrest of around 15 wanted and rewarded criminals associated with the Rohit Godara gang. Deepak Kumar, ASI, was awarded for his role in the arrest of around 10 wanted criminals linked to the Nandu gang, operating from abroad and involved in extortion calls to businessmen in Delhi and Haryana. From the police department, five personnel were awarded for distinct acts of service. Chandrakanta, posted at the Women police station, Sector 51, was recognised for solving a pending case of crime against women and arresting the accused from Bihar and Maharashtra. Ravinder, posted at Sadar police station, was awarded for reuniting a minor with his parents. Yashpal from the cyber cell was honoured for exposing a gang involved in registering fake rape cases to extort money. Other three include constable Rohit, SI Arun and Lalit. Alongside govt awardees, three

private individuals were also recognised — Vivek Agarwal, a sculptor; Parmesh Arora, an ayurvedic doctor; and Naresh Kumawat, a sculptor. New growth corridors. Maintaining that industries are the backbone of the economy, Haryana CM Nayab Singh Saini said on Monday the ease of doing business was strengthened by eliminating "outdated rules and complex procedures". Gurgaon has emerged as a global hub for IT and start-ups, where a township is being developed over 1,000 acres under the Global City Project. "Logistics hubs are being developed in Narnaul, a manufacturing cluster in Hisar and an electronics park in Sohna," the CM said. Saini, while addressing a district-level function in Gurgaon, said, under Operation Hotspot Domination, launched from Dec 1, 2025, more than 2,200 criminals were arrested. Under the Drug-free Haryana campaign conducted last year, over 6,000 arrests were made and illegal property worth

around Rs 12 crore belonging.

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Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob: 9654077232, 9971359517
Website: www.thesikhtimes.in
Email: sikhTimesIndia@gmail.com
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Ishrat Hussain S/o Mr. Sharafat Hussain in respect of First Floor, Built-up Property No. A-27/2 area measuring 77 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 160/38/39, situated at Villages Khasa, Khar, in the abadi of Churu Nagar, Karanpur Nagar, Shahdara, Delhi-110094, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 08.04.2004, ATS & Regd. WLL, executed by Mrs. Brij Bala W/o Mr. Mohinder Singh and said property to be sold to Farinha and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi,
Ghaziabad-201010.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Shahid Ahmad S/o M.D. Chhidan in respect of Entire Built-Up Property Bearing No. A-238, area measuring 61 Sq. Yds., i.e., 41.6 Sq. Mtrs., out of Khasra No. 39/19, situated in the abadi of Gali No. 8, New Lahore Shashi Nagar, in the area of Village Kheri Khasa, Ilaga, Shahdara, Delhi-110031, by virtue of Regd. GPA dated 11.04.2022, duly registered in the office of SRO- VIII, New Delhi, File No. 1288, Part Book No. 4, Volume No. 4734, on Pages No. 14-17, dated 11.04.2022, SPA, ATS and Regd. Will dated 18.04.2022, executed by Mohammad Idrish Khan S/o Late Mr. Azmat Khan and said property to be sold to Mr. Ikrar Ahmed and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi,
Ghaziabad-201010.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204

PUBLIC NOTICE

That, Mrs. Priyanka seeking a loan from M/s Can Fin Homes Ltd. for the Plot Area Measuring 60 Sq. Yards (14.2 Ft x 38 Ft), Comprised in Khetw/Khata No. 189/188 Mustakli No. 229 Killa No. 12/1Min (2-0) and Mustakli No. 228 Killa No. 5Min (4-0), 6(8-0), 15(8-0), Mustakli No. 228 Killa No. 5Min (4-0) and Mustakli No. 230 Killa No. 21(8-0) total 7 Filed admeasuring 42 Karna 0 Marla to the extent of 1/840 Part that comes out to be 1 Marla and Khetw No. 190/191 Mustakli No. 229 Killa No. 10(8-0), 11(8-0), 12/1Min (4-0) total 3 Filed admeasuring 20 Karna 0 Marla to the extent of 1/400 Part that comes out to be 1 Marla, total Area from all Khetw is 2 Marla i.e. 60 Sq. Yds., Situated at waka Siwana Mauja Farukh Nagar, Tehsi Farukh Nagar and Dist. Gurgaon, Haryana; herein referred to as "said property"; That Mrs. Priyanka has made us understand that previous owner Mrs. Mukesh Devi has lost or misplaced the following document i.e. Sale Deed 838 dated 16.06.2022 in favour of Mrs. Mukesh Devi vide LR no 132270412600096 somewhere, which are not traceable or cannot be found, if any owner or any person got or having any claim against on the said above documents by way of legal heirs, Mortgage, Gift, Lease, Inheritance, Lien or otherwise or any objection with said above documents is hereby required to make the same known to the undersigned in writing in Delhi office address given below within 7 days from the date of publication these above documents should be declared null & void to such claims & the same shall be considered as waved and failing which, it will proceed to complete the sale transaction with the above owners as if there are no third party claims/objections/disputes in respect of the said property and thereafter no claims/objections/disputes will be entertained.

M/s PASS & ASSOCIATES, LLP
B-132, Malviya Nagar,
New Delhi-110017
Mob: 9991119392

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Gulab D/o: Khalil, R/O Baranava, Baghpat, Uttar Pradesh - 250645, have change my name and shall hereafter be known as SHAHJADI.

NAME CHANGE

I, Joesda Devi D/o Shankar Thakur R/o Uriamgat Doloni Pathar, VTC-Sarupathar, District- Golaghat, Assam - 785601, have changed my name to Yasoda Thakur.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAHUL son of Shri Babu Singh resident of RZ-14A, ??? Floor, FS Street No. 2, Syndicate Lane, Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045, have changed my name from RAHUL to RAHUL SINGH in future for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAHUL son of Shri Babu Singh resident of RZ-14A, ??? Floor, FS Street No. 2, Syndicate Lane, Palam Village, South West Delhi-110045, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAHUL PAHAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD MUJIVI S/o ABDUL MAJEED R/o 65, 4, Ansar Vihar Lane, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201102 have changed the name of my minor daughter ASRA aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as JENAB.

NAME CHANGE

I AMAN DEEP SINGH S/o CHARAN JEET SINGH R/o S-44, Rajouri Garden, Rajouri Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110024 have changed the name of my minor son MANNAN MADHOK aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as MANNAN SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto Known as SARIK S/O MOHD RAHEEM R/O H.NO-A-23, Masjid Wali Gali No-1, Babarpur, Shahdara, Dist: East Delhi, Delhi-110032 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHD SARIK.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Neelam Gupta W/o Mr. Sandeep Varshney in respect of Residential Built-up House No. G-28, area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra No. 329, situated in the area of in Revenue Estate of Vishwakarma Colony, New Delhi-110044, by virtue of Notarized GPA dated 08.07.2004, SPA, ATS and Will, executed by Mrs. Raj Gupta W/o Mr. Jai Prakash Gupta & Mr. Sandeep Varshney S/o Mr. Jai Prakash Gupta and said property to be sold to Mr. Jamil Ahmad and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Rahul Raj, Advocate,
SG Associates (Law Firm)
B-01, Plot No. 20, Kaushambi,
Ghaziabad-201010.
E-MAIL: sgassociatespl@gmail.com
Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Navin Kumar Jain S/o Mr. Lal Chand Jain in respect of Freehold Residential Property Bearing No. 271/9, Built on Land Measuring area 40 Sq. Yards., i.e. 33.44 Sq. Mtrs., Situated at Gali No.13, Then Singh Nagar, Anand Parbat, Village Sindhura Khurd, Delhi, by virtue of Notary GPA, dated 16.11.2023, ATS and regd. Will dated 16.11.2023, executed by Mrs. Prem Wati Goyal W/o Mr. Kaushal Kishore Goel and said property to be sold to Mr. Arman and same to be finance by SMFG India Home Finance Co. Ltd., General public hereby informed that if anybody has any charge/interest/title in the said property or any kind of dispute kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

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Ph: 0120-4968888, 8130309204

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hitherto known as Muqaddas Kaynat D/o Md Manjir Ansari S/o Samar R/o H.No-1351, Gali No-1B, Swantantra Nagar, Narela, Dist North Delhi-110060 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mishti. I have changed my name not my religion.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as HASAMAT ALI S/o SHAIKAT R/o E-34/A-14, Block-16, Sanjay Camp, Trilok Puri, East Delhi-110091, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HASMAT ALI.

NAME CHANGE

I Aroba W/o Basil Ahmed Add 8101 4th Floor Gali No 1 Chirn Mill Bala Hindu Rao Delhi-110006 changed my name to Aruba Ali.

NAME CHANGE

I, NIDA MATLOOB, WIFE OF REHAN KHAN R/o P-513, FOURTH FLOOR, JAIPUR, EXTENSION PART-2, BADARPUR, PO-BADARPUR, DIST-SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NIDA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHAHABUDDIN ANSARI S/o SOKAN MIYAN resident of H-15, GHAFARI MANZIL EXTN PART 2 JAMIA NAGAR DELHI-110025 have changed my name to SHAHUMMID MIYA for all future purposes

NAME CHANGE

I, NUNN, W/o LATE JAGDISH, R/o S-362, SUDHAR CAMP, NEW DELHI-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES, AND BOTH THESE NAMES REFER TO THE SAME PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAGDISH KUMAR MANJHI S/o SUDAMA MANJHI R/o P-82, Pillani Village, Sarojini Nagar, South West Delhi, Delhi-110023 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as JAGDISH MANJHI in my minor daughter namely KHUSHI aged 16 years in her 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is JAGDISH KUMAR MANJHI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, MUNNI, W/o LATE JAGDISH, R/o S-362, SUDHAR CAMP, NEW DELHI-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES, AND BOTH THESE NAMES REFER TO THE SAME PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, NUNN, W/o LATE JAGDISH, R/o S-362, SUDHAR CAMP, NEW DELHI-110019, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO BHARTI DEVI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES, AND BOTH THESE NAMES REFER TO THE SAME PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD NIZAMUDDIN S/o GAFOR MIYAN resident of SIKKI, CHATRA, PATEKAR, JHARKHAND-825404 have changed my name to SUKAN MIYAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, NOSHAD ALI SON OF BUNIYAD ALI R/o C-12/541, YAMUNA VIHAR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME NAUSHAD ALI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHAHJAHAN S/o SULTAN KHAN R/o H.NO-12/1, Gali No. 2, Nizamuddin, New Delhi-110015 have changed my name to SHAHJAHAN KHAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD FAIZ S/o NADEEM R/o 10-A/2, TAIMOR NAGAR, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, DELHI-110025 have changed my name from MOHD FAIZ for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHASTRA D/o NAWABUDDIN R/o 10-A/2, TAIMOR NAGAR, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, DELHI-110025 have changed my name from MOHD FAIZ for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHASTRA D/o NAWABUDDIN R/o 10-A/2, TAIMOR NAGAR, NEW FRIENDS COLONY, DELHI-110025 have changed my name from MOHD FAIZ for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

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NAME CHANGE

NEWS BOX

Russia offers cash bonuses, frees prisoners and lures foreigners to replenish its troops in Ukraine

world. (Agency)

For average wage earners in Russia, it's a big payday. For criminals seeking to escape the harsh conditions and abuse in prison, it's a chance at freedom. For immigrants hoping for a better life, it's a simplified path to citizenship. All they have to do is sign a contract to fight in Ukraine. As Russia seeks to replenish its forces in nearly four years of war — and avoid an unpopular nationwide mobilization — it's pulling out all the stops to find new troops to send into the battlefield. Some come from abroad to fight in what has become a bloody war of attrition. After signing a mutual defense treaty with Moscow in 2024, North Korea sent thousands of soldiers to help Russia defend its Kursk region from a Ukrainian incursion. Men from South Asian countries, including India, Nepal and Bangladesh, complain of being duped into signing up to fight by recruiters promising jobs. Officials in Kenya, South Africa and Iraq say the same has happened to citizens from their countries. Russian numbers in Ukraine

President Vladimir Putin told his annual news conference last month that 700,000 Russian troops are fighting in Ukraine. He gave the same number in 2024, and a slightly lower figure — 617,000 — in December 2023. It's unclear if those numbers are accurate. Still hidden are the numbers of military casualties, with Moscow having released limited official figures. The British Defense Ministry said last summer that more than 1 million Russian troops may have been killed or wounded. Independent Russian news site Mediazona, together with the BBC and a team of volunteers, scoured news reports, social media and government websites and collected the names of over 160,000 troops killed. More than 550 of those were foreigners from over two dozen countries.

What we know about the investigations into the Minneapolis shooting death of Alex Petti

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

The fatal shooting over the weekend of a Minneapolis man has prompted calls for a thorough independent investigation into the second death at the hands of federal immigration officers since the Trump administration began its large-scale operation in the city late last year. But many of the investigation's details, including the identities of the officers involved and precisely what evidence is being examined, remain unclear even as tensions soar in Minneapolis over the death of Alex Petti, 37, an ICU nurse. Any investigation into the details of the shooting will likely be highly scrutinized. The Trump administration has been quick to cast Petti as an armed instigator, although videos emerging from the scene and local officials contradict that claim.

Here's a look at what's known about the investigation into the shooting and what's not: Three probes launched

The White House says three federal investigations into the shooting are underway.

During a briefing Monday, White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI were investigating the shooting and U.S. Customs and Border Protection was "conducting their own internal review."

