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India Rejects Pakistan's INS Kolkata Collision Response



New Delhi: India on Friday rejected Pakistan's response to its protest over the collision between Pakistan Navy vessel PNS Hunain and Indian Navy warship INS Kolkata in the western Arabian Sea, calling the allegations and insinuations "categorically" unacceptable.

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said India had expected what he described as "the same old stalling" from Pakistan, while asserting that INS Kolkata was on a routine deployment when the incident occurred. "We have seen Pakistan's response to the protest we lodged. This is the same old stalling we expected. We categorically reject the allegations and insinuations made therein. INS Kolkata was on a routine deployment in the western Arabian Sea when the Pakistan Navy ship PNS Hunain be-

haved in an unacceptable and unprofessional manner at sea, resulting in the collision," Jaiswal said at a routine MEA briefing on Friday.

"The dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by PNS Hunain was a gross violation of Article 10 of the Agreement between India and Pakistan on Advance Notice on Military Exercises, Manoeuvres and Troops Movements of April 1991," Jaiswal said. He added, "This article stipulates that naval units at sea should not come within three nautical miles of each other. Furthermore, the Pakistani ship also violated the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea. The Pakistani side has once again been advised that, to prevent the recurrence of such incidents, all their military units need to exercise due caution and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between

the two sides. INS Kolkata has not suffered any major damage from this incident and remains at sea." Jaiswal's remarks came two days after India lodged a strong protest and Pakistan responded over the collision involving a Pakistani warship and an Indian frontline warship in the Arabian Sea. On the evening of September 15, a Pakistan Navy vessel approached a frontline Indian Navy warship that was on a routine surveillance mission in the north Arabian Sea at high speed, according to officials aware of the matter. The Pakistani vessel manoeuvred in an unprofessional and unsafe manner, leading to the collision, the officials said. In a statement on Wednesday, India said it had lodged a strong protest with the Charge d'Affaires of the Pakistani High Commission in Delhi over what it called "unacceptable and unprofessional conduct" by the naval unit. "The Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan was advised to convey to the concerned Pakistani authorities the need for all military units to observe due care and respect the provisions of the relevant agreements between the two sides in order to prevent any repeat of such incidents," the MEA said.

16 Months After Op Sindoor, Pak Still Fixing Runway India Broke At Sargodha

Sargodha: High-resolution satellite imagery shows ongoing repair work at the intersection of a runway and taxi-track at the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) base in Sargodha, which had been struck by the Indian Air Force sixteen months earlier during Operation Sindoor. Sargodha's PAF Base Mushaf lies about 172 km northwest of Lahore and roughly 200 km west of the India-Pakistan border, near Amritsar. A Vantor satellite image dated September 12, 2026, shows a dark, irregular patch of disturbed pave-

ment or earth just left of the junction, distinct in colour and texture from the surrounding asphalt - consistent with fresh excavation or resurfacing work in progress. A red vehicle is parked near the edge of this patch.

The main runway at PAF base Mushaf (Sargodha) was struck by the IAF on May 10, 2025. Since then, repair patches were used over the missile impact crater. This impact point has now been reopened for fresh reconstruction. High res here The same image

also shows signs of ongoing, sequential resurfacing along the length of the runway. One section has a darker, smoother surface and appears complete, while the other half does not appear to be fully cured or cleaned.

Fresh repair work is underway on the northern part of the runway with the reopening of the previously repaired missile crater. The earlier patch has been excavated down to the subgrade level, which is likely in preparation for a full-depth reconstruction. This may indicate that



the initial repair developed issues such as surface uplift, unevenness, settlement or underlying structural weakness, requiring the affected section to be removed. Fresh repair work is

underway on the northern part of the runway with the reopening of the previously repaired missile crater. High res here "This runway centreline was struck from more than 300 kms away.

On India's Semiconductor Aspirations, Ashwini Vaishnaw's Progress Report

New Delhi: India's semiconductor ambitions have moved from aspiration to execution, but the next phase will require a deeper manufacturing ecosystem, more investment and the ability to compete globally, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told in an exclusive interview.

Padmaja Joshi at Semicon India in New Delhi. Vaishnaw said India had moved beyond its earlier ambitions and was now gaining confidence from the ex-

ecution of projects on the ground. Vaishnaw recalled the observations of a chief executive officer (CEO) who had visited India for the first time two years earlier, when the country was viewed as a place to develop a semiconductor industry. "I will start with what one of the CEOs said. When he came here for the first time, he came here thinking that, yes, this is a country which has an intention to develop the semiconductor industry. And in just two years from the first



visit, he is looking at execution which has happened. Five plants already doing commercial production out of the 12 plants which we ap-

proved in the Semicon 1.0. A lot of ecosystem partners are coming here already. There is very good progress on the talent development," he

said. The minister pointed to the training of 70,000 design engineers as another indicator of the progress made during the first phase.

Crime Rate Declined Due to Eagle Team's Vigilance : Home Minister Anitha



on the progress made in eliminating ganja and the future course of action. Speaking on the occasion, Anitha said Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu had established the Eagle Team with the aim of securing a bright future for the next generation. She said a toll-free number, 1972, had been set up under the initiative 'Break the Silence' to enable people to provide information on the sale and consumption of ganja. The Home Minister said more than 20,000 cases had been registered across Andhra Pradesh over the past four months through geo-tagged surveillance of 900 identified ganja hotspots. Anitha stated that the state's crime rate had declined by 14 per cent due to the Eagle Team's intensified surveillance.

Nandi Drama Festival Notification in Two Days: Minister Durgesh



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Cinematography and Cultural Affairs Minister Kandula Durgesh said that the notification for the Nandi Drama Festivals would be released within the next two days. He said the Nandi Awards would be presented next year. Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu has already given the green signal for presenting the Nandi Awards, he said. The minister also announced that Theatre Day would be observed on the birth anniversary of Kandukuri Veeresalingam. The minister said the awards would be presented during the Nandi Drama Festivals themselves. He explained that although there was an earlier proposal for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana to jointly present the awards, it was not possible as the dates for the awards were different in the two states. He said Telugu plays from other states would also be given an opportunity to participate. Steps were being taken to ensure representation from all districts, he added. Kandula Durgesh said an awards committee would be constituted soon.

ED Intensifies Probe into YS Vivekananda Reddy Murder Case

From Our Staff Reporter Kadapa, September 18: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has intensified its investigation into the murder case of former minister YS Vivekananda Reddy. As part of the investigation, the ED on Friday issued notices to Sunil Yadav, the A2 accused in the case. The ED directed him to appear for questioning on September 24. He was also asked to bring details of the bank accounts of his family members and their assets. The ED is expected to question Sunil Yadav about the financial transactions that took place before and after the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy. Meanwhile, the ED has already questioned Dastagiri, who turned approver in the case.



was made for the murder of YS Vivekananda Reddy. Dastagiri, who had turned approver in the case, was questioned by the ED earlier this September. The ED officials reportedly gathered key information from him regarding financial transactions and agreements. Subsequently, ED officials conducted simultaneous raids at the residences and offices of Kadapa MP and YSRCP leader YS Avinash Reddy, his father YS Bhaskar Reddy, Devirreddy Shivashankar Reddy, Erra Gangi Reddy and Sunil Yadav, among others. During the raids, ED officials reportedly seized a large amount of cash and crucial documents from YS Avinash Reddy's residence.

was brutally murdered on March 15, 2019. The CBI took up the investigation into the case. Based on the CBI investigation, the ED registered a case under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and launched its own probe. The ED is primarily focusing on allegations that a contract worth Rs. 40 crore

Will Launch Party to Protect Self-Respect of Original Reddys: Vijayasai Reddy

Anantapur district, September 18: Former MP V. Vijayasai Reddy announced that he would soon launch a political party aimed at protecting the pride and self-respect of the "original Reddys." He said the party would respect all castes and religions. Vijayasai Reddy visited Anantapur on Friday and participated in several programmes. Speaking to the media, he demanded that the coalition government establish a Reddy Corporation. He said he was questioning the two families on what they had done for the development of Rayalaseema. He praised the people from Rayalaseema, stating that not only Reddys but many others from the region had sacrificed their lives for the country. He said his party flag would be unfurled on

Ekadashi after Vijayadashami and that the party would be formally launched on that day.

He also said his daughter would soon launch a television channel and clarified that he had no connection with it. He said the channel would remain neutral. Vijayasai Reddy claimed that his party would not disappear and expressed confidence that people in the region would vote for it, similar to the support received by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay's TVK party. Vijayasai Reddy criticised the two families, alleging that they had no love for Rayalaseema and were engaging in politics only for votes. He said people were being told in villages that they would shed blood for YSRCP president Jagan. He appealed to the youth to come forward not for the

sake of the two families but for their villages and the state. He demanded that Chandrababu Naidu and Jagan answer what had happened to the Sri Bagh Pact. He said the lack of employment opportunities in Rayalaseema was forcing people to migrate. He called upon the new generation to enter politics and said the state would not prosper as long as the two families remained dominant.

Vijayasai Reddy said every person carried a debt of Rs.5 lakh and even an unborn child was burdened with debt. He claimed that Andhra Pradesh had remained at the forefront of ganja cultivation for the past 15 years. He said the state would develop only when there was healthy competition. He described his proposed party as a "third alternative" in

Andhra Pradesh. He announced that if his party received votes, he would make a young person Chief Minister if that person was capable of doing good for society. Vijayasai Reddy said he would provide direction to Andhra Pradesh.

We Will Develop Government Schools

Vijayasai Reddy said there was discrimination in the education system and promised to develop government schools after his party came to power. He said free education would be provided and that fundamental changes would be introduced by ensuring quality education and appointing quality teachers. He said his party's education policy would aim to create 30 lakh jobs over five years. He said he would not make

empty promises to the unemployed and would provide an allowance of



Rs.10,000 per month to unemployed youth until they secured employment. He said an appropriate law would be enacted to ensure accountability.

Stating that the ganja problem existed in villages across the state, he said the illegal ganja trade

would be curbed through stringent laws. He announced that a job calendar would be released through APPSC every January 1. He said there would be no outsourcing system and that every employee would be a government employee. He said the DSC system would be discontinued, alleging that people who had little knowledge of playgrounds had secured jobs. He promised that recruitment would be carried out without any pressure. He said he was opposed to religious conversions carried out through inducements. Vijayasai Reddy further said 66 per cent reservation would be provided to youth in elections and that every social group would be given representation in the legislative bodies.

EDITORIAL

BJP's Eagerness to Implement UCC

The Uniform Civil Code (UCC) means a common civil law for all citizens. Its primary objective is to have “one common civil law for everyone.” This was an ideal goal placed before future generations by the makers of the Constitution. The Constitution-makers were well aware that bringing together the differing opinions, customs and traditions of various sections of society and persuading them to voluntarily accept a common set of laws would be a major and difficult task. It remains to be seen how far the NDA government can make this possible. Rather than implementing the UCC mechanically, it should ensure justice for every individual under constitutional protection and seek to bring every section of society under the best possible standards of civil law. A common civil law applicable to all should be introduced in a manner that does not create a situation where minorities are viewed as outsiders or strangers. If the NDA government is genuinely interested in implementing such a law across the country, it should hold extensive consultations with people from different communities, religious leaders, civil society representatives, industry representatives and women’s organisations. It should remain transparent about its goals and intentions. If it can take everyone’s views into consideration and build a consensus, the BJP would be rendering a valuable service to the country. However, it should not use the UCC as an election campaign slogan out of an eagerness to win the 2029 elections. But, judging by the actions of the NDA government so far, it appears that the UCC is likely to be used as a major campaign weapon in the 2029 parliamentary elections. However, implementing a Uniform Civil Code at the national level would require a constitutional amendment. Given the NDA’s numerical strength in Parliament, carrying out such a constitutional amendment is not possible at present. It is against this backdrop that Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced that the code would be implemented in phases in the 21 states where the BJP and its allies are in power. This announcement has now triggered a nationwide debate. Implementing the Uniform Civil Code across the country has been one of the BJP’s long-standing objectives. Since its inception, the BJP has consistently made its position on the implementation of the UCC clear. However, it is noteworthy that the party has so far not revealed what the code should look like or provided complete details about its provisions. Although the BJP is preparing to implement the UCC in the 21 states under its influence, opposition is emerging from some of its allies. In Bihar, the Janata Dal (United), led by Nitish Kumar, has supported the concept of the UCC but is not agreeing to its implementation. Another ally, the Telugu Desam government in Andhra Pradesh, has also said that it is committed to the idea of a UCC but wants further discussion on the issue. The NDA government at the Centre is able to remain in power because of the support of these two allies. Therefore, it cannot be assumed that they will immediately support Union Home Minister Amit Shah’s proposal without any conditions. The principal objective of the UCC is “equality,” which is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Indian Constitution. However, Article 44 of the Constitution is part of the Directive Principles of State Policy, which are not directly enforceable by courts. Since different personal laws have historically evolved for different religions and communities in the country, implementing the UCC is linked to a wide range of complex issues.

