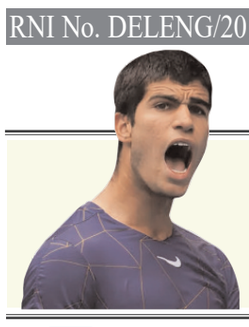
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SPORTS: PG 7
Alcaraz beats Sinner to yearend world number one after ....



BUSINESS: PG 6
Narayana Murthy's endorsement of a '9,9,6 China'..

ENTERTAINMENT: PG 8
The clever duality at the heart of Nayanthara's superstardom...



Quote of the day



Threats to national unity may arise from both external and internal forces, and it is the duty of every citizen to uphold the integrity of the country

CH VIJAYASHANKAR | MEGHALAYA GUV



On this very day, the Hon'ble Union Home Minister Sri @AmitShah Ji has granted the required sanction under Section 208 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) to proceed against the accused linked to Zubeen's death in Singapore

AMIT SHAH | UNION HOME MINISTER



The problem of space missions is that there is no one right answer. You can do it in 10 different ways. What I can do is verify the robustness of what we are doing. That activity is happening

SHUBHANSHU SHUKLA | ASTRONAUT

SHORT TAKES

EC summons Punjab DGP

New Delhi: The Election Commission has summoned Punjab DGP Gaurav Yadav here November 25 over complaints against Tarn Taran SSP during the recent assembly bypoll, officials said Tuesday. The EC had ordered the suspension of Senior Superintendent of Police Ravjot Kaur Grewal, following complaints by opposition Akali Dal leader Sukhbir Singh Badal.

Toll in stone quarry collapse mounts to 7

Sonbhadra (UP): The death toll in the stone quarry collapse in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district has climbed to seven with another body being recovered from the rubble, officials said Tuesday The rescue operations are now over, they said. According to the district administration, the seventh body has been identified as that of Gulab Kharwar (32), a resident of Obra police station area of Sonbhadra.

Fire breaks out at Visva Bharati campus

Kolkata: A fire broke out at the Bhasa Bhavan building on the Visva Bharati campus in Santiniketan Tuesday, fire brigade sources said. There was no report of any injury in the fire, they said. A spokesperson of the central university said sparks were detected in one AC machine installed in the external part of the building on the first floor "long before the classes began and was attended immediately by the trained security personnel in a few minutes."

Pollution: Residents, students stage protest

New Delhi: Hundreds of Delhiites, including students from JNU, Delhi University and Jamia Millia Islamia, staged a protest at Jantar Mantar Tuesday demanding immediate action to improve the national capital's air quality.

Mizoram announces 4 per cent hike in DA

Aizawl: The Mizoram government has decided to enhance the dearness allowance (DA) for government employees by 4 per cent with effect from November 1, a senior official said Tuesday. The decision was taken at a meeting of the council of ministers, chaired by Chief Minister Lalduhoma, he said.

Bomber's video reveals 'martyrdom operations'

The critical evidence was unearthed after the detention and subsequent interrogation of Zahoor Illahi, brother of Umar who was driving the explosive-laden car that blasted outside Red Fort November 10 killing 15 people

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: Jammu and Kashmir Police have recovered a mobile phone of the Red Fort suicide bomber, Dr Umar-un-Nabi, and the extracted data has provided chilling evidence to show that he had prepared a video justifying the suicide attack as a 'martyrdom operation'.

The critical evidence was unearthed after the detention and subsequent interrogation of Zahoor Illahi, brother of Umar who was driving the explosive-laden car that blasted outside Red Fort November 10 killing 15 people, officials said Tuesday.

Illahi was picked up by a special team formed by Senior Superintendent of Police (Srinagar) G V Sundeep Chakravarthy as the entire white-collar terror module conspiracy began to unravel.

Initially feigning ignorance, Illahi eventually cracked under sustained questioning and told his interrogators that Umar, who was in the Kashmir valley between October 26 and 29, had handed him the mobile phone with explicit instructions to "dump it in water" if any news about him surfaced,

RED FORT BLAST



the officials said. Illahi subsequently led the police team to the dumping spot. Though the handset was damaged, forensic experts managed to extract the vital data, which strongly indicates Umar's deep radicalisation through exposure to violent extremist content that included watching radical videos pertaining to suicide bombings by the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Al-Qaeda.

Umar had also made various videos of himself talking about the suicide attack and claimed that such acts were one of the most praised acts in the religion. The videos were shot in April this year with Umar, the 28-year-old doctor from Pulwama in Kashmir, speaking in a heavy accented voice. He described suicide bombings as "martyrdom operations" and asserted that such actions are not only permissible but are regarded as commendable within the context of jihad, they said.

A nearly two-minute-long video of Umar also made rounds on social media. It shows Umar struggling to articulate his thoughts clearly, often faltering throughout the recording, before abruptly concluding it.This video is part of a larger collection in which Umar is apparently rehearsing his statements.

The phone was handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for further analysis, officials said, adding the NIA will take custody of the brother soon.

Umar is believed to have been the most radicalised and key operative in the network, which spanned Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

J&K doctor, wife held on charges of radicalising women

Srinagar: The counter intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police Tuesday detained a government doctor and his wife for allegedly misusing their positions to mask unlawful activities including radicalising local women, officials said. The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) conducted coordinated searches at four locations across the districts of Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag Tuesday. The searches were part of an ongoing crackdown against social media abusers operating in connivance with handlers across the border, who have been deliberately engaged in furthering terrorist, secessionist, and separatist agendas, the officials said. By leveraging their professional status and societal standing, the involved individuals were allegedly using social media platforms to spread disinformation, radicalize youth, incite violence and disturb public order, posing a serious threat to the peace and sovereignty of the Union of India, they added.

Multiple courts, two CRPF schools hit by hoax bomb threats

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: Multiple courts in Delhi — Saket, Dwarka and Patiala House — along with two CRPF-run schools, received bomb threats Tuesday morning, prompting large-scale security checks across the national capital, officials said.

Police said an email sent in the name of a terror module claimed that explosives had been planted on court premises early morning. Several teams of bomb disposal squad, dog squad, and officers from the local police station were deployed to sweep the district court complexes.

"So far, nothing suspicious was found during the checks," said a police source, adding that the email from which the message was received is under surveillance to determine its origin. Around the same time, an unidentified man called the Police Control Room (PCR), claiming that bombs had been placed inside CRPF schools in Prashant Vihar and Dwarka and he needed help from police.

The threat triggered a similar response in this case, too, and teams were dispatched to the locations and schools were evacuated. "We thoroughly inspected the schools, and nothing suspicious was found. The threat was declared a hoax," a Delhi Fire Services official said.

There was an annual function scheduled in the evening at the Prashant Vihar school.

A police officer said the caller's phone switched off soon after the threat call and no one was found at his address. Efforts are underway to trace him. Earlier, Dhir Singh Kasana, former secretary of the Saket Court Bar Association, said that court proceedings had stopped for about two hours but resumed after lunch.

TOP MAOIST HIDMA KILLED IN ENCOUNTER

Last nail in the coffin of insurgency: Police

AGENCIES

Maredumilli (Andhra Pradesh)/Raipur, Nov 18: Top Naxal commander Madvi Hidma and his wife were among the six Maoists killed in an encounter with security personnel in Andhra Pradesh's Alluri Sitaramaraju district Tuesday, police said, describing the development as "the last nail in the coffin" of insurgency.

Hidma, who joined the organisation in the late 1990s as a ground-level organiser, masterminded several attacks over the last two decades and became one of the most wanted Maoists after the Tadmetla (Dantewada) attack in which 76 security personnel were killed in 2010. He had then assisted another top Maoist commander, Papa Rao, in executing the strike.

An expert in guerrilla warfare, Hidma was known to carry an AK-47 rifle, while members of his huge unit moved with sophisticated weapons. His four-layered security ring inside the forests reportedly made him untraceable for years. He had over Rs 1 crore bounty on his head at the time of his death. A native of Puvarti village in Sukma district in Chhattisgarh, Hidma's age and appearance remained mysterious until his photograph surfaced earlier this year. He was elevated to the Maoists' Central Committee last year.

Hidma, 51, also headed the Maoists' People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA) Battalion No. 1, the strongest military formation of the outfit in Dandakaranya and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Telangana, and Maharashtra, apart from Bastar, for several years, Chhattisgarh officials said. Alluri Sitaramaraju district superintendent of police (SP) Amit Bardar said the encounter happened between 6.30 am and 7 am in the forested area of Maredumilli mandal.

"This morning, between 6:30 AM and 7:00 AM, an exchange of fire (EOF) occurred between Maoists and the police party in the Maredumilli Mandal area. During the encounter, six Maoists were neutralised," Bardar said in an official press release.

Two women and four men were killed in the exchange of fire, it said, and added that based on reliable sources and field verification, police confirmed that Hidma, his wife Madakam Raje, Deve, Lakmal (Chaitu), Malla (Mallalu), and Kamlu (Kamlesh) died. Intelligence inputs over the past few weeks had indicated increased Maoist movement along the Andhra Pradesh–Chhattisgarh–Odisha border, leading to intensified combing operations, the release said.

Following the encounter, police seized two AK-47 rifles, one pistol, one revolver, and a single-barreled weapon, a number of electrical and non-electrical detonators, fuse wire, seven kit bags, and others. "Combing operations are continuing in the surrounding areas to ensure complete sanitisation and prevent further Maoist activity," the press release added. According to the SP, it was a joint operation carried out by various wings of the police department.

Addressing a press conference, Andhra Pradesh Intelligence ADGP Mahesh Chandra Laddha said Maoists from a few battalions were planning to shift to Andhra Pradesh due to continuous pressure in Chhattisgarh.



Devotees visit Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple ahead of the 'Murajapam' festival, in Thiruvananthapuram

Those who say filthy kidney, debate me: Lalu's daughter

AGENCIES

Patna, Nov 18: RJD president Lalu Prasad's daughter Rohini Acharya Tuesday slammed those who accused her of giving a "filthy kidney" to her ailing father and challenged them to an open debate with her on the issue.

Acharya also asked these people to donate their kidneys to millions of patients needing the organ "in the name of Lalu ji". Following the RJD's poll debacle, Acharya Sunday alleged that she has been "sworn at" and accused of extracting "crores of rupees and a party ticket" in exchange for a "filthy kidney" that she gave to her ailing father. She has also claimed that she had been "driven out" of her parents' home by the cohorts of her younger brother Tejashwi Yadav. "Those people who want to do something in the name of Lalu Ji should stop pretending to show false sympathy. They should come



forward for donating their kidneys to those millions of poor people who are counting their last breaths in hospitals and need kidneys donate their kidneys in the name of Lalu Ji," Acharya said in a post on X.

The 47-year-old, who is based in Singapore, said, "Those who dare to call a married daughter who donates a kidney to her father wrong should muster the guts to have an open debate with that daughter on an open platform".

Those who call a daughter's kidney "filthy" should be the first to start the great act of donating kidneys to the needy, she said.

Woman collapses, dies in Sabarimala darshan queue

AGENCIES

Pathanamthitta(Kerala), Nov 18: A 58-year-old woman collapsed and died while waiting in queue for darshan at the Lord Ayyappa shrine in Sabarimala Tuesday, sources in the district administration said.

Travancore Devaswom Board (TDB) president K Jayakumar told reporters that the woman's body would be transported back to her native place in an ambulance at the the TDB's expense.

The deceased woman is from Koyilandy in Kozhikode district, officials said. Meanwhile, a bus carrying around 33 pilgrims, including children, from Karnataka overturned near Erumely in Kottayam district while on the way to Sabarimala, police said.

Three of the passengers suffered minor scrapes and bruises and were discharged after treatment, they said.

The accident occurred as the driver was overtaking another vehicle from the right side on a downward slope and lost control, police said.

Meanwhile, as nearly two lakh devotees arrived at the Lord Ayyappa shrine at Sabarimala here Tuesday within 48 hours of the temple opening for the annual 'mandala-makaravilakku' pilgrimage season, the TDB and the police struggled to manage the massive flow of pilgrims, including children.

Visuals on TV channels showed a massive crowd of devotees packed like sardines in the small area in front of the 18 steps that have to be climbed to reach the main doors of the shrine.

Large crowds of devotees packed the pilgrimage route from Pamba, the foothills of Sabarimala, to the Sannidhanam, with many facing hours-long delays in climbing the path.

Small children carried on top of their parents' shoulders could be seen crying as the huge crowd of devotees jostled with each other to move forward.

SC flags alarming missing children report

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Nov 18: The Supreme Court Tuesday voiced concern over a news report that claimed that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country, and described it as a serious issue.

A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and R Mahadevan said the adoption process in the country is complicated and asked the Centre to streamline the mechanism.

"I have read in a newspaper that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country. I don't know if this is true or not. But this is a serious issue," Justice Nagarathna observed orally.

The top court remarked that as the adoption process is rigorous, it is bound to be flouted and people go for illegal means to have children.

During the hearing, Addi-

> I have read in a newspaper that every eight minutes, a child goes missing in the country. I don't know if this is true or not. But this is a serious issue
>
> **JUSTICE NAGARATHNA**

tional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, sought six weeks time for appointing a nodal officer to handle cases of missing children.

The apex court, however, refused to grant six weeks and asked the ASG to complete the process by December 9.

On October 14, the bench had directed the Union government to instruct all States and Union territories to depute a nodal officer to handle cases of missing children and to provide their names and contact details for publication on the Mission Vatsalya portal operated by the





Ministry of Women and Child Development.

It had directed that whenever a complaint regarding a missing child is received on the portal, the information should be simultaneously shared with the respective nodal officers.

The top court had earlier asked the Centre to create a dedicated online portal under the aegis of the home ministry to trace missing children and investigate such cases.

It had underlined the lack of coordination among police authorities entrusted with the job of tracing missing children in States and Union territories in the country.

