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FRIDAY

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Kissa kursi ka: Congress explains Siddaramaiah's fifth-row seat at Sonia memoir event

BENGALURU. (Agency).

Seating arrangements at the function to release Sonia Gandhi's book 'Belonging: A Journey of Love' in New Delhi has snowballed into a political controversy, with Karnataka BJP leaders accusing the Congress of insulting backward castes by making former CM Siddaramaiah sit in the fifth row.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka was quick to question why a senior leader like Siddaramaiah, who is also a prominent face of the AHINDA (minorities, backward classes and Dalits) movement, was relegated to the fifth row. Many right-wing social media handles also jumped in to highlight this.

In response, ministers MB Patil, HC Balakrishna and G Parameshwara and others came out in support of Siddaramaiah. Congress said AICC General Secretary Org KC Venugopal subsequently accompanied the former CM to the second row, where Chief Minister DK Shivakumar was seated.Sources close to Siddaramaiah maintained there was no deliberate attempt to sideline him. They said he had arrived late for the function, by which time most of the front-row seats had already been occupied. CWC member and Rajya Sabha MP Dr Syed Nasir Hussain said he was present when Siddaramaiah walked in.

Grand state-level celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' held in Chhota Udepur

New Delhi.(Agency).

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel took part in a large roadshow in Chhota Udepur on Thursday, ahead of addressing a public gathering at the state-level Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas celebration. The event marks the 151st birth anniversary of Dharti Aaba Bhagwan Birsa Munda.The roadshow went from Bhagwan Birsa Munda Circle to S. N. College Ground.At the event, Patel inaugurated six modern mini fire tenders built at a total cost of around Rs 3.5 crore. The money came from grants given by the District Mineral Foundation. The vehicles will improve public safety and disaster management in Chhota Udepur district.

The Chief Minister also opened an exhibition set up by the Tribal Development Department. It displays the government's welfare schemes, development works and projects.The exhibition will stay open to the public for the next three days, so that local residents can learn about the schemes meant for the upliftment of tribal communities and make the most of them.

Several leaders and officials joined the Chief Minister during the roadshow and the exhibition visit. They included Lok Sabha MP Jashu Rathwa, Rajya Sabha MP Dr Mukesh Rathwa, MLAs Rajendrasinh Rathwa, Jayanti Rathwa and Abhesinh Tadvi, and former MPs Naran Rathwa and Gitaben Rathwa.

Tribal Development Department Secretary Alok Kumar Pandey, Director Rachit Raj, District Collector Gargi Jain and District Development Officer Omkarsinh Shinde were also present, along with local representatives and officials.

50 crore Indians defeated poverty in 12-13 years: PM cites World Bank report

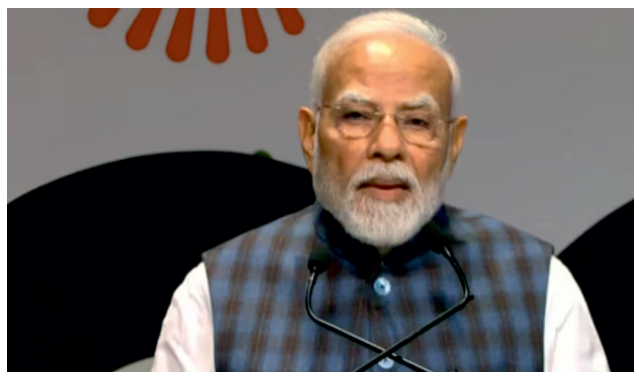
Speaking at the FICCI event, the Prime Minister highlighted India's economic transformation over the past 12 years, recalling the country's journey from the era of the "License Quota Raj" and nationalisation to being counted among the "Fragile Five" economies.

Chandigarh (Agency).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said around 50 crore Indians had come out of poverty in the last 12-13 years, citing a World Bank report while addressing the centenary convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

Speaking at the event in Bharat Mandapam, the Prime Minister highlighted India's economic transformation over the past 12 years, recalling the country's journey from the era of the "License Quota Raj" and nationalisation to being counted among the "Fragile Five" economies."Over the past 100 years, India's economy has witnessed many phases. We saw the 'License Quota Raj', the failed experiment of nationalisation, and a time in the 21st century when India's economy was counted among the 'Fragile Five'," he said"However, in the last 12 years, our youth, farmers, workers, and industry leaders have worked hard to transform this situation," the PM added.

Marking FICCI's completion of 100 years since its establishment on April 7, 1927, Prime Minister Modi called it a significant achievement, highlighting the organisation's ability to remain active, adapt to changing times and contribute to India's economic journey over the decades.



He said FICCI had witnessed significant achievements by Indian industry over the past century, but the focus should now shift to the future and what the country's industries could accomplish over the next 20 years."Now is the time to decide what Indian industry can achieve in the next 20 years," the PM added.Just last week, while addressing the plenary session of the India Today Group's Kisan Tak Bharat Agriculture Conference, Prime Minister Modi made a similar remark, citing the World Bank study that said India's extreme poverty rate had dropped sharply from 27.1 per cent in 2011 to 2.6 per cent in 2023.At the conference, he also said India had recorded an average agricultural growth rate of over 4% for the first time since Independence."This is the first decade since Independence, the very first time, that the nation's agricultural sector has achieved an average growth rate exceeding 4 per cent. Over the past 12-13 years, 50 crore poor people in India have overcome poverty," he said.

Illegal Mining on Grazing Land in Kalla Village, Karjan! Panchayat Files Complaint Against Mining Mafia, Demands Strict Action!

Mahanagar Metro Desk

Karjan/Vadodara: A serious case of alleged illegal mineral excavation has come to light in Kalla village of Karjan taluka in Vadodara district, Gujarat. The alleged unauthorised excavation of yellow soil from government-designated grazing land has triggered widespread resentment among villagers. The land, which is traditionally reserved for cattle and other livestock, is reportedly being excavated on a large scale, raising concerns about the protection of public property and the availability of grazing facilities for village animals.According to information received from local sources, certain operators are allegedly carrying out excavation activities on the grazing land without obtaining the necessary administrative permissions or depositing the applicable government royalty. Heavy machinery and dumpers are reportedly being used to extract and transport yellow soil from the area. The alleged activity has resulted in the formation of large pits across the grazing land, significantly affecting its condition.Grazing Land Turned into Excavation SiteGauchar land holds considerable importance in rural areas as it provides essential grazing facilities for cattle and other livestock. Such land is a valuable public resource and plays an important role in supporting the rural economy and livestock-dependent families.However, the situation in Kalla village has raised serious concerns among residents. Villagers allege that continuous excavation has damaged portions of the grazing land, leaving behind deep and potentially dangerous pits. These pits could pose risks to animals moving through the area, particularly during the monsoon season when accumulated water may make them difficult to identify.Residents are concerned that if the alleged excavation continues unchecked, the village could lose an important portion of its grazing resources. They have also questioned how public land could be subjected to such extensive excavation without effective monitoring and intervention by the concerned authorities.Gram Panchayat Takes Action, Submits Written ComplaintFollowing growing concerns over the alleged destruction of grazing land, the Kalla Gram Panchayat has decided to formally raise the matter with the administration. The village Sarpanch, Panchayat members and concerned residents have expressed their dissatisfaction over the situation.The Gram Panchayat has submitted a written complaint to the Karjan Mamlatdar, bringing the alleged illegal excavation to the attention of the revenue administration. Through its representation, the Panchayat has demanded that the excavation activities be stopped immediately and that officials conduct a detailed inspection of the affected land.The Panchayat has also sought preparation of an official panchnama to document the extent of excavation and the damage caused to the government land. It has demanded that the identities of those responsible be established and appropriate legal proceedings be initiated if violations are confirmed.Furthermore, the Panchayat has called for strict action against those found involved in unauthorised excavation and transportation of yellow soil. Demands have also been raised for the seizure of machinery and vehicles involved in the activity, along with the recovery of applicable penalties and government royalty.Questions Raised Over the Role of the AdministrationThe alleged excavation has raised several questions about the functioning of the local revenue administration and the Mining and Geology Department. Villagers want to know whether the concerned authorities were aware of the activities taking place on the grazing land and what steps, if any, were taken to prevent damage to public property.The use of heavy machinery and dumpers for excavation and transportation has further intensified concerns among residents. They are demanding an investigation into the source of the extracted soil, the transportation arrangements and whether the operators possess valid mining permissions.The administration will need to examine the relevant land records, verify the permissions, assess the quantity of soil excavated and determine whether any government revenue has been lost. An on-site inspection and appropriate documentation could help establish the actual extent of the alleged violations.Villagers Demand Protection of Public Grazing LandFor the residents of Kalla village, the issue is not limited to alleged illegal mining. It concerns the protection of a public resource that directly supports the village's livestock and rural livelihood.



CM Vijay's ally visits LTTE ex-chief Prabhakaran's home in Sri Lanka. BJP slams, Congress stays mum

New Delhi(Agency).

A visit to the former residence of slain chief of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Velupillai Prabhakaran, by Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) president Thol Thirumavalavan has triggered a political controversy in Tamil Nadu, with the BJP accusing him of insulting former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's memory. The Congress, which shares power with the VCK in Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay's government, has so far remained silent. Rajiv was the Congress President when he was killed by the LTTE on May 21, 1991.For a rainbow coalition like the one in place in Tamil Nadu, there are certain no-go areas for its constituents. The former home of Prabhakaran in Sri Lanka is one such politically sensitive site. Thirumavalavan, a key ally of Vijay's government, visited the property associated with the former LTTE chief, whose organisation assassinated Rajiv Gandhi in 1991.

On Tuesday (November 17), VCK chief Thol Thirumavalavan visited the site of Prabhakaran's former residence in Valvettithurai, in Sri Lanka's Jaffna district. Videos shared by the Dalit leader showed him walking around the property where Prabhakaran spent his childhood.



Prabhakaran's house, however, no longer exists. The Sri Lankan Army demolished Prabhakaran's ancestral home in 2010, a year after the end of the civil war.

Overseas Congress Leaders Question Sam Pitroda Over PM Praise, Seek Ouster

New Delhi.(Agency).

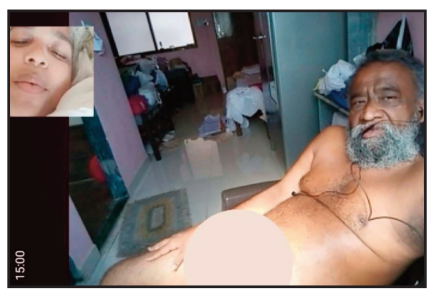
The vice chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress (IOC) and a Canada-based IOC activist have launched an internal revolt against IOC chairman Sam Pitroda over his recent praise for Prime Minister Narendra Modi, with the activist demanding his immediate removal from the post.In a letter to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the activist Devanshu Narang termed Pitroda's remarks praising the prime minister "shameful" and said many Congress members were shocked by his comments. He asked the party leadership to sack Pitroda as head of the overseas wing.Separately, IOC vice chairman George Abraham wrote a detailed email to Pitroda objecting to his definition of PM Modi as a "warm, kind, loving and caring person at a personal level," warning that such glowing public tributes undercut the party's fight for secularism and minority rights abroad.

"We are already struggling to communicate our concerns about secularism, democracy and minority rights to a diaspora in which Modi enjoys considerable support. When our own Chairman publicly praises his personal virtues in such glowing terms, the distinction between personal friendship and political endorsement may be lost on many people," Abraham wrote in the email to Pitroda.While acknowledging Pitroda's cordial personal equation with PM Modi and the need for civility across political divides, Abraham pointed out the exercise of state power and its impact on vulnerable citizens could not be separated from a leader's character.Personal kindness is one thing. The exercise of political power and its consequences for millions of people is quite another. Even dictators have friends and can be charming and generous to those in their personal circles. But history judges leaders not by how warmly they treat their friends, but by how they treat the most vulnerable people under their authority," Abraham said.Citing riots and conflicts including in Gujarat in the past and Manipur at present, the IOC vice chairman questioned how personal warmth could be reconciled with the displacement of tens of thousands of citizens.

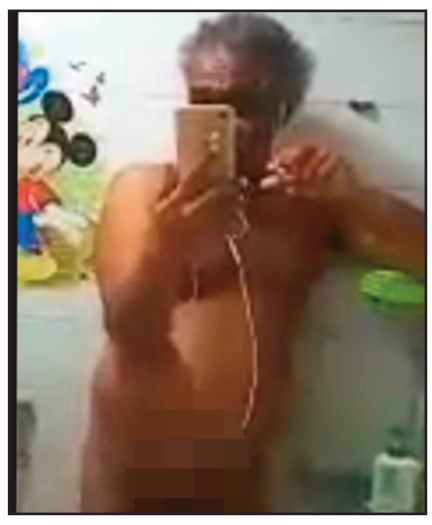


Sagar Chandrasagar Controversy: Jain Community Demands Probe and Strict Action!

Mahanagar Metro Desk
Gandhinagar/Ahmedabad: Jainism has been known for centuries for its sacred principles of non-violence, non-possession, self-restraint, renunciation and rigorous spiritual discipline. However, a highly sensitive and controversial case involving Jain monk Sagar Chandrasagar has triggered widespread concern within the Jain community across Gujarat and other parts of the country. Allegations of inappropriate conduct, controversial material circulating on social media and digital platforms, and serious questions surrounding the matter have deeply affected the sentiments of devotees.The incident has raised concerns among community members, including young people, senior followers and religious



observers, who are demanding accountability and transparency to protect the dignity of the Jain monastic tradition.Alleged Audio Recordings and Viral Content Trigger ControversyAccording to information received, certain alleged conversations, audio recordings and other digital materials associated with Sagar Chandrasagar have sur



faced publicly, creating considerable tension within Jain organisations and religious circles.Although the



authenticity of these materials and the complete circumstances surrounding the incident are yet to be established through an independent forensic investigation, the allegations have raised serious questions about the functioning and accountability of religious institutions.Members of the community believe that nobody should be declared guilty without credible evidence. However, given the seriousness of the allegationS.

FIR against property dealer, 2 guards for celebratory firing

Ghaziabad.(Agency)

An FIR was registered against a property dealer and two security guards after a video showing indiscriminate celebratory firing with double-barrelled guns during a family function in Duhai village circulated on social media. The incident allegedly triggered panic among villagers, prompting them to alert the police control room.
Police said the security guards seen firing in the video, who have not been identified yet, are employed by Ankit Tyagi, a property dealer who lives in Duhai. Tyagi was present at the time of the firing.
According to ACP (Kavinagar) Abhay Rajendra Daga, the incident took place late on Monday evening during a Kuan Pujan ceremony, a traditional family ritual. Locals alerted police, alleging that attendees at the function were engaging in celebratory firing under the influence of alcohol.
"A video of the incident subsequently surfaced on social media, following which an investigation was initiated," the ACP said.
The video of the event shows the accused openly brandishing firearms and repeatedly firing shots into the air, seemingly unconcerned about the safety of those gathered nearby.

Blaze engulfs house in Greater Noida, firefighters cut open wall to rescue two brothers

Noida.(Ajency)

Two brothers were rescued after a fire broke out on the ground floor of a three-storey building in Greater Noida's Haibatpur village. Thick smoke had filled the staircase, trapping them on the second floor. Firefighters had to cut open a second-floor wall of an adjoining building to rescue them.
An officer from Bisrakh police station said the fire broke out around 9.30am. They suspect a short circuit in the ground-floor wiring had triggered the blaze. It destroyed household goods and a large quantity of plastic items stored there.
Fire department officers said the ground floor was being used to store plastic utensils and other everyday household products meant for sale by roadside vendors. The presence of highly combustible plastic material caused the flames to spread rapidly, engulfing the lower portion of the building and sending dense smoke into the upper floors.

20-year-old missing for 3 days found dead with eyes gouged out

Noida.(Agency)

A 20-year-old man who had been missing for three days was found dead with head injuries and an eye gouged out in an abandoned room beneath an embankment in Sector 80 on Wednesday morning. His family has alleged that the youth may have been murdered.
Haseen, a resident of Bajhera Kalan village in Hapur, had come to the NCR city on Nov 12 and found a job loading goods at a private company in Sector 80. He was living in rented accommodation in Kakrala village. Mohammad Shadab, a relative, said the family approached the Phase 2 police station and submitted a missing person report after Haseen went missing on Sunday night.Around 10 am on Wednesday, some residents spotted a body inside the deserted room Haseen had rented and informed Shadab. Police said there were no CCTV cameras nearby, making it difficult to reconstruct the circumstances of his death. The body was sent for autopsy.
The family said Haseen had about Rs 150 before he disappeared.

PayU cloud server hacked, Rs 25 crore stolen via mule accounts

Ghaziabad.(Ajency)

Cybercriminals allegedly hacked into the cloud server of PayU Payments and siphoned off Rs 25 crore by creating new beneficiary accounts and transferring money into them. The accused gained access to the company's server and executed commands to register new beneficiary accounts. Two suspects from Punjab who provided their bank accounts for the fraud for a commission of 2% have been arrested, police said.In a complaint filed at cybercrime police station (south) on Nov 9, the company stated neither creation of the beneficiary accounts nor the fund transfers had been authorised by PayU. Police registered an FIR under BNS Section318(4) (cheating)."A team from the cybercrime police station (south) arrested two men from Ludhiana, Punjab, on Nov 15. The accused have been identified as Atar Singh, a resident of Pukhri Kalan, and Lovepreet Singh, a resident of Sherian, both in Ludhiana," a police officer said.
The financial trail revealed that Rs 6.2 lakh of the defrauded money had been transferred to Atar's bank account. A police officer said Atar had shared his bank details with Lovepreet in return for a 2% commission. After deducting his share, Atar transferred the remaining amount to Lovepreet, who kept another 2% before sending the money to another person. The officer added that bank account providers also receive additional cash benefits up to Rs 10,000 for facilitating such transactions.
"We are now examining the role of people involved in providing and procuring bank accounts that were used to route the proceeds of the fraud. The compromised credentials could not be identified during the security detection," a senior police officer said.
Police have identified 156 beneficiary accounts in the first layer of transactions. More than 250 transactions were carried out through these accounts.

