

# democracynow

Friday, 12 December 2025 | Pune | 8 Pages

Rs 2 | [www.democracynow.in](#)

DISSENT CANNOT BE DELETED

## Appeared under pressure: Rahul takes dig at Shah over LS speech

**New Delhi** : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he directly challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss his press conferences on "vote chori" in Parliament but did not get any answer.

A day after the Lok Sabha witnessed a heated exchange between him and Shah during a debate on election reforms, Gandhi claimed that Shah appeared to be "under pressure". "He (Shah) used the wrong language, his hands were shaking, you would have seen all this. He is under pressure mentally that was witnessed in Parliament, the whole country saw it," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha told reporters in the Parliament House complex. "The things I have said, he did not address, did not give any



proof. We have said it publicly in press conferences. I directly challenged him to let us discuss my press conferences in Parliament. Did not get an answer. You know the reality," Gandhi said.

Gandhi on Wednesday called the home minister's response during the debate "completely defensive" and asserted that "vote chori" is the "biggest treason". He also claimed that the home minister

did not respond to any of the points raised by him and remained evasive including on transparent voter lists, EVMs and granting immunity to the chief election commissioner. The opposition MPs, including Gandhi, staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha during the debate on electoral reforms. Later in a post on X, Gandhi said the home minister's response in Parliament on "vote theft" was "panicked" and "defensive".

## Pranab Mukherjee's understanding of constitution defined his tenures in public offices: Amit Shah

**New Delhi, Agency**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, remembering former President Pranab Mukherjee on his birth anniversary on Thursday, said that the former Congress leader dedicated his life to the service of people. Shah paid tributes to Mukherjee and also said that his life and works will continue to inspire country's democratic journey in times to come. The Home Minister, taking to social media platform X, stated that Mukherjee's profound understanding of the constitution defined his tenures in public offices. Meanwhile, Shah also paid tribute to RSS's third 'Sarsangchalak' Balasaheb Deoras on his birth anniversary. Shah said that Deoras played a

pivotal role in transforming RSS from its inception to a massive organization, expanding its reach across the nation. He said that Deoras faced the emergency with courage and bravely fought against it, while inspiring the youth back then to focus on character building, and the nation-first ideology. The HM also said that Deoras, fought against social discrimination throughout his life, and firmly believed that if untouchability is not considered a sin in this world, then nothing is. "He strongly advocated for social equality, and will forever be like a beacon, illuminating country's national and social life, while his legacy will continue to inspire everyone," Shah added.

## Uddhav Thackeray slams BJP over Hindutva; says 'Vande Mataram' is "One Day Mataram" for BJP

**NAGPUR, AGENCY**

Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Thursday sharply criticised the BJP government, remarking that the party's commitment to "Vande Mataram" is merely "One Day Mataram."

Speaking to reporters in Nagpur at Vidhan Bhavan premises, Thackeray alleged that the BJP invokes Vande Mataram only for political benefits and not out of genuine respect for the motherland.

"Their Vande Mataram is only for one day. At all other times, they do not care about how much my mother (our motherland) is suffering."

Questioning the sudden debate over Vande Mataram in Parliament, Thackeray expressed suspicion about the BJP's intentions. "I feel they have taken up this discussion to expose the Sangh. Many things have now come to light because of it," he said.

He further wondered, "How can there



be a discussion on the national song in any nation?"

Referring to past alliances, Thackeray targeted the BJP over its ideological claims. He pointed out that Syama Prasad Mukherjee, whom the BJP reveres, had been part of a government in Bengal alongside Fazlul Haq of the Muslim League. "Even the person they consider a deity had secret dealings with the Muslim League and opposed the Quit India movement. All this has now come out. They had formed governments with the Muslim League in at least three places, I think," he alleged.

"These are the fathers of their political birth, and they want to teach us Hindutva," he added.

Thackeray also attacked the BJP over the Palghar sadhu murder case. "When you inducted someone involved in the sadhu murder case into the BJP, where had your Hindutva gone? Amit Shah should feel ashamed while questioning my Hindutva," he said.