The court had said the portal could have a dedicated officer from each state who could be the in-charge of missing complaints besides disseminate information.

NGO Guria Swayam Sevi Sansthan had moved the top court and highlighted unresolved cases of kidnapping or missing children besides the actions required to be taken on the basis of information available with the Khoya/Paya portal monitored by the government of India.

The petition illustrated its argument with five cases registered in Uttar Pradesh last year in which minor boys and girls were kidnapped and trafficked through a network of middlemen to states like Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The Municipal Corporation received 27 complaints on Sambhav Diwas, two of which were resolved on the spot

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MATHURA (UP): 'Sambhava Diwas' was organized by Mathura-Vrindavan Municipal Corporation on Tuesday. A public hearing was held at the main office in Bhuteshwar under the chairmanship of Municipal Commissioner Jag Pravesh. Apart from this, Assistant Municipal Commissioner Anuj Kaushik at Vrindavan zonal office and Additional Municipal Commissioner Anil Kumar at General Ganj office also heard the complaints of the citizens.



Municipal corporation department heads were present at all the centres. A total of 27 complaints were registered across the three zones during Sambhav Diwas. Of these, two complaints were resolved immediately on the spot, while the concerned officers were given a fixed time limit to resolve the remaining cases. A total of 15 complaints were received in Bhuteshwar zone. Of these, 7 were related to encroachment, 5 to street lights, 1 to cleanliness, 1 to renewal of lease and 1 to dog catching. Two complaints related to street lights and dog catching were resolved on the spot. A total of 11 complaints were registered in the Vrindavan zone. Of these, 2 were related to cleanliness, 3 to Jalkal, 3 to Nazul and 3 to the construction department. At the same time, a complaint related to birth-death certificates was received in the city zone. During the public hearing, Additional Municipal Commissioner Saurabh Singh, Assistant Municipal Commissioners Rakesh Kumar Tyagi and Kalpana Singh Chauhan, General Manager Water Mohammad Anwar Khwaja, Executive Engineer Construction Amarendra Gautam, Junior Engineer Electrical Engineering Shailesh Singh and other officials of the Municipal Corporation were present. Municipal Commissioner Jag Pravesh instructed all the officers to ensure timely resolution of every complaint, so that citizens can get quick relief.

Food Safety on Wheels, led by Assistant Food Commissioner Dhirendra Pratap Singh, collected food samples from shops.

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MATHURA (UP): As part of the awareness campaign, the Food Safety Department informed the local people about adulteration testing through Food Safety on Wheels (Food Mobile Laboratory) in Krishnanagar and tested samples from 19 different shops. Gave instructions to food vendors to improve. Food Safety Officer Bharat Singh gave home remedies for testing food items at home through a food mobile laboratory vehicle. Made them aware. 19 samples



were taken. There was chaos among the vendors once they saw the vehicle. Made people aware. Instructions were given to food vendors that license and registration is necessary for food business. Do not use synthetic colours. Instructions were also given to maintain cleanliness and hygienic condition of the kitchen and food preparation area. Instructions were given to use head cap, face mask, apron, hand gloves etc., cover prepared food items and display food license/registration. According to Assistant Food Commissioner Dhirendra Pratap Singh, a campaign is being run to make people aware

Compassion for Living Beings on the 90th Birth Anniversary of Gurudev Shrimadvijay Jayantsensuriji

OUR CORRESPONDENT

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA): The members of the All India Shri Rajendra Jain Navyuvak Parishad, Bengaluru branch, organized a Jeevdaya program on the occasion of the 90th Birth Anniversary of the Prana Purush of the Punya Samrat Yug Prabhavak Parishad, Pujya Gurudev Shrimad Vijay Jayantsensurishwarji Maharaj.



During this event, fodder, fruits, and vegetables were provided for the service of Gauvansh at the Koramangala Gaushala, and arrangements were made for grain and water for Pigeons.

The program was held under the guidance of Dungarmal Chopra, South Provincial General Secretary of the Parishad, and Hemraj Jain, President of the Bengaluru Branch, and Nemichand Sanghvi, Secretary. Many members, including Vice President Champalal Nimani, Treasurer Dinesh Ostwal, and members Raju Gandhimutha, Nirmal Jain, Mahendra Sanghvi, Prakash Ostwal, Sohanlal Kataria Sanghvi, and others were present.

Young student Madhav Chaturvedi has created history in the bicycle journey organized to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel

OUR CORRESPONDENT

LUCKNOW (UP): Young student Madhav Chaturvedi has created history as the only successful competitor from the state in the cycle journey from Kashmir to Kanyakumari while participating in the 'Ride for Unity' organized on the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Madhav, who reached home 16 days after completing the journey, was warmly welcomed by the local people.



Let us tell you that Madhav, the grandson of Pratap Chandra Chaturvedi, who lives in Indraprastha Anand Apartment, Indira Nagar, is pursuing postgraduate studies in MSc Counseling Psychology from Montfort College, Bangalore. Madhav had a great passion for cycling from the beginning. He has participated in many competitions. 'Ride for Unity' cycle journey was organized from Kashmir to Kanyakumari on the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel under the Fit India Movement run by the Ministry of Youth Sports, Government of India. Madhav Chaturvedi said that 150 youth from across the country had participated in this cycle journey, out of which 50 youth completed the entire journey. Three youths from Uttar Pradesh participated, out of which only he (Madhav Chaturvedi) completed this cycle journey. The yatra started from Jammu and Kashmir on 31 October and reached Kanyakumari on 16 November. Madhav told that he credits his success to his recently deceased grandmother. Would like to thank Mrs. Urvashi Chaturvedi, mother Mrs. Tanuja and father Mr. Harsh Chaturvedi, without whose encouragement and support this was not possible.

After completing the journey, Madhav was warmly welcomed by the local residents on reaching his home, Indraprastha Anand Apartment, Indira Nagar. The young man became emotional after meeting family members and residents. On this occasion, local residents MK Aggarwal, Dr. Naveen Kumar Mittal, Anupama Srivastava, Vishal Aggarwal, Suraj Singh, Jitendra Singh, Dr. Nandani, Mohini Chaturvedi, Kadil Kukreja welcomed this youth by garlanding him.

District Magistrate Dr. Vijay Kumar Singh and SSP Vipin Tada jointly inspected the district jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MEERUT (UP): District Magistrate Dr. Vijay Kumar Singh and SSP Vipin Tada jointly inspected the district jail. In the District



Jail, the District Magistrate and SSP inspected the medical room, nursery, women's ward etc. In the women's ward, he talked to the prisoners and obtained information from them about their food habits, health, lawyers etc. On this occasion, Jail Superintendent District Prison Veeresh Raj Sharma, District Probation Officer Anupam Yadav and other concerned officers and employees were present.

Assam's PCCF & HOFF Sandeep Kumar Felicitates Medal Winners of All India Forest Sports Meet held recently in Dehradun

PANKAJ NATH
HUMMER NEWS

ASSAM : The 28th All India Forest Sports Meet, held in Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand, from November 12, concluded on November 16. In this national-level event, the 76-members of Assam Forest Department team delivered an outstanding performance, winning a total of 17 medals — 5 gold, 6 silver, and 6 bronze. In weightlifting, Rabin Kumar Baishya, Assistant Conservator of Forests from Nagaon Forest Division, clinched two gold medals in the 60 kg MV & MSV categories and two silver medals





in the 59 kg MV & MSV categories and secured a total of 4 individual Medals. In the women's track events, sprinter Pakhila Ingtipi won gold medals in both the 400 and 800 meters WV races, while also securing a silver in the 100 meters WV and a bronze in the 200 meters WV, earning a total of four individual medals. In discus throw, Bijoy Chetia Patra won one gold, one silver, and one bronze, totaling three medals. In the 400 meters MSV race, Joy Gopal Barman won a silver medal. Among women athletes, Gitika Das bagged bronze in the 63 kg WV weightlifting category, Urmila Budhagohain won bronze in the 47 kg category, and Madhumita Gogoi claimed bronze in the 52 kg category. In the marathon, Sangmir Teronpi also secured a bronze medal. The football team of the Assam Forest Department also exhibited a spirited performance. However, after the final match ended in a draw, Chhattisgarh defeated Assam 4–2 in the penalty shootout to clinch the championship title. Despite that, the Assam team secured the ninth position overall in India with 67 points. A total of 42 teams and from 28 states and union territories participated in the event. The team was managed by Dwibon Kumar Baishya under the supervision of Nodal Officer Rajendra Bharati. On Wednesday, Assam's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Sandeep Kumar, felicitated the medal-winning players at the Aranya Bhavan, Guwahati, Panjabari in the presence of senior forest officials. The players were honored with traditional Phulam Gamuchas, Caps and mementos as a gesture of appreciation and pride.

An awareness programme on cervical cancer was organised in Raghunath Girls Inter College

OUR CORRESPONDENT

MEERUT (UP): According to the Action Plan 2025-2026 issued by Uttar Pradesh State Legal Services Authority, a legal awareness program on the topic "PCPNDT Act and Cervical Cancer" was organized at Raghunath Girls Inter College. The girls present in the program were given detailed information about PCPNDT Act and Cervical Cancer by Chandrika Kaushik, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Council. In the end, Ramesh Kushwaha, Additional District Judge-Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, presiding over the program, explained what rights have been provided to girls by the Indian Constitution. And the girls present in the program were informed in detail about which toll free numbers have been issued by the government for the safety of girls etc.



AAP councillor Damanpreet Singh Badal has criticized the Municipal Corporation's proposed action of publicly shaming him as wrong and insensitive

OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH (PUNJAB): Aam Aadmi Party Councillor Damanpreet Singh Badal has called the Municipal Corporation's proposed action of publicly shaming those who throw garbage in public places by beating drums and trumpets as wrong and insensitive.



Damanpreet Singh Badal said, "Action against those who throw garbage in public places is necessary, but shaming them by beating drums and trumpets is absolutely wrong. The only appropriate and legal way is to issue a challan. Corporation officials should understand that every person has their own dignity, and thus insulting someone in this manner is neither socially correct nor legally acceptable."

He further said that to improve sanitation, the administration needs to increase awareness, make the penalty system effective, and work on solid waste management, rather than publicly shaming any citizen.

The Vishwagurudeep Ashram Research Institute in Jaipur became a cluster center of the "Gyan Bharat Mission."

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR (RAJASTHAN): Under the mission of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the leadership of Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has authorized the Vishwagurudeep Ashram Research Institute, Jaipur, as a Cluster Centre under the Gyan Bharat Mission. The Government of India has granted formal permission to this Cluster Centre to operate activities related to the preservation, promotion, research, and digitization of manuscripts across the entire state of Rajasthan. This step is considered extremely important in the direction of preserving India's ancient knowledge tradition, Indian philosophy, and cultural heritage.



With the blessings of the Institute's President, Vishwaguru Swami Maheshwaranandji Maharaj, his disciple and the Institute's Vice President, Mahamandaleshwar Swami Gyaneshwarpuriji, signed the permission letter at the Gyan Bharatam Mission headquarters in Delhi and stated that this is the greatest achievement in history. This work on manuscripts is a big step towards the construction of a New India, which will secure the priceless repository of ancient knowledge for the coming generations.

The Vishwagurudeep Ashram Research Institute, Jaipur, will extensively conduct manuscript discovery, cataloging, preservation, research studies, and training programs in various districts of Rajasthan in the coming time, with the work commencing in the Bikaner and Jodhpur regions.

Venkateswara Rao Appointed,As National President of Cow Seva Wing

HUMMER NEWS

HYDERABAD: Mr Venkateswara Rao has been appointed as the National President of the Cow Seva Wing of Indian Praja Congress Party. Dr. SN Udayalakshmi, Working President of the Indian Praja Congress Party, handed over the appointment Letter in Indian Praja Congress Party office. Speaking on the occasion, Venkateswara Rao said that, Country will be prosperous , where cows are protected, nature will cooperate and the country will be fertile. It has been scientifically proved , Speaking on the occasion, Venkateswara Rao thanked the National President of the Indian Praja Congress Party, Mr KB Sridhar, and Other members of the executive committee for entrusting upon me with this responsibility, He appealed to the central and state governments to make efforts to inform the people about the greatness and benefits of the cow. If necessary, a Praja Chaitanya Yatra will be organized from Kanyakumari to Kashmir to create awareness among the people to



declare the cow as the national animal. On this occasion, Venkateswara Rao appointed Dr. Subhanali as the National Vice President of the Gow Seva Wing , Nadendla Sudhakar Rao as the General Secretary, Muppidi Vasudeva Rao as the Joint Secretary, and Dr. Padmini Devi Akarapu as the Treasurer.

REC Shines at the 7th Edition of Future of Legal and Compliance Summit & Awards 2025

HUMMER NEWS



NEW DELHI: REC Limited, a Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power and a leading NBFC, proudly emerged as a front-runner in legal and compliance excellence at the prestigious 7th Edition of the Future of Legal and Compliance Summit & Awards 2025, held on November 14, 2025.

Demonstrating its unwavering commitment to innovation and excellence in a progressive, tech-driven environment, REC secured top honours in three distinguished categories:

· Best Legal Technology Implementation of the Year

· Compliance Innovation of the Year

· Compliance Team of the Year

The accolades were received by REC's representatives, Shri Dinesh Kaushik (GM), Shri Rajeshwar Valaboju (DGM) and Shri Chander Mohan Sharma (DGM), who accepted the awards on behalf of the organisation.

These recognitions further strengthen REC's position as a thought leader in the legal and compliance domain, as the organisation continues to set new industry benchmarks through technology integration, strategic innovation, and robust governance frameworks.

