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# Constitution is India's guiding force for Viksit Bharat 2047, says PM Modi

On Constitution Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the Constitution as India's guiding force and highlighted government schemes, constitutional amendments and reforms. He criticised previous governments over constitutional changes and the Emergency, while targeting the opposition on women's reservation. PM Modi urged citizens to prioritise national interest and fulfil their duties towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

**New Delhi. (Agency).**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday described the Indian Constitution as the guiding force behind the country's development, calling on citizens to place national interest first and fulfil their duties as India works towards becoming a developed nation by 2047.PM Modi paid tribute to Dr BR Ambedkar, Dr Rajendra Prasad and other members of the Constituent Assembly who adopted the Constitution on November 26, 1949. He said the document reflected India's civilisational values while providing a modern framework for a diverse country.PM Modi said the Constitution had allowed people from humble backgrounds to rise to positions of responsibility, citing his own journey as an example. He highlighted government schemes such as PM Awas Yojana, Ujjwala, Ayushman Bharat, MUDRA and PM-SVANidhi, saying they had helped advance the constitutional ideals of dignity, equality and economic justice.Referring to a World Bank report, he said nearly 50 crore Indians had moved out of poverty. He also highlighted the 101st, 102nd and 103rd Constitutional Amendments, covering GST, constitutional status for the National Commission for



Backward Classes and reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.The Prime Minister said the Constitution was now available in all 22 languages listed in the Eighth Schedule. He also pointed to the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, saying it had shifted the criminal justice system's focus from punishment to justice.

The Prime Minister also criticised previous governments, particularly over constitutional amendments and the Emergency. Referring to the First Amendment of 1951 and the 42nd Amendment during the Emergency, he alleged that earlier governments had weakened constitutional freedoms and institutions.He also criticised the repeated use of Article 356 to dismiss elected state governments and described the removal of Article 370 and Article 35A in 2019 as correcting a historical wrong in Jammu and Kashmir.PM Modi accused the Congress of obstructing women's reservation legislation and alleged that the opposition was failing to fulfil its constitutional responsibilities. He also raised concerns over what he described as attempts to introduce religion-based reservations.Emphasising citizens' responsibilities, PM Modi referred to initiatives such as Swachh Bharat and water conservation as examples of the spirit of Kartavya or duty.

## Bihar health department fires 11 doctors for prolonged absence from duty

**Patna. (Agency).**

Bihar's Health Department has dismissed 11 doctors from government service for remaining absent from duty for an extended period. Health Minister Nishant Kumar announced the action on social media, stressing that negligence and indiscipline in healthcare services would not be tolerated.The department took the decision after receiving the Cabinet's approval. The action targets doctors who had remained away from their duties for a prolonged period.

Explaining the decision, Nishant Kumar said the medical profession was not merely a job but a commitment to serving humanity. He said prolonged absence from duty and failure to fulfil professional responsibilities constituted a serious matter.The minister said the government had to take action against the concerned doctors in accordance with the rules. He also urged doctors and other healthcare workers across Bihar to perform their duties with complete honesty and responsibility.

The Bihar government has maintained that providing better healthcare facilities to the state's people remains its priority. The Health Department has stressed that accountability and discipline are essential to achieving this objective.

## Focus on action: Kharge's stern words for Imran Masood amid SP seat-sharing row

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday gave a pointed message to party MP Imran Masood amid the growing rift with the Samajwadi Party (SP) over seat-sharing for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls, saying the focus should be on action rather than words.

Referring to Masood's interview with Aaj Tak, Kharge said the Congress leader often spoke with great passion but stressed that collective work was more important. He also acknowledged Masood's role in Parliament, saying he consistently fought for the party and worked to ensure its positions were upheld."Imran Masood — whom I frequently hear on television, where he often speaks with great passion. However, we must focus on action rather than just words; the more we work together, the further we will progress. He is in Parliament, where he consistently fights for the party and strives to ensure that our positions are upheld," Kharge said.The remarks come amid escalating tensions between the Congress and the SP over seat-sharing negotiations ahead of the Uttar Pradesh polls. The two INDIA bloc allies have yet to reach an agreement, with the Congress unhappy over the SP's initial offer of 26 constituencies against its demand for around 130 seats.

## AIADMK announces statewide protests against Vijay's TVK government on December 2

AIADMK chief Edappadi K Palaniswami has called for protests across 85 organisational districts on December 2, targeting the six-month-old Vijay government over rising crime, inflation, women's safety and the Cauvery water dispute.

**Chennai.(Agency)**

AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K Palaniswami on Thursday announced statewide protests across the party's 85 organisational districts on December 2, accusing the six-month-old TVK government of failing to maintain law and order, control essential commodity prices and protect Tamil Nadu's water rights, news agency Press Trust of India reported.In a statement, Palaniswami said the demonstrations would also highlight concerns over women's safety, rising prices and crimes such as murders and robberies. He accused the TVK government of remaining silent on pressing public issues."Six months have passed since the formation of the TVK government led by Joseph Vijay in Tamil Nadu, and during this period, the administration has pushed the state backward on a large scale," Palaniswami



said."Those who sought three months' time have, upon completing six months, become a major cause of hardship for the people of Tamil Nadu. From its very first day in office, this government began mortgaging Tamil Nadu's rights," he alleged.Referring to the Cauvery water dispute and the proposed Mekedatu dam, Palaniswami claimed Vijay did not speak about Tamil Nadu's rights until his film Jana Nayagan was released in Karnataka. He said the Mettur dam, which should have been opened on June 12, was opened only in September, leaving farmers with virtually no kuruvai, or short-term crop, cultivation."Similarly, we are seeing Karnataka CM D K Shivakumar repeatedly speaking with arrogance, saying they will build a dam at Mekedatu and will not listen to anyone. Joseph Vijay, as chief minister of Tamil Nadu, has remained silent without doing any effective work to stop the construction of the reservoir," he alleged.

## Samajwadi Party UP election 2027 manifesto: When and where to download online

**Lucknow.(Agency).**

With Uttar Pradesh heading for Assembly elections in 2027, attention is gradually shifting to the promises political parties will make to voters. The Samajwadi Party (SP), led by former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, is among the major political contenders in the upcoming election. Its election manifesto will outline the party's proposed policies and plans for the state if voted to office.From employment opportunities for young people to education, electricity, healthcare, pensions and financial assistance for farmers, the manifesto will be closely watched by voters across Uttar Pradesh. Those looking to read the complete document will be able to download it online once the party officially publishes it.

**When will the Samajwadi Party release its UP election 2027 manifesto?**

Samajwadi Party national president Akhilesh Yadav is scheduled to release the party's first manifesto for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections on Thursday, November 26, 2026, coinciding with Constitution Day.According to a report by Dainik Jagran, the manifesto is scheduled to be released at 3 PM in Lucknow. The party is releasing its election document several months ahead of the Assembly polls, giving it more time to communicate its proposals to voters.

**Where to download Samajwadi Party manifesto 2027 PDF online?**

Voters can visit the official Samajwadi Party website, samajwadiparty.in, to check for the manifesto once it is released. The party maintains a dedicated manifesto section on its website, which houses documents from previous elections.The official PDF download link for the 2027 manifesto is yet to become available at the time of writing.

## Terrorism most heinous crime against humanity: Amit Shah on 26/11 anniversary

**New Delhi.(Agency).**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said India was playing a leading role in the global fight against terrorism and taking decisive action against all forms of terror, news agency Press Trust of India reported.On the anniversary of the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, Shah paid tribute to the soldiers, police personnel and civilians who were killed. He said the attacks had shaken the entire nation.In a post on X, Shah saluted the soldiers who laid down their lives while "giving a crushing response" to the terrorists and paid tribute to the civilians who lost their lives."Terrorism is the most heinous crime against humanity. The Modi government's 'zero tolerance' policy against terror is being praised worldwide. Today,



India is playing a leading role in the global fight against terrorism, taking decisive action against every form of terror and every conspiracy," Shah said.On November 26, 2008, 10 heavily armed Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists who had sailed to Mumbai from Pakistan carried out coordinated attacks across the city. The attacks left 166 people, including foreign nationals, dead and more than 300 injured.The attacks continued until the morning of November 29 and targeted crowded locations, including Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the Trident Hotel, Nariman House, Leopold Cafe and Cama and Albless Hospital.The terrorists, guided by their handlers in Pakistan through satellite phones, attacked unarmed civilians, took hostages and engaged security personnel in prolonged gun battles. Several senior Mumbai Police officers, including Hemant Karkare, were killed.The terrorists were neutralised in operations conducted by Mumbai Police and the National Security Guard. Constable Tukaram Omble was killed while helping capture Ajmal Kasab, the lone surviving Pakistani terrorist, despite being fired upon.

## In a first, CM Vijay announces 15-day paternity leave for male TN govt employees

**Chennai(Agency).**

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay



on Thursday announced 15 days of paternity leave for male government employees, marking the first time the state has introduced the benefit.Under the new provision, married male government employees can avail themselves of 15 days of leave either 15 days before the expected date of childbirth or within six months after the birth of the child, according to an official government release.

The state government said the period surrounding childbirth is important for both the mother and the newborn. It also said that a father's presence is necessary to provide physical and emotional support to the mother as well as help care for the child.While female government employees in Tamil Nadu are entitled to 365 days of maternity leave, male employees had been seeking a similar provision for paternity leave..Taking their requests into consideration, the government has now issued an order granting the 15-day benefit.

## 26/11 was attack on Constitution, India will not tolerate terror strikes: Fadnavis

**Mumbai(Agency).**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday described the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks as an assault on the Constitution and said India would not tolerate attacks on its soldiers or citizens, Press Trust of India reported.Paying tribute to the security personnel and civilians killed in the 2008 attacks, Fadnavis said India would strike back at those responsible for such acts. He also called for unity against terrorism.

Speaking at a programme at the Gateway of India to commemorate the victims of the attacks, Fadnavis said the terrorists had deliberately targeted places frequented by foreign nationals and members of the diplomatic community. Their aim was to cause maximum casualties and send a message to the world that India could be attacked, he said.Fadnavis said the attack was not only on Mumbai but also on the Constitution of India.He recalled the bravery of police personnel who fought the terrorists and paid tribute to those who lost their lives. He particularly remembered Tukaram Omble, who captured Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab



despite being shot several times."Kasab had a gun, while Omble had only a lathi. Despite being shot, he managed to capture Kasab," Fadnavis said, according to PTI.He also paid tribute to senior police officers Hemant Karkare, Ashok Kamte and Vijay Salaskar, and National Security Guard Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan, who were killed while fighting the terrorists.The November 26, 2008, attacks were carried out by 10 heavily armed Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists who sailed into Mumbai from Pakistan.

The attacks left 166 people, including foreign nationals, dead and more than 300 injured, making them one of the deadliest terror strikes in an Indian city.Fadnavis said Kasab's capture helped expose Pakistan's involvement in the attacks before the international community and establish that the terror strike was sponsored by Pakistan.Nine of the 10 attackers were killed. Kasab was later tried, convicted and hanged in November 2012.David Coleman Headley, a key conspirator who surveyed Mumbai before the attacks, later testified before an Indian court through video conference from the United States. Tahawwur Hussain Rana, another accused in the 26/11 conspiracy, was extradited.

# Two killed in separate road accidents in Gurgaon; two more injured in hit-and-run cases

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A 19-year-old man died after a bus rammed into an autorickshaw from behind near Atul Kataria Chowk. In another hit-and-run accident, a man died after an unidentified vehicle hit his scooter at a traffic signal in Sector 31.Police said the first accident occurred at 5:50 am on Tuesday. A complaint was filed by the autorickshaw driver, Surender Kumar. He told the cops that he was ferrying passengers from the bus stand in Atul Kataria Chowk towards Kapashera when a bus coming from the direction of Sheetla Mata Mandir hit the autorickshaw from behind. There were four people in the auto, including the driver.The impact overturned the vehicle, leaving Surender and other passengers injured. Some passengers were also thrown out of the vehicle. Alok, who worked at a private company in the city, died at the spot. The bus driver left the vehicle on the road and fled.

Surender called the emergency response number 112, after which police reached the spot. The body was taken to the govt hospital and later shifted to the mortuary. A crime scene team also inspected the spot.The bus was seized. Police have registered an FIR under sections 106 (causing death due to negligence) and 281 (rash driving) of the BNS at Sector 5 olice station.In another fatal accident, a man died after an unidentified vehicle hit his scooter at the Sector 31 traffic signal around 10:50 pm on Tuesday. According to the complaint filed by his nephew, Vikas Singh, the victim, Sanjay Kumar, was returning home from the Sector 40 market when the accident occurred.The unidentified vehicle allegedly hit Sanjay's scooter at the red light and sped away, leaving him injured on the road. Passersby arranged an ambulance and shifted him to a hospital. Vikas, who runs a restaurant in Sector 30 here, said he called his uncle's phone, which was answered by ambulance personnel, who informed him about the accident and that the injured man was being taken to Fortis Hospital.

Vikas rushed to the hospital, where doctors declared Sanjay dead. He subsequently approached Sector 40 police station and filed a complaint seeking action against the unidentified vehicle and its driver. Police registered an FIR under Sections 281 and 106 of the BNS.In the third case, a motorcyclist, Neeraj Panwar, was injured after an unidentified vehicle hit his bike from behind on the Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway (NH-48) near Signature Tower around 10:40 pm on Nov 22. According to the complaint filed by his brother, Suraj Singh Panwar, Neeraj was returning home after working at a mall when the accident occurred.The unidentified vehicle allegedly rammed into his motorcycle and fled. People present at the spot took Neeraj to Medanta Hospital for treatment.Police said Neeraj was initially unfit to give his statement. His brother subsequently approached Sector 40 police station on Nov 24 with a complaint. An FIR was registered under Sections 125(a) and 324(4) of the BNS.A fourth case was registered against an autorickshaw driver on Tuesday after Shiv Karan filed a complaint at Sector 17/18 police station. He alleged he was travelling in an autorickshaw towards Ashok Vihar from the bus stand when the driver, Dhananjay, suddenly applied the brakes while driving at high speed, causing the vehicle to overturn on the footpath.A man sustained serious injuries to his foot after an autorickshaw overturned near the iron main gate of Sector 14 on Aug 2. The injured, Shiv Karan, a resident of Ashok Vihar Phase 3, alleged that he was travelling in an autorickshaw towards Ashok Vihar from the bus stand.

## Power cuts even in winters: Noida Sector 56 residents blame rusted poles, faulty transformers

**Noida.(Agency)**

Residents of Sector 56 have said power infrastructure in the area is being poorly maintained, and corroded electricity poles, faulty cables and old transformers are leading to long, frequent outages even in the winter months.Sanjay Mavi, the president of the RWA, said around 10,000 residents of the sector are affected by these power cuts. "When we complain to the authorities about these issues, only temporary measures are undertaken. Soon after, the power supply is disrupted again," he said.

Not only are there supply disruptions, but the broken and rusted poles pose a risk of accidents too, he said. "The poles are so corroded that it is possible they may collapse. We have asked power department officials to replace them but no work has been carried out yet," he said.

Another resident said the condition of transformers in the sector was also severe. He said the protective boundaries around many of them have collapsed, which could lead to residents getting electrocuted. Some others have highlighted that repair works and maintenance often remain unfinished for years. A resident said that work on a transformer built in a green belt has been stalled for weeks now.

## As UP goes into overdrive to bring back voters, Ghazibad private schools asked to join SSR

**Ghaziabad.(Agency)**

With BLOs having limited reach, voter enrolment still low after large-scale exclusions following special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and elections nearing, private schools have also been asked to join the special summary revision (SSR) exercise.School managements have been told to circulate messages in school groups urging parents to fill out and submit forms 4, 6 and 8 for voter registration and correction of electoral details.

The exercise, which began last week, requires schools to contact parents, collect physical forms and then submit them to the administration through the district inspector of schools (DIOS) or basic shiksha adhikari (BSA) offices by this week. Schools have also been asked to organise parent-teacher meetings (PTMs) to familiarise parents with the exercise and explain the process of filling out the forms.

"Schools have been directed to share links to the three forms through WhatsApp groups.

## Weak winds trap pollutants closer to the ground as AQI slips back to poor in Noida

**Noida.(Agency)**

With weak winds and plummeting night temperatures trapping pollutants closer to the ground, the air quality in Noida and Greater Noida once again slipped back into the poor category. The air quality index (AQI) in Ghaziabad also settled in the poor category.

After Tuesday's moderate readings, the AQI in Noida deteriorated to 211 on Wednesday, while Ghaziabad recorded an average AQI of 255 as against 206 on Tuesday.

Greater Noida's air quality also plummeted as the AQI fell from 195 to 233.With one more Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAAQMS) being added to Noida, the total number has reached 24 in the three cities, but two of the Greater Noida stations – Shiv Nadar University and Ghodi Bachheda – remained non-functional. Two monitoring stations – one each in Noida and Ghaziabad – recorded very poor air quality. Six monitoring stations recorded moderate air quality while a majority – 14 – remained in the poor category.

The commercial hub in Sector 62 recorded an average AQI of 331, while Sector 1 missed the satisfactory reading marginally, recording an AQI of 104.

## Gurgaon AQI stays 'poor' for 5th day as weak winds slow pollution dispersal

**Gurgaon.(Ajency)**

The city's air quality remained in the 'poor' category on Wednesday, with the 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 257, a dip from Tuesday's 277. This is the fifth consecutive poor AQI day.However, meteorological conditions are likely to continue limiting the dispersal of pollutants. The India Meteorological Department's Air Quality Early Warning System forecast a maximum mixing height of around 1,000 metres for Wednesday, with the ventilation index remaining unfavourable for pollutant dispersion.urface winds were forecast to blow from the northwest at speeds of up to 10 kmph during the morning, strengthening to 15 kmph in the afternoon before shifting to the northeast and weakening to 5-10 kmph during the evening and night. The relatively low wind speeds could restrict the dispersal of pollutants.



The air quality forecast for Delhi-NCR indicates that pollution levels are likely to remain in the 'poor' category on Thursday and Friday as well. The maximum mixing height is expected to improve to 1,350 metres on Thursday before declining to 1,100 metres on Friday. However, the ventilation index is forecast to remain unfavourable on both days.Among Gurgaon's monitoring stations, Teri Gram recorded an AQI of 276, followed by Sector 51 at 264 and NISE Gwalpahari at 235.The city's AQI calendar showed that pollution levels peaked at 368 on Nov 6.

## Driver held for using forged police permission letter to ply vehicle in restricted hours in Gurgaon

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly using a forged permission letter bearing the signature of a former DCP (traffic) to ply his loading vehicle during restricted hours in the city.The Mahindra vehicle was stopped by a traffic police team near Atlas foot overbridge on Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway. It was travelling from Jaipur towards Delhi between 8am and 10am on Tuesday. Entry of loading vehicles is prohibited during this period.

The driver, Rahul Sagar, produced a permission letter dated Oct 31 when questioned about violating the restriction. The document, displayed on the vehicle's windshield, allegedly carried the signature of former DCP (traffic) Prateek Gahlot.

Traffic personnel grew suspicious as Gahlot had relinquished charge as DCP (traffic) on Sept 22 after being transferred as DCP, Manesar. Hitesh Yadav succeeded him.The team informed highway traffic inspector Mahabir Singh, who reached the spot and initiated verification. Officials found that the traffic department had not issued any such permission for the vehicle.Following this, police lodged a complaint at Udyog Vihar police station and registered a case of cheating and forgery. Sagar was arrested and the vehicle was impounded.During preliminary investigation, police found that the permission letter had allegedly been procured through an agent for Rs 4,500. The agent is yet to be traced and is suspected of preparing the forged document and providing it to Sagar.

Inspector Singh said the accused had allegedly paid Rs 4,500 to obtain the letter through the agent. Police are investigating where the document was prepared, how the former DCP's signature was used and whether others were involved in the alleged fraud.Sagar had purchased the loading vehicle around a month ago and was using it to transport courier goods, police said. Investigators are trying to establish whether he had been using the forged permission since purchasing the vehicle or obtained it later to evade the no-entry restrictions.

## Court acquits nine workers of BJP and BSP accused of rioting and violence at Dadri polling booth 14 years ago

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

A special court has acquitted nine persons accused in a clash between BJP and BSP polling agents during the 2012 assembly elections at a booth in Jaitpur village under the Dadri constituency. Both parties had filed FIRs against each other at Surajpur police station, leading to two separate sessions trials. One ran for 11 years and the other for nine, with 139 and 121 hearings, respectively.Special Judge (SC/ST Act) Somprabha Mishra on Nov 21 acquitted all the accused for lack of evidence. One of the accused died during the trial. All witnesses turned hostile, and the prosecution failed to prove its charges.