He accused the BJP and RSS of hypocrisy, saying, "In Delhi, you demolished a temple and built the RSS office there. Amit Shah should not teach me on Hindutva. If more things are dug up, many more truths will come out."

Thackeray further claimed that some BJP ministers openly consume beef. "In your cabinet, there are ministers who say they eat beef and challenge anyone to stop them. If Amit Shah has the courage to question my Hindutva, he should first expel Rijju from the cabinet," he said.

## Jain Muni Nilesh Chandra Seeks Strong Stand Amid Rising Stray Dog Concerns

**Mumbai, Agency**

Jain Muni Nilesh Chandra on Thursday appealed to BJP MLA Mahesh Landge to take a balanced and compassionate stand on the issue of some incidents of stray dogs attacking people saying, there were different points of view and any kind of sweeping generalisation should be avoided.

In a statement alluding to Landge's remark in the Maharashtra Assembly on Wednesday that stray dogs should be released into the houses of animal lovers, the Muni urged him to refrain from such utterances as anti-social elements would disrupt harmony in the community by instigating people on the issue. In this context, he referred to Prime Minister



Modi's observation that disruptive forces would take advantage of differences in the society.

The monk drew attention to the compassionate traditions of the Jain community, emphasizing their commitment

to non-violence and animal welfare. He underlined the need for clarity and responsibility in handling sensitive matters involving animals and public safety.

"Our Jain community has always stood for ahimsa, peace and compassion. We are animal lovers by principle. Even in Sanatan Dharma, it is taught that the first piece of bread should be given to cows, the second to dogs, and then to other animals and birds. Protecting all living beings is part of our cultural duty," he said.

He appealed to MLA Landge to uphold these values and take a decisive position against elements he believes are creating unrest or pushing narratives harmful to social harmony.

## Lalu's daughter Rohini Acharya demands justice from Nitish for women in Bihar

**PATNA, AGENCY**

Rohini Acharya, estranged daughter of former Bihar Chief Minister Lalu Prasad, on Thursday urged CM Nitish Kumar to take effective steps to ensure justice to women in the state, even in their parents' home after marriage, besides in social and political activities.

Rohini had left her parents' home after the declaration of the results of the recently held Bihar assembly elections, alleging that she was "insulted and humiliated" by her brother and senior RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav.

She had also alleged that Sanjay Yadav and Rameej Nemat, close to were also behind the conspiracy of such humiliation meted out to her.

"Steps like giving Rs 10,000 each to women for launching their own ventures to earn livelihood, uniforms and cycle



schemes for school girls might have been launched with good intention, but it would not serve the purpose of ensuring justice to them in a male dominated society", Lalu's daughter said in her post on social media account X.

She added that women were not free and safe even while visiting their parents' home after marriage, an oblique reference to her recent alleged humiliation at her parents'

home after last month's Bihar assembly elections.

It was not only an administrative responsibility of the government but also a greater issue related to the safe and secure future of the women, she stressed. Women's empowerment should not remain on paper only, but it should be visible at the ground level as well, she noted.

As it is, she had raised questions on the role of

Sanjay and Rameej, both friends of Tejashwi, in the assembly elections as they were responsible for ticket distribution and other policy decisions of RJD.

She had asked Sanjay and Rameej to take the moral responsibility for the crushing defeat of the RJD which got only 25 seats in the 243-strong Bihar assembly.

Tejashwi had allegedly thrown slippers at his sister, as claimed by Rohini after stepping out of the 10 Circular Road residence of her mother, Rabri Devi, in Patna.

Rohini had also announced she was quitting politics in anger over her humiliation.

It may be mentioned here that Rohini had donated her kidney to her father, Lalu Prasad, for his kidney transplantation when he was suffering from serious renal malfunction.