Commendable Contribution of Beti Foundation: Grand Mass Wedding of 31 Brides in Chhattarpur, MP and MLA Extended Greetings

REYASAT ALI SAMEER
HUMMER NEWS
SENIOR CORRESPONDENT







NEW DELHI: In a remarkable step towards strengthening the resolve of "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao", Beti Foundation (Regd.) successfully organized a mass wedding ceremony for 31 daughters belonging to economically weaker families on Sunday at Rishi Markandeya Bhawan, located in the Chhattarpur Temple complex. The grand event was graced by prominent dignitaries including South Delhi MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and Chhattarpur MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar. Their presence not only symbolized social harmony but also brought new hope to families struggling under the burden of poverty.

The ceremony began around noon, when 31 grooms arrived riding horses, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of dhol and tasha. The officials and volunteers of Beti Foundation welcomed them with traditional rituals, including women showering flowers and tying turbans to honor the guests. The organization made excellent arrangements at the venue—separate decorated mandaps for each couple, two stages (one for the guests and the other for the bridegrooms and brides), and complete adherence to religious customs. Prior to this, a cultural program featuring captivating dance performances by women added to the festive spirit.

Satish Lohiya, Chairman of Beti Foundation, played a central and significant role in organizing the event. He distributed gifts to the newlywed couples as kanyadaan and also facilitated the varmala ceremony on stage. The grooms reached the mandaps first and waited for their brides, while chants of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Har Har Mahadev" echoed as the couples moved towards the wedding area. The marriages were solemnized following traditional rituals, and Bhagwat Katha narrator Deepti Singh, who arrived from Mathura, was specially honored. Speaking to the press, Lohiya said, "I am emotionally connected to this organization. We are preparing new plans for the health of poor families, distribution of warm clothes in winter, and financial assistance. I sincerely thank all the supporters."

As special guests, MP Ramvir Singh Bidhuri and MLA Kartar Singh Tanwar blessed the newlywed couples and performed the kanyadaan ritual. Bidhuri said, "The efforts of Beti Foundation are truly commendable, as they promote gender equality and support for the underprivileged." Kartar Singh Tanwar echoed similar sentiments and appreciated the organization's initiative. A meal was also arranged for the attendees; though there was some initial disorder due to the crowd, the volunteers quickly brought the situation under control.

This event stands as an exemplary model of social responsibility and is a testament to the continuous service efforts of Beti Foundation—such as weddings for specially-abled and underprivileged girls, along with other welfare initiatives. The hard work of the organization's founder, Anoop Bhati, the co-founders, and all members resulted in a successful event that received widespread appreciation from all present. Such efforts will undoubtedly prove to be milestones in strengthening society.

Indira IVF Expands Its Presence in Haryana with a New Fertility Clinic in Ambala

HUMMER NEWS



AMBALA: Indira IVF Hospital Limited ("Indira IVF") inaugurated its latest fertility clinic in Ambala, marking another step in improving access to reproductive healthcare across Haryana. Located at 10 & 11, HUDA Market, 2nd Floor, SCO 9, Opp. Bal Bhawan, Sector 7, Ambala – 134003, the new centre is set to make fertility care more accessible and reliable for individuals and couples in the region. The inauguration ceremony was graced by Smt. Shailja Sandeep Sachdeva, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Ambala, as the Chief Guest. The event also witnessed the presence of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Sehal, Chief Medical Officer, Ambala, and Dr. Reema Sircar, Zonal Clinical Director, Indira IVF Dehradun & Chandigarh, as Special Guests, along with Dr. Deeksha, Centre Head, Indira IVF Ambala.

Smt. Shailja Sandeep Sachdeva, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Ambala, said: "The opening of Indira IVF in Ambala brings fertility services closer to our people.

Fortis Healthcare launches CPR training campaign to strengthen community response to emergencies

● Nearly 4,000 participants trained at various hospitals and community sites as part of this nationwide campaign





HUMMER NEWS

NEW DELHI: Fortis Healthcare has launched a nationwide CPR awareness and training campaign as part of its ongoing "Fortis Hai Na" campaign, with the aim of strengthening emergency response and preparedness at the community level. This initiative will provide essential life-saving skills to the general public and widely disseminate the message that "Fortis is with you" in any emergency.

This nationwide campaign was conducted simultaneously at all Fortis hospitals across India, with participation from two Gleneagles hospitals, making it the largest CPR campaign ever conducted by Fortis. Under this campaign, approximately 4,000 participants have been trained so far at various hospitals and community locations. In Delhi-NCR, Fortis Escorts Okhla, New Delhi, Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, Fortis Memorial Research Institute, Gurugram, Fortis Hospital Manesar, Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, Fortis Hospital Noida, and Fortis Escorts Hospital Faridabad participated in the training campaign. Approximately 110 participants from Fortis Memorial Research Institute, 300 from Fortis Hospital Manesar, 500 from Fortis Escorts Hospital Faridabad, 50 from Fortis Hospital Greater Noida, 300 from Fortis Hospital Noida, 80 from Fortis Hospital Vasant Kunj, 97 from Fortis Hospital Shalimar Bagh, and approximately 300 others participated in the CPR training campaign at Fortis Escorts Okhla, New Delhi.

During each 90-minute CPR session, emergency medicine specialists, trained nurses, and certified CPR instructors provided participants with practical CPR techniques, choking rescue methods, and an interactive question-and-answer session. Participants received a participation certificate and a first aid booklet detailing key steps in emergency response.

A key feature of this campaign was that it was conducted outside hospital premises, in collaboration with Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), corporate organizations, schools, gyms, and local institutions. The primary objective was to disseminate vital life-saving information and techniques to the general public. In collaboration with students, corporate employees, fitness trainers, traffic police, taxi drivers, and first responders, the campaign focused on empowering the public to feel confident and prepared for emergencies.

National Educational, Literary Competition under SSF concludes

Karnataka team secured the champion position while Kerala came second and Jammu and Kashmir came third.

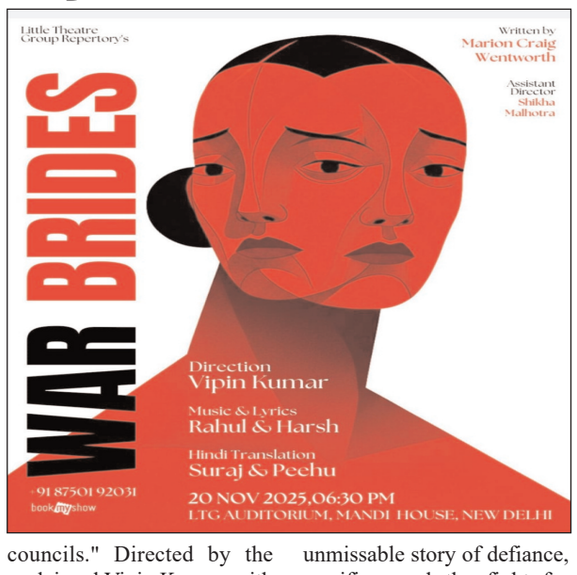
HUMMER NEWS



GULBARGA: The National Three-Day Educational, Literary and Cultural Competition under SSF India concluded successfully here today in Gulbarga city of Karnataka. In which thousands of SSF delegates from all over the country participated in various literary, artistic and cultural programs. In the three-day program, the Karnataka team won the All Championship with 531 points, while Kerala came second and Jammu and Kashmir came third. During the festival, a series of educational and training sessions were organized by eminent personalities associated with art, literature and culture under the Art School platform. Karnataka Sahitya Academy Award winner Madanagudu Channa Swamy, social activist and writer Muhammad Amjad Hussain, and renowned Urdu writer Syed Hussaini Piran Sahib, bestowed the students with the light of knowledge and art through their valuable speeches. Similarly, the Edu Science Career Clinic established to guide the students was also the center of attention. The closing session was presided over by Faqeeh Al-Qamar Al-Saqafi, while the ceremony was inaugurated by Dr. Qamar-uz-Zaman Hussaini Anamdar. Dr. Sheikh Shah Muhammad Afzaluddin, Obaidullah Al-Saqafi, Dilshad Ahmed, Ibrahim Al-Saqafi and Sharif Nizami were also present on the occasion. The welcome address was delivered by Salman Khurshid Manipuri and the vote of thanks was delivered by Sadiq Ali Bukhari. It should be noted that separate teams from 26 states of India participated in the SSF National Sahitya Utsav competition, and hundreds of titles were discussed on three separate stages for three consecutive days. According to Maulana Obaidullah Al-Saqafi, such a program is a bright beacon for the future and creates awareness of knowledge and art among the students. He said that more than one lakh students are being provided with educational sponsorship and guidance for higher education in different states of the country. The next national program will be held in Kerala. The official announcement was made here today from Gulbarga.

Woman's Body, A Nation's Battle: LTG Repertory Revives the Legendary Anti-War Drama 'WAR BRIDES'

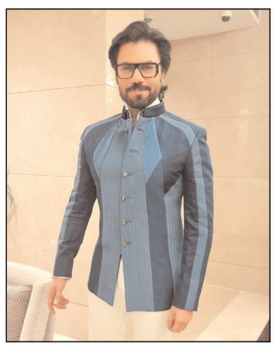
HUMMER NEWS



NEW DELHI:LTG Repertory is back with another powerful play, reviving the legendary anti-war drama 'WAR BRIDES', a fiercely feminist classic by American suffragist Marion Craig Wentworth, translated into a hard-hitting Hindi transalation by Suraj & Peehu. The play confronts the chilling decree of a King in a war-ridden country who commands women to marry and bear sons to become the "next crop of soldiers," setting the stage for an explosive emotional conflict. The story centres on Hedwig, a pregnant war widow, who vehemently refuses to be a mere factory for the state, rallying the women to question their destiny and challenging the empire with the radical demand: "If we can bring forth the men for the nation, we can sit with you in your councils." Directed by the acclaimed Vipin Kumar, with dynamic Assistant Direction by Shikha Malhotra, and featuring original Music & Lyrics by Rahul & Harsh, this production guarantees a visceral and unforgettable theatrical experience. Witness this profound, unmissable story of defiance, sacrifice, and the fight for peace waged on the home front on Thursday, 20 NOVEMBER 2025, at 06:30 PM, at the LTG AUDITORIUM, MANDI HOUSE, NEW DELHI. Tickets are LIVE and available for booking on BookMyShow.

Strength in sensitivity: Sony SAB actors reflect on evolving masculinity on International Men's Day

HUMMER NEWS









NEW DELHI: As the world celebrates International Men's Day on 19th November, conversations around modern day masculinity feel more relevant than ever. With portrayals that highlight vulnerability, emotional intelligence, and compassion, television is becoming a powerful mirror to these evolving ideals. This year, Sony SAB's talented actors share how their roles highlight a more real, relatable, and inspiring understanding of what it means to be a man today.

Gaurav Chopra, playing Rajveer Shastri in Pushpa Impossible, shared, "International Men's Day always makes me think of the men who are quietly trying to piece themselves back together. It reminds me of my character Rajveer, a once-successful man now rebuilding himself after a painful past — someone who masks hurt with anger because he doesn't know any other way. While playing him, I realised how many men in real life do the same. It taught me that healing isn't weakness; sometimes it's the bravest thing a man can attempt."

Rajat Verma, essaying the role of Virat in Itti Si Khushi, shared, "Growing up, I saw men who expressed love quietly, fixing things without being asked, showing up without fanfare. My character Virat comes from that same space of gentle strength. On International Men's Day, I find myself thinking about these men who don't follow the loud stereotype but lead with patience, empathy, and steadiness. Playing Virat reminded me that sometimes the softest kind of strength is the most lasting."

Rishi Saxena, who plays Inspector Sanjay Bhosale in Itti Si Khushi, shared, "Throughout my life, I've met men as mentors, family members, colleagues who showed me that responsibility and warmth can go hand in hand. My character as Sanjay reflects that balance too; he carries authority, but also a deep emotional honesty beneath it. This International Men's Day, I'm reminded that men don't have to choose between being strong and being sensitive. The two can coexist, and often do."

Karan Suchak, playing Indra Dev in Gatha Shiv Parivaar Ki Ganesh Kartikey, shared, "Portraying mythological characters has taught me that strength is rarely one-dimensional. Playing Indra Dev, too, has moments of pride, vulnerability, uncertainty — all the things we sometimes forget men feel.

Curtailing Punjab Powers: Is There Any Political Vendetta?



JAG MOHAN THAKEN

Why do the people of Punjab feel that the state's powers, hold, and authority are being curtailed? What indications are reflecting this impression? Are dismantling the structure of Punjab University Senate, weakening the Punjab's role in Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), controlling the clutch, gears, breaks and race of Chandigarh administration by the centre downsizing the Punjab's share in its functioning mere a coincidence? Probably not, these actions themselves speak about some conspiracy; political observers think so. Punjab political leaders, setting aside their affiliations, also allege on the same lines.

Supporting the students, who are agitating over the issue of downsizing the senate of Punjab University (PU) by the centre, Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Partap Singh Bajwa, while giving a statement on 10th November, alleged, "From Parliament to our universities, the BJP is dismantling every democratic space and replacing it with control, nomination, and blind obedience. Panjab University was built on the spirit of autonomy, debate, and academic freedom — values that the BJP simply cannot tolerate. This is not reform. This is the death of democracy on our campuses."

"The youth of Punjab will not allow Panjab University — a living emblem of our intellectual and cultural legacy — to become a pawn in the BJP's political game," he said. "If the Centre continues this undemocratic interference, it will face stiff and united resistance from the people of Punjab', Bajwa warned.

On November 15, Shiromani Akali Dal President Sukhbir Singh Badal exhorted all political parties and social organisations to rise above party lines to support the issue of Panjab University.

Raising an alarm for the future step of the BJP led central government to bring the Chandigarh administration system under its clutches, Badal said, "PU issue is the first attempt to capture a prestigious institute of Punjab, and that after this, attempts are lined up to change the character of Chandigarh."