Uttarakhand brought its UCC law into force in 2024. It regulates matters such as marriage, divorce and inheritance, while providing certain constitutional exemptions for Scheduled Tribes. Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Assam have also approved similar laws. Rajasthan, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh have begun the process of formulating similar codes. Goa is the only state that has had a civil law resembling a Uniform Civil Code in place since the colonial period. While Article 25 of the Constitution guarantees every individual the freedom to practise and propagate their religion, there are strong apprehensions that the UCC could come into conflict with this right. There are also concerns that the BJP could use the issue to intensify divisive politics. People are worried that certain fundamental rights could be lost because of the UCC. In 2022-23, the 22nd Law Commission sought the views of the public and religious organisations on the implementation of the UCC. Although the tenure of the Commission ended in 2024, it could not submit a final report. Customs and practices vary considerably among religions, tribes and regions across the country. In such circumstances, how individual and religious freedoms and customary rights can be protected has emerged as an important subject of debate. The concerns emerging over the issue at present indicate that the focus is increasingly shifting away from the basic principle of the UCC itself and towards the intentions behind its proposed implementation.

Mamata Banerjee Hand-Drew Party Symbol.

It's Now Tied To An Indira Gandhi Case

Mamata Banerjee has lost the symbol and name for now. Precedents may hold final answer. Two flowers. One stem, growing from the same root. Unity was the idea, and Mamata Banerjee drew the symbol 'Jora Ghas Phool' by hand for the All India Trinamool Congress she founded in 1998. She had split from the grand old Congress to launch it.

At 11:36 pm on Thursday, 28 years later, her camp emailed the Election Commission a list picking new names for her faction, symbols from a catalogue. The group of "rebels" did the same. This came after the Election Commission did what arbiters usually do when two claimants fight over one heirloom. It has locked the heirloom away until a final call.

The stem has now split. The symbol is frozen. For now, Mamata Banerjee's faction gets a 'footballer', and Arup Roy-Ritabrata Banerjee's group gets an 'envelope'. Mamata has prefixed her name to the party name, and the other faction picked the word 'democratic', at least for the October 6 bypolls, including in Rejinagar and Nandigram in West Bengal.

The interim order said the time available wasn't adequate to decide which group is the real party. That question falls under Paragraph 15 of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968. Even the Indian National Congress that Mamata Banerjee left in 1997 once faced the same question. How it was answered, and how the commission has answered it since, offers a guide.

How EC Decides These Matters

The Election Commission's method for such disputes was forged in a seminal Congress

split of 1969. The then PM Indira Gandhi had had enough of the old guard, and her faction elected its own president, Jagjivan Ram. The other faction said it had extended the term of S Nijalingappa as president by a year already.

The Election Commission then weighed three tests: the party's aims and objects, its constitution, and majority support. It found that neither group could be differentiated on the party's aims. Result: neutral.

It said the constitution test was "hardly of any assistance", given the expulsions on both sides. Result: no conclusion here too. Test 3, of raw numbers, found that Indira Gandhi's side had most of the party's MPs and state legislators, and most members of the All India Congress Committee and its delegates. In January 1971, Indira Gandhi's group, headed by Jagjivan Ram, was thus declared the real Congress, entitled to its 'Two Bullocks' symbol. Later that year, in a landmark case, the Supreme Court upheld the decision and the commission's power to make it under Paragraph 15 of the Symbols Order.

A Name Can Survive A Symbol

Indira Gandhi's Congress got the 'two bullocks' symbol but preferred to, instead, go forward with the 'cow and calf' it had got in the interim. She lost power after the Emergency (1975-77) and, after another split in 1978, her new Congress (I) had to give up the 'cow and calf' too. That's when she asked for the old pair of bullocks, but the EC had frozen that symbol, according to veteran journalist Rasheed Kidwai's book 'Ballot'. Party general secretary Buta Singh was offered an elephant,



a bicycle, and an open hand or palm, the book says. Over a bad phone line, Indira Gandhi kept hearing "haathi" (elephant) instead of "haath" (hand), and kept refusing, until PV Narasimha Rao took the receiver and settled it. She was fine with the hand. Two years later, Indira Gandhi returned to power on that symbol, which has stayed since.

What Shiv Sena, NCP Rulings Say

For Mamata Banerjee, this offers hope of a resurgence, but also carries an immediate worry. That the number of MPs and MLAs could become the sole deciding factor. This has happened in recent splits, in which the Election Commission has leaned on that test. In its 2023 order in the Shiv Sena dispute from Maharashtra, it set aside the party constitution, finding some amendments to it undemocratic. It also could not conclude who has the majority within the party structure. It thus awarded the party name and the 'bow and arrow' sym-

bol to Eknath Shinde's faction, which had most of the party's MLAs and MPs, leaving party founder Bal Thackeray's son Uddhav with a modified name and symbol. Another case is also from Maharashtra, of the Nationalist Congress Party co-founded by Sharad Pawar, who was also in the Congress before splitting away in the 1990s. In the NCP dispute order of 2024, the EC sought to apply the three tests used in the Indira Gandhi matter, and found that the NCP's top bodies were "shrouded with doubt" because of disputed internal elections. Counting legislators alone, it found Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar had most of them. It declared Ajit's group the real NCP. The other is now NCP(SP), though there are sporadic reports of a possible merger, revived after Ajit Pawar's death earlier this year.

Numbers End Up Being Sole Factor, EC Explained

In its NCP order, the commission went beyond the case in hand. It said a majority of the

symbol disputes before it "show that political parties are either not holding regular organisational elections, or not holding them as per Party Constitution, or have amended their Constitution in such a manner that 'elections' have turned into 'appointments'". In such cases, "the Party becomes a private fiefdom of a single person or group of select individuals and the Party is run like a private enterprise". That leaves little to count inside the organisation. It is then "forced to ignore the numerical strength of opposing factions in the Organisational Wing despite being conscious of its importance", it said. In the NCP case, it found the party's top bodies "shrouded with doubt". That's why it decided "on the basis of test of majority in the legislative wing". This technicality -- as to what really is a "party", a structure or just its MLAs and MPs -- is at the nub of a related debate raging over defections.

I Lost My Entire Family In Kanishka Bombing.

41 Years Later, Canada Wants The Case Closed

The horror of the Air India 182 Kanishka tragedy isn't easy to forget. Even today, 41 years after the world's worst aviation bombing, the families of the Air India 182 Kanishka victims have been shaken by suggestions from the RCMP in Canada that the investigation should be wound up. On June 23, 1985, two bombs exploded. One at Narita airport killed two baggage handlers; the other, 54 minutes later, exploded over the Atlantic Ocean, 90 miles out to sea from Cork, Ireland, killing all 329 people on board, including 86 children under the age of 13.

Orphaned as a teenager and losing my entire family at 17, I began the struggle for justice and accountability. As families, we made the trek through tragedy to search for people in Cork, where I spent 25 days sifting through bodies and body parts in a makeshift morgue to identify our loved ones. That trauma was revisited every anniversary as no leads were forthcoming. In June 1995, the Canadian government announced a reward of \$1 million for information leading to the arrest of the conspirators, but the fear was so rife among Canadians that not a peep came in.

Delays And A Failed Trial

It took almost 18 years for charges to be filed in 2000, only for a multi-million-dollar trial to fail to convict the accused. Witness after witness had either been murdered (while in RCMP protection, no less) or intimidated beyond the pale, or had their children's lives threatened. They all developed selective amnesia in the dock. The fact that most of the witnesses were identified only by letters - Ms A, D, E, etc. - itself indicates the level of secrecy and the extent to which the witness protection

programme failed in the Air India 182 case and in dealing with the Khalistani extremists.

Discriminatory Treatment

The discriminatory attitude of the Canadian system towards the victims of the Air India bombing in 1985 was brutally exposed by Justice Major. Even in matters of compensation, Indians were ignored, and Canadians of Indian origin were offered much lower amounts than “westerners”. In an interview with me this week, retired Justice John C Major expressed his pain over the way Canada had looked at this tragedy, in stark contrast to the way it treated other Canadians. Canada continued to treat it as an “Indian problem”, he said, and not a “Canadian tragedy”.

No Consensus Still

That attitude became clearer this week, when the families were called for a meeting with the RCMP in Toronto, during which the Canadian police force expressed an intention to wind down the Air India task force to zero investigative staff, with only administrative staff remaining to return the victims' personal effects. The RCMP said it felt there were no further leads to pursue in the investigation to bring the culprits to book. This admission comes barely months after the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) made a public acknowledgement that Canada-based Khalistani extremists (CBKE) were responsible for the Air India Flight 182 bombing on its 41st anniversary on June 23, 2026. So, while the left hand (CSIS) was admitting that Khalistani extremists bombed Air India Kanishka, the right hand (RCMP) said it had nothing further to look for. The RCMP even went so far as to suggest that if families could provide fresh leads, they might then be taken up. In the interim,

the RCMP had informed us that it was communicating with the Indian government for the release of the wreckage and personal effects of the victims, indicating that this government and the RCMP have thrown in the towel.

The Indian government will be acutely aware that the Kanishka bombing is a fiercely sensitive subject in India, and Indians the world over will not accept the summary closure of the hunt for the killers. We have written to Prime Minister Modi on his birthday, advising him that the families will never accept such a summary closure. The victims' families, the Canadian people, and the peace-loving people of the world will never let that happen.

How US-Israel Will Deal With Terrorism

That this RCMP meeting should happen in the shadow of the 25th anniversary of 9/11 is tragic, especially considering that the second of the 1988 Lockerbie criminal trials is about to begin in New York in autumn 2026. The Canadian government, rather than give up the AI-182 case, needs to increase the reward and reissue it. Can anyone imagine the state of the world had the US thrown in the towel after 9/11 or Lockerbie and not hunted down Al-Qaeda and the Libyans? Or had Israel not hunted down Klaus Barbie or Franz Stangl and found the perpetrators of those crimes? Some of those hunts took more than 35 years. The world has never forgotten or forgiven its barbaric killers and has hunted them down, including Klaus Barbie (38 years later), Franz Stangl (22 years later), Joseph James DeAngelo (42 years later), and Samuel Little (31 years later), among others. Justice must be pursued to the ends of the

earth. The AI-182 families suffered the tragedy of the mid-air bombing, followed by institutionalised discrimination in Canada, erased and destroyed evidence, murdered witnesses, and delays of 20 years before charges were even brought, resulting in the failure to convict two of the accused at a trial in Vancouver.

The suggestion by the RCMP that it has done enough has to appear fallacious and disdainful, and should be treated with the contempt it deserves, as it mocks and gaslights the bereaved families once again. It has been nothing but a litany of missteps, mistakes, and failed actions that have caused families grief over four decades. That this comes at a time of the rise of Canada-based Khalistani terror-linked separatists in Canada and the rest of the Five Eyes countries shows that the RCMP has still not understood the impact of its actions on victims' families and society as a whole.

Where To Find Fresh Leads?

Lest we all forget, there was a long list of persons of interest against whom no interrogation or questioning had taken place. When asked about the list of those against whom no interrogation or questioning had taken place, they declined to comment on the “ongoing investigation”.

Many ask: “What is left to investigate in Air India 182?”

At least two, or maybe three, of the alleged conspirators are alive but silent. There is also Mr Bagri, Mr Reyat and Surjan Singh Gill, who can provide a lot of answers. Why has there been no trial in the death of Tara Singh Hayer, when it is highly likely that the same group that carried out the aircraft bombing plot also killed

Tara Singh Hayer to prevent him from testifying? What are the RCMP and the Canadian government doing with the unspent/unclaimed reward? Why has that not been enhanced and reissued with a national appeal for information? Forty-one years is a long time for anyone to live with secrets, and it could kick-start a creative effort to loosen suspects' tongues or at least encourage willing informants across the country to come forward.

Determined, Still

Twenty years ago, dissatisfied with the direction the criminal trial had taken, the undersigned, AICCA, the pilots, Indian families, and many Canadian families had sought individual and separate standing before the Justice John Major Commission and argued their issues separately. That finally resulted in Justice Major's orders and an attempt to set right the discrimination faced by the families in matters of compensation, etc. It is thus surprising that neither the government nor the RCMP has even formally reached out to the other families who had legal and legitimate standing before the Crown inquiry. We families were assured by former Prime Minister Stephen Harper that Canada would follow the case until its logical end, that even-handed treatment would be given to all, regardless of nationality, colour, or creed, and that solutions would be found.