The cases are linked to two FIRs lodged at Surajpur police station on Feb 28, 2012. BSP's booth agent Srichand told the cops that earlier that day BJP's polling agent Vijay Singh, along with his brothers Vajrapal, Veerpal, Omprakash and nephew Raju, had raided booth 287 to capture it during polling. He said the men had hurled casteist slurs as he belonged to the SC community. A case was registered against them under IPC sections 147 (rioting), 323 (causing simple hurt), 504 (intentional insult to provoke breach of peace) and 506 (criminal intimidation) and section 3(1)(x) of the SC/ST Act.A counter complaint was filed on the same day against Srichand, his brothers Dharamveer and Chhanga and his nephews Jitendra and Virendra by the BJP polling agent Vijay Singh. He told the cops that Srichand and his men had barged into the polling booth, assaulted him and cast fake votes. Police subsequently filed a case against the BSP workers under IPC sections 147, 323 and 506.Surajpur police filed chargesheets in both the cases and the sessions court framed charges on Sept 21, 2015, and July 31, 2017, in the first and second cases, respectively.In both cases, the complainants corroborated the incident of violence at the booth but later said there was a commotion and they were not aware who the perpetrators were.When Srichand was cross-examined, he said that someone in the crowd had asked him to include being insulted with casteist remarks and so he included that in his complaint.

## Rice up 23%, oil 15%, sugar nearly double: City feels grocery pinch

**Gurgaon.(Agency)**

The monthly grocery bill is getting harder to manage, even for households buying much the same essentials as they did six months ago.Average retail prices have gone up. A kilo of rice that cost Rs 39.4 in May is now selling for Rs 48.4. Mustard oil has climbed from Rs 185 to Rs 213, sugar from around Rs 40 to Rs 70, and onions that were available for Rs 30-35 now cost Rs 60-70 a kg. Milk has also become Rs 4 a litre dearer across three major brands, adding to the squeeze on everyday spending.

The increases are not confined to one section of the grocery basket, leaving families with little room to avoid the higher expense. A comparison of May and Nov prices shows rice has become 22.7% costlier, while packed mustard oil has risen 15.1%. Engine brand mustard oil, meanwhile, has gone up from Rs 195 a litre in April and May to Rs 240 in Nov, an increase of 23.1%. Wheat flour, another household staple, has become 7.4% more expensive, with its average retail price increasing from Rs 35.6 to Rs 38.2 per kg. Sugar has seen one of the steepest jumps, rising by nearly 75% from its May price.

Shopkeepers said the pressure on the pocket has become all the more noticeable in recent weeks. "I am selling flour at Rs 20 a kg higher than a month ago. Other grocery items have also witnessed a hike," said Deepak Kumar, a shop owner in Sector 15.

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## Note found in Faridabad hotel confirms DU student was killed, boyfriend says 'tired of the world'

**Noida.(Agency)**

A note found in the Faridabad hotel room where a 19-year-old DU student was found dead on Tuesday indicated she was murdered by the youth she was in a relationship with, police said. Her boyfriend — who had checked out before police arrived — left two notes, in one of which he confessed to killing her and said he would die by suicide too. Vipin Yadav, 26, claimed the two had been in a relationship for eight years and the decision had been made by both as they were "tired of the world". Police have launched a search operation for him.



Arna Singh, a second-year BCom student at Delhi University's Kalindi College, was found dead on Tuesday morning in a room at Hotel Joya in Faridabad's Sector 37. The two notes, written by Vipin, and a bottle of rat poison were recovered from the room, police said.

In the first note, Vipin wrote that the decision to end their lives had been taken by both of them. "I, Vipin Yadav and Arna have been in love with each other for the last eight years and are tired of the world. Because of this, we are taking this step. I have killed her and then I will kill myself," the note stated.He further claimed he had attempted suicide three to four times earlier but had been saved. "This is why I am going to the canal and have shared my last location on Arna's phone," the note stated.Police said he had only written about sharing his location and had not actually sent it. "The note does not mention a specific location for the canal, and he did not send any location to Arna's phone," a senior police officer said. Police are trying to trace Vipin's movements and phone location, including whether he travelled elsewhere after leaving the hotel.The second note written by Vipin contained details of monetary transactions and the names of people with whom he had pending financial settlements, with amounts to be received from or paid to different people. The officer said the entries appeared to range from Rs 50,000 to Rs 3,50,000 to be received, along with transactions with people he had to pay or had already paid.

# The Constitution is supreme, justice is everyone's right: Judicial Council

**The Sikh Times**

New Delhi (News Varta): Judicial Council has called for comprehensive and time-bound reforms in the justice delivery system to ensure equal and impartial justice for every citizen through institutional transparency, integrity and accountability. On the eve of Constitution Day, Judicial Council called upon the nation to reaffirm its commitment to the constitutional values of Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. The Constitution of India is the foundation of democracy and the guardian of the fundamental rights of citizens. Its true strength is reflected only when its ideals are effectively implemented by every institution, in administrative decisions and throughout judicial processes. Judicial Council expressed concern over the challenges confronting the justice delivery system. The prolonged pendency of cases, increasing burden on courts, procedural complexities and lack of transparency make it difficult for ordinary citizens to obtain timely justice. The purpose of the justice system is to protect rights, not to leave citizens helpless because of delays and complications. Every individual must receive equal protection of the law, irrespective of financial status, position, reputation or influence. Mr. Rajiv Agnihotri, Chairman of Judicial Council, said, "The Constitution of India must not remain confined to books, courtrooms and formal speeches. Its spirit must be reflected in every institution and every decision. The people deserve a system that protects their rights rather than forcing them into an endless struggle to obtain justice." He further stated, "Delays in the delivery of justice can deprive citizens of the real benefits of their constitutional rights. The time has come to ensure concrete reforms, institutional transparency and accountability. Public confidence in institutions must be preserved." Speaking on judicial independence and accountability, the Chairman said, "Judicial independence is essential to democracy, but it does not mean exemption from accountability. Fairness, integrity and responsibility enhance the dignity of institutions. Accountability does not weaken institutions; it strengthens them." He emphasised that no position or public office can be considered above the law. He further observed, "An ordinary citizen must enjoy the same dignity and equality before the law as the most influential person. If justice becomes accessible only to those who possess wealth, connections or influence, the constitutional promise of equality will lose its meaning." Judicial Council advocates concrete and time-bound reforms to strengthen the justice delivery system. These include expeditious disposal of pending cases, reducing unnecessary delays, enhancing transparency in judicial and administrative procedures, developing effective grievance redressal mechanisms and establishing appropriate institutional accountability frameworks. Better utilisation of resources and simplification of procedures can also improve access to justice. Judicial Council stated that justice must be affordable, accessible and timely, particularly for the poor and vulnerable sections of society. Those in need must receive effective legal assistance, and their fundamental rights and due process of law must be protected. There must be zero tolerance for corruption, favouritism and abuse of authority. Allegations of misconduct must be investigated fairly, independently and in accordance with the procedure established by law. Judicial Council clarified that the independence of the judiciary must be protected under all circumstances. However, judicial independence must not be interpreted as institutional impunity, nor should judicial independence be weakened in the name of accountability. Maintaining a balance between these two constitutional principles is essential for democracy and the credibility of the judiciary. Action on allegations must be based on impartial investigation and the rule of law. Concluding his remarks, Mr. Rajiv Agnihotri, Chairman of Judicial Council, said, "Let us make this Constitution Day an occasion to resolve to stand against injustice, challenge corruption, ensure accountability and protect the rights of every Indian. We need a democracy in which every citizen can experience justice in their everyday life. Our demand is clear—no selective justice, no institutional impunity and no compromise with the Constitution. A true tribute to Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and the makers of the Constitution will be paid only when even the weakest citizen of this country can confidently say that the law will protect them and that they will not be denied justice."




## Man held with 458 kg of banned firecrackers

Gurugram: Over 458 kg of banned firecrackers were seized and a man arrested following a police raid in the Jaikampura area of Gurugram. The arrested accused was identified as Harsh Arora, a resident of Jaikampura, Gurugram. According to the police, a total of 485 kg and 180 g of banned firecrackers were recovered from his possession. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Explosives Act at City Police Station. "During police interrogation, it was revealed that the accused had brought the fireworks from Delhi with the intention of selling them.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my **Mr. Raju Dhanrajani (For 50% share) & M/s. R.K.B Construction Company through its Rajan Zubair Siddiqui (For 50% share) in respect of Third Floor (RHS), Built up on Plot Bearing No.C-144, area measuring 220 sq. yards, out of Khasra No.279min., Situated at Village-Chhatarpur, Tehsil-Saket, New Delhi;** claiming to have undisputed ownership. Now my client intends to sell the property in which **SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited** will provide the financial assistance If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within Seven days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**Khaitan & Khaitan**
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

### Public Notice

MRS. SUNITA DEVI S/o/W/o Sonu Kumar Resident and owner of property PROPERTY ID: 3TJ5Q509 RESIDENTIAL PLOT AREA MEASURING 100 SQ. YARDS, SITUATED THE LAL DORA AND WITHIN MUNICIPAL COMMITTEE LIMITS, WARD NO. 7, MOHALLA BHOODPARA/KAYASTHWARA, REWARI ROAD, NEAR POLICE STATION SOHNA, TEHSIL SOHNA, DISTRICT GURUGRAM, herein referred to as said property through Sale Deed dated 12.06.2023 bearing Doc No 3069 purchased fromMrs. Geeta Rani. Said property is free from all sorts of encumbrance, lien, charges, mortgages etc. and have a clear and marketable title and possession of the property. Old Documents related to property are lost including Original Sale Deed dated 31.01.2019 executed by Mr. Fateh Singh alias Fate Singh S/o Mr. Arjun Singh in favour of Mrs. Geeta Rani W/o Mr. Shyam Lal regd. doc no. 6352 in book no. 1 vol no. 2121/1393 on pages no. 41.75/19-20 on dated 31.01.2019 and FIR No. 132271052601361 for the same is also done. Above-mentioned property mortgaged in AU Small Finance Bank Ltd. Sector 15 Gurugram. Mentioned lost documents can not be used hereafter for any loss purpose and If anybody have any objection and found above mentioned documents or property related documents of above-mentioned documents Kindly contact Bank branch or the concern person

### NAME CHANGE

I, Nitin Kumar Garg, S/O Narender Garg, R/O 80 TF G Plus 3, Omaxe City, Sector- 15, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana- 124507 have changed my name to Nitin Garg for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Narendra Kumar Garg, S/O Om Parkash Garg, R/O 80 TF G Plus 3, Omaxe City, Sector- 15, Bahadurgarh, Jhajjar, Haryana- 124507 have changed my name to Narender Garg for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Asad Abraham Khan S/O Ahsan Khan R/o Flat No. 807 Tower-5 Pivotal Paradise Society Sector-62 Gurgaon-122002 have changed my minor Son's name Kabir to Kabir Chhabra

### NAME CHANGE

I Babulal S/o Ramswaroop Kudawla R/o H.No -799 Near ESIC Hospital Sec-9 Gurgaon-122001 have changed my name to Babulal Kudawla

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my client **Sh. Shekhar, Sh. Jayant, Smt. Durgesh Kumari, Neelam Raani, Rajani Devi in in respect of Old Plot No. 20, Now Property bearing New No. C-30, with all its roof/terrace rights, admeasuring 50 sq. yds. Part of Khasra No. 372, Situated in the area of Village Tihar in Ajanta Enclave, Delhi State Delhi Now Colony Known as Ajay Enclave Extension, New Delhi-110018.,** claiming to have undisputed ownership. Now my client intends to sell the property in which **Bajaj Housing Finance Limited** will provide the financial assistance If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 7 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**Khaitan & Khaitan**
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

### PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT MRS. HARINDER KAUR SHARMA IS OWNER AND IN POSSESSION OF "PORTION OF PLOT NO. 28/1232 BEARING HOUSE NO. 927/60, LAND AREA MEASURING 34.1/3 SQ. YARDS, WITH ITS ROOF/TERRACE RIGHTS UPTO SKY, OUT OF KHASRA NO. 224, SITUATED AT VILLAGE CHOWKRI MUBARAKBAD, LEKHU NAGAR, TRI NAGAR, DELHI-110035". AND ACQUIRED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE NOTARIZED GPA AND ATS AND REGD. RECEIPT AND WILL DATED 12.02.1987 EXECUTED BY MR. NAND KISHORE IN FAVOUR OF MRS. HARINDER KAUR SHARMA. NOW MR. RAM RATAN IS GOING TO PURCHASE THE SAID PROPERTY, FROM OWNER / SELLER MRS. HARINDER KAUR SHARMA, WHICH WILL BE MORTGAGED WITH TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED AS SECURITY AGAINST HOUSING LOAN FOR PURCHASING OF SAID PROPERTY. PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER AND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS TO UNDERSIGNED IF ANYONE HAS AN OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION..

**ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE**
E-16, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032.
MOBILE NO. 9958996685.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Nivedita Ummat W/o Lovneesh Ummat R/o D-46, Chander Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201011 have changed my name to Nivedita Sachdeva.

### NAME CHANGE

I,SHADAB S/O AAS MOHAMMAD, residing at B-397,Gali No-6,Babu Nagar Delhi-110094, have changed my name to SHADAB MALIK

### NAME CHANGE

I, KM CHANDRA WATI W/O SHALENDER KUMAR R/o B-455 Kathputli Colony, Division-II, Pandav Nagar, Patel Nagar S.O, Central Delhi Delhi, 110008 have changed the name of my minor daughter MAHI KUMARI aged 14 years and she shall hereafter be known as MAHI YADAV.

### Name Correction

I HAIDAR S/O SUBRATI Resident of House No 1297 STREET NO 41 JAFRABAD SEELAMPUR NORTH EAST Delhi 110053 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under.That my Passport mention My Name incorrect HAIDAR ALI My Correct Name Is HAIDAR

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large on behalf of my **Smt. Nidhi Paul alias Nidhi Singh, D/o Late Sh. Mahender Paul** in respect of **Built Up First Floor without roof rights, built on Portion of Property bearing No. 108-B, admeasuring 50 sq. yds. out of Rect. No. 12, Killa No. 23, Situated in the Abadi of New Layalpur, in the Area of Village Khureji Khas, Illaqa Shahdara, Delhi-110051** claiming to have undisputed ownership. Now my client intends to sell the property in which SMFG India Home Finance Company Limited will provide the financial assistance If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within Seven days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**Khaitan & Khaitan**
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that our client, Mrs. Saroj W/o Mr. Sunil Kumar, is the absolute owner and in lawful possession of Freehold Residential House No. B-19/2, land area measuring 83.61 Sq. Mtrs., out of Khasra No. 18/8/0 (as per documents Khasra No. 23/3), Situated at Nangli Vihar Colony near Nangli Dairy, Najafgarh, New Delhi-110043., by virtue of a Authorization Slip dated 09.10.2026 duly regd. as Doc No. 2026/82/I/741, Vol No. 70, Book No. 1 on Pages 185-196, in SR-Matiala.,. Our client hereby declares that, except as stated herein, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim, lien, charge, or encumbrance whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid property. It is further declared that the Same property of the above-mentioned property. and same property to be mortgaged, Roha Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd., Branch Uttam Nagar New Delhi. Accordingly, any person having any objection, claim, right, title, interest, or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid property is called upon to intimate the same in writing, along with supporting documentary evidence, to the undersigned within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be presumed that no such claim exists, and any such claim, if raised thereafter, shall be deemed to have been waived and abandoned.

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]**
Advocate
1/566-A, Ground Floor,
Sector-1, Vaishali,
Ghaziabad, Uttar
Pradesh-201010.
Contact at
09958871432

### NAME CHANGE

I, ISTAQ & ISHTYAQ S/O SAJAUDDIN R/O H NO-A-174/1, GALI NO-5-B, GURU NANAK NAGAR, MUSTAFABAD, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME MOHD ISHTIYAQ FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I ZANNATI WIFE OF MOHD ISHTIYAQ R/O H NO-A-174/1, GALI NO-5-B, GURU NANAK NAGAR, MUSTAFABAD, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110094 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME JANNATI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### Public Notice

It is for general information that I Chhote Lal S/O Saryaug Ram, R/O H-NO.-129, gali N0.-2/2, Aditya garden, Near bala Jii Mandir, CHAUHAN PATTI, North East, Delhi 110094, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Chhotey Lal and Siyaram in my Voting card no NSF0041665.The actual name of mine and my father are Chhote Lal and Saryaug Ram,respectively which may be amended accordingly.

### LOST & FOUND

I,mrs. Annapoorny bala Subramanian resident of E-82, Seema Apartment plot- 7, sector 11, Dwarka, Delhi, has lost/misplaced the original relinquishment deed of property B-202 Yamuna Apartment Alaknanda New Delhi 110019. A complaint regarding the same has been lodged with Delhi Police vide LR No: 791617/2026. If found by anyone, please contact the undersigned. **Annapoorny**

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client **Mr. Rahul Kumar Yadav** is purchasing the property bearing no. RZ-CD-23 and RZ-CD/23B, land area measuring 25+25 = 50 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra no. 12/21, situated in the revenue Estate of village Mirzapur, Delhi State Delhi and colony known as Mahavir Enclave, C-2 Block, New Delhi-110045; from Mr. Surjit who is the owner of the property vide GPA, ATS & WILL dated 25/01/2026 and Intend to mortgage the said property with **Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited.** If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

**Khaitan & Khaitan**
Plot No. 100 ,1st floor
Okhla Phase III, New Delhi
Ph. No: 011-49774545

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is hereby given to the general public that our client Mrs. Yogita Anand W/o Mr. Joginder Anand is the owner and in possession of a Freehold Residential Property, area measuring 108.69 sq. Mtrs., Out of Khasra No. 69/11, Gali No. 20-B, Block-A, Situated at Village of Revenue Estate Burari, Kaushik Enclave, Burari Road, Delhi-110084., Our client acquired the said property by virtue of a Authorization Slip dated 14.07.2024 duly regd. Vide Doc. No. 2024/19/I/9048, in Book No. 1, Volume No. 11074, on Pages No. 1-6, on dated 14.07.2024, in the office of Sub-Registrar Office- I, Kashmere Gate, in the chain documents below mentioned documents not available i.e. SMC of Mr. Gajendra Singh Rawat S/o Late Mr. Bhawan Singh Rawat died on 01.10.2017 Therefore, our client hereby declares that except him, no other person has any right, title, interest, claim or objection in respect of the above-mentioned property., and the said property to be financed/ mortgaged with Piramal Finance Ltd., Branch: Burari Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the` right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

**[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]**
Advocate
1/566-A, Ground Floor,
Sector-1, Vaishali,
Ghaziabad, Uttar
Pradesh-201010.
Contact at
09958871432

### NAME CHANGE

I HASSAN FATMA WIFE OF MOHRRAM ALI R/O. D-264, GALI NO-4, NOOR E ILAHI, GHONDA VISTAR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME HASAN FATMA FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE AND HAVE CHANGED MY HUSBAND NAME LATE MOHARAM ALI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

### Name Correction

I ASIF KHA S/O GULAM HAIDER KHA Resident of House No G-209 STREET NO 13 BHAGIRATH VIHAR KARAWAL NAGAR NORTH EAST Delhi 110094 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as under.That my Passport mention My Name incorrect ASIF My Correct Name Asif kha is N My Father Name Incorrect GULAM HAIDER Correct Name GULAM HAIDER KHA

### NAME CHANGE

I RAMDEI DEVI legally mother of Army No - 15228669Y, Rank - NK, Name - RAKESH KUMAR PASWAN, Presently Residing At, Post Maharajganj, Vill Mujahana khurd, Teh - Maharajganj, Dist Maharajganj, State Uttar Pradesh, Pin 273303, have changed my name from RAMDEI DEVI to RAM DAI for all future purposes, Vide affidavit dated 26/11/2026 before Notary Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, VANDNA SINGH W/o Amar Nath Singh R/o 98-A, Ground Floor, Street No.5, Krishna Nagar, opp Safdarjung Enclave, Delhi-110029, have changed my name to VANDANA SINGH permanently.

### NAME CHANGE

I PUROHI DINESH S/O BHAVARLAL R/O A-153 3RD FLOOR SHASTRI NAGAR, ASHOK VIHAR DELHI-110052 . Have changed my name to DINESH KUMAR for all purposes.