He said that he had learnt that a separate recruitment policy for Chandigarh was being prepared. He said that when the state was reorganised in 1966, it was decided to post officers in a ratio of 60:40 from Punjab and Haryana, and now attempts are being made to create a separate cadre for Chandigarh along the lines of other UTs.

Commenting over the posting of outsiders in Chandigarh by the centre, the Punjab Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann, raised the issue of maintaining the status quo of the 60:40 ratio in the intake of service personnel from Punjab and Haryana in the functioning of the UT of Chandigarh, and said that it is the need of the hour. He said that it is a matter of grave concern that officers of the IAS and the PCS have been excluded from key positions in the Chandigarh administration. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that posts in departments such as Excise, Education, Finance, and Health are being opened to cadres like the state UT cadre (DANICS), thereby adversely affecting the role of the state of Punjab in the effective functioning of the UT administration.

Why the Punjab Chief Minister and SAD Supremo Sukhbir Singh Badal are showing concern about the outsiders' entry in Chandigarh administration? Is Punjab's share of officers in Chandigarh administration being decreased by the centre? Indian Express (IE) in its web edition dated 6th November, reports, "Once regarded as a close-knit force run by homegrown officers deeply familiar with the city's pulse, the Chandigarh Police today function under a markedly different structure — one increasingly steered by officers from outside cadres."

"Over the past decade, the city's more than 6,000 personnel-strong police force has undergone a quiet yet defining transformation, with key command posts now largely held by officers from the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram, and Union Territory) and DANIPS (Delhi Andaman and Nicobar Islands Police Service) cadres, reducing the once-dominant role of Chandigarh Police Service (CPS) officers. Either the IGP (Inspector General of Police) or DGP (Director General of Police) —- who have always been the IPS officers from the AGMUT cadre — heads the Chandigarh Police. Eight IPS (Indian Police Service) officers currently serve in the Chandigarh Police, of these, six top posts are headed by AGMUT officers, and two others — SSP (Chandigarh Police) and SSP (Traffic and Security) — are headed by officers of Punjab and Haryana respectively. Another top post — SP (Crime and Commandant IRBn) — is headed by a DANIPS cadre officer", adds IE.

On the issue of Panjab University, the state Chief Minister, Bhagwant Mann also pleads that the university has a deep connection with the people of Punjab adding that it is only Punjab which has been supporting and nurturing this University for the last 50 years. Now at this stage, he said that we do not understand why Haryana wants to affiliate its colleges with Panjab University, when they have already been affiliated for the last 50 years with Kurukshetra University, an A+ NAAC accredited university. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that he fails to understand What Has changed for Haryana to now seek this affiliation having ignored Panjab University for the last 50 years.

The Chief Minister said that as far as funding of Panjab University is concerned, Punjab has always financially supported this University and is committed to doing this in the future also, as per a mutually consultative process. He said that the Centre's recent attempts to restructure the university's governance have been seen as interference in Punjab's rights and to its state identity and autonomy. Bhagwant Singh Mann cautioned that Panjab University is not just an academic institution but forms an integral part of Punjabi identity adding he urged for the restoration of democratic processes, including the announcement of elections for the original 91-member Senate.

Punjab Chief Minister has also raised his voice, where he is smelling that the role of Punjab is being shortened. He has vehemently reiterated claim over Chandigarh, Panjab University, river waters besides advocating genuine federal structure in the country before the Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council held on 17th November, 2025.

Flagging the issues, the Chief Minister said that the Indian Constitution clearly demarcated areas in which the Union and the States have to function to exercise their respective authority. He said that Federalism remains one of the basic pillars of our Constitution but unfortunately, there has been a trend towards centralization of authority during the past 75 years. Mann underlined that the state governments, being at the cutting edge, are in a much better position to understand, address and solve the problems of their people.

Vehemently pleading for handing over Chandigarh to the state of Punjab, the Chief Minister said that after the reorganization of the state Indira Gandhi Agreement of 1970 explicitly stated that "the capital project area of Chandigarh will, as a whole, go to Punjab, which was a clear commitment from the Central Government. He said that the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, signed on July 24th, 1985, between the then Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, explicitly reaffirmed that Chandigarh will be transferred to Punjab. However, C M Mann bemoaned that despite all promises Chandigarh was not transferred to Punjab which has bruised the psyche of every Punjabi.

Voicing the issue of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), the Chief Minister forcefully opposed the proposal to appoint a whole-time Member in BBMB from Rajasthan as the board is a body constituted under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, which concerns only the successor states of Punjab and Haryana. He said that Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh are already represented as ex-officio members, and creating additional whole-time posts will only increase expenditure most of which is borne by Punjab without serving any useful purpose. Bhagwant Singh Mann said that Punjab has already submitted a panel for appointment of Members and the Government of India should continue with the original arrangement of one Member each from Punjab and Haryana.

The Chief Minister said that Punjab is always at the mercy of BBMB and its bureaucratic controls adding that in case the control of the headworks is also taken away from Punjab, Punjab will be facing huge difficulties in controlling floods.

Do these steps of the central government to curtail the hold of Punjab, as alleged, in different institutions, reflect indications of some political vendetta? Is there any dense smoke of conspiracy being aired over the Punjab to make the atmosphere of the state hazy?

OPINION

Indigenous people have the right to reject outside contact. We must respect their choice



January 1778, Kaua'i, Hawaiian Islands. When Captain James Cook's ships appeared on the horizon, the Hawaiians were struck with awe and dread. They saw things beyond imagination. A local priest declared the ships heiaus — floating temples of the gods. The strangers aboard seemed equally otherworldly. Hawaiians saw their tricorne hats as deformed skulls, their uniforms as sagging skin, and their pockets as tiny doors that opened into their bodies, holding treasures. It remains one of the few recorded accounts of how an "uncontacted" Indigenous people perceived their first contact with Europeans.

Long before Cook "discovered" the Hawaiian Islands, the Andaman Islands had already become matters of legend and fear. As early as the second century CE, travellers spun lurid tales about its inhabitants — Marco Polo called them "big mastiff dogs," Friar Odoric "dog-faced cannibals," and Sir John Mandeville "one-eyed giants." When British surveyor John Ritchie finally mapped the archipelago in 1771, myth gave way to a new violence called "civilisation."

The first encounters between Europeans and the "uncontacted" Indigenous societies of the Pacific and Indian Oceans unleashed devastation — colonisation, disease, conversion, and annihilation. During Europe's so-called "Age of Exploration," the voyages of Christopher Columbus and Amerigo Vespucci sparked a similar apocalypse on a vast scale. Conquest masqueraded as "discovery," and tens of millions of Indigenous people — including the mighty Aztec and Inca civilisations — were erased.

Yet this genocide is not a closed chapter of history. It endures, quietly, in our times. A new report by Survival International, Uncontacted Indigenous Peoples: At the Edge of Survival reveals that at least 196 "uncontacted" Indigenous groups still exist — and half could vanish within a decade, perhaps before the world even learns their names. These "uncontacted" peoples — also called "free," "invisible," or "hidden" communities — live in voluntary isolation on ancestral lands they have inhabited for millennia, long before modern states were born. Nearly 95 per cent dwell in the Amazon: 124 in Brazil and 64 spread across Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Paraguay, Bolivia, and Ecuador. Four survive in Indonesia, and two each in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and West Papua.

(Contemplation)

The Effect of Diet



A man fell ill. He needed a blood transfusion. When a doctor administers a blood transfusion, he first matches the blood group. Which blood group is it? Will it be suitable? A businessman needed a blood transfusion. A miserly man's blood was found suitable, and he had it transfused. The businessman learned that he was receiving a miser's blood. The businessman was very generous. He told his accountant, "Give him three thousand rupees." As luck would have it, a second transfusion needed blood. The same miser's blood. The businessman said, "Give him a hundred rupees." When the need arose for the third time, the businessman took a piece of paper and wrote, "Thank you!" on it. Why did this happen? The businessman was generous, but the person whose blood was being transfused was miserly. The effect was so great that he gave three thousand rupees until the blood had fully worked. When it had a slight effect, he gave a hundred rupees, and when it had a full effect, he thanked him.

What I mean to say is that whether it's blood or any other substance, whatever atoms enter our bodies from outside, regardless of their type, they do not remain without their influence. Therefore, this topic is so important to us that we must exercise complete discretion and thorough investigation about what is coming from outside, before accepting anything. We will not deny that the atoms of food contain many elements and are imbued with many sanskars. These sanskars impact our daily activities. We cannot remain untouched by them.

Women need POSH protections in political parties. SC must understand this

"By excluding political parties from the definition of 'workplace,' the judiciary has narrowed protections for women whose political participation already faces systemic barriers

In the Bihar Assembly elections, 258 women are contesting against 2,357 men. The numbers tell their own story: Women remain a fraction of India's political class, even as democracy prides itself on representation. From panchayats to party offices, their participation often takes the form of token representation, with many fielded as stand-ins for male relatives rather than as independent and agentic political actors.

Against this backdrop, the Supreme Court's decision in Yogamaya MG v. State of Kerala and Ors. feels particularly disquieting. In September, the Court dismissed a petition seeking to bring political parties within the ambit of the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Workplace (POSH) Act, 2013. "We are not inclined to interfere with the impugned judgment. The Special Leave Petition is accordingly dismissed," the order read.

With those few words, the Court chose not to engage with a question that goes to the heart of institutional accountability — whether political parties, as employers in all but name, must establish internal complaints committees to address sexual harassment. The decision effectively insulated political parties from a framework that governs every other workspace in India.



In 1997, a three-judge bench of the Supreme Court framed the Vishaka guidelines, mandating mechanisms to prevent and redress sexual harassment at workplaces. Parliament followed with the POSH Act in 2013, translating those principles into law. Yet, in Yogamaya, the Kerala High Court concluded that political parties do not qualify as "workplaces" under the Act and therefore have no legal obligation to institute internal complaints committees. It was reportedly observed that joining a political party is voluntary and unremunerated, and therefore not equivalent to employment. Extending the Act, the Court reasoned, could "open a Pandora's box" of blackmail and misuse.

Such reasoning, ostensibly cautious, is jurisprudentially untenable. It disregards both statutory text and social reality, where political engagement often constitutes sustained, structured labour.

Section 2(f) of the POSH Act defines an "employee" to include anyone working on a voluntary basis, with or without remuneration. "Workplace" includes any location visited in the course of work. The legislative intent was unambiguous and plain-speaking; however, the Court omitted to base its decision in law.

Thousands of women across the country serve political parties as researchers, organisers, coordinators, and campaign staff. Their vulnerability is not erased by the absence of a payslip. Denying them statutory recourse mistakes form for substance. The POSH Act's architecture was designed to accommodate such fluidity. By declining to extend it to political parties, Yogamaya circumscribes a law intended to evolve with contemporary workplaces. The Court's apprehension about misuse is equally misplaced. The POSH Act already provides safeguards under Section 14, allowing action against false or malicious complaints after due inquiry. The balance between protection and accountability is built into the statute. To exclude entire institutions based on apprehension undermines their normative framework.

Fears of misuse have historically surfaced whenever entrenched hierarchies are asked to submit to scrutiny. Courts, universities, and corporations operate under POSH without collapse. Political parties cannot claim exceptional fragility. Misuse can occur anywhere; it is the absence of procedural mechanisms that sustains impunity.

The democratic promise that every citizen can aspire to leadership remains only partially realised. Women constitute just 13.6 per cent of the 18th Lok Sabha and a slightly higher share in the Rajya Sabha. The forthcoming reservation of one-third of seats for women from 2029 is a step forward, but not enough. Representation cannot only be earned in spirit by occupying 33 per cent of the chairs in the House. It begins by creating conditions necessary to enable women to function within parties, shaping valuable discourse, occupying space on strategy and stage. The absence of protections and conducive conditions, both in letter and spirit, for women to occupy political spaces impoverishes our political discourse. Without institutional recourse, women often confront harassment through silence or quiet withdrawal. Complaints, when raised, are handled through opaque, ad hoc processes shaped by proximity to leadership and muscle power.

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Central Bank of India Launches Initiatives to Boost MSME Growth and Empower Entrepreneurs

HUMMER NEWS



NEW DELHI: Shri Shishram Tundwal, Zonal Head, Central Bank of India, stated that the Central Bank has been working shoulder-to-shoulder for the country's economic progress for the last 115 years. The bank's objective is to empower the MSME sector—which is the backbone of India's financial economy—and provide them with simple, accessible, and affordable financial assistance for business expansion. In this direction, the bank has designed several special schemes for MSME entrepreneurs so that entrepreneurs from every segment can receive financial support according to their needs.

He further informed that the bank's major MSME schemes include Cent Business, Cent Hotel, Cent GST, Cent Sanjeevani, Cent Shop, Cent CA, etc., which are specially designed for different types of businesses.

On this occasion, Shri Anil Agnihotri, Regional Head Delhi South Region, shared that the Central Bank of India will organize a nationwide MSME Credit Outreach program on 21 November. A grand event will also be held in Delhi as part of this initiative.

He mentioned that the bank has launched a special scheme for MSME entrepreneurs—"Ghar Wapsi and Swagat Yojana", under which:

- Former/previous customers who reconnect with the bank and resume business will be given a 100% waiver on processing fees.
- New MSME customers joining the bank for the first time will receive a 50% waiver on processing fees.

Shri Agnihotri stated that the Central Bank of India gives top priority to the needs and convenience of its customers and will continue to support MSME entrepreneurs in business expansion, employment generation, and contributing to economic development.

He appealed to MSME entrepreneurs to participate in the MSME Credit Outreach program to be held on 21 November and take maximum benefit of the bank's special schemes and processing-fee concessions.

Celebrating 150 Years of Vande Mataram:Dayal Singh Evening College Hosts National Song Singing Festival

HUMMER NEWS









NEW DELHI: The 150th anniversary of India's national song Vande Mataram is being commemorated across the country with a year-long series of events. As part of this national initiative, Dayal Singh Evening College organized a grand Vande Mataram Singing Festival on its campus.