## Delhi Court grants interim bail to Umar Khalid for sister's wedding

**NEW DELHI, AGENCY**

A Delhi Court on Thursday granted interim bail to former JNU scholar and activist Umar Khalid in the UAPA case alleging a larger conspiracy behind the 2020 Northeast Delhi riots. The relief was granted to enable Khalid to attend his sister's wedding. Additional Sessions Judge Sameer Bajpai of the Karkardooma Courts allowed Khalid interim bail from December 16 to 29, subject to furnishing a personal bond of Rs 20,000 with two sureties of the same amount. The bail was granted on the ground that Khalid will adhere to the strict conditions imposed by the court. The Court barred Khalid from contacting any witness or any person connected with the case. He must provide his active mobile number to the Investigating Officer and keep it operational throughout the bail period. The Court further directed, no use of social media

during the interim bail period. He shall meet only family, relatives, and friends. He must remain at home or at the specified marriage ceremony venues. Khalid has been ordered to surrender on December 29 before the Superintendent of the concerned jail. This is not the first time Khalid has been granted short-term relief. In December 2023, he was granted an interim bail for a week to attend a family wedding and in 2022 an interim bail for a week for his sister's marriage. Khalid's regular bail has been rejected twice: October 2022, the Delhi High Court denied bail, observing that his alleged role in the conspiracy appeared prima facie grave, citing inflammatory speeches aimed at mobilizing the community. His Special Leave Petition before the Supreme Court was later withdrawn. A second bail plea was rejected by the trial court and is now under challenge before the Delhi High Court.

The matter of granting Regular bail is going on in the Apex Court. On Wednesday, the Supreme Court reserved its verdict on bail pleas filed by Khalid and co-accused Sharjeel Imam, Gulfisha Fatima, and others in the Delhi Riots Larger Conspiracy Case. The case pertains to an FIR 59/2020, lodged by Delhi Police's Special Cell, which invokes multiple sections of the IPC and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The accused persons include Tahir Hussain, Umar Khalid, Khalid Saifi, Ishrat Jahan, Meeran Haider, Gulfisha Fatima, Shifa-Ur-Rehman, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Shadab Ahmed, Tasleem Ahmed, Saleem Malik, Mohd. Saleem Khan, Athar Khan, Safoora Zargar, Sharjeel Imam, Faizan Khan, and Natasha Narwal. Khalid will remain out on interim bail solely to attend the wedding ceremonies before returning to custody on December 29.

## Mamata calls Shah 'dangerous', alleges SIR being used to delete names of 1.5 crore voters in Bengal

**KRISHNANAGAR (WB)**

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday called Union Home Minister Amit Shah "dangerous", and warned that she would sit on a dharna if even a single eligible voter's name was struck off from the list during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Launching a blistering attack on Shah, the chief minister said at a rally in Krishnanagar in Nadia district, "The country's home minister is dangerous. You can see it in his eyes - it's terrifying. In one eye, you see 'Duryodhan', and in the other, 'Dushasan'." Alleging that the SIR was being used as a political weapon ahead of the 2026 assembly polls, Banerjee said, "If even a single eligible voter's name is struck off, I will sit on a dharna. There will be no detention camps in West Bengal. They are so hungry for votes that they are conducting the SIR just two months before elections." Banerjee said that she herself had not filled out her enumeration form so far. "Do I now need to prove my citizenship to a party of rioters?" she said, in an apparent reference to BJP. Accusing the Centre of targeting



Bengalis, Banerjee said, "We have a (Union) home minister who can do anything to label all Bengalis as Bangladeshis and send them to detention camps. But we will not allow anyone to be driven out of West Bengal. We know very well how to bring someone back if they are forced out." The chief minister further alleged that the Election Commission was deploying officers aligned with the BJP to influence the process. "Some BJP-backed people are being sent from Delhi to keep an eye on things in West Bengal. They are overseeing the work of district magistrates during SIR hearings," she claimed.