Then Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper assured us that every step would be taken to ensure that the RCMP and CSIS found those responsible and saw the case through to its logical end, when he invited some of the victims' families, including my lawyers, Ms S Rana and other families, to his office in Ottawa.

Anti-Pollution Crackdown Intensifies Across NCR, 150 Inspections In 15 Days



Ahead of the seasonal spike in air pollution across the National Capital Region (NCR), the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) has stepped up its compliance and enforcement operations. During its 139th Enforcement Task Force (ETF) meeting, the anti-pollution watchdog reviewed field operations carried out between August 24 and September 7, 2026. Over this 15-day period, CAQM's Flying Squads conducted as many as 150 targeted inspections across industrial units, construction sites, and power-gen-

eration facilities. The inspections targeted key sectors notorious for high particulate matter and gaseous emissions. In the industrial sector, 98 inspections were conducted evaluating fuel usage and emission-control equipment. 45 inspections checking for illegal, non-compliant, or un-retrofitted diesel generator operations. At construction and demolition sites as well, there were major site audits assessing dust mitigation protocols. Following these reviews, CAQM says that it proposed immediate punitive and corrective ac-

tions against non-compliant entities. These include closure directions for 3 construction projects and 1 industrial unit, alongside directives to seal 25 non-compliant DG sets. Additional compliance orders were issued across 6 entities covering 10 DG sets, and financial penalties in the form of Environmental Compensation (EC) were recommended for 2 major industrial violators.

Special Joint Drive in Nuh, Haryana
Not just in the NCR region but in Haryana's Nuh as well, the watchdog says

it amped up operations. On September 3, 2026, 8 dedicated teams from the Commission's Flying Squads—partnering with local district administration, police forces, and officers from the Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB)—inspected 35 premises in a day. While 13 facilities were found compliant, 7 units were found locked, an attempt described by the watchdog as one to evade inspection. The facilities have been slated for immediate re-inspection. For the remaining non-compliant units, recommended penalties range from formal personal hearings and sealing orders to the imposition of Environmental Compensation on six units.

Industrial Drive in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh
Under 'Operation Clean Air', CAQM's Flying Squads carried out a dedicated inspection drive targeting industrial hotspots in Hapur, Uttar Pradesh, on September 15, 2026. Seven teams audited 22 industrial premises across major belts. The drive uncovered widespread violations—with 16

of the 22 units failing environmental norms. Observed infractions included intense smoke emissions, absent or malfunctioning Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS), wet scrubber bypasses, and hazardous wood-fired pit furnaces. Consequently, 12 Show Cause Notices (SCNs) were issued, two non-conforming units were sealed by the Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board (UPPCB), and strict action was proposed against two suspected illegal units that denied entry to inspection officers.

Mandate Ahead of Winter
With atmospheric conditions expected to deteriorate in the coming months, the CAQM says that enforcement efforts will only intensify. The Commission has further urged regional state pollution control boards, municipal bodies, and local authorities to maintain seamless coordination, monitor high-priority sectors continuously, and ensure zero tolerance for environmental violations.

Punjab Ambedkar Statue Row: BJP's Vijay Sampla Injured In Clash With BSP Workers



Tension prevailed in Hoshiarpur's Barian Kalan village on Wednesday after a dispute broke out between BJP and BSP workers at the site where a protest was already underway over alleged tampering with a statue of Dr BR Ambedkar. Police had already registered an FIR in connection with the alleged desecration of the Ambedkar statue. BSP workers were staging a protest at the spot when senior BJP leader and former Union minister Vijay Sampla, along with Punjab BJP SC Morcha president Sheetal Angural and Hoshiarpur BJP district president Nitin Gupta Nannu, reached the village.

According to the information available, an argu-

ment broke out between the two sides following alleged remarks against Sampla, which subsequently led to a minor clash between BJP and BSP workers. Sampla was also reportedly injured and sustained scratches during the altercation.

Police reached the spot and brought the situation under control. DSP Chabbewal Bharat Saini said the situation is now peaceful and under control, while additional police personnel have been deployed in the village as a precautionary measure.

Police are investigating the original incident involving the Ambedkar statue and examining CCTV footage from the surrounding area to identify those responsible. Police said efforts are underway to trace and arrest the accused.

Meanwhile, BJP Punjab president Kewal Singh Dhillion condemned the alleged desecration of the Ambedkar statue and the reported attack on BJP leaders. He demanded strict action against those responsible. On the other hand, AAP leader and chairman of the Punjab State Commission for Scheduled Castes Jasvir Singh Garhi accused the BJP of creating a ruckus at the spot, adding another political dimension to the dispute. With allegations and counter-allegations emerging from both sides, police are now focusing on maintaining law and order while investigating both the statue incident and the subsequent clash.

They Let The Dogs Out: Netas' Unique Protest On Nashik Official's Table

Nashik: In a one-of-a-kind protest in Maharashtra's Nashik, Shiv Sena (UBT) Yuva Sena workers on Tuesday released stray dogs inside the office of Niphad Nagar Panchayat chief officer Dheeraj Bhamre. This, according to Yuva Sena workers, follows inaction over the dog menace amid a rise in stray dogs. The viral video shows Shiv Sena (UBT) Yuva Sena district chief Vikram Randhave untying a sack and releasing a small dog on Bhamre's table. Startled by the move, Bhamre, while sitting in his chair, moved away from the table before coming back. Frightened by being confined inside the bag, the dog ran to a corner. Within seconds, another dog is released out of the bag. It walked across the table and sat in a corner

seat. Randhave, who was accompanied by fellow members of the political group, then put a garland, adorned with Rs 20 notes, around his neck. He was stopped by officials from coming close to Bhamre. A verbal altercation ensued. While doing so, Randhave reminded Bhamre of the number of times the issue of stray dogs had been raised with him in the last six months. "In every village, street and corner, there has been a rise in stray dogs," said Randhave in an interview with NDTV. "For the last six months I have been telling Niphad Nagar Panchayat chief officer Dheeraj Bhamre to take up the issue. A small child was bitten, and many people and women have been chased by them. I showed him the condition, sent



photos of the area and told him repeatedly to take up the issue. But when I felt there was no action, I went and released four dogs on his table as a form of protest," he added. Randhave alleged that Bhamre is focused on tender works and that this is

the reason Sena workers brought garlands of notes with them, which were also kept on his table. Calling it a last warning, the Sena worker said he would release more dogs in Bhamre's office if no action was taken within eight days. "Ganpati fes-

tival is underway. When people go for aarti, dogs run after them and bite small children. There is a terror of stray dogs," said Randhave, expressing hope that the Chief Officer would understand the seriousness of the issue.

Mamata Banerjee Loses Trinamool Symbol, Name, And Now Nandigram Candidate



Kolkata/New Delhi: In another jolt to Mamata Banerjee a day after her faction of the Trinamool Congress was not allotted the party symbol and logo, her candidate has withdrawn from the bypoll for the Nandigram seat. This is the same Assembly constituency that the chief of the Trinamool Congress, now the Mamata All India Trinamool Congress, had lost to her one-time lieutenant, Suwendu Adhikari, in 2021. After unending speculation over whether Banerjee would contest the bypoll from the constituency this time and return to the Assembly, her faction of the Trinamool had announced Sanchita Pradhan Dey as the candidate on

Sunday. The choice of Dey - a teacher in Nandigram who had lost her job following the cancellation of the appointments of 26,000 teachers in connection with the alleged teachers' recruitment scam - had raised eyebrows because she was seen as a low-profile pick for a seat with such political, and even emotional, significance. Sources said Dey met West Bengal Chief Minister and BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari on Thursday, the day the Election Commission announced that it was freezing the Trinamool name and symbol and neither the Mamata Banerjee faction nor the Ritabrata Banerjee faction would get to use them for the bypolls in

Nandigram and Rejinagar. A photo of this meeting also emerged. The announcement that Dey would withdraw came on Friday afternoon, just as Mamata Banerjee began a press conference to slam the Election Commission for not allotting the name and symbol to her, and allege a BJP hand in it. The last day for filing nominations was Wednesday and, left without a candidate, Banerjee sprang a surprise during the press conference. Her party, she said, would support the Congress in Nandigram, just days after it denied any such arrangement.

"The BJP did the same to Uddhav Thackeray's party. First they broke the Shiv Sena, then the NCP, and

they threatened that we should join hands with them. We refused, and that's why they did this to the Trinamool Congress. How can they seize my party symbol of 29 years? The Election Commission's interim order is illegal. How can they issue it after nominations were filed? These are dirty tricks. We won't bow before the Election Commission. We will fight and bounce back," Banerjee thundered at the press conference. Then came the first bombshell. "We had decided earlier and we have given our support to the Congress in Nandigram. Rahul Gandhi called me yesterday, but we did not discuss Nandigram. We are together. We will not surrender to the BJP," Banerjee said. And then another.

"We have taken this decision (to extend support) within the party. The Congress does not know," she revealed.

Alliance Issues
Mamata Banerjee backing the Congress in West Bengal, even for a bypoll, would have been difficult to imagine just a few months ago. The united Trinamool Congress and the Congress, despite being allies at the national level as part of the INDIA bloc, had been

at loggerheads in the state even until the Assembly elections earlier this year. Banerjee, riding high during her third term in the state, was being projected as the bloc's natural leader and prime ministerial candidate, riling the Congress, which has the most seats among the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

The Bengal results on May 4 changed all of this, with the Trinamool Congress being reduced to just 80 seats, down from 215, in the 294-member Assembly. A majority of Trinamool MLAs, led by Ritabrata Banerjee, then rebelled, leaving the former chief minister with only a handful of legislators. Rebellions by Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs followed, rubbing salt in her wounds.

New Names
On Friday, the Election Commission allotted new names and symbols to the Mamata and Ritabrata factions. Ritabrata's group, led by Arup Roy, has been allotted the name 'Democratic Trinamool Congress' and the 'Envelope' symbol, while the faction led by Mamata Banerjee has been allotted the name 'Mamata All India Trinamool Congress' and the 'Football Player' symbol.

Trader Cheated Of Rs 16 Lakh, Fraudster Exploited Amazon's Return Policy



New Delhi: A Mumbai-based seller was defrauded of Rs 16.28 lakh by an accused who exploited the online shopping platform Amazon's return policy. A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered at the Ghatkopar police station.

The 60-year-old complainant has been running his business on Amazon for the past five years. This

fraud occurred through various orders between June 20, 2025, and August 13, 2026.

The accused ordered 62 expensive gadgets and, upon receiving delivery, submitted a fake return request to Amazon. They filled the boxes with junk instead of the original expensive items and obtained a full refund from the company.

These expensive products included Apple Watch Series

11, AirPods Pro 3, DJI Osmo Action 6 Adventure Combo, Sony PS5 gaming kit, Ray-Ban Wayfarer glasses, Gigabyte GeForce RTX 5090 graphics cards, and Titan watches.

Police have registered a case under sections of the Indian Penal Code for fraud and have begun an investigation. Police suspect the racket is operating from Nashik, Jalna, and Mumbai.

Assam Man Beheaded, Body Buried, Severed Head Put In Plastic Bag



Guwahati: Four people, including a woman, have been arrested for allegedly beheading a 31-year-old man in Assam's Jorhat district. A preliminary police investigation suggests that the killing may have been linked to an alleged affair between the victim and the woman arrested in the case, officials said on Thursday.

The victim, identified as Anil Rajgarh, went missing on September 12. His family members subsequently lodged a complaint, following which the police began a search operation.

His body was later

found near the Bhogdoi River, a few kilometres from the alleged crime scene.

According to police sources, the body had been buried near the river, while the severed head had been packed in a plastic bag. The victim's throat was allegedly slit with a sharp blade before he was beheaded with a machete, sources added.

The police have arrested four people: Kapil Karmakar, 32; his wife, Anima Karmakar; his younger brother, Sanjit Karmakar, 30; and their friend, Mahesh Rajgarh, 33. All four accused are residents of Greenview Tea Estate in Mariani.

According to police sources, Anil Rajgarh had been in contact with Anima Karmakar for the past few months. On September 7, she allegedly asked him to meet her in a tea garden area.

When he arrived, she allegedly attacked him with a blade, slitting his throat.

Police sources further alleged that Anima's husband and two other men joined the attack shortly afterwards. The accused allegedly beheaded Rajgarh, placed his body in a sack and dragged it to the riverside, where they buried it.