The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Prof. Yogesh Singh, Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi; Prof. Balram Pani, Dean of Colleges; Dr. Vikas Gupta, Registrar; Prof. D. S. Chauhan, Chairman of the College; Prof. Bhavna Pandey, Principal of Dayal Singh Evening College; and Prof. V. K. Paliwal, Principal of Dayal Singh College.

In his address, Vice Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Singh highlighted that Vande Mataram is a timeless symbol of India's national consciousness, cultural pride, and patriotic spirit. He emphasized that completing 150 years is not merely an occasion for celebration, but a moment to honour the historic significance of this iconic composition. Prof. Singh also remembered Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, noting that his creation ignited a revolutionary wave during India's freedom struggle and left an indelible mark on the nation's history.

Talented individuals were honored with the Global Infinity Award

● The prestigious award is presented by selecting deserving individuals from across India in 70 categories

HUMMER NEWS



JAIPUR: A grand award show was organized by Forever Star India. In the ceremony, individuals who excelled in the fields of education, health, commerce, technology, law, social service, and arts were honored with the Forever Global Infinity Award. Rajesh Agrawal, Founder and CEO of Forever Star India, stated that Forever Star India nominates talented people in more than 70 categories every month. The nominated individuals are given a unique ID and listed on Google, which provides them with international recognition and preserves their achievements for the future. Rajesh further explained that the main purpose of the award is to honor success, provide global recognition, and inspire people to contribute to the progress of the nation. Among the talented individuals honored with the Global Infinity Award were Harshil Pravinbhai Rampariya (Surat), Lopa Mullick (Mumbai), Shilpa Guruprasanna (Bengaluru) and Uma Rani Vishnoi (Ghaziabad). It is noteworthy that due to its consistently successful events and credibility, Forever Star India has become a symbol of trust in the fashion and glamour industry.

Tree Plantation by Global Banjara Astitva Foundation on the Occasion of Birsa Munda Jayanti

HUMMER NEWS





CHALISGAON : 15thAt Sanskar Gurukul Public School, Shindi, operated by the Global Banjara Astitva Foundation, the birth anniversary of Dharti Aba Birsa Munda was celebrated with great enthusiasm. To instill environmental awareness among students and strengthen their commitment to nature conservation, a tree-plantation drive was organized on this occasion.

The program began with the dignitaries offering floral tributes to the portrait of Birsa Munda. Students delivered impactful speeches highlighting his inspiring work, his struggle for the rights of the tribal community, and the historic fight he led for the fundamental rights of "Jal, Jungle and Zameen" (Water, Forest and Land).

In their speeches, the students emphasized that:"Birsa Munda's struggle to protect water, forests, and land is truly inspiring for humanity. Protecting nature is the real tribute to him."

Carrying this message forward, the school conducted a tree-plantation activity and took a pledge for environmental conservation. Students enthusiastically planted saplings and willingly accepted the responsibility of nurturing them.

The Foundation's President Ashok Rathod and Vice-President Aarti Mahale, while addressing the gathering, said:"Birsa Munda's thoughts are equally relevant today. Nature, soil, and forests are our true wealth. It is important for students to imbibe the values of environmental protection."

The program was anchored by Kirti Deshmukh, and the vote of thanks was proposed by Ujwala Kothare.Akash Rathod, Shriram Rathod, Vishal Chavan, Vilas Chavan, Gajanan Chavan, Omkar Jadhav, along with villagers, teachers, students, and Foundation members, attended the event in large numbers, adding to the enthusiasm of the celebration.

The program concluded in a joyful and inspiring atmosphere.

"Dedh Inch Upar"

HUMMER NEWS



NEW DELHI: A stage adaptation based on the renowned work "Dedh Inch Upar" by internationally acclaimed writer Late Nirmal Verma is set to be presented at Delhi's prestigious LTG Auditorium. This theatrical production aims to take the audience deep into the realms of human emotions, introspection, and psychological conflict.

The story revolves around a protagonist who struggles to break down the wall of distrust that has long stood between him and his wife. Haunted by the belief that his wife had once betrayed him—despite her having passed away fifteen years ago—the protagonist sinks deeper into memories and emotional turmoil. Alcohol becomes his futile refuge, and the darkness of the bar turns into his only companion.

Engulfed in guilt, loneliness, and unresolved love, the protagonist ultimately confronts the secrets buried within him. The play portrays human relationships, inner conflicts, and life's harsh truths with great sensitivity, offering the audience a deeply moving and thought-provoking experience.

Cast & Production Team:
Victor – Kuldeep Vashishth
Vyakti – Akbar
Bartender – Ritik Sharma
Army 1 – Kaushal Kumar
Army 2 – Rajiv Sharma
Waiter – Sunil Kumar
Anchor – Shikha Malhotra
Music – Gaurav Kakaran
Choreographer – Beena Bansal
Lights – Mukesh Jha
Stage In-Charge – Brij Nukta
Writer – Nirmal Verma
Director – Kuldeep Vashishth
Event Organizer – Rizwan Raza

Bringing together literature, performance, music, and stagecraft, this production offers a rich and immersive experience. Highlighting contemporary emotions and the complexities of the human mind, this play promises to be an unforgettable journey for the audience.

Ai+ Smartphone Announces Its Next Chapter: A Connected Lifestyle-Tech Ecosystem

HUMMER NEWS

NEW DELHI: Ai+ Smartphone today signaled their next chapter with the announcement of their expansion into connected ecosystem products designed as the new wave of lifestyle-tech. Built on the foundations of NxtQuantum OS, the upcoming ecosystem aims to extend Ai+ beyond smartphones into a world where devices feel unified, intuitive, and seamlessly connected.

In just 4 months since their launch, Ai+ has earned a loyal consumer base that values clean design, transparency, and technology that works without unnecessary complexity. The brand is now building on this trust by shaping an ecosystem that brings this philosophy to multiple categories, offering users a smooth entry into connected living.

While details remain under wraps, Ai+ has confirmed that the ecosystem will span everyday personal tech and accessories, all driven by a shared design language. Every device will follow a coherent aesthetic, which will be simple, contemporary, and lifestyle-centric while ensuring interactions remain effortless across the entire experience. The focus is on creating products that naturally complement the way people already live, move, and express themselves.

"Ai+ Smartphone is evolving into a broader, multi-device space with an ecosystem built for connected living," said Madhav Sheth, Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies and CEO, Ai+ Smartphone. "Our goal is to democratize good tech by creating products that look modern, work together instinctively, and stay true to our promise of transparent performance. This marks the beginning of Ai+ evolving into a multi-device brand."

This announcement sets the stage for a new Ai+ product universe, one where design meets meaningful connectivity and technology blends quietly and beautifully into everyday life. More details will be revealed soon as Ai+ moves toward redefining what lifestyle-tech can be.

About Ai+ Smartphone

Ai+ Smartphone is a next-generation brand built in India to deliver reliable, high-performance mobile experiences. Powered by NxtQuantum OS, India's first sovereign mobile operating system, Ai+ combines clean design, long battery life, and trusted software performance at accessible price points.

Bihar Seniors won the Bihar Disabled Cricket Championship, with the Executive Director of NTPC Barh as the chief guest

HUMMER NEWS





PATNA: Organized by the Differently Abled Cricket Association of Bihar, the Bihar Disabled Cricket Championship was held at the NTPC Barh Cricket Ground on November 15-16. Three teams, Bihar Masters, Bihar Seniors, and Bihar Youngsters, were formed from players selected from various districts across the state. Yesterday, the opening match was played between Bihar Seniors and Bihar Youngsters. Bittu Kumar displayed a brilliant all-round performance for Bihar Seniors, scoring 40 runs and taking 3 wickets, helping his team Bihar Seniors win the match by 23 runs.

In the second match of the day, Bihar Masters won by 6 wickets, dismissing Bihar Youngsters cheaply, thanks to Mohan Kumar's brilliant bowling (3 overs, 6 runs, 6 wickets). The final match was played on Sunday between Bihar Senior and Bihar Master, in which Bihar Senior won the championship by defeating Bihar Master by 5 wickets, thanks to the all-round performance of Pankaj Kumar. Bittu Kumar, Mohan Kumar, Pankaj Kumar were the Man of the Match in the league match, and Bittu Kumar was declared the best player of the tournament.

NTPC Barh's Executive Director (Projects) G. Srinivas Rao, along with NTPC Barh officials and Differently Abled Cricket Association of Bihar President Rakesh Kumar Gupta, Gopalganj District President Anand Kumar, and North Bihar Zone Secretary Kumar Kartikeya Anand were present as the chief guests of the final match. On the occasion of this excellent event, Association President Rakesh Kumar Gupta expressed his gratitude to NTPC Barh's Executive Director (Projects) G. Srinivas Rao, saying that all the players of differently abled cricket express their gratitude to him for his commendable contribution. His contribution is invaluable to our league.

For this excellent event, the association's secretary Ranjit Kumar praised the hard work of the team's head coach Abhay Kumar, captain Asit Kumar Singh and thanked the NTPC Barh officials for their wholehearted cooperation in organizing this championship and requested for further cooperation in promoting the sports of differently abled players.

Differently Abled Cricket Association Council of India (DCCI) General Secretary Ravi Chauhan, through his communication, also praised the Executive Director (Projects) of NTPC Barh, G Srinivas Rao and officials for their cooperation in encouraging the differently abled cricket players and development of their sports and highly appreciated the association for their hard work.

Tiger Shroff Signs New 'Spiritual Action Thriller', Film To Be Directed By Ram Madhvani

HUMMER NEWS



MUMBAI: Mega Action Star Tiger Shroff has bagged the film and he'll be seen in a never-seen-before avatar. Directed by Ram Madhvani, Produced by Mahaveer Jain Films and Ram Madhvani Films, it's a spiritual action thriller. This has never been attempted before in Indian cinema. Source says it has an appeal and huge potential for a global audience and not just the moviegoers of the Indian diaspora."

The source continued, "Tiger Shroff will be undergoing extensive preparation for this ambitious film. It will go on floors in the second quarter of 2026. A major portion of the film will be shot in Japan. At present, the makers are in the process of finalizing the leading actress and another powerful actor for the role of the antagonist."



The source also revealed, "Tiger Shroff is extremely excited about the film as it'll present him in a new light. Ram Madhvani and Mahaveer Jain are also exhilarated about the project; they, along with their core team, right now are working on the first look. It is expected to be unveiled soon, along with the official announcement."

Ace film-maker Ram Madhvani is best known for the National Award-winning Neerja (2016) starring Sonam Kapoor, the thriller Dhamaka (2021) with Kartik Aaryan, and the internationally acclaimed, Emmy-nominated series Aarya featuring Sushmita Sen. Meanwhile, Mahaveer Jain has collaborated on notable projects like Uunchai (2022) with Rajshri Productions, the upcoming Kartik Aaryan starrer Naagzilla with Karan Johar and Mrighdeep Singh Lamba, International thriller White with Siddharth Anand and Vikrant Massey as Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, and Sooraj Barjatya's upcoming film Yeh Prem Mol Liya, starring Ayushmann Khurrana and Sharvari.

BRIEFS

Gold shines for the second consecutive day, silver loses its sheen



New Delhi (Agency). Gold prices strengthened for the second consecutive day on Tuesday, while silver followed suit, losing its sheen for the second consecutive day. Market sentiment is mixed regarding whether the US Federal Reserve will announce an interest rate cut, and this is impacting gold and silver prices.
Gold prices strengthened for the second consecutive day, while silver followed suit, losing its sheen for the second consecutive day.
In the capital, Delhi, 24-carat gold prices rose by ₹10 per 10 grams, while 22-carat gold prices also rose by ₹10. In two days, 24-carat gold prices rose by ₹330 per 10 grams, and 22-carat gold prices rose by ₹310. Silver prices fell for the second consecutive day in Delhi.
After remaining stable for one day, one kilogram of silver fell by ₹2,100 in two days. Earlier, silver was stable for a day and a day before that, it had become cheaper by Rs 4100 per kg and before that, it had become costlier by Rs 20600 per kg in five consecutive days. On Tuesday, silver is being sold at Rs 1,66,900 per kg in Delhi. Its price has fallen by Rs 100 per kg. Silver is being sold at the same price in Mumbai and Kolkata too, but in Chennai, the price of silver is Rs 1,72,900 per kg.

Rupee weakens by eight paise to open at 88.67 against the US dollar



Mumbai (Agency): The rupee weakened by eight paise to 88.67 against the US dollar in early trade on Tuesday. Global trade-related uncertainties put pressure on the Indian currency. The rupee opened at 88.67 against the US dollar in the interbank foreign exchange market and then slipped to 88.69. However, it later recovered to 88.68 against the US dollar, a decline of eight paise from its previous close. The rupee closed at 88.59 against the US dollar on Monday. Meanwhile, the dollar index, which reflects the dollar's position against six major currencies, fell by 0.05 percent to 99.43.

Morgan Stanley sees Sensex at 1,07,000 by Dec '26, says markets set to regain mojo for a multi-year rebound

After the country's sharp underperformance in 2025 lagging all its peers so far, the market is positioned for a broad recovery, the Wall Street giant says.