30 people dead from effects of winter storm as more freezing cold pummels US

KABUL. (Agency)

Many in the U.S. faced another night of below-freezing temperatures and no electricity after a colossal winter storm heaped more snow Monday on the Northeast and kept parts of the South coated in ice. At least 30 deaths were reported in states afflicted with severe cold. Deep snow — over a foot (30 centimeters) extending in a 1,300-mile (2,100-kilometer) swath from Arkansas to New England — halted traffic, canceled flights and triggered wide school closures Monday. The National Weather Service said areas north of Pittsburgh got up to 20 inches (50 centimeters) of snow and faced wind chills as low as minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 31 degrees Celsius) late Monday into Tuesday.

The bitter cold afflicting two-thirds of the U.S. wasn't going away. The weather service said Monday that a fresh influx of arctic air is expected to sustain freezing temperatures in places already covered in snow and ice. And forecasters said it's possible another winter storm could hit parts of the East Coast this weekend.

A rising death toll included two people run over by snowplows in Massachusetts and Ohio, fatal sledding accidents that killed teenagers in Arkansas and Texas, and a woman whose body was found covered in snow by police with bloodhounds after she was last seen leaving a Kansas bar. In New York City, officials said eight people were found dead outdoors over the frigid weekend. Hundreds of thousands without power

There were still more than 560,000 power outages in the nation Monday evening, according to poweroutage.com. Most of them were in the South, where weekend blasts of freezing rain caused tree limbs and power lines to snap, inflicting crippling outages on northern Mississippi and parts of Tennessee. Officials warned that it could take days for power to be restored.

The diplomatic crisis gave fresh momentum to those advocating for Europe to take a tougher line against Trump and break its military reliance on Washington.

BRUSSELS. (Agency)

NATO chief Mark Rutte warned Monday Europe cannot defend itself without the United States, in the face of calls for the continent to stand on its own feet after tensions over Greenland. US President Donald Trump roiled the transatlantic alliance by threatening to seize the autonomous Danish territory — before backing off after talks with Rutte last week. The diplomatic crisis gave fresh momentum to those advocating for Europe to take a tougher line against Trump and break its military reliance on Washington. "If

anyone thinks here again, that the European Union, or Europe as a whole, can defend itself without the US — keep on dreaming. You can't," Rutte told lawmakers at the European Parliament. He said that EU countries would have to double defence spending from the five percent NATO target agreed last year to 10 percent and spend "billions and billions" on building nuclear arms. "You would lose the ultimate guarantor of our freedom, which is the US nuclear umbrella," the former Dutch prime minister said. "So hey, good luck." France's foreign minister Jean-Noel Barrot hit back at the NATO chief's statements, posting on X on Monday evening that "Europeans can and must take responsibility for their own security". Rutte insisted that US commitment to NATO's Article Five mutual defence clause remained "total", but that the United States expected European countries to keep spending more on their militaries. "They need a secure

Euro-Atlantic, and they also need a secure Europe. So the US has every interest in NATO," he said. The NATO head reiterated his repeated praise for Trump for



pressuring reluctant European allies to step up defence spending. He also appeared to knock back a suggestion floated by the EU's defence commissioner Andrius

Kubilius earlier this month for a possible European defence force that could replace US troops on the continent. "It will make things more complicated. I think (Russian President Vladimir) Putin will love it. So think again," Rutte said.

On Greenland, Rutte said he had agreed with Trump that NATO would "take more responsibility for the defence of the Arctic", but it was up to Greenlandic and Danish authorities to negotiate over US presence on the island. "I have no mandate to negotiate on behalf of Denmark, so I didn't, and I will not," he said. Rutte reiterated that he had stressed to Trump the cost paid by NATO allies in Afghanistan after the US leader caused outrage by playing down their contribution. "For every two American soldiers who paid the ultimate price, one soldier of an ally or a partner, a NATO ally or a partner country, did not return home," he said.

French lawmakers pass bill banning social media for under-15s

The legislation, which also provides for a ban on mobile phones in high schools, would make France the second country to take such a step following Australia's ban for under-16s in December.

TOKYO. (Agency)

PARIS: French lawmakers have passed a bill that would ban social media use by under-15s, a move championed by President Emmanuel Macron as a way to protect children from excessive screen time. The lower National Assembly adopted the text by a vote of 130 to 21 in a lengthy overnight session from Monday to Tuesday. It will now go to the Senate, France's upper house, ahead of becoming law. Macron hailed the vote as a "major step" to protect French children and teenagers in a post on X. The legislation, which also provides for a ban on mobile phones in high schools,

would make France the second country to take such a step following Australia's ban for under-16s in December. As social media has grown, so has concern that too much screen time is harming child development and contributing to mental health problems. "The emotions of our children and teenagers are not for sale or to be manipulated, either by American platforms or Chinese algorithms," Macron said in a video broadcast on Saturday. Authorities want the measures to be enforced from the start of the 2026 school year for new accounts. Former prime minister Gabriel Attal, who leads Macron's Renaissance party in the lower house, said he hoped the Senate would pass the bill by mid-February so that the ban could come into force on September 1. He added that "social media platforms will then have until December 31 to deactivate existing accounts" that do not comply with the age limit. Destiny of our country In addition to combatting the impact of screens and social media on the mental health of young adolescents, Attal stressed that the measure would counter "a number of powers that, through social media

platforms, want to colonise minds". "France can be a pioneer in Europe in a month: we can change the lives of our young people and our families, and perhaps also change the destiny of our country in terms of independence," he said. France's public health watchdog ANSES said this month that social media such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram had several detrimental effects on adolescents, particularly girls, though it was not the sole reason for their declining mental health. The risks listed include cyberbullying and exposure to violent content.

The legislation stipulates that "access to an online social networking service provided by an online platform is prohibited for minors under the age of 15". The draft bill excludes online encyclopedias and educational platforms. An effective age verification system would have to come into force for the ban to become reality. Work on such a system is underway at the European level.

The hard-left France Unbowed's (LFI) Arnaud Saint-Martin criticised the ban as "a form of digital paternalism" and an "overly simplistic" response to the negative impacts of technology.

European Union opens investigation into Musk's AI chatbot Grok over sexual deepfakes

LONDON. (Agency)

The European Union opened a formal investigation into Elon Musk's social media platform X on Monday after his artificial intelligence chatbot Grok spewed nonconsensual sexualized deepfake images on the platform.

European regulators also widened a separate, ongoing investigation into X's recommendation systems after the platform said it would switch to Grok's AI system to choose which posts users see. The scrutiny from Brussels comes after Grok sparked a global backlash by allowing users through its AI image generation and editing capabilities to undress people, putting females in transparent bikinis or revealing clothing. Researchers said some images appeared to include children. Some governments banned the service or issued warnings. The 27-nation EU's executive said it was looking into



whether Grok has done enough as required by the bloc's digital regulations to contain the risks of spreading illegal content such as "manipulated sexually explicit images." That includes content that "may amount to child sexual abuse material," the European Commission said. These risks have now "materialized," the commission said, exposing the bloc's citizens to "serious harm." Regulators will examine whether Grok is living up to its

obligations under the Digital Services Act, the bloc's wide-ranging rule book for keeping internet users safe from harmful content and products.

In response to a request for comment, an X spokeswoman directed The Associated Press to an earlier statement that the company remains "committed to making X a safe platform for everyone" and that it has "zero tolerance" for child sexual exploitation, nonconsensual nudity, and unwanted sexual content. The X statement from Jan. 14 also said it would stop allowing users to depict people in "bikinis, underwear or other revealing attire," but only in places where it has been deemed illegal. "Non-consensual sexual deepfakes of women and children are a violent, unacceptable form of degradation," Henna Virkkunen, an executive vice president at the commission, said in a statement.

Trump in trouble on immigration, as signature issue turns deadly

MINNEAPOLIS. (Agency)

Donald Trump's immigration crackdown across the United States is the signature issue of his second term — but deadly violence in Minneapolis risks making it a liability for a president who already looks vulnerable in the polls. Outrage over the death of nurse Alex Petti — the second US citizen killed by federal agents this month while protesting militarized immigration raids in the city — has forced Trump on the defensive. The raids were a cornerstone of Trump's election pledges, but they are making even some of the Republican's core voters uncomfortable one year after his return to power. Combined with multiple polls showing declining approval for the 79-year-old overall, alarm bells now appear to be ringing ahead of crucial US midterm elections in November. "There is support for the idea of tougher immigration, but there is real pushback on the means and the methods being used, the heavy-handedness, the violence," Garret Martin,

professor of international relations at American University, told AFP. Recent polls show that even when voters approve of Trump's deportations and hard line on immigration, they oppose the often brutal methods of his Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. A Siena/New York Times poll last week found the number of those who think ICE tactics have "gone too far" has ticked up over the past year to 61 percent. The poll was carried out before Petti's killing — but after mother of three Renee Good, also 37, was shot dead by an ICE agent in Minnesota on January 7. A YouGov poll carried out hours after Petti's shooting, a majority of 46 percent — 34 percent strongly and 12 percent somewhat — support "abolishing ICE." "It's a problem for the president because it means that the focus of the conversation is much more now on ICE and the scrutiny on how ICE is acting, as opposed to the issue of immigration, which Trump would like to



put forward," said Martin. Rock and a hard place Worse for Trump is that allies have soured on the crackdown. Influential podcaster Joe Rogan earlier this month compared ICE raids to the Gestapo in Nazi Germany, while the normally loyal Texas Governor Greg Abbott urged Trump on Monday to "re-calibrate" his approach in Minnesota. Trump scrambled to pivot on Monday, taking a more conciliatory tone with local Democrat leaders and dispatching his border chief to the state. But it has further pierced the aura of

"This tragedy occurred as a result of a deliberate and hostile resistance by Democrat leaders in Minnesota," Leavitt said, blaming Governor Tim Walz and Mayor Jacob Frey, both Democrats. She accused elected Democrats of "spreading lies about federal law enforcement officers who are risking their lives daily to remove the worst criminal illegal aliens from our streets." She demanded that Walz, to whom Trump spoke by telephone on Monday, and Frey fully cooperate with federal agents and "turn over all illegal aliens" detained by local authorities.

Petti had a permit to carry a gun, although video footage did not show him taking out his weapon before ICE agents appeared to shoot him multiple times. Trump's Republican Party long has defended the right to carry weapons virtually without restriction, and Leavitt said Trump supports the right to bear arms. But she added: "Any gun owner knows that when you are carrying a weapon, when you are bearing arms and you are confronted by law enforcement, you are raising the assumption of risk, and the risk of force being used against you."

invincibility that Trump has sought to project since returning to power a year ago. Polls show that Trump is on the back foot on a series of issues, most notably the economy that he boasted he would return to a new "golden age." A series of polls also show that Trump is losing support among the groups that helped him get reelected in 2024, including Hispanic, Black and young voters. A Pew Research Center survey showed that 61 percent of Hispanic voters are dissatisfied with the US president's economic policies and that 65 percent reject his anti-immigration policies. Trump has responded in typical fashion to such polls — saying last week that he would sue the New York Times over the Siena survey and suggesting that what he called "fake" surveys should be criminalized. But that's unlikely to ease concerns among Republicans about the midterm elections on November 3. Minnesota Republican Chris Madel, a defense attorney.

NEWS BOX

Bengaluru woman dies by suicide, kin allege dowry

BENGALURU.(Agency) A 24-year-old woman allegedly ended her life by hanging at her residence near Yediyur in Banashankari police station limits on Sunday. The deceased has been identified as Kirthi, a homemaker. She had married Guruprasad (27), a gym trainer, two-and-a-half years ago.

The couple was residing in Yediyur. According to the police, the couple went for a walk on Sunday morning. After returning home, Guruprasad left to play badminton. When he returned later and knocked on the door several times, there was no response.

He then called a friend, broke open the door, and found his wife hanging from the ceiling fan in the room. He immediately alerted the police.

The police said that Kirthi's parents have lodged a dowry harassment complaint against her husband. Family members alleged that Guruprasad had earlier harassed his wife and her family over dowry, which was later settled. They further alleged that he had recently been harassing her for money for the construction of a new house, which may have led Kirthi to take the extreme step.

Domestic dispute complaints see major jump in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Complaints related to domestic violence, harassment and marital disputes reported by women to Vanitha Sahayavani, a counselling initiative of the Bengaluru City Police, rose sharply in 2025, according to official data.

The number of complaints increased from an average of 275 cases per month in 2024 to nearly 400 cases per month in 2025. Overall, the centres handled about 3,300 cases in 2024, compared to over 4,348 cases in 2025. Officials said the rise reflects changing responses to marital distress rather than a proportional increase in domestic conflict. In 2025, complaints related to marital maladjustment with spouses emerged as the largest category, with 1,266 cases, marginally higher than physical and mental domestic violence complaints, which stood at 1,248 cases. Court referrals, including divorce and maintenance proceedings, also increased, while reconciliation accounted for a smaller share of outcomes compared to the previous year. Dr Bindya Yohannan, Joint Secretary in charge of Parihar, the parent wing of Vanitha Sahayavani, cautioned against interpreting the figures as representative of society at large. "These numbers reflect reporting behaviour among women who approach police-linked counselling centres, not the overall prevalence of marital distress," she said.

She attributed the rise in complaints partly to greater financial independence and family support among women. "Reduced economic dependence on spouses appears to be lowering tolerance for prolonged marital distress," she said. A significant proportion of complainants come from lower socio-economic backgrounds, where women may face less pressure to continue marriages at any cost, she added. A private family counsellor noted that factors such as wedding expenses, family expectations and close social networks often influence women's willingness to seek police intervention.

Taken together, the data suggests a shift in how women respond to marital conflict, with counselling and legal avenues increasingly seen as viable options.