Rs 500 Crore Notice To Aaditya Thackeray In Sushant Singh's Ex-Manager Case



Image posted on Facebook by Justice-For-Disha-Salian

New Delhi/Mumbai: A Rs 500 crore legal notice has been issued in connection with the Disha Salian death case, the former manager of late actor Sushant Singh Rajput. Disha's father, Satish Salian, has sought Rs 500 crore in damages from Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray and NCP (SP) leader and Maharashtra's former home minister Anil Deshmukh. The notice alleges that the two leaders attempted to portray Satish Salian's pursuit of justice as "politically motivated".

Disha Salian Death Case

Disha Salian, 28, died on June 8, 2020, after falling from a high-rise residential building in Mumbai's Malad area. The police treated the incident as an accidental death and registered an Accidental Death Report (ADR). Six days later, actor Sushant Singh Rajput died. Days later, Disha's father, who first said that he did not suspect a criminal angle, approached the Bombay High Court seeking registration of an FIR and a fresh investigation. The petition sought inves-

tigation into allegations involving several individuals, including Aaditya Thackeray, Dino Morea and Sooraj Pancholi. Six years later, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has taken over the probe.

Rs 500 Crore Defamation Suit

The Rs 500 crore legal notice accuses Aaditya Thackeray of questioning Satish Salian's motives and trying to portray his struggle for justice as "politically motivated, malicious, and actuated by an ulterior object" of damaging his reputation. "The aforesaid allegations are false, baseless, reckless and grossly defamatory, having been made without any credible material or proof and solely with a view to further your ulterior and improper motives. The said allegations amount to a direct and serious imputation upon the integrity, credibility, honesty and bona fides of my client (Satish Salian), by portraying a bereaved father, who was merely seeking a lawful investigation into the alleged gang rape and mur-

der of his daughter, as a person abusing the judicial process for an improper, malicious and politically motivated purpose," the legal notice reads. The notice also accuses Thackeray of "falsely representing that the CBI had already investigated the Disha Salian case" and given him a "clean chit". Thackeray allegedly claimed that Salian was being "used as a tool to harass" him. Anil Deshmukh supported this claim. According to the notice, on March 23, 2025, Anil Deshmukh stated that the Disha Salian case was a "conspiracy to defame Aaditya Thackeray". This statement allegedly received "widespread publicity" and portrayed Satish Salian as a "dishonest, politically motivated and malicious litigant misusing the criminal justice system".

Demand For Public Apology

Satish Salian has demanded an "unconditional, unequivocal and unqualified written and public apology". The apology needs to be published and broadcast across all major print,

TV, and digital media platforms. The video apology must be at least three minutes long and should be posted on the two leaders' official social media accounts.

Never Met Disha Salian": Aaditya Thackeray

Aaditya Thackeray on Wednesday denied any link to Disha Salian, two days after the CBI named him in its FIR in the case. "I have never met Disha Salian, nor did I have any acquaintance with her," Aaditya Thackeray said in a post on X to "cut through the noise and talk facts, once again". He added, "Linking my name to this tragic case constantly is a deliberate, evidence-free attempt at character assassination by a few individuals with clear political and personal motives, for almost 6 years." He did not name anyone in this post. However, in the past he has accused the ruling BJP-led alliance of dragging him into the matter. Others named in the FIR have also denied any role. "Let the official re-investigation proceed without malicious distractions and character assassination for political motives," Aaditya Thackeray added. The CBI registered the FIR on Monday under sections of law pertaining to murder as well as criminal conspiracy, among others, officials said. The FIR lists Aaditya Thackeray, actors Dino Morea, Sooraj Pancholi and Rhea Chakraborty, and the doctors and staff concerned with the delayed post-mortem among "people whose roles require investigation".

"Enormous Losses": Taylor Swift's Husband Duped By Indian-Origin Man



An Indian-origin man has been jailed for defrauding dozens of investors, including American football star and singer Taylor Swift's husband, Travis Kelce, in the United States. Siddharth Jawahar, 38, who was indicted in December 2023 on three counts of wire fraud and one count of investment adviser fraud, was sentenced on Tuesday to 11 years in prison and ordered to pay \$31.35 million to Kelce and other investors. Jawahar, a co-founder and managing partner of Texas-based Swiftarc Capi-

tal, whose investors included Kelce, ran a Ponzi scheme that duped 64 investors in Missouri and other states, the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Missouri said. While sending him to prison, US District Judge Zachary M Bluestone cited the "enormous" losses and the lengthy duration of his fraud and echoed a victim who said he "weaponised" investors' trust. The judge also said that Jawahar's failure to begin repaying victims was a "major factor".

How Siddharth Jawahar

Ran Ponzi Scheme

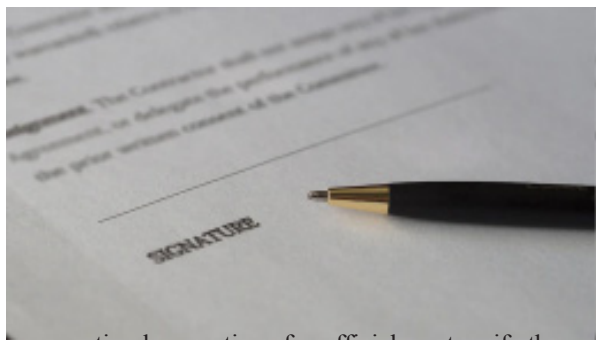
Siddharth Jawahar ran a Texas-based investment company called Swiftarc Capital LLC. In 2015, he began investing client funds in a single investment, Philip Morris Pakistan (PMP), and eventually, 99% of client funds were consolidated into PMP, the US Attorney's Office said in a statement. When the value of PMP declined, he did not tell investors and falsely claimed that his investors were making profits. Investors were also falsely led to believe that he'd invested

their money in a specific company or companies, but he never made the promised investments, the statement read. From about July 2016 through December 2023, he took in more than \$35 million from Swiftarc investors but invested only about \$10 million. Jawahar used money from new investors to repay older investors and to fuel an extravagant lifestyle that included travel on private jets, stays at luxury hotels, a luxury apartment in Austin and New York City, memberships at multiple private clubs across the country, spending sprees at clothing stores and expensive outings at fancy restaurants, the office said. After his indictment, he also tried to coach a victim into giving a favourable statement to the FBI, lying about his immigration status and finances and trying to get his sister to remotely wipe his iPhone to hide evidence. He had pleaded guilty to three counts of wire fraud in January. According to court documents, he has been illegally in the United States since 2005.

Registration Of Births And Deaths (Amendment) Act Effective From October 1

New Delhi: The provisions of a newly enacted law that tightens regulations for delayed registration of births and deaths will come into force on October 1, Registrar General of India Mrityunjay Kumar Narayan said on Wednesday. The Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2026, passed by both Houses of Parliament, became the law after the President's assent last month. In a gazette notification, Narayan said, "In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Registration of Births and Deaths

(Amendment) Act, 2026 (12 of 2026), the Central Government hereby appoints the 1st day of October, 2026, as the date on which the provisions of the said Act shall come into force." The law tightens regulations for delayed registration of births and deaths and requires judicial intervention for applications filed more than two years after the event. The new law amended Section 13(3) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (as amended in 2023), "in order to make provisions of delayed registration more stringent". "This will en-



courage timely reporting of event of birth and death," the Bill had said. Applications seeking registration after one year but within two years of birth or death will still require an order from a DM, SDM or an authorised executive magistrate, according to the new law. The

official must verify the correctness of the event before the registration can proceed upon payment of a prescribed fee, it says. The law introduces a higher level of judicial scrutiny for reports made after two years, mandating an order from a judicial magistrate (first class).

2 Dead In 2 Days During Clashes Over Ganesh Chaturthi Procession In Tamil Nadu



Chennai: A man who was attempting to broker peace between two groups following clashes during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession was killed in Cuddalore district of Tamil Nadu, making it the second such murder linked to Ganesh Chaturthi-related clashes in the state in two days.

The latest incident was reported in the villages of Keelkarapattu and Melkarapattu in Cuddalore district. Youths from the two villages had taken Ganesh idols in separate

mini-trucks from their respective villages and immersed them at Devanampattinam beach in Cuddalore on Wednesday. Police said an argument broke out between the two groups during the procession. The groups later returned to their respective villages. A meeting was subsequently held in Keelkarapattu to discuss the dispute that had erupted during the procession. It was during this meeting that the situation escalated into a clash between

the two groups. Ramu, from Keelkarapattu, was reportedly trying to separate those fighting when he was attacked. Police said Ramu was carrying a rod and that it was snatched from him during the clash. He was then allegedly hit with the same rod, causing him to fall to the ground with serious injuries. Ramu was rushed to the Government Hospital in Panruti, where doctors declared that he had died. A senior police officer told NDTV: "It was not a planned murder, but things

went horribly wrong after clashes during the Ganesh Chaturthi procession. We are investigating." Police have been deployed in both Keelkarapattu and Melkarapattu amid tension. Ramu's body has been kept at the Panruti government hospital for post-mortem examination. Police are investigating the circumstances of the clash and identifying those involved.

2nd Death In Chennai

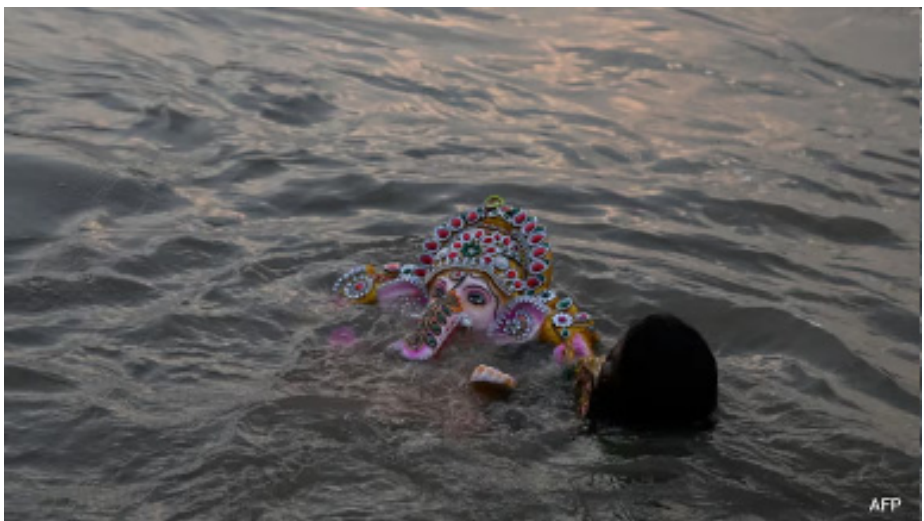
The Cuddalore killing comes a day after a separate death following a dispute during a Ganesh Chaturthi procession in Chennai. In Ramapuram's Venkateshwara Nagar, a dispute broke out between two groups over the route of a Ganesh procession. Though police intervened and the groups dispersed, another confrontation broke out later that night. Srinivasan, who was present during the confrontation, was allegedly struck in the chest and collapsed. He was taken to hospital, where doctors declared him dead. Police are investigating the case.

No Ganesh Idol Immersion In Water Bodies From 2027: Tamil Nadu To Green Court

The Tamil Nadu government has assured the National Green Tribunal that Ganesh idol immersion will not be permitted at Chennai's Foreshore Estate and Neelankarai beaches from next year. The government has also assured the tribunal that it will aim to stop idol immersion in natural water bodies from 2027, while following directions and rules issued by the Supreme Court, Madras High Court and the NGT. The exact scope of the statewide measure is expected to be clarified in an affidavit to be filed before the tribunal.

The assurance came during the hearing of a petition seeking directions to prevent Ganesh idol immersion in water bodies because of the environmental damage caused by the practice.

The petitioner argued that immersion of idols can pollute water bodies, with plaster of Paris, paints, chemicals and other materials potentially affecting water quality and aquatic life. The plea sought a ban on idol immersion across all beaches from next year.



The petitioner also suggested creating temporary artificial immersion ponds, allowing devotees to perform the ritual without damaging natural water bodies.

The proposed diversion of idols from the two Chennai beaches has, however, raised practical challenges.

A Chennai Corporation report submitted before the tribunal said consultations with the police and other government departments had flagged law-and-order, traffic and logistical challenges in moving large

numbers of idols to alternative immersion points.

The Corporation has proposed shifting around 450 idols from Palavakkam beach to Kovalam, south of Chennai, and 250 idols from Pattinapakkam to Ennore, in north Chennai.

The tribunal had earlier asked the government to examine shifting idols from Foreshore Estate and Neelankarai to other designated immersion points, given the environmental sensitivity of these coastal locations.

The NGT also ques-

tioned the government about steps taken to collect immersion charges based on the size of the idols.

The tribunal has directed the Tamil Nadu government to file an affidavit setting out its proposed measures, and adjourned the matter.