MUMBAI (Agency): Dalal Street is on course to begin a multi-year rebound soon, regaining the mojo it has lost since September 2024 when the bellwether had hit the life-time high of 85,978.25, taking the Sensex past the 1,00,000-mark-mount by next December. And if the Wall Street major Morgan Stanley is to be believed, the benchmark index is poised to close next year at 1,07,000.
Stating that the changed positioning of foreign investors which is at the lowest now, continuing domestic fund flows, and normalised valuations-- all offer the foundation for a multi-year rebound, Morgan Stanley said in a note on Tuesday that the domestic "market is set to its regain mojo" in 2026.
If the bull scenario happens then the domestic equities are poised for their strongest phase in years, Morgan Stanley said, projecting the Sensex climbing to 1,07,000 by end December 2026, and at 95,000 in its base case, implying a 13% upside from current levels for the benchmark.
The brokerage major further said after the country's sharp underperformance in 2025 lagging all its peers so far, the market is positioned for a broad recovery driven by macro tailwinds, policy easing and a renewed earnings cycle, shifting from a stock-picking market to a macro-driven trade.
"Foreign investors positioning," who no longer are the largest owners of the market with their share falling to 17 percent in the September quarter, falling below the domestic institutional holding of close to 18 percent for the first time, the report said, "is the lightest in history now," while relative valuations have normalised, and domestic fund flows remain structurally strong--a combination that offers the bedrock for a multi-year rebound.
Morgan Stanley, it may be noted, is the second Wall Street major after rival Goldman Sachs, pumping up the market targets now. Last week Goldman had pegged its Nifty target at 29,000 by next December, upgrading the domestic market to "overweight" citing the strong macros and corporate earnings, despite being the laggard among emerging markets in 2025 so far, and reversing its October 2024 downgrade, saying "Dalal Street is on course to re-emerge as one of the most resilient growth stories, with Nifty scaling the 29,000-mount by December 2026."
Accordingly, Goldman placed India at the top of its Asian allocations, and has urged investors to align their portfolios with domestic-demand and policy-beneficiary themes. The brokerage had in October downgraded the country citing its "worst relative underperformance" in two decades.
However, now is not just a likely catch-up after a year of heavy foreign outflows and earnings downgrades, but based on renewed macroeconomic and corporate strength, the brokerage said in a note Monday. Goldman sees MSCI India profit growth of 14 percent in 2026, up from 10% this year, underpinned by nominal GDP growth of about 11 percent. All this has the company upping the Nifty target to 29,000 by December, implying a 14 percent upside from the current levels.



Morgan Stanley said the "rebound is the continuation of a longer structural reset underway in the economy" noting that inflation and growth volatility have fallen sharply due to sustained macro-stability reforms, fiscal consolidation, flexible inflation targeting and a fall in oil intensity.
"This is pushing India into a virtuous cycle of lower volatility, lower real rates and higher equity valuations," it said, adding a key element of this projected trajectory is the structural rise in domestic equity ownership, fuelled by increasing household financialisation, policy changes allowing retirement funds to hold equities, and a steadily increasing global index weight for India.
Together, these factors create a more reliable pool of risk capital and reduce the country's dependence on foreign flows, reinforcing the case for sustained market resilience, it said, expecting the Sensex earnings to grow 17-19 percent annually through FY28, supported by rising private investment, stronger bank balance sheets and broad-based nominal GDP growth of about 10-11 percent.
Goldman had cited the country's near-term upside onto three pillars: an earnings cycle that remains in its middle phase; a decisive policy pivot towards reflation; and improving the terms of trade.
At 23 times forward earnings, domestic equities remain the most expensive in emerging markets, yet brokerages consider valuations defensible--projecting only a 5% base-case de-rating over the next two years. Key risks include a slower-than-expected earnings recovery, external shocks, or renewed investor rotation into North Asia if AI-linked momentum strengthens.
Another reason for the upgrade is that according to Goldman is that, the country's valuation premium has narrowed sharply this year, foreign investors have sold $30 billion worth of equities, and mutual fund allocations are near two-decadal lows. This has left the market under-owned, even as domestic institutions-- with inflows exceeding $70 billion so far this year-- absorbed record equity issuance.

Details of all homebuyers must be recorded during insolvency of real estate project: Regulator



NEW DELHI (Agency): The insolvency regulator -- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) – has proposed that resolution professional (RP) overseeing the insolvency process of a real estate project must include details of all homebuyers in the Information Memorandum (IM), irrespective of whether allottees have filed claims or not. This is intended to protect all genuine claimants, particularly those who may have failed to file a formal claim with the Resolution Professional (RP) within the stipulated timeframe.
The proposal is part of a new discussion paper that seeks significant amendments to the corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) to enhance safeguards and transparency for homebuyers whose projects enter bankruptcy. The proposals aim to address practical difficulties and legal gaps that often leave individual allottees—the term for homebuyers—vulnerable during the insolvency of real estate developers.
As per the proposal, the Information Memorandum (IM) must include the names, units allotted, and amounts due for all allottees as reflected in the corporate debtor's (developer's) own books of account, irrespective of whether they have formally submitted a claim. The resolution plan subsequently prepared by prospective buyers must provide for the treatment of these allottees.
The discussion paper claims that the change is intended to prevent post-resolution issues, uncertainty, and litigation when non-filing homebuyers approach the successful resolution applicant seeking inclusion.
An information memorandum is a detailed document that includes all information about a company undergoing an insolvency process. The memorandum must have information on assets, liabilities, financial statements, etc of the corporate debtor.
The IBBI has previously made other key proposals aimed at expediting the resolution process for real estate projects and protecting the rights of existing homebuyers.
For example, it has proposed that properties where the allottee is already in possession should be excluded from the corporate debtor's liquidation estate. The Resolution Professional (RP) may be permitted, with the Committee of Creditors (CoC) approval, to hand over possession of units to allottees on an "as is where is" basis.

Narayana Murthy's endorsement of a '9,9,6 China' work week rekindles debate on India's work culture

CHENNAI (Agency): N R Narayana Murthy has once again ignited a national conversation by advocating a 72-hour work week for India's youth, drawing inspiration from China's "9-9-6" culture of 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., six days a week. Speaking recently, the Infosys co-founder said that India must embrace extraordinary discipline and hard work if it wants to close the economic gap with global competitors. He pointed to China as an example of a country where long hours, intense commitment and productivity have gone hand-in-hand in driving rapid economic growth.
Murthy recalled that senior professionals in his network visited Chinese cities—beyond the glossy metropolitan centres—to understand the country's fierce work ethic. According to him, nations rise only when their citizens combine smart work with sustained effort, and those who have benefited from opportunity must "give back" through greater dedication.
His remarks, however, triggered a swift and polarised reaction across social media and corporate circles. Many professionals pointed out that they are already working long hours due to heavy workloads, long commutes and a work culture that blurs the line between office and home. Critics argued that simply increasing weekly hours does not address chronic issues such as low productivity, infrastructural stress, low pay in several sectors, and widespread burnout.
HR practitioners and legal experts have also pushed back, noting that a 72-hour work week would conflict with labour regulations and risk institutionalising overwork in industries that



already lack strong worker protections. They argue that such suggestions could encourage unhealthy norms in companies that equate long hours with loyalty rather than output.
Gender and social analysts quoted in reports highlighted another critical dimension: long workdays disproportionately affect women, who carry the bulk of unpaid household responsibilities. They caution that glorifying extreme work hours without addressing this imbalance could reduce women's workforce participation and deepen gender inequalities in corporate India.
Health professionals, too, weighed in, warning that sustained overwork is linked to elevated stress, exhaustion and long-term health risks. They argue that cultures built on relentless "hustle" often achieve short bursts of productivity at the cost of creativity, decision-making and employee longevity.
Economists and some business leaders, however, offered a more sympathetic view of Murthy's position. They note that his argument reflects a broader concern about India's competitive preparedness and demographic opportunity. With a large young workforce, they say, building a culture of excellence and strong work ethic is essential for lifting per-capita productivity. But even supporters acknowledge that higher hours cannot substitute for systemic improvements in efficiency, training, digital infrastructure and workplace design.
Interestingly, the debate has unfolded at a moment when Infosys—Murthy's own company—has taken a noticeably different stance. The organisation has begun alerting employees who log more than around nine hours a day during remote work, reminding them to maintain work-life balance. This signals the broader corporate shift underway: companies are increasingly wary of burnout, attrition and the reputational risks associated with unhealthy work cultures.

Markets hit the brakes as rally loses steam

CHENNAI (Agency): Indian equities eased in mid-morning trade on Tuesday, (November 18), as markets paused after a six-session rally and investors turned cautious ahead of key US economic data. The Nifty 50 slipped around 0.2 percent to roughly 25,962, while the Sensex drifted lower by about 0.18 percent to near 84,800. Broader markets were also subdued, with small-caps down about half a percent and mid-caps slightly negative.
The soft start was largely driven by weak global cues. Traders are awaiting US jobs and inflation numbers that could shape expectations around the Federal Reserve's December policy move. With the likelihood of a near-term rate cut falling, risk sentiment across Asian markets has turned cautious, spilling over into domestic trading.



The pullback also reflects cooling momentum after the recent run-up. Markets had logged six consecutive sessions of gains, prompting some profit-taking and a more restrained approach from participants. Analysts noted in their reports that the underlying domestic conditions—such as moderation in inflation and stable oil prices—continue to support sentiment, but the absence of fresh catalysts is keeping trading range-bound.
Foreign investor activity remains another point of watch. With global risk appetite weakening, overseas flows into India have slowed, adding to the cautious tone. The rupee, too, was steady in early trade, reflecting two-way flows and a firm US dollar amid softer regional currencies.

Nifty slips below 26,000 as six-day rally ends on global rate jitters



CHENNAI (Agency): Indian equities ended lower on Tuesday (November 18), snapping a six-day winning run as investors turned cautious ahead of key US economic data and shifting expectations around the Federal Reserve's next policy move. After opening on a soft note, both benchmarks drifted through the session, with the Nifty slipping below the 26,000 mark and the Sensex also closing modestly in the red. The pullback was not steep, but the weakness was broad enough to signal some profit-taking after the recent rally.
Global cues played a decisive role. The likelihood of a near-term US rate cut has reduced, tempering risk appetite across emerging markets. With US yields staying firm, foreign investors showed signs of hesitation, and domestic traders preferred to lighten positions rather than extend the rally without fresh triggers. Asian market softness and a firmer dollar added to the cautious tone.
On the domestic front, sentiment remained underpinned by improving earnings trends and supportive macro signals. Corporate results for the wider universe have strengthened on the back of easing inflation and better consumer purchasing power following recent tax cuts. Selective pockets of the market—particularly companies aligned with India's capex and infrastructure cycle—continue to draw interest. A standout development in the broader market was the strong listing of PhysicsWallah, which reflected that investors are still willing to back high-growth stories even in a muted session.
The rupee held relatively steady despite global currency pressures, helped by two-way flows, and did not add additional stress to equity sentiment. However, valuations across the market remain elevated, prompting investors to be more selective as they reassess risk in the face of global uncertainties.

Will Reliance do a Jio in India's pet-food market?

CHENNAI (Agency): Reliance Retail's entry into the pet-food business has opened a new front in India's fast-growing consumer market, raising the question of whether the company can repeat the kind of disruption it triggered in telecom through Jio. Early signals suggest that Reliance Consumer Products Ltd is preparing for a large-scale, value-led play that could alter pricing, widen access and accelerate mass adoption of branded pet food, particularly in non-metro markets. But the category's dependence on trust, nutrition standards and vet endorsements means the outcome will be more complex than the rapid, sweeping change seen in telecom. India's pet-food market has been expanding steadily as pet ownership rises across cities and smaller towns. The segment is still dominated by global players such as Mars (Pedigree, Royal Canin) and Purina, alongside strong homegrown brands like Drools and Smartheart. These companies command significant loyalty in urban and premium segments, where pet parents place a high premium on nutrition quality and brand credibility. Yet the market continues to have a large unbranded and



homemade food component, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 markets—an area where Reliance sees clear opportunity. Reliance's strategy appears to hinge on aggressive pricing and wide distribution. Its private-label brand is expected to be positioned at substantially lower price points than established players, making packaged pet food more accessible to price-conscious households, according to reports. The company also brings unmatched reach: its supermarket chains, neighbourhood stores and JioMart platform give it immediate access to millions of potential buyers. This ability to place products everywhere, at once, has historically been a crucial factor in how Reliance scales new categories. Still, pet food is not telecom. While low prices can help expand the mass market, the category relies heavily on repeat purchases built on trust.

Kylian Mbappe, Michael Olise star as France seal spot at 2026 World Cup

PARIS (Agency): Kylian Mbappe hit a brace while Michael Olise and Hugo Ekitike also scored as France beat Ukraine 4-0 on Thursday to secure World Cup qualification after an evening marked by tributes to the victims of the 2015 Paris attacks.

Captain Mbappe coolly chipped in from the spot 10 minutes into the second half at the Parc des Princes and the impressive Olise doubled their lead on 76 minutes.

Mbappe then struck again and Ekitike swept in a first goal for his country as France got the win they required to clinch their spot at the 2026 finals in North America.

A minute's silence was impeccably observed ahead of kick-off by the 41,000 spectators as France marked the 10th anniversary of the attacks in and around Paris on Friday, November 13, 2015. Most of the 130 people killed in the attacks lost their lives at the Bataclan concert hall in the capital. But one person died near the Stade de France in the northern Paris suburb of Saint-Denis, where multiple explosions took place as suicide bombers attempted to enter the ground during a friendly between Les Bleus and Germany.

Didier Deschamps was the coach then and remains in charge now, with the approaching World Cup to be his final tournament before stepping down.

With one game still to come in Azerbaijan on Sunday, France have an unassailable six-point lead over both Iceland and Ukraine at the top of European qualifying Group D.

"Given the context tonight, we are pleased to have put some smiles on faces by securing qualification," said Deschamps.

"We have fulfilled our objective. I understand that it is seen as normal that France qualify but we still had to go out and do it, so we are very proud."

Winners of the World Cup in 2018 and runners-up in 2022, France maintain their record of having made it to every edition of the tournament since missing out on a place in the United States in 1994.

The Ashes: What to know about cricket's most storied rivalry

New Delhi (Agency): Few sporting contests carry the history, drama and aura of the Ashes. Born from a mock newspaper obituary in 1882 and symbolized by a tiny urn, the rivalry between Australia and England has shaped more than a century of test cricket.