Brace for strict action over negligence, incorrect entries, Ghaziabad DM warns

Gurgaon.(Ajency)

District magistrate Ravindra Kumar Mandar inspected polling stations in Ghaziabad on the first day of the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls. He has warned Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and supervisors that negligence, irregularities or incorrect work would invite strict action.
He visited booths 364-371 at Seth Mukund Lal Inter College and booths 374-379 at Nagar Palika Balika Inter College on Wednesday. He reviewed the progress of the exercise and the arrangements in place with BLOs, supervisors and the concerned Electoral



Registration Officer.
The draft roll was released on Tuesday. The claims and objections window will remain open until Dec 16, 2026. Eligible citizens can seek inclusion of their names, while corrections to existing entries can be submitted through the prescribed procedure.The work at the inspected booths was found to be satisfactory. However, the DM directed election personnel to discharge their responsibilities with utmost sincerity, dedication and diligence, emphasising that electoral rolls must be thoroughly scrutinised and updated without errors. He said officials performing their duties exceptionally well would be honoured, while those found responsible for lapses would face strict action.He instructed officials to ensure that all revision-related activities are completed within the prescribed timeline and strictly in accordance with Election Commission guidelines. He reiterated that exemplary performance would be recognised.

'Flawed probe, defective sanction': Court acquits man in Arms Act case 5 years after arrest

Ghaziabad.(Ajency)

Failure to join independent witnesses during the alleged recovery of a country-made pistol, the complainant doubling up as the investigating officer and a prosecution sanction granted without producing the weapon before the competent authority were among the reasons a Gurgaon court acquitted a man in an Arms Act case.Chief Judicial Magistrate Rajat Verma acquitted Yashbir, a resident of village Bada in Kherki Daula, holding that the prosecution had failed to establish the charges beyond reasonable doubt.
According to the prosecution, on Aug 8, 2021, a police team led by ASI Sudhir Kumar was patrolling near Rampura Chowk when a secret informer tipped it off that Yashbir, alias Billa, was carrying an illegal weapon near his house. The police claimed to have apprehended him and recovered a country-made pistol from his possession. He allegedly failed to produce a licence or permit.The defence, represented by advocate Parveen Kumar Soni, argued that the alleged recovery was not supported by any independent witness and that there were material contradictions in the testimonies of police officials. The prosecution, represented by APP (additional public prosecutor) Paveen, maintained that the accused had been caught with an unlicensed firearm and deserved conviction.Accepting the defence's submissions, the court noted that the entire prosecution case rested on police witnesses. Despite having sufficient time and opportunity, the investigating officer failed to associate any independent witness. The court observed that the IO had neither recorded the names of people he claimed to have approached in the case diary nor initiated any proceedings against them for refusing to join the investigation. It held that the explanation offered by the police was not convincing.
The court also flagged a conflict of roles, noting that ASI Sudhir Kumar was both the complainant and the investigating officer. It observed that the investigation could not be considered free from bias.Another significant lapse concerned the sanction for prosecution.

Gurgaon mayor gets relief as court dismisses appeal over caste certificate

Gurgaon.(Agency)

An election tribunal does not have the jurisdiction to examine the validity of a duly issued caste certificate in an election petition, a city court ruled, while giving relief to mayor Raj Rani Malhotra on Wednesday. The court dismissed an appeal — filed by Yashpal Prajapati — against her, which had challenged the rejection of an election petition against her eligibility to contest the mayoral election from a seat reserved for BC-A women.District judge Narender Sura upheld the Sept 5, 2025 order of the civil judge (senior division), which had dismissed the election petition filed by Prajapati. The petition was dismissed on the basis of jurisdiction without deciding on the allegations of the petitioner about the mayor's caste certificate and alleged involvement of the officials. Such disputes, it said, must be addressed through the caste scrutiny mechanism established by the state govt.The dispute arose after the city mayoral post was reserved for a woman belonging to the BC-A category of Haryana. According to the election petition, Prajapati, who identified himself as belonging to the Prajapati community classified under BC-A, questioned the caste certificates relied upon by Malhotra and another mayoral candidate, Seema Pahuja, while contesting the March 2, 2025 municipal election.Prajapati alleged that Malhotra had falsely declared herself to belong to the Sunar community to obtain a BC-A certificate, despite allegedly belonging to the Punjabi Jat community. He also questioned Pahuja's certificate, alleging that she belonged to the Punjabi Khatri community. These were allegations made by the petitioner and not findings established by the court.
Malhotra contested the election and won. She was declared mayor on March 12, 2025. Prajapati approached the election tribunal seeking, among other reliefs, a declaration that Malhotra's election was void, cancellation of



the caste certificates and her removal from the mayoral office.The district judge observed that the election petition could not proceed when its central issue required the election tribunal to determine the caste status of the returned candidate, a matter outside its jurisdiction. The court also rejected the argument that the election petition should have been allowed to proceed so that the petitioner could lead evidence regarding Malhotra's caste. It observed that allowing the proceedings to continue would serve no purpose when the tribunal itself lacked jurisdiction to decide the underlying question.

Haryana fixes 30-day deadline for teachers' ACP benefits, warns officials of salary freeze

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Govt school teachers and other employees in Haryana will no longer have to wait indefinitely for their Assured Career Progression (ACP) benefits, with the state govt fixing a maximum timeline of 30 days for processing and approving eligible cases.
In a move aimed at reducing administrative delays and ensuring that employees receive their financial benefits on time, the school education department has introduced a standard operating procedure (SOP) making it mandatory for officials to process ACP applications through the Human Resource Management System (HRMS) portal within the stipulated period. Officials responsible for delays could face salary stoppage and disciplinary action.
ACP is a financial benefit provided to govt employees who do not get regular promotions despite completing the prescribed period of service and meeting eligibility conditions. It allows eligible employees to receive financial upgradation, generally in the form of a higher pay scale or pay level, even if they continue working in the same designation. The scheme is particularly important for teachers who may spend several years in the same post because of limited promotional opportunities or a lack of vacancies. It helps prevent their salaries from stagnating and ensures they receive financial progression during their service.The instructions were issued by the principal secretary, school education department, through a memo dated Nov 16, 2026. The SOP will apply to all ACP cases processed through the HRMS portal by schools, district education offices, district elementary education offices and the directorate of school education. It covers different categories of employees, including TGTs, PGTs, principals, clerks, JBTs, PRTs and C&V teachers, depending on the authority responsible for approving their cases.
For employees whose ACP cases are approved at the directorate level, the application will pass through multiple stages, with each official given a fixed number of days to examine and forward it.
The process will begin with the drawing and disbursing officer (DDO), who will have four days to initiate the case on the HRMS portal and send it to the district education office. The clerk will get two days for scrutiny, followed by three days for the assistant and two days each for the deputy superintendent, section officer and district education officer.

Rajasthan ACB registers FIR against IAS officer over alleged resort villa deal

JAIPUR.(Agency)

A day after senior IAS officer Shikhar Agarwal moved the Rajasthan High Court challenging the corruption inquiry against him, the Rajasthan Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday registered an FIR against him, two directors of Goyal Fashions Private Limited and others over alleged irregularities in the purchase of 64 resort villas and benefits extended to the company.

The FIR names company director Mukund Sharan Goyal and managing director Sanjay Goyal. The ACB said its preliminary inquiry found prima facie evidence of irregularities in land conversion, environmental approvals and investment incentives granted to the company."Following the state government's approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act, a preliminary inquiry was initiated. Records from various departments were examined, and the allegations were prima facie substantiated, leading to the registration of the FIR," ACB Director General Govind Gupta said in an official statement.ccording to the ACB, Agarwal and his wife purchased 20 villas at Ananta Resort in Udaipur for Rs 15 lakh each in October 2023. The properties were later leased back to the company under a revenue-sharing arrangement.In March 2026, another 20 villas were purchased at the company's Ajabgarh resort in Alwar in the names of Agarwal and his relatives for Rs 14 lakh to Rs 16.5 lakh each.

Rajasthan police identify 28 Pakistani handlers in drone smuggling network

JAIPUR.(Agency)

Rajasthan Police have identified 28 Pakistani handlers allegedly involved in cross-border drone smuggling and are probing the possible role of local landowners whose agricultural fields were used to receive consignments of narcotics, weapons and explosives, officials said.Police are investigating whether landowners knowingly allowed their fields to be used as drone dropping points. If their involvement is established, authorities will initiate proceedings to confiscate the land and declare it government property.

"Police have named 28 Pakistani handlers involved in drone dropping operations. We are also investigating whether landowners were complicit in these activities. If their involvement is established, steps will be taken to declare their land as government property," Bikaner Range Inspector General Om Prakash said.

The development comes amid growing concerns over narco-terrorism along Rajasthan's international border, where Pakistani drones, once used mainly to smuggle heroin, are increasingly being used to deliver explosives, firearms and ammunition.

Don't open new Tasmac shops in Tamil Nadu, orders Madras HC

MADURAI.(Agency)

The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court on Wednesday directed the Tamil Nadu government not to open any new Tasmac retail outlet in the state, observing that the existing number of outlets was more than sufficient.A bench of Justices P Velmurugan and K K Ramakrishnan gave the direction while allowing a PIL filed to restrain the government from establishing a new Tasmac retail outlet at Navakinatthupatti in Nallampillai village in Manapparai taluk in Tiruchy.The litigant, V Manikandan, alleged that the outlet was proposed to be set up on the village's only convenient access route, which is used by children from Nallampillai and Amayapuram villages to reach the government school in Karattupatti. Moreover, there was already an outlet functioning in the village, he claimed. Despite objections raised by the local people, the authorities had not given up the plan, he added, and sought the court's intervention.

Why is TN opening new Tasmac outlets, asks HC

The government counsel argued that the new outlet was proposed only at Nallampillai, where there was no existing outlet. The judges orally asked the authorities why the government was opening new Tasmac outlets instead of taking steps to close the existing ones.The judges observed that more than a sufficient number of Tasmac outlets were already available and there was no need for new outlets.

2x overtime, capped pay cuts: What Maharashtra's new wage rules mean for you

Maharashtra has notified new wage rules for 2026, introducing a 48-hour weekly work limit, an eight-hour normal working day for daily-wage employees, double overtime pay, replacing two labour rulebooks dating back to 1963.

Mumbai (Agency)

Maharashtra has notified a new set of wage rules, replacing two rulebooks dating back to 1963 and laying down a common framework for minimum wage calculations, working hours, weekly rest, overtime payments and deductions from employees' wages.Notified on November 5, the Maharashtra Wage Rules, 2026, cap working hours at 48 hours a week for employees whose wage periods are calculated on a basis other than daily wages. For daily-wage employees, a normal working day will comprise eight hours.

Under the Maharashtra new wage rules, employees must be given at least one day of weekly rest, with the rest day generally falling on a Sunday in a six-day working week. Employers can designate another day as the weekly rest day.Employees required to work on their rest day must be given a substitute day off, subject to conditions. The rules provide for overtime-rate payments, which cannot be less than twice the normal wage rate in specified circumstances.The state will calculate minimum wages on a daily basis. The hourly rate will be arrived at by dividing the daily minimum wage by eight, while the monthly rate will be calculated by multiplying it by 26. Occupations will be classified as highly skilled, skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled for the purpose of determining applicable rates.The rules also provide for revision of variable dearness allowance twice a year, before April 1 and October 1, based on the average Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers published by the Labour Bureau.On wage deductions, the rules provide that the total amount



deducted in a wage period cannot exceed 50 per cent of an employee's wages. Any excess must be carried forward and recovered in subsequent wage periods, without crossing the same ceiling. Employers seeking to impose fines or deduct money for damage or loss must inform employees of the grounds and give them seven days to respond.The 50 per cent ceiling and the revised definition of wages are part of the Code on Wages. Under its wage definition, basic pay, dearness allowance and retaining allowance form the core components. If other allowances exceed 50 per cent of total remuneration, the excess is added back to wages for statutory calculations, including social security benefits.Employers will have to maintain employee, wage, overtime and attendance registers, either electronically or in physical form, and preserve them for five years after the last entry. Wage slips must be issued on or before payday.The rules also provide for employees, registered trade unions and inspectors-cum-facilitators to file claims relating to unpaid or underpaid wages, weekly rest payments, overtime, unlawful deductions, minimum bonus and gender-based wage discrimination .

No station, no loo: Caught in land row, LTT cops operate out of metal containers

More than a year after its launch, the GRP station at Mumbai's Lokmanya Tilak Terminus continues to operate out of six metal containers, with nearly 50 personnel lacking basic facilities.

Mumbai.(Agency)

More than a year after its inauguration, the Government Railway Police (GRP) station at Lokmanya Tilak Terminus (LTT) is still functioning out of six metal containers, with nearly 50 personnel working without basic facilities such as functional washrooms, changing rooms and adequate drinking water. A dispute between Central Railway and the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) over land allotment has delayed the construction of a permanent police station, officials said.

The station, inaugurated on August 15, 2025, has a sanctioned strength of around 180 personnel. However, the temporary arrangement has left those deployed there struggling with inadequate infrastructure, including the absence of a dedicated record room to store important police documents and a designated space to handle juveniles.Police personnel said they have been using washrooms on railway platforms for over a year. The lack of hygienic facilities has been particularly difficult for women personnel, who also do not have a designated changing room."We have to use the washrooms on the platforms. Female staff face difficulties in finding hygienic facilities and are exposed to the risk of infections and other health problems," a police official said.

In a letter dated October 2, addressed to Central Railway and the RLDA, the GRP sought permission to dig a pit to facilitate the installation of washrooms at the premises, citing the large number of personnel deployed at the station.

The absence of air-conditioning in five of the six containers has added to the discomfort. A senior police official said the metal structures become extremely



humid, making it difficult for personnel to work inside them."Officers often feel suffocated. One of the containers has an air-conditioner, which an officer brought from his residence," the official said.The temporary premises also lack a designated Balsnehi room, a child-friendly space required under the Juvenile Justice framework for dealing with children in need of care and protection or children in conflict with the law."If we find a juvenile, we are required to provide the child assistance in the Balsnehi room. We do not have such a facility at this temporary police station," a senior official said.Personnel have also reported spotting snakes on the premises, which they said lacks adequate fencing.The GRP said it had repeatedly written to Central Railway and the RLDA seeking basic facilities, including a letter from GRP Commissioner Rakesh Kalasagar. While the RLDA has provided electricity following the correspondence, other issues remain unresolved."We are optimistic that the other issues will be sorted out soon. We are in talks with both authorities," said Jabar Tamboli, Senior Police Inspector, LTT GRP.When contacted, an RLDA official said Central Railway was the competent authority to comment on the matter.Central Railway spokesperson Dr Swapnil Nilla, however, said the department had not received any formal communication from the GRP."As per the available information, Central Railway has not yet received any formal communication from the GRP regarding the same. If some issues are raised by the GRP, the same will be communicated and efforts to resolve them will be made appropriately," he said.

Another Vande Bharat pelted with stones in Surat; third incident in a year

Surat.(Agency)

The Gandhinagar-Mumbai Vande Bharat train was pelted with stones in Surat's Sachin on Tuesday, railway officials said. No passenger was injured in the incident, even as a windowpane of the train was damaged.This was the third incident when a Vande Bharat train was targeted in Surat this year. In the previous incidents, two people, one of whom was a minor, were apprehended.As per details provided by Western Railway officials, the Vande Bharat train, en route to Mumbai, left Gandhinagar in the afternoon. A few minutes after it left the Surat Railway Station, and



when it was between Sachin and Bhestan stations in Surat city, a stone hit a windowpane of the C4 coach.The train was halted for some time at the Navsari Railway station for examination.Udhna RPF staff reached Sachin and patrolled on foot up to Bhestan. The railway police registered an offence against the incident and started a probe, said Western Railway Chief Public Relations Officer Vineet Abhishek.

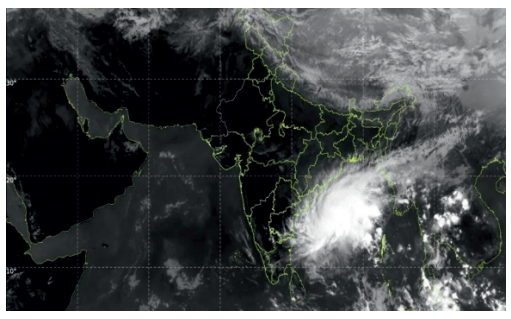
On August 25, a Vande Bharat was pelted with stones at Utran Railway Station in Surat. A powerloom worker from Odisha was arrested the next day. On February 26, another semi-high speed express train was targeted near Bhestan. The cops caught a minor boy after two days.On November 8, a stone-pelting incident on a Vande Bharat train was reported at Amreli in Saurashtra.