## PM Modi, President Trump hold 'warm and engaging' phone conversation Vow continued cooperation for global peace

**NEW DELHI, AGENCY**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump held a "warm and engaging" conversation on Thursday, reviewing the progress in India-US bilateral relations and discussing regional and international developments. The Prime Minister confirmed the call via a post on X, underscoring the enduring commitment of the two nations to global stability. "Had a very warm and engaging conversation with President Trump," Prime Minister Modi posted. "We reviewed the progress in our bilateral relations and discussed regional and international developments. India and the U.S. will continue to work together for global peace, stability and prosperity." The conversation comes amid complex global dynamics, including the implementation of the first stage of the US-led peace plan in Gaza, and talks advancing on the US-brokered peace plan on ending the conflict in Ukraine. India has always maintained that dialogue and diplomacy are the way forward to



resolve conflicts. Sources familiar with the details of the call indicated that the two leaders focused on translating the shared vision of the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership into tangible outcomes. "The review of bilateral progress covered key areas such as technology, trade, energy, and defence cooperation, which have seen significant momentum in recent years," a diplomatic source stated.

"Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the trajectory of the relationship, which is fundamentally anchored in mutual trust and shared democratic values." The exchange is

expected to set the tone for future high-level engagements, with an emphasis on accelerating cooperation on critical and emerging technologies. The talks also come amid negotiations between both sides on a free trade agreement, with several rounds of discussions having been held to iron out the troubling issues. The commitment to "global peace, stability and prosperity" highlighted in Prime Minister Modi's post is a recurring theme in the discussions between the two leaders, reflecting the growing geopolitical alignment between India and the US. President Trump, who recently reaffirmed his "great respect and love for Prime Minister Modi" in a public address, has consistently praised the Indian leader's handling of complex international issues. The call reinforces the importance of the India-US partnership as a critical pillar for addressing international challenges and advancing a free and open Indo-Pacific. The leaders agreed to remain in close touch and are expected to explore opportunities to meet in person in the near future.

## Renowned Ophthalmologist Dr. Sachin Gade Honoured with Prestigious 'Sushrut Award' Recognition for Outstanding Contribution to Ophthalmic Services

Manchar, Ramesh Jadhav

Dr. Sachin Gade, a distinguished and celebrated Ophthalmologist from Manchar (Ambegaon Taluka), was recently bestowed with the prestigious 'Sushrut Award 2025' by the Mangal Foundation, Pune. This honour recognizes his consistent service in the field of ophthalmology, his mastery of state-of-the-art surgical techniques, and his remarkable contribution to patient care.

A Legacy of Vision and Service Dr. Gade has performed thousands of eye surgeries, playing a pivotal role in restoring vision to the visually impaired. His work is not limited to clinical excellence; he is also known for his humanitarian approach. Over the years, he has provided free treatment to numerous underprivileged patients, showcasing a deep commitment to social service.

For over 25 years, Dr. Gade has been providing world-class eye care in the rural hub of Manchar. His hospital is equipped with modern facilities, bringing global standards of healthcare to the rural population of North Pune.

**Clinical Excellence Dr. Gade is renowned for his expertise in:**

- Cataract surgeries
- Advanced lens implantation technology
- Strabismus (squint) correction



■ Complex ophthalmic surgeries

His patient-centric approach, superior diagnostic skills, and active participation in medical education have earned him a unique and respected position in the medical fraternity.

**The Award Ceremony While accepting the award, Dr. Gade expressed his gratitude, stating:**

"The 'Sushrut Award' from the Mangal Foundation is a special honour for me. This recognition is the fruit of my patients' trust and the tireless hard work of my team."

The ceremony was attended by dignitaries from the medical, social, and industrial sectors. Prominent attendees included:

- Madhuri Misal (State Minister)
- Prashant Jagtap (Former Mayor, Pune)
- Jalindar Kamthe (Former President, Pune Zilla Parishad)
- Dr. Milind Bhoi (Social Activist and President, Bhoi Pratishthan)
- Dr. Kunal Kamthe (President, Mangal Foundation)

Widespread Acclaim The accolade has been welcomed across all strata of society, marking another feather in Dr. Gade's cap. Prominent political figures, including former Cooperation Minister Dilip Walse Patil and MHADA Pune President (and former MP) Shivajirao Adhalrao Patil, extended their congratulations to Dr. Gade for this well-deserved achievement.