BMTC bus reverses into moving train, no casualties

There were no passengers on the bus at the time of the incident, while the conductor escaped with minor injuries.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A BMTC bus was damaged after reversing into a moving train near Sadaramangala, close to the Whitefield Panel Cabin railway station in Kadugodi, on Monday morning.

There were no passengers on the bus at the time of the incident, while the conductor escaped with minor injuries. The train was travelling from Bengaluru to Tata Nagar, Jharkhand, when the BMTC bus heading towards Kadugodi bus stop allegedly entered railway property to avoid a long route around 9.10 am.

The bus driver, while attempting to take a left turn on a parallel road running along the railway track, failed to negotiate the turn and reversed the bus, ramming into the moving train.

The rear portion of the bus was damaged. A case has been registered against the bus driver at Cantonment Railway Police Station for trespassing into railway property, causing damage to railway property, and for rash and negligent driving. Later, railway officials erected a concrete wall to prevent vehicular movement on railway property.

Cigarette lighter spat turns fatal as man dies after being dragged by SUV in Bengaluru outskirts

A drunken quarrel between friends over a cigarette lighter escalates into murder when a 33-year-old man dies after clinging to an SUV driven recklessly by the accused in Kammasandra village, police say.

BENGALURU.(Agency)

A shocking quarrel between two friends over a cigarette lighter, while under the influence of alcohol, ended in the death of a 33-year-old man. What initially appeared to be an accident was later revealed to be a case of murder. The incident took place in Kammasandra village in Hebbagodi police station limits on Sunday night.

The deceased was identified as Prashanth M, a resident of Veerasandra. The accused Roshan Hegde (36), a software engineer from Udupi and a resident of Vignan Nagar, was arrested.

Police said around 9.30pm Sunday, a group of five friends was consuming alcohol at a playground in Kammasandra. A quarrel broke out between Roshan and Prashanth over a cigarette lighter, which escalated when the latter allegedly assaulted the former with a beer bottle, causing an injury to his tongue. Following the altercation,



Roshan decided to leave the spot in his SUV but Prashanth followed him and hopped on to the footboard of the vehicle, all the while abusing him. Roshan drove recklessly for nearly

400 metres, during which he lost control of the vehicle, crashed into a compound wall and later rammed a roadside tree. Prashanth, who was hanging on to the left-side window of the SUV, sustained

severe head injuries and died on the spot, while Roshan suffered minor injuries.

Police said the incident was captured on CCTV and the car's dashcam. Footage reportedly shows Prashanth telling Roshan he would be responsible for his death and asking him to slow down. A murder case was registered at Hebbagodi police station, and the accused was arrested within an hour of the FIR being filed.

Prashanth's mother, Anu, told reporters her son was extremely passionate about cricket and had participated in a cricket tournament held in Kammasandra, which his team lost on Saturday. An argument had reportedly broken out between her son and Roshan during the tournament. After returning home that day, Prashanth had expressed disappointment over the team's loss. On Sunday evening, he went to Kammasandra ground and did not return.

South Central Railway posts record freight, passenger growth: General Manager Sanjay Kumar



HYDERABAD.(Agency)

South Central Railway (SCR) has recorded an encouraging performance in the current financial year, posting record numbers in both passenger and freight segments.

Between April and December 2025, the zone registered a gross originating revenue of Rs 15,579 crore, up 4% from the corresponding period last year, SCR General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava said on Monday.

"It is a proud moment that, for the first time in SCR's history, freight loading has crossed 100 million tonnes in just 257 days of the current fiscal. The zone is well on course to achieve its highest-ever freight loading in a financial year," he said.

Addressing staff after unfurling the national flag on the 77th Republic Day, Srivastava said 33 goods sheds were identified for infrastructure upgrades, of which works at 15 were completed during the year. To improve transparency and ease of business, the Parcel Management System was introduced at four new locations, taking the total to 42 across the zone.

In the passenger segment, SCR carried 216 million passengers between April and December 2025, generating Rs 4,611 crore in revenue, an increase of 8% over the same period last year.

On safety, SCR completed track renewal of 643 km during the period. As part of road safety works, 24 manned level crossings were eliminated, 39 road under bridges and 19 road over bridges were constructed, while bridge rehabilitation was completed at 105 locations against a target of 89.

Pune Crime Files: How thieves who broke into a govt strong room 'for cash' ended up walking out with an EVM

Pune.(Agency)

Nearly two years ago, an Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was stolen from the tehsildar's office in Pune's Purandar taluka ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. A team of Pune Rural police swung into action, arresting the thieves and recovering the stolen EVM from them. But the incident, the first of its kind in Maharashtra, turned out to be an eye-opener for the government and police machinery.

The weekend theft

As per the First Information Report (FIR) filed at Saswad police station by Santosh Sanap, Naib Tehsildar, Purandar, the EVM worth Rs 18,500 was stolen on February 5, 2024. The complaint stated that the lock of the strong room at the tehsildar's office was found to be broken that morning. When government officials

checked the strong room, one of the EVMs secured in it was missing. CCTV cameras at the tehsildar's office had allegedly captured footage of three men committing the theft on the night of February 3, Saturday. It was also learnt that a policeman and a home guard deployed on guard duty were absent from the spot when the theft took place.

Soon after the theft came to light, top police and government officials in Pune visited the crime scene and a search was launched.

Police teams led by Inspector Avinash Shilimkar of the Local Crime Branch (LCB) scanned CCTV cameras installed over a 27-km area and found that the accused had gone to the Saswad-Malshiras area on a motorcycle.

Arrests and the surprising find

Following the lead, the officers initially arrested two men – Shivaji Bandgar alias Bhaiyya and Ajinkya Salunkhe, both from Purandar – and recovered the

accused had no intention to steal the voting machine.

Vinod Mahangade, who was then the Assistant Police Inspector at Saswad station, said the probe

revealed that the accused wanted to steal money from the treasury room of the tehsildar's office. "Instead, they broke into the strong room and made away with an EVM. Stealing an EVM from a government office was certainly a serious offence. The police arrested them quickly and solved the case," he added.

A police officer said the accused claimed to have stolen the briefcase-like box containing the voting machine thinking that it contained money. The police also suspected that the accused were drunk at the time of committing the crime.



stolen EVM from them. Later, one more accused was arrested in this case, the police said, adding that the EVM was not damaged. Investigators believe that the

Rescuers battle darkness to save nine workers stranded in Hyderabad lake

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

The Disaster Response Force (DRF) of the Hyderabad Disaster Management and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) played the role of a true Apathbandhu (lifesaver) by rescuing nine workers stranded in Mir Alam Lake near the Zoo Park.

The workers, including two engineers and seven labourers, were stranded after their boat engine failed while returning from work. Navigating pitch darkness amid dense water hyacinth and fears of crocodiles, the DRF team carried out the rescue around midnight and safely brought all nine to the shore.

The workers had entered the lake on Sunday to conduct soil testing for a proposed cable-stayed bridge across the tank. While returning after sunset, the engine malfunctioned, leaving them stranded in the middle of the lake. Panic set in as a mechanic informed them that repairs were possible only if the boat was brought to shore. Attempts to manually move the boat failed due to thick water hyacinths

obstructing movement.

Adding to the danger was the presence of crocodiles, placing the workers in life-threatening situations. They immediately dialled 100 for help, and the call was routed to the HYDRAA DRF control room, which responded promptly.

HYDRAA SFO Jameel and Rescue Team In-Charge Swamy spoke to the stranded workers, reassuring them that a rescue boat would reach them and that they would be safely evacuated, regardless of the time required. Despite the challenges posed by darkness and thick vegetation, DRF personnel used mobile phones and torches to locate the workers and navigate through the lake.

In the first trip, four workers were rescued. The team then returned to bring back the remaining five, assuring them not to panic. With the completion of the second trip, all nine were rescued safely.

The workers expressed heartfelt gratitude to HYDRAA, stating that they were terrified due to darkness and fear of crocodiles, and appreciated the courage, constant communication and professionalism displayed by the DRF personnel during the rescue.

**Civic infrastructure top priority, says GHMC chief**

HYDERABAD.(Agency)

GHMC Commissioner RV Karna said Hyderabad is not just a city but a reflection of the aspirations of millions, and called upon all stakeholders to work together to provide better services to 1.34 crore citizens, while fulfilling both rights and responsibilities enshrined in the Constitution.

Addressing the gathering after unfurling the national flag on the occasion of the 77th Republic Day celebrations, in the presence of Hyderabad Mayor Gadwal Vijayalaxmi and others, he said the state government is accorded top priority to sanitation to keep the city neat and clean. The GHMC chief added that a clean Hyderabad can be achieved only with active citizen participation, and said cleanliness is the foundation of urban health.

In 2025, GHMC secured sixth rank at the national level in Swachh Survekshan, achieved seven-star Garbage Free City status, and received Water+ and ODF recertification. He said the commissioning of Waste-to-Energy, RDF, Bio-CNG and C&D waste

processing plants has strengthened solid waste management.

The Commissioner said major infrastructure projects under H-CITI, including RoBs, RuBs and flyovers, are being taken up to reduce traffic congestion and improve urban mobility. Under Vanamahotsavam, 25 lakh saplings were planted across Greater Hyderabad and 40 new landscaped parks were developed. Green buffer zones were created to improve air quality. He said a comprehensive stormwater Master Plan for the core urban region is being prepared.

Digital governance initiatives such as GIS-based property surveys, online tax payments, AI-based attendance, GPS vehicle tracking and stormwater mapping are improving transparency and service delivery.

He appealed to citizens to pay taxes on time to accelerate Hyderabad's development and to cooperate with GHMC for a clean, healthy and fast-growing city.

GHMC has handed over cheques amounting to 855 crore to 7,127 Self Help Groups during the current financial year.

Surprise rain and 4-degree mercury spike catch Mumbai off guard; AQI in 'moderate' category

IMD scientists attributed the unseasonal showers in Mumbai to a western disturbance system.

Mumbai.(Agency)

Mumbai woke up to unseasonal showers Tuesday morning as a drizzle swept across several parts of the city following nowcast warnings issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The unexpected rain was accompanied by a sharp rise in minimum temperatures, which rose by nearly 4 degrees in a single day.

Early Tuesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued two nowcast warnings for Mumbai and the Thane district, indicating a likelihood of light rain. The yellow nowcast was first issued at 5.30 am, followed by another nowcast at 7 am.

IMD issued two yellow nowcast warnings for Mumbai and the Thane district early Tuesday, first at 5.30 am and again at 7 am, forecasting light rain. Parts of Thane and Navi Mumbai received light showers in the

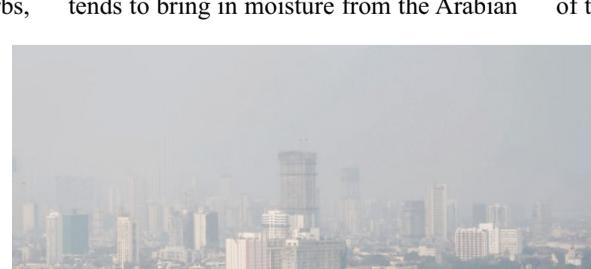
early hours, followed by drizzles across Mumbai. Areas of South Mumbai and pockets of the western and eastern suburbs, including Borivali, Andheri, Kurla and Ghatkopar, also reported light rain.

IMD data showed that the Colaba coastal observatory recorded 0.1 mm of rainfall, while the Santacruz observatory logged no measurable rain following the morning spells.

Minimum temperatures, however, rose notably. Santacruz recorded a minimum of 22.6 degrees Celsius Tuesday morning, which is five degrees above normal. Mumbai's minimum temperature hovered around 18 degrees Celsius Monday morning. IMD scientists attributed the unseasonal showers to a western disturbance system. "The showers were a result of a western disturbance which was

dipping low. When a western disturbance is passing, and it is in the lower latitude, then it tends to bring in moisture from the Arabian

Mumbai ushered in the New Year with a surprise bout of unseasonal rain lashing parts of the city, and its neighbouring districts on January 1. So far, the city's Colaba station has recorded 9.3 mm of rainfall, and the Santacruz station has logged 6.7 mm. This marks an excess of 6-8 mm of rainfall above normal for the region. Despite showers, air quality in Mumbai hovered in the "moderate" category, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 115 Tuesday morning. Of Mumbai's 23 active stations, seven pockets recorded "satisfactory" AQI readings below "moderate" levels. The worst air quality was recorded at Chakala in Andheri with an AQI of 166, while the best was in Mulund at 70.



Sea. If the western disturbance system had been even lower, then the intensity of the rains would have been even higher. But we had been expecting these very light spells of rain," a senior IMD Mumbai scientist told.