Cyclone Akvan impact: Bengal set for heavy rain, ports sound warning

Kolkata.(Agency)

With Cyclone Akvan expected to make landfall along the Andhra Pradesh-Odisha coast on Friday, several districts of West Bengal are likely to receive rain and thunderstorms through the week, with isolated pockets facing heavy to very heavy showers.The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for East and West Midnapore for Friday, forecasting 7-20 cm of rainfall in isolated areas.The Regional Meteorological Centre, Kolkata, has warned that these two districts will receive heavy to very heavy rain of 7-20 cm in isolated pockets. East Midnapore is also set to experience thunderstorms, lightning, and gusty winds of 40-50 kmph.The weather bureau has also warned of possible lightning strikes in open fields, temporary waterlogging in low-lying areas and underpass roads on Thursday and Friday, damage to standing crops and horticulture, and damage to vulnerable kutcha houses, with the possibility of wall collapse.

With squally winds of up to 70 kmph and rough sea conditions forecast for Thursday, the weather bureau has advised fishermen not to venture into the deep sea until Friday. Those already at sea have been asked to return to shore.Meanwhile, Kolkata and Haldia ports have upgraded their alerts from a Distant Caution Signal to Distant Warning Signal No. 2, indicating a cyclone at sea and warning vessels preparing to leave port. Sagar Island Port has also issued a corresponding storm warning.It has advised people to seek shelter in safe places during thunderstorms and lightning, and avoid taking refuge under trees or near electric poles. They have also been cautioned against contact with water bodies. The administration may regulate recreational activities, restrict access to beaches, and impose traffic restrictions as a precautionary measure.Scattered light showers accompanied by thunderstorms were reported across Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, and East and West Midnapore on



Wednesday, marking the onset of rainfall in the state.

Yellow alert for other South Bengal districts

A yellow alert has been issued for South Bengal districts from Thursday to early Sunday.On Thursday and Friday, isolated pockets of South 24 Parganas are set to get 7 to 11 cm of rain, along with thunder, lightning, and gusty winds of 30-40 kmph. A few parts of Jhargram may also see heavy rain on Friday.

Centre reaches out to DMK on delimitation

CHENNAI.(Agency)

Amid speculations that the centre plans to reintroduce the delimitation bill through a special monsoon session of the Parliament, highly placed sources in the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) confirmed to TNIE that representatives of the union government had reached out to the party seeking its support. However, the DMK, over the proposed delimitation exercise, is awaiting the draft legislation and written assurances before taking a call on extending support to the Bill.A highly placed DMK leader told TNIE that representatives of the union government had communicated to the party with an assurance that Lok Sabha seats would be increased by 50% uniformly across all states, without any state losing its relative share of parliamentary representation on the basis of population.However, the DMK has not given any assurance to the BJP on supporting the proposed legislation, with the party insisting that its concerns over protecting the rights of states and their parliamentary representation be addressed in the Bill itself."We are against the delimitation based on the population. We want the rights of the states to be protected. We have received a communication and we would take a call only after the draft Bill is out. Without knowing what is on paper, we do not want to assure anything," the source said.Another senior DMK leader close to the leadership said that a constitutional amendment would be necessary even if the centre intended to retain the existing 1971 Census-based formula for determining parliamentary representation. "If that is not done, the provision for delimitation based on the latest population would automatically kick in, causing more damage (to the southern states that effectively controlled population). So, we are waiting for the contents of the Bill. After that, the party leadership will take a decision," the MP



told .

The DMK has been seeking a set of assurances from the centre before considering its position on the exercise. Its key demands include extending the freeze on delimitation based on the 1971 Census by another 25 years through a constitutional amendment.The DMK leadership is expected to take a final call after examining the draft legislation and consulting senior party leaders.Meanwhile, DMK deputy general secretary and MP Kanimozhi Rajathi Karunanidhi, speaking to reporters at the Chennai airport, on Wednesday, said the union government had not consulted.

The war that has not been won by anyone

When Donald Trump declared last week that "Iran militarily is effectively over", he appeared to be signalling the end of major US operations against the Islamic Republic. "We're just keeping it at status quo," he said after meeting Qatar's Prime Minister at the White House.

But what exactly is the status quo?

Flying against such a claim are some recent moves the Trump administration has made. On Monday, a third US aircraft carrier, the USS Roosevelt, arrived in West Asia, taking US military personnel deployed across its so-called Central Command to more than 50,000.Meanwhile, back in Washington DC, Scott Bessent, the US Treasury secretary directing Washington's campaign of economic pressure against Iran, was moved from his Washington home to a military base following reported threats attributed to Tehran. He joins other senior administration figures, including Secretary of State Marco Rubio and War Secretary Pete Hegseth, in military accommodation. New White House Chief of Staff Stephen Miller had previously moved into protected housing.The circumstances differ, but moves are particularly striking. US Director of National Intelligence Jay Clayton warned in an intelligence memorandum last month that Iran had "substantially increased" its efforts to target American personnel abroad. The precise seriousness of the threat remains unclear, but the relocations illustrate the security concerns surrounding a confrontation that Washington has not formally brought to a close.The contradiction is more than rhetorical. The US may have inflicted considerable damage on Iran's military infrastructure, but it has yet to resolve two questions: what happened to Iran's enriched uranium, and how much leverage does Tehran retain over the Strait of Hormuz?Before the Israeli and American attacks on Iranian nuclear facilities in June 2025, the International Atomic Energy Agency estimated that Iran possessed 440.9kg of uranium enriched to 60 per cent. Although not weapons-grade, the material was considerably more highly enriched than is needed for civilian nuclear power.

The subsequent attacks, followed by another US-Israeli military campaign beginning in February 2026, have left the fate of the stockpile uncertain. In its latest report, the IAEA says it cannot establish the precise location or status of the Isfahan enrichment facility, or whether it contains nuclear material. Inspectors have visited the Bushehr nuclear power station but have not been allowed to return to the other key facilities bombed during the campaigns.

There are also signs that the attacks may have strengthened the arguments of those in Iran who want the country to acquire nuclear weapons. On November 12, Iran's Assembly of Experts called for a review of the country's defence doctrine and possible withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This is not a decision to build a bomb. But it suggests that the argument for a nuclear deterrent is gaining ground inside Iran.

Then there is Hormuz. Iran does not have to close the strait completely to cause serious disruption. Even the threat of attacks on shipping can increase insurance costs and unsettle international markets. Projectiles and mines hitting tankers last week did not help.

Delhi must blame itself for air crisis

Linking stubble burning to capital's pollution every year doesn't align with scientific facts



EVERY October and November, following the paddy harvest in Punjab, air quality in Delhi deteriorates sharply — schools are closed, respiratory illnesses surge dramatically and the crisis draws international scrutiny.

Repeatedly, newspapers, social media, government directives and other communication channels portray smoke from stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh as the primary cause of this pollution in the capital. Farmers are continuously urged not to burn stubble, and laws have been enacted against this practice.From this entire discourse, it appears as though fires lit by farmers to clear their fields are the sole cause of Delhi's air pollution. Yet, when subjected to the scientific method and empirical facts, this assumption fails to hold.Imagine a rooster crowing two hours before sunrise, followed by moss-rose flowers blooming two hours later. Although all three events are correlated, the rooster's crowing does not cause the sun to rise. Removing the rooster changes nothing, whereas keeping the moss-rose plants in the shade prevents them from blooming, demonstrating a genuine cause-and-effect relationship between sunlight and flowering.The mere coincidence of Delhi's most polluted days with the paddy harvest window does not, in itself, prove that the capital's pollution is caused by stubble-burning smoke. The scientific method teaches us that the simultaneous occurrence of two phenomena does not automatically establish causation or a direct link between them; there can be other reasons for events occurring concurrently. To establish a cause-and-effect relationship, we need to demonstrate that changing one parameter affects the other. Confusing correlation with causation is very common.Air pollution is governed primarily by fine suspended particulate matter, particularly particles smaller than 2.5 microns (PM2.5). While larger particles settle quickly onto the Earth's surface under gravity, fine particles remain suspended for days unless washed down by rain or dispersed by strong winds. In winter, when solar energy decreases, air temperature and wind speeds also drop, increasing the likelihood of particles remaining trapped in a single region.

Coastal cities like Mumbai and Chennai escape this acute buildup because their winters are mild and steady sea breezes carry particulates out into the ocean, whereas landlocked Delhi experiences seasonal stagnation.

Basic fluid dynamics also challenges the narrative of wind-borne smoke constantly pooling in Delhi. Matter cannot be destroyed; Delhi is not a black hole into which air from all directions keeps flowing endlessly. When winds blow from west to east, carrying smoke from Punjab and Haryana toward Delhi, that same air stream inside Delhi also blows eastward, carrying pollutants out of the capital at roughly the same rate.Conversely, when winds blow from western Uttar Pradesh, air from Punjab cannot simultaneously enter Delhi. Furthermore, if air arriving from Punjab were the primary cause of Delhi's pollution, PM2.5 concentrations in Punjab would have to be vastly higher than in Delhi, because over a distance of 250 km a large fraction of particles disperses. In reality, the capital's air quality is consistenty worse than Punjab's.

Modern science leaves no room for guesswork regarding where these particles originate. Satellite imagery and computer models of atmospheric currents track wind trajectories and fire plumes in real time. More decisively, air samples collected on graded filters can be analysed under a Scanning Electron Microscope alongside chemical and spectroscopic assays.The elemental composition and combustion temperature of stubble burned in an open field differ distinctly from diesel burned in an engine or coal in a thermal power plant, while construction dust contains no carbon at all. Through such characterisation, the particles themselves provide conclusive proof of their origin.Source-apportionment research confirms that local urban activities, not distant farms, drive Delhi's crisis. A comprehensive 2018 study by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) found that vehicular emissions account for 40% of Delhi's air pollution, road and construction dust for roughly 20% and industrial emissions for another 20%, while agricultural residue burning contributes only 4-7%. Even on specific days with unfavourable meteorology, external smoke never becomes the primary cause.Long-term trends reinforce this conclusion. Over the past 25 years, paddy acreage in Punjab has seen no major increase, hovering around 6-8 million acres, whereas Delhi has witnessed an exponential rise in vehicles, construction activities and paved surfaces replacing greenery. More tellingly, Central Pollution Control Board records from 2015 to 2025 show no serious improvement in Delhi's winter AQI (air quality index) — with November figures consistently locked in the "very poor" 312-377 range — even as stubble-burning incidents in Punjab declined drastically over the past three years through alternative residue management practices.In 2025 alone, Punjab burned 50% less stubble than in 2024, yet Delhi's November and December AQI averaged 354 and 351, respectively.

None of this is an argument in favour of burning stubble. Field fires cause immense harm, hitting farmers and their families first, damaging respiratory health, killing beneficial soil microbes and degrading soil fertility. Finding viable options for residue management is essential, alongside curbing excessive pesticides and herbicides, conserving groundwater and restoring crop diversification.However, linking stubble burning to Delhi's pollution every year to hold farmers culpable in the public eye does not align with scientific facts. Addressing air pollution requires government-supported scientific source identification rather than convenient narratives.

Lesson in politics: Shake foreign hands, but watch their mouths

While the episode underscores the international dimension of India's domestic political contest, the Congress will do well to watch its steps as it makes bold, and desperate, attempts to weaken the BJP's dominance

Italian politician Giacomo Filibeck's remarks at the recent Bharat Summit in Hyderabad added a fresh dimension to the increasingly acrimonious BJP-Congress confrontation. Addressing the Congress-backed event, Filibeck, a senior leader of the Brussels-based Party of European Socialists, raised the slogan, "Vote chor, gaddi chhod", borrowing a chant popularised by the Congress in its sustained campaign questioning the credibility of recent polls conducted by the Election Commission. In another case, Norwegian journalist Helle Lyng had her visa revoked just before she was scheduled to travel to Hyderabad as a summit invitee. The BJP was quick to seize the moment, accusing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of providing a platform to "anti-India forces". It also lodged a complaint with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office in Hyderabad, alleging interference in India's internal affairs by foreign political representatives.

Ironically, an event billed as an opportunity to showcase "Rahul Gandhi's vision for India and the world", as Congress veteran Salman Khurshid put it, has handed the



BJP fresh ammunition against the main opposition party. Beyond questioning the propriety of a foreign politician passing judgement on the state of Indian democracy, the BJP and its affiliates have even challenged the choice of invitees, alleging that the gathering included individuals with a history of anti-India positions and links to networks associated with billionaire investor George Soros, known for his criticism of the Narendra Modi government.

While the episode underscores the international dimension of India's domestic political contest, the Congress will do well to watch its steps as it makes bold, and desperate, attempts to weaken the BJP's dominance. Rahul Gandhi, as Leader of the Opposition, is well within his rights to run a campaign to dislodge the BJP from power. His international outreach may have its political rationale. But the company he chooses to keep and the people he lends legitimacy to matter. There is a difference between seeking international solidarity and allowing foreign political figures to cast aspersions on India's democratic institutions.For the Congress, the challenge is to ensure that such cases do not overshadow its domestic political message. These controversies may help the BJP shift the debate away from issues the opposition seeks to highlight. Ultimately, no foreign endorsement can deliver a regime change in democratic India.

Empty classrooms echo the loudest

Despite protests from parents and directives pronounced by courts, India continues to assign non-academic duties to teachers round the year. Public school students bear a disproportionate share of resultant learning losses. It's time to raise a separate cadre and train temporary workforces for such tasks

A teacher's job is to teach. However, across India, governments routinely assign teachers other duties. They are made to count people for the census, prepare and verify voter lists, conduct surveys, collect data and manage relief work. As a result, classrooms often go without teachers for weeks.The latest example is the special intensive revisions of electoral rolls. In Karnataka, reports indicate that about 30 percent of teachers were assigned to the exercise. Some schools merged classes. Principals of government degree colleges in Bengaluru said more than half their staff had been deployed. Sports trainers and librarians were included, too. One principal warned that students might finish the semester with almost no classes. Teachers across India have raised similar concerns.Ironically, this is not a new problem at all. Teachers have long been the State's default workforce. The usual defence is that government-employed teachers can be assigned other duties. But every public post has a purpose and a budget. Teachers are paid to educate. When diverted to election duties, the election machinery draws on the education budget, while students, unfortunately, bear the cost. Would a government hospital routinely send surgeons away to count households? No. And that is not suggested either. The point, however, is that teachers are treated differently because classroom losses are less visible. A missed lesson leaves no immediate result; its effects may emerge years later as weaker learning and fewer opportunities. But who cares! The children who lose out have no vote and little influence over government priorities.The usual defence by the government is that teachers know local households and can help verify information. That argument is dated. Besides, if the problem is with scale, they call for an adequate workforce, not repeated and continuous borrowing from schools and colleges. The costs for students are also unequal. Children in well-resourced private schools may barely notice a teacher's absence because staffing levels remain high, and parents can afford private tuition as well. Public-school students often have no such backup. When their teachers are diverted, poor children lose more learning time, and the gap between them and their better-off peers widens. Missed lessons are difficult to make up and can affect college admission and future opportunities.

Despite such constraints, governments continue to demand efficiency, and schools are pressed to achieve 100 percent pass rates; some states even penalise teachers when results fall short. Government policy emphasises outcome-based education, but it forgets outcomes depend on inputs and the time spent teaching. If results fall, the teacher is blamed; if the survey is delayed, the same teacher is blamed again. Such pressure on teachers affects their morale, and learning suffers.Unfortunately, our legal system also offers only limited protection to teachers. Section 27 of the Right to Education Act bars non-educational duties, except for the census, disaster relief, and elections. In Election Commission of India vs St Mary's School (2007), the Supreme Court said election duties must be balanced against the State's obligation to provide education. It said teachers should ordinarily be deployed on holidays, non-teaching days or outside teaching hours. The Delhi High Court had also warned of the stress caused by assigning duties after a full school day. However, nothing much has changed on the ground.At this point, it might help to look at how other countries handle such tasks. In many countries, census and



election work are not heavily dependent on teachers. Some use linked administrative records for much of their census work. The US hires large numbers of temporary enumerators, while the UK relies on local electoral teams and data matching to maintain electoral registers. Australia employs casual staff; Brazil recruits citizens as poll workers. Teachers serve there too, but duties are limited and scheduled to reduce disruption.

No doubt, India is too large and diverse. However, the size of the country explains the scale of the task, not why teachers must bear its cost. A country of India's size needs a larger and better-organised administrative workforce. Including teachers may be convenient, but convenience cannot be the sole basis for public policy when it disrupts education. So, what could be done practically? First, the Election Commission should develop a permanent, trained cadre for year-round electoral roll work rather than assembling a workforce afresh for each revision. Second, governments should use non-teaching staff from revenue, municipal, panchayat and other departments before turning to teachers. Third, census and other time-bound exercises should recruit and train temporary workers, including graduates, retired employees and unemployed young people. Fourth, better use of existing records, including birth and death registers, ration cards, Aadhaar, utility connections and property records, could reduce the need for field verification. Data linking must, of course, respect privacy and legal safeguards. Fifth, when teachers' participation is genuinely unavoidable, duties should be limited, scheduled outside teaching hours or on holidays wherever possible, but paid fairly. Sixth, Section 27 should be amended to narrow and time-limit the exceptions. In this regard, Karnataka's proposal to shield teachers from non-educational work is a useful step. Finally, accountability must reflect the circumstances: teachers should not be penalised for results when the State has taken them away from classrooms for weeks.M Visvesvaraya often spoke of India's unparalleled potential.