### Date of Birth Change

I SELVI legally mother of Army no - 15190021w, Rank - HAV, Name - Jayaseelan R, Presently Residing Post - Sivanathapuram, Teh - Anaicut, Dist - Vellore, State- Tamil Nadu, Pin - 632105 in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 04/02/1973 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1971 Vide affidavit dated 26/11/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### Date of Birth Change

I B. Rangan legally father of Army no - 15190021w Rank - HAV, Name - Jayaseelan R, Presently Residing Post - Sivanathapuram, Teh - Anaicut, Dist - Vellore, State- Tamil Nadu, Pin - 632105 in my son's service records my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1975 instead of my correct date of birth as 1961 Vide affidavit dated 26/11/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL PUBLIC IS HEREBY INFORMED THAT BACK CHAIN OF "PLOT NO.197, LAND AREA MEASURING 200.97 SQ.MTRS., I.E 168.032 SQ.MTRS., (APPROX.)., OUT OF KHASRA NO. 23/1, SITUATED IN THE REVENUE ESTATE OF VILLAGE KHAIRA, DELHI STATE DELHI IN THE ABADI KNOWN AS PREM NAGAR, Z-BLOCK, KASHMIRI COLONY, PH-IV, PAPRAWAT ROAD, NAJAFGARH, NEW DELHI-110043." I.E. NOTARIZED GPA & WILL, DATED 10.12.1996 EXECUTED BY MR. DHARAM SINGH, MR. BHIM SINGH, MR. HOSHIR SINGH, MR. SATPAL SINGH, MR. CHARANJEE LAL & MR. SHASHI YADAV IN FAVOUR OF MR. BHAGWAT SWAROOP IN RESPECT OF THE LAND AREA MEASURING 3 KILLAS HAVE BEEN LOST BY THE CURRENT OWNER MRS. KIRAN KUMARI YADAV AND SAID OWNER MRS. KIRAN KUMARI YADAV PURCHASED THE SAID PROPERTY VIDE SALE DEED DATED 19.10.2026 EXECUTED BY MRS. SAVITA. NOW MRS. KIRAN KUMARI YADAV WANTS TO TAKE LOAN AGAINST THE SAID PROPERTY FROM TRU HOME FINANCE LIMITED. PLEASE SUBMIT THE SAID DEEDS IF FIND BY ANY PERSON. ALSO PLEASE CONTACT WITH WRITTEN OBJECTION LETTER WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WITH UNDERSIGNED IF HAVING ANY OBJECTION IN RESPECT OF SAID PROPERTY WITHIN 10 DAYS OF THIS PUBLICATION. ITS USE BY ANYONE IS ILLEGAL.

**ADITYA VERMA, ADVOCATE**
E-16, E-BLOCK, MANSAROVAR PARK, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110032.
MOBILE NO. 9958996685.

### NAME CHANGE

I, TATWAMASI KUMARI wife of Army No–15178923Y, Rank–HAV(DS), Name–MUKESH KUMAR, permanent residing at KALUCHAK, KHARIK, BHAGALPUR, KARIK BAZAR. BIHAR-853202, have changed my name from TATWAMASI KUMARI to TATWAMASHI KUMARI for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 26/11/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, AJAY SHARMA S/O OM PRAKASH SHARMA R/O PLOT NO-70/71, Q BLOCK, NEW ROSHAN PURA EXTN, NAJAFGARH, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110043, I have changed my name from CHHAIL BIHARI SHARMA TO AJAY SHARMA for all future purpose.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Naresh Kumar, son of Babu Lal, resident of A-79 gali no -10 narayan vihar laxmi vihar Prem nagar 3 kirari suleman nagar Delhi 110086, hereby declare that I have changed my name from Naresh Kumar to Naresh.Henceforth, I shall be known as Naresh for all purposes. Both names, Naresh Kumar and Naresh, refer to one and the same person.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAMSHAWRUP YADAV father of Army No–15178923Y, Rank–HAV(DS), Name–MUKESH KUMAR, permanent residing at KALUCHAK, KHARIK, BHAGALPUR, KARIK BAZAR. BIHAR-853202, have changed my name from RAMSHAWRUP YADAV to RAMSWARUP YADAV for all future purposes vide Affidavit Dated 26/11/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, SUDERSHAN KUMAR / SUDARSHAN SINGH S/O HANUWANT SINGH R/O GALI NO-1,RAO TULARAM VIHAR, RAMPURA (132),REWARI, HARYANA-123401, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUDARSHAN KUMAR FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

### NAME CHANGE

I, SHVETA KHANDELWAL W/O HIMANSHU DUTTA R/O 0D6, HOUSE NO 282, SECTOR 6, ROHINI, ROHINI, DELHI 110085 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHVETA SHARMA ALL FUTURE PURPOSES

### NAME CHANGE

I, AMIT KUMAR SINGH S/O DEEN DAYAL SINGH R/o RA-103, 2ND FLOOR, INDERPURI, DELHI-110012 have changed the name of my minor daughter PARI SINGH aged 9 years and she shall hereafter be known as SAUMYA SINGH. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in the connection.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Raju intends to purchase a Residential Portion of Plot Bearing No. 92, area measuring 100 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 244, situated at Govindpuri, Village Dasna, Pargana Dasna, Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P., from Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mr. Manoj Kumar. That the original owner of the said property was Mrs. Sushma Chaudhary, who purchased the same from Mr. Ratan Singh Gautam and others through a Sale Deed dated 09.03.2007. Thereafter, Mrs. Sushma Chaudhary sold to Mr. Vikas Mehta through a Sale Deed dated 30.03.2009. Subsequently, Mr. Vikas Mehta sold to Mrs. Rajeshwari Sharma through a Sale Deed dated 06.04.2011. Thereafter, Mrs. Rajeshwari Sharma sold to Mrs. Kirpali Devi through a Sale Deed dated 24.02.2015. Further, Mrs. Kirpali Devi executed a Registered Will dated 05.06.2021 in favour of Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mr. Manoj Kumar. Mrs. Kirpali Devi passed away on 15.08.2021, leaving behind her aforesaid legal heirs, namely, Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mr. Manoj Kumar. Accordingly, Mr. Sanjay Kumar and Mr. Manoj Kumar are presently in possession of the said property. The said property is stated to be free from all encumbrances, liens, charges, mortgages and other third-party claims.The proposed purchase of the aforesaid property is being financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Branch: Noida, Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 7 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail. failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**[ASHWANI KUMAR]** Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound,
Ghaziabad, U.P.
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

### NAME CHANGE

I, NITIN KUMAR S/O PRADEEP KUMAR R/O 336-337, 2ND FLOOR 4 TOOTI WALI GALI TELIWARA SHAHDARA DELHI 110032, CHANGED MY NAME TO NITIN KUMAR SINGHAL.

### NAME CHANGE

I,SANDHYA D/O JITENDAR KUMAR R/o, FLAT NO.455, BAHAWALPUR APARTMENT, PLOT NO 1, DWARKA SECTOR-4, SOUTHWEST DELHI, DELHI-110078 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANDHYA KUMARI for all future purpose

### NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD FATEH ALI S/O ASGHAR ALI R/O T-21, PHOOL WALI GALI, BASTI HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN, HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN, SOUTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110013 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD FATEH ALI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, ASGHAR ALI JAFRI S/O DEEN MOHAMMAD R/O T-21, PHOOL WALI GALI, BASTI HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN, HAZRAT NIZAMUDDIN, SOUTH EAST DELHI, DELHI-110013 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ASGHAR ALI.

### NAME CHANGE

I, ANOOP KUMAR BISWAS S/O ARABINDA BISWAS R/O 46 B/56, BLOCK D D A FLATS, CHITTARANJAN PARK, DELHI-110019 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO ANUP BISWAS.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RENUKA SINGHA wife of No.-14678523Y, Rank-HAV, Name-DULAL MAHATA residing at VILL-DHOBADHOBIN, PO-PUKURIA, TEHSIL-JHARGRAM, WEST BENGAL-721514, have changed my name from RENUKA SINGHA to RENUKA MAHATA for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 16/10/2026 before Executive Magistrate, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Rakesh W/o Sunil Kumar R/o C-163, Chhatarpur Extension, New Delhi-110074 and shall hereafter be known as Rakesh Yadav for all future purposes.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Mrs. Sarita Devi W/o Mr. Anil Kumar is the owner of Plot No. B-4, measuring 75 Sq. Yds., out of Khasra Nos. 801, 804 & 805, situated in Bharat Shekari Avas Samiti Ltd., in the area of Village Tilpata Karanvas, Pargana & Tehsil Dadri, District Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. The initial allottee of the said property was Mr. Shailendra Garg, who purchased the same from Bharat Shekari Avas Samiti Ltd. through a Sale Deed dated 13.04.2010. Subsequently, Mr. Shailendra Garg sold the said property to Mrs. Sarita Devi W/o Mr. Anil Kumar through a Sale Deed dated 30.05.2017, registered as Document No. 7229. It is hereby informed that the original Share Certificate, Allotment Letter, Possession Letter and Sale Deed dated 30.05.2017, executed by Bharat Shekari Avas Samiti Ltd. in favour of Mr. Shailendra Garg, have been lost/misplaced and are not traceable despite all possible efforts. In this regard, an online FIR bearing LR No. 20260001291906 was registered on 26.11.2026 at Police Station: Police Computer Center, Technical Services HQ, Lucknow, regarding the loss of the aforesaid original documents. The proposed purchase of the aforesaid property to be being financed by DCB Bank Limited, Branch: Ghaziabad, U.P. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 7 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail. failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**[ASHWANI KUMAR]** Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound,
Ghaziabad, U.P.
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

### CONSTRUCTION OF GATHERING HALL

**Tender Notice No. CON/2026/NOV/01.** Open tender through e-Tendering system is invited from experienced and reputed contractor(s)/firm(s) for the following works: **Tender No. DYCE-CON-MLG3-BLD-26-01RT. Name of work:** Construction of Gathering hall over the roof of Majuli ORH. **Tender value:** ₹1,16,50,814.09/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹2,33,000/-.**Date & Time of closing of tender:** At **14.30** hrs. on **15-12-2026**. The complete information and tender document of above e-Tender will be available at **www.ireps.gov.in**

**Dy. Chief Engineer/Con/Maligaon-III**
**NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY**
**(Construction Organisation)**
*Serving Customers With A Smile*

### NAME CHANGE

I, KM CHANDRA WATI W/O SHALENDER KUMAR R/o B-455 Kathputli Colony, Division-II, Pandav Nagar, Patel Nagar S.O, Central Delhi Delhi, 110008 have changed the name of my minor daughter MAHI KUMARI and she shall hereafter be known as MAHI YADAV.

### Name Correction

It is for general information that I, KM CHANDRA WATI W/O SHALENDER KUMAR, R /O B-455 Kathputli Colony, Division-II, Pandav Nagar, Patel Nagar S.O, Central Delhi Delhi, 110008 declare that name of mine and my husband have been wrongly written as CHANDA and SHAILENDER in my minor daughter namely MAHI KUMARI, aged 14 years in her birth certificate and school records. The actual name of mine and my husband are KM CHANDRA WATI and SHALENDER KUMAR respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, MOHAMMAD REHAN S/o MOHD RIYAZ, R/o 313/76-C, TULSI NAGAR, INDERLOK, ONKAR NAGAR, DELHI-110035, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as MOHD REHAN in my Driving Licence No. DL120240036840. The actual name of mine MOHAMMAD REHAN, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Sadiqua Sultana D/o Toukir Ahmmed and W/o Raja Paul, residing at Bejoy Lakshmi Colony, Nabapally, Barasat- I, Nabapally, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal-700126, have embraced HINDUISM and renounced ISLAM with effect from 24.11.2026 and also have changed my name from Sadiqua Sultana to Sonia Paul.

### NAME CHANGE

I, JAIMANI DEVI, dependent parent of CHANDAN KUMAR resident of VPO-SHAMSHER NAGAR, PS-DAUDNAGAR, DIST-AURANGABAD, BIHAR-824143 have changed my name from JAIMANI DEVI to JAYAMANI DEVI vide affidavit dated 26/11/2026 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RASIL M P S/o SH. MUKUNDAN MADATHIL, resident of WZ-1247/A, 2nd Floor, Opposite Sahyogi Park and Near Makkar dairy, Nangal Raya, South West Delhi, Delhi-110046, have changed the name of my minor daughter AYAANA, aged 11 years and she shall hereafter be known as AYAANA RASIL.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MOHAMMAD SHOAIB S/o SALIM GILATYA, R/o F-56/22, Block-F, Batla House, Jamia Nagar, P.O. New Friends Colony, District South Delhi, Delhi-110025, declare that the name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHAMMAD SALEEM in my 10th Class Educational Documents, Diploma, B.Tech, Passport No. T9037293 and OBC Certificate No. 90500000124641, and the name of my mother has been wrongly written as SABINA in my 10th Class Educational Documents and Passport No. T9037293. The actual names of my father and mother are SALIM GILATYA and SAMINA, respectively, which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Suresh Kumar is the owner of Shop Bearing No. 4, area measuring 60 Sq. Yards, out of the total area measuring 462 Sq. Yards, out of Khasra No. 254 Min, situated in the revenue estate of Village Satbari, Tehsil Saket, New Delhi. The initial owner of the said property was Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta, who purchased the same through two separate Sale Deeds dated 04.05.2011. Thereafter, he appointed his son, Mr. Atul Gupta, vide Registered GPA dated 07.09.2022. Mr. Vijay Kumar Gupta expired on 08.01.2024, leaving behind legal heirs: Mrs. Savita Gupta (Wife), Mr. Anmol Gupta and Mr. Atul Gupta (Sons), and Mrs. Shweta Gupta, Mrs. Rashmi Goenk and Mrs. Monika Aggarwal (Daughters). Thereafter, Mrs. Savita Gupta, Mr. Anmol Gupta, Mrs. Shweta Gupta, Mrs. Rashmi Goenk and Mrs. Monika Aggarwal release their respective shares in favour of Mr. Atul Gupta through a Relinquishment Deed dated 24.05.2024. Subsequently, Mr. Atul Gupta transferred to Mr. Mahesh Aggarwal through GPA, SPA, ATS and Will dated 01.10.2024. Thereafter, Mr. Mahesh Aggarwal transferred to Mr. Himanshu Tanwar through GPA, SPA, ATS and Will dated 19.01.2026. Thereafter, Mr. Himanshu Tanwar transferred to Mr. Suresh Kumar through GPA, SPA, ATS and Will dated 12.05.2026. Subsequently, Mr. Himanshu Tanwar also executed a Sale Deed dated 02.11.2026, registered as Document No. 2026/75/I/827, in favour of Mr. Suresh Kumar. The said property is stated to be free from all encumbrances, liens, charges, mortgages and other third-party claims. The proposed purchase of the aforesaid property is to be financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, Branch: Janakpuri, New Delhi. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit his/her objection within 7 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail. failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

**[ASHWANI KUMAR]** Advocate
Chamber No. 122,
Tehsil Compound,
Ghaziabad, U.P.
kumar2021ashwani@gmail.com

## 13 killed in Indonesia gold mine flooding, rescue ops on for 13 others trapped

**Jakarta.(Agency).**

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Rescuers will resume the search on Thursday for 13 workers trapped underground in an illegal gold mine in Indonesia's West Java province, with 13 already confirmed dead, police and rescue authorities said.

In the region of Bogor, south of the capital Jakarta, a total of 26 workers entered the mine on Monday when heavy rains inundated the shaft and left them trapped 100 m (328 ft) underground.Hengki, West Java's police chief, told Reuters that of the 13 fatalities, six have already been identified. The search would continue on Thursday barring bad weather conditions, he added.Access to the mine has been made more difficult by the narrow, slippery and dark conditions of the shaft, authorities said.Indonesia's search and rescue agency said rescuers were focusing on two mine shafts, and were using ropes to gain access, but the 100-metre depth of the excavation complicated search efforts.Small-scale and illegal mining has caused a series of accidents in Indonesia, where mineral resources are located in remote areas in conditions that are difficult for authorities to regulate.

## Inside Huang's Nvidia return: Trump-Vance's secret push and an angry Rubio

**World.(Agency).**

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As news broke on Monday morning that Jensen Huang was being reinstated as Nvidia CEO, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio was seething. After all, it was a memo prepared by Rubio months ago that warned Donald Trump of Jensen's relationship with a suspected Chinese spy (Alice Huang). However, Rubio was nowhere in the picture as Trump and Vice President JD Vance led a secret weekend push to bring back Jensen, according to a CBS News report.The weekend's behind-the-scenes effort to bring back Jensen was led by a small circle involving Trump, Vance and Nvidia's board. Trump wanted Jensen back at Nvidia at all costs (we will explain the reason later). He also dialled Wall Street and Silicon Valley titans to get their backing.

**HOW TRUMP GOT HUANG BACK AT NVIDIA?**

Imagine the situation. A president calling one of the world's most valuable companies and telling its board to reinstate the CEO is indeed extraordinary. It's hard to imagine any president other than Trump doing that.

## Major economies balk at new US tariffs over 'unfair' trade

**World.(Agency)**

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Major economies from China to the EU hit out at proposed new US tariffs after Washington concluded its months-long probe into alleged excess production, potentially opening a new phase in trade tensions with both allies and foes alike.The new tolls, which follow an investigation launched days after the Supreme Court struck down President Donald Trump's previous duties, range up to 20 percent and face a period of public comment before taking effect, at the earliest in January.The levies target some of the United States' largest trading partners, with China, the European Union, India, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam in the crosshairs.

Some, such as Japan, denied having excessive production."Japan does not have any non-market policy practices or structural excess production capacity... It is regrettable that a proposed measure targeting Japan has been announced in spite of this," the country's top government spokesman Minoru Kihara said.A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, noted that the proposals sought to take existing trade deals into account.

# US says no proof China sent Alice Huang to seduce, spy on Nvidia chief: Report

According to the New York Times, US intelligence officials told congressional aides there was no evidence China directed Alice Huang to spy on Jensen Huang. The assessment comes as the reinstated Nvidia chief faces scrutiny over alleged chip diversions.

**World.(Agency).**

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The US has found no evidence that China directed Alice Huang, who had an affair with Jensen Huang, to spy on him, intelligence officials told congressional aides at a classified briefing a day after the Nvidia founder's surprise reinstatement as CEO.Officials from the FBI, CIA and Office of the Director of National Intelligence told staff members of the House and Senate intelligence committees that they still did not "fully understand" Alice Huang's role in a suspected Chinese operation involving the diversion of advanced Nvidia AI chips to China, The New York Times reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Evidence collected so far suggests that Alice Huang had an intimate relationship with Jensen Huang, but not that she was ordered to do so by Beijing to gather intelligence, the officials said. This assessment could change should fresh proof come to light, they said.Alice Huang helped run Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed. During the two-hour briefing, officials outlined her contacts with the Chinese intelligence agency. Interestingly, they did not dispute the fact that she passed information to China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) after the relationship began.

Officials identified Chinese businessman Kang Wei, a man often introduced as Alice Huang's husband, as a more significant figure in the suspected intelligence network. Kang had, at least at times, worked as an MSS asset and maintained more substantial contacts with the Chinese spy agency, the officials told congressional aides.According to NYT, the briefing did not include the most sensitive intelligence collected about Alice Huang or a highly classified memo drafted by Secretary



of State and National Security Adviser Marco Rubio. The memo, which allegedly detailed Jensen Huang's relationship with Alice Huang and her connections with Chinese intelligence services, is viewed as the precipitator of the Nvidia chief's fall from grace as an unimpeachable tech titan.

**TRUMP BACKS NVIDIA CHIEF'S RETURN**

The briefing came a day after the Nvidia board announced Jensen Huang's return as CEO, reversing its earlier decision to force his resignation amid the scandal.US President Donald Trump personally stepped in to bring about Huang's reinstatement, describing him as a good man and a genius deserving of government support. In a social media statement following Nvidia's announcement on Monday, Trump also declared that Huang was not a national security threat and was not facing criminal prosecution.

The President made those assertions despite having been briefed at least twice about Alice Huang's links to Chinese intelligence, including once by Rubio, The New York Times reported.

A Justice Department investigation into the suspected diversion of Nvidia chips to China is still at an early stage.Attorney General Todd Blanche backed Trump's position, saying there was no evidence of wrongdoing by Jensen Huang.

# Pak teen asks Claude AI how to make bomb, plans blast over coffee; held on FBI lead

**World.(Agency)**

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A 17-year-old student in Pakistan's Lahore has been arrested for allegedly plotting a bomb attack on an educational institution after seeking guidance from AI chatbot Claude on making explosives.The teenager, a first-year student at a local college, was arrested from his residence in the Bedian Road area on Monday by officials of the National Cyber Crime Investigation Agency (NCCIA).According to NCCIA Additional Director Lahore Atif Ameer, the agency received information from the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Claude AI about the teenager's conversations with the chatbot.The conversations revealed that the student was exploring ways to make an explosive device and target a government educational institution.

He reportedly sought guidance on mixing chemicals, including potassium ammonium nitrate and sugar, to prepare an explosive device capable of



damaging a large building.In a particularly unusual detail, Ameer claimed that the teenager had expressed his intention to carry out the attack while having a cup of coffee.During the raid, investigators seized the laptop the teenager used to access Claude AI. The device reportedly contained data related to his conversations with the chatbot.However, authorities found no explosives or weapons at his residence.The NCCIA has registered a case under relevant provisions of Pakistan's Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA), 2016, and the Pakistan Penal Code.Authorities are conducting a psychological assessment to determine what motivated the teenager to plan the attack.Investigators are also carrying out a forensic examination of his mobile phone.They are yet to establish whether the student had a personal grudge against the educational institution or whether the plot had advanced beyond online conversations.