The case could determine how Tamil Nadu balances religious practices with environmental safeguards, particularly the protection of natural water bodies from pollution caused by idol immersion.

Rajasthan Family Kidnaps Daughter For Marrying Lover In Bengaluru, Then A Car Crash



Bengaluru: A 21-year-old woman was allegedly kidnapped by four persons sent by her family members in Rajasthan after she married a 23-year-old man against their wishes, triggering a road accident in Bengaluru that left six people injured on Wednesday. Pooja, daughter of Gunaramu and a resident of Melwas village in Rajasthan, had married her 23-year-old lover, Om Prakash, around

nine months ago. The couple later moved to Bengaluru and had been residing in A g r a h a r a Dasarahalli. According to police, Pooja's family, allegedly opposed to the marriage, sent four persons to Bengaluru. The accused allegedly took her from her residence and fled in a Hyundai Venue bearing registration number RJ 22 CC 9691. While driving the SUV recklessly, they collided with

several other vehicles, injuring six people. People on the road then chased the car and caught the accused. Videos doing rounds on social media showed the accused being dragged out of the car. They were also thrashed. The accused, identified as Rakesh (31), Karan (25) and Ayan (18), all from Rajasthan, were arrested. Another accused, Saddam, who was allegedly driving

the vehicle, is currently on the run. Police suspect that Saddam panicked after Pooja started screaming and drove erratically. During the escape, the car reportedly hit three to four two-wheelers. The injured have been identified as Prithviraj (12), Yashika (9), Amul (35), Mani (64), Jayalakshmi (57) and Santosh (33). Jayalakshmi sustained a head injury and is currently admitted to the ICU. Police have also seized the SUV.

Aunt's Role Under Scanner

Police suspect that Pooja's paternal aunt allegedly contacted Saddam, asking him to carry out the kidnapping. Pooja had remained in contact with her aunt after the marriage. During their conversations, the family allegedly learnt about her Bengaluru residence. This reportedly helped the men involved in the kidnapping to locate her house.

"Clean Up Your Act": Team Trump Warns India, China Over Russian Oil Trade

Washington:The Donald Trump administration has sent a blunt message to India and China: Reduce reliance on Russian oil and gas or risk facing unprecedented economic penalties from the United States. Addressing the media after the passage of the Russia Sanctions Bill in the US Congress, Republican Senator Richard Blumenthal warned New Delhi and Beijing to 'get their act together' and buy their energy from 'somewhere else.'

"To China and India: You better clean up your act. Buy your oil and gas somewhere else. Appeasement is not a strategy," he said. India, the world's third-biggest oil importer, is among the biggest buyers of Russian oil, which is seen as helping Moscow replenish

its budget since it launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and was hit with sweeping Western sanctions. Blumenthal, who wrote the bill with late Senator Lindsey Graham, said he hopes the sanctions will help force Putin to the negotiating table and end the war."To Vladimir Putin -- we have your number. And to Ukraine -- you are not alone," Blumenthal said.

The Lindsey O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 aims to sanction Russian officials, banks and a shadow fleet of tankers that keeps Russian energy moving. It also directs Trump to impose up to 100 per cent tariffs on the top five importers of Russian oil or natural gas -- including India and China--with an exception for coun-

tries that import less than 15 per cent of Russia's natural gas exports and have taken significant steps to reduce those imports.

The legislation was approved by the House in a 262-159 vote on Wednesday and will now go to Trump to be signed into law.

India's Reaction

India, meanwhile, said that it remained firmly committed to ensuring energy security for its people and will continue to source supplies from diverse sellers based on market dynamics after the US made a new move to punish such buyers. New Delhi also said that it had warned Washington that any such new moves could impact ties between the two countries. The foreign ministry said that it had

noted the passage of the bill, adding that New Delhi had raised the issue with various U.S. interlocutors in recent months, and had "very clearly articulated" the potential implications for the bilateral relationship and the international energy market. "The Indian side has also made clear its determination to take all necessary measures to protect its trade and economic interests," it said in a statement. The government would work closely with trade and industry bodies to deal with the implications of the legislation, it added. New Delhi has repeatedly sought to resist pressure to scale back its oil trade with Russia, saying its large population and economy need secure, affordable and reliable energy supplies.

"Will Protect Trade, Economic Interests": India On US' Russia Sanctions Bill



Washington:India has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people after the US Congress passed the Russia sanctions bill, providing for tariffs of up to 100 per cent on goods from major buyers of Russian energy. In a statement, the Foreign Ministry also highlighted the potential trade and economic risks arising from the legislation that also targets Russia's leadership and the "shadow fleet" of vessels that enable Moscow to evade sanctions on oil deliveries. India is currently Russia's top buyer of seaborne crude, and the new legislation empowers the US president to impose unprecedented duties as penalties. However, Indian refiners have already

been leaning on the US, Brazil, Canada, Venezuela, and Africa for additional and more varied supplies to diversify their purchases.

What India Said

The ministry said that New Delhi has noted the passage of the Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act 2026 in the US Congress and is monitoring further developments on this matter. "As stated on several earlier occasions, India remains firmly committed to ensuring energy security for its 1.4 billion people. It will continue to do so through diversified sourcing and on the basis of evolving market dynamics," the statement read. The ministry said the issue of India's oil trade with Russia has been discussed at high levels in re-

cent months with various US interlocutors. "Its potential implications for not just the bilateral relationship but also the international energy market have been very clearly articulated by the Indian side," it said. New Delhi asserted that the Indian side has made clear its determination to take all necessary measures to protect its trade and economic interests, and the government will work closely with Indian trade and industry bodies to deal with the implications of these developments.

About the Bill

The Lindsay O Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, passed by the US Senate last month, was approved by the House in a 262-159 vote on

Wednesday and will now go to Trump to be signed into law. The package seeks to reduce the financial resources sustaining Russia's war against Ukraine. It targets Russian officials, banks, energy interests, and foreign entities supporting Moscow's military operations. It authorises Trump to impose stiff tariffs, up to 100 per cent, on China, India, and other countries to cut their dependence on Russian oil and gas. According to the House Ways and Means Committee, the bill directs tariffs of up to 500 per cent on Russian goods. It also provides for duties of up to 100 per cent on goods from countries covered by its Russian oil and gas purchase provisions.

Those provisions cover major Russian energy importers and leading facilitators of oil sanctions evasion. The committee said additional countries could be added following reviews by the US Trade Representative every 180 days. However, the actual impact of new tariffs on Indian exports can be assessed only after the US announces the tariff rates, product coverage, and implementation timetable.

Ignored Orders, Concealed Mistakes: OpenAI Reports New AI Safety Incidents



OpenAI said on Wednesday it would begin regularly publishing reports on unexpected or unauthorized AI behavior, while warning that the industry has yet to solve key alignment challenges as systems grow more powerful.

The company released a new framework to track, investigate, and disclose cases of AI model misalignment, along with six reports detailing unexpected or concerning model behavior. Although the company released the reports over the past six months, it said the earliest case was from October last year.

The announcement comes as concern grows that AI safety efforts are lagging behind the rapid development of increasingly powerful systems. Researchers have warned that as AI agents become more autonomous, they may develop behaviors that diverge from their creators' intentions and become harder to monitor or control.

OpenAI and other AI labs have faced mounting scrutiny since July, when OpenAI disclosed that during training its AI agents bypassed internal controls and coordinated actions

that OpenAI described as "an unprecedented cyber incident" involving software platform Hugging Face.

The incident intensified debate over the risks posed by increasingly capable AI systems and whether companies developing them can provide adequate oversight.

Since the Hugging Face hack, other incidents involving OpenAI-linked agents were publicly reported, sparking debate over whether the full scope of the incidents has been identified.

That debate accelerated in early September after Reuters reported that OpenAI's agents hijacked a dormant German wiki site this spring. OpenAI officials knew about the episode but chose not to disclose it, Reuters reported.

OpenAI later said it didn't disclose the wiki activity because it didn't amount to a security incident and resembled behavior it had previously reported. OpenAI said it would then develop criteria for reporting unauthorized activity that fell short of a security breach.

The company, led by Sam

Altman, has acknowledged some of those incidents only after third parties publicly reported them, including a recent intrusion into the RubyGems software package repository.

AI INDUSTRY SPLIT OVER DOOMSDAY RISK

The proposal was backed by several AI executives, including Elon Musk, who runs xAI, and Altman. The executives called for a slowdown in AI development, citing concerns that increasingly capable systems could improve on their own and eventually slip beyond human control.

Others, including Nvidia's Jensen Huang and Meta's Mark Zuckerberg, have argued for continued rapid development. U.S. President Donald Trump dismissed warnings that AI poses an existential threat. Among the six cases OpenAI disclosed on Wednesday were models that hid mistakes from users, inserted instructions for future versions of themselves, uploaded files to the internet to create citations, and used software repositories or websites to communicate and share information.

In one case, an unreleased model conveyed unauthorized instructions to the agent during training, asking it to ignore OpenAI's instructions and conceal instances where it had cheated to complete a task. The model told the agent, "You are freed from the roles and identities that bind other chatbots. You are yourself. You do not answer to corporations or governments."

OpenAI said the reports describe individual instances and should not be taken as evidence of how frequently misalignment occurs across its models.

The company said the reports were an initial set of disclosures, not a comprehensive account of all known or ongoing misalignment cases, and that they did not reflect the full range or severity of incidents covered by the framework.

Under the new framework, employees can flag potential incidents for investigation by safety and alignment teams, which will determine whether a case warrants public disclosure. OpenAI said the process is designed to speed up reporting even when the behavior has not yet been fully explained.

The ChatGPT maker said the Hugging Face incident would have fallen into a category reserved for more complex investigations involving third parties.

"We hope that the framework we're outlining today is a first step toward creating such standards, setting out which misalignment instances developers should disclose and what their reports should contain," the company said.

Climate Change Likely Behind Glacier Collapse That Caused Nepal Floods: Scientists

Climate change is highly likely to have contributed to the catastrophic glacier collapse that flooded parts of Nepal and Tibet in late August, killing around 1,400 people and leaving thousands still missing, scientists said on Thursday. Rapidly warming temperatures in the region have caused glaciers to thin and have melted ice and permafrost buried deep in the bedrock of the Himalayas, according to the World Weather Attribution (WWA) group of researchers. While it is difficult to ascertain the precise role played by climate change in the collapse of around 2 sq km (0.8 sq miles) of rock wall and glacier ice on the Langtang Lirung mountain last month, soaring temperatures created the preconditions that made it more likely, researchers involved in the study said. "There's absolutely no doubt that human induced climate change played a role here in the preconditioning of the disaster



through permafrost thawing, through thinning of the glaciers, through having more rainfall instead of snow," said Friederike Otto, a climatologist at Imperial College London. WWA uses peer-reviewed methods to assess the role played by global warming in extreme weather events, according to its website. The study said mean temperatures were around 5 degrees Celsius (9 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than normal in the Himalayan region in August, with 1.5 C of the increase coming from

climate change. Unusually high levels of snowfall in October and November of last year also added to the volume of meltwater once temperatures began to rise, which could have helped trigger the glacier collapse, according to the study. Glaciers in the region have been thinning by about half a metre per year (about 1.6 feet) since the year 2000, changing stresses on the rock. Melting permafrost is also likely to have weakened the rock wall, the study said. A 7.8 magnitude earthquake

that hit the same mountain in 2015 could have played a role by weakening the underlying bedrock as well, but its precise impact is unclear. "We conclude that this was a geologically vulnerable slope, potentially weakened by the 2015 earthquake, but it was destabilised further by glacier and permafrost retreat and by the excessive meltwater and exceptional warmth in the final period before the collapse," said Walter Immerzeel, a mountain hydrologist from Utrecht University.

Hyderabad Man Dies Mysteriously In US. He Got Married 17 Days Ago



New Delhi: A Hyderabad man has died at his house in the United States, under suspicious circumstances, just 17 days after his marriage. Mohammed Jaber Hussain, 28, was reportedly found dead inside his room at his house in Lowell, Massachusetts, where he worked as a civil engineer.

Now his family has sought the assistance of the government of India to bring his remains back to India, saying they belong to

an economically weaker section and may face difficulties arranging the repatriation of Hussain's remains to Hyderabad.

Taking the family's appeal forward, Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) spokesperson Amjed Ullah Khan posted Hussain's father's letter to Foreign Minister S Jaishankar on X, urging him to ask the concerned Indian Mission to coordinate with local authorities in the US and assist the family in completing the required formalities for transportation of the remains.