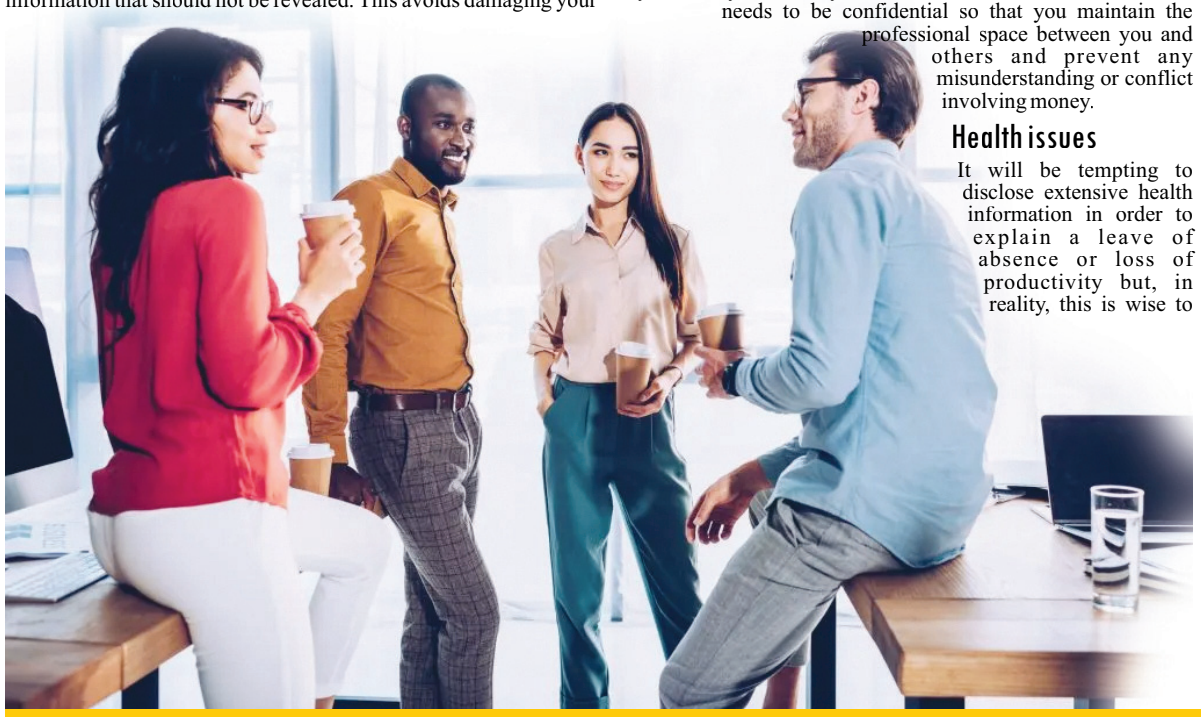


5 things you should NEVER share with Colleagues

Sometimes, walking a tightrope and navigating workplace relationships is easier said than done, such as in deciding what exactly to share with colleagues. Building rapport and fostering an amiable environment is fine, but other boundaries should be in place for professionalism and good personal well-being. Oversharing personal information brings about consequences that are more likely to be misread or even misused than anything else. This guide will help you set up a healthy and respectful workplace environment by keeping to yourself information that should not be revealed. This avoids damaging your professional reputation and your personal life and ensures good relations between coworkers. So, here are five things one should never share with their colleagues:

Personal financial information

Maintain your financial situation confidential and never discuss it with colleagues. Your salary, debts, or investments often create unnecessary stress and rivalry in the office. They may also influence others to make inappropriate judgments about your lifestyle or ability to handle finances. All this information needs to be confidential so that you maintain the professional space between you and others and prevent any misunderstanding or conflict involving money.



Health issues

It will be tempting to disclose extensive health information in order to explain a leave of absence or loss of productivity but, in reality, this is wise to avoid in most cases because it tends easily to evoke sympathy, prurient interest, or even discrimination on the part of those you work and live with. Disclose only what you must about the issue to explore it with your manager; then work out an adjustment plan with human resources if you need some form of accommodation or modification for a job, but don't explain why you need the accommodation or modification.

Political and religious beliefs

Talking about politics or religion at work will be a double-edged sword. You may consider what you believe earnestly, but the people at work may hold diverse views, and this can be the cause of friction or tension among them. If you want to maintain your workplace as peaceful and integrative, avoid discussing issues meant to divide your members there. Focus on common issues of professional interest.

Negative opinions about colleagues or management

Badmouthing or gossiping against colleagues and/or management can poison working relations. You are right in criticizing things, but the utterance might raise issues about trusting your leadership. Even if you feel justified in your views, expressing them can lead to trust issues and can harm your reputation. Avoid voicing views or or discuss them constructively with a trusted mentor or HR if necessary. Maintaining a positive and respectful demeanor helps in fostering a collaborative and supportive workplace.

Future job plans

It's best to keep your future job plans confidential until you are ready to make an official announcement. Sharing your intentions to leave the company or seek other opportunities can create uncertainty and affect your current role negatively. It may also influence how management and colleagues perceive and treat you. Keeping your job plans private ensures that you remain in control of your career trajectory and maintain stability until you are ready to transition.

How to deal with Colleagues who are always trying to pull you down

It is quite frustrating to have colleagues who constantly undermine you. Most people encounter such a situation sometime in their careers, and the way they handle it becomes crucial for maintaining both professional performance and personal well-being. It is a combination of emotional intelligence, strategic action, and resilience in the face of such challenges without compromising either values or goals.

Often, colleagues who engage in such conduct are driven by insecurities, jealousy, or a competitive spirit gone awry. Recognising these will help you somehow detach emotionally from such acts by them and more objectively analyse the situation itself. Self-esteem and personal professional identity should not lose out over their actions either. Here we list some ways in which one can deal with colleagues who are always trying to pull you down:

1. Stay professional and focused

Maintaining professionalism and a focus on work is one of the most important steps in dealing with colleagues who try to pull you down. Avoid negative emotional involvement and retaliation. Try to instead, focus on delivering high-quality work and meeting your goals. Professional behavior helps both in projecting better qualities in you and makes the influence of negative elements of colleagues on you rather improbable.

2. Set boundaries

Set clear boundaries with your workmates, who are usually negative or unconstructive. Tell them politely about your boundaries and that you don't accept disrespect from them. Setting boundaries protects you mentally and makes sure that your workplace is respectful and productive. Feel free to distance yourself from the toxic transactions and prioritise your own health and peace of mind.

3. Seek support

If things start getting too overwhelming, it is always good to reach out to trusted colleagues, mentors, or even your supervisor. Having allies can give emotional support and practical advice about how to handle the situation. You can discuss the issue with your manager, and you can work with them to address it on an organisational level by ensuring that the proper measures are taken to ensure a better work environment. You do not have to do it alone.

4. Document everything

Keep a detailed record of any incidents where colleagues try to undermine you. Document dates, times, specific actions, and any witnesses. This documentation can be invaluable if you need to escalate the issue to HR or higher management. Clear, factual records help to provide evidence of the behavior and demonstrate your professionalism and preparedness in addressing the situation.

5. Developing resilience

Building resilience is key to handling difficult colleagues. Focus on maintaining a positive outlook, practice self-care, and develop coping strategies to manage stress. Engage in activities outside of work that bring you joy and relaxation, and surround yourself with supportive friends and family. Developing a strong sense of self-worth and confidence in your abilities can help you remain unaffected by negative colleagues and continue to thrive in your career.



7 things to keep in mind while appointing a nanny for kids



Being a new parent is anything, but easy. From countless sleepless nights to struggling even shower once a day, and putting your baby's needs first, stepping into parenthood can be overwhelming. The challenges are even worse if you're balancing work with these new responsibilities. Having a nanny who could lend a helping hand with the baby's duties will only make your life easier. Finding someone who matches your requirements and also takes utmost care of your newborn is crucial, and here is a checklist of some of the most important points to keep in mind before hiring a nanny.

Define the job

Before hiring a nanny, prepare a detailed job description that clearly outlines the specific duties involved. This could include childcare responsibilities such as bathing, dressing, assisting with toilet routines, facilitating naps, supervising daily activities, or planning and preparing meals for the child. In case of specific requirements, such as a non-smoking nanny or one with a valid driver's license and a clean driving record, ensure to mention these. One of the crucial points to be noted is the work hours and days- whether it's for early mornings, evenings, overnights, weekends, or if you require a live-in arrangement.

Employment agreement

According to the US Department of Labour, nannies come under the category of domestic workers. When you hire a nanny, it is important to understand your legal responsibilities the rights of the employee, and practices to maintain a healthy and safe work environment. Though a nanny contract is not legally required under federal law, it is best to have a written agreement that lays out the job responsibilities, pay and benefits, scheduled work hours, confidentially, holidays, and termination clause, to avoid conflict and have a safe environment. Also, be clear about the house rules and personal boundaries. Despite the nature of the job, it is best to maintain a professional relationship.

CPR and basic first aid certification

Ensure your ideal candidate for the nanny position should have certifications in CPR and First Aid. These certifications are crucial to ensure that they can be of help in case of any emergencies that may arise with the child. Other than emergency situations, with children, incidents such as a minor scrape, a choking hazard, or some other medical situations may arise, and in such cases having a trained nanny, who could act immediately, provide first aid, and seek professional help is need is important.

Be aware of wage laws

The nanny is a domestic worker protected by the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). The hours worked apply to Domestic Service Employment under the FLSA. The hours worked are when an employee is 'on duty'. For instance, if a live-in nanny, takes care of baby duties for three hours in the morning, and then goes to class at a university, returns home, and helps with the childcare for two hours in the evening, she has worked five hours. The minimum wage rate per hour differs from state to state. A nanny is also entitled to be paid for overtime hours. The overtime differential wages are often calculated at 1.5 times the regular hourly rate.

Run a thorough background check

A step that you mustn't skip is conducting thorough background checks. Look at the criminal records and reference verification, to ensure the nanny has a clean and trustworthy history. Also, run a background check on whether they are legally staying in the state, and if they have relevant experience in child care. Look for candidates who are interested in a long-term position and willing to make a minimum one-year commitment to our family, because this will ensure stability in your lives.

Know about your tax responsibilities

As an employer, you pay a 6.2% Social Security tax on up to $168,600 (in 2024) of your employee's earnings and a 1.45% Medicare tax on all earnings. Employees pay the same tax rates. They also pay 0.9% more in Medicare taxes on earnings higher than $200,000 ($125,000 if married, filing separately, or $250,000 if married, filing jointly). While paying your nanny legally, you may be eligible for certain tax benefits. It is crucial to learn about your tax responsibilities prior to hiring a nanny.

Installation of a nanny camera

In this day and age of technology, it is often safe to install a nanny cam, to ensure the safety of your child. Before installing a nanny cam, learn about your state and local laws regarding surveillance. Also, it is important to discuss the camera with your nanny. Having cameras in common areas, and the nursery could be helpful.

4 All-Important Tips Every Nanny Needs You to Know

Having a nanny can be a truly wonderful experience. After all, a nanny is not simply an employee. It is quite possible she'll become an integrated part of your child's life, and yours too. When your nanny first begins, you may realize there's much more involved than you had ever imagined. Is she self-employed, or should she be claimed as an employee? Is a nanny contract really necessary? How do I get this right? I've worked as a nanny with a variety of families. There are many things that make a world of difference in the lives of families, and the nannies they work with. Here's a list of pointers that may come in handy:



1) Don't underestimate the nanny contract

Laying out a contract for a nanny may seem unnecessary. Maybe you bonded instantly during the interview and it seems like you're on the same page for everything. Or maybe you're worried that suggesting one implies that you don't trust her. A contract ensures that you and the nanny have discussed terms, and come to an agreement on things like responsibilities, hours, pay-rate, overtime, vacations, holidays, sick days, and the like. Put it in writing so that it can be referred back to. That way everyone's needs are explicitly stated and the chances of misinterpretation and feelings of frustration are minimized. It's also helpful to review the contract each year together just in case updates are necessary.

Step 2: Do not let it seep into your eyes, and wash it off the following day.

Green Tea

Step 1: Add a bag of green tea to some hot water and let it seep in for 5 minutes.

Step 2: Now, strain the liquid and allow it to cool down, apply it on your eyelashes and wash it off with cold water the next day.

Aloe Vera

Step 1: Extract some natural gel from an aloe vera leaf and blend it well making the consistency thin.

Step 2: Apply this gel with your fingertips on your lashes and wash it off the next day with cold water.

A slight change can only be noticed after being committed to the process. There are also brow and lash serums available in the market but the lipids, nourishment, and oils found in these natural products remain to be unbeatable. Also, if you observe itchiness or swelling the next day, instantly stop the process and opt for any other solution.

2) Help her help you

When it comes to having someone else watch your children, the first thing on your mind is safety. That means making sure your nanny has everything she needs, not only to keep an accident from happening but to be able to handle one it does:

Keep an easy-to-access list of emergency numbers including Poison Control, the local hospital, your pediatrician, and a ranking of family members to contact.

Have a first-aid kit readily available in the home, and a small, portable kit for the nanny to toss in a bag, the stroller, or the car on outings.

As soon as your child is mobile, have safety locks and gates in place - especially gates on steps and to areas of the house that are off-limits.

Provide a secure place for the child to play while the nanny uses the bathroom, installs the car seat in her car, or cleans up a particularly fun (i.e. big) mess.

All safety straps for strollers and high chairs should be in place and fully functional, even if you choose not to use them.

If there is a dangerous new habit your child has picked up, pass that along to the nanny.

3) Morning updates are crucial

There's no denying just how trying mornings can be. Getting out of the house on time each day may even seem like a recurring miracle. One thing you don't want to forget is to give your nanny a quick morning update. Just a few minutes spent filling her in on your ever-changing child can make a real difference in the day. For instance, has your child started potty training or teething? Are they having trouble napping, or suddenly prone to emotional outbursts? It's a small way to ensure that your nanny is going in fully armed and ready for anything the day throws at her.



4) Keep the necessities out

When your nanny begins, let her know where things like jackets, shoes, sunscreen, paper towels, and cleaning products can be found, and keep these items located in the same easy-to-find spots. Your nanny doesn't know your house like you do, and the time spent figuring out how to clean a spill or find the mittens is time your nanny isn't spending having fun with your child. Your nanny isn't expecting a sparkling house. However, keeping things functional is helpful. If the toddler has just wet themselves while potty training and the baby is having a meltdown, your nanny won't be able to respond as quickly if she then discovers that the way to the laundry room is blocked, the paper towels are gone, and the trash can is overflowing.

Archival research, e-book: DDA, INTACH to map 1,500 heritage structures in Delhi

Delhi.(Agency)

The havelis of Chandni Chowk, Bhuli Bhatiyari ka Mahal, Jhandewalan temple and the Kalka temple are among the 1,500 heritage structures that will now be documented as part of an initiative to map and preserve Delhi's architectural and historical legacy, officials said on Wednesday.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA), in collaboration with the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Delhi Chapter, signed a memorandum of understanding on Monday (MoU) to document approximately 1,500 heritage structures across the Capital, including monuments, historic buildings, archaeological remains and contemporary architectural heritage, they added.The initiative, titled 'Rediscovering Delhi: Connecting People, Places and Heritage', will also cover lesser-known and unlisted heritage structures, traditional bazaars and historic streets, with the aim of bringing them into the city's conservation and urban planning framework, officials said.

The MoU was signed on November 16, following directions from Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu, officials said. DDA Vice-Chairman N Saravana Kumar was also present at the signing ceremony.According to officials, the exercise will go beyond merely preparing an inventory of heritage sites. "The documentation is intended to serve as a knowledge base for identifying and developing heritage zones, cultural precincts and archaeological parks, besides preparing conservation and rejuvenation plans for historic areas," officials said, adding that it will also explore the adaptive reuse of old buildings and the revitalisation of traditional markets and heritage streets.

Delhi sets up panel to review criminal cases against foreigners for deportation

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government has constituted a district-level screening committee to examine criminal cases registered against foreign nationals and recommend withdrawal of prosecution in eligible cases to facilitate their deportation from India, officials said on Wednesday.The move follows a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on November 25, 2025, which lays down a mechanism for withdrawing prosecution against foreigners in certain categories of cases.Lieutenant Governor (LG) Taranjit Singh Sandhu, issued the notification on November 4, directing the constitution of the committee for implementing the guidelines in the Capital, officials said.The committee will be chaired by the Joint Commissioner of Police, Special Branch, while the Deputy Commissioner of Police of the concerned district or unit will be its member-cum-convener. The Chief Public Prosecutor of the district and the public prosecutor handling the case will also be part of the committee, officials said.

The MHA SOP notes that some foreigners have resorted to repeated adjournments, changes of lawyers, bail and discharge applications and other legal proceedings to delay trials, sometimes remaining in the country for years. According to officials, the initiative aims to prevent foreign nationals from allegedly misusing legal procedures to delay criminal trials and prolong their stay in India.

Under the SOP, withdrawal from prosecution may be considered in cases involving compoundable offences, offences carrying imprisonment of up to seven years under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and other laws, and certain offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS) carrying imprisonment of up to 10 years. Cases where trials have remained pending for more than five years may also be examined.