## Dr. Ketan Deshpande Honored with the 'Special Contribution Human Rights Award' Unparalleled work in driving social transformation through education

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT

Dr. Ketan Deshpande, Founder and Chairman of FUEL Education, who has been instrumental in bringing about social transformation through education and creating employment opportunities for youth through skill-based learning, has been honored with the 'Special Contribution Human Rights Award' by the Human Rights Protection and Awareness Organization here on Thursday.

He was presented the award by District and Sessions Judge Mahendra K. Mahajan, Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority Justice Revati Deshpande, Principal Dr. Sudhakarrao Jadhavar, retired Principal and District & Sessions Judge R.V. Jatale, retired Lt. Colonel Shreeshkumar, Adv. Shardul Jadhavar, and Founder President of the Human Rights Protection and Awareness Organization, Vikas Kuchekar. On the occasion of



World Human Rights Day, the Human Rights Protection and Awareness Organization, the District Legal Services Authority, Pune, and Jadhavar Law College, Pune jointly organized a program on human rights at the Maratha Chamber of Commerce.

Dr. Deshpande, who has driven social change through education, has provided thousands of students with career guidance, skill development, and scholarships through FUEL, giving them a new direction for the future. Under his leadership, FUEL Business School has effectively

integrated modern education, industry-oriented courses, and skill training, thereby strengthening equal rights to education and opportunities for students.

Through CSR initiatives, special guidance for rural students, and employment-oriented training, FUEL Education has truly created a humanitarian educational movement for youth. Dr. Deshpande has performed exceptional work to make young people capable, skilled, and self-reliant. This award is a recognition of his contribution to society.

## Rahul Gandhi 'Savarkar Insult' Case: Court Reserves Matter for December 16 Hearing

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT

The hearing in the case filed against Lok Sabha Opposition Leader Rahul Gandhi for allegedly insulting Swatantryaveer Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was conducted before Justice Amol Shinde in the High Court.

During the proceedings, complainant Satyaki Savarkar submitted two pen drives, claiming they contained audio recordings of Rahul Gandhi's alleged defamatory speech delivered in London. The complainant requested that the court play and examine these recordings.

However, Rahul Gandhi's counsel, Adv. Milind Pawar,



strongly objected to the submission of the pen drives at this stage of the hearing. He pointed out that the complainant had earlier submitted a CD in court, claiming it contained the same speech, but it was found to be blank.

The court has scheduled the next hearing for December 16.

## RPI(A) to Hold 'Sankalp Melava' in Pune on December 21; Gears Up for PMC Elections

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT

Ahead of the forthcoming Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) elections, the Republican Party of India (Athawale) has organised a 'Sankalp Melava' to boost enthusiasm among party workers, office-bearers and aspiring candidates. The event will be held on December 21, 2025, at 6 pm at Ahilya Ashram Ground, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar College, Nana Peth, Pune, party leaders announced during a press conference.

The melava will be conducted under the chairmanship and guidance of Union Minister of State for Social Justice and party president Ramdas Athawale. Key leaders from the Mahayuti alliance, including Union Minister



of State for Civil Aviation Murlidhar Mohol, Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil, Minister of State for Social Justice Madhuri Misal, along with all alliance MLAs, will remain present as chief guests.

Senior RPI leaders such as Avinash Mahatekar, the party's national general secretary, and Rajabhau Sarode, Maharashtra state president, will also attend. To ensure the success of

the event, various organising committees have been formed. Meetings are being conducted across all assembly segments and party branches in Pune. Preparations for the stage, pandal, and parking arrangements at Ahilya Ashram Ground are already underway.

As part of the election process, forms for aspiring candidates are being distributed and accepted from December 11 to 13, 2025.