## 31 killed as petroleum vehicle overturns, triggers massive fire in Egypt

**World.(Agency)**

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At least 31 people were killed and 21 others injured after a vehicle carrying petroleum products overturned and caught fire on a major ring road in Egypt, authorities said on Wednesday.The fire broke out above a tunnel in the Al-Warraq district of Giza, engulfing several vehicles and leaving a trail of destruction. According to the public prosecution, preliminary estimates indicated that 27 vehicles, including cars and motorcycles, were charred in the blaze.Authorities said the casualty figures and extent of the damage were still being assessed. The prosecution has ordered DNA samples to be collected from unidentified victims to establish their identities.Videos circulating on social media showed thick plumes of smoke rising from the accident site. Footage from the scene showed charred cars, minibuses and motorcycles, firefighting vehicles and debris scattered across the road.A witness, Ali Youssef, described the horrifying aftermath, saying several people were trapped inside their vehicles when the fire broke out."The cars were charred, with people inside them. They did not have time to get out," he said, adding that the flames engulfed both the vehicles and the people inside.

The ring road is a major transport corridor connecting key highways across Greater Cairo and linking the governorates of Cairo, Giza and Qalyubia.Road accidents are relatively common in Egypt, with speeding, weak enforcement of traffic regulations and poor road conditions among the contributing factors.According to state statistics agency CAPMAS, the number of people killed in road accidents in Egypt increased by 10.8 per cent to 5,829 in 2025, compared with 5,260 in 2024.Egypt has expanded its road network in recent years through the construction of highways and bridges as part of a broader infrastructure programme aimed at easing congestion and accommodating population growth and urban expansion.

## Kim Jong Un vows irreversible nuclear buildup, accuses US of escalating threats

**World.(Agency).**

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North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called for the deployment of tactical nuclear weapons across multiple domains and said the country's capacity to produce nuclear materials was being systematically expanded, state media KCNA reported on Thursday.Kim made the remarks during an inspection of nuclear material production and weapons research facilities on Wednesday. He also declared that North Korea's status as a nuclear weapons state was "absolutely inviolable".

"Our nuclear capability is now a reality," KCNA quoted Kim as saying, adding that the country should "focus on utilising tactical nuclear weapons across multiple domains for different missions".Kim described recent achievements in nuclear weapons production as a major success for North Korea's nuclear force policy. KCNA, however, did not disclose the names or locations of the facilities he visited.The inspection appears to underline Pyongyang's determination to expand and diversify its nuclear arsenal despite international calls for denuclearisation and continuing uncertainty over the possibility of renewed diplomatic engagement with the United States.

Tactical nuclear weapons are generally lower-yield warheads designed for battlefield use, unlike strategic nuclear weapons intended for longer-range strikes.Photographs released by KCNA showed Kim and officials inspecting objects that analysts said appeared to be gas centrifuges used for uranium enrichment, along with miniaturised tactical nuclear warheads resembling the Hwasan-31. North Korea first displayed what it described as the Hwasan-31 warhead in 2023, claiming it could be fitted to various delivery systems, including short-range missiles.

**KIM SAYS NUCLEAR STATUS 'IRREVERSIBLE'**

Kim warned that any attempt to challenge North Korea's nuclear weapons status, which was enshrined in its constitution in 2023, would be treated as "an open declaration of war"."Our possession of nuclear weapons is an absolutely irreversible choice as long as malicious forces exist that use nuclear weapons as a means of achieving hegemony," he said.

# Nepal moves to declare 213 Indians missing in August flash floods dead





**World.(Agency)**

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The Nepal government has started the process to presume and formally declare dead 213 Indian nationals who went missing after flash floods in the Trishuli-Bhote Koshi river system in August, news agency Press Trust of India reported.Nepal's National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority has published a list of the missing Indian nationals on its website and invited objections or requests for additions, deletions and amendments.The Indian Embassy in Nepal said in a statement on Wednesday that family members with concerns, objections or proposed changes regarding the list could contact the embassy before December 2, according to PTI.Family members can write to eoikathmandufloodsupport@gmail.com or call +9779851316807.After the process of seeking comments and amendments is completed, the Nepal government will finalise the list and formally issue the declarations of death, the embassy said.

The embassy will then begin obtaining death certificates for the individuals from local authorities in Nepal. It may seek additional details and documents from the families of the missing people during the process and will provide an update in the coming days.The August 26 flash floods killed at least 1,453 people and left more than 5,000 missing, according to the disaster management authority. The Bhotekoshi River, which flows south from the Himalayan border region, carried floodwaters downstream, sweeping away homes, vehicles, roads and bridges and damaging hydropower projects.

The Nepal government will issue formal declarations of death for the 213 missing Indian nationals after reviewing objections and proposed changes, following which the Indian Embassy will help obtain their death certificates.

# Man tries to open door mid-air on Chicago flight, taken down by 'hero' flyers, crew

**World.(Agency)**

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An American Airlines flight heading to Chicago was forced to make an emergency landing in Phoenix, Arizona, after a passenger allegedly tried to open an aircraft door mid-air, triggering a struggle with the crew and co-passengers. American Airlines told Fox News that Flight 1494, which originated in San Diego, was diverted to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport because of an unruly passenger. His identity has not been disclosed.According to Phoenix Police, the flyer had left his assigned seat and moved to the front of the aircraft, where he repeatedly refused crew instructions to return to his seat and attempted to tamper with an aircraft exit door.The flight crew and other passengers managed to restrain the man until the aircraft landed safely in Phoenix around 1 am, police said.

The passenger sustained a minor injury, but no other passengers or crew members were hurt.Sean Bennett, who was aboard the flight during the incident, filmed the struggle and shared the footage on social media. "Someone tried to take over the plane. We are emergency landed in Phoenix. (sic) Several strong heroes took him down. We are safe," he wrote.The flight resumed its journey to Chicago O'Hare International Airport after the disruptive passenger was removed, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and American Airlines.



"American Airlines flight 1494 diverted to Phoenix (PHX) due to a disruptive customer. Upon arrival, law enforcement met the aircraft and assisted with deplaning the customer before the flight continued to its destination," the airline told Fox News Digital in a statement.The passenger was not arrested, Phoenix Police said. However, the FBI was notified, and an investigation into the incident is ongoing, according to CBS News.

## CS impleaded over failure to implement high court orders

**HYDERABAD.(Agency)**

The Telangana High Court has impleaded the chief secretary as a respondent over the failure of government officials to implement its final orders despite repeated directions.Justice T Madhavi Devi expressed displeasure over the delay and warned of serious consequences for continued non-compliance. She observed that while the government could challenge an order before the Supreme Court, it was bound to implement it once it attained finality.The judge questioned how long files could remain pending with officials and noted that the officer concerned, who had retired as secretary of the Municipal Administration department, had been directed to appear before the court twice.The officer appeared on November 23 and filed an affidavit detailing the steps taken towards compliance. However, the judge found the explanation unsatisfactory and rejected the government pleader's request for four more weeks.The court directed the authorities to implement its orders before the next hearing, failing which the chief secretary would have to appear personally or through counsel.

## Wife's house razed after arrest of BJD worker over campus poll clash

**UMERKOTE.(Agency)**

With her husband behind bars following a clash between BJD and ABVP workers over college union elections, a woman and her three-year-old daughter have been left without a roof over their heads after the Nabarangpur administration demolished her house, sparking allegations of political vendetta.Sushree Sangeeta Khura (31) said the Umerkote municipality authorities demolished the house at Canalsahi, which is registered in her name, on November 21 in absence of her husband Simanchal Bagh (31) who is languishing in jail for his alleged involvement in a clash following the students' union elections in Pendrani Mahavidyalaya in Umerkote.

She alleged that following the clash on October 10, a group of around 150 men belonging to a right wing organisation ransacked her house, destroyed the household items before setting her husband's motorcycle on fire. "I filed a complaint with the local police in this connection. However, no action was taken on my complaint even as police arrested my husband the same day," she claimed.Sushree said an eviction notice addressed to her husband was served on October 16. Following the notice, she approached local officials and public representatives including Mass Education Minister and Umerkote MLA Nityananda Gond, pleading for intervention to save her home.

## Behind the Bachupally tragedy, a labour supply operation

**HYDERABAD.(Agency)**

A day after three sanitation workers died while cleaning a septic tank at an apartment complex in Bachupally, it has emerged that HR Enviro Protection System, the company that supplied two of the workers has been operating for nearly three years and providing labourers for similar work at apartment complexes across the city.

The Bachupally police have arrested the company's owner, P Ravi, in connection with the incident. Further investigation is underway.According to a Cyberabad police official, the company has four permanent employees and hires additional workers depending on the demand for such services at apartment complexes.The three workers died after reportedly inhaling poisonous gas while cleaning a septic tank at Dinesh Auric Apartment in Bachupally on Tuesday. They were identified as K Shanmukha Rao alias Suman, Y Pavan and Suresh Gajiki. All three were natives of Srikakulam district. Of them, Pavan and Suman were working for HR Enviro Protection System.

"Not only at Dinesh Auric Apartment, but similar work involving septic tanks is suspected to be taking place at other apartments in the city as well," a source in the department told .

# 4 shot dead in suspected gang war at Haryana dhaba; 1 killed by mistake

**Chandigarh.(Agency)**

A late-night meal turned into a bloodbath when armed assailants stormed a roadside eatery near Haryana's Rohtak and shot dead four men, with one of the victims allegedly caught in the crossfire after being mistaken for a member of a rival gang.The incident took place at Milan Dhaba, barely 50 metres from Kharawar police post on Delhi Road, triggering panic in the area.The police have identified three of the deceased as Rinku, Vineet, and Harsh alias Ganju, all residents of Dighal village in Jhajjar district. The fourth victim, Himanshu, was a resident of Beri in Jhajjar district.According to police sources, the incident took place around 1 am when the victims were eating at the dhaba. Six to seven armed assailants, travelling in two vehicles, allegedly arrived at the spot and opened indiscriminate fire on them before fleeing.Police sources suspect that the attack was the outcome of a longstanding rivalry between the Himanshu Bhau and Sunny Ritoliya gangs.

According to the police complaint filed by Rinku's brother, the three victims — Rinku, Vineet and Harsh alias Ganju — were associated with Sunny, a resident of Ritoli village in Rohtak district. The complainant Mannu alleged that Sunny had a longstanding rivalry with Himanshu alias Bhau, also a resident of Ritoli, and that Bhau had previously orchestrated attacks on Sunny and his associates.The complainant alleged that six-to-seven-armed men belonging to the Himanshu Bhau gang arrived at Milan Dhaba in two separate vehicles around 1 am and opened indiscriminate fire on Rinku, Vineet and Harsh alias Ganju with the intention of killing them. All three sustained multiple bullet injuries and died on the spot.In what the complainant described as a case of mistaken identity, Himanshu, a resident of Beri, who had also arrived at the dhaba to have food and had no connection with the gang rivalry, was allegedly mistaken for an associate of Rinku and his companions.When Himanshu ran upstairs in



an attempt to save himself, the assailants allegedly chased him to the first floor and shot him dead.

**Multiple injuries**

The complainant stated that Rinku, Vineet, and Harsh had sustained multiple bullet injuries to their heads, chests, waists, necks, and legs. Himanshu, too, had suffered multiple gunshot wounds to his head, chest, waist and abdomen. Several bullet shells and cartridges were also found scattered at the spot, the complainant alleged.The complainant further alleged that the attack was carried out as part of a conspiracy hatched by Himanshu alias Bhau in association with members of his gang.After opening fire, the assailants allegedly fled in their vehicles with their weapons. The complainant sought legal action against Bhau and his associates.Meanwhile, senior police officers, including Hamid Akhtar, Inspector General of Police (Rohtak Range) and Gaurav Rajpurohit, Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, rushed to the spot after receiving information about the firing.Teams of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA), the special cell and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) also inspected the crime scene and collected evidence.

# A room for one's own: Libraries offer space to read, reflect & socialise

**While digital resources are now more accessible than ever, traditional libraries are still a haunt for many, young and elderly alike, for the 'quiet spaces' they offer, away from the hullabaloo of life in hostels and homes.**

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

Maneklal Jethalal Library stands at one end of Ellisbridge on Ahmedabad's busiest commercial stretch—the Ashram Road.Here, Riddhi Chauhan, a civil services aspirant, picks Panna Trivedi's Chaand ke Paar, a Gujarati novel, as a light read before resuming her exam preparation."I make it a point to read a literary book or newspaper before beginning my daily study. Such reading not only breaks monotony, but also helps me focus better," the 24-year-old says.For many, it is also a space associated with their childhood, the memories of which they want to pass on to their young.

Yogesh Patel, an assistant librarian at MJ Library, said, "While the number of readers has declined 10% in the last decade, the library still hosts 1,000-1,200 visitors daily. The young come here for exam preparation. Families bring their children so that they develop reading habits."Neha Jadhav, another UPSC aspirant, says she prefers the space for its 'environment'. She says she notices several senior citizens reading newspapers at the library.

Mansi Parmar, a banking aspirant, says that although she enjoys reading nonfiction, exam preparation leaves her with little time for leisure reading.At Sahaj Reading Library, a private facility in Navrangpura, most of its patronsare aspirants of the Gujarat State Public Service Exam.



Recalling their college days, when they visited libraries and just read whatever interested them, they say they are not at liberty to do that now due to exam preparations.But at Surendrabhai Patel Vanchnalay, a small municipal library in Dhal Ni Pol, Khadia, most visitors are elderly men.A 60-year-old from Dhal ni Pol, Kaushikbhai Patel says public libraries are "largely meant" for senior citizens.For Kantilal Mistry, 70, and Mohan Mehta, 75, the AMC Gym and Library in Bodakdev is a space for 'companionship'.Most senior citizens are seen reading newspapers and magazines here. "We've been visiting the library for three-four years, and have developed friendships," says Kantilal.Mohan also feels that the library is more than just a place to read. "It has become a space for companionship and daily interactions."Then there are spaces like Arthshila, a library at Panjrapol with books and digital resources for architecture and design students. Its co-ordinator says visitors' numbers fluctuate. Arthshila also packs in a gallery, an amphitheatre and a space for workshops.On a regular day, it sees 50-60 visitors. Among the regulars are Inaya Patel, 21, and Aryan Shah, 21, who are architecture students at CEPT University.

## Karnataka being allowed to use more Cauvery water: TN

**CHENNAI.(Agency)**

Tamil Nadu officials on Wednesday strongly opposed the decisions of the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC) and the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), alleging that Karnataka, the upper riparian state, was being allowed to draw more than its due share of water even during a distress year, leaving farmers in the Cauvery delta in TN in distress.The objection was raised at the 62nd meeting of the CWMA, held in New Delhi. Prasanth Vadanare, Secretary of the Water Resources Department, and Subramanian, chairman of the Cauvery Technical Cell, represented TN at the meeting.The state officials argued that the decisions taken by the CWRC and CWMA were not in accordance with the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal's Final Award or the SC's judgment. They also pointed out that the decisions did not correspond with the data collected by TN. Citing the SC's judgment, the TN officials maintained that in distress years, the allocated shares of all the basin states must be reduced on a pro-rata basis.Though the percentage of deficit had been assessed and TN's pro-rata share at Biligundulu had been calculated, Karnataka had not been directed to ensure the release of the corresponding quantity of water, they said.The state also reiterated that it did not accept the methodology adopted to assess the percentage of distress.According to the officials, the deficit percentage in distress years should be calculated based on the assessment of yield, as prescribed in the Union Government's Gazette notification dated June 1, 2018. However, this prescribed methodology had not been followed, they pointed out.

**Attempt to stall Cauvery-Gundar project flayed**

Chennai: AIADMK General Secretary and former Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami and AMMK general secretary TTV Dhinakaran, on Wednesday, took strong exception to the Karnataka government's alleged move to stall Tamil Nadu's irrigation projects, including the Cauvery-Vaigai-Gundar river-linking scheme, while TN Congress Committee president Manickam Tagore urged Karnataka to withdraw its petition before the Supreme Court in this regard.In separate statements, the three leaders expressed concern over the implications of Karnataka's petition in the SC, which seeks to halt the river-linking project and other irrigation works in TN, besides seeking the demolition of structures already built as part of the project.

## Congress reaches out to Left for 2027 Punjab polls

**Patiala.(Agency)**

The Punjab Congress on Wednesday said it was in talks with the CPI and CPI(M) for an electoral tie-up in the state with party chief Pargat Singh saying they want to bring the Left parties together as part of a broader alliance of parties in the INDIA bloc."All of us have a thinking that the CPI, CPM and other Communist parties be taken together. We are in talks with the CPI and CPI-M. Comrades are part of the INDIA bloc," Pargat told reporters in Patiala.He said the Congress had constituted a team to hold discussions on seat-sharing with the Left parties.Leader of Opposition in the Punjab Assembly Partap Singh Bajwa, speaking separately, said the Congress was open to alliances with parties that had a presence in the state. "Leaders of INDIA bloc members — CPI, CPM and other parties — are sitting in Delhi. The thing is that we should be seen together. Seats can be given only where they have a presence," Bajwa said.

The Congress's outreach to the Left comes a day after the Shiromani Akali Dal and BJP announced the revival of their alliance, ending their six-year separation. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the SAD would be the "big brother" in the alliance and would get the Chief Minister's post.Pargat, meanwhile, stepped up his attack on SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal over his past remarks about those joining the BJP. Referring to Badal's comment during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign that "jehda apna Khalsa BJP join karda hai, usda DNA test hona chahida hai (those who joined the BJP after being Khalsa should undergo a DNA test)", Pargat asked whether SAD chief would now agree to undergo a DNA test himself.

Calling the revived alliance an example of "opportunistic politics", Pargat said it was neither based on a common ideology nor formed in Punjab's interest, but was aimed at protecting the political fortunes of the two parties. "Both parties have lost the trust of the people of Punjab," he said, asserting that their return to an alliance would not help them regain lost ground.Comparing the SAD and BJP to the East India Company, Pargat alleged that the two parties were seeking to gain control over Punjab's resources and rights.



Congress manifesto committee chairman and MP Amar Singh also criticised the alliance, calling it an "opportunistic political arrangement aimed solely at polarising Sikh and Hindu votes".Amar Singh questioned the SAD's position on issues including the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Punjab's claim over Chandigarh and implementation of the Swaminathan Commission report. He alleged that by joining hands with the BJP, the Akali Dal had compromised Punjab's interests. Pargat also targeted the Aam Aadmi Party government, alleging that it had lost public trust and lacked a concrete agenda beyond publicity and political theatrics.

## Rajkot demolitions: Municipal corporation to recover Rs 18 lakh 'splurged' on mandap, shooting, catering in February

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

The Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC) will seek to recoup public funds to the tune of Rs 18,72,561 that it either overpaid or was about to pay to private agencies that provided their services during the large-scale demolitions carried out on the banks of the Aji river in February this year.The amount was spent by three RMC departments on seven agencies that had provided their services, ranging from catering, transport and mandap (awning) arrangements to videography and drone shooting, during the demolitions in Jangleshwar. Several final payments had been held in abeyance till now due to suspicious billing. The discrepancies came to light following an internal probe, carried out after political pressure following several media reports on the issue. Allegations of overbilling had forced the newly formed RMC body and Mayor Nehal C Shukla to investigate the spendings that took place during the BJP's previous administration.In July, the RMC, in response to the allegations of misappropriation of public funds and lack of tender processes for the demolitions, rejected a vendor bill amounting to Rs 27.20 lakh that had been put up for approval as food expenses earlier in February. Also, it placed all tenders issued by the civic body since 2023 "on hold" and "under review".The RMC then set up a Special Investigation Team (SIT), chaired by a deputy municipal commissioner, to investigate allegations of financial irregularities in bills amounting to almost Rs 3 crore.



**Suspension and departmental inquiries**

Following a report submitted by the committee to the RMC, Municipal Commissioner Tushar Sumera on Wednesday announced a departmental inquiry against three officers, one of whom was placed under suspension.

Kaushik Unava, the head of the Cultural Development Department, was suspended with immediate effect on Wednesday. A departmental inquiry was initiated against him as well as Dr Jayesh Vakani, the Medical Officer of Health (MoH) at the RMC, and Deputy Executive Engineer Jagdish Shingala.