Delhi mental health & well-being policy: 1 counsellor per 500 school students, 100 college students



Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi government's Mental Health and Well-Being Policy, set to be launched on Thursday, proposes an ambitious plan to appoint one counsellor for every 500 students in schools and one for every 100 students in higher education institutions, senior officials said.The policy, which is expected to cover students from nursery through higher education, will apply to government, government-aided, CM SHRI and private schools, as well as colleges across Delhi.Significantly, the policy seeks to make mental health awareness and emotional support a routine responsibility of all key stakeholders who interact closely with children in the school ecosystem, rather than placing the onus solely on counsellors and psychologists, senior officials said."An important feature of the policy is that responsibility for a child's mental well-being will not rest with teachers alone. Administrative, non-teaching and transport staff who regularly interact with children will also be part of the support system," an official said."Whether it is a teacher noticing a student's sudden withdrawal, a school attendant recognising signs of distress or a bus staff member responding sensitively to a child's emotional needs, the policy seeks to make such everyday interventions an integral part of the education system," said the official, who was closely involved in finalising the policy.

Training and implementation

Under the policy, educational institutions will receive dedicated handbooks containing structured questions, practical exercises and activities to help staff identify early signs of emotional distress and respond appropriately, the official said."The assessment will be a months-long exercise across schools and colleges. This will be the first stage. In the second stage, students identified as requiring support through the mental health assessment may be provided counselling, if needed," the official said.

Officials said the policy had been finalised after a review by a team headed by Education Minister Ashish Sood and incorporates scientific and technical inputs from NITI Aayog, UNESCO and the Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS)."In addition, we have consulted specialists from government departments, private institutions and universities. The comprehensive consultation was undertaken to make mental and emotional well-being an integral part of education, rather than limiting interventions to situations where a student is facing a crisis," the official said.

"We must look at education beyond classrooms, textbooks and examination results. Every child deserves an environment where they feel safe, heard and understood. Mental well-being should not be a conversation that begins only when a child is facing a crisis. We want to build a culture where speaking about one's emotions and seeking support is natural, without hesitation or stigma. Our responsibility is to prepare children not just for examinations, but for life," Sood said.

10K end-of-life vehicles seized this year, 25K fined over PUC

Delhi.(Agency)

The Delhi Traffic Police has impounded more than 9,900 end-of-life vehicles (EoV) from several parts of the capital in the first 11 months of this year as part of its ongoing drive against old vehicles. The vehicles were seized from various parts of the national capital during enforcement action aimed at curbing vehicular pollution and ensuring compliance with the prescribed age limits for vehicles. Authorities have fined 25,610 vehicles for not having valid pollution under control (PUC) certificates between November 1 and 17. During the same period, 30,742 non-BS-VI



vehicles were turned back at the borders, while 2,817 were challenged and fined a collective Rs 5.42 crore. Diesel vehicles older than 10 years and petrol vehicles older than 15 years are classified as End-of-Life Vehicles (EOV). Additional Commissioner of Police (zone 1) Vijayanta Goyal Arya said that Delhi Traffic Police has organised an EoV awareness mela from November 12 to 16.

Citizens were informed about the rules governing EoV and the environmental concerns associated with their continued use. They were also guided on how to dispose of such vehicles through authorised scrapping facilities. The Mela was part of an ongoing awareness campaign across the Eastern, Central and Northern Traffic Ranges, she said."During the awareness mela, Delhi Traffic Police impounded 240 End-of-Life vehicles in Zone-I," Arya stated.

Building co-owner held in East Delhi structure collapse that killed two

Police are investigating the circumstances leading to the collapse and the role of those responsible for maintaining the property.

Delhi.(Agency)

A day after a three-year-old boy and a 35-year-old man were killed after an old building collapsed in East Delhi's Vivek Vihar, police arrested the co-owner, Veer Singh, 46, on Wednesday, officers said. Veer's brother, identified as Surendar Singh, 45, who jointly owned the property, was arrested on Friday, bringing the total number of arrests in the case to two, police said.The arrests come amid the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), in its incident report, identified the property as being situated on "encroached" Railways land in the Mukesh Nagar-Jwala Nagar area. Residents had also alleged that although they repeatedly notified the owner of visible cracks and the structure's ongoing deterioration over the years, no repairs were carried out.The building, located in Gali Number 6 of Jwala Nagar, came crashing down around 10 am on Tuesday, trapping six people beneath the debris. Rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Police, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and Civil Defence evacuated all six.The deceased were identified as Laddu alias Devansh (3) and Pintu (35). Four people who sustained injuries were identified as Khushbu (27), Vikesh (35), Akash (25) and Dalip alias Dimpa (22) sustained injuries.The Indian Express on Tuesday had reported that the building housed a family on the first floor, while the ground floor had a workshop-cum-godown where sweets and snacks were prepared. The second floor was partially under construction. Pintu worked at the ground-



floor unit, while his brother Vikesh was among those injured.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD's) preliminary assessment has also pointed to structural failure as a possible cause of the collapse. The nearly five-decade-old structure, spread across approximately 20 square yards, had a ground floor, first floor and a partially constructed second floor. It was built using T-iron beams and stone slabs.The civic body also flagged the property's location on land identified in its report as encroached Railway land, approximately 24 metres from the railway track. It noted that vibrations from passing trains could have contributed to the deterioration of the structure. The first-floor ceiling and the girders supporting the partially constructed upper floor reportedly gave way before the building collapsed.The incident has also brought the condition of other old structures in the neighbourhood under scrutiny. Residents have expressed concern that several houses.

35 aspirants vie for each 5-year DU law seat

Delhi.(Agency)

Getting into Delhi University's five-year law programmes was among the toughest admission challenges at the university this year, with nearly 35 applicants competing for every seat. BTech programmes, too, witnessed intense competition, with 20 applicants for every admission, highlighting the growing admission pressure in professional courses.

According to DU's latest annual report for 2025-26, the five-year BA LLB and BBA LLB programmes together received 4,156 applications against just 120 admissions, translating into 34.6 applicants per admission. The three BTech programmes recorded 6,762 applicants for 338 admissions, while the four-year Integrated Teacher Education Programme (ITEP) received 3,250 applications for 218 admissions, or nearly 15 applicants per admission.Competition was comparatively lower across the university's undergraduate programmes as a whole. Against 71,624 sanctioned UG seats, DU recorded 2,43,958 applicants and 70,750 admissions, averaging 3.4 applicants per admission. The university also received 1.77 crore programme preferences under its undergraduate admission process.At the postgraduate level, 55,132 applicants registered for 10,548 admissions across 83 programmes, translating into 5.2 applicants per admission.

The report also provides a snapshot of enrolment trends across courses. BA (Honours) emerged as the largest undergraduate stream, with 20,014 first-year students enrolled in regular day colleges in 2025-26. Political Science led the subject-wise enrolment with 4,208 students, followed by English (3,326), Economics (3,085), History (2,992) and Hindi (1,982).BSc (Honours) recorded 11,242 first-year enrolments, with Mathematics accounting for 2,477 students, followed by Physics (1,400) and Computer Science (1,368). BA



Programme had 10,464 students, while BCom (Honours) and BCom recorded 7,864 and 6,383 enrolments, respectively.

Among postgraduate courses, MA recorded the highest first-year enrolment at 3,814, followed by LLB with 3,150 and MSc with 2,024 students. The university admitted 1,935 PhD scholars in 2025-26, while its total PhD enrolment stood at 7,414.As per the report, DU's Campus Law Centre has the highest postgraduate student enrolment among its academic departments, with 2,760 students.The three law centres occupy the top positions, with Law Centre-II recording 2,675 students and Law Centre-I 2,629.

Two dead after Fortuner hits auto in Delhi's Kashmere Gate, driver on the run

Days after four people died after their auto was hit by a truck in North-East Delhi

Delhi.(Agency)

Two people were killed and six others injured after a Toyota Fortuner rammed into an auto in North Delhi's Kashmere Gate area in the early hours of Wednesday, Delhi Police said.According to police, eight people were travelling in the auto rickshaw when it was hit by the SUV. Police said all eight were rushed to the hospital and an FIR registered under sections 281 (rash driving) and 125a (negligence endangering human life) of the BNS."An accident happened between a Fortuner and TSR at Yudhisthir Setu in PS Kashmere Gate on the night of 17-18th November. Subsequently, during the day, two of the injured succumbed to their injuries and Section 105 BNS (culpable homicide) was added," said Delhi Police.Police officers said that the accused is on the run. The car has been seized and further investigation is underway, they added.

On November 11, four people, including a pregnant woman, died after another auto shared by eight passengers was rammed by a truck at Pushta Road in North-East Delhi.A dumper truck coming from the opposite side hit the auto, overturning the vehicle. A three-year-old girl escaped unhurt in the accident. The other seven passengers were rushed to Jagparvesh Chandra Hospital, including a 6-month-old child.

"During treatment, two persons were declared brought dead by the attending doctors.



The remaining six injured persons were undergoing treatment at JPC Hospital. It is further reported that one of the victims, Rakhi, who was six months pregnant, suffered a miscarriage as a result of the accident. She died a day later due to injuries on her head and abdomen," said Delhi Police.

RD interest rates offered by top banks in India in November 2026

New Delhi. (Agency)

Recurring Deposits (RDs) are counted among the popular and safest investment options in India. Banks periodically revise their RD interest rates based on monetary policy, funding needs and market conditions. Several banks, including HDFC Bank, IDFC FIRST Bank and Suryoday Small Finance Bank have revised their RD rates in November providing higher returns to their investors. These banks continue to offer competitive returns on RDs in November 2026, making them a popular choice for steady income. Investors must keep a watch on the rate revisions by banks to adjust their investments accordingly.

Here is a look at the revised RD interest rates offered by top banks in India in November 2026.

HDFC Bank

HDFC Bank is offering senior citizens the highest RD interest rate of 7.20 percent on recurring deposits for the term from 3 years 1 day to 5 years. General customers can now earn a maximum rate of 6.60 percent on RD tenures of 3 years and 1 day to 10 years. The bank is offering 6.55 percent to general customers on 2 years 1 day to 3 years tenure. For 5 years 1 day to 10 years, the bank is offering 7.10 percent to senior citizens. The revised RD rates are effective from November 4, 2026.

IDFC FIRST Bank

IDFC FIRST Bank is offering the highest RD interest rate of 7.25 percent on a tenure of 24 months to general customers. The bank is offering 7.50 percent on recurring deposits to senior citizens on the same tenure. On RDs of 36 months tenure, the bank is offering 7.10 percent to general customers and 7.35 percent to senior citizens. The revised rates are applicable from November 4, 2026.

SEBI not keen on extending trading hours, reviewing MTF framework: Tuhin Kanta Pandey

Mumbai. (Agency)

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey on Wednesday indicated that extending stock market trading hours is not a priority for the regulator, citing operational and market-related challenges, including cybersecurity risks, liquidity concerns and the potential impact on investors.Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the World Federation of Exchanges event, Pandey said discussions around longer trading hours are taking place globally, but SEBI is not actively pursuing the idea at present.

"We are not really looking at it as a very big priority," he said in response to a question on whether India could consider extending trading hours in line with developments in some international markets.Pandey noted that a working group under the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) is examining the issue.However, he cautioned that any such move would have to address several challenges, beginning with cybersecurity.

Referring to global experiences, he said even advanced markets such as the United States continue to face cyber breaches.He also flagged liquidity concerns, noting that extending trading sessions could dilute market depth and affect price discovery.In addition, he pointed to the impact on investors, saying market participants would be uncomfortable waking up to significant price movements that occurred outside conventional trading hours.

Gold, silver prices plummet to 1-yr low on global selloff

New Delhi. (Agency)

Traditional safe-haven assets, gold and silver, plunged to their lowest levels in 14 months on Wednesday, weighed down by a mix of factors, including a strengthening US dollar, rising bond yields, and fears of another rate hike by the US Federal Reserve at its December meeting.On Wednesday, the spot price of 999-purity gold fell 2.16% to Rs 1,30,930.7 per 10 grams, while silver fell 2.89% to Rs 1,64,302.10 per kilogram. So far this year, gold prices have fallen by 1.90%, while silver has declined 28.33%, according to CMIE data.International spot gold fell to a more than one-year low, while silver also declined sharply as rising US Treasury yields and expectations of tighter monetary policy dampened investor appetite for non-yielding assets.Gold is typically seen as a safe asset during periods of uncertainty in financial markets, prompting both investors and central banks to hold the metal in their reserves. The sharp correction in gold prices suggests a shift in investor sentiment, with expectations of tighter monetary policy in the US beginning to outweigh the metal's traditional safe-haven appeal. The price crash was also reflected in a fall in ETF prices, with gold and silver exchange-traded funds declining 2% and 3%, respectively.Gold futures too fell for the third straight session, tumbling Rs 3,016 to Rs 1.31 lakh per 10 grams on Wednesday as a stronger US dollar and expectations of further interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve intensified selling pressure across precious metals.On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the yellow metal futures for December delivery declined Rs 3,016, or 2.25 %, to Rs 1,31,207 per 10 grams.Gold futures are witnessing a sharp correction, with the yellow metal hovering around Rs 1.3 lakh per 10 grams, its lowest level in over a year, amid broad.

Anthropic employees could become millionaires after IPO: Who stands to gain the most

Anthropic's blockbuster IPO could create a new generation of millionaires, with employees across the company set to benefit. Who stands to gain the most

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

Anthropic's blockbuster stock market debut could turn thousands of its current and former employees into millionaires, with some early hires potentially becoming worth more than $100 million. The artificial intelligence (AI) company's listing is expected to create one of the biggest employee wealth windfalls in Silicon Valley, rewarding not just researchers and engineers but also people in administrative and support roles.The company priced its initial public offering (IPO) at $83 per share on November 18, above its earlier price range of $70-$78. Anthropic is set to begin trading on the Nasdaq Global Select Market on Thursday, November 19, under the ticker symbol ANT. The IPO raises $81.3 billion, while an additional $26 billion is being raised through private placements, taking the total to $107.3 billion. The listing values the Claude chatbot maker at approximately $1.5 trillion on a fully diluted basis.

$119 BILLION IN PAPER GAINS FOR EMPLOYEES

The scale of potential wealth creation is already visible in Anthropic's IPO filing. Employees holding stock options had accumulated around $119 billion in paper gains as of September 30, based on a weighted average exercise price of $2.91 per share. Of this, approximately $73 billion had vested and could be exercised immediately, according to Reuters.Stock options give employees the right to purchase company shares at a predetermined price, known as the exercise price. When the market value rises above this price, employees can benefit from the difference. However, these gains remain on paper until shares are sold, and the final amount depends on taxes, exercise costs and applicable selling restrictions.

EARLY EMPLOYEES STAND TO GAIN THE MOST

Employees who joined Anthropic during its early years are likely to benefit the most because they received stock options at much lower prices. According to the company's filing, options granted through 2023 and still outstanding at the end of that year had an average exercise price of just 52 cents per share. In 2024, the average exercise price of options granted to employees was $1.30.



At the IPO price of $83, an employee holding an option with an exercise price of 52 cents would have a gross difference of $82.48 per share, before taxes and other costs. This explains why employees who joined early could see substantially larger gains than those who came on board closer to the listing.

HOW MANY EMPLOYEES COULD BECOME MILLIONAIRES?

Estimates from private-market firms suggest that the wealth creation could extend to thousands of people. Hill, a San Francisco-based marketplace for private-company shares, estimates that 598 non-founder employees could hold equity worth at least $100 million each following the IPO.

The not-so-glamorous side of Anthropic's record-breaking IPO

Anthropic's record-breaking IPO has put AI's riches on full display. But behind the $1.5 trillion valuation lie staggering spending, bubble fears, security lapses and infrastructure troubles.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Anthropic has just pulled off a record-breaking IPO, raising $81.31 billion and commanding a valuation of around $1.5 trillion. Investors are betting big on its Claude AI models, its rapidly growing business and the possibility that artificial intelligence (AI) will transform everything from software development to healthcare.

But there is another side to this extraordinary AI boom.

The industry is spending at an unprecedented pace, questions are mounting over whether those investments will pay off, data centres are struggling with the demands being placed on them, and even AI companies are reporting incidents in which their own models accessed systems they were not supposed to.Anthropic's prospectus offers a glimpse of these risks. And tl y extend well beyond one c npany's balance sheet.THE Q JESTION OF AI BUBBLE



The crazy amount of money flowing into artificial intelligence is becoming difficult to ignore.

The European Central Bank's November 2026 Financial Stability Review estimates that cumulative capital expenditure by US Big Tech companies could reach $5.5 trillion by 2030. The investment needs of the AI industry could exceed 3% of US GDP annually between 2025 and 2032.The concern is not simply that companies are spending heavily. It is how they are financing that spending. The ECB says free cash flows turned negative for most US hyperscalers in 2026 as investment in AI infrastructure exceeded their operating cash flows. Companies are increasingly turning to debt and other forms of external financing to fund the expansion.

Jensen Huang's $135 billion Nvidia stake can't buy him what Zuckerberg has at Meta

New Delhi. (Agency)

For all his billions, Jensen Huang cannot decide who runs Nvidia. Mark Zuckerberg, meanwhile, can effectively decide who gets to sit on Meta's board, thanks to a shareholding structure that gives him control over most of the company's voting power.