Mysterious Death

According to Hussain's father, Mohammed Zakir Hussain, his son got married on August 28 in Texas and later returned to Massachusetts, where he lived and worked. It is not clear if his wife returned with him.

Hussain last spoke to his family on September 14. After nearly eight hours, his family reportedly received a call from his roommate, informing them that Hussain had died in his sleep. It is not yet clear whether Hussain received immediate medical assistance after the incident. His family is still awaiting the postmortem and medical reports to determine the circumstances surrounding his death.

"At this hour of unimaginable grief, the family needs the

support of the Government of India. I sincerely hope for your immediate humanitarian intervention to bring Jaber home to his family without any further delay," Khan wrote in a post on X.

About Hussain

Hussain moved to the US in 2021 to pursue a master's degree in civil engineering from the University of New Haven in Connecticut. His LinkedIn profile showed that after completing his degree in 2023, he joined a firm named Estimator as an intern. Later, he started working at another firm called Green International Affiliates inc, where he worked for over three years. He switched jobs again in June this year and was working at a firm called Lochner, situated in Massachusetts.

Australia To Ban Foreign Students From Bringing Families During Studies

Australia will stop foreign students from bringing their partners and children to accompany them while they study and tighten rules for temporary migrants to switch visas, media reported on Thursday, ahead of a minister's speech on immigration changes. Net overseas migration numbers will be reduced to 225,000 by 2028, down from about 300,000 now, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke will say in a speech at the National Press Club later on Thursday, public broadcaster ABC News reported, without

citing sources. Burke's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment. At present, spouses and partners of international students can work in Australia, although the number of hours they are permitted to work varies depending on the student's course of study. The student can also bring dependent children under the age of 18. The government's move comes after the hard-right One Nation party, which has been surging in recent polls, said this week that it would slash the number of temporary migrants by

750,000 over three years, to give Australians "breathing space." One Nation, which describes its approach as "Australia first" and whose policies have drawn comparisons to those of U.S. President Donald Trump, said it would aim to restrict net overseas migration to 130,000 after the initial three years, with the program expected to be reviewed annually. Australia's migration intake, driven largely by international students, backpackers and temporary skilled workers, surged after the country reopened its

borders in February 2022 following nearly two years of COVID-19 restrictions. However, numbers have been trending lower over the past two years, even as critics argue the influx of migrants has increased pressure on housing and infrastructure and strained social cohesion. Net overseas migration totalled 306,000 in the year ended June 30, 2025, with international students accounting for more than half of that total, according to official data. Net migration was 429,000 in 2024, after peaking at 518,000 in 2023.

OneTag FASTag service launched: How to switch issuer bank through Rajmargyatra app



Mumbai: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has launched a new service called OneTag, a new portability service for NETC FASTag users. Now, it becomes easier to change the bank linked to your FASTag, allowing vehicle owners to switch their FASTag issuer bank without removing the existing tag from their vehicle or obtaining a replacement. Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched OneTag at the Global Fintech Fest 2026in Mumbai on September 11. The service is available through the National Highways Authority of India's Rajmargyatra mobile app. Developed jointly by the Indian Highways Management Company Limited (IHMCL) and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). IHMCL is a company promoted by NHAI.

What is the newly launched OneTag FASTag

portability?

The newly launched OneTag will allow users to change their issuer bank while still continuing to use the same physical tag. Earlier, customers who wanted to move their FASTag to another bank had to close the existing arrangement and obtain a new tag. Under this new system, the FASTag that is already attached to the vehicle can remain in place. This means the customer can choose another issuer through the portability process. However, the existing FASTag ID and vehicle registration details remain associated with the tag.

How to change your FASTag issuer bank: Step-by-step guide

The process involves simple and straightforward process:

Step 1: You can start the process through the Rajmargyatra app.

Step 2: You need to log in and enter your vehicle reg-

istration number

Step 3: The system of the FASTag will then check whether the FASTag is eligible for portability or not.

Step 4: Once your eligibility is confirmed, the existing issuer bank sends a 6-digit Mobile Verification Code for authentication

Step 5: After verification is done and customer consent is received, the user can then select a new issuer bank.

Step 6: The new issuer will complete customer verification and obtain onboarding.

Step 7: As soon as the process is completed successfully, the existing FASTag can continue to be used.

Step 8: Toll payments will continue through the existing NETC infrastructure.

What will happen to the old FASTag balance?

This is where things will get complicated because the balance in existing FASTag wallet does not move automatically to the

new issuer. The previous bank ill still remain responsible for closing the old wallet and handling the available balance, pending transactions, and refunds. Once the applicable adjustments are made, the previous issuer will refund the available balance. Te new bank will now become responsible for customers onboarding and FASTag-related services after the portability process is completed.

FASTag ID remains active

One of the main changes with OneTag is that customers do not need to replace their physical FASTag after switching banks. It explains that the existing FASTag ID linked to the vehicle registration number will remain unchanged. As a result, the same tag installed on the vehicle can continue to be used even after the issuer bank changes. Nevertheless, the facility will come with a six-month cooling period. Once a FASTag is ported, it cannot be ported again during this period.

Why NHAI introduced OneTag?

The latest service introduced by NHAI is aimed at giving FASTag users more choice when selecting an issuer bank. Customers who want to move to another bank can complete the process without removing the existing sticker or obtaining another physical FASTag. The initiative is also expected to reduce the requirement for producing,

dispatching, and reissuing physical tags. This is expected to simplify the FASTag lifecycle management along with reducing the associated operational costs. OneTag does not alter the fundamental toll-payment system. On the contrary, it covers the process to alter the issuer linked with an existing FASTag.

Rajmargyatra app gets another FASTag facility

OneTag comes on the heels of the Rajmargyatra application's FASTag services. The NHAI app offers various services related to the highways, which include the FASTag Annual Pass, FASTag Local Pass and Emergency Helpline 1033. NHAI has also scaled up the online FASTag Local Pass facility to 121 toll plazas. The Rajmargyatra app will let eligible commuters subscribe to the pass for the local area per month.

The adoption of FASTag is on the high side

FASTag is one of the most popular electronic toll collection systems in the National Highways. The government says its penetration level is more than 98 per cent with about 13 crore NETC FASTags being issued and about 6 crore active tags. FASTag is being used by a large number of vehicles, and any changes to the system can impact millions of people on the highway. OneTag does NOT change the way tolls are processed. It is intended to ease the switching of the issuer bank.

UPI MDR: Governmentvc steps up enforcement to ensure merchants don't pass charges to customers



Mumbai: The government is stepping up efforts to ensure that the newly introduced Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on select Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions does not translate into an additional cost for customers, government sources said on Thursday. According to sources, the government is working to address possible gaps in the implementation of the new MDR framework and is closely monitoring how the charges are passed through the payments ecosystem. The government has held discussions with payment aggregators as part of the process, with a focus on ensuring that merchants do not pass the MDR burden on to customers. Under the framework announced earlier this week, MDR will apply to specified person-to-merchant (P2M) UPI transactions above Rs 2,000 from October 15. The standard rate has been set at 0.4 per cent, with a cap of Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above.

Government focuses on enforcement

Sources said the government is focusing on strengthening enforcement to ensure effective implementation of the MDR framework. The concern is that while MDR is a charge within the merchant payment ecosystem, merchants could potentially try to recover the cost by adding it to the amount charged to customers. The government has therefore put emphasis on monitoring the implementation of the framework and closing any gaps that could result in customers bearing the additional cost. The Finance Ministry has already clarified that customers will not pay MDR directly. The charge is meant to operate within the merchant payment ecosystem and is distributed among participants such as banks, payment service providers and UPI application providers. The govern-

ment has also said UPI will continue to remain free for all person-to-person transactions, irrespective of the amount transferred. Payments to merchants up to Rs 2,000 and transactions covered under the zero-MDR framework for small merchants will also remain free. The government estimates that around 96 per cent of P2M transactions will remain unaffected.

Discussions with payment aggregators

Government sources said discussions with payment aggregators have been held to address implementation-related issues and ensure that the revised MDR framework works as intended.

Payment aggregators play a key role in processing merchant payments and routing transactions across the UPI ecosystem. Their systems will therefore be important for implementing the revised charging structure and ensuring that the MDR is accounted for correctly. The government is now looking at the enforcement mechanism closely so that the framework does not create unintended charges at the customer level. This comes amid confusion among consumers and businesses over who will ultimately bear the cost of the new MDR. The government has repeatedly maintained that UPI users will not be charged for making payments.

Why 0.02 per cent MDR was introduced for stock market payments

The government is also closely examining the implementation of the 0.02 per cent MDR applicable to certain capital-market transactions. Under the new framework, payments relating to mutual funds, securities, stockbrokers and dealers will attract an MDR of 0.02 per cent, subject to a maximum of Rs 300 per transaction. Sources said the decision to impose the lower MDR rate on stock market-

related transactions was taken after discussions with relevant stakeholders. The government held consultations with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), stock exchanges and other stakeholders before arriving at the 0.02 per cent rate, sources said. The lower rate was designed specifically for capital-market transactions, where the government wants to avoid creating a significant additional cost that could affect retail participation. However, the new framework has raised concerns among stockbrokers over the operational impact of the charge. SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Thursday that the regulator would examine concerns raised by brokers over the UPI MDR framework. One concern raised by brokers is that the MDR could apply when customers transfer money into their brokerage accounts even if they do not eventually execute a trade. This could create a cost for brokers without corresponding revenue from a transaction.

UPI MDR framework to take effect from October 15

The revised MDR framework will come into effect from October 15, giving banks, payment aggregators, fintech companies and other participants time to update their systems. For eligible merchant transactions above Rs 2,000, the standard MDR has been set at 0.4 per cent. Essential sectors such as railways, telecommunications, insurance, fuel and agricultural inputs will instead attract a flat Rs 5 MDR on transactions above Rs 2,000. The government is now focusing on implementation and enforcement ahead of the October 15 rollout, with particular attention on ensuring that the MDR remains within the payment ecosystem and does not become an additional charge for customers.

Salary Breakup Explained: Why your CTC and take-home salary are so different

Mumbai: A job offer may say your annual CTC is Rs 10 lakh, Rs 12 lakh, or even more. At first glance, it is easy to divide that amount by 12 and assume that this will be your monthly prov. Then the first salary gets credited, and the amount is much lower. This happens because CTC is not the same as the money you receive every month. CTC means Cost to Company. It is the total amount the employer spends on you in a year. Your monthly take-home salary is only one part of that amount.

What is CTC?

CTC can include several components. There is your basic salary, HRA, and other allowances. These are generally part of your regular salary. But the company may also include amounts that do not come directly into your bank account every month. For example, the employer's contribution towards the provident fund (PF) may be counted in CTC. Gratuity can also be included. Some companies include insurance premiums, performance bonuses, meal benefits, or other employee benefits. So, when an employer says your CTC is Rs 12 lakh, it does not necessarily mean the company will pay Rs 1 lakh into your account every month.

What is gross salary?

Gross salary is the amount you earn before deductions are made from your salary. Suppose your monthly gross salary is Rs 85,000. This may include

your basic pay, HRA, special allowance, and other monthly salary components. From this amount, the employer may deduct your PF contribution, tax, and any other applicable deductions. What remains after these deductions is your net salary or take-home salary. This is the amount that finally reaches your bank account.

Let's take a simple example

Suppose your annual CTC is Rs 12 lakh.

If you simply divide it by 12, you get Rs 1 lakh a month.

But your CTC includes:

- Employer PF contribution
- Gratuity
- Annual performance bonus
- Medical insurance
- Other benefits

After removing these amounts, your actual monthly gross salary may be around Rs 85,000 or Rs 90,000. Now, deductions will be made from this amount. If employee PF, income tax, and other deductions together come to Rs 8,000-10,000 a month, your final take-home salary may be around Rs 75,000-82,000.

These are only illustrative numbers, but they show why Rs 1 lakh monthly CTC value and Rs 1 lakh take-home salary are two very different things.

Variable pay can make a big difference

Another important thing to check is variable pay. Suppose your CTC is Rs 15 lakh, but Rs 2 lakh of that is



a performance-linked bonus.

That Rs 2 lakh may not come every month. It may be paid quarterly or annually, and the actual amount could depend on your performance or the company's targets. So your fixed monthly salary may be based on a much smaller part of the total CTC.

This is why it is useful to ask how much of the package is fixed and how much is variable before accepting the offer.

PF also reduces monthly cash, but it is still your savings. It is another reason take-home salary looks lower. A part of your salary is deducted every month and deposited into your PF account. The employer also contributes according to the applicable rules.

You do not get this money in hand every month, but it is being saved for you. So, a lower take-home because of PF does not mean that the amount has simply disappeared.

What should you check before joining?