# Running Nvidia like a family firm

The dramatic resignation and reinstatement of Jensen Huang as Nvidia's chief executive shows what happens when the checks on a powerful corporate leader are allowed to weaken. The two events 11 days apart exposed the fact that through the AI boom, Huang has been treated less as a manager than an oracle. This has implications across the world, far beyond the toll it took in tech valuations.Corporate governance, at its simplest, is the set of checks that stops the person in charge from putting the company, its shareholders and its employees at risk. Compliance manuals and annual reports record those checks. They do not replace them.Why should one man's private life matter so much to a company worth trillions? At the top of a large enterprise, a leader's private life stops being private once it exposes the institution to legal, financial or national security risk. From then on, recklessness is a failure of risk management as much as a moral lapse. Huang is hardly the first. Martin Sorrell built WPP into the world's largest advertising group over three decades and left in 2018 amid an investigation into allegations of personal misconduct and misuse of company funds, which he denied. McDonald's fired Steve Easterbrook in 2019 over a relationship with an employee, then sued him on finding he had concealed others; he eventually returned more than $100 million. Neither case was about prudery. Hidden relationships invite blackmail, skew decisions about who gets ahead, and leave shareholders exposed to sudden losses. Boards are supposed to catch this, and too often they don't. Companies list their independent directors and publish ethics charters, but when a leader is delivering extraordinary returns, oversight tends to weaken. Governance then becomes a shield held up by those in power rather than a check. The tools to prevent this are not new. Independent directors can meet without the chief executive at every board meeting. Boards can require senior executives to disclose any close relationship with a subordinate, supplier or customer to the audit or nomination committee. Succession planning can be a standing item on the board's agenda rather than something discussed only in a crisis. What is usually missing is the will to apply these rules to the person who has made everyone rich. What interests me most, as someone who studies family firms, is how much Nvidia behaved like one. Family businesses are usually defined by concentrated ownership and control that passes down the generations. Nvidia fails both tests. Huang owns about 3.58 percent, less than Vanguard or BlackRock, and there are no dual-class shares to lock in his control. Yet he ran the company like a personal fiefdom. Whether a firm is a family business, it turns out, depends as much on how it behaves as on who owns it. The family had an important influence in the functioning of Nvidia. Both Huang's children, Madison and Spencer Huang, and his son-in-law, Nico Caprez, held influential roles. Madison, 35, trained in the culinary arts and worked in hospitality, not engineering. Yet, she rose quickly to become her father's de facto chief of staff. Colleagues, according to reports, felt no one could tell her no.

The same reports describe her berating senior, long-serving executives before an India AI summit, and a marketing vice-president suffering a panic attack during one of her calls. More than a dozen experienced leaders are said to have left. Huang himself reportedly joked that staff should be "afraid of his daughter".Family business scholars Alain Verbeke and Liena Kano call it 'bifurcation bias': the habit of treating 'heritage assets'—family members, old loyalists and emotional attachments—as inherently more valuable and exempting them from the performance and conduct standards applied to professional managers. Outsiders are held to harder targets than family members.

# Shenzhen table for three, but no G3

**Instead of responding with alarm or complacency, India should engage the trio on its own terms**

THE first-ever summit of US, Chinese and Russian leaders, held in Shenzhen on November 19 on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference, was historic in format but modest in substance. Comparisons with the 1945 Yalta Conference were misplaced: Yalta reshaped the post-war order; Shenzhen opened possibilities but resolved little.The idea originated in Moscow; Vladimir Putin wanted to break out of isolation, reinforce Russia's great-power status and advance a Ukraine settlement on his terms. Donald Trump, weakened by midterm losses, sought a foreign-policy success, China at the nuclear table and help on Iran. Xi Jinping gave the final approval and controlled the stage. Moscow proposed, Washington brought its wish list, Beijing set the agenda.After 90 minutes, the leaders issued a four-point "Declaration toward Peace". It committed the three to UN reform, without defining its scope; more refined petroleum products and stable energy flows; and respecting state consent and the immunities of state officials, asserting that the International Criminal Court (ICC) and similar bodies should not abuse their jurisdiction. It also reaffirmed the January 2022 P5 principle that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" and called for dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing proliferation.What was omitted was equally revealing: nothing on Ukraine or Iran; nothing on Taiwan, trade or technology; and no mechanism, work plan or follow-up date. Trump's claim of an understanding with Xi on Hormuz and Iran went unconfirmed. The nuclear language stopped short of arms-control commitments, while the ICC clause, the sole point of complete convergence, reflected a shared resistance to external judicial scrutiny. Yet the summit's enduring image will be Xi at the centre, with his two guests thanking China for hosting it.On balance, China was the clear winner. Xi gained standing simply by playing the host, kept Taiwan and technology restrictions off the table, and conceded nothing on arms control. Beijing projected itself as America's equal and the stabilising centre of an unsettled order: the "adult in the room". The potential cost: a trilateral dialogue on nuclear risks and an awkward fit between great-power concert diplomacy and its Global South messaging.Russia gained in status, less in substance. Putin, who faces an ICC warrant, sat as an equal, secured common language against the Court and ended any Western pretence of Russia's isolation. Even some Chinese scholars called it "a major diplomatic victory for Russia". But there was no sanctions relief or Ukraine deal, and the venue underlined Moscow's dependence on Beijing.



The US gained the least, though Trump characteristically called it "Great and Highly Consequential". He secured a pledge on oil and an opening on nuclear risk reduction, but little on Iran, Ukraine or arms control. He helped legitimise Putin and China's convening role while unsettling allies in Europe and Asia. Shenzhen underscored how far Washington has ceded its pivotal position in the strategic triangle.Chinese scholars hailed "a landmark event" and "a new paradigm" of major-power relations, while rejecting the "Yalta 2.0" label. Many went further. Tian Feilong saw "not yet a G2, but a G3" and "great-power co-governance", an idea Beijing officially disowns. Wu Xinbo hailed a China-US-Russia "Golden Triangle", in which Russia "does not subvert the G2, but rather perfects it". Wang Wen proposed a "Shenzhen International System"; several want the format institutionalised.Others saw China's "formal entry into the core circle of global decision-making". In practice, Beijing is building a high table with itself at the head.Does Shenzhen mark the birth of a G3? In my assessment, no; nor does it reinforce the G2 idea. Both assume a convergence of interests, and a readiness to shape outcomes and deliver global public goods, that does not exist. The US still sees China as its principal competitor. There is no institution, shared agenda or common view of world order. Russia, its economy a fraction of the other two, is the junior member. China sees Shenzhen as validation of its rise, Russia as confirmation of its return, the US as a means of managing competition. Sober Chinese voices concede the triangle "can move the world but cannot run it". What emerged is closer to a G2 overlay with a Russian annex.Shenzhen does reveal a new pattern. The major powers compete fiercely, yet cooperate selectively and explore concert diplomacy. They talk because they are rivals. The US-China contest over technology, trade, Taiwan and preeminence is intact. So is Russia's confrontation with the West, and its predicament: not accepted as a European power, yet reluctant to embrace its Asian identity.

China seeks strategic stability with the US not as an endpoint but as a window, amid a "strategic stalemate", to pull ahead decisively. The US clings to preeminence but is weary of global responsibilities and divided on its direction. Yet all three value managing nuclear risk, protecting energy flows and shielding themselves from outside scrutiny. This is managed competition, run through personal, transactional diplomacy at the top. The UN, the G20 and other powers lose weight when three leaders settle matters in a side room.

For India, the immediate impact is limited. Nothing agreed touches South Asia, the Indian Ocean or our boundary with China; India, not an APEC member, was naturally absent. But the direction of travel matters.Four concerns stand out. First, a Trump-Xi accommodation under "strategic stability" has diluted US interest in balancing China in Asia; our continental concerns are unlikely to be accommodated in any US-China bargain. Second, a trilateral nuclear dialogue leaves India out, while China resists limits on its rapid buildup and changing nuclear posture. Any future framework may treat India and Pakistan as subjects, not participants.

Third, "UN reform" may shrink to curbs on the ICC or such moves rather than Security Council expansion, which none of the three wants and China opposes most actively. Fourth, Chinese talk of institutionalising the format points to a great-power concert in which others count for less.There are positives too. Easing US-Russia tensions reduces pressure on India's Russian oil purchases and defence ties; uneasy about dependence on Beijing, Moscow has reason to keep India close. Neither Indo-Pacific architecture nor a China-US condominium in Asia figured. Europe, Japan and ASEAN share India's unease about great-power deal-making.India should respond with neither alarm nor complacency. The world of 2026 is not the world of 1945. We should engage all three on our own terms, work with others who resist a world run by three, and above all build enough economic, technological and military weight so that no consequential decision on Asia can ignore Indian interests. The Miami G20 Summit next month will show whether Shenzhen was a one-off or the start of selective great-power concert diplomacy. The long-term task is to prevent it from hardening into an exclusive framework, or a US-China accommodation on Asia, Taiwan or technology with Russia attached; either would narrow India's strategic space.

# How Much Do We Really Know About the People We Judge?

**In From the Silence Within, Santosh Nair examines how easily a single disagreement, story or assumption can become our final judgment of another person. The piece asks whether we truly know the people we admire or dislike, and what those judgments reveal about our own fears, loyalties and sense of certainty.**

A man once stopped speaking to an old friend because of a single sentence. They had shared meals, helped each other through difficult years and laughed at things nobody else understood. Then, one afternoon, the friend disagreed with him. The words were ordinary, but the hurt stayed. By evening, the man had decided what kind of person his friend was. Years of knowing him had been pushed aside by a moment of not liking what he heard. I wonder how many people we have lost in this way, not because we discovered who they were, but because they failed to agree with who we wanted them to be.We do something similar with strangers. Someone speaks kindly to us and we call them good. Someone questions us and we call them difficult. A child does this with a playmate, and an old person may do it with a neighbour. The strange thing is that we rarely notice how little evidence we have. We take one small part of a person and make it stand for the whole. We do not call it guessing. We call it understanding. And once we have decided, we begin collecting only those details that prove us right.**How much can we really know about another person's life?**Think of the names we inherit from history: Gandhi, Tagore, Patel, Bose and many others. We may admire one and dislike another. But what do we truly know? A speech, a photograph, a passage in a book, a story repeated at home, perhaps a few words heard in anger. Even careful historians work with incomplete records and conflicting witnesses. The people themselves woke each morning, felt tired, made choices, worried about someone, changed their minds and lived through thousands of hours that never entered any book. We know a few public moments. We do not know every private hour. Yet we often speak as though we have watched an entire life.**Why a whole human life cannot fit inside a single judgment**I am fifty-five. I know how many ordinary mornings, private doubts and unspoken feelings can fit inside those years. Even someone who has known me for decades has not lived every minute beside me. There are things I have never explained, and perhaps things about myself I have not understood. If my own life cannot be held inside a few sentences, how do I fit another person's eighty years into a single judgment? This is not a request to stop examining history. Actions still have consequences. Evidence still matters. It is a request to know the difference between judging an action and claiming to know the whole human being.

**Why certainty can feel easier than admitting what we do not know**Two voices seem to live inside us. One says, "I have heard enough. I know the truth." The other asks, "What have I seen with my own eyes?" The first voice feels safe because certainty ends the discomfort of thinking. The second makes us uneasy because it leaves room for what we do not know. There is an old warning in human wisdom against accepting a thing merely because it has been repeated many times. Yet repetition is often exactly what makes a story feel true. A rumour heard once sounds doubtful. Heard a hundred times, it begins to feel like memory.

# Making Shenzhen and Quad pledges work for the world

**The declarations made at the trilateral summit need a mechanism and timelines to translate into action. Quad countries must explain how their initiatives benefit regional partners**

The importance of the Shenzhen summit between Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin rested on a simple question: could they make wars less likely and the world more secure? The answer isn't straightforward. A new nuclear order remains some distance away. The summit started a conversation whose progress will depend on political will, sustained negotiations and verification. Its relationship with the parallel Quad meeting deserves attention. Together, these engagements revealed the challenge of encouraging cooperation among major powers while reassuring countries concerned about their conduct.

The Declaration toward Peace commits the three governments to dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing proliferation. It also addresses energy supplies, UN reform and international judicial jurisdiction. It specifies no nuclear ceilings, inspection arrangements or negotiating timetable. The declaration provides a starting point, with the substantive work still ahead. Even so, the three leaders coming together offered value. The expiry of the New START in February removed the last bilateral treaty limiting deployed American and Russian strategic nuclear forces. China's expanding arsenal adds another dimension. All three have reasons to seek greater predictability, although they approach negotiations from different positions. Washington and Moscow possess much larger arsenals than Beijing. China resists arrangements that disregard this disparity. Russia considers American missile defences and other capabilities affecting its security. Washington seeks arrangements relevant to competition with both countries. Negotiators must identify measures each government considers worthwhile. The immediate aim should be to reduce uncertainty. Reliable crisis communication, exchanges of information and clearer understanding of military intentions could help prevent miscalculation. Negotiated ceilings would require agreement on what is counted and how compliance is checked. Confidence grows when governments can confirm that others are honouring commitments.

Space belongs within this discussion. Satellites support military communications, navigation and warning of missile attacks. Disrupting them during a confrontation could cause a government to misunderstand an adversary's intentions. Future talks should examine restraint in this field, although Shenzhen produced no specific agreement on space. The meeting reflected concerns accumulating for months. War, energy insecurity, economic friction and nuclear uncertainty have increased the costs of confrontation. Each leader had an interest in exploring whether cooperation could reduce them. Trump had an additional reason to seek diplomatic success. The Republican defeat weakened his domestic position, while leaving him substantial presidential authority. A successful negotiation was called for. His reputation also demands results. Putin and Xi, who may expect to remain in office after Trump leaves in January 2029, felt less pressure to agree early. They can also ask whether US commitments would survive a change of administration.The leaders should now give their foreign ministers responsibility for establishing an agenda and timetable, supported by military and nuclear specialists. This step is yet to be announced. Regular reviews would help maintain momentum and reveal where political intervention is needed to overcome disagreement.Progress in Ukraine and West Asia would improve the atmosphere for nuclear negotiations. Both conflicts have deepened distrust and demonstrated the limits of military solutions. Cooperation in reducing their intensity could help the three governments assess whether they can work together on more demanding questions. Direct communication between Trump and Putin could clarify the possibilities for a settlement in Ukraine. Nato's eastward expansion is central to Moscow's explanation of the conflict. Negotiations must also address Ukrainian sovereignty, occupied territory and protection against renewed attack. Ukrainian and European participation will be necessary as arrangements develop.West Asia presents another immediate test. Washington, Moscow and Beijing share an interest in preventing further escalation and protecting energy flows. Their cooperation could support negotiations with Iran. Tehran will make its own calculations, while Israel's security concerns will require attention. Influence over partners has practical limits. Reciprocal restraint, nuclear transparency and credible assurances could help diplomacy advance. Each concession would need an identifiable response. Progress would encourage further cooperation; another military escalation could rapidly destroy confidence. Nuclear dialogue should nevertheless continue through regional setbacks. Its survival cannot depend upon every other dispute first being resolved. Meanwhile, the Quad summit in Manila addressed issues that matter to countries dependent on reliable sea routes, communications and trade. It remained a flexible forum for consultation and cooperation, with a growing security dimension. Its members should now explain how their initiatives benefit regional partners. Practical cooperation in maritime awareness, disaster response and infrastructure can strengthen regional confidence alongside wider diplomatic negotiations. Respect for ASEAN's role remains equally important. While India favours nuclear restraint to reduce global risks and Quad cooperation to build regional capacity, any major-power understanding must respect national sovereignty. Assessing emerging arrangements against security concerns regarding China and Pakistan, India's regional participation should preserve its freedom of judgement, encourage practical stability measures, and strengthen a genuinely multipolar order.

Treaties must accommodate legitimate security concerns without giving any country permission to intimidate its neighbours. Verification must be reliable to withstand political suspicion. Leaders must also prepare their domestic audiences for compromise. Agreements become vulnerable when governments promise peace abroad while continuing to reward confrontation at home for advantage. The opportunity now is to establish a process that continues beyond the summit. Ministers must meet, specialists must negotiate and leaders must remain engaged

## PIL against Ramoji Rao birth anniversary as State festival

**VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)**

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) has been filed in the Andhra Pradesh High Court challenging the State government's decision to declare the birth anniversary of Eenadu Group founder and former chairman Cherukuri Ramoji Rao as a State function.The petition was filed by 81-year-old Narne Venkata Subbaiah of Ongole in Prakasam district, questioning the decision taken by the coalition government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to celebrate Ramoji Rao's birth anniversary as a State event every year on November 16.The petitioner sought a direction declaring Government Order (GO) No. 243, issued for organising the annual celebrations, illegal and setting it aside. Subbaiah also questioned the government's expenditure of `4.28 crore on the official memorial meeting held on June 27, 2024, following Ramoji Rao's death. Subbaiah argued that Ramoji Rao is neither a social

## Navy-led drill showcases coastal defence readiness

**KOCHI.(Agency)**

In a display of the country's coastal defence mechanism and preparedness of security agencies, the Indian Navy, in coordination with customs and other stakeholders, conducted a response drill off the Kochi coast on Wednesday. It was part of Exercise Sea Vigil, the pan-India coastal defence and maritime security drill rolled out on November 11.The Navy simulated an interception where a customs boat located a suspicious vessel and alerted elite marine commandos (MARCOS). The commandos intercepted, boarded and gained control of the vessel. "Exercise Sea Vigil is being organised to showcase the coastal defence mechanism's ability to deal with conventional and non-conventional seaborne threats.We aim to simultaneously activate the complete defence mechanism and gain response and interagency coordination towards handling any threat rising from the sea," said Kochi Joint Operations Centre Officer-in-Charge Lt Commander Deepak Arora.

Exercise Sea Vigil was conceptualised in 2018 to validate the maritime security system in the aftermath of the 26/11 terror attacks. Assets of the Navy, Coast Guard, Coastal Security Police, customs and other maritime agencies are being coordinated to test the security system.

## University bill seeks greater state govt say in permanent VC selection

**THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)**

In a bid to gain greater influence in the selection of permanent Vice-Chancellors, the UDF government has brought out an amendment bill seeking to replace the Senate with the Syndicate as the university representative on search committees in four universities. It also proposes changes to the selection committee of Kerala Agricultural University, besides extending the tenure of VCs and raising their upper age limit.

The University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026, covering seven state universities is slated for introduction in the Assembly session beginning November 30. Under the existing provisions of the Kerala, Calicut, Mahatma Gandhi and Kannur University Acts, one of the three members of the committee tasked with selecting the Vice-Chancellor is elected by the Senate, the broader representative body of the university. The other two members are nominated by the UGC Chairman and the Chancellor. The proposed amendment transfers the responsibility of choosing the university representative to the Syndicate, the university's executive body."The change could give the government greater influence over the selection process, given the representation of government officials and nominees in the Syndicates. In Kerala Agricultural University, the General Council, which currently nominates a member to the selection committee, will be replaced by the Executive Committee," said a senior government official.

# Gujarat HC extends ban on sale of non-veg food in Somnath temple vicinity

**The apex court has directed the Gujarat HC to dispose of the pending appeal of the state within two months of receiving its order.**

**Vadodara (Agency)**

The restrictions on non-vegetarian food around the Somnath Temple will remain in force for now, with the Gujarat High Court on Wednesday listing the state's appeal against the October 30 single-judge bench order quashing the ban, for December 16.The development follows the Supreme Court's November 6 dismissal of a Special Leave Petition filed by restaurant owners challenging the interim arrangement. The apex court has directed the Gujarat HC to dispose of the pending appeal of the state within two months of receiving its order.

Government Pleader G H Virk told the Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Nirzar Desai that the Supreme Court had dismissed the SLP and requested that the appeal be heard within the stipulated period. Virk also



informed the court that the state would file written submissions for the final hearing, pointing to the SLP filed by the petitioners.

Appearing for the restaurant owners, advocate Asrar Mansuri requested the court to consider granting interim relief, citing that the Diwali period had come to an end. "Now Diwali is over and the New Year has started. We may be permitted to proceed, subject to certain restrictions…"Virk opposed the request, stating, "We are ready to proceed with the LPA. There is no civil application by my learned friend to vacate the relief." Virk also submitted that the state intended to place the SLP on record through an additional affidavit and would address what he described as "issues concerning the petitioners' conduct".In an order dictated in court on Wednesday, the HC said, "The order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated November 6, 2026… records that the present appeal is to be disposed of within two months from the date of receipt of a copy… The interim order passed earlier on October 30, 2026, in the present appeal shall remain in force until the next date of listing of the matter."The restrictions on non-vegetarian food around the Somnath Temple will remain in force for now, with the Gujarat High Court on Wednesday listing the state's appeal against the October 30 single-judge bench order quashing the ban, for December 16.The development follows the Supreme Court's November 6 dismissal of a Special Leave Petition filed by restaurant owners challenging the interim arrangement. The apex court has directed the Gujarat HC to dispose of the pending appeal of the state within two months of receiving its order.Government Pleader G H Virk told the Division Bench of Acting Chief Justice Manash Ranjan Pathak and Justice Nirzar Desai that the Supreme Court had dismissed the SLP and requested that the appeal be heard within the stipulated period. Virk also informed the court that the state would file written submissions for the final hearing, pointing to the SLP filed by the petitioners.