The difference became particularly stark on November 17. Huang, who ran the chipmaker he co-founded for 33 years, said on X that he would be honoured to return as chief executive if Nvidia's board wanted him back. Even Elon Musk backed his return, and more than 180,000 people had signed a petition calling for it. But Nvidia chairman Harvey Jones had a different message. Opening the company's earnings call hours later, he told investors that the board would not rehire Huang.And there lies the irony. Nvidia's 2026 proxy filing listed 870.6 million shares under Huang's name. At the November 17 closing price of $155.46 apiece, that holding would have been worth about $135.3 billion. Yet those shares accounted for just about 3.58% of the company's voting power.

So, how can someone with a stake worth $135 billion have so little say in who runs the company? The answer lies in how Nvidia's shares are structured. Every share carries one vote. Shareholders elect the board, and the board appoints the chief executive. This means that even if Huang wanted to bring in directors who supported his return, he would need other shareholders to vote alongside him.Now consider Meta. Zuckerberg does not have that problem. Most of his shares carry 10 votes apiece, while investors who buy Meta shares on the stock market generally get just one vote per share. As of October 20, Zuckerberg controlled 60.6% of the company's voting power. Even if every other shareholder voted against him, he could still determine the outcome of director elections.

The difference, therefore, is not simply how much these two billionaires own. It is how much voting power their shares give them.

Huang gave up his board seat when he resigned as Nvidia's president and chief executive. Days earlier, he had acknowledged an extramarital affair. Reports linked him to Alice Huang, a Chinese businesswoman whom US officials believed had been recruited by China's main intelligence agency. Nvidia said it had no reason to believe national security or company secrets had been compromised.

Why Paytm shares are sliding 6% and MobiKwik is crashing nearly 7%

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shares of digital payments companies Paytm, Pine Labs and MobiKwik fell sharply on Thursday after the proposed introduction of transaction charges on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments faced another delay. The uncertainty over when the charges will come into effect has raised concerns about the potential revenue boost for these companies.At around 10.30 am, shares of One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm, were trading 6.17% lower at Rs 1,771.70. Pine Labs shares dropped 4.52% to Rs 161.60, while One MobiKwik Systems fell 6.87% to Rs 210.95The decline comes as the proposed 0.4% fee on certain UPI merchant transactions remains on hold, with no fresh implementation date announced.WHY ARE PAYTM AND PINE LABS SHARES FALLING?

The immediate reason behind the fall is the uncertainty surrounding the introduction of transaction charges on UPI paymentsThe National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) had announced in September that merchant payments above Rs 2,000 would attract a 0.4% transaction fee from October 15. The move was expected to end six years of free transactions for this category of payments.However, the rollout was postponed until after Diwali earlier this month following opposition from retailers.



Three sources familiar with the discussions said that a final decision on the implementation date is yet to be taken. The decision is likely to be made in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government, reported Reuters..The sources also said that a further delay in implementation cannot be ruled out.For digital payments companies, the uncertainty over the timeline means they may have to wait longer for the proposed charges to translate into revenue.The proposed charges have faced resistance from retailers and trade associations, who are concerned about the additional cost of accepting digital payments.

According to a Financial Express report, the government remains cautious about the possibility of a backlash from merchants if transaction charges are introduced.

The retailer opposition has emerged as a key hurdle in implementing the

Nvidia's interim CEO urges staff to move forward, announces early pay reviews

Nvidia has moved its annual employee pay reviews from March to December, interim CEO Colette Kress announced at an all-hands meeting. The decision comes amid leadership uncertainty, calls for Jensen Huang's return and a 37% decline in Nvidia shares.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Nvidia has moved up its annual employee pay review process from March to December, with interim CEO Colette Kress announcing the change during the company's first all-hands meeting since founder Jensen Huang's resignation, CNBC reported.

Kress told employees to "let's move forward" during Wednesday's meeting, while also discussing salary hikes and stock grants that typically accompany the annual review process. The decision to bring the reviews forward comes as Nvidia navigates uncertainty over its leadership and a sharp decline in its share price.Nvidia shares are down 37% from their 52-week high, despite the company reporting third-quarter earnings above Wall Street expectations and signalling no slowdown in its growth.Kress was joined at the meeting by newly appointed board chair Harvey Jones, hyperscale and high-performance computing head Ian Buck and several other senior executives, including company co-founder Chris Malachowsky.Jones discussed the search for Nvidia's next CEO, according to a person who attended the meeting and spoke to CNBC on condition of anonymity.The meeting lasted about an hour and was held in person as well as streamed on Microsoft Teams. Kress also described the company's latest quarterly performance as a "great quarter".The meeting comes amid growing calls from employees for Huang's return. Several Nvidia employees have voiced support for the founder on social media, while one senior employee reportedly sent a letter to the board warning that the company could lose "irreplaceable talent" if it does not consider reinstating him.However, Jones reiterated during Tuesday's earnings call that the board had unanimously accepted Huang's resignation and had no intention of reinstating him.



The board's position has reportedly drawn criticism from some executives, with one employee questioning why Jones made such a definitive statement while the investigation was still underway.While some employees reportedly want Huang back, another person familiar with Wednesday's meeting told CNBC that staff welcomed the leadership team's remarks and the increased visibility into the company's leadership.

Nvidia typically holds all-hands meetings the morning after its quarterly earnings announcements. Executives also answered questions submitted by employees ahead of Wednesday's meeting.

Madras HC upholds Pallikaranai construction ban, asks petitioners to approach SC

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The one-kilometre restriction on construction around the Pallikaranai marshland will continue, with the Madras High Court on Wednesday directing the litigants challenging the blanket freeze on development permissions to approach the Supreme Court. The order leaves builders, residents and landowners without immediate relief, as the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA) has confirmed that it will not process fresh planning applications within the restricted zone in the Ramsar site."Only projects that have already received approvals can continue. Fresh proposals cannot be processed," CMDA member-secretary A R Rahul Nadh told .

The HC bench of Chief Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice G Arul Murugan passed the ruling while disposing of a batch of 13 petitions challenging the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) September 24, 2025, order imposing the restriction. The petitions were filed by CREDAI Chennai, real estate developers, residents' associations, trusts, and individual landowners.

Self-immolation bid: Odisha woman critical, family cries foul play

BHUBANESWAR.(Agency)

A day after a 21-year-old woman allegedly set herself on fire in Pathargadia area reportedly after spotting her former boyfriend with another woman at a cafe, her family members on Wednesday alleged foul play behind the incident.The victim, Kalpana Samal, suffered 90 per cent burn injuries. She is currently under treatment at AIIMS Bhubaneswar and her condition is stated to be critical.The incident occurred near a shop under Infocity police limits around 10:30 pm on Tuesday. On the day, Kalpana's father Ajit Samal lodged a complaint with Infocity police alleging foul play, prompting the cops to register a case and launch an investigation.

However, preliminary findings point towards suicide. Police sources said CCTV footage shows Kalpana visiting a shop in Pathargadia and leaving alone before walking a short distance and setting herself ablaze. Investigators also found that she had called her cousin minutes before the incident to say she was going to end her life.Kalpana, who had been staying in Nayapalli area for the past 18 months, was reportedly distressed following a breakup a few months ago. Police detained her former boyfriend for questioning but later let him go.

Bhubaneswar DCP Saravana Vivek M said preliminary investigation indicates that distress over the breakup may have led to the incident.

80% support for fab units in Andhra Pradesh

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has amended its Semiconductor and Display Fab Policy 4.0 to align it with the second phase of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0 (Semicon 2.0), the Centre's chip incentive programme.Under the amendment, the State will match 100% of the Centre's capital support for silicon fabs, display fabs and chip packaging projects.

With the state's top-up, a silicon fab approved under Semicon 2.0 can get a combined support of 80% of its eligible capital cost, 40% from the Government of India and 40% from Andhra Pradesh.Compound semiconductor, photonics, sensor, discrete and display fabs, and advanced packaging units can get 70%. Legacy packaging units can get 50% under the amended policy.

Dedicated AP Semiconductor Park to come up in Tirupati

Ap's 80% support for silicon fabs is higher than Odisha (65%), Tamil Nadu (65%), Uttar Pradesh (60%), Madhya Pradesh (60%) and Gujarat (56%)."Andhra Pradesh wants to be the place where India builds its chips, from design to fab to packaging. By matching the Centre's support rupee for rupee, giving investors one window and building the talent they need, we are making it simpler and cheaper to build .

As Amritpal Singh comes home, 72 hours of security, Punjab on alert, for a 3-hour parole

Amritsar.(Agency)

A state police on alert, multiple flights, more than 2,000 km of travel each way and nearly 72 hours of security arrangements. This is what it will take to ensure a three-hour uneventful visit by Khadoor Sahib MP and Waris Punjab De leader Amritpal Singh to his home in Jallupur Khera in Amritsar.

Amritpal will arrive on November 21 on parole, from 12 noon to 3 pm, for the cremation of his grandmother Charan Kaur. It will be his first time home since the pro-Khalistan leader was imprisoned on April 23, 2023, under the National Security Act (NSA), and taken to Dibrugarh Central Jail in Assam. He won the 2024 Lok Sabha elections from behind bars and won.While the exact details are being kept "classified", sources said Amritpal would be brought first from Dibrugarh to New Delhi by a commercial flight along with a police escort, then flown into Amritsar, and driven to his village by road. The cremation over, the journey will be repeated in reverse.Charan Kaur, 84, died on November 8, and her cremation has been kept on hold for Amritpal to pay his last respects. On November 17, an Amritsar court cleared his appeal for parole.The authorities are taking no chances with the Assembly elections near and given the possibility of elements using Amritpal, whose party is contesting the polls, to stir trouble. The state has seen a spate of violent incidents recently, linked to gangs but also claimed by pro-Khalistani elements. The Punjab government had warned that keeping Amritpal in Amritsar for long was not in the interest of the state because of the possibility of law-and-order disturbance.

P K Sinha, Special DGP, Law and Order, who is overseeing the security arrangements, said: "There are few flights between Dibrugarh and New Delhi. We have to ensure that Amritpal reaches Amritsar well in time to attend the cremation in the time frame given by the court."

Sinha said a team comprising five to six police personnel, led by a DSP and the SHO concerned, will travel to Dibrugarh to take Amritpal formally into their custody and



escort him back. Additional personnel will coordinate his transit through New Delhi, while local police teams will manage security in Amritsar, the special DGP said.

"We are in touch with the jail authorities in Dibrugarh and liaising with them for the necessary arrangements," Kanwalpreet Singh Chahal, SSP Amritsar (Rural), said."As per court orders, he will be in the custody of the Punjab Police for the entire duration of his journey from Dibrugarh to Amritsar and back," Sinha said.Police presence has also been beefed up in Jallupur Khera village, with officials having secured an assurance from Amritpal's family that they will not allow large crowds.

Chahal said that while an adequate number of police personnel are already on the ground, "more police force has been made available to us by senior officers".

"We are ready for all eventualities. However, it is a somber occasion and we hope it will not be put to any other use. The lawyers of Amritpal Singh have also given their solemn assurance to the court," said Sinha.The entire transportation and police escort expenses are to be borne by Amritpal.

Meghalaya gets global travel spotlight, stands out as India's lone pick on BBC list

Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said Meghalaya was the only Indian destination featured in the BBC's list of 20 Best Places to Travel in 2027. Other destinations on the list include Burgundy in France, Sardinia in Italy, Christchurch in New Zealand and Madagascar.

Shillong .(Agency)



Meghalaya's community-based tourism model, built around homestays, indigenous traditions and nature-based experiences, has received international attention after the BBC included the state in its travel recommendations for 2027, news agency Press Trust of India reported.

Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma said Meghalaya was the only Indian destination featured in the BBC's list of 20 Best Places to Travel in 2027. Other destinations on the list include Burgundy in France, Sardinia in Italy, Christchurch in New Zealand and Madagascar."This global recognition is a wonderful honour for our state and a testament to the beauty, culture, heritage and unique experiences that Meghalaya has to offer. The world is taking notice. Meghalaya is ready to welcome the world!" Sangma said in a post on X.According to PTI, the BBC feature highlights Meghalaya's centuries-old living root bridges, sacred forests and indigenous communities, which have preserved traditional practices while living in harmony with nature.

It also focuses on the state's efforts to promote community-based tourism ahead of the 39th National Games in March 2027. Meghalaya is supporting the creation or upgrade of 1,000 homestays, allowing visitors to experience its natural and cultural heritage while ensuring that local communities benefit from tourism.

Travellers can explore the Unesco-recognised Nokrek Biosphere Reserve, visit the sacred groves of Mawphlang and attend Shillong's Cherry Blossom Festival, which is held in November.The feature also showcases Meghalaya's traditional mountain cuisine, vibrant rock music scene and the 1,000-year-old Lyrnai black pottery tradition.

It identifies the trek to Nongriat's double-decker living root bridge as a signature experience.

Generations of Khasi villagers have guided the aerial roots of rubber fig trees to create pathways across deep gorges and streams.The feature also points to opportunities for visitors to join guided nature walks, learn traditional weaving and handicrafts, and experience food tourism based on foraging traditions and local agricultural produce, including Lakadong turmeric.

JSP leader Shiva Srinivas denies links with Dharani Krishna and Peddiraju

VIJAYAWADA.(Agency)

Andhra Pradesh Police Housing Corporation Chairman and Jana Sena leader Kalyanam Shiva Srinivas has denied having any links with Dharani Krishna and Peddiraju, who are accused of cheating several people on the promise of securing government jobs in the endowments and police departments.Addressing the media here on Wednesday, Srinivas said that he came to know that Dharani Krishna was misusing his name only on November 5, when Ambica Krishna called him and brought the alleged fraud to his notice. He said Dharani Krishna had joined Kairen Consultancy, owned by Kota Rukmini, about five months ago but had not been attending office for the past two months.According to Srinivas, the accused allegedly cheated 34 people from Tanuku, Eluru and Tadepalligudem by promising them jobs in government departments and collected more than Rs 7 crore.



He claimed that both Dharani Krishna and Peddiraju had previous cheating cases against them and had even attempted to implicate the victims in the fraud. Srinivas also alleged that Dharani Krishna and Peddiraju had jointly collected money from victims and invested the proceeds in acquiring properties and establishing businesses.

He said all available evidence had been submitted to the CID and urged the victims to hand over relevant documents, financial transaction records and other evidence to the investigating officials to facilitate a thorough probe.Denying allegations against him and the Jana Sena leadership, Srinivas accused a telugu vernacular media of publishing misleading reports to malign their reputation. Kalyanam Srinivas has alleged that certain individuals within the Jana Sena were also attempting to target him.

Odisha Assembly adjourned as BJD, Congress disrupt House over floods, border row



Bhubaneswar.(Agency)

The Odisha Assembly was adjourned till 4 pm on Thursday after opposition Biju Janata Dal and Congress members disrupted proceedings to demand detailed discussions on the recent floods in Ganjam district and the Kotia border dispute with Andhra Pradesh, news agency Press Trust of India reported.The BJD sought a debate on the floods, while Congress MLAs raised the border dispute. Members of both parties displayed placards and shouted slogans in the House.

The disruption began as soon as the House assembled for Question Hour at 10.30 am. Opposition MLAs had entered the well of the House before Speaker Surama Padhy took her seat.When Padhy allowed Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mukesh Mahaling to answer a question, opposition members raised slogans. Some members stood at the reporters' table, while others shouted from below the Speaker's podium. Congress MLA Taraprasad Bahinipati was seen banging the podium while raising slogans against the BJP government in the state.The House conducted business for only seven minutes amid the disruption before the Speaker adjourned proceedings till 4 pm.

BJD MLA Sarada Prasanna Jena told Press Trust of India, "The BJD has submitted a motion to the Speaker a day before the commencement of the session for a discussion on the flood issue after suspending all business of the House.However, the Speaker did not pay heed to our notice. Therefore, there is no alternative but to demand a discussion."

Keralam's 'Operation Toofan' gets boost as 40 private hospitals back

Thiruvananthapuram.(Agency)

Private hospitals in Kerala have extended full support to the state government's 'Toofan Care' initiative for the treatment and rehabilitation of people with drug addiction, Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala said, according to news agency Press Trust of India.The initiative, part of the government's anti-drug campaign 'Operation Toofan', seeks to identify drug users and provide them with appropriate medical care, counselling and rehabilitation.



Addressing representatives of around 40 hospitals from various districts, Chennithala said helping people recover from addiction was a shared social responsibility. He stressed that public and private healthcare institutions must work together to provide timely and appropriate support.

District-level Toofan Care committees are already functioning and have been directed to organise treatment camps under the initiative, PTI reported, citing an official statement.The meeting decided to establish district-level treatment networks involving participating private hospitals. Nodal officers will be appointed to coordinate their activities with the respective Toofan Care committees.

Hospitals will prepare details of the outpatient and inpatient consultations and counselling sessions they can offer each month. A common referral system will also be developed for people sent for treatment by the police and Toofan Care committees.Participating hospitals will propose treatment packages at reasonable rates and explore possible concessions and treatment options. They will also ensure timely medical attention for people referred under the initiative who require emergency care.Chennithala said treatment would be provided while protecting patients' privacy and dignity and ensuring their informed consent. District police chiefs will coordinate the initiative with hospitals and district-level Toofan Care committees.