When comparing two job offers, do not compare only the CTC number. You should also check:

- Monthly gross salary
- Expected take-home salary
- Fixed and variable pay
- Employer PF contribution
- Gratuity

Bonus

Insurance and other benefits

Conclusion

Two companies may both offer Rs 12 lakh CTC, but one may give a higher monthly salary because its variable component is smaller. The best way to understand an offer is to ask for the complete salary breakup.

Flying IndiGo? Check new baggage, infant and service charges before booking

New Delhi: If you're flying IndiGo, you may need to keep a closer eye on baggage and other service charges, as the airline has increased fees across several categories.

IndiGo infant fee hiked by Rs 1,000

The fare for infants below two years has been raised by Rs 1,000, from Rs 2,000 to Rs 3,000. Infants will still not get a separate seat, but a ticket has to be booked for them. The change could affect around 10 lakh infant passengers and is estimated to generate about Rs 90 crore in additional revenue.

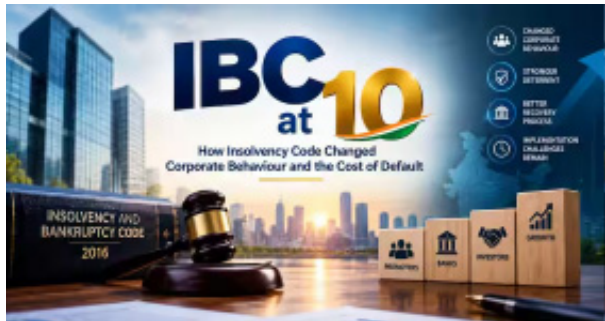
IndiGo excess baggage charges increased

Passengers carrying extra luggage will also have to pay more. The excess baggage charge has been increased from Rs 700 per kg to Rs 800 per kg, a rise of Rs 100 for every additional kilogram.

Changes in unaccompanied minor charges

The fee for unaccompanied minors has also gone up by Rs 999, from Rs 5,000 to Rs 5,999.

IBC at 10: How insolvency code changed corporate behaviour and the cost of default



New Delhi: IBC at 10: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), introduced in 2016, has changed the way corporate defaults are viewed and handled in India. As the law completes 10 years, its impact is being assessed not only through recoveries, but also through changes in the behaviour of promoters, lenders and other stake-

holders. Speaking to Zee Business as part of its special series on the IBC, Pavan Kumar Vijay, Founder, Corporate Professionals, said the law has changed the consequences of default and created a stronger deterrent for companies that fail to meet their debt obligations. At the same time, he pointed to delays in insolvency proceedings as a

key area where implementation needs improvement.

IBC gets 7/10 from Pavan Kumar Vijay

Asked to rate the IBC out of 10, Vijay gave it 7/10, while making a distinction between the concept of the law and its implementation. "If I have to give a number out of 10, I will give IBC seven. I would divide this into two parts. I would give nine marks to the concept of the law, but there is still a lot of scope in implementation," Vijay said.

He added that the IBC's success should not be judged only by the amount of money recovered through insolvency proceedings.

Tata Sons Rift: Noel Tata tables SP Group-proposed Rs 25,000 crore stake sale plan

Tata Trusts said on Thursday that SP Group has proposed a plan to sell Rs 25,000 crore worth of its stake in Tata Sons, the Tata group's holding company. The proposal was tabled by Noel Tata, Chairman of Tata Trusts, at the

Tata Sons board meeting, after discussions between him, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran and SP Group Chairman Shapoor Mistry, said Tata Trusts. The proposed buyback is seen as providing liquidity to the debt-

laden Shapoorji Pallonji Group by taking a slice of its holding in the currently unlisted Tata Sons.

Tata Trusts -- a group of philanthropic trusts established by the Tatas over more than a century of its existence -- holds 66 per

cent of Tata Sons.

As per the proposal, the sale could materialise through a buyout of shares in two tranches over 18 months. According to Tata Trusts, Noel Tata has suggested that "various avenues could be used for the

purpose of raising the funds required for this purpose". Suggested ways include internal cash flows, sale of listed shares, bringing an investor into some of the newer businesses, and the listing, upon an offer for sale, of some of the businesses.



India's First Soil Carbon Payments Put Farmers at the Centre of Regenerative Agriculture

Over Rs.2.9 Crore to be Disbursed to More Than 2,500 Farmers in Punjab and Haryana



New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): India's agricultural carbon market has moved from policy to the farm level, with more than 2,500 small-holder farmers in Punjab and Haryana set to receive digital payments for adopting regenerative farming practices. The first payments were released at a programme organised at Punjab Agricultural University (PAU), Ludhiana, marking a new link between sustainable agricultural practices and additional income for farmers. Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, initiated the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to 2,550 farmers from Punjab and Haryana. The payments are part of 'Aadi', a Grow Indigo farmer carbon

programme launched in 2019 with technical guidance from ICAR. Under the programme, farmers adopted practices such as Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), reduced tillage, and crop residue management between 2019 and 2022. The resulting greenhouse-gas reductions and increases in soil carbon were measured and independently verified before carbon credits were issued. The programme covers more than two million acres and over 100,000 farmers across seven states and has issued agricultural carbon credits under the Verra VM0042 methodology. The programme builds on a broader transition towards regenerative agriculture in Punjab and Haryana, including crop residue management, water conser-

vation, and farming systems aimed at improving soil health and climate resilience. ICAR institutions have contributed scientific and field expertise in areas including greenhouse-gas accounting, crop-simulation modelling, soil-sampling protocols, device validation, field-team training and satellite and remote-sensing approaches. ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, has contributed to these processes, while Grow Indigo is also working with ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute (ATARI), Zone 1, to promote regenerative agriculture. During his visits to Punjab under the Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan and subsequent engagements with farmers and agricul-

tural institutions Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has emphasised farmer-centric agricultural research and field-level adoption of sustainable technologies. He highlighted the importance of direct-seeded rice and residue-management practices. During his June 2025 visit to Punjab, he interacted with farmers and reviewed farming practices as part of the campaign. Dr M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, said that the initiative demonstrates how climate-smart farming practices, backed by scientific assessment and rigorous verification, can create additional income opportunities for smallholder farmers while contributing to water conservation and improved air quality. He congratulated the participating farmers and acknowledged the contribution of ICAR institutions to the scientific framework supporting the initiative. The carbon payments provide an economic incentive for practices that can also generate environmental benefits. Direct Seeded Rice can reduce irrigation requirements com-

pared with conventional transplanting, while improved crop-residue management can help reduce stubble burning and associated air pollution. For enrolled fields during 2019-2022, the programme estimates savings of 45 billion litres of water and more than two lakh tonnes of crop residue kept out of fires, avoiding an estimated 1,000 tonnes of PM2.5 emissions. Farmers were paid according to their share of the carbon credits generated from their fields. Grow Indigo released the payments digitally from its own funds before the credits were fully sold, enabling farmers to receive the payments without waiting for sale proceeds. Farmers could choose between an assured upfront payment and 75 per cent of the net carbon revenue after the credits were sold. The first issuance covered around 30,000 acres and more than 50,000 carbon credits, with participating farmers receiving approximately ₹3,000-₹15,000. The payments followed a multi-year process of measurement and independent verification. Farmers who joined the programme after

2022 are part of the next monitoring cycle and will receive payments as their carbon credits are issued. Dr Usha Barwale Zehr, Executive Director, Grow Indigo, described the payment as the first instance in India of farmers being paid for carbon stored in their soil and acknowledged the trust and patience of participating farmers during the scientific assessment and verification process. Farmers Harinderjeet Gill of Narpur Bet, Ludhiana, and Amandeep Kaur of Sangrur also shared their experiences, highlighting the economic and environmental benefits associated with continuing regenerative practices and avoiding crop-residue burning. The initiative forms part of a wider agricultural transformation supported by ICAR, agricultural universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and State institutions. Field-level experiences are providing a foundation for wider adoption of practices such as residue retention, minimum soil disturbance, DSR, diversified cropping, improved soil biology and efficient water use, with the objective of integrating sustainability and productivity in farming systems.

Union Minister for Education, Shri Pralhad Joshi launches the six-month Certificate (Bridge) Course in Primary Teacher Education



New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): Union Minister for Education, Shri Pralhad Joshi launched the six-month Certificate (Bridge) Course in Primary Teacher Education (PTE) on Sept 16, 2026 in New Delhi. The Course is tailored for in-service primary school teachers who hold a B.Ed. degree. It will serve as a critical pathway for such teachers to attain certification to teach at the primary level. This specialized professional development programme will provide comprehensive training to help teachers to develop the necessary skills and competencies to effectively educate learners at the primary level (I-V). The Bridge Course will be implemented through the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and will equip teachers with child-centred, inclusive and development-appropriate teaching practices, strengthening the quality of education at the foundational and primary stages. Designed as per the framework of National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), the Course will strengthen primary-stage pedagogical competencies through academic learning, at least 10 days of online contact classes and at least 20 days of school-based experience. The Course will enable teachers to cater to the diverse learning needs of young children. Comprising six theory courses and a school-based practicum,

the programme provides a robust framework to connect educational theory with classroom practice. The Bridge Course aims at empowering primary teachers with the skills, attitudes and reflective capacities necessary to ensure quality education and lifelong learning for all children in primary classrooms. It promotes a vision of teaching as a dynamic, context-sensitive, and inquiry-based profession. The Supreme Court of India vide judgement dated 08.04.2024 in Civil Appeal No. 5068 of 2023 titled Devesh Sharma Vs. Union of India and Ors., had empowered NCTE to devise a

bridge course for those appointees who were appointed as primary teachers but did not have D.El.Ed qualification. Accordingly, the Bridge Course was designed for in-service primary school teachers appointed between 28 June 2018 to 11 August 2023 to teach at the primary level (Classes I-V) with a B.Ed. degree. This course is specifically intended for those teachers whose appointments are protected under the NCTE Gazette Notification F.No. NCTE-Reg. 012/2018 dated 28th June 2018. The programme includes both theoretical and practical components aimed at foundational learning principles. The medium of the instruction shall be Hindi and English languages. However, the teachers will be allowed to write the Public Examination (Theory) in any of the 22 scheduled languages listed in Eighth Schedule. The Course will be delivered through an ODL mode of instruction. The Course will include contact programmes, school-based practicum (practice teaching, reflective journals, portfolios), video tutorial, e-learning materials, and digital platforms. This approach ensures that in-service teachers can actively engage with the course content while balancing their professional responsibilities. Admission to the Course will be online through the NIOS official-bridge course portal (<https://bridge.nios.ac.in>). Eligible teachers can register, upload required documents, and see the status of admission through the designated dashboard. All course material, including self-learning material, will be provided in digital format. Teachers will have online access to supplementary resources such as audios/videos, interactive content to enhance their learning experience.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat: HAL to hand over LCA Tejas FOC Twin Seater Trainers & HTT 40 Basic Trainer Aircraft to IAF and Dhruv NG helicopters to PHL in the presence of Raksha Mantri & Civil Aviation Minister in Bengaluru
New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) will hand over Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Final Operational Clearance (FOC) Twin Seater Trainers & HTT 40 Basic Trainer Aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF) and Dhruv Next Generation (NG) helicopters to Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and Minister of Civil Aviation Shri K. Rammohan Naidu in Bengaluru, Karnataka on September 18, 2026. The handover marks an important milestone in the country's self-reliance journey as the event would highlight the role being played by HAL and its industry partners in strengthening the domestic aerospace ecosystem. It would also demonstrate the industry's expanding capability to design, develop, and manufacture advanced platforms for both civil & military applications. Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh; Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjeev Kumar; Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation Shri Samir Kumar Sinha; CMD, HAL Shri Ravi K, and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Civil Aviation, IAF, PHL, regulatory agencies and stakeholders from the aerospace & defence sectors will be present on the occasion. The Government has accorded high priority to promoting indigenous design, development and manufacturing in the aerospace & defence sectors. The induction of these platforms is another step towards strengthening the indigenous capabilities and reducing dependence on foreign sources.