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# Consulting, FMCG top in IIM Ahmedabad recruitment, banking sees a decline

**The consulting cohort witnesses recruitment of 191 students or 46 per cent, the highest among categories. In the 2025-26 IIMA placements, 166 students were selected in the consulting cohort.**

**Ahmedabad.(Agency)**

As many as 414 Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA), students have received job offers across 27 cohorts in the summer placements organised for postgraduate programme (PGP) 2028 batch in which 160 companies, including 55 new firms, participated.The consulting cohort witnesses recruitment of 191 students or 46 per cent, the highest among categories. In the 2025-26 IIMA placements, 166 students were selected in the consulting cohort.The top recruiters included Boston Consulting Group (24 offers), Alvarez & Marsal (16), McKinsey & Company (16), Bain & Company (15), and Kearney (13). Other major recruiters included Accenture Strategy (GCC (3), GN (33), and IMU (6), Vector Consulting Group (8), American Express (17), and EY-Parthenon India (12 job offers).

Other than consulting, the two top recruiting sectors Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) and Consumer Goods (FMCG) and Durables too recruited a higher number of students from IIMA this time.While the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector recruitment witnessed a decline of 2 per cent compared to last year, the recruitment in the FMCG and Durables sector witnessed a 2 per cent increase.The Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector recorded 94 placements (23%). Avendus Capital,




Bank of America, Citibank, Goldman Sachs (India and Hong Kong), HSBC, and Standard Chartered Bank were the top recruiters.

Other top recruiters included Hindustan Unilever Limited (13) Amazon and FinIQ Consulting (11 each), Mahindra & Mahindra (10), Procter & Gamble (9), and Aditya Birla Group, Medtronic India and Raymond Lifestyle (6 each). Dot & Key, GMR Group, Indxx, JioStar and Tata Administrative Services made 5 offers each and Tata Consultancy Services 9 offers.

Amazon and Myntra were top recruiters in the retail B2B and retail e-commerce cohort. Airtel participated in the consumer services cohort.Students were provided the flexibility of making dream applications to firms of their choice in a subsequent cluster, even with an offer in hand. This year, 105 students submitted over 235 dream applications.

The number of dream applications realised as offers increased by over 19 per cent compared to last year. In 2025-26, 117 students submitted over 280 Dream Applications.Prof Viswanath Pingali, Chairperson of Placements at IIMA, said, "More than the numbers themselves, the fact that many students got opportunities in sectors and firms they prefer the most makes me happier. Our liberal dream policy also helped in maximizing this fit significantly. That being said, we will review the entire process and see how we can improve this fit further."The campus also saw international roles in Hong Kong and Singapore, offered by firms across cohorts. Goldman Sachs and HSBC made offers for international roles in the investment banking and markets cohort, as did EY-Parthenon in the consulting cohort.

## Painting of MV Maa raises NGT compliance concerns

**VISAKHAPATNAM.(Agency)**

Painting work is progressing on the grounded Bangladesh-flagged vessel MV Maa near Tenneti Park, in alleged violation of National Green Tribunal (NGT) directions, even as the proposal to convert it into a tourism attraction is yet to get statutory clearances.

Videos of the vessel being painted have been circulating on social media, triggering concerns among locals and environmentalists over the works and permissions under which they are being undertaken.Several social media posts claimed the ship will open to the public in three months, with restaurants and accommodation proposed onboard. While some posts clarified public entry is prohibited, the claims raise questions over how such announcements are being made when the proposal is yet to be finalised.Tourism officials said discussions were preliminary and no final decision had been taken. Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) officials maintained that the works onboard ship were being undertaken by the Tourism Department. However, clarity is yet to emerge on the works and approvals obtained.In its order in a suo motu case (OA No. 702 of 2023), the NGT directed that no construction, stabilisation, installation of structures or tourism-related activities, including preliminary works, should be undertaken until all statutory approvals, including Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) and forest clearances, were obtained.

The tribunal also directed the Andhra Pradesh Coastal Zone Management Authority (APCZMA) to complete its appraisal, including field inspection and assessment of wastewater, solid waste, structural safety and coastal impacts. However, minutes of APCZMA's 75th meeting on July 15, 2026, show the proposal was still under consideration. The authority directed the AP Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) to constitute a high-level committee to finalise facilities and resubmit the proposal through PARIVESH 2.0.The work has drawn scrutiny as the site falls in an ecologically sensitive intertidal zone. "The concern is not about tourism itself, but about how it is developed. This stretch supports a fragile intertidal ecosystem. Any work that disturbs the habitat must be assessed," an expert said, requesting anonmity.

# Maharashtra is slowly drying up. Rabi sowing ahead of winter shows how bad it is

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

Rain deficit and drought conditions in Maharashtra have hit rabi sowing, with farmers planting crops across just 17.63 lakh hectares (ha) as of Wednesday. This accounts for only 31% of the normal area under rabi, the winter sowing season."The low rabi sowing rate was alarming and an indication of how seriously the state is reeling under drought conditions. The challenges are plenty," said Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharne.Bharne attributed the situation to a 19% rain deficit and long gaps between spells of rainfall."The area under rabi has declined beyond our expectations. It is worse than 47.29 lakh hectares registered during the 1972 drought in the state," the minister added.According to Agriculture Department data, the total area under rabi sowing across Maharashtra stood at 17,63,867 ha as of November 25. During the corresponding period last year, farmers had sown crops across 28,21,050 ha, or 49% of the normal area.This season, farmers have sown cereals across 9,50,343 ha, pulses across 7,94,789 ha and oilseeds across 18,735 ha. These figures account for 31%, 30% and 27% of the respective normal areas under cultivation.Last year, by November 25, farmers had sown cereals across 14,49,071 ha and pulses across 13,50,905 ha. The area under oilseeds stood at 21,074 ha. The corresponding sowing figures accounted for 47% of the normal area for cereals, 51% for pulses and 30% for oilseeds.Sources in the Agriculture Department said the area under all three categories of rabi crops had declined sharply. However, they said it remained to be seen whether farmers would take up sowing in December.The state government has declared 310 of Maharashtra's 358 talukas drought-hit, while other talukas are also seeking inclusion. Minister Chhagan Bhujbal has forwarded local leaders' demand to include Nashik in the drought list to the concerned department.



None of the state's eight divisions has crossed 50% of its normal rabi sowing area. Nashik division in North Maharashtra has recorded the highest sowing, at 2,47,674 ha, or 44% of normal.Officials said the state's rabi sowing area had reached 28,21,050 ha, or 49% of normal, by November 25 last year. By the end of the season, the total had risen to 67 lakh hectares, exceeding the normal area of 57 lakh hectares.However, officials expect the final sowing area for the 2026-27 rabi season to remain lower, citing the impact of El Niño. The phenomenon involves the abnormal warming of surface.

# Turbhe flyover closed: Which routes should Thane-Navi Mumbai-Mumbai commuters take now?

**Mumbai.(Agency)**

Motorists travelling from Thane towards Vashi and Mumbai will have to take alternative routes for the next four-and-a-half months after Navi Mumbai Traffic Police closed the Thane-facing arm of the Turbhe flyover on the Sion-Panvel Highway from November 25 for demolition and reconstruction.



The stretch will remain closed to all categories of vehicles until March 31, 2027. The work will be undertaken by SMC Infrastructure, according to a traffic notification issued by Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Dr Rahul Khade.The Turbhe flyover is an important link on the Sion-Panvel Highway, carrying substantial traffic between Thane, Navi Mumbai and Mumbai.Under the diversion plan, light motor vehicles travelling from Thane towards Mumbai can continue on the Sion-Panvel Highway and take a right turn below either Shiravane Bridge or LP Bridge. They can then proceed via Juinagar and the Turbhe external flyover towards Mumbai.The reconstruction is being undertaken in phases. Work on the first section, carrying traffic from Pune towards Mumbai, has already begun. The demolition of the second section, connecting Thane to Vashi and Mumbai, is now being taken up.The flyover has been plagued by recurring problems, including potholes, cavities in the road surface and deterioration of expansion joints. Despite repeated repairs, the problems persisted, prompting the PWD to opt for complete reconstruction.The closure is likely to increase traffic pressure on the alternative routes through Shiravane, LP Bridge and Juinagar, particularly during morning and evening peak hours. The traffic police have appealed to motorists to use the designated diversions and plan their journeys accordingly.

## Share trading scheme, Instagram ad, Rs 75 lakh gone: How a Ghaziabad couple's savings were wiped out

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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It took just over a month for a fake share trading scheme, advertised on Instagram, to wipe out a Ghaziabad couple's savings. By the time they realised they had been cheated of Rs 75.13 lakh, their trading account was showing a fortune of Rs 4.75 crore – money they could neither touch nor withdraw.

Five months later, they sold their home of nearly three decades.Today, the couple, aged 54 and 64, lives in a rented house in a village in Greater Noida's Jewar, paying a rent of Rs 10,000 a month.

As the husband, a civil engineer who once worked for a private firm, looks for a job, the woman, who has battled cancer for years, is struggling to come to terms with how an Instagram advertisement turned their lives upside down.They are not alone. Their story is among hundreds of share trading scams reported in Ghaziabad, where such frauds have emerged as the largest category of cybercrime cases.

Between January 1, 2024, and October 31, 2026, the Ghaziabad cyber police station registered 390 share trading fraud cases involving Rs 145.65 crore. These accounted for nearly 46% of the 849 cyber fraud cases registered during the period.For the couple, it began in January 2024, when the woman came across an Instagram advertisement purportedly linked to an American investment firm. It promised high returns from share trading.

## Family turns e-rickshaw into robbery trap, four held for looting passenger

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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In an unusual robbery modus operandi, a family allegedly used an e-rickshaw, with women and children travelling alongside the driver, to target unsuspecting passengers in east Delhi. Four family members, including two women, were arrested for allegedly robbing a passenger of `5,000 at knifepoint, police said. The accused have been identified as Jubair (22), Najre Alam (22), Muskan (23) and Ishrat (50).A PCR call was received on November 14 around 11 pm from a man who reported that an e-rickshaw driver had robbed him at knifepoint in the presence of two women and two children travelling in the vehicle, a senior police officer said.During investigation, police found that the complainant had boarded the e-rickshaw from Noida




T-Point around 10.30 pm for Anand Vihar bus terminal. The women and children were already travelling in it.The driver diverted the vehicle towards Dharamshila Hospital, claiming he had to drop his wife and children home. He then took the passenger to an isolated stretch, threatened him with a knife and robbed him of `5,000. The accompanying women also allegedly intimidated the complainant, the officer said.

Police traced the e-rickshaw to its registered owner, Ansar (55), a Kalyanpuri resident, who said his son Jubair usually drove the vehicle. Jubair and his brother-in-law, Najre Alam, were found to have been previously involved in a robbery case registered at Sunlight Colony police station.

**Hospital's contractual employees assaulted**

Two contractual employees of Safdarjung Hospital were allegedly assaulted with a baseball bat and hammer by two car occupants following a collision with their motorcycle near the Sarai Kale Khan flyover on Wednesday, police said.

# Best response was Op Sindoor: IAF chief on India's post-26/11 shift



**Delhi.(Agency)**

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India could not deliver a befitting response when terrorists struck Mumbai on November 26, 2008, but that has changed since, with Operation Sindoor being the strongest example, Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit said on Thursday.Speaking on the 18th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the Indian Air Force chief said India had since developed the capability and resolve to respond decisively to terror attacks."It happened in 2008, and we could not give a response. But after that, whatever events like this have happened, we have been able to give a befitting response. The best response you have seen was in Operation Sindoor, which is still ongoing," Dixit said.

Operation Sindoor was launched on May 7 last year following the killing of 26 civilians by terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam in April. India struck terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, triggering a three-day war between the two countries.Shortly after the hostilities ceased, Prime Minister Narendra Modi defined a "new normal" where India will "strike precisely and decisively" without tolerating any nuclear blackmail.

**ON INCREASED DETERRENCE**

Addressing a guest lecture hosted by the University of Mumbai, Dixit also paid tribute to the victims of the 26/11 attacks and those who fought the terrorists.

"Today is 26th November. It is a day no Indian can forget. 18 years ago today, terrorists attacked the city. 166 innocent people lost their lives. Our police, our NSG commandos, our security personnel, and many ordinary citizens confronted the attackers with great courage. Several of them made the supreme sacrifice," he said.

"I pay homage to every life we lost. And to every brave heart who laid down his life protecting Mumbai and the nation. I also remember their families who have carried that loss with quiet dignity for 18 years," he added.

Dixit, who took charge as the IAF chief on October 31, also referred to the government's tougher position on cross-border terrorism, citing PM Modi's assertion that "terror and talks will not go together, water and blood will not flow together, and the differentiation between a terrorist and his supporter will no longer be there"."It's a very great thing, and we are all prepared to do this. So, hopefully, the amount of deterrence which we have now created, such events should not happen at all," he said.

## Woman cop gatecrashes UP constable's wedding, claims groom is her boyfriend

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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With the wedding celebrations in full swing, the woman arrived at the venue and objected to the marriage, claiming the groom was her boyfriend. Her sudden appearance triggered a commotion, leaving the bride's family to call off the ceremony. The wedding rituals were stopped before the couple could take the saat phere.After the woman left the wedding venue after making her allegations, there were tensions within the groom's family, prompting



the Tundla police to intervene.Police then took the families of the groom and bride to a police station, where a meeting was held between them. The matter was eventually settled through a compromise, with the groom's family returning the money spent by the bride's side on wedding preparations.Police did not share any details, including the identities of the groom and the bride, as both parties had reached a settlement. The woman, who made the allegations, was also not named by the police.

And just like that, a wedding that was supposed to culminate in saat phere ended in a police station compromise instead.

# Supreme Court to hear Deepathoon contempt pleas on November 27

**A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi was informed by lawyers appearing in the matter that multiple contempt petitions and applications had been filed over the issue and should be heard urgently. "Everything will be listed tomorrow," the bench said.**

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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The Supreme Court on Thursday said contempt petitions and other applications related to the non-lighting of a ceremonial lamp at the disputed Deepathoon pillar on Thirupparankundram hill will be listed on November 27, news agency Press Trust of India reported.

The matter concerns the annual Karthigai Deepam, which was lit at its customary location on Monday but not at the stone pillar despite the Supreme Court permitting it as a one-time measure.A bench of Justices Aravind Kumar and Vipul M Pancholi was informed by lawyers appearing in the matter that multiple contempt petitions and applications had been filed over the issue and should be heard urgently. "Everything will be listed tomorrow," the bench said.On Wednesday, the Tamil Nadu government apologised to the Supreme Court over the non-lighting of the ceremonial lamp at Deepathoon and blamed the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple authorities, according to Press Trust of India.The court refused to initiate contempt proceedings on its own but said it would hear such a petition if one was filed. It also said the registry would verify applications seeking permission to light the lamp, including contempt petitions, and examine whether they could be listed on Thursday or Friday.Despite the Supreme Court's permission, the annual Karthigai Deepam was lit only at its customary Uchipillayar mandapam at Thirupparankundram on Monday and not at the stone pillar on the hill.



The petitioners' lawyer accused the authorities of deliberately failing to follow the court's directions and urged it to initiate contempt proceedings on its own against those concerned for "wilful" disobediene.

The controversy at the Arulmigu Subramaniaswamy temple in Madurai centres on where the lamp should be lit on Thirupparankundram hill and who should light it.

The developments followed the Supreme Court's November 20 order permitting the lamp to be lit at Deepathoon, a stone pillar atop the hill, on November 24 as a one-time measure.For decades, the lamp had been lit at the Deepa Mandapam near the Uchipillaiyar temple on the lower slopes. Hindu groups sought permission to light it at Deepathoon, higher up the hill and about 50 metres from a dargah.

The dargah side told the Supreme Court that it owned the entire hilltop and opposed the demand by Hindu worshippers. After the lamp was lit only at the customary location, the temple's Board of Trustees said in a statement that long-standing religious traditions must take precedence.The Supreme Court will now take up the contempt petitions and related applications on November 27 over the failure to light the ceremonial lamp at Deepathoon despite its one-time permission.

# DJB plans 5L litre sewage treatment plant in Mahipalpur on 100 sq metres

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) is seeking to construct a sewage treatment plant (STP) at Delhi's Mahipalpur, capable of treating 5 lakh litres of wastewater daily within an area of just 100 square metres, with bidders required to demonstrate an already operational plant before their proposals are considered.According to project details, the proposed 500 kilolitre per day plant near E-2 Block will be a containerised, pre-built facility. The setup, including tanks, machinery, sludge-handling arrangements, electrical panels and maintenance space, must fit within the prescribed area, the tender specified.



DJB has ruled out experimental technologies, asking bidders to offer a proven system. They must make an operational plant or ready-built unit available for inspection by a team of officials within seven days of the opening of technical bids.Officials will assess its functioning, space requirements, treated-water quality, solar operation and automation. Bidders will also have to provide operating records and water-quality test reports and failure to facilitate inspection or an unsatisfactory inspection could lead to rejection of the technical bid.The system is expected to use biological treatment, membrane filtration and ozone disinfection, or equivalent advanced technology. The membrane-based system will have a pore size of no more than 0.1 micron, while ozone or an equivalent non-chlorine process will be used for disinfection.

The facility will have a solar system of at least 40 kilowatts. It will primarily run on solar energy during the day, switching automatically to grid electricity when required, the project details revealed.The project also includes a sewage pumping station and around 300 metres of sewer line to carry wastewater to the facility. DJB has set a 30-day completion timeline, including trial runs and commissioning. The contractor will maintain the plant for 4 years after the one-year defect-liability period. Delhi has 37 STPs. Of these, 28 upgraded plants are operational.

# Centre, Delhi government get 10 days to explain protest detentions

**Delhi.(Agency)**

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The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Centre and the city government to file a detailed response to a batch of petitions alleging illegal detention of many protesters during the October demonstrations seeking removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana directed the Centre and the Delhi government to file comprehensive responses within 10 days. The order came after Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati informed the court that affidavits had been filed in only some of the pleas concerning the detentions.The SC also granted the petitioners a week thereafter to file their rejoinders, if any, and said it would take up the matter for hearing once it received detailed responses from both governments. The petitioners had moved the apex court challenging the illegal crackdown on demonstrators for their protest in Delhi on October 10 and 11 against the CEC and the Election Commission's handling of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The apex court in a special sitting on October 11 had said people gathering peacefully should not be illegally detained and also asked the Centre to ensure that the Delhi Metro functions normally and that there is no disruption to internet services, subject to law-and-order conditions.



## Manuel Neuer seen with his physio, 23, after split from wife following childbirth

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel Neuer has reportedly holidayed in Sicily with a mystery woman, who is said to be his physiotherapist, weeks before he was spotted with her in Brazil. The development comes days after Neuer and his wife Anika announced their separation following the birth of their second child.According to a report by BILD, the she was also with Neuer during his trip to Sicily in late September and early October, suggesting that the Brazil getaway was not their first time travelling together.Neuer and Anika's separation was reported on November 17, with the news coming shortly after she gave birth to their second child. The Bayern goalkeeper has since been spotted in Brazil with the mystery woman, with the report shedding light on an earlier trip they are said to have taken together.It is also claimed that the woman, who is reportedly 23-years-old works as Neuer's physiotherapist, although further details about her identity have not been disclosed.

**NEUER SUFFERS INJURY**

The developments surrounding Neuer come as the Bayern Munich goalkeeper faces a spell on the sidelines after sustaining a foot injury. Bayern confirmed on Sunday that the 40-year-old suffered a partial ligament tear in his right foot and would be out of action for the time being.Neuer picked up the injury during Bayern's 2-1 Bundesliga win over Mainz on Saturday and was forced off shortly before half-time. Backup goalkeeper Jonas Urbig stepped in and continued to fill the role he has frequently taken up for the veteran goalkeeper this season.It is suggested that Neuer could be sidelined for around two months, although Bayern's official announcement did not specify a timeline for his return.

## Ben Stokes calls for truth in Sandpapergate, highlights toll on players and families

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Former England captain Ben Stokes has called for the truth to emerge over the Sandpapergate scandal, saying the controversy has taken a toll on players, their families and those around the cricketing fraternity, while insisting that Cricket Australia's leadership at the time has questions to answer.

Speaking on the That's Not Cricket podcast on YouTube, Stokes said the debate surrounding the ball-tampering scandal had reached a point where people were increasingly concerned about conflicting accounts of what happened and whether those involved had been truthful.The former England skipper acknowledged that sandpaper was used on the cricket ball during the scandal, but said the lingering uncertainty over what transpired and who was telling the truth had become a bigger issue."The only way that this is ever going to come to an end is if the truth ever comes out. It's very obvious that there is a set of people telling one thing and another set of people telling the other. One group is telling the truth and one is not. I don't know if we'll ever find out which one is actually telling it," Stokes said.

**CALLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY**

Stokes argued that those who were in charge of Australian cricket at the time of the controversy should be held accountable, pointing to the wider impact the scandal has had on players, coaches and management."Everyone knows that sandpaper was used on the cricket ball and there's no disputing that whatsoever. I think where it's got to now is that people just want to know what the truth is. I think they do deserve to hear it, but it's way bigger than that," he said."Whoever was in charge of Cricket Australia at the time have a lot to answer for. This has affected people's lives. It's affected players, management and coaches."