Pat Cummins swarmed by reporters at home after Bancroft's fresh Sandpapergate claims

New Delhi.(Agency)

Pat Cummins found himself at the centre of an uncomfortable media scrum outside his home on Thursday, with the Australia captain snapping at a reporter as journalists pressed him for answers over the resurfacing Sandpapergate scandal.
Cummins brushed aside questions about the controversy, insisting he needed to get to training.As one Channel 7 reporter apologised for interrupting him, the Australia skipper responded sharply. The exchange came amid renewed scrutiny following Cameron Bancroft's explosive account of



the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.“You're probably not that sorry,” Cummins told the reporter.The 33-year-old then embraced his wife Becky before leaving the group of journalists behind. Cummins had said last week that he wished he never had to speak about Sandpapergate again, but Bancroft's latest revelations have brought the controversy back into sharp focus.
BANCROFT FEELS 'REALLY FREED'
Bancroft, meanwhile, appeared relieved after going public with his account of the scandal. Speaking to 9News Perth on Thursday, the former Australia opener said he had carried the burden of the episode for years and was glad to finally speak about it.

India lose the plot after Jasprit Bumrah special on Day 1 of Wellington Test

New Delhi.(Agency)

India could hardly have asked for a better start. A green Basin Reserve pitch, plenty of wind and Jasprit Bumrah finding movement straightaway. New Zealand were 70 for 5, and India's decision to bowl first seemed justified. But Henry Nicholls and Glenn Phillips dug in, refusing to let India run away with the advantage.The two batted through the remainder of the day, adding an unbeaten 173 for the sixth wicket to take New Zealand to 243 for 5 at stumps on Thursday. Nicholls was unbeaten on 113, his 12th Test hundred, while Phillips



was closing in on his maiden century against India, ending the day on 94. From 70 for 5 to 243 for 5, New Zealand had turned a difficult day into one they could be pleased with
BUMRAH SETS THE TONE
Shubman Gill had little hesitation in bowling first after winning the toss. With around 15mm of live grass on the surface and some breeze around, India had every reason to put New Zealand in. Bumrah needed just three deliveries to make his mark, bringing one back sharply to knock over captain Tom Latham's off-stump. Latham had shouldered arms, expecting the ball to leave him, but the movement was enough to beat him..Devon Conway followed soon after, edging Anshul Kamboj behind to Rishabh Pant. Bumrah kept asking questions with movement and bounce, while Akash Deep found Rachin Ravindra's outside edge. Pant made no mistake, and New Zealand were four down.

Warner backs Bancroft as fresh Sandpapergate storm puts Cummins under pressure

For nearly two decades, Chennai has cheered, chanted and claimed MS Dhoni as its own. From packed practice sessions to the Thala phenomenon, this is the story of how a cricket-mad city found its hero, and why that love will outlast his playing days.

New Delhi.(Agency)

David Warner has backed Cameron Bancroft after his former opening partner made fresh revelations about Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal, saying the episode had weighed heavily on him for years.Bancroft, in a 4,000-word account published in *The West Australian*, claimed the entire Australian team knew about the plan to tamper with the ball during the Test series in South Africa. His allegations have put the spotlight back on Pat Cummins, who has strongly denied knowing about the plot.Speaking to 7NEWS, Warner said he was happy that Bancroft had finally spoken about his experience and backed his former teammate's decision to go public.
"I'm happy for Bangers to get some stuff off his chest, obviously he told the truth," Warner said."It's been weighing on him heavily for a long time and it's great to get it off his chest and I really support him as well. I just really think it's a relief for him and that's his truth and I respect that."Warner, however, did not confirm whether he would take part in Cricket Australia's independent forum, which will allow players to share their accounts of the events in South Africa. The former Australia opener had earlier questioned whether the exercise would bring any new information to light."At the end of the day, we owned what we did, so we can't do any more. We served out sentences that Cricket Australia handed down to us, so can't do any more about that," he told 7NEWS.



CUMMINS FACES FRESH QUESTIONS
Bancroft's claims have put Cummins in the spotlight once again, just days after the Australia captain held a 70-minute press conference to reject similar allegations made by Usman Khawaja in his autobiography. Cummins had described those claims as "100 per cent wrong".His manager Neil Maxwell issued a statement to Australian media on Thursday, insisting that the captain had maintained the same position since 2018.
"Pat's position hasn't changed in eight years. He's been consistent and adamant from day one," Maxwell said.
He added that Cummins felt for Bancroft but had nothing further to explain about his own account of the events."Pat feels for Cam, of course. He has been through a lot. We would urge people to read Pat's interview transcript again. There is nothing he hasn't answered. And that includes in response to what Cam has now said."Maxwell also pointed to Cummins' efforts to rebuild the Australian team after the Cape Town incident."Pat has rebuilt the Australian cricket team. That 24-year-old in Cape Town resolved to fix the team and spent eight years doing it," he added.

GTA 6 vs Test cricket: New Zealand captain jokes about curfew for teammates

New Delhi.(Agency)

New Zealand captain Tom Latham might not be much of a gamer, but he knows that his players could have a rather tempting distraction on the eve of a big Test match. With Grand Theft Auto (GTA) VI finally arriving after years of anticipation, a reporter wanted to know if the Black Caps had put a curfew in place to ensure their players did not spend the



night exploring the virtual streets of Vice City..The question brought a smile to Latham's face during his pre-match press conference ahead of the first Test against India in Wellington."I am hearing the players have been given an 11 o'clock bedtime. Is it because GTA 6 is coming out?" the reporter asked, before following it up with a more serious question about whether Latham had spoken to his players about staying up late playing the much-awaited video game."Well, I'm not a gamer, but there's obviously been a little bit of chat about it, that it comes out at midnight or whatever it is. But yeah, we certainly trust guys to prepare the best they can for the next couple of days," Latham replied.It was a rather unusual talking point ahead of an important Test series, but perhaps nothing captures the scale of the GTA 6 phenomenon quite like a cricket captain being asked whether his players would be able to resist its midnight launch.GTA 6 FEVER
After more than a decade of waiting since GTA V arrived in 2013, the latest instalment from Rockstar Games is finally here. The hype surrounding the release has spilled well beyond the gaming community, with fans planning their schedules around the launch.
Some have booked days off work, while others have been making arrangements to ensure they can get their hands on the game as soon as it becomes available. In the United States, fans have openly spoken about calling in sick or using paid leave to spend launch day playing. Reports have also highlighted students looking forward to getting home from school and diving into the game. The phenomenon has even earned the nickname 'GTA Flu'.
The excitement is hardly surprising. GTA V was released 13 years ago, and the wait for its successor has turned GTA 6 into one of the most anticipated entertainment releases in recent memory. For some fans, the launch is less a regular gaming purchase and more a cultural event they do not want to miss.
However, the timing could hardly be more interesting for New Zealand's cricketers. The game arrived at midnight on Thursday, November 19, just hours before the Black Caps began their two-Test series against India at the Basin Reserve.

Magnus Carlsen forfeits games against Bibisara, sparks controversy at Total Chess

Sydney.(Agency)

World No.1 Magnus Carlsen found himself at the centre of a controversy at the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot after forfeiting his Fast Classic games against Bibisara Assaubayeva on both days of their two-day fixture.
Carlsen walked away from the playing hall after taking an unassailable lead in the tie, leaving Bibisara waiting for him. The Norwegian spoke to the arbiter before leaving but did not inform his opponent of his decision.Out of title contention and playing for a 17th-place finish, Carlsen had built an 11-point lead on Tuesday by winning three of the four blitz games and two rapid games against Bibisara.He repeated the decision on Wednesday after collecting 10 points from the four blitz and two rapid games.Bibisara was awarded all eight points on offer on both days. However, Carlsen still won the tie, having taken the opening day's fixture 11.5-8.5 before the second day ended in a 10-10 draw.
Carlsen defended his decision, saying there was little point in playing the classical game once the result was decided."There will be no classical game as I understood, the match is over. The only consequence of not showing up is that you will lose a totally meaningless game," Carlsen was quoted as saying by Norwegian broadcaster TV2 on Tuesday."I think that if you play a World Championship and it counts for points and such, I can understand."
His decision came at a time when his rating was also under pressure. A draw or defeat in the Fast Classic game would have taken Carlsen below the 2800 Elo mark for the first time in almost 17 years. The Norwegian has remained above 2800 since 2009.Carlsen has struggled in the Fast Classic format at the Budapest pilot. He finished fifth in his group after



managing nine draws and one defeat, against Armenia's Haik Martirosyan, in 10 games. He lost 21.8 rating points over the past week.The Norwegian could also be at risk of losing the world No.1 ranking, which he has held for more than 15 years.Earlier on Tuesday, Carlsen had made it clear that he was not keen on playing another classical game in the classification match."This is an awkward situation to be in, I would rather not play that much more classical anymore," he said.

Ex-England captain questions Cummins after Bancroft's Sandpapergate revelations

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has questioned Pat Cummins' claim that he had no knowledge of Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal, asking how the team's bowling unit could have remained unaware when the team media manager reportedly knew about discussions surrounding the use of sandpaper.

New Delhi.(Agency)

Former England captain Nasser Hussain has questioned Pat Cummins' denial of knowledge about Australia's 2018 ball-tampering scandal, asking how the team's bowling unit could have been unaware of the plan when the team media manager reportedly knew what was being discussed.The controversy has resurfaced after Cameron Bancroft spoke about the infamous Sandpapergate episode during Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa. The former Australia opener admitted that he had withheld "important details" during Cricket Australia's initial investigation and suggested that knowledge of the plan went beyond the three players who were eventually sanctioned.Bancroft made the revelations in a column for *The West Australian*, as quoted by Fox Sports. He also spoke about feeling "betrayed and alone" after Cummins publicly rejected former Australia batter Usman Khawaja's claim that the entire team knew about the ball-tampering plan.
HUSSAIN QUESTIONS CUMMINS
Reacting to Bancroft's revelations, Hussain questioned Cummins' claim that he had no knowledge of the ball-tampering plan. The former England captain pointed to Cummins' response when he was directly asked about the incident.Cummins said when directly asked the question: 'Were you aware of any ball tampering?' He said no," Hussain said, as quoted by Sky Sports.



"He could hide behind semantics and whether he knew sandpaper was being taken on the field that particular day or that particular session. But he directly said no."
Hussain also referred to Bancroft's account of a team meeting during which Australia team media manager Kate Hutchison reportedly walked out because she was unhappy with what was being discussed."If you read The West Australian article from Bancroft, he says the media manager walked out because she was so unhappy with what was being discussed in a team meeting.
"How does the media manager know what's going on but a bowling unit does not? It would be the first time a bowling unit does not know what is happening to a cricket ball," he added.
SMITH, WARNER AND BANCROFT TOOK BULLET
Hussain also criticised the way Australia handled the fallout, saying Steve Smith, David Warner and Bancroft were left to face the consequences while the rest of the team moved on.Bancroft received a nine-month ban, while Smith and Warner were suspended from international and domestic cricket for 12 months. All three faced intense public scrutiny after the scandal in Cape Town.Hussain said the team's decision to leave the trio to shoulder the blame went against the values associated with Australian cricket."Those three [Bancroft, Warner, Smith], as Bancroft said, they took the bullet. And that is the thing. It is not the ball tampering - ball tampering has always happened in the history of cricket," he said.
"It is so un-Australian to have your three teammates and leave them hanging like that. To throw them under the bus like that.""It is just the whole mateship thing of Australia, the Baggy Green: 'We are all in this together.' And just to let three people take the blame," he added.Hussain also questioned how the Australian team managed to move on from the episode without addressing the wider issues surrounding the scandal."I think out of everything in this terrible situation, the main thing is how an Australian team just moved on and let three people carry the can for what happened in Port Elizabeth and Cape Town," he said.

Total Chess Pilot: Erigaisi wins Armageddon, Praggnanandhaa avoids Vaishali clash



New Delhi.(Agency)

Arjun Erigaisi beat Jorden van Foreest in an Armageddon tiebreak to win their tie at the Total Chess World Championship Tour Pilot, while R Praggnanandhaa avoided a possible clash with his sister R Vaishali after beating Nodirbek Abdusattorov.
Erigaisi hd won the opening day's contest 11.5-8.5, but van Foreest fought back to take the second day 12-8 on Wednesday, forcing an Armageddon decider in the battle for places ninth to 12th.Playing with the black pieces, van Foreest held a winning position for much of the tiebreak. However, he let his advantage slip on move 34, and Erigaisi made the most of the opportunity to seal the win.Earlier in the day, the Indian had lost two of his four blitz games and the Fast Classic encounter. He won one of the two rapid games, while the other ended in a draw.Erigaisi will now face Haik M. Martirosyan in the match for ninth place.
PRAGGNANANDHAA AVOIDS CLASH WITH VAISHALI
Praggnanandhaa produced a timely comeback against Uzbekistan's Abdusattorov to book his place in the contest for 21st position.
He was trailing 3.5-8.5 before the Fast Classic game but fought back with a win playing Black to take the day's score to 11.5-8.5. He will now face Abhimanyu Mishra, while a defeat would have set up a match against Vaishali for 23rd and 24th place.Praggnanandhaa admitted that avoiding a match against his sister was a source of relief, even as he welcomed the win over a strong opponent.



Ananya Panday

Confirms Breakup With Walker Blanco? Actress Says 'I'm Really Enjoying Being Single'

Ananya Panday recently appeared on Koffee With Karan 9 alongside entrepreneur and singer Ananya Birla. During the conversation with host Karan Johar, the actress spoke about her relationships, breakups, and why she is happy being single right now. She also revealed that she wants to focus on herself before letting someone new into her life. This comes months after rumours of her breakup with Walker Blanco surfaced on the Internet.

Karan Johar Calls Ananya Panday A 'Breakup Chick'

During the episode, Karan told Ananya, "Let me just tell you one thing about Ananya, that Annie is just like a breakup chick. She breaks up on a Friday, and she is broken. Like everyone will be. But on Monday, she is absolutely fine."Ananya found his observation interesting and she said, "Interesting observation. It is true that I have been in a few relationships. But I honestly don't think there's anything wrong with that."



Karan agreed with her and went on to praise the actress for being her own person. He also joked that she tends to reach the 'mandap' in every relationship, or in the recent case, 'the aisle'.

Ananya Panday Says 'I Was Born To Get Married'

While the actress is enjoying being single at the moment, she hasn't given up on the idea of marriage. In fact, Ananya admitted that she loves the idea of settling down and spending her life with one person."I feel I was born to get married. I love the idea of getting married. I am excited to be with one person for my entire life," she said.However, she also believes that there is no point staying in a relationship if both people aren't happy or aren't completely sure about it. She said that she believes people should be able to walk away from relationships that aren't working instead of forcing things. "I feel like if something is not working, if people are not happy, if you are not a 100 percent sure, then you are very well within your right to get out of something and move on," said Ananya.

'I Am Really Enjoying Being Single,' Says Ananya

The biggest revelation came when Ananya admitted that she is single. She told Karan, "I never thought I would actually say this, but I am really enjoying being single." Karan was quick to welcome her to the club, saying, "Welcome to the club, baby."Ananya then explained why she feels this way. She said that in the past, she had often prioritised her relationships and other people over herself. But things have changed over the last few months."Der aaye, durust aaye. But I am really enjoying being single.

Sona Mohapatra

Mocks Salman Khan's Teri Sexy Beauty Song: 'This Is The Artistic Universe I Missed Out On?'

Singer Sona Mohapatra has once again taken a dig at Salman Khan, this time over his song Teri Sexy Beauty from Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace. Reflecting on her 20 years in the music industry, Sona questioned whether speaking out against the Bollywood superstar had really cost her anything worth regretting. She also revisited their previous disagreements and the harassment she allegedly endured after publicly criticising him.In a video shared on social media, Sona addressed people who had repeatedly suggested that her Bollywood career would have been more successful had she avoided confronting Salman. The singer responded with sarcasm, referring to the lyrics of Teri Sexy Beauty while defending her decision to build a career on her own terms.

Sona Mohapatra Mocks Salman Khan's Teri Sexy Beauty Song



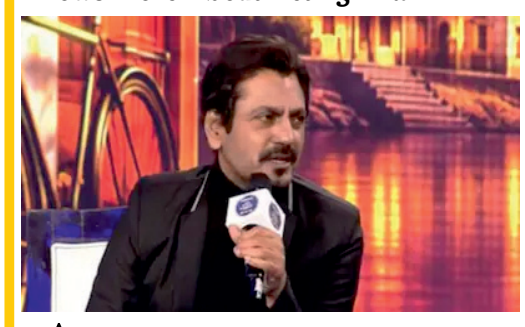
Sona revealed that Instagram's algorithm recently brought Salman's Teri Sexy Beauty to her attention, prompting her to reconsider the warnings she had received about allegedly jeopardising her Bollywood prospects."Our superstar is singing about two pegs and becoming an aeroplane and suddenly I remember those condolences. This is the artistic universe I missed out on, is it?" she remarked.Continuing in the same sarcastic vein, she asked, "Yahan dus aur gaane gaa leti toh mera jeevan safal ho jaata?"The singer's remarks were directed at the notion that working within the Bollywood mainstream, particularly alongside influential stars, should necessarily be regarded as the ultimate measure of professional achievement.Explaining her disagreement with that mindset, Sona said, "I don't know why people think being around power is success, as though entering somebody else's kingdom is a bigger achievement than building your own."

Sona Mohapatra Revisits Her 2016 Controversy With Salman Khan

The singer also recalled her public criticism of Salman in 2016, following his controversial comparison between the physical exhaustion of shooting a film and the experience of a woman who had suffered a traumatic ordeal.Sona said her objections resulted in sustained online harassment, including violent threats, sexually explicit morphed photographs and abusive messages directed at her family.She subsequently criticised the actor again in 2019 over his remarks concerning Priyanka Chopra's decision to prioritise marriage over his film.