Thaw in Arctic, meltdown in Alps

Who could have expected that news of the end of the world would be broadcast not from the UN General Assembly or a parliament, but from a talk-shop run by an NGO set up by an engineer? That's what Davos is, actually. And who could have expected that 1970s' vintage Václav Havel would be invoked to make sense of the news? Or that the news peg would be Arctic Greenland, whose vicinity has been in the news only because global warming is shrinking the permanent ice pack, with consequences for global weather? Only the Russians are pleased because their northern ports may become all-weather, and anyway, they're tired of being cold and dreaming of holidays in Goa and Pattaya. The Arctic is also important for aviation, and found its place in culture in Arlo Guthrie's 1969 hit 'Coming into Los Angeles', which described his flight amid a plane load of chickens: "Coming in from London from over the pole/ Flying in a big airliner." During the Cold War, ballistic missile flight paths between the US and the USSR also passed over those regions, hence the strategic importance of US assets in Greenland. But the Cold War is long over and though Moscow still owns more nukes, Russia is not the same as the USSR. In contrast, Xi's China is greater than Mao and Deng's China. The geopolitical landscape has changed. Canadian PM Mark Carney and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen turned a page in world affairs when they said at Davos that the crisis over Greenland and Nato is not a temporary aberration, and that the rules-based system and the idea of global governance are already history. Carney quoted Havel's 1978-79 samizdat essay, 'The Power of the Powerful', which had travelled underground to Poland, where it provided the moral basis of the Solidarity movement. Carney quoted Havel's parable of a grocer who puts up a sign on his shop window every day that says: "Workers of the world unite." Neither the grocer nor the observers believe in the Marxist slogan, but he puts it up in a ritual of compliance. The ritual is observed by all, and their mass compliance props up the totalitarian state. Havel had alluded to the work of another now-forgotten dissident, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, who urged his readers not to live a lie. In Havel's parable, when one of the millions of people propping up the lie by observing empty rituals just stops, the edifice of absolute power begins to crumble. Carney applied the logic to the post-war world, which had willingly worked towards common security. But in the face of annexation, it is time for the grocer to take down the sign. Indeed, the idea of a grand Western alliance of equals was a lie, because after the colonial period, European powers declined while the US grew. The latter became the steward of a reasonably stable global system that protected the interests of lesser Western powers. It was flawed, but far more humane than the multi-polar network of spheres of influence it supplanted, in which it was easy to get away with murder in your own territory. Nations hesitated to intervene in the spheres of influence of others—which included their imperial possessions.

The Bengal famine of 1943 killed millions because Winston Churchill rejected international aid. The Allies were capable of shipping grain to Calcutta despite wartime rationing among their own people, but they hesitated to intrude without permission upon a British colony. A decade earlier, Stalin's forced collectivisation policy had precipitated the Holodomor in Ukraine. In the press, the world saw pictures of starved people in the streets of Kharkiv, which was then the capital—a decade later, they would see similar scenes in the streets of Calcutta. But Ukraine was part of the Russian empire, and nations and agencies that would have liked to help hesitated to cross a line. Similarly, the Western powers knew of atrocities committed by the Japanese for over three decades in Korea and Manchuria.

AS India prepares to celebrate Republic Day on January 26 and hosts the European Union on January 27 for its annual summit in New Delhi, attention turns once again to the long-anticipated EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Originally set to be concluded by the end of 2025, negotiations on the FTA have stretched beyond initial expectations. However, notable diplomatic momentum in the opening weeks of 2026, marked by a series of high-level engagements and intensified negotiations, signals continued determination on both sides to expedite the agreement's conclusion by the end of January. On January 9, India's Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal concluded a two-day visit to Brussels, following preparatory engagements earlier in the month. After talks with European Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security Maroš Šefcovic, Goyal indicated that remaining differences were narrowing and that negotiations had entered their final phase. His visit followed External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's trip to France and Luxembourg earlier in the month, as well as India's participation, for the first time, in discussions with the Weimar Triangle, signalling New Delhi's growing engagement with key European groupings. European leaders have reinforced this momentum. During German Chancellor Friedrich Merz's visit to India on January 12, he suggested that Brussels and New Delhi could finalise the FTA by the end of the month, highlighting the strategic impetus driving negotiations. This has been complemented by parallel diplomatic engagements, including a visit by French Presidential Diplomatic Adviser Emmanuel Bonne ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's planned visit in February, as well as a visit by Polish Foreign Minister Radosław Sikorski on January 17-19.

EU-India FTA negotiations have spanned nearly two decades. First launched in 2007, suspended for several years and formally revived in 2022, their longevity reflects both the scale of ambition on both sides and the political sensitivities involved. Against a backdrop of growing fragmentation in the global trade environment,

marked by transatlantic uncertainty, structural dependencies and supply-chain vulnerabilities, Brussels' search for reliable, long-term partners has sharpened. An EU-India FTA offers a strategic pathway to diversify Europe's economic relationships, deepen engagement with a market of over 1.4 billion people and anchor cooperation within a rules-based framework aligned with shared principles.

Outstanding issues

Despite evident political momentum, several unresolved

political sensitivity and the scale of employment it supports in India, New Delhi has shown little willingness to open this market freely, limiting the scope for comprehensive liberalisation.

The EU's Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) also remains a significant point of friction. While Brussels frames the mechanism as a tool to align imports with its climate objectives, New Delhi has expressed concern over its potential obstructive impact on Indian exporters, particularly in energy-intensive sectors. Furthermore, negotiations on services trade, intellectual property and regulatory alignment remain ongoing, with differences persisting over the scope and enforcement of intellectual property provisions.

Ultimately, the agreement will require the EU to balance its economic priorities with commitments to sustainability and regulatory standards. Both sides have nevertheless stressed the importance of delivering a fair and balanced outcome. These considerations continue to shape the final compromises currently under negotiation.

What EU will gain

For the EU, the prospective benefits of an FTA with India are both economic and strategic. On the economic front, the agreement would deepen trade and investment ties, expanding opportunities for European firms in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

Beyond tariff reductions, the FTA would facilitate stronger investment flows and supply-chain integration, offering European industry a credible alternative

market and production base as it seeks to reduce exposure to concentrated supply chains and geopolitical risk.

Strategically, the agreement would strengthen the EU's footprint in the Indo-Pacific and anchor relations with a partner that broadly shares Europe's commitment to democracy and a rules-based international order.

Finalising the FTA with India offers Brussels a means of embedding long-term stability and openness into its external economic strategy, particularly as it seeks to diversify key economic partnerships. Set to be one of the EU's largest trade agreements to date, the conclusion of the deal would signal a durable recalibration of Europe's global economic posture.



Cancer treatment costs expose limits of health safety net

The Tribune Editorial: The Lancet study's emphasis on social inequities should serve as a warning, and low awareness.



WHEN cancer strikes in India, it is not just the body that breaks down, the household economy collapses too. The stark contrast highlighted by a Lancet-flagged study, reported recently by The Tribune, lays bare this cruel arithmetic: an average monthly income of about Rs 11,000 versus cancer treatment costs that can touch Rs 93,000 for a single hospital visit. This is the lived reality for millions of poor and lower middle class families forced to choose between continuing treatment and financial survival. Despite the expansion of health insurance schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, out-of-pocket expenditure remains the dominant payment mode. Insurance ceilings, exclusions for advanced therapies, diagnostic costs and non-medical expenses—travel, lodging and loss of wages—together push families into debt, distress sales and, often, treatment abandonment.

The deeper problem is structural. Late diagnosis is common due to weak screening programmes and low awareness. By the time patients reach tertiary hospitals, the disease is

advanced, treatment is prolonged and costs escalate sharply. Geography compounds the burden: advanced oncology facilities are concentrated in cities, forcing

patients to migrate temporarily for care. The crisis is particularly stark in Punjab's Malwa region, where cancer prevalence has risen alarmingly. Years of intensive farming, excessive pesticide use, industrial pollution and groundwater contamination have degraded the land, turning the state's breadbasket into a health hotspot and increasing exposure to carcinogens among rural communities. The Lancet study's emphasis on social inequities should serve as a warning. Those with the fewest resources bear the heaviest burden, financially and medically. To achieve the government's stated goal of universal health coverage, cancer care must move beyond insurance promises. Stronger public oncology infrastructure, realistic package rates, price

regulation of essential drugs and investment in prevention and early detection are imperative. Without this, cancer will remain a pathway to impoverishment.

Let cricket break the ice

THE GREAT GAME: The time for India and Bangladesh to reach across the divide is now

A full-blown crisis currently commanding the India and Bangladesh relationship, interestingly, also has all the elements fit for resolution—and the opportunity for New Delhi to turn the tables on all the gloom-and-doom naysayers announcing the end of the very special relationship that has survived at least since 1971. On top of the charts is a resolution of the cricket crisis, triggered by fringe Hindu outfits a fortnight ago demanding the banning of Bangladeshi cricketer Mustafizur Rahman from the Indian Premier League, which starts in March. The BCCI fell in line and young Mustafizur was sent home packing. The irate Bangladeshis have since been unstoppable, pulling out of the India matches of the T20 World Cup—including playing at the holy grail, Eden Gardens in Kolkata—and demanding that their share of cricket be moved, just like Pakistan, to neutral Sri Lanka. Here, then, is an idea. Perhaps the Bangladesh matches can be moved to South India where the audience is less Bengali and not as intimately aware of the precious turbulences Amitav Ghosh has chronicled (The Shadow Lines, The Hungry Tide, Gun Island) so intimately over the decades. Now's the time for a top BJP leader to reach out to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)—and vice-versa—and its boss, Tarique Rahman, these days storming the country with rallies and meetings in preparation for the February 12 elections. After all, if the RSS can talk to the Communist Party of China, everything else is possible too.

The idea is for both sides to save face, let cooler minds talk and not hotheads run away with the programme. Far worse has transpired in our bilateral history. In fact, the euphoria of 1971 didn't last that long; less than four years later, on August 15, 1975, Bangladeshis were killing Bangladeshis again. Fast forward to the present. Today's story is no longer about Mustafizur Rahman or

even Sheikh Hasina, who in her interview to The Print described the banning of the Awami League in the coming Bangladeshi polls as "authoritarianism dressed up as transition." Or the fact that she has delivered a voice message at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Delhi which basically delivered the same message. (It is said the compromise involved her not being present at the Club or delivering a video message.)

Fact is that the relationship between India and Bangladesh—both stirred and badly shaken since Hasina was overthrown in August 2024, and the much more recent, disturbing vengeance killings of innocent Hindus inside Bangladesh—is far too precious to not start damage control immediately. A beginning has been made. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar travelled to Dhaka to pay India's last respects at Khaleda Zia's funeral. Last November, Bangladesh's National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman came to Delhi to meet India's NSA Ajit Doval. There are enormous stakes on both sides. Delhi needs Dhaka on board to secure its fragile North-East, a cocktail of tribes and religions and clans and political parties, as well as its rapidly changing East—and not just because elections are taking place in West Bengal and Assam, both states that border Bangladesh, in the next few months. Hasina's arrogance and misrule is cited by many as to why she was overthrown. It is equally true that Delhi overlooked much, including the fact that she and the BNP were always at loggerheads—the BNP twice didn't contest the national elections, thereby exacerbating political strife at home. But the reason why Hasina continued to be an India favourite, across the Congress-BJP spectrum, is because she was

truly secular, understood the importance of keeping the Hindu minority safe, was in favour of open conversations as well as trade across the border. Most importantly, she held off the bad guys led by Pakistan's ISI—they could have wreaked such damage in the Bay of Bengal region, making Dhurandhar in comparison look like a kitty party serving Darjeeling tea and watercress sandwiches. Who can forget the enormous

and however many tribunals demand she be returned because she is "guilty of crimes against humanity." Above all, the elites in both countries must realise that today's India and Bangladesh is far younger, much more aspirational, ambitious—63 per cent Bangladeshi and 52 per cent Indians are below 30. They don't carry the baggage of the past. They were not even born when the liberation of Bangladesh took place. They would rather move on and schmooze—not brainstorm—about life. Even their vocabulary is different.

The way forward, then, is to sequester Hasina, and not allow her presence in India to contaminate the bilateral relationship. Naya Dhaka must understand that India's enormous size and presence gives it an extraordinary leverage that middle powers can only dream of. If all goes according to plan, Khaleda's son, Tarique, will be the new prime minister of Bangladesh in less than a month. By all accounts, he had a good meeting with Jaishankar. The time for both sides to reach across the divide is now. He truth is that Dhaka needs Delhi even more today. Xi Jinping's China may cut an even larger cheque for Tarique, like Xi did with Hasina in 2016, and Pakistan may begin to fish in the Bay. But everyone knows that Pakistan is more than 2,000 km away and its economy is in such a shambles that it has virtually handed over itself to China. The natural neighbour is India. The natural market is India. The natural partner is India. That's why cricket can become an ice-breaker and take the sting out of the tensions between the two sides. Let Litton Das meet Suryakumar Yadav. Let people play.



arms haul that was accidentally discovered when Tarique's mother, the late Khaleda Zia, was prime minister and that was intended to stir up trouble in the Seven Sisters? Still, the past is past. Today, Hasina is in Delhi and Delhi will never give her up—that much Dhaka must understand and even appreciate. That India doesn't give up on its friends, no matter what the stakes



The Bride Looks lovely Face ..

Marriage is the most beautiful moment of life. How to stress about it .. now its supervision of the entire personality to lift such a way that the bloom ..

- Weddings are not worried. Start relaxing stay.
- Full sleep for good health. Good sleep not only for health, but is also beneficial to the skin.
- Pay a little attention to your diet. With breakfast - Be sure you have a glass of milk or juice Kesryukt. Take nutritious foods at breakfast. Avoid Flour and Jnkfud. At lunch, green vegetables, salad and lentils make sure. Eat a light meal at night.
- Drink plenty of water. At least eight of the day - must drink ten glasses of water. This skin is improving.
- If you go to a fitness center at home is not possible light-hearted exercise. Whether or jump rope again and again climb stairs - land. If you like the song playing in the room a bit - so you can dance.