Ahead of one of the biggest contests on the cricket calendar, here's what to know about the upcoming five-match series.

The Ashes is one of the oldest and most iconic rivalries in international sport, featuring test cricket contests between Australia and England. Cricket tests between English and Australian teams started in 1877. According to the Marylebone Cricket Club, the Lord's-based custodian of the laws of the game, the term "Ashes" was first used in August 1882 in a satirical obituary for English cricket printed in The Sporting Times after the representative team lost on home soil to Australia for the first time.

The obituary reported that the body of English cricket would be cremated and the Ashes taken to Australia. English captain Ivo Bligh led a team to Australia later that year with a vow to reclaim "the ashes."

A fan presented Bligh with a small terracotta urn as a symbol of the Ashes after an England victory. And that's how the Ashes and the urn became intrinsically connected.

Bligh met his future wife on that day. The couple moved to England and took the urn



with them, keeping it in the family until after Bligh died and it was bequeathed to the MCC.

The Ashes series has evolved into a regular event, held approximately every two years and alternating between the two countries.

The 1932–33 "Bodyline" series remains one of the sport's great flashpoints, with England using hostile "fast leg theory" bowling tactics to intimidate the Australian batters, especially Don Bradman. England reclaimed the Ashes, but the rules were later modified to restrict similar tactics.

Shane Warne produced the "Ball of the Century" at Old Trafford in 1993, his first Ashes delivery for Australia drifting and spinning almost incomprehensibly to bowl Mike Gatting. It announced Warne as a generational star.

Ben Stokes delivered one of the greatest test innings ever at Headingley in 2019. His unbeaten 135, mixing supreme composure with fearless hitting, dragged England to an improbable one-wicket victory and etched a new legend into Ashes folklore.

In 2023, the Ashes produced another flashpoint when England's Jonny Bairstow was controversially stumped at Lord's after wandering out of his crease, believing the ball to be out of play. The moment was entirely within the laws but fiercely debated for its spirit-of-cricket implications. The incident ignited a storm across the cricketing world with Australian players verbally abused in the members' Long Room and political leaders weighing in, cementing the dismissal as one of the most polarizing in Ashes history.

Australia has held the Ashes since 2017, retaining the urn with series wins at home and drawn series in England, including a 2-2 result in a highly-charged tour two years ago that has simmered since with the predictable verbal jousting.

England has not won an Ashes test in Australia since 2011 — also the last time it won a series in Australia. That span includes a 5-0 loss in 2013-14, an 4-0 defeats in 2017-18 and 2021-22.

The 3-1 series loss to England in 2010-11 was Australia's only Ashes series loss at home since it reclaimed the urn in England in 1989.

Joe Root – The No. 1-ranked batter and second-highest scorer in test cricket has never scored an Ashes century in Australia. His average of 35.68 in 14 tests here lags far behind his career mark of 51.29.

Ben Stokes – England's talismanic captain and "Bazball" figurehead. Stokes can win matches almost single-handed. Despite being test cricket's leading six-hitter, though, he averages just 28.61 with the bat and 41 with the ball in Australia.

Jofra Archer – Playing his first Ashes in Australia but already famous for his express pace, including the 2019 blows to Smith and Labuschagne. Injuries have stalled his career since his 22-wicket breakout series, and England will hope he stays fit.

Steven Smith – Australia's premier batter for more than a decade and the anchor of an unsettled lineup. With 10,447 runs, 36 centuries and an average of 56.02, he sits just behind Bradman among Australia's test greats. Smith has 12 Ashes hundreds, including a best of 239 at Perth.

Mitchell Starc – The last fit member of Australia's first-choice pace trio, with Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood sidelined because of injuries. An excellent new-ball bowler, left-armer Starc famously bowled Rory Burns first ball of the last home Ashes. His 402 wickets in 100 tests place him fourth on Australia's all-time list.

SA20 healthy but expansion have to wait: Smith



MUMBAI (Agency): After two failed attempts (CSA T20 Global League and Mzansi Super League) to establish a stable franchise-based T20 league in South Africa, SA20 seems to have ticked the right boxes when it comes to sustainability and commercial interest. The league started out with six IPL franchises in 2023, and has seen considerable success in 2024 and 2025. This also leads to the question of expansion. As of now though this plan, according to league commissioner and former South Africa skipper Graeme Smith would be set aside until after Season Five, which is likely after the 2027 ODI World Cup. "I think in all stadiums now you will see new lights in the run up to the 2027 World Cup. There's been big investment into stadium infrastructure and they are looking at improving pitches," he said. Smith said that the league is exploring options in expanding within the country or to other African nations. "One thing that SA20 has got right is that the six teams have been equally competitive. If you introduce a new team, then you have to look at another 20 to 26 South African players," he said. Though all SA20 teams owe allegiance to IPL franchises, Graeme seemed optimistic of having a franchise that is entirely based out of South Africa. "(From within) We had a lot of people that have reached out to ask, 'when are we looking at it, what is the opportunity?.' There is a push in the global franchise space, and we have seen The Hundred (in England) have a varied array of investors. When we look to grow, we would never not want to attract more IPL investment," he explained. South Africa's journey in the women's World Cup is a story for the ages.

JK Tyre's FMSCI National racing championship set for a grand finale



COIMBATORE (Agency): JK Tyre's FMSCI National Racing Championship, India's premier racing championship is gearing up for its action-packed grand finale at the Kari Motor Speedway from Saturday. After months of fierce competition and nail-biting finishes, the weekend is all set for the season's final showdown. Now in its 28th edition, the championship stands as India's longest running racing championship. Three-time MotoGP World Champion Freddie Spencer will grace the race weekend.

From rookies chasing their first podium to seasoned pros fighting for championship glory, the finale promises edge-of-the-seat racing across all categories.

India's most competitive single-seater category, LGB Formula 4, is also the longest-running class in the JK Tyre National Racing Championship, serving as the crucial bridge between karting and formula racing. After Round 2, Diljith TS (Dark Don Racing) leads the standings with 53 points, followed by Dhruvh Goswami (MSport Racing) on 45 points, and Mehul Agarwal (Dark Don Racing) with 28 points. Strong performances by seasoned drivers here have kept the championship battle wide open as the LGB Formula 4 heads into its final round to decide the 2025 National Champion. The FIA-certified Formula 4 Indian Championship, part of the Indian Racing Festival (IRF) returns to Kari with a tightly contested field for its penultimate round. Kenyan Shane Chandaria (Chennai Turbo Riders), Sachel Rotge (Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru) of France, South Africa's Luviwe Sambudla (Goa Aces JA Racing), India's Ishaan Madesh (Kolkata Royal Tigers) and Saishiva Sankaran (Speed Demons Delhi) head into the weekend as strong contenders. The Royal Enfield Continental GT Cup is going to be the race to watch out for as racers on the powerful GT-R650s are set for an all-out Pro-Am showdown in the final round of the season. In the Professional class, Bengaluru's Anish Shetty leads with 57 points, while defending champion Navaneeth Kumar (Puducherry) sits second with 36 points, closely followed by Kayan Patel (Mumbai) with 34 points. In the Amateur category, Bryan Nicholas (Puducherry) tops the table with 69 points, ahead of Johring Warisa (Umrangso) with 45 points and Kabir Sahoch (Vadodara) with 33 points. With two races left, fans can expect high-speed duels, strategic moves, and elbows-out racing right to the finish.

Ankita, Dhiraj win gold in recurve events at Asian Archery Championship

DHAKA (Agency): Ankita Bhakat capped a sensational day, stunning Paris Olympics silver medallist Nam Suhyeon of South Korea 7-3 while Dhiraj Bommadevara also won his final as India clinched gold medals in both men's and women's event at the Asian Archery Championship here on Friday. Dhiraj defeated compatriot Rahul 6-2 in the final to make it a 1-2 for India. Ankita had earlier knocked out her longtime senior teammate, former world No.1 Deepika, in the semifinals. Locked at 5-5, both archers shot a nine in the shoot-off, but Ankita's arrow was closer to the centre,



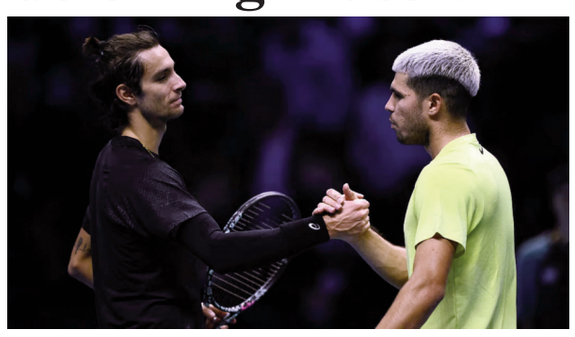
sending her into the title clash. Ankita began the final in commanding fashion, firing two 10s to take the opening set 29-27. The second set ended in a scrappy 27-27 draw as both archers faltered. Ankita slipped to an 8 while Nam dropped to a 7. Nam levelled the match by claiming the third set 28-26, with Ankita unable to find a single 10.

But the Indian hit back brilliantly in the fourth, nailing two 10s in a superb 29-28 effort to lead 5-3.

Showing steely composure in the decider, Ankita once again delivered two 10s to clinch the gold, completing a breakthrough triumph against one of Asia's most consistent performers.

India also secured the women's recurve bronze after Sangeeta edged out veteran five-time Olympian Deepika Kumari 6-5 in a dramatic shoot-off.

Alcaraz beats Sinner to year-end world number one after defeating Musetti at ATP Finals



TURIN (Agency): Carlos Alcaraz knocked rival Jannik Sinner off the top of the standings on Thursday after securing the year-end world number one spot by beating Lorenzo Musetti at the ATP Finals 6-4, 6-1 in Turin.

A double-Grand Slam winner this season, Alcaraz will be ahead of Sinner in the updated men's rankings on Monday thanks to his success over Musetti which also sealed first place for the Spaniard in the Jimmy Connors Group at the season-ending tournament.

Alcaraz, who has won 70 matches so far this season, could lose his semi-final on Saturday but will now still finish 2025 top of the pile, even if Sinner retains his Finals title on home turf.

But Alcaraz looks in no mood to do that as he seeks his first Finals triumph, and he appears to be on course for yet another final showdown against Italy's Sinner, who qualified in first place from the Bjorn Borg Group on Wednesday.

"It means the world to me to be honest, the year number one is always a goal," said Alcaraz. "To be honest at the beginning of the year I saw the number one really far away, Jannik being there winning almost every tournament he plays.

"For me it means everything. The work that we put in every day during the whole season, up and downs, comebacks from the tennis side. So I'm really proud of my team and myself."

Alcaraz has won four of his five meetings with Sinner this season, all of which have been in finals of top-level tournaments -- with two deciding Grand Slams.

The 22-year-old won one of the best matches in tennis history against Sinner to retain his French Open title in June before losing the Wimbledon final to the Italian. And on Thursday he confidently dealt with Sinner's countryman Musetti who has been eliminated and will not take part in the Davis Cup Final 8, which is being held in Bologna next week.

A passionate crowd cheered on Musetti but it was to no avail for the world number nine who only qualified for the Finals due to Novak Djokovic pulling out at the last minute and clearly flagged in the second set.

"I was tired, I knew it would be hard to recover from the battles of the last few months and above all the last few weeks... I needed a miracle today," said Musetti, who came to the Finals after losing the Athens final to Djokovic on Sunday.

Heading into the semis with Alcaraz is Alex de Minaur who did his part to qualify with a straight-sets win against Taylor Fritz, 7-6 (7/3), 6-3 earlier on Thursday.

Australia's De Minaur had to win in two sets in order to have any chance of making it out of the group, and he will now face Sinner in the semis.

Hard court specialist De Minaur won his 43rd match of the season on the surface, the most on the men's tour, and was too much for Fritz once he prevailed in the first set tie-break.

"Couple days ago was one of the toughest days I've had in my career. I was in a very, very dark spot. I could tell you that I hated the sport," De Minaur told reporters.

Yamal up for Puskas Award as best men's goal; Marta on list for award FIFA named after her

ZURICH (Agency): Lamine Yamal was nominated Thursday for the FIFA Puskas Award as the best men's goal of last season, with Brazil great Marta shortlisted for the FIFA Marta Award, the women's award named after her. Barcelona teenager Yamal's goal was scored against Espanyol in May — a trademark curling left-foot shot after running across the defense from the right flank.

Marta got the ball in the center circle then sprinted and dribbled past two defenders, rounded the goalkeeper and scored into an empty net playing for Orlando Pride against Kansas City Current.

FIFA picked 11 nominees for each award which is voted for in equal blocs by fans online and a group of former international players.

The deadline for voting is Dec. 3. It is unclear if FIFA will present the award two days later at the men's World Cup tournament draw being held in the presence of U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington D.C.

Nominees for the men's award include Arsenal's Declan Rice for his free kick against Real Madrid in the Champions League quarterfinals and Lucas Ribeiro running solo from the center spot to score for Mamelodi Sundowns against Borussia Dortmund at the Club World Cup.

Ronaldo sent off as Ireland stun Portugal in World Cup qualifier

DUBLIN (Agency): Cristiano Ronaldo was sent off for an elbow as his Portugal side lost 2-0 against Ireland on Thursday and blew another chance to qualify for the 2026 World Cup. Troy Parrott struck twice in the first half to keep Ireland's hopes of reaching next summer's tournament alive with a famous victory against Ronaldo and his team-mates in a Group F qualifier. With Portugal chasing a way back into the game their frustrated captain Ronaldo was dismissed for elbowing Dara O'Shea in the back. Portugal still lead the group on 10 points, two ahead of Hungary and three in front of Ireland, with one match remaining on Sunday.

The team that finishes top reaches the World Cup automatically, while second place teams reach the play-offs. "This is probably the best night I have had in my entire life, I have no words to



describe it," AZ Alkmaar striker Parrott told RTE.