**THE HUMAN SIDE**

The former England captain also urged people to consider the personal toll the controversy and the scrutiny surrounding it have taken on those involved, including their families.

# Celebrate Cristiano Ronaldo, forget what happened: Guardiola's message to Portugal

Pep Guardiola has urged Portugal to give Cristiano Ronaldo a fitting farewell, insisting the legendary forward's international career should not be overshadowed by disagreements. Guardiola says Ronaldo deserves to leave through the front door.

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Pep Guardiola believes Cristiano Ronaldo deserves a dignified farewell from Portugal, urging the national team to look beyond the disagreements surrounding the forward's final days with the side and celebrate what has been an extraordinary international career.Ronaldo has brought his 23-year journey with Portugal to a close, leaving behind a legacy that few in international football can rival. But the circumstances surrounding his departure have prompted debate, and Guardiola believes the Portuguese Football Federation should ensure the end of the chapter is not defined by the fallout.Speaking to Brazilian legend Romario on his YouTube channel, the Manchester City manager made a passionate case for Ronaldo to receive the recognition he believes the forward has earned."Cristiano cannot leave in that manner, and the Portuguese national team cannot let Cristiano leave in that manner," Guardiola said.The Spaniard stressed that Ronaldo's influence was not limited to the trophies, goals and records he accumulated over more than two decades. His departure, Guardiola argued, also carries significance for the generations of Portuguese footballers who grew up watching him."He has been such an important player. This isn't just about Cristiano and Portugal — it's about future generations of Portuguese players as well. They have to understand that Cristiano deserves to leave the way he should," he said.



**NOT JUST ABOUT DISAGREEMENTS**

Ronaldo's final stretch with Portugal was complicated by tensions involving head coach Jorge Jesus. The forward had publicly expressed his frustration over how his involvement in a Nations League fixture was handled, with the disagreement eventually leading to his departure from the national team camp.The episode attracted considerable attention in Portugal, but Guardiola believes such moments should not be allowed to eclipse the bigger picture of a player's career."There are special players, and Cristiano has been one of them. They have to sort it out. How they do that is not my problem, but what he has given to football means it has to end differently," Guardiola said.Rather than allowing a disagreement to become the defining memory of Ronaldo's international farewell, Guardiola wants Portugal to make an effort to acknowledge the forward's contribution."Of course, they have to organise a celebration and make him feel appreciated. He deserves that. They should make an effort and say, 'Let's forget what has happened,'" he added.Guardiola's argument was rooted in the longevity and scale of Ronaldo's achievements, insisting that a career spanning decades cannot be judged by a brief period of tension.

## No Siraj in 2nd Test too? World-class pacer told to go back to the drawing board

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Mohammed Siraj could be in for another uncomfortable wait as India prepare for the second and final Test against New Zealand, with bowling coach Morne Morkel suggesting that the senior fast bowler still has work to do before forcing his way back into the playing XI.On the eve of the Christchurch Test, Morkel offered a glimpse into the conversations taking place behind the scenes, describing Siraj as a world-class bowler but stressing that the pacer needs to take stock of his game and work out the best route back into the team."For me, I think he is bowling well. He is a world-class bowler for me. The selection decision is a tough one to take. It's not easy. For us, it's just to keep having conversations with him," Morkel said."I was like, 'Listen, let's just step back a little bit. We were where we are at the moment. We will look at where we can improve and get better. Selection we can't control. What we can control now is getting our energy to the guys who are playing. It's only fair we do that. They also have a dream of playing for India.'"Morkel said the focus was now on helping Siraj assess his individual game and take responsibility for the next steps in his career."Yeah, it's about taking stock of his personal game, stock of where he is at the moment and what is going to be his best path to the team. And it's all about working and taking responsibility for doing that," he added.



**DEBUT FOR GURNOOR BRAR?**

While Morkel stopped short of ruling Siraj out, his comments suggest that the fast bowler might have to wait longer for his return. India could make just one change to the side that played in Wellington, with tall pacer Gurnoor Brar knocking on the door of selection. The uncapped fast bowler could replace Prasidh Krishna, who endured a difficult outing in the first Test.Gurnoor's height and ability to extract bounce could make him an attractive option at Hagley Oval, where conditions are traditionally expected to assist seam bowling. Morkel has acknowledged that the youngster is pushing for an opportunity, although India are yet to confirm their combination.India's bowling attack has been under scrutiny after its inability to force a result in Wellington. Having declared their first innings at 720 for nine, India appeared to have put themselves in a commanding position. New Zealand, however, batted out 120 overs in their second innings, finishing at 239 for five to secure a draw.

## UCL wrap: Man United denied by late blunder, PSG held by Roma, Bayern stunned by Lille

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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The Champions League delivered a night of drama, surprises and missed opportunities, with Manchester United denied a win by a late goalkeeping blunder, Paris Saint-Germain's perfect run brought to an end and Bayern Munich suffering a shock defeat to Lille.United were left frustrated after a chaotic 2-2 draw against Sporting Lisbon, while defending champions PSG were held by Roma by the same scoreline, losing their 100 per cent record in the league phase. Bayern, meanwhile, slipped to a 2-1 defeat against Lille in the absence of injured striker Harry Kane, leaving the German champions with work to do in their bid for automatic qualification to the round of 16.Barcelona enjoyed a more comfortable night, thrashing Azerbaijani debutants Sabah 4-1, while Liverpool cruised to a 3-0 win over Club Brugge to strengthen their position in the standings.




**UNITED'S LATE DRAMA**

Manchester United came agonisingly close to securing their first win under Mauricio Pochettino, only to be denied by a late goalkeeping error in a frantic encounter against Sporting Lisbon.United led 2-1 heading into the closing stages, but goalkeeper Senne Lammens fumbled a high ball, allowing Luis Suarez to volley home the equaliser in the 80th minute. The contest had already been marked by errors, penalties and a red card, with neither side able to maintain control for long.

Suarez had an eventful evening, missing a penalty in the 30th minute before converting another three minutes later. United also earned a spot kick in the 48th minute, which Bruno Fernandes converted to put the visitors ahead.Fernandes then got a fortunate second, with his speculative effort from outside the box taking an unexpected bounce off a divot and looping over goalkeeper Kaique Pereira.United thought they had found a late winner when Pereira appeared to punch the ball into his own net from a corner, but VAR ruled the goal out for a foul on the goalkeeper. The drama continued in added time, with Youri Tielemans sent off after receiving a second yellow card.

## Stan Stan who? Rishabh Pant joins local Christchurch game, goes on six-hitting spree

Rishabh Pant turned up for a local cricket match in Christchurch, under the quirky alias Stan Stan, smashing 54 off just 21 balls after a chance encounter ahead of India's second Test against New Zealand.

**Christchurch.(Agency)**

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Rishabh Pant is clearly not one to let a cricket bat gather dust, even between Test matches. Ahead of India's second Test against New Zealand, the wicketkeeper-batter found himself playing a rather unexpected game of cricket in Christchurch, turning a casual invitation into a 21-ball blitz.Pant, listed as Stan Stan on the scorecard, joined the Open House Swingers for a Last Man Stands match against The Chosen Ones at Hagley Park on Wednesday. The India star smashed 54 off just 21 deliveries, including a handful of sixes, keeping his explosive batting touch intact ahead of the Test, which begins Friday. The outing came after a chance encounter in central Christchurch, where Open House Swingers player Mohammad Safi spotted Pant riding an electric bike. What followed was an invitation that turned into a memorable evening for the local cricket team.

"I saw Rishabh going around on an electric bike," Safi told the New Zealand Herald. "So I went and stopped him, and we start talking and taking a few photos and stuff, and I asked him, do you want to play cricket for us?"He was like, OK, I'll come and play for you guys. Then he came and padded up, went batting, and smashed a few sixes," Safi recalled.



**A QUIRKY ALIAS**

The appearance was apparently low-key enough for Pant to go unnoticed by the opposition initially. Safi said the India star was wearing a striking blue tracksuit and was not immediately recognised by the players on the other side.Pant also didn't arrive with his own cricket equipment. According to Safi, the wicketkeeper-batter used his cousin's bat during the game, but that hardly stopped him from making an impact.

The 29-year-old's knock was another reminder of his penchant for attacking cricket. Pant has established himself as one of the most prolific six-hitters in Test cricket, with 108 maximums across 53 matches, placing him second on the all-time list.

He had already showcased that ability during India's first Test against New Zealand in Wellington, where he struck six sixes in a memorable innings of 128 off 153 balls. India went on to post 720-9, setting a record total in New Zealand, although the match eventually ended in a draw.

Pant's Christchurch cameo was not entirely about keeping his batting rhythm intact. It also offered a glimpse of the personality that has made him one of the more entertaining figures in international cricket.

**COACHES SURPRISED**

Pant's impromptu appearance even caught members of the Indian team off guard. Bowling coach Morne Morkel admitted he was taken aback when he learnt about the wicketkeeper-batter's local cricket adventure."I nearly fell off my chair last night when I saw that," Morkel said.

## No Sinner in Melbourne: Australian Open confirms Italian's withdrawal in 2027

**New Delhi.(Agency)**

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Jannik Sinner will miss the Australian Open 2027 as he continues his recovery from surgery on his right knee, tournament organisers confirmed on Thursday, dealing a major blow to the first Grand Slam of the upcoming tennis season.Tennis Australia chief executive Andrew Abdo confirmed that the Italian will not travel to Melbourne for the tournament in January, with Sinner opting to prioritise his recovery after undergoing a minor procedure earlier this week.

"We've been in regular touch with Jannik's team and they've confirmed he won't be joining us for the AO in January following his recent surgery," Abdo said in a statement to The Associated Press."Jannik loves competing here in Melbourne and is looking forward to returning for AO 2028. We wish him all the very best with his recovery and look forward to seeing him back on court soon."

**SINNER UNDERGOES SURGERY**

Sinner announced on Tuesday that he had undergone a minor operation on his right knee after the problem failed to respond adequately to other forms of treatment. The 25-year-old did not provide a timeline for his return to competitive tennis, but his withdrawal from the Australian Open indicates that his recovery will take longer than initially hoped.The Italian had earlier shut down his 2026 season, with a statement from his management team last month confirming that he would undergo treatment for inflammation in his knee.

Sinner had also spoken about the need to avoid rushing his recovery, stressing that taking the necessary time was important to prevent the injury from becoming more serious."I have to respect the protocols at the moment because if we rush things we could have more serious problems," Sinner said during a news conference in Milan earlier this month.

The injury marks another prolonged interruption to Sinner's career in recent years. The Italian also missed a significant period in 2025 after accepting a three-month suspension following a settlement with the World Anti-Doping Agency over his doping case.

# Oil eases, Dalal Street seizes the moment

**Key indices bounce back from Monday's losses despite a fall in Asian markets, as institutional buying picks up**

**HONG KONG: (Agency)**

Benchmark indices staged a sharp rebound on Wednesday, shrugging off weak Asian cues and subdued US futures, as easing crude oil prices and a stronger rupee lifted investor sentiment.

The Sensex surged 1.82% to close at 83,938, while the Nifty 50 rallied 1.85% to settle at 25,819. Broader markets lagged, with the Nifty Midcap 100 gaining 0.30% and the Nifty Smallcap 100 slipping 0.44%.The recovery followed a session of profit booking on Monday and a market holiday. Brent crude eased below $90 a barrel, while the rupee strengthened.Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) continued their buying spree, purchasing shares worth `4,479 crore on Wednesday. Domestic institutional investors also turned net buyers, with purchases of `4,018 crore. FPIs have bought shares worth a record `1.4 lakh crore so far this month.Institutional investors in Asia are rotating out of artificial intelligence and technology stocks into defensive sectors, pushing Indian equities back



into net overweight territory for the first time since January 2026, according to the Bank of America Asia Fund Manager Survey released on November 17."Bulls returned with renewed vigour after the market holiday, shrugging off weak Asian cues ahead of the US PCE inflation data, even as hawkish Fed commentary reinforced expectations of a December rate hike," said Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Investments. India continues to benefit as global investors shift capital from crowded AI-linked trades to undervalued AI implementers with steady cash flows, he added.FMCG led sectoral gains, with the Nifty FMCG index rising 3.8% to a three-month high, as softer palm oil and crude prices eased input-cost pressures and the demand outlook remained steady. Pharma gained 2.4%, while private banks rose 2.2% on a catch-up rally, supported by attractive valuations and robust loan growth.

The Nifty IT index advanced 1.1%, extending its gains for a third consecutive session amid the global rotation away from crowded AI-linked trades. Metal and media stocks were the main laggards.Insurance stocks and distributors gained after the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India set up an expert committee to review proposed distribution reforms, raising hopes of softer norms and phased implementation.

Realty stocks also found support from new corporate insolvency resolution process rules allowing viable projects to be ring-fenced from insolvency proceedings, potentially improving resolution prospects.Rupee stages best rally since MarchThe rupee surged 69 paise to close at 92.18 against the dollar on Wednesday, marking its best single-day gain since March 12 and taking it to an eight-month high. The rally was driven by strong equity markets, sustained foreign fund inflows and softer oil prices.2.9%The rupee's gain in November so far, including a 0.7% rise on Wednesday.However, the rupee remains down 2.5% year-to-date, with a stronger dollar limiting further gains. HDFC Securities' Dilip Parmar sees the spot rupee around 92 in the near term.

## Isebi simplifies KYC process, eases reuse of investor records

**MUMBAI:(Agency)**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has eased client onboarding norms, allowing investors to reuse KYC records across market intermediaries if either their current or permanent address has been verified through official databases.In a circular dated November 25, the regulator also made Aadhaar-linked mobile number verification optional if the number has already been verified and tagged as Aadhaar-seeded in the KYC Registration Agency (KRA) database.Under the revised norms, KRAs will share attribute-wise details of validated KYC information with intermediaries. Supplementary details such as income range, occupation, politically exposed person (PEP) status and Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA) and Common Reporting Standard (CRS) information will also be centralised at the KRA level. Intermediaries must upload the prescribed information within three working days of completing initial KYC.The circular also sets timelines for delinking records. Intermediaries, other than mutual funds, must inform KRAs within five working days of account closure, while KRAs must update or delink records within two working days.

## Tata Steel, APL Apollo explore changes to Rs 28k-cr deal after investor backlash

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

After investor backlash over the complicated structure of Tata Steel's acquisition of APL Apollo Tubes, the managements of the two companies are discussing possible changes to the transaction, Tata Steel MD and CEO TV Narendran said on Wednesday.Narendran said the two managements were examining alternatives to address investors' concerns without compromising the strategic rationale behind the deal. The discussions follow an adverse market reaction, with shareholders questioning the transaction's complex, multi-step structure."We are hearing this feedback and reflecting on what else we can do to address some of the concerns that have been expressed," Narendran told the media.He identified two broad sets of concerns. Tata Steel shareholders are worried about the additional debt the acquisition would bring onto its balance sheet, while minority shareholders of APL Apollo feel they have not received a favourable deal, particularly given the debt the company would have to take on."We are trying to figure out what we can do to address the concerns of the minority shareholders of APL Apollo, while at the same time taking into account the shareholders of Tata Steel," he said.Narendran said the companies would come back with a solution once both managements had worked through the issues. Discussions had been underway over the past 48 hours, including consultations with APL Apollo chairman Sanjay Gupta and his team.However, he ruled out the possibility of the deal being called off, saying its strategic rationale remained unchanged. He also clarified that neither side was backing away from the agreement.When contacted separately, Tata Steel told FS it had nothing more to add to what was already in the public domain. APL Apollo did not respond to queries till the time of filing.

## Stock markets climb in early trade on foreign fund inflows, buying in IT shares

**MUMBAI: (Agency)**

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty climbed in early trade on Thursday amid sustained foreign fund inflows and buying in IT stocks.The 30-share BSE Sensex advanced 363.12 points to 84,301.40 in opening trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty was up 53.95 points to 25,873.20.From the Sensex pack, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, HDFC Bank and Tata Steel were among the major winners.Bajaj Finance, Maruti, UltraTech Cement and Bajaj Finserv were on the losing side.Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,479.08 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data."FIIs are avoiding the concentration risks in AI trade, particularly in South Korea and Taiwan. This weakening of the AI trade along with the impressive revival in earnings growth in India are powering the FII inflows into India which has reached USD 14.15 billion, so far this month," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 0.77 per cent higher at USD 95.30 per barrel.In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index rebounded after Wednesday's sharp decline, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index quoted marginally lower.The US equity markets ended mostly lower on Wednesday. The Nasdaq Composite was down 0.62 per cent and S&P 500 declined 0.25 per cent, while Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 0.33 per cent.On Wednesday, the Sensex jumped 1,502.29 points or 1.82 per cent, to settle at 83,938.28. The Nifty surged 469.60 points, or 1.85 per cent, to end at 25,819.25.

## Vi may skip Mumbai spectrum renewal, save Rs 730 crore

**MUMBAI:(Agency)**

Vodafone Idea (Vi), India's third-largest telecom operator, is considering not renewing its 4.4 MHz spectrum block in the 1800 MHz band in Mumbai, which expires on December 4, 2026. The move could save around Rs 730 crore but may reduce its capacity to accommodate additional subscribers. Vi said it has adequate spectrum across its portfolio and that network coverage will remain unaffected."Basis our business needs and to provide seamless customer experience with adequate network coverage, we have submitted our request to the DoT for renewal/extension of spectrum in select circles," a company spokesperson said.Vi currently holds 10.2 MHz in the 1800 MHz band in Mumbai. Without the expiring block, this would fall to 5.8 MHz. It also holds 11 MHz in the 900 MHz band and 10 MHz in the 2100 MHz band in the city, which support 4G services. Across its 17 priority circles, it has 246 MHz in the 1800 MHz band, 144.4 MHz in 900 MHz, and 175 MHz in 2100 Mhz.Telecom expert Parag Kar said the move is unlikely to significantly affect Vi's 4G and 5G services, as the expiring block was part of its earlier GSM licence, had not been liberalised for 4G use, and was primarily used for 2G services.The key challenge, he said,



would be shifting existing 2G subscribers to the remaining 900 MHz or 1800 MHz spectrum, which also carries 4G and 5G traffic. While Vi has sufficient spectrum in the 900 MHz and 2100 MHz bands for 4G, the shift could increase subscriber density and reduce spare capacity, leaving less room to accommodate future traffic growth.Separately, 39.6 MHz across nine blocks in eight circles is due for renewal. Retaining all of it would cost around Rs 2,486 crore at the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India's reserve price, according to Kar's analysis.Vi's net loss widened to `5,975 crore in the September 2026 quarter from Rs 5,562 crore a year earlier. Its deferred spectrum and adjusted gross revenue (AGR) obligations stood at Rs 1,31,268 crore and Rs 26,264 crore, respectively, at September-end. The company is seeking up to Rs 35,000 crore in additional bank funding and plans to invest Rs 45,000 crore in its network over three years through FY29.Blended average revenue per user rose 0.6% sequentially to Rs 178 in the September quarter from Rs 177 in the June quarter

## Rupee falls 20 paise to 92.40 against US dollar in early trade

**MUMBAI: (Agency)**

The rupee depreciated 20 paise to 92.40 against the US dollar in early trade on Thursday, as higher crude oil prices and the US administration's proposed tariff hikes against India fuelled dollar demand and weighed on the local unit.

Foreign fund inflows favoured the Indian currency, but it faced pressure after crude oil prices reversed easing, hovering above the USD 95-per-barrel level, according to forex traders.They also said the Donald Trump administration's latest proposal to escalate the trade war with major trading partners raised inflation fears.The US on Wednesday proposed 25 per cent tariffs on imports from India, with a provision to cap them at 17 per cent if the two countries agree to a bilateral trade deal, giving it a slight edge over Asian competitors.The proposed tariffs followed investigations by the US Trade Representative into 16 economic jurisdictions. The USTR investigation report accused India of engaging in a range of acts, policies, and practices that create, maintain, or contribute to



structural excess capacity and production.India rejected the allegation and said the country is committed to working closely with the United States for an early conclusion of a bilateral trade agreement.In the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened at 92.50 and gained up to 92.39 before falling again to 92.40 against the greenback, trading 20 paise lower from its previous close.On Wednesday, the rupee jumped 65 paise to settle at 92.20, the highest level this fiscal year so far. The level was compared to the closing level of 92.28 against the greenback recorded on March 16 this year.In the past seven weeks, the Indian currency has recovered nearly 5 per cent compared to its lowest-ever closing mark of 96.88 versus the US dollar seen on October 8.Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was at 103.79, higher by 0.17 per cent.Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 0.77 per cent higher at USD 95.34 per barrel in futures trade.In the domestic equity market, Sensex rose 138.54 points or 0.17 per cent to 84,076.82, while the Nifty was down 26.05 points or 0.10 per cent to 25,793.20.Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 4,479.08 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

## Credit card spends soar 307% in seven years

**MUMBAI: (Agency)**

Credit card spending in India has surged 307.4% in seven years, rising from Rs 60,130 crore in November 2019 to Rs 2.45 lakh crore in October 2026. The growth represents a compounded annual rate of 22.5%, even as rising household borrowing raises concerns over indebtedness.Monthly card spends crossed Rs 1 lakh crore for the first time in October 2021, reaching Rs 1.01 lakh crore, and climbed to Rs 1.8 lakh crore by October 2023. In October 2026, spending was up 14.4% y-o-y and 20% from September, as consumers stepped up purchases ahead of Diwali.For the first time, credit card spending exceeded ATM withdrawals in a



month. Withdrawals fell 9.8% to Rs 2.30 lakh crore, against card spends of Rs 2.45 lakh crore. In October 2019, ATM withdrawals were five times card spending.