- Hair Week two - three days to massage course. Or a mild herbal shampoo massage afterwards to wash the hair.
- To clean teeth, good morning or evening. If you have any problems of any kind to teeth Dntrog consult specialist. So you have heard it all to enthrall teeth shining pearl. With teeth - with the daily cleaning of the tongue too well.
- Face with hands - legs and neck, stomach and back care is essential. Clean the entire body by any domestic rouge. The glow on the face is required, as on other parts of the body.
- After cleansing facial massage cream to a good quality. If you wish to consult a qualified beautician can. Note Do not use on the face unnecessary. Lest face comes off in pursuit of fairness.
- Night at the hands of a good cream to massage course. Keep a regular cleaning of the nails.
- If the foot should say what is beautiful ... Morning or evening, half a lemon in warm water and add a little rose-water feet from the water, gently rub with cotton. May want to apply a herbal cream afterwards.
- If you want a week - manicure and pedicure can twice.
- Elbows, knees and ankles to take care of. Rub lemon on to the rose-water mixed into the soil cleanup may or Multani.
- Improving the skin once a week to get it mashed papaya or banana sandalwood powder and rose water mixed well to massage.
- Instead of plain water bath of rose leaves put in place for a while. Then the water bath. You can also use fiddle or jasmine flowers.

Face
masks you can
Make at
home

Tips to soothe
your tired

Feet



By the end of the day, our feet often scream for some attention after all they are put through — long working hours, constantly being on the move, bad weather, ill-fitting footwear, wearing high heels, etc. Often the resulting foot pains and aches occur due to the imbalance of pressure on the feet. Also, many are unaware that tired legs affect your quality of sleep. Therefore, after a long, tiring day, it is a good idea to pamper your feet.

- Avoid wearing uncomfortable and tight pair of footwear, and get a pair that is more comfortable. Ill-

fitting footwear and wearing high heels for extended periods of time are some of the main reasons for pain in the feet.

- Get a pedicure at the salon at least once a month, especially if you suffer from cracked heels, cuts, etc. These are signs that say you need to care more for your feet.
- Get a reflexology foot massage done by professionals. Doing so will relax your feet and loosen the tension in them.
- After a long exhausting day, soak your feet in a tub of

warm water with some epsom salts for relief.

- Soothe your weary legs by massaging them with some anti-inflammatory cream.
- A fun way to ease the pain from aching feet is to roll a tennis ball or a rolling pin, or even a plastic cold drink bottle under your feet in a back and forth motion. Doing this will provide a good massage of sorts for the soles of your feet and tends to increase flexibility in joints and muscles. In fact it's a tip yoga instructors have shared with the who's who of Hollywood.

Vinegar

It's not just a cooking ingredient, vinegar's use as a skin toner probably dates back to the time of Helen of Troy! For a glowing and gorgeous complexion, follow this small tip before you go off to bed: wash your face with one tablespoon of apple cider vinegar combined with two cups of water. It will cleanse and tighten your skin.

Lemon

Lemon is a natural exfoliator and cleanser. For fresh-looking skin, try this: Mix some lemon juice with olive oil or sweet almond oil and apply it on your face every alternate day.

Egg

Eggs make for great face packs. So, if you have dry skin, use an egg paste to moisturise. Separate the egg from the yolk and add a little lemon juice or honey to it. If you have oily skin, use only egg whites. If you are blessed with normal skin, use the entire egg. Keep the paste for 30 minutes and rinse it off.

Note: Do not use a face wash after rinsing it off.

Milk

Want to look fresh without spending too much effort and money? Try this: Make a paste of milk and honey and apply it on your face. Make sure that

the paste is thick. Let it dry completely and then rinse with warm water. It will make your face fresh and rejuvenated.

Yoghurt

One of the best ways to brighten your skin — and also remove tan — is by using a face pack that contains yoghurt. If you are looking for a quick fix to tighten the pores, apply plain yoghurt on your face. Keep it on for 20 minutes and wash it off. For a revitalizing mask, mix yoghurt with some orange juice and aloe vera. Leave the mixture on your face for five minutes before washing it off.

Bananas

Who needs Botox when bananas can do the trick? Bananas moisturise your skin and leave it feeling and looking softer. Mash up a medium-sized ripe banana and smoothen it into a paste. Apply this gently on your face and neck. Keep it on for 10-20 minutes before you wash it off with cold water. If you want, add some honey and rose water to the mixture.

Mayonnaise

Why waste money on expensive serums when you can get the same results using mayonnaise? Gently apply a teaspoon of eggless mayonnaise on your face and keep it on for 20 minutes. Let it dry; then wipe it off and rinse with cool water. This will keep your skin clean and smooth.



We suggest some simple and natural
remedies for your face

Congress's dare to Zoho's Sridhar Vembu amid sparring over cow urine research

The Congress mocked IIT

Madras director V

Kamakoti after he

received Padma Shri for

his past views on alleged

medicinal values of cow

urine. Zoho co-founder

Sridhar Vembu defended

the educator, slamming

the political party for its

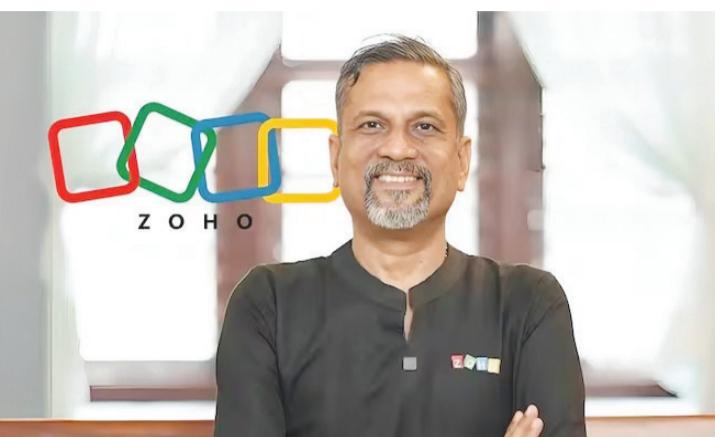
"slavish colonial

mindset".

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Kerala unit of Congress and Zoho co-founder Sridhar Vembu upped their clash on X on Tuesday after the former challenged him to invest in cow dung and urine research. The ongoing verbal spat began after the tech titan defended Padma Shri awardee IIT Madras director V Kamakoti for his views on the alleged medicinal properties of cow urine. Congress took a sharp swipe at Kamakoti, who in turn received support from the Zoho co-founder. "Since you are a billionaire who believes in the magical benefits of cow urine, why doesn't your company invest in proper cow urine and cow dung research? If cow urine can help in healing cancer, that would be one of our greatest contributions to the

world. Why don't you take up this challenge and put the money where your mouth is?" Congress tweeted.



"was the outcome?" the party asked.

Congress also questioned the point of cow urine and dung research, mocking that the excreta of goats, buffaloes and even humans should then be considered as well. "There is no doubt that we need cancer research. But why do you insist that it is only cow dung or cow urine that can cure cancer?" the Kerala unit of the party tweeted. On Monday, Congress shared a video of the IIT Madras director reacting to being conferred Padma Shri. Highlighting the educator's past views on cow urine benefits, the party said his "bleeding edge

research" to take "gomutra to the world stage" has been recognised.

"Congratulations to V Kamakoti on receiving the honour. The nation recognises your

bleeding edge research on Cow Urine at IIT Madras, taking Gomutra to the world stage," the post quickly stirred a row and invited a sharp response from Vembu. The billionaire slammed Congress for its "slavish colonial mindset" that thinks cow urine and dung research are "not scientific propositions worthy of investigation".

"I have defended him on scientific grounds and I will do so again: cow dung and cow urine have excellent microbiome that could be valuable for humans... Some day, when Harvard or MIT publish a study on this, these enslaved minds would worship that as the gospel truth," the Zoho co-founder tweeted.

At a public event last year, Kamakoti drew severe criticism from opposition parties and rationalist groups after his remarks on the alleged medicinal values of cow urine while talking about indigenous knowledge systems and organic farming.

IIT-Delhi constitutes committee after row over caste, racism conference

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Indian Institute of Technology Delhi has come under criticism over a recently organised conference that examined issues of caste, racism and their intersections in Indian society, prompting the institute to constitute a fact-finding committee to look into the matter.

The controversy centres on a conference titled "Celebrating 25 Years of Durban: Indian Contributions to Combatting Caste and Racism", organised by the Critical Philosophy of Caste and Race (CPCR) research study group under IIT Delhi's Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. The event was held from January 16 to 18, 2026, at the institute's Senate Hall.

Former interim Director of the Central Bureau of Investigation Mannem Nageswara Rao took to social media platform X to question the conference

As UGC Row Deepens, Government To Present Facts To Avoid Confusion: Sources

New Delhi.(Agency)

The government will present facts to counter 'misinformation' being spread by the opposition over the University Grants Commission's new rules – the Equity in Higher Education Institutions Regulation, meant to prevent caste-based discrimination on campus – top sources told Tuesday. Sources also said misuse of the rules 'will not be allowed, under any circumstances'. The government is likely to clarify its position on the UGC's new rules, which came into effect on January 13 and which, reports indicate, have upset the so-called upper caste. Sources also told the opposition is trying to 'escalate the issue', which now includes the resignation of the City Magistrate from Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly and that of a leader from the

ruling BJP's youth wing, the Yuva Morcha, before Parliament's Budget session begins next week.

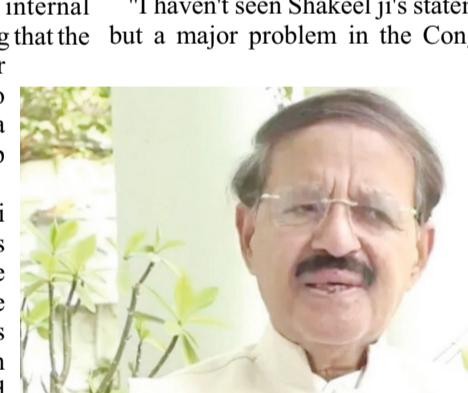


the rules ratcheted up after Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, came under fire for publicly avoiding questions on the subject. Media reports said Rai, who was at an event in Bihar, simply began chanting 'Har Har Mahadev' when reporters asked questions.

The Union Education Minister has also avoided giving a direct response; he would only say the government is open to discussions on the topic and that the rules are meant to promote equity.

What are the new UGC rules?

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, prescribe a structured framework for grievance redressal, inclusion, and support for disadvantaged groups across universities and colleges.



Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over the party's consistent electoral failures.

"I haven't seen Shakeel ji's statement, but a major problem in the Congress

where can they go? Not everyone is a member of the CWC. There is definitely a communication gap. This is a major problem within the Congress party, and

many people complain that it's not easy to meet with the Congress high command. The communication gap must definitely be eliminated," he said, adding that former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi took out time to meet with everyone.

Alvi expressed concern over several leaders leaving Congress, noting that none of the Muslim leaders joined the BJP. He said their exit was not driven by the lure of power, unlike several non-Muslim leaders who left Congress to join the BJP.



and the existence of the CPCR group, alleging that its activities were "anti-national" and aimed at undermining national unity.

In a post addressed to IIT Delhi Director Prof. Rangan Banerjee, Rao claimed the CPCR group was part of what he described as an "anti-Hindu deep state initiative". He alleged that similar conferences had been organised since at least 2024 and accused the institute's leadership of tacitly approving such events by allowing them on campus. The backlash primarily stems from objections to the speaker lineup, with critics arguing that some discussions portray India negatively on international platforms and equate caste with race.

Open house for JEE aspirants in Kota

IIT Delhi will organise an open house programme for JEE 2026 aspirants on January 31 in Kota, Rajasthan. To be held at Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, the event will offer insights into academic life at IITs, with faculty and students interacting with aspirants.

"Major Problem": Raashid Alvi Says It's "Difficult" To Meet Congress Leaders

New Delhi.(Agency)

Congress leader Raashid Alvi has raised concerns over the internal functioning of Congress, stating that the lack of an effective platform for dialogue and limited access to top leadership have created a serious communication gap within the organisation.

Speaking to ANI here, Alvi said one of the Congress party's biggest problems is the absence of an effective forum where leaders can openly discuss issues. He said it is often difficult for party workers and leaders to meet the high command, resulting in a growing communication gap.

He was asked about former Congress

party is that there's no forum where the issues can be discussed. It's generally difficult to meet with the leaders. If

people want to express their concerns,

Congress MP Rahul Gandhi over the party's consistent electoral failures.

"I haven't seen Shakeel ji's statement, but a major problem in the Congress

where can they go? Not everyone is a member of the CWC. There is definitely a communication gap. This is a major problem within the Congress party, and

many people complain that it's not easy to meet with the Congress high command. The communication gap must definitely be eliminated," he said, adding that former Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi took out time to meet with everyone.

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Adani Group, Embraer To Develop Regional Transport Aircraft In India

New Delhi.(Agency)

With an aim to collaborate on opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, supply chain, aftermarket services and pilot training, global aerospace leader Embraer and Adani Defence & Aerospace on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to develop an integrated regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India.

With this collaboration, the companies aim to establish an assembly line, followed by a phased increase in indigenisation to advance India's Regional Transport Aircraft (RTA) programme, in alignment with the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and the UDAN regional connectivity vision.

"India is a pivotal market for Embraer, and this partnership combines our aerospace expertise with Adani's strong industrial capabilities and commitment to indigenisation," said Arjan Meijer, President and CEO, Embraer Commercial Aviation. Together, "we will evaluate the

most viable, advanced and efficient solutions in support of India's RTA ambitions, and their potential for implementation", Meijer added.

The potential partnership will leverage Embraer's deep engineering and aircraft manufacturing expertise alongside Adani's aviation value-chain footprint that includes airport infrastructure, aerospace manufacturing, MRO services and pilot training.

"Regional aviation is the backbone of economic expansion. With initiatives like UDAN transforming air connectivity across Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, the need for an indigenous regional aviation ecosystem has become critical," said Jeet Adani, Director, Adani Defence & Aerospace.