"I am overwhelmed... I don't know what words to use, but I am over the moon."

Martinez's side spurned one chance to qualify in October when they drew with Hungary and another went begging at the Aviva Stadium as Ireland recorded an unforgettable triumph.

Heimir Hallgrimsson's side knew they had to avoid defeat to still have a chance of qualification after Hungary, second, beat Armenia 1-0 earlier on in Group F. Ireland last reached the World Cup in 2002.

Portugal controlled the ball in the opening stages as Ireland sat back, content to keep the visitors at bay and cause trouble on the counter.

Parrott headed Ireland into a surprise lead after 17 minutes from close range when Liam Scales nodded the ball back across the face of goal from a corner. Joao Neves fired narrowly wide and Joao Felix headed over as Portugal looked for an equaliser and turned up the pressure.

Chiedozie Ogbene came close at the other end as he got in behind and flashed a shot against the post in front of a fired-up home crowd.

Parrott doubled Ireland's lead on the stroke of half-time, cutting in from the left and driving past goalkeeper Diogo Costa low at his near post. Ireland were again forced to defend deep after the break but were helped by Ronaldo's red card after an hour.

Dhurandhar trailer: Ranveer Singh promises a 'dhamaka' in Aditya Dhar's blood-stained film based on a true story

Ranveer Singh-starrer Dhurandhar releases on December 5. Based on a real-life story, the film's trailer is soaked in crimson.



Starring Ranveer Singh in the lead role, the trailer of Dhurandhar was launched in Mumbai on Tuesday, November 18. The trailer introduces the lead characters of the film with some graphic visuals that set the tone for the actor's most violent film which is "inspired by incredible true events". While the story is just suggested in parts, the audience gets to know the key players here.

The segue into the hyper-violent world of Dhurandhar is shocking. We are first introduced to Arjun Rampal, playing an ISI agent named Major Iqbal, whose introduction is enough to make you squirm. R Madhavan's Indian intelligence agent Ajay Sanyal — modelled on India's National Security Advisor Ajit Doval — is seen next, and his character gives the biggest clue for the film's world as he is heard saying, "We must infiltrate the very core of terrorism in Pakistan." Akshaye Khanna's Rehman Dakait and Sanjay Dutt's SP Chaudhary Aslam are introduced next, with Ranveer Singh coming in at the end as he says, "Tum logo ke patakhe khatam ho gaye toh main dhamaka shuru karu? (If you are done with your crackers, shall I conduct a blast?)"

Dhurandhar is rumoured to be based on the life of Major Mohit Sharma, who went undercover as Iftikhar and infiltrated Hizbul Mujahideen in the early 2000s. A few months ago, Suhail Nayyar played a similar character in Netflix's web series Saare Jahan Se Accha. After Madhavan's look in the film was revealed, it was said that he's playing a character based on Ajit Doval. In Dhurandhar, he is introduced the man behind the scenes who is pulling all the strings.

Ranveer Singh has not appeared in any leading roles since 2023's Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani. The actor was seen reprising his role as Simmba in Rohit Shetty's cop film Singham Again, and he played a cameo as a fictional version of himself in Aryan Khan's show The Ba***ds of Bollywood.

Aditya Dhar is returning to direction, six years after his debut directorial Uri: The Surgical Strike, that fetched him a National Award for Best Director, and launched Vicky Kaushal into superstardom.

Five years of Soorarai Pottru: The Sudha Kongara-Suriya film shows what a mainstream biopic can be

Mainstream biopics have become a lost cause in more ways than one. A genre meant to offer a deep, immersive exploration of a fully lived life often ends up reduced to a live-action, Wikipedia-level recreation of events designed for easy consumption. Excessive background music, manufactured fiction, and heightened drama routinely stand in for the honest recreation of a human story. This is precisely why Sudha Kongara's Soorarai Pottru stands out. The film, which turns five this year, still feels like a jolt of adrenaline to a genre worn down by fatigue and overwrought formula. Soorarai Pottru dramatized the life and times of Captain GR Gopinath and his extraordinary mission to democratize air travel through his low-cost airline, Simply Deccan.

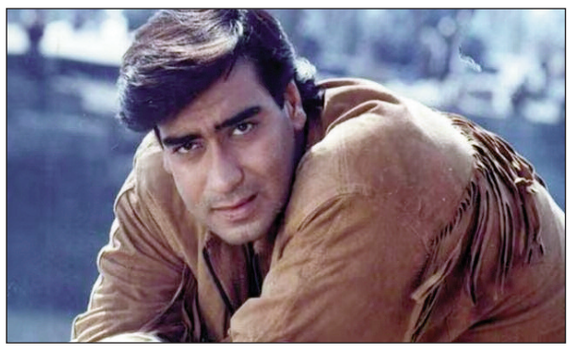


The film isn't content with simply recounting real events or sensationalizing a heroic news story into a fluffy, feel-good narrative. Instead, Sudha Kongara plunges us into the grimy, exhausting world of Nedumaaran Rajangam (Suriya), a hero defined as much by his ferocity as by his vision. He is a rebel ahead of the curve, a man with no patience for a world too slow to keep up with his dream of a socialist revolution. In Soorarai Pottru, the biopic is not a cash-grabbing, sentimental exercise crafted for awards season, but a fiercely opinionated piece of storytelling with its own personality and idiosyncrasies. Maaran envisions a world where flying is no longer a luxury reserved for the elite but an accessible reality for everyone, irrespective of social or economic background. Kongara, as a filmmaker, is comfortable mining the grit and emotional turmoil her hero in achieving his dreams. The film inherently knows that Maaran's biggest enemy is the little setbacks and constant humiliations he has to face in his journey to attain the impossible. The goal– to make air travel an affordable exercise for people from all stratas of society, as outlandish as it sounds, seems far more attainable as we get to see the ferocious clarity with which Maaran untangles the complex web of economic constraints, regressive social order, systemic rot and institutional malfunction that hamper his dreams, one setback at a time. There is a surging tension in the way these events unfold, as opposed to the mandated screenplay beats usually seen in biopics. Sudha Kongara and co-writer Shalini Usha Nair recognize the genre's inherent pitfalls and instead use small, sharply observed details and emotional outbursts from Maaran's life as anchor points. These moments elevate the familiar beats of a biographical drama into something intimate and cinematic.

'Normal looking' Ajay Devgn became successful as he did action on his own: Shakti Kapoor

It's been 34 years since Ajay Devgn made one of the most unforgettable entries in Hindi cinema, balancing between two motorcycles in Phool Aur Kaante (1991). That moment not only turned heads but instantly made him a star. Over the decades, Ajay has only grown in stature and strength, both as an actor and more recently a filmmaker. The iconic stunt, him standing with one foot on each bike, has been revisited and reinvented multiple times in his career, becoming a signature of sorts. Most recently, in De De Pyaar De 2, he didn't perform the act but playfully poked fun at it, a nod to how deeply it's etched in pop culture.

No matter how much time has passed, or how closely one follows Hindi cinema, that one stunt remains



synonymous with Ajay Devgn. Veteran actor Shakti Kapoor echoed this sentiment in an old interview given shortly after Phool Aur Kaante's release. He explained that the film's massive success wasn't due to Ajay's looks, which traditionally define a star, but because of the authenticity and intensity he brought to his action. Shakti said, "A film was released recently, Phool Aur Kaante, where a normal-looking Ajay Devgn was the hero. But his action was so good, and he did all of it himself, that when those scenes played in theatres, people stood up and applauded. The film became such a huge success only because that boy performed all the action on his own. He was trained by his father, Mr. Veeru Devgn, who was a fight master and prepared him even before he became an actor."

Shatrughan Sinha recalled Dharmendra's advice when he was extremely nervous before shooting first-ever song: 'Drink a little'



Dharmendra was discharged from Breach Candy Hospital last week and is now steadily recovering at home, surrounded by his loved ones. Yesterday, veteran actor and close friend Shatrughan Sinha, along with his wife Poonam, visited Dharmendra's wife Hema Malini to check on the legendary actor. Later, Shatrughan shared an update on his X account, calling Dharmendra "one of the finest human beings." This isn't the first time the public has witnessed their close bond. Over the years, Shatrughan Sinha has consistently expressed his deep admiration for Dharmendra.

On one memorable occasion, both legends appeared together on The Kapil Sharma Show. Shatrughan revealed that when he was shooting for his very first dance number, the now-iconic song Shor Mach Gaya Shor, he was extremely nervous. Seeking guidance, he reached out to Dharmendra, whose career included several great dance performances. He recalled: "My first song was to be shot publicly. It was 'Shor Mach Gaya Shor,' and I was very nervous. I had never danced in front of an audience before, and when the shooting started, thousands had gathered. So, I didn't know what to do. I went to our elder brother Dharmendra and said, 'Please tell me how to do this. I can't do it. How did you perform your own song Rafta Rafta?'"

Shatrughan then shared the advice Dharmendra gave him: "He told me, 'Just do what I did.' I asked him, 'What did you do?' and he said, 'Just drink a little.'" Recalling this moment, Dharmendra burst into laughter, and Shatrughan added, "I think the respect he has earned through all his actions is something even the best haven't achieved."

Dharmendra and Shatrughan Sinha have shared the screen in a range of films, from Shatrughan's debut Pyar Hi Pyar to Vijay Anand's thriller Blackmail, the 1988 actioner Zalzala, and more recently, Shatrughan made a cameo appearance in the third installment of Yamla Pagla Deewana. Regarding Dharmendra's health, speaking to journalist Subhash K. Jha, Hema Malini shared the latest updates: "So far, he is okay."

Madhavan doesn't need a six-pack, as he gets the women he wants without it: 'I prefer the family pack'

There's a famously funny bit from Farah Khan's legendary Om Shanti Om where R Madhavan tells the media how he is often called "the Shah Rukh Khan of the South." Unfortunately, the scene didn't make it to the final cut of the film, but it remains as hilarious and authentic as anything Farah has ever crafted. After all, for a long time, Madhavan was widely regarded as the heartthrob who could effortlessly charm audiences with his presence.

Nearly a decade ago, in an interview with Radiant Wellness, Madhavan was asked why he doesn't sport a six-pack, much like the icon he was often compared to, Shah Rukh Khan, who famously got his own six-pack for Om Shanti Om. Responding with characteristic humor, Madhavan said, "I've always been a very family man, so I prefer the family pack. Having said that, that's just a cheeky answer. The truth of the matter is, getting a six-pack is definitely a beautiful thing, but only if you get it the right way."



He elaborated further: "To get a six-pack, you need to have a body fat percentage between 8 to 9 percent, and that tends to make your face look really old. Even for Irudhi Suttru, when I built up the physique, it took me one and a half years. Most Indian trainers told me I could get it done in three months, and they're right, you can, if you add your protein shakes and supplements.

Complaint against SS Rajamouli after his remark on lord Hanuman during Varanasi launch technical glitches

SS Rajamouli's Globetrotter event was expected to be the perfect launch for the filmmaker's next after the Oscar-winning RRR. The event, which was to launch the name of his film, titled Varanasi, faced tecnical glitches that delayed the event, making a frustrated filmmaker to remark that he feels let down by God. After he faced backlash online, a complaint has now been filed by the Rashtriya Vanara Sena for allegedly hurting religious sentiments. The grand event was held at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad.

At the event, technical glitches prevented the teaser from being played. An emotional Rajamouli apologised to 50,000-strong crowd and said he felt let down by Lord Hanuman, who his scriptwriter V Vijayendra Prasad, had said will guide him. "I don't have much faith in gods. This is an emotional moment for me. I don't believe in God. My dad came and said Lord Hanuman will take care of things for me. After the glitch happened, I raised my voice at him, saying, 'Is this how he leads me?' My wife is a big admirer of Hanuman. She treats the god like her friend and talks to him. I expressed my anger at her too, saying, 'Is this how he does things?'" Despite making films around the rich mythological backdrop of the Hindu religion and the use of overt spiritual iconography in his films, SS Rajamouli has always proclaimed himself to be an atheist. Now, the members of Rashtriya Vanara Sena have filed an official police complaint against the director for his remarks on Lord Hanuman.

There is also a short glimpse of 'Hanuman' in the glimpse video shared, from the 'Treta Yuga' section of the teaser. The film is expected to be a time-hopping, globe-trotting adventure that traverses between the important touchstones of Hindu mythology in search of hidden treasure.

There was a backlash online against Rajamouli for the remarks, and several people online attempted to steer the conversation towards the magnificent first glimpse video featuring Mahesh Babu that the team released during the event. Rajamouli has not yet responded to any of these latest developments. Varanasi will also star Priyanka Chopra and Prithviraj Sukumaran alongside Mahesh Babu and will be eyeing a release sometime in 2027.



Members of the Rashtriya Vanara Sena filed a police complaint against director SS Rajamouli citing he hurt religious sentiments with his remarks during the Varanasi launch.

The clever duality at the heart of Nayanthara's superstardom



Nayanthara's career is marked by a striking duality. A superstar with the power to greenlight almost any film, she is also one of the few actresses who consistently pushes against the patriarchal boundaries that reduce women to accessories in the hero's journey. To be clear, Nayanthara herself has appeared in several such roles. But what distinguishes her is her willingness to step outside those expectations on her own terms.

It is almost as though she has cultivated a parallel career that runs alongside her mainstream work. Over more than two decades, Nayanthara has bridged the space between big-ticket commercial films and passion projects with notable ease. As she turns 41, we look back at the smart ways in which she continues to subvert the token "female superstar" label. In films like Darbar and Jawan, Nayanthara serves as the anchor for Rajinikanth and Shah Rukh Khan, respectively. She is not positioned as the lead in these narratives; instead, she functions as the conveniently placed female presence, providing stability, a romantic arc, and the emotional grounding that offsets the hero's larger-than-life persona.