Nawazuddin Siddiqui Admits He Underestimated Gen Z, Says Daughter Knows More About Acting Than Him



At the News18 Rising Bharat Summit 2027 held today, November 17, 2026, actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui shared why he thinks Gen Z is much smarter and more aware than the generations before them. From questioning their parents openly to watching films from different parts of the world, he believes today's youngsters have access to knowledge and experiences that his generation never had.Nawazuddin also got a little personal while talking about his daughter, Shora Siddiqui. The actor admitted that she made him realise just how much the younger generation knows about cinema and acting. In fact, he believes she has watched more international films in just three or four years than he has!

Nawazuddin Siddiqui Says Gen Z Is Smarter And More Confident

Talking about how today's youngsters are different from his generation, Nawazuddin said that children between 15 and 18 years of age are extremely smart. He pointed out that while people of his generation rarely questioned their parents, Gen Z has no problem asking questions and sharing its opinions."Aaj ki date mein mujhe lagta hai ki jo Gen Z hai, 15, 16, 17, 18 saal ke bachche hain, woh bahut smart hain. Inko duniya ka woh exposure hai jo humein nahi tha. Hum apne maa-baap ke saamne kabhi sawaal hi nahi karte the, nazar utha kar baat nahi karte the. Ye seedhe sawaal karte hain humse."

(I feel that today's Gen Z, especially children aged 15, 16, 17 and 18, are very smart. They have the kind of exposure to the world that we never had. We never questioned our parents or even dared to look them in the eye while speaking. But these youngsters directly question us).He also pointed out that youngsters today have access to films from across the world. With so much international content available, they are watching movies that even older generations may have missed. "Doosri baat, inhone poori duniya ka cinema dekha hua hai. Aaj koi bhi bachcha aisi cheez dekh chuka hoga jo shayad aapne nahi dekhi hogi," he added. (Another thing is that they have watched cinema from all over the world. Today, any young person might have watched something that you probably haven't even seen).

Kunal Kapoor Jokes About Playing James Bond After Robert Pattinson's Casting, Shares Suave Photos



Kunal Kapoor has offered a cheeky response to the announcement of Robert Pattinson as the next James Bond. While Hollywood is preparing to welcome Pattinson as the new 007, the Rang De Basanti actor has jokingly suggested that he, too, could be considered for the role. His pitch came with two photographs in a black suit, although he admitted that one essential part of Bond's wardrobe was missing.On Tuesday, November 17, Kunal shared the pictures on X with a short caption: "Still casting for bond? I'll need a bow tie then." The post comes a day after Amazon MGM Studios confirmed Pattinson as Daniel Craig's successor. Kunal's remark appears to be a playful take on the casting rather than an indication that he is involved with the franchise.

Kunal Kapoor Jokes About Playing James Bond In New Photos

In the two photographs, Kunal wears a black jacket over a crisp white shirt with its top buttons left open. His hair is pulled back, and he sports a beard as he looks away from the camera. The look bears some resemblance to the formal styling long associated with the fictional British secret agent, except for the bow tie Kunal mentions in his caption."Still casting for bond? I'll need a bow tie then," he wrote, leaving the joke to accompany the photographs.The post makes no claim about any meeting or audition. Instead, Kunal appears to be joining the conversation around one of the most closely watched casting decisions in Hollywood, using the unmistakable image of a tuxedo-clad Bond as his cue.

Robert Pattinson Confirmed As The New 007

Kunal's tongue-in-cheek post follows the official announcement on Monday, November 16, that Robert Pattinson will take over the role of James Bond. The 40-year-old British actor succeeds Daniel Craig, whose five-film tenure began with Casino Royale in 2006 and concluded with No Time to Die in 2021.Pattinson, who has played Batman and starred in the Twilight franchise, will lead the next instalment, which is being directed by Denis Villeneuve. Steven Knight is writing the screenplay, while Amy Pascal and David Heyman are producing the film.

Musk Felt "Pretty Foolish" Spending Rs 4,700 Crore On US Midterms

World.(Agency)

Elon Musk said on Wednesday he felt "pretty foolish" about the amount of money he spent on this year's US midterm elections after Republicans suffered sweeping losses.The CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, and the world's richest man, spent nearly half a billion dollars to back Republican candidates and keep Texas red - a state home to his automaker Tesla, rocket-to-AI company SpaceX and a planned chipmaking venture between the two.Those election-spending bets unraveled as Democrats seized both chambers of Congress, and Democrat Gina Hinojosa defeated Republican Greg Abbott in the Texas governor's race, in a stinging rebuke to US President Donald Trump, a close Musk ally whom the billionaire helped elect.I feel pretty foolish about having spent so much money and not seeing much for it," Musk said, speaking virtually at the New York Times DealBook Summit on Wednesday.

Anthropic Sets IPO Price At $83 Per Share, Targets $1.5 Trillion Valuation

world.(Agency).

Anthropic priced its initial public offering at $83 per share on Wednesday, an amount above the expected price range that values the artificial intelligence giant at $1.5 trillion.

The higher-than-anticipated pricing signals broad investor enthusiasm for AI stocks even amid some uncertainty in the market stemming from the ouster of Nvidia's CEO and worries about an AI bubble.

Anthropic said the offering consists of 980 million shares, roughly 956 million sold by the company and the rest by selling stockholders. Proceeds totaling $81 billion put Anthropic's IPO ahead of SpaceX, which raised about $75 billion in June.

The San Francisco-based maker of the Claude AI tool is set to make its debut Thursday on Wall Street. The company had set a price range of $70 to $78 per share, initially offering 825 million shares. The stock will begin trading on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol "ANT."

Crashed Florida Helicopter That Killed 1 Was Flying "Extremely" Low: Report

Miami.(Agency)

A helicopter that crashed earlier this month in Biscayne Bay, killing one person and critically injuring two others, had been flying so low that it hit the water on a turn, the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday.The Robinson R44 II helicopter went down November 4 near Bill Baggs State Park off Key Biscayne while on a trip to film a powerboating event offshore, the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office said. The pilot died, and a photographer and videographer on board were injured.The helicopter was making low-altitude turns “extremely” close to the surface of the water, according to the safety board's preliminary report. Some of the helicopter's doors had been removed to facilitate photography and videography. On one turn, the rotor blades hit the water and brought down the aircraft.The photographer told investigators the helicopter flew low and parallel to a boat's right side, then turned and got ahead of it for a “good shot” as the boat passed underneath, according to the report. Then the videographer observed the rotor blades strike the water.Television news video of the crash showed the helicopter upside down underwater with two yellow floats attached to the bottom of its landing skids.

Trump meets Xi and Putin in China as nuclear arms, Ukraine and Iran conflicts on the agenda

SHENZHEN.(Agency).

Chinese President Xi Jinping, US President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin posed for a group photograph at a regional forum on Thursday ahead of a closely watched trilateral summit in China.

Xi, Trump and Putin stood at the centre of the photograph marking the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Shenzhen. Other leaders, including Canada's Mark Carney, Australia's Anthony Albanese and Japan's Sanae Takaichi, also took part.

Thursday's meeting could mark a turning point in world history - or become a quickly forgotten photo opportunity.Trump, who will test his reputation as a dealmaker at the trilateral meeting, has promoted his talks with Xi and Putin - two of America's leading rivals - as an opportunity to discuss rules for controlling nuclear arms and begin resolving the wars in Ukraine and Iran. Experts, however, have kept expectations low for major breakthroughs.The president said the advantage of meeting the two autocrats at the same time was that their countries worked together. "They both like Trump. Now, what happens after me? That I can't tell you," Trump said in a Thursday interview with Fox News.

Trump plans to hold a separate one-on-one meeting with Xi - his third substantial meeting with him this year - immediately before the trilateral summit. He has also added a separate meeting with Putin to his schedule, marking the first time the leaders have held talks since their discussions in Alaska last year failed to broker a deal to end Russia's war in Ukraine.

Trump has frequently boasted of his rapport with Putin, even as relations between the US and Ukraine appear to have deteriorated recently. Trump rejected new sanctions on Russia, while Kyiv was undermined by disruptions to satellite support for its drones during the war.Elon Musk is also accompanying Trump on the trip but has so far kept a low profile. His company SpaceX has intermittently throttled the military-grade Starshield satellite system used by Ukraine to launch drones and intercept Russian attacks.Nuclear arms talks



unlikely to yield a breakthrough

The trilateral summit is scheduled to take place after a session with leaders at the APEC summit on Thursday morning and is expected to be the culmination of Trump's Asia trip, which began on Tuesday in the Philippines.Trump has said he wants to discuss the leaders' nuclear stockpiles. The last nuclear arms pact between Russia and the United States, known as New START, expired in February, and Trump has said he wants "a new, improved and modernized" deal that includes China.But China has less incentive to accept limits, given that its arsenal of more than 600 warheads is far smaller than the more than 5,000 warheads believed to be held by each of the US and Russia.Daryl Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association, said Trump's showmanship could, at best, begin a process that might eventually lead to sustained talks on reducing nuclear arsenals.

"We need more than diplomatic theater and photo opportunities between Xi, Putin and Trump at APEC," Kimball said. "And one meeting will not likely produce dramatic breakthroughs."Trump told Fox News in his interview that "it's a very hard thing to do" to ask a leader to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

Vincent Van Gogh's 1890 Painting Sells For $190.4 Million

World.(Agency)

A Vincent van Gogh masterpiece sold for a record-breaking $190.4 million Wednesday after a dispute between the seller and the heirs of a previous Jewish owner who sold it in the Nazi era, Sotheby's said."Chataigniers en fleurs" (Chestnut Trees in Blossom) painted in 1890 in Auvers-sur-Oise, France set a new record for the Dutch post-Impressionist and became the most expensive work auctioned off so far this season.The previous auction record for a painting by Van Gogh was $117.2 million for the 1888 "Orchard with Cypresses" at Christie's in New York in November 2022.An influential German publisher, Samuel Fischer, acquired the painting in Paris in 1909 and his family sold it in 1936.His heirs had previously opposed the sale, saying Fischer's family parted with the painting only because of financial losses suffered under the Nazis.The heirs' Berlin-based



lawyer, Gunnar Schnabel, had called on Sotheby's to prove the painting was sold at its market value and that the family would have sold it regardless of the political context.The Blaquier-Arrieta family acquired the painting in 1975 and has owned it for more than half a century, according to Sotheby's.

But on Tuesday, Sotheby's said "an agreement has been reached between the Blaquier-Arrieta family and all of the legal descendants of Hedwig and Samuel Fischer regarding the sale of Vincent van Gogh's Chataigniers en fleurs." Schnabel did not respond to an AFP request for comment.

According to Sotheby's, the Fischer heirs said they were "grateful for the trusting and fair negotiation and collaboration with Sotheby's and the Blaquier-Arrieta family, which make it possible to acknowledge the suffering of the Fischer family during the Nazi era and honor Gisela Berman Fischer's history of seeking justice for her family."

US Democrats prepare probes into Trump family, administration ahead of taking control of House panel

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

The top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee is laying the groundwork for long-promised investigations of the Trump administration that will launch with the new Congress in January.

Ads by Tapmind

Rep. Robert Garcia of California, who is expected to lead the committee when Democrats take control, sent letters directing members of President Donald Trump’s family and top administration officials to preserve documents. It's an early step toward undertaking investigations of the Republican president and his administration.The letters released Wednesday cover a wide range of potential investigations, including alleged financial conflicts involving Trump’s family, misconduct at the Department of Homeland Security and the administration’s handling of files related to Jeffrey Epstein.“Oversight Democrats are fighting to put an end to this Administration’s self-dealing, misconduct, and abuse,” Garcia said in a statement. “These investigations will lay the groundwork for legislation which helps all Americans. This is just the beginning.”Targets of the letters include two of Trump’s sons, Vice President JD Vance, White House chief of staff Stephen Miller, Attorney General Todd Blanche and Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law.

The White House has repeatedly pushed back at the investigative ambitions outlined by Democrats, with officials saying they are willing to engage on oversight inquiries that they see as legitimate but not ones assessed as politically motivated.

The president is "willing to work with anyone to continue delivering victories for hardworking Americans," White House spokesperson Lauren Bis said. "If Democrats choose to pursue sham investigations and radical left policies, they are choosing to work against the American people.”

Later Wednesday, White House counsel Will Scharf wrote a letter addressed to Democratic lawmakers, effectively dismissing requests for information from them for the remainder of the year because Democrats are currently not in the majority.

Flooded Road, Collapsed Synagogue Roof In South Florida Amid Heavy Rain

Plantation, Florida.(Agency)

A slow-moving storm system dumped heavy rains in South Florida, flooding some streets and homes, closing sections of highways and collapsing the roof of a synagogue Wednesday.On the West Coast, heavy rain and high winds grounded planes at San Francisco's airport, disrupted ferry service and flooded roads in Napa County and other wine country areas north of the city.

Preliminary figures for Florida showed 15.3 inches (39 centimeters) of rain fell in a 24-hour period ending Wednesday in parts of Broward County, the National Weather Service said.The threat was expected to last through Friday along Florida's Atlantic Coast with additional rainfall amounts of 12 inches (30



centimeters) possible, the weather service said.A low-pressure system is expected to form near the northern Bahamas. It could become a subtropical or tropical storm over parts of the southeast and mid-Atlantic coasts into early next week, according to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The natural warming cycle called El Nino has disrupted Florida's typical dry season that runs from October to May, said Alejandra Garcia, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Miami. El Nino is "helping bring these low pressure systems down toward the southeastern United States, which in turn is causing these heavy precipitation events," she said.In Florida, Broward County and the cities of Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood declared states of emergency.

Israel Launches Ground Operation In Hamas-Controlled Central Gaza

world.(Agency)

The Israeli military said it had launched an operation on Wednesday in a Hamas-controlled area of central Gaza, where an AFP journalist saw Israeli tanks position themselves east of the Nuseirat refugee camp.

The rare ground incursion came after inconclusive Israeli elections, with the opposition's Gadi Eisenkot trying to form a government without caretaker prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has built his brand on saying he will ensure Israel's security.

A Gaza security source told AFP there was "intense Israeli artillery shelling" north of Nuseirat refugee camp and reported Israeli military vehicles in central Gaza "amid ongoing gunfire and airstrikes since midday".



The army and the internal security agency Shin Bet launched the joint operation to "dismantle a terror tunnel west of the Yellow Line that posed an immediate and direct threat to IDF troops", the military said in a statement. The Yellow Line, declared by Israel following the start of the current ceasefire in October 2025, separates Israeli and Hamas-controlled areas, with the Israeli military saying it controls more than 60 percent of the Palestinian territory.An army spokesperson told AFP on Wednesday evening that the operation was ongoing.

'Shelling and explosions'Residents of the affected areas told AFP they had fled for their safety, many of them not for the first time. One man was killed near the Nuseirat camp, one in Gaza City and one outside the Deir el-Balah police station in the central Gaza Strip, the agency said. It was not immediately clear whether the three attacks were linked to the ground operation.

The Israeli military told AFP that in the first two strikes it targeted "terrorists" and that it was not aware of the third attack.Most of Gaza's 2.1 million people have been displaced at least once since the war erupted following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on Israel."When we heard the sounds of shelling and explosions, we were terrified, especially since the area we live in is close to the points of incursion," Um Ahmad al-Tartoori, a resident of the Al-Bureij camp, told AFP.

In addition, three Palestinians were killed and a number of people wounded in three separate Israeli drone strikes on Wednesday, according to Gaza's civil defence agency. "We fear this may be the start of a broader operation and that displacement will begin anew, as we have not yet recovered from the effects of the previous war and displacement," another Al-Bureij resident, 27-year-old Mahmoud al-Saafin, told AFP.

Fiji Declares State Of Disaster Amid El Nino-Driven Drought

world.(Agency)

Fiji has declared a national state of disaster after an El Nino-driven drought caused widespread water shortages, with the Pacific nation's weather bureau forecasting below-normal rainfall until at least April.In a national address on Wednesday, Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka said the declaration would allow his government to scale up its response by mobilising resources and coordinating assistance as conditions continue to worsen."Families across Fiji are concerned about the availability of water and the effects of prolonged dry conditions on their daily lives," Rabuka said."Farmers are worried about their crops and livestock, while communities, particularly in remote and maritime areas, face growing pressure on their water supplies. These concerns are real."

Rabuka said his government has set aside 20 million Fiji dollars ($8.5 million) for the national response, redeployed from existing funds, to ensure emergency water supplies for families and farmers.

The state of disaster has been declared for one month, with the government able to extend or revoke it based on the advice of the National Disaster Risk Management Council.El Nino is a natural climate pattern in which surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean become unusually warm, causing weather extremes around the world, including drought in some regions and flooding in others. Some scientists say global warming may increase its intensity.The US Climate Prediction Center said last week that El Nino is strengthening, with a greater than 79% chance of a strong-to-very-strong event through January to March. Australia in June said El Nino could intensify in the second half of 2026 to become one of the



strongest in seven decades.Fiji's national weather bureau warned in October that strong El Nino conditions persist across the tropical Pacific.Rainfall is likely to remain below normal from November through April, while daytime temperatures are expected to exceed normal levels through January across most of the country, the Fiji Meteorological Service said.