"This partnership will also strengthen strategic relations between India and Brazil, bringing complementary capabilities together," he mentioned.

Embraer has a growing footprint and long history in India, with nearly 50 Embraer aircraft and 11 aircraft types currently operating across commercial, defence and

transport aircraft ecosystem, a bold stride toward Aatmanirbhar aviation that bridges urban-rural divides, generates high-skill employment, and elevates India's position in the global aerospace industry," said Ashish Rajvanshi, President and CEO, Adani Defence & Aerospace.

Adani Defence & Aerospace is India's largest integrated private defence and aerospace player, building critical capabilities across domains and advancing indigenous aerospace and UAV manufacturing aligned with national security priorities and global requirements. With the country's largest MRO ecosystem and a rapidly scaling pilot training platform, Adani Defence is strengthening India's aviation value chain end to end. Its diversified portfolio spans aircraft, unmanned systems, avionics, weapons, and sustainment, manufacturing, logistics, and support services. "We are shaping India's regional development and the pursuit.



business aviation.

The proposed ecosystem is geared towards supporting domestic demand while generating significant direct and indirect employment across engineering, manufacturing, logistics, and support services. "We are shaping India's regional

After their operations, the robbers fled towards Maharashtra. Upon receiving the information, the local police soon rushed to the spot. They checked the CCTV footage and initiated a probe. Presently, the police are on a manhunt to trace and arrest the accused in the case.

Delhi HC asks police not to disclose survivor details

New Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi HC has directed police not to disclose the name, parentage or address of a survivor of sexual assault in any document or report filed in courts. Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma passed the direction while denying bail to a man accused of sexually assaulting a 12-year-old girl, after noting "with concern" that the name of the survivor was mentioned in the status report filed by the investigating officer in the case.

In an order passed on January 14, the judge also asked the Commissioner of Delhi Police to issue appropriate instructions to all SHOs and investigating officers to strictly comply with the law against the disclosure of the identity of survivors of sexual offences.

"The DCP of the concerned area, having jurisdiction over Moti Nagar police station, is directed to sensitise all SHOs under his jurisdiction to strictly ensure that the name, parentage or address of a survivor of sexual assault is not disclosed in any status report or document filed before the courts.

The Commissioner of Police, Delhi, is also requested to reiterate appropriate instructions to all SHOs and investigating officers in this regard, in strict compliance with law. Let a copy of this judgment be forwarded to the DCP concerned as well as the Commissioner of Police, Delhi, for information and compliance," the judge said.

According to the prosecution, the accused sexually assaulted the minor girl by taking her away from her home on a false pretext in 2021. The accused confined her in a room and raped her, police said, adding that she was subsequently traced and rescued by her family members. The court noted that the survivor "consistently supported" the prosecution case and clearly described the manner in which the incident took place in her statement to the police. "The court is, therefore, duty-bound to accord due weight to her version," the judge said.

Court acquits man in Dwarka firing case

A Delhi court has acquitted a man accused of attempting to shoot a police official during a late-night checking drive in Dwarka in 2018, citing serious gaps in the prosecution's evidence. Additional Sessions Judge said the prosecution failed to prove the case beyond reasonable doubt. The court flagged absence of duty records, independent witnesses and ordered the acquittal of Pradeep Kumar.

NEWS BOX

India should continue to back Sanju Samson: Rahane's advice for struggling opener

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

India batter Ajinkya Rahane has urged the Indian team management to continue backing Sanju Samson despite the opener's struggles in the ongoing India vs New Zealand T20I series, with the 2026 T20 World Cup approaching. Rahane believes this is a phase where trust and clarity from the leadership group can help Samson rediscover his best form. Samson's lean run continued with a golden duck in the Guwahati T20I, leaving him with just 16 runs from three matches so far in 2026, a worrying return ahead of the World Cup build-up. Speaking on Cricbuzz, Rahane said the management and captain Suryakumar Yadav are likely to persist with Samson, stressing that backing quality players during difficult phases is vital. "I am sure that the management and the captain are going to back Sanju Samson. He's a quality player. He just needs to believe in himself. He has the game, he has the ability." As a batter, what I've found in this



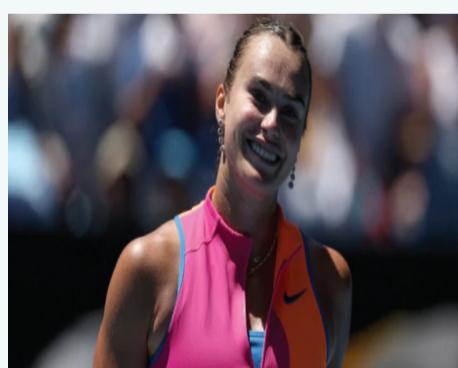
format is that sometimes you're going to look ugly when you get out—and that's okay. It's always about belief. It's about going out there, playing with freedom, and backing yourself. Rahane also reiterated that Samson does not need to emulate the approach of the in-form Abhishek Sharma, who has been setting the series alight at the top of the order. Abhishek smashed another blistering half-century, reaching the milestone in just 14 balls, as India sealed an eight-wicket win and wrapped up the series. We spoke about Abhishek Sharma at the other end, but let's not compare them. I think Sanju has a different ability. He should just go out there and think about his older innings—the good ones he's played for Rajasthan Royals—and express himself. "That will really help him get back in form. Even a 15-ball 25, a 20-ball 30 or 35 is okay, but spending that little bit more time at the crease is important. Take the first over out, take the second over out, and then take the game on from there."

Australian Open: Dominant Aryna Sabalenka marmalises teenager Jovic to reach semis

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Aryna Sabalenka handed 18-year-old American Iva Jovic a crushing 6-3, 6-0 defeat in the quarter-finals at a sweltering Melbourne Park on Tuesday, staying firmly on track for a third Australian Open title in four years. The world number one, champion in 2023 and 2024 and runner-up last year, will face either Coco Gauff or Elina Svitolina for a place in Saturday's final. These teenagers have been testing me in the last couple of rounds," Sabalenka said after the match, having also defeated Canadian 19-year-old Victoria Mboko in the previous round. Don't look at the score—it wasn't easy at all.

She played incredible tennis and pushed me to raise my level. It was a tough battle." Sabalenka set the tone early, surging to a 3-0 lead in the opening set. Jovic was forced to dig deep to hold serve in the fourth game, with the Belarusian applying relentless pressure before the teenager



managed to gain a brief foothold in the contest. Playing in her first Grand Slam quarter-final, Jovic used her speed and court coverage to trouble her more experienced opponent at times. However, Sabalenka's power and consistency eventually told, as she wrapped up the opening set in just under an hour. The second set proved far more one-sided. Sabalenka asserted her dominance immediately, breaking serve in the opening game with a blistering cross-court winner. That early breakthrough placed the four-time Grand Slam champion firmly in control, and she went on to convert two more break points, moving ominously into the semi-finals with a ruthless display.

Ajitesh Argal was once one of India's most promising

Former FIFA President joins World Cup boycott calls, urges fans to stay away from USA

Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter has backed boycott calls, urging fans to avoid the USA during the 2026 World Cup. He cites security, civil rights, travel bans and immigration enforcement concerns surrounding tournament hosts now.

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter has reigned debate around the 2026 World Cup by backing calls for a fan boycott of matches in the United States, citing concerns over security, civil rights and the broader political climate in the country.

The tournament is scheduled to be co-hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico from June 11 to July 19, 2026, but Blatter's intervention has added fresh controversy to an event already facing scrutiny over governance, safety and fan accessibility. Speaking in support of Swiss anti-corruption lawyer Mark Pieth, Blatter publicly questioned whether the United States is currently a suitable destination for travelling supporters. "I think Mark Pieth is right to



question this World Cup," Blatter wrote on social media, endorsing Pieth's warning that recent developments in the US "hardly encourage fans to go there." Pieth, who previously chaired FIFA's Independent Governance Committee during a reform phase a decade ago, was even more direct in an interview with Swiss newspaper Der Bund. "If we consider everything we've discussed, there's only one piece of advice for fans: stay away from the USA," Pieth

said. He added that supporters risk facing harsh treatment at borders, suggesting that those who fail to satisfy officials could be "put straight on the next flight home—if they're lucky." A major factor behind the criticism has been a series of incidents involving US immigration enforcement, including fatal shootings during operations and protests in Minneapolis earlier this year. The death of Rene Nicole Good, a 37-year-old US citizen, was ruled a homicide by the

Sorry folks, India are the team to beat and rest are just spectators in T20 World Cup

MELBOURNE. (Agency)

"Unbelievable. Supercalifragilisticfantabulously, wonderfully amazing, mind-blowing. I mean, just hair-raising, goosebump—you name it. Because look at everything, not just the batting. Their bowling, their catching, their outfielding, the way they were out on the field—they were a champion side." "Anybody watching this performance is going to say to themselves, 'What do we do against this side? How do we stop this side?' Yes, there are some other very good teams as well, and it's not going to be as easy as what we saw in the last couple of games, but this is a side to beat. This is a side that will take some beating." Those were the words of Sunil Gavaskar, and you could hear the excitement in the Indian legend's voice after watching India steamroll New Zealand in Guwahati. If this had been a boxing match, the referee would have stepped in early, calling for a stoppage as the hosts delivered relentless devastation. KL Rahul, too, was left short

of words, admitting that this Indian side looks scary—the kind of adjective once reserved for Australia during their era of ODI dominance. There are very few performances that leave you wondering what you have just witnessed. India chased



down 154 runs in just 10 overs. Every single over went for 10-plus runs. The brakes were completely off as the Indian juggernaut rolled on, making every New Zealand bowler look toothless in front of Abhishek Sharma and a rejuvenated

Suryakumar Yadav, who appeared to have found a new method to his batting.

On top of that, it felt like the vintage Jasprit Bumrah was back after a few lukewarm outings in recent times. Add India's sharp fielding and relentless energy on the ground, and you had all the elements of a champion side coming together at once.

With the T20 World Cup 2026 just around the corner and India looking increasingly formidable, it does make you wonder if the other teams stand a chance against this marauding unit on Indian soil.

Full throttle, no brakes. Watching India's batting feels like sitting in an American dragster car. Known for blistering speed, these machines often need a parachute at the back just to slow down once the race is over. The driver knows one wrong move could lead to everything crashing and burning, but the thrill makes it worth the risk. That is exactly how this Indian team is operating right now.

Hennepin County Medical Examiner after she suffered multiple gunshot wounds inflicted by an ICE agent. Another fatal shooting involving ICU nurse Alex Pretti further intensified public anger and nationwide protests demanding accountability and reform. Concerns have also been fuelled by recent US travel bans that have disrupted fan plans across multiple footballing nations. Supporters from Senegal and Ivory Coast were left uncertain after restrictions were announced that would prevent travel unless visas had already been secured. Fans from Iran and Haiti—both World Cup-qualified nations—are also set to be barred under earlier versions of the policy. Blatter's comments come amid wider unease within the international football community. Oke Gtlich, vice-president of the German Football Association, recently said the possibility of a World Cup boycott must be taken seriously under current circumstances. Critics argue that politicising the tournament risks undermining sport's unifying role, while supporters of the boycott maintain that fan safety and civil rights cannot be separated from the global spectacle of a World Cup hosted on American soil.

MS Dhoni shares wisdom with youngsters at Jharkhand nets, begins IPL preparations

CHRISTCHURCH. (Agency)

Legendary India and Chennai Super Kings (CSK) wicketkeeper-batter MS Dhoni was recently spotted guiding youngsters during a training session at the JSCA International Cricket Stadium in Ranchi. With just two months remaining before the Indian Premier League 2026 (IPL 2026), Dhoni has begun his preparations for the upcoming tournament, as he was seen facing several young bowlers during the practice session.

In a video shared by the JSCA (Jharkhand State Cricket Association), Dhoni can be seen taking on young spinners and sharing his experience and insights with them. The veteran wicketkeeper-batter was seen wearing yellow pads and focusing on his defensive technique during the net session. "BESABRIYAN! The wait feels endless, can't wait to watch our legend, the #GOAT, in action very soon. JSCA International Cricket Stadium," JSCA wrote in the caption while sharing the video on its official Instagram handle.

Dhoni's disappointing IPL 2025

Dhoni retired from international cricket in 2020 but has continued to remain synonymous with CSK in the IPL. Under his leadership, the



ICC sidelined Bangladesh's legitimate security concerns: Ex Pakistan cricketer

Mohammad Yousuf has strongly criticised the ICC for removing Bangladesh from the T20 World Cup 2026 and replacing them with Scotland. He feels that the decision has raised concerns over governance and fairness within international cricket.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Pakistan cricketer Mohammad Yousuf has launched a scathing attack on the International Cricket Council (ICC), questioning its consistency and governance following Bangladesh's removal from the T20 World Cup 2026. Bangladesh were excluded from the tournament, which is scheduled to be played in India and Sri

Lanka, after they refused to travel to India, citing security concerns.

Their concerns were reviewed by the ICC; however, the global governing body concluded that there was no credible or



verifiable security threat associated with playing matches in India. As a result, Bangladesh were replaced by Scotland—a decision that has not been received well by certain sections of the cricketing fraternity and has sparked widespread debate. Mohammad Yousuf also expressed

his disappointment over the decision, highlighting Bangladesh's massive television viewership, which he believes will be sorely missed in the upcoming global event. The combined cricket viewership of New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Nepal, Netherlands, Ireland, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan is broadly equivalent to the viewership Bangladesh generates on its own. Ten nations combined: 178 million. Bangladesh alone: 176 million," Yousuf wrote on his X account.