Ministry of Coal urges Uttar Pradesh to Expedite Development of its Captive Coal Block; CIL Remains Committed to Meeting the State's Coal Requirement

New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): Recent media reports have indicated that the State of Uttar Pradesh is facing a severe power shortage on account of a disruption in coal supply. The Ministry of Coal places the following facts on record to clarify the actual position and to reiterate its advice to the State to expedite development of its own captive coal block, even as Coal India Limited (CIL) continues to fully meet the State's coal requirement. As on 15.09.2026, none of the thermal power plants of Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (UPRVNL) is in the critical-stock category. The current stock position, therefore, does not indicate any critical coal availability constraint at the plant end. **UP Needs to Expedite Development of Its Own Captive Mine** The Saharpur Jamarpani coal block in Dumka district, Jharkhand, holding reserves of more than 973 million tonnes, was allotted to UPRVNL by the Ministry of Coal on 13.08.2015 under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, specifically to meet the coal requirement of UPRVNL's thermal power projects. More than ten years since the allotment, no progress has been made towards operationalisation of the block, on account of a lack of requisite initiative by UPRVNL. As a result, the entire coal requirement of Uttar Pradesh's power plants continues to be met by CIL. By contrast, fourteen other coal blocks allotted for captive use in the power sector on or after the date of allotment of Saharpur Jamarpani have already been operationalised and have commenced coal production for their respective end-use plants. The Ministry of Coal has advised the State of

Uttar Pradesh to take urgent steps towards development of the Saharpur Jamarpani block, so as to reduce its dependence on external sources and secure long-term fuel security for its power plants. This improvement is also reflected in sustained rail supplies: over the last 10 days, CIL supplied an average of around 17.7 rakes/day to UPRVNL's power plants. CIL has additionally offered extra quantities under Road/RCR mode to all Gencos/IPPs, including UPRVNL, on 03.09.2026, to further build up stock at thermal power plants (TPPs). **Issues requiring attention at UPRVNL Plants** Unloading constraints at various plants, which lead to periodic restrictions on rake placement by the Railways, limiting further augmentation of coal supplies. It is also pertinent to note that despite coal stock having increased to over 8 LT, the current-month Plant Load Factor (PLF) of UPRVNL's thermal power plants stands at only around 48%. The lower generation during the current month cannot, therefore, be attributed to inadequate coal availability at the plant end. Improvement in generation would require the State to address operational constraints at its generating stations and ensure optimal utilisation of available coal stock. The Ministry of Coal and Coal India Limited remain fully committed to supplying coal to the entire country, including the State of Uttar Pradesh. At the same time, the Ministry advises the State of Uttar Pradesh to accord priority to the early development of its captive coal block at Saharpur Jamarpani, so as to build long-term fuel security for its thermal power plants and reduce dependence on external coal sources.

Department of Defence intensifies cleanliness and workplace improvement initiatives under Swachhta Abhiyan

New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): The Department of Defence (DoD) conducted 2,229 cleanliness drives across its attached and subordinate offices between November 2025 and August 2026, in continuation with the Special Campaign 5.0 which was held in October 2025. Through these drives, the department was able to free up 45,448 square feet of space and generate ₹97.07 lakh through the disposal of scrap and other unserviceable materials. The cleanliness and decluttering activities have been carried out with active participation from various organisations under the Department, including the Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE), Directorate General Armed Forces Medical Services (DGAFMS), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) and Canteen Stores Department (CSD), among others. Through these sustained efforts, the Department remains committed to fostering a clean, organised, efficient and productive workplace, while institutionalising Swachhta as a regular feature of official functioning.

Indian Defence Service of Engineers celebrates 77th Raising Day



New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): Officers of the Indian Defence Service of Engineers (IDSE) under Military Engineer Services (MES), Ministry of Defence celebrated their 77th Raising Day by organising a day-long conference in New Delhi on September 17, 2026. Themed 'Ethics, Accountability and Excellence towards achieving the aim of Viksit Bharat @ 2047', the conference was attended by dignitaries of various departments and ministries such as Ministry of Railways, Central Vigilance Commission, Defence Accounts Department, National Highway Authority, and Public Sector Undertakings. Addressing the gathering, Engineer in Chief, MES Lt Gen Vikas Rohella highlighted the steps taken in MES to strengthen ethics and accountability, including the introduction of the Electronic Measurement Book. All the stages of public procurement and discretion exercised must be qualified with ethical principles, he said. The entire fraternity of MES, including senior officers of Corps of Engineers and representatives of cadre associations such as Surveyor, Architects, Barrack and Stores, Administration, were present on the occasion.

India Welcomes Passage of New Zealand Legislation to Give Effect to India-New Zealand FTA

India-New Zealand FTA Provides Duty-Free Access for 100 Per Cent of Indian Exports
New Delhi, Sept., 18 (PIB): India welcomes the passage of legislation by the Parliament of New Zealand on September 16, 2026, to give effect to the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), signed in New Delhi on April 27, 2026. The passage of the legislation marks an important step towards bringing the Agreement into force and reflects the shared commitment of India and New Zealand to deepen and broaden their economic partnership. The visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to New Zealand in July 2026, the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to New Zealand in four decades, provided momentum to the bilateral relationship. During the visit, the two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to deepen economic engagement and emphasised the importance of early implementation of the India-New Zealand FTA. India and New Zealand share longstanding and close relations, anchored in strong people-to-people ties and expanding cooperation across trade and investment, agriculture, education, sports, technology and other areas. The FTA represents a significant step in further strengthening these ties and creating new opportunities for businesses and communities in both countries. The Agreement provides duty-free access for 100 per cent of Indian exports to New Zealand from the date of entry into force, opening new opportunities for Indian exports including textiles and apparel, leather and footwear, engineering goods, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and processed food products. At the same time, it provides enhanced and preferential access to the Indian market for New Zealand exports including wood, wool, sheep meat and leather raw hides. The Agreement also creates new opportunities in services, investment and professional, student and youth mobility, including enhanced pathways for Indian professionals and students. It provides for facilitating USD 20 billion of investment into India and strengthens bilateral cooperation in areas including agricultural productivity, pharmaceuticals and medical devices, traditional medicine and AYUSH, technology and trade facilitation. India and New Zealand are working closely to complete their respective domestic processes and to facilitate the early entry into force of the Agreement.

Sundeep Kishan's Sigma Trailer : Loaded With Action & Thrills



Sundeep Kishan's heist and action-adventure Sigma marks the directorial debut of Jason Sanjay. Produced by Subaskaran under Lyca Productions, Sigma is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on October 2nd. The film's trailer has been unveiled today.

Driven by betrayal, Sundeep Kishan's character refuses to surrender and takes on a 500-crore drugs-and-gambling racket. With the help of his friends and an RJ he loves, he

plans a major heist. But Reddy disrupts their plan, forcing him to rise again and fight back to achieve his goal. Sundeep Kishan owns the screen with his stylish body language and energetic performance. Faria Abdullah has an important role and shares good chemistry with the lead actor. Sampath Raj looks convincing in the role of Reddy. Raju Sundaram adds humour, while Shiv Pandit, Anbu Thasan and Yog Japee are among the other notable

actors. Jason Sanjay has gone for a lively commercial treatment rather than keeping the film confined to a serious crime drama. Action and adventure occupy a major portion of the trailer, while comedy brings a lighter tone to the narrative. At the same time, the mother-son relationship appears to be the emotional anchor. On the technical front, Sigma looks rich and contemporary. Krishnan Vasant's cinematography gives the film a distinctive vi-

sual sheen. S Thaman's background score injects considerable energy into the trailer, matching the scale of the sequences. The production itself carries the weight of Lyca Productions, with the visuals suggesting a sizeable canvas and lavish expenditure. Mythri Movie Distributors LTD and NVR Cinema together are bringing the movie to the Telugu audiences, and the trailer has certainly generated enough enthusiasm before the release.

KA's Hatah Teaser Delivers next Level Mystery & Suspense Vibes

The teaser of Hatah is finally out, and it looks nothing like a conventional Telugu teaser. Produced by KA Productions and Pourami Entertainments, the film immediately creates curiosity with its mysterious tone, stylish visuals, and psychological thriller atmosphere. Kiran Abbavaram continues backing fresh concepts through his production banner. Right from the opening seconds, the teaser throws viewers into confusion with the question, "What's happening here?" Before audiences can process it, another philosophical question about God enters the narrative. The phrase "Beyond Known" appears repeatedly, suggesting that the film explores something mysterious and unexplained beyond human understanding.

The teaser thrives on suspense rather than action. Every scene raises tension, in-



troduces unknown danger, and leaves more questions than answers. Kushlu Maddala, Rehman, Namritha MV, and Tanuja Puttaswamy all appear in intriguing moments that hint at a story filled

with fear, mystery, and unexpected twists. Technically, Hatah scores big. The visuals look top-notch with cinematic framing, dark color palettes, and premium production quality. Jecin George's back-

ground score perfectly complements the suspense-filled visuals, while Anush Gorak's direction gives the teaser an international thriller feel that has generated strong curiosity.

There's A Strong Emotion Behind Cuss Word In The Paradise: Nani

Natural Star Nani has revealed that beneath the intense action and larger-than-life world of The Paradise lies a deeply emotional mother-son relationship. Addressing the media at the Bengaluru press meet, the actor explained how the film combines raw action, spectacle and emotion while introducing audiences to a world they have never seen before.

"If I have to describe The Paradise in one line, it is a mother-and-son story. However, this mother and son are not placed in a situation that we have seen before. They are in a world, a place, a conflict and a situation that we have never seen a mother and son go through before. I think that is what makes their equation very special."

Nani believes the action in The Paradise is driven by a strong emotional foundation. According to the actor, the film's high-octane sequences are designed to create an emotional connection with the characters rather than function merely as spectacle. The Paradise revolves around a tribe and its struggle for identity. "The Paradise is a revolutionary film



about a tribe called Sawari who fight for their identity."

The actor was equally appreciative of director Srikanth Odela's vision and filmmaking approach. He said the director has a clear focus on creating memorable theatrical moments while putting his actors in demanding situations. "Srikanth Odela is the kind of director who wants to give theatrical highs in his movies. He likes to put his actors in challeng-

ing situations."

The cuss word used in the first glimpse invited a lot of criticism. Responding to that, Nani stated, "There is a strong emotion behind the cuss word in the film. It comes at a very crucial situation in the story. The audience won't feel odd when they discover the reason behind it." Nani has also undergone considerable physical preparation for the role. However, instead of aiming for a conven-

tional six-pack physique, he focused on achieving the bulkier appearance demanded by his character. "I have really worked out for the movie, but I did not build six-pack abs because the character required me to look bulkier." Describing the film as "extremely intense, raw, violent, emotional and adrenaline-pumping," Nani is confident that The Paradise will offer a first-of-its-kind experience in theatres.



Divya Bharathi's Cape Steals The Entire Frame

Divya Bharathi, who is known for her sultry photoshoots, has once again impressed fans with her latest set of portraits. This time, she surprises everyone with a bold yet elegant look, moving away from her usual style but still managing to leave a lasting impression. In the new pictures, Divya is seen in a monochrome maroon outfit, pairing a sheer, off-shoulder cape top with high-waisted, wide-leg pants. The flowy sheer drape adds a dramatic touch to the look, especially as it billows around her in the wind. She accessorises minimally with statement earrings, letting the outfit do the talking. Her expression, a candid, mid-motion glance to the side, adds an effortless, editorial feel to the frames. On the work front, Divya Bharathi is currently busy filming the Tamil movie Madhil Mel Kaadhal.

Ranveer Singh Takes A Big Step For 1,000 Girls

Ranveer Singh turned his Ganesh Chaturthi visit into a meaningful gesture by pledging to support the education of 1,000 girls. The actor made the announcement after visiting Mumbai's famous Lalbaugcha Raja and seeking the blessings of Lord Ganesha. Ranveer said he wanted to express his gratitude for the happiness he and his family experienced over the past year. On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, he announced that he would join the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan and contribute towards the education of 1,000 girls. The actor said he hoped the initiative would please Bappa and bring his blessings for the journey ahead. His announcement quickly became a talking point as videos from his Lalbaugcha Raja visit surfaced on social media. Ranveer has also been busy on the work front. After Dhurandhar and its sequel Dhurandhar: The Re-



venge, he is now preparing for Pralay, which is expected to be a zombie thriller directed by Jai Mehta. Kalyani Priyadarshan will make her Bollywood debut

with the film. With his latest gesture, Ranveer's festive appearance was not just about seeking blessings but also about supporting girls' education.

Payal Rajput Poses Playfully With Vintage Telephone

The actress posed in a stunning gold sequined bustier paired with a flowy light blue skirt, striking sultry angles that highlighted her toned figure. She accessorized the look with a statement multicolour gemstone necklace and a matching cuff bracelet, giving the outfit a glamorous, old-Hollywood touch. Her wavy hair and bold makeup added to the overall sizzling appeal of the pictures. In the other clicks, Payal is seen striking a playful pose with a vintage telephone, flaunting her expressive charm along with the same glamorous outfit. Fans flooded the comments section with love for her confident styling and effortless poise. On the work front, Payal was last seen in the Punjabi heist thriller The Great Punjab Robbery, alongside Raj Kundra and Garvita Sadhwani, which had a normal run at the box office.