The shift comes amid a sharp rise in gold loans, another source of household borrowing. The portfolio grew 60% in Q2 to Rs 23.3 lakh crore, according to CRIF High Mark.

Online and e-commerce purchases accounted for 63% of card spending in October, at Rs 1.54 lakh crore, while point-of-sale transactions totalled Rs 90,562 crore.

Card transaction volumes rose 31.8% y-o-y to 6,833 lakh, outpacing the 14.4% increase in spending value. Consequently, the average transaction size fell to Rs 3,585 from Rs 4,133 a year earlier, suggesting more frequent use for smaller purchases.HDFC Bank led card spending, followed by Axis Bank, SBI, and ICICI Bank.

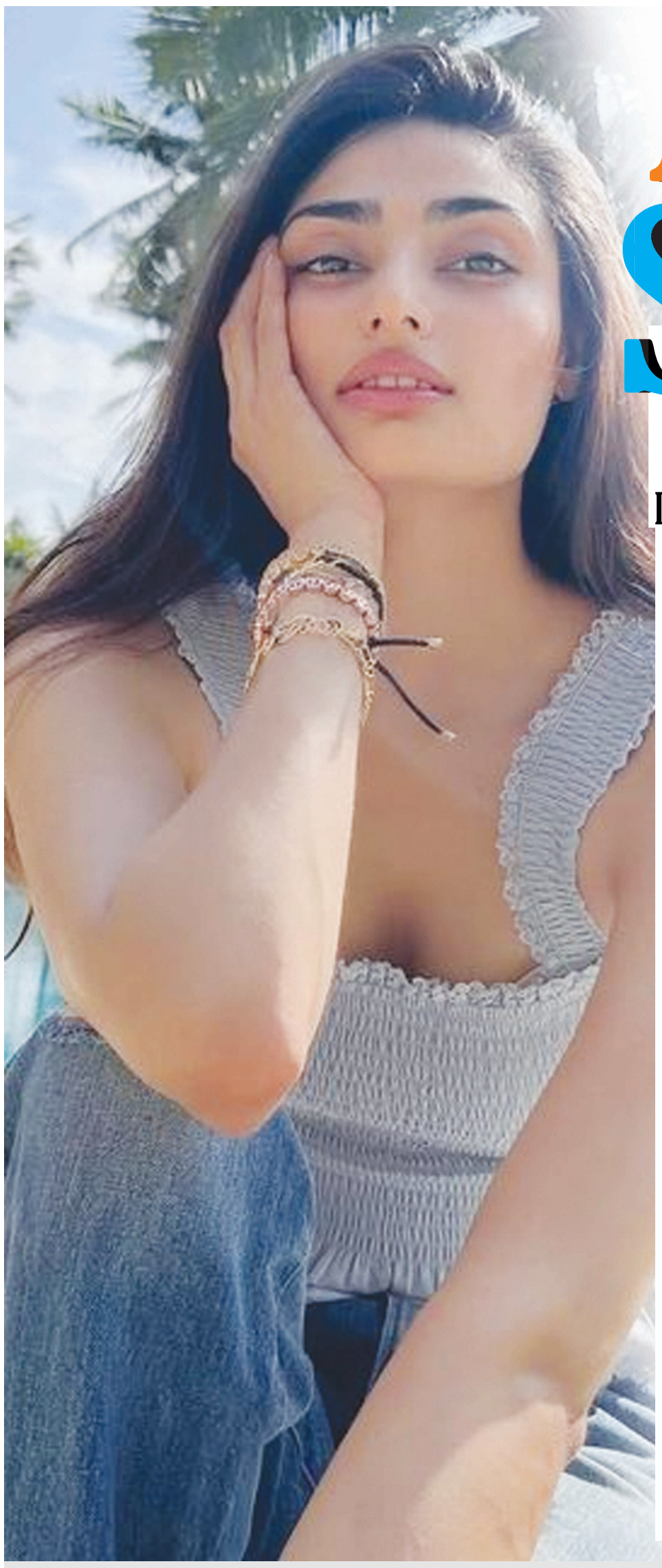
# Air India aims Rs 6,000 crore cost savings, plans freighter biz, tour packages: CEO

**MUMBAI: (Agency)**

Air India Group is targeting Rs 6,000 crore in cost savings, with significant progress in cutting expenses and improving revenues, CEO Tewolde Gebremariam said on Wednesday and indicated plans to enter the dedicated freighter business to tap cargo market opportunities.Spelling out the broad contours for the revival of the loss-making Air India and achieving operational synergies with Air India Express, Gebremariam, who took charge as the CEO and MD in October, told the staff that there is a long way to go in reaching profitability, but steps taken so far are very encouraging.During a town hall with the employees of Air India and Air India Express that went on for nearly two hours, Gebremariam said that over the last three months, the airline has recorded significant improvements in operational performance.According to him, Air India Group is aiming for Rs 6,000 crore in cost savings and has already identified Rs 3,500 crore worth of potential cost-saving areas. Already, around Rs 1,500 crore of cost savings have been achieved.In October, Air India set up a multidisciplinary team to identify cost-saving opportunities, with the new




CEO urging the staff to embed a mindset of frugality and accountability in all their work.To ensure operational synergies and save costs, Gebremariam said Air India and Air India Express would increasingly operate as one airline group while continuing to function independently under separate Air Operator Certificates (AOCs).Customer-facing, operational and regulatory functions will remain separate while enabling functions such as finance, human resources, information technology and centres of excellence will increasingly be managed at a group level to unlock synergies, improve efficiency and strengthen capabilities, he said.Air India will continue to focus on full-service operations while Air India Express will focus on the low-cost carrier market.In a significant move, Air India Group will look at entering the dedicated freighter business to tap cargo market opportunities.Among other initiatives to boost revenues, Gebremariam said there are plans to set up in-house tour operations wherein package tour offerings will be sold.The airline will work with the tourism ministry in this regard.This could become a huge business unit because India has a lot to offer as a tourist destination and at the same time, middle-class Indians are travelling all over the world. Such operations will not only support the air travel business but also generate revenue on the ground through tour packages, the Air India CEO said.Also, two new group roles are set to be created -- Group Strategy Officer and Chief of Training Academy.The Chief of Training Academy will consolidate the Group's training capabilities under a unified leadership structure, bringing together its flying academy, flight training organisations and technical training capabilities.Air India Express CEO Deepak Rajawat will become part of the Air India management team.Amid the continuing airspace curbs, Air India is partially rejigging its network to improve efficiency and minimise



# Athiya Shetty

## Gives A Peek Into KL Rahul's Precious Father-Daughter Moment With Their Baby Girl Evaarah

Actress Athiya Shetty has offered a heartwarming glimpse into her family life by sharing a picture of her husband, cricketer KL Rahul, holding their baby girl.Taking to Instagram, Athiya posted the adorable photograph, capturing a tender father-daughter moment. Sharing the picture, she described it as the "best feeling in the whole wide world". The photograph gives a glimpse of KL Rahul enjoying a precious moment with his little one, while Athiya's caption reflects the joy of parenthood.The picture shows KL Rahul carrying his little daughter on his shoulders, offering a sweet glimpse into their bond. Athiya's caption reflects the joy and warmth of the moment. Alongside the picture, Athiya wrote, "best feeling in the whole wide world."Athiya and KL Rahul tied the knot in January 2023 in an intimate ceremony attended by close family members and friends. The couple welcomed their daughter Evaarah in March 2025, marking a new chapter in their lives.The couple had earlier announced their daughter's name, "Evaarah" (also spelt Ivaaraa),



through a social media post, explaining that it means "Gift of God".

The couple celebrated their daughter Evaarah's first birthday in March this year. Marking the special occasion, Athiya and KL Rahul shared a joint social media post, expressing their love and gratitude to their little one for choosing them as her parents."Happy 1st birthday, my jaana Thank you for choosing us, we love you beyond words and beyond worlds," they wrote.The post also featured a few glimpses from Evaarah's first birthday celebration. In the opening picture, Athiya was seen lifting her daughter high in the air, with a wide smile on her face.Another photograph captured the little one's hand placed beside her beautifully decorated birthday cake. Athiya also shared a picture of two animal-themed cakes, reflecting Evaarah's fondness for wildlife.

## Diljit Dosanjh Shares Video From 'Road To Heaven' Amid Bengaluru Concert Bomb Threat



Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh, who recently performed in Ahmedabad, is currently in heaven a few miles away. On Tuesday, the actor took to his Instagram, and shared a video of himself chilling as he laid on the tarmac.The actor-singer shared that he is having the time of his life in Kutch. He said, "I'm in heaven. This is called the 'Road to Heaven', it's in Kutch. If you have been here, it's great. If you haven't, you have to come to Kutch to see heaven".He also shared the most recent thought on his mind, as he gave sound advice of working towards improvement, and progress while being unfazed by the negativity.He shared, "My thought is that whatever path you are on, keep moving forward with your positive energy. If a person is deliberately trying to sabotage your work, the person is also putting their energy on that path. Use that energy as a positive energy. Your energy, and the energy of the person, who wants to sabotage your work, have been transferred to you. You have the benefit of double energy".

The actor-singer's video comes after his gig in Bengaluru received a bomb threat. His upcoming Bengaluru concert has received an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) bomb threat, prompting police to register an FIR against unidentified persons. The November 29 concert, part of his Aura India Tour 2026′, is scheduled to take place at NICE Grounds in Madavara.As per the complaint, a threatening email was sent on November 9 to the official email IDs of the Hubballi- Dharwad Municipal Corporation Commissioner. The message warned of an explosion at the concert venue and cautioned people against bringing children, picking up unattended iPhones or travelling by Metro. It ended with the slogan 'Khalistan Zindabad. Police have registered a case under the IT Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and are attempting to trace the sender's IP address and identify the source.

## Ranbir Kapor Is 'Outstanding' In Ramayana, Sai Pallavi Is 'Completely Miscast' As Sita, Says Tanishaa Mukerji



Ramayana, starring Ranbir Kapoor, Sai Pallavi and Yash, released in theatres on November 5, and has been performing well at the box office. Actress Tanishaa Mukerji recently watched the movie, and has now shared her review of Nitesh Tiwari's film. The film's casting has become a topic of discussion on social media ever since its release, and Tanishaa has now shared her thoughts about it too. She thought she might find it difficult to see Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama after loving him in Sandeep Reddy Vanga's film Animal. However, she felt quite the opposite, calling him 'perfect' for the role. Tanishaa, however, feels that Sai Pallavi is 'completely miscast' as Sita.

**Tanishaa Mukerji Reviews Ramayana**

Tanishaa Mukerji took to X (formerly Twitter) to share her thoughts about Ramayana. "Watching #Ramayana late but finally! Here's my take ! I just have to say the media is soooo misleading. It is all ram! #RanbirKapoor is outstanding. I thought after I loved him in animal I might not connect him with lord Ram. But OMG! He's perfect!" she wrote.She further explained why she felt Sai Pallavi was miscast as Sita. "Also #saipallavi I'm sure is a great actor but unfortunately for me completely miscast as #sita! She disconnects me completely from the visual ! And the visuals story acting are all fantastic! #yash As Ravan is superb! He has surpassed all expectations proving he takes his role to perfection! Both lord Ram and Ravan are played by actors who have embodied their roles to perfection! Ravan is A good match for Ram! A must watch," wrote Tanishaa.

**Tanishaa Explains Why Ranbir Kapoor Was Perfect As Lord Rama**

In another post, Tanisha wrote, "A detailed explanation of why #RanbirKapoor worked as #LordRam in #Ramayana ! Firstly with him I got a multidimensional character. I felt his hurt when his father sent him to vanvas, his sense of loss for a mother figure when he found out it was Kaikeyi , the one who decided it! I felt his sense of awe respect and love for sita his humour and indulgence for laxman as an older brother and his protective instinct for both."

# Twinkle Khanna

## Roasts Akshay Kumar For Doing Koffee With Karan For Free: 'I'm Shocked'



Author and television host Twinkle Khanna is known for not mincing her words. As her husband and popular Bollywood actor, Akshay Kumar, appeared on the latest episode of 'Koffee With Karan Season 9', the 'Airlift' actor made a call to his better half.Twinkle, being her witty self, ended up roasting Akshay Kumar for coming on 'Koffee with Karan' for free.As Akshay spoke to Twinkle on speaker during the episode, Twinkle scolded Akshay for disturbing her sleep by singing bhajans in a loud voice early in the morning. She also asked the 'Welcome' actor to ensure that the bathroom door is shut properly.The 'Mela' actress said, "I barely slept last night. Then you woke me up early in the morning. Who plays bhajans at 6 am? And then on top of that, you're singing even louder like you're some Anup Janota. How many times have I told you? At least shut the bathroom door properly."As Twinkle asked Akshay where he was, he told her that he was at 'Koffee With Karan'. To this, she informed him that she spoke to Karan recently, and the filmmaker asked her to come and judge the rapid-fire section of the episode.



Twinkle also expressed her shock that Akshay is doing the show for free."But I didn't know you're doing it today. Oh. You're doing it for free. I'm shocked," she said.Busting Twinkle, KJo said, "Oh, are you? So you want money for everything? You want money for everything?".Meanwhile, during the fun episode, fellow guest Ravi Kishan was also seen teaching his viral hook step to Akshay, which includes a swag-walk move.In another candid moment, Akshay was asked to choose between going a year without sex or a year without working out during the Rapid Fire Round. Answering the question, the 'Housefull' actor responded, "Isn't sex the best workout?"Akshay's latest appearance on the show with Ravi Kishan was full of such fun revelations and highlights.



## Make use of that awkward

# Space

**We all crave the large, airy, light-filled rooms featured in interior magazines that promise relaxation and sophistication without the real life tangles of TV wires and cluttered surfaces, and unsuitable furniture.**

In reality, most houses and flats include at least one awkward space, maybe a narrow hallway, or a tiny study struggling to double as a spare bedroom, or an oddly-shaped lounge.

Surprisingly, these can prove to be assets. Problem rooms can be transformed into charming and original spaces with just a bit of knowledge, confidence and the ability to highlight the positive points and minimise the negative. We all have a room that we wish we could fix. Either it's too small, too dark, too narrow, has a low ceiling, or other undesirable features. Here are some tips:

**Go smaller** Is your room too big? Divide it into more intimate areas. Grouping a couple of chairs with a loveseat, two chairs and a small table, a sofa and chair, or other similar arrangements will make the room seem cosy. Warm colours advance visually, so painting the room a warm colour will make the room seem more intimate.

**Small spaces** Internal windows are a clever way of increasing light, and giving small rooms a welcome outlook into adjoining areas.

**Narrow spaces** Distract attention from a room's narrowness by adding a dramatic colour or painting to one of the shorter walls. Place a sofa covered in a horizontal stripe fabric on a short wall, which tricks the eye into seeing the wall as wider.

**Awkward shaped rooms** Be bold when decorating an oddly-shaped room — a half-hearted attempt makes the whole thing look like a mistake. Choose a soft colour or subtle print -anything too dark will make the walls close in. Soften angles and strong lines by painting walls and ceiling white or a pale receding colour. Create symmetrical



displays on shelves and tables to offset angles.

**Go taller** Is your ceiling too low? Add height to your room with tall, vertical elements, such as bookcases. Long curtains which drape on the floor can also add visual height, as will tall lamps or torches. Painting the ceiling a light, cool colour (which appears to recede) will make the room seem brighter and more open. Stretch a room's height by using full-length curtains on windows regardless of their size. Use uplighters to direct soft light towards the ceiling making it appear further away. Accentuate the vertical with floor-to-ceiling stripes on walls.

**Go shorter** Is your room too tall? Lower the ceiling by incorporating more horizontal lines in the room. Shelves, art and crown moldings are just a few of the elements that can lower the height of the room. Another way to lower the room is to install molding or chair rails one half to three quarters of the way up the walls. This trick visually shortens the room. Painting the ceiling a dark, warm colour will also shorten the visual space.

**Go brighter** Uncover windows by opting for shutters instead of curtains, or sweep drapes clear of the frame back onto walls. Paint garden fences and walls white or a pale colour to bounce light into the interior. Lay pale-coloured paving stones below doors and windows for a lightening effect. Use sparkly, shiny surfaces to bounce light around a room — mirrors, kitchen units in stainless steel, or mirrored splashbacks.

**Go shorter Bring** lofty ceilings down a peg or two by painting the area above the picture rail a warm shade deeper than the walls. Use pendant lights and avoid uplighters.

# Couch is everything a living room needs

It goes without saying that a living room set up is incomplete without a pleasant seating. An aptly designed couch makes for a complete interior experience. Comfort seating and loads of aesthetic value are big plusses that go with a well chosen sofa. A seating system that complements the decor is truly a must while decorating the living room.

Cane sofas, carved wooden couches, white metal and black iodised sofas, solid wood based sofas with fabric and leather upholstery, textile sofas and leather sofas are commonly in vogue. Spreading across all budgets from a modest, 15,000 to a whopping 3 lakh a set of sofa systems are available as sets in the ready made market and as customised pieces at sofa makers. The patterns available are countless and the combinations, variable. One needs to look into individual needs, space availability, colour of the living room, the decor theme et al while choosing just the right sofa. A hurried decision on buying sofas can at times lead to a frustrating experience. Additional seating like modas, bean bags and Mona Lisa deewans can go well with sofas of all shapes.







Javed Tajjuddin Qazi, a sofa maker from a city suburb, says, "The patterns available with sofa makers are much more than what is available at leading showrooms. Made to order sets are much cheaper, use better material and are at times even sturdier than what might be sold off as branded pieces. Plus, tailored sofas can be matched with any decor as per the need."

Ready made branded versions, however, supposed to add an 'oomph factor' apart from comfort angles for seating. Avers Smita Thite, an interior designer says, "I recommend the use of ready made branded sofas to my customers as they look elegant and are high on style quotient too". Smita feels the Pune customers are an aware lot and have no hang ups on outlaying big budgets for sofas. "The ready made branded market offers a wide range of 'affordable' varieties," she says.

Whether branded, ready made or tailor made, a sofa needs to be taken care of properly for longer life and added value. Small embellishments like contrast cushions, matching matting at the centre, decorative foot rugs at all individual chairs might just be some options elected to make a sofa look more elegant. Maintenance is as important as looks, if not more.

Javed says, "One must never use sofas without maintaining them." This expert further elaborates, "Cane sofas must be dusted with vacuum cleaners from time to time and a polish treatment is given once in five years. These can last forever if taken care of properly. What's more, the y go with any kind of decor, modern or traditional. Polishing is a must for wooden sets of all types. Re- cushioning and repairing the loosened seats of sofa are best done before it starts sagging.

A small investment of 5000 on reconditioning every four years can go a long way in using the same set forages. In this process, one can change the fabric too".

Javed further informs that leather sofas are best cleaned with a mixture of coconut oil and a mild detergent. He says, "Leather should be cleaned with a mixture of oil and water, never water alone as leather chips and peels off with water. For fabric sofas, the best care comes from periodic vacuuming and an annual sofa shampoo from professional cleaners. Fabric tends to get murky too soon and a regular wash is a complete must." Special conditioners and polishes are available for artificial and pure leather sofas and is an investment worth it.

As for the colours in vogue, Smita adds, "Black is an all time favourite in Italian designs. It goes well on any background. Other colours in rage are beige, off white, light mauve, light crimson, sandy brown and olive green. These go well with any background. People are also trying bold colours like yellow and pink, but they have to be carefully displayed, lest they look gaudy."

Box type sofas, C-shape seating, L-shape sets are all the current favourites. Pine and rubber wood benches are added as an accessory if space demands. Wood goes well with any background and a generous display of this material lends style quotient to any design.

Floor pillows, Indian seating that is at a lower level than a sofa and a set of broad chairs can mingle well with any sofa system in a large living room. The right sofa material for individual need, the correct texture of the fabric for every decor and the apt shade for any living room can add magic to an otherwise boring ambience. One has to make a learned decision before buying the right sofa. Otherwise, hurry can lead to worry later.