He further raised serious questions regarding the ICC's governance, stating that cricket should not be run based on influence or selective accommodation.

"In a sport driven by global audiences, sidelining Bangladesh's legitimate security concerns raises serious questions about consistency and governance. When accommodation becomes selective, fairness disappears. Cricket cannot be administered by influence—only by principle," he added.

Once an U19 World Cup winner with Virat Kohli, Ajitesh Argal now officiates in WPL

New Delhi. (Agency)

Once, Ajitesh Argal stood shoulder to shoulder with Virat Kohli as India's Under-19 team celebrated a World Cup triumph under the Kuala Lumpur sky. Today, nearly two decades on, he stands in the middle again, but with an umpire's hat on, quietly overseeing the action in the Women's Premier League. It is a journey that speaks less of stardom and more of resilience, reinvention, and an enduring relationship with the game. During the ongoing WPL season, Argal has been part of the officiating panel, performing on-field umpiring duties in high-profile fixtures. On January 22, he officiated during the Gujarat Giants versus UP Warriorz encounter, before returning to the centre on January 24 for the Royal Challengers Bengaluru–Delhi Capitals clash. For many watching, he is just another official ensuring the smooth conduct of the game. For those who remember 2008, his presence carries a deeper resonance.

Argal was once one of India's most promising

young fast bowlers. Born in Bhopal, he began playing cricket at the age of 10 and represented Madhya Pradesh at the Under-14 level. A medium-pacer who relied on relentless accuracy rather than raw pace, Argal built his reputation by troubling batters with a tight line and length. His biggest stage arrived in 2008, when he toured Malaysia with India's Under-19 side for the World Cup, captained by Kohli.

That tournament proved defining. In the rain-hit final against South Africa, decided by the Duckworth-Lewis method, Argal produced a spell that turned the contest. His figures of 2 for 7 from five overs shattered South Africa's chase and handed India a 12-run victory. For his calm execution under pressure, Argal was named Player of the Match in the final. At the time, he appeared destined for a long career at the highest level. But cricket, often unforgiving, took a different course. Argal was signed by Kings



XI Punjab after the World Cup, yet never featured in an IPL match. His senior domestic career, primarily with Baroda, struggled to gather momentum. In all, he played just 10 first-class matches, six T20s and three List A games, picking up 29 wickets. His final first-class appearance came in 2015, against Madhya Pradesh. The promise of 2008 slowly faded, and an India senior cap remained out of reach. From cricket pitch to Income Tax officer. Like many from that golden Under-19 generation,

Argal had to confront life beyond professional cricket. He eventually stepped away from the game and built a career as an income tax officer. Yet, unlike many who drift away completely, Argal found another route back to the field. In 2023, he cleared the BCCI umpiring examination, beginning a new chapter that would reconnect him with the sport he never truly left. Since qualifying, Argal has steadily built his credentials. He has officiated as an on-field umpire in

three first-class matches, nine List A games and 21 T20s, while also serving as a TV umpire in limited-overs fixtures. His assignments have included major domestic tournaments such as the Ranji Trophy, Vijay Hazare Trophy and Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, as well as the Australia A series. In a country where umpiring depth has long been a concern, with only Nitin Menon currently part of the ICC Elite Panel, Argal represents a quiet but hopeful addition to the pipeline.

Sensex, Nifty open lower despite India-EU trade deal hopes; RIL down 1%

New Delhi.(Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices fell nearly half a percent a few minutes after the opening bell as Dalal Street brushed off positive news from India-EU trade deal. The S&P BSE Sensex was down 393.37 points to 81,144.33, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 96.65 points to 24,952.00 as of 9:30 am.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the underperformance of the Indian stock market and continued depreciation of the rupee have been conspicuous so far in 2026. "Significantly, both are related. While many EM currencies have been strengthening since dollar has been weakening, the rupee has been weakening mainly due to FII outflows. This double whammy of currency depreciation and sustained FII selling have been weighing on the markets resulting in 4.2% decline in Nifty year till date," he added. Fundamental support from improved Q3 earnings has not happened. But indications are that Q4 earnings are likely to improve. From a sentiments perspective the announcement regarding the EU-India FTA is a positive. But the FTA will become operational only from 2027 onwards and, therefore, from the fundamental perspective, the announcement is unlikely to be a trigger for a market rally.

Meanwhile, the weaponisation of tariffs by the Trump administration continues with the announcement of tariffs on South Korea being raised from 15% to 25%. This is yet another indication that the US-India trade agreement, which India badly needs, might hang fire for some more time, despite the talk of a "good deal with India" from Trump who has become totally inconsistent unreliable. Fundamental support from improved Q3 earnings has not happened. But indications are that Q4 earnings are likely to improve. From a sentiments perspective the announcement regarding the EU-India FTA is a positive. But the FTA will become operational only from 2027 onwards and, therefore, from the fundamental perspective, the announcement is unlikely to be a trigger for a market rally.

Adani-Embraer announce regional jets' final assembly line in India

New Delhi.(Agency)

India, the world's fastest growing aviation market, will soon see its first fixed-wing commercial aircraft final assembly line (FAL). Brazilian aerospace major Embraer and Adani Group Tuesday announced their collaboration in this field, as first reported by TOI on Jan 8. The most significant economic cooperation between India and Brazil will see the FAL be followed by a phased increase in indigenisation to advance the "regional transport aircraft" (RTA) programme here, in line with the aatmanirbhar Bharat vision of PM Modi — who is transforming India from just a consumer for aircraft to producers of the same. Embraer, which makes upto 150-seater short to medium haul jets, and Adani Defence & Aerospace have signed a MoU to develop an integrated regional transport aircraft ecosystem in India. The companies aim to collaborate on opportunities in aircraft manufacturing, supply chain, aftermarket services, and pilot training. "The collaborative industrial partnership will aim to establish an assembly line," they say.

Union aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu said this MoU will ensure self-reliance of the Indian aviation ecosystem and be a "milestone".

Aviation secretary Samir Sinha said as the fastest growing aviation market globally, India can't reply on imports alone. "We have to be a part of the global supply chain. Global original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) already do sourcing worth over \$2 billion from India annually. The next logical step was civil aircraft manufacturing. Collaborating with global leaders means reducing development timelines. This (Adani-Embraer MoU) is a decisive step forward that will create a robust aviation supply chain here and will see technology transfer," Sinha said. Embraer Commercial Aviation president & CEO Arjan Meijer said: "India is a pivotal market for Embraer, and this partnership combines our aerospace expertise with Adani's strong industrial capabilities and commitment to indigenisation. Together, we will evaluate the most viable, advanced and efficient solutions in support of India's RTA ambitions, and their potential for implementation."

India's move to decarbonise cement, aluminium sectors may help it navigate the EU's carbon border tax in due course

New Delhi.(Agency)

In a move that may help India's high-emission industries navigate the EU's carbon border tax regime by adopting clean manufacturing processes in due course, Niti Aayog, the govt think tank, has come up with comprehensive roadmaps for decarbonisation of aluminium and cement sectors. This will also contribute to the country achieving its long-term net-zero emission (carbon neutrality) goal for 2070. The EU's carbon border tax -- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) -- is a tool to put a price on high-emission goods such as cement, aluminium, iron & steel and fertilisers that enter the 27 EU nations. If India does not take steps to decarbonise these sectors, they will continue to attract tariff burden in the form of carbon border tax, impacting the country's exports.

The decarbonisation roadmaps for cement and aluminium, released by Niti Aayog last Wednesday, will also serve as reference manuals for India to decarbonise other sectors, in sync with the country's climate action commitments under the Paris Agreement. The Aayog's report shows that cement manufacturing, a significant source of carbon emissions, contributed roughly

Banking operations hit as unions go on nationwide strike for five-day work week

New Delhi.(Agency)

Banking operations at public sector banks across the country were impacted on Tuesday as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) went on nationwide strike demanding the immediate implementation of a five-day work week. The strike call by the UFBU, an umbrella body of nine unions representing officers and employees, comes after a conciliation meeting with the Chief Labour Commissioner on January 23 failed to yield a positive outcome. "Since there was no positive outcome and the government did not agree to our demand, hence this strike is forced on us. Bank employees and officers are highly aggrieved that they alone are being discriminated against," All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA), a constituent of UFBU, general secretary CH Venkatachalam told PTI. Most branches of public sector banks across the country were either completely closed or partially closed as both employees and



officers were observing Tuesday's strike. Services such as cash deposits, withdrawals, cheque clearances, and administrative work are hit at branches of all public sector banks (PSBs) and some

old generation private sector banks. However, operations at major private sector lenders like HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, and Axis Bank are expected to remain largely unaffected as their employees are not part of the striking unions. Digital banking services, including UPI and internet banking, will continue to function, though ATM cash availability could face localised issues due to logistical delays. Several public sector lenders, including the banking giant SBI have informed stock exchanges about the potential impact. "We advise that while the bank has made necessary arrangements to ensure normal functioning in its branches and offices on the day of strike, it is likely that work in the Bank may be impacted by the strike," SBI said in a regulatory filing on Friday. The unions are demanding the declaration of all Saturdays as holidays, a key point that was reportedly agreed upon during the 12th Bipartite Settlement signed with the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) in March 2024 but is awaiting government notification. Currently, banks remain open on the first, third, and fifth Saturdays of the month.

Gold, silver reach record highs. Check gold and silver rates in your city

Gold futures jumped over 1.7% to hit a record high of Rs 159,820 per 10 grams. Silver futures saw an even sharper move, rising around 6% to touch a record high of Rs 354,780 per kg.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Gold and silver prices moved to record levels in the domestic market on Tuesday, tracking strong global cues and steady demand for safe assets. Both metals have seen sharp gains in recent sessions, with silver rising much faster than gold so far this year. Prices on the futures market and in major Indian cities are now at their highest levels, making investors and buyers closely watch daily rate movements. GOLD AND SILVER HIT RECORD LEVELS Indian bullion markets saw a strong rise in both metals. Gold futures jumped over 1.7% to hit a record high of Rs 159,820 per 10 grams. Silver futures saw an even sharper move, rising around 6% to touch a record high

of Rs 354,780 per kg. According to the latest bullion rates, gold is trading at around Rs 159,070 per 10 grams, up Rs 2,330 or 1.49%. Silver is priced at around Rs 355,740 per kg, higher by Rs 20,230 or 6.03%.

Silver has already gained more than 50% so far this year, showing much



stronger momentum compared to gold. GLOBAL CUES SUPPORTING PRICES Gold prices also remained firm in the global market. Spot gold rose around 1.1% to about \$5,068 per ounce, after touching a record high of \$5,110.50 in the previous session. US gold futures for February delivery were up around 0.4% at \$5,063 per ounce. Market participants continue to move towards safe assets due to ongoing global uncertainty. Silver

prices also stayed close to all-time highs in overseas markets, which supported the sharp rise seen in Indian futures. GOLD PRICES IN MAJOR INDIAN CITIES Gold prices differ slightly across cities due to local taxes and charges. As per the latest data for 1 gram of gold, rates in major cities are as follows.

In Chennai, 24K gold is priced at Rs 16,392 per gram, while 22K gold costs Rs 15,026 per gram and 18K gold is at Rs 12,501 per gram.

In Mumbai, 24K gold is at Rs 16,196 per gram. The price of 22K gold stands at Rs 14,846 per gram, while 18K gold is priced at Rs 12,147 per gram. In Delhi, 24K gold is available at Rs 16,211 per gram. The rate for 22K gold is Rs 14,861 per gram, and 18K gold costs Rs 12,162 per gram. In Kolkata, gold prices are similar to Mumbai. The rate of 24K gold is Rs 16,196 per gram, 22K gold is at Rs 14,846 per gram, and 18K gold is priced at Rs 12,147 per gram.

In Bangalore, Hyderabad, Kerala and Pune, 24K gold is priced at Rs 16,196 per gram. The 22K gold rate in these cities is Rs 14,846 per gram, while 18K gold costs Rs 12,147 per gram.

Investing in mutual funds for your kid: You should be aware of a few things before you begin

New Delhi.(Agency)

With cost of higher education rising fast, many are inclined to invest in mutual fund schemes designed for children. As the name suggested, children's mutual fund schemes are specialised, goal-oriented hybrid instruments which can enable one to build a cool corpus for future expenses such as higher education and/or marriage or using as seed money to set up a small business. Since these encourage long-term investments, they usually carry a five-year lock-in period or until the child turns 18. Investing in mutual funds for children is fairly simple. A parent or a legal guardian has to open a minor account in which he/she is the custodian. For the mechanics, a few

basic documents are needed for KYC -- the kid's birth certificate for proof of age and that for establishing relation with the adult who opened the minor account. Usually a SIP has to be opened and the guardian has to manage it till the kid becomes an adult. The KYC requirements According to the rules, all asset management companies allow opening of investment accounts in the names of a minor. The point to remember is that the child has to be the sole holder of the account. The rules don't allow any joint holder in these accounts. The guardian has to be a parent or he/she can be a legal guardian who has been appointed by a court of law. This guardian -- natural or court-appointed -- has to manage it as long as

the child remains a minor. All the transactions be it SIP or lumpsum investments, or redemptions or systematic transfer plans or switches, have to be carried out in the kid's account during the pendency of the kid's account. Then after 18, the kid (now an adult) takes control of the account.

Benefits of the lock-in period

Though personal finance investors always harp on the benefits of long-term approach to investing in mutual funds in particular, many investors do not have the financial discipline and can redeem units to spend in other purposes. Therefore, the lock-in period for children funds help in keeping the money for a minimum of five years.

India-EU FTA: Will Sensex, Nifty rally because of European Union trade deal

The deal aims to open up India's large and closely protected market to freer trade with the 27-nation European bloc, which is also India's biggest trading partner.

New Delhi.(Agency)

India and the European Union (EU) have finalised a long-awaited trade deal that will cover nearly a quarter of the world's economy. The agreement is set to be announced today, ending almost two decades of on-and-off talks between the two sides.

The deal aims to open up India's large and closely protected market to freer trade with the 27-nation European bloc, which is also India's biggest trading partner. Trade between India and the EU stood at \$136.5 billion in the financial year ended March 2025. The deal comes at a time when both sides are looking to reduce risks linked to changing global

trade ties. In recent days, the EU has also signed a major trade pact with the South American Mercosur bloc, following agreements last year with Indonesia, Mexico and Switzerland. India, too, has been active on this front, finalising trade pacts with Britain, New Zealand and Oman during the same period. On Tuesday, Dalal Street resumed trading after a holiday break for Republic Day. The session began on a weak note and extended recent losses.

In early trade, the Sensex slipped more than 400 points and the Nifty fell close to 100 points. Both indices later recovered to trade in the green for a brief period but slipped again. As of 11 am, the S&P BSE Sensex was down 240.47 points at 81,297.23, while the NSE Nifty50 had declined 47.50 points to 25,001.15.

WILL THE INDIA-EU TRADE DEAL TRIGGER A MARKET RALLY?

According to market experts, the trade deal announcement may help sentiment but is unlikely to trigger a sharp rally in the near term. Dr VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Investments Limited, said Indian markets

have lagged other emerging markets so far this year. "The underperformance of the Indian stock market and continued depreciation of the rupee have been conspicuous so far in 2026. Significantly, both are related. While many EM



currencies have been strengthening since dollar has been weakening, the rupee has been weakening mainly due to FII outflows," he said.

combined impact of a weak rupee and steady foreign investor selling has weighed on equities. "This double whammy of currency depreciation and sustained FII selling have been weighing on the markets resulting in 4.2% decline in Nifty year till date. Fundamental support

from improved Q3 earnings has not happened. But indications are that Q4 earnings are likely to improve," Vijayakumar said.

On the India-EU trade deal, he said the announcement is positive for market mood but its impact will take time to flow through. From a sentiments perspective the announcement regarding the EU-India FTA is a positive. But the FTA will become operational only from 2027 onwards and, therefore, from the fundamental perspective, the announcement is unlikely to be a trigger for a market rally," he said. Vijayakumar also pointed out that global trade tensions continue to add uncertainty. He said tariff actions by the US administration remain a concern and could delay progress on other trade fronts. "The market has become a stock picker's market since stocks are responding to Q3 results and management commentary. There are opportunities for investors to pick and choose stocks coming out with better-than-expected results and indications of sustained growth," he added.

Ridhima Pandit

Confirms Participation In The 50: 'Let The Journey Begin'

The upcoming reality show 'The 50' has created quite a buzz ever since it was announced. While there was a lot of curiosity about the contestant list of The 50, the makers have been revealing the contestants one by one. After revealing several contestants including Prince Narula, Divya Agarwal, Urvashi Dholakia and others, the makers have now confirmed that television actress Ridhima Pandit is also joining the reality show. The actress, who previously participated in Bigg Boss OTT, is now gearing up for The 50.

Ridhima Pandit Joins The 50

On Sunday, the makers of The 50 dropped a promo in which Ridhima Pandit confirmed joining the reality show. She said that the 'Lion' challenged her to participate, so she had to accept. The actress further said that she is all set to bring her 'style' and 'swag' to the reality show, and will smartly play the game.

The caption of the post read, "Remember the name, because the game is about to remember her too. Ridhima Pandit is stepping into 50 not to follow rules, but to test them. Sharp, self-aware, and unapologetically real—she brings instinct over impulse and mind over noise. This isn't just another entry, it's a statement. New space. New challenges. Same Ridhima – confident, curious, and ready for whatever the game throws her way. Let the journey begin." Check out the promo below! Ridhima was earlier seen in reality shows such as Bigg Boss OTT and Fear Factor: Khatron Ke Khiladi 9.

Manisha Rani And Arushi Chawla Join The 50

Meanwhile, the makers of 'The 50' also dropped other promos confirming the participation of Bigg Boss OTT 2 fame Manisha Rani, and Roadies Revolution Season 17 fame Arushi Chawla.

Bigg Boss 19's Nehal Chudasama is also set to join The 50. In an exclusive conversation with News18 Showsha, she revealed why she agreed to do the reality show. "Firstly, it is the debut of this show in India, so there is a joy in being part of a show when it is happening for the first time. Secondly, because of the nature of the show, I think it aligns with my abilities. It requires physical strength along with mind games. So, I think this is my element, and I felt very aligned with the show. That's why I said yes to it," she revealed.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu And Raj Nidimoru Turn Heads At Pickleball Tournament

Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Raj Nidimoru grabbed attention after making a stylish appearance at a pickleball tournament, and a video from the event has now gone viral. The duo was seen enjoying the sporting atmosphere while effortlessly turning heads with their chic, sporty looks.

In the video, shared by Manav Mangani, we can see Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Raj Nidimoru arriving for the event. Both are smiling and are seen posing for the camera. Fans called them cute couple in the comment section. Recently, Samantha and Raj were papped in the city playing pickleball together. The two were seen having a fun time inside the court.



Samantha Ruth Prabhu-Raj Nidimoru Spotted Playing Pickleball Together

In the clip, Samantha and Raj were seen playing doubles. While they missed a few shots, their teamwork and effortless coordination were the highlights of the clip. Several fans reacted to the couple's latest appearance with heart-eyed emojis. Samantha Ruth Prabhu recently shared a sneak peek inside her first Sankranti.

with hubby Raj Nidimoru. The actress uploaded a photo with the director. In the snap, the Citadels Honey Bunny actress made a silly expression while Raj hid his grin in the background.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu-Raj Nidimoru's Love Story

Samantha Ruth Prabhu and Raj Nidimoru worked together in projects The Family Man Season 2 and Citadels Honey Bunny. The two soon grew close, sparking rumours of a romance. Samantha and Raj did not publicly acknowledge their relationship until shortly before their wedding. The couple married on December 1, 2025, in a modest ceremony.

The duo kept their wedding ceremony low-key and intimate, with only about 30 guests in attendance. Following the wedding, Samantha posted photos from the ceremony, giving admirers a glimpse inside their wonderful day.

Samantha was previously married to actor Naga Chaitanya between 2017 and 2021. Chaitanya later married the actor Sobhita Dhulipala in 2024. Raj Nidimoru was formerly married to Shhyamali De.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Latest Projects

On the work front, the teaser of Samantha Ruth Prabhu's Maa Inti Bangaram has been released. Set against a raw and grounded backdrop, Maa Inti Bangaram promises a captivating blend of drama and high-octane moments, anchored by a very personal story. The preview suggests a tough, multifaceted protagonist, laying the groundwork for a film that mixes emotional depth in family dynamics with scope.



'She Could Not Speak Any Further': Amitabh Bachchan Says Alia Bhatt Got Emotional At Sadak Suraksha Event



Actors Amitabh Bachchan and Alia Bhatt recently came together for Sadak Suraksha Abhiyan 2026, a nationwide public awareness initiative focused on encouraging responsible road behaviour and timely assistance to accident victims.

What Amitabh Bachchan shared from the event

Taking to his blog, Amitabh reflected on a moving conversation he shared on stage with Alia and a woman who had lost her son in a road accident. He highlighted a crucial shift in public policy and mindset around helping the injured at accident sites. According to him, the long-standing fear of police inquiry that often deters bystanders from stepping in has now been addressed. The campaign actively encourages passersby to help victims without fear of harassment and even rewards such acts as a gesture of gratitude from the Government of India.

He also recounted the heartbreaking story of the woman dressed in yellow who spoke at the event. She shared that no one came forward to help her injured son after an accident, and the family later learned at the hospital that timely assistance could have saved his life. Amitabh described her as brave for turning personal tragedy into a public appeal, urging people to act with compassion and urgency in similar situations—without anger or blame, only hope for change.

Alia Bhatt gets emotional on stage

Amitabh further noted a poignant moment when Alia, seated beside the grieving mother, became visibly emotional while speaking about the incident. As a mother herself to a three-year-old daughter, Raha, Alia struggled to continue, her reaction underscoring the human weight of the issue. Amitabh suggested that the incident be used as the emotional core of a campaign—one that prompts people to imagine themselves in such a situation tomorrow and respond with empathy today, potentially saving a life.

Mouni Roy Shows Middle Finger After Haryana Event Harassment; Bhumi Pednekar Says 'Well Done'



Actress Mouni Roy has opened up about a deeply disturbing experience she faced during a recent event in Karnal, Haryana, where she says a group of elderly men harassed her despite repeated objections. Recounting the incident, Mouni revealed that the men passed lewd remarks, made inappropriate gestures, invaded her personal space, and continued filming her even after being asked to stop.

According to Mouni, the situation escalated quickly. As she approached the stage, some men allegedly placed their hands on her waist under the pretext of clicking photographs. When she firmly asked them to remove their hands, the behaviour did not stop. She also claimed that roses were thrown at her and that the men continued making remarks and gestures that left her visibly shaken.

Mouni further alleged that several of them recorded videos from low angles due to the elevated stage. When another attendee intervened and asked them to stop, the men reportedly hurled verbal abuse at that person as well.

Video From Event Goes Viral

Soon after Mouni spoke about the incident, a video from the Karnal event began circulating widely on social media. In the clip, Mouni, dressed in a silver outfit, is seen abruptly ending her performance, storming off the stage, and flashing her middle finger in apparent anger and protest. Before exiting, she is also seen blowing kisses towards another section of the audience, a moment many interpreted as a mix of defiance and composure.

Industry Voices Rally Behind Her

The viral clip prompted several celebrities to publicly support Mouni. Bhumi Pednekar reacted to the video with a supportive "Well done," while Tahira Kashyap also voiced agreement through clapping emojis, signalling solidarity with Mouni's response to the harassment.

Mouni Breaks Her Silence

Addressing the incident in detail on Instagram Stories, Mouni expressed her disgust at what she described as entitled and unacceptable behaviour. She pointed out that the men involved were old enough to be grandparents and said the experience left her shaken and speechless. While reaffirming her love for India and its people, Mouni questioned the violations of personal boundaries women continue to face in public spaces. She added that she has rarely spoken about negative experiences in the past, but this incident compelled her to speak up. The episode has once again reignited conversations around consent, public safety, and accountability at public events—especially for women in the spotlight.



उत्तराखण्ड शासन



देवभूमि दर्जत उत्तराखण्ड

१ जनवरी 2024-25 | विकास कुमार



UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

Uttarakhand, 2024



There are two main pillars in building a Developed India of the 21st century. First, taking pride in our heritage, and second, making every possible effort for development. Today, Uttarakhand is strengthening both these pillars. This decade is the decade of Uttarakhand.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

The Uniform Civil Code is a symbol of our commitment to providing equal rights, dignity, and security to every citizen.

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand

The nation's first state to ensure a uniform law for every citizen

Unified Rights | Unified Dignity

Property Rights

01 Equal property rights for sons and daughters across all sections of all religious communities.

Prescribed Marriageable Age

02 The minimum age for marriage is set at 21 years for males and 18 years for females across all religions.

Marriage Registration

03 Marriage registration is mandatory within the prescribed time limit. The monogamy rule (one husband-one wife) applies uniformly to all.

Equal Rights

04 A wife holds equal rights as her husband; men and women of all religions and sects are granted equal rights.

For Parents

05 In the event of an individual's death, the parents will have an equal right to the deceased's property.

Scheduled Tribes

06 Scheduled Tribes (STs) have been excluded from the ambit of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

Live-in Relationships

07 Children born out of live-in relationships are granted all legal rights equal to those of biological (legitimate) children.

One Year of UCC

Online Registration

- Approximately 5 Lakh Marriage Registration.
- Nearly 100% Online Process
- Average of 1400 Registrations Daily.
- A significant leap compared to the previous average of only 67 registrations per day.
- Certificates are now issued within an average of 5 days.

UCC: Not Just a Law, but a Systemic Transformation

- Changed Perspective: A fundamental shift in how governance is viewed.
- Changed Processes: Streamlined and modernized procedures.
- Changed Systems: A complete overhaul of the administrative framework.
- Uttarakhand: The Model State: Setting a benchmark for the entire nation.

A New Definition of Justice

- Beyond Law: Good Governance: Moving past mere regulation to proactive, people-centric administration.
- Equality in Action: A practical example of translating the principle of equality into everyday life.
- Strengthened Citizen Trust: Fostering deeper confidence between the public and the state.
- Empowering the Constitutional Spirit: Robust implementation of the values enshrined in the Constitution of India.

Digital Convenience Transparent System

- Online Application from Home: Apply for registration conveniently from the comfort of your home.
- Video Statement Facility: Verification through integrated video statements.
- Remote Completion of Process: Couples and witnesses can complete the entire process from any location.
- No Mandatory Visits to the Sub-Registrar's Office: Elimination of the requirement to physically visit government offices.

- Savings in Time, Labour, and Expenses: A more efficient system that saves citizen resources.
- AI-Powered Multilingual Support: Registration facility available in 22 notified Indian languages through Artificial Intelligence.



To register, please log in at: ucc.uk.gov.in

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