## Maharashtra to Witness Sharp Drop in Temperature; IMD Issues Yellow Alert for 14 Districts

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT

Maharashtra is expected to experience lower-than-average temperatures over the next two days. With cold winds blowing rapidly from the northern region, the state is likely to witness a significant drop in temperatures over the next 48 hours. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a cold-wave warning, alerting citizens about increasing chill across several parts of the state.

In this backdrop, the IMD has placed 14 districts under a Yellow Alert for cold conditions.

**The districts include:**

**Marathwada:** Jalna, Parbhani, Beed, Nanded, Latur

**Vidarbha:** Gondia, Nagpur

**North Maharashtra:** Nashik, Dhule, Nandurbar, Jalgaon, Ahmednagar

**Western Maharashtra:** Pune, Solapur

Temperatures are set to fall further, and Maharashtra is expected to face another spell of intense cold. The IMD has appealed to citizens to remain alert and take necessary precautions. Those suffering from respiratory illnesses have been advised to be especially careful, as cold winds may aggravate their condition.

Meanwhile, northern India is also gearing up for a sharp rise in cold conditions. A noticeable drop in temperature is expected in the coming days, with the cold wave likely to persist for a while.

## FDA Busts Fake Chymoral Forte Tablet Network, Multi-State Probe Leads Investigators to Bihar

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT

The Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Pune Division, has launched a major investigation after receiving confidential information about the sale of counterfeit Trypsin-Chymotrypsin (Chymoral Forte) tablets in Pune. The fake medicines bore the details: Batch No. 2KU6L055, Mfg Date: Dec 2024, Exp Date: Nov 2027, Mfg Lic No. M/564/2010, and falsely claimed to be manufactured by Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Sikkim.

Acting on the tip-off, FDA drug inspectors collected samples from Akshay Pharma, Sadashiv Peth, Pune on 16 October 2025 for testing and analysis. The sample was also sent to Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Sikkim for verification.

During the investigation,

Akshay Pharma stated that they had purchased the stock from Arjas Medical Distributor, Sadashiv Peth, who in turn had sourced it from Riddhi Pharma, Erandwane. Further inquiry revealed that Riddhi Pharma had procured the medicines from Sena Pharma, Lucknow (UP).

A team of FDA inspectors, Srikant Patil and Vivek Khedkar, conducted an on-ground investigation in Lucknow between 24-27 November 2025. Sena Pharma revealed that they had purchased the stock from Mahival Medico, Gopalganj, Bihar, paying ₹2,34,727.94 in cash to a person named Umang Rastogi, who then transferred the amount in cash to Mahesh Garg. Sena Pharma confirmed that they received the counterfeit stock

from Mahesh Garg through unregistered sources.

The FDA, Pune, later contacted the Assistant Drugs Controller in Gopalganj, Bihar, who reported that Mahival Medico had shut down and its license had expired on 20 November 2024, raising further suspicion.

Meanwhile, Torrent Pharmaceuticals Ltd., Sikkim, completed their comparative study and confirmed that the seized tablets were not manufactured by them, officially validating that the batch in circulation was counterfeit.

Further investigation into the supply chain and responsible individuals is ongoing as the FDA intensifies its crackdown on the distribution of fake medicines in Pune and other states.

## NGT Issues Order Mandating PMC to Detail All Compensatory Plantations Since 2022

### New Tree-Cutting Permissions Must Specify Plantation Location

**PUNE:** In a significant development for environmental transparency, the Western Bench of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has issued an interim order directing the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to submit a comprehensive, ward-wise report detailing all compensatory plantations carried out against tree-felling permissions granted since January 1, 2022.

The Tribunal's directive is in relation to a petition filed by sustainable development activist Advocate Krunal Gharre, highlighting alleged deficiencies in the PMC's tracking and implementation of compensatory afforestation.

Comprehensive Report: The PMC has been ordered to furnish a detailed report covering all



tree-cutting permissions and corresponding compensatory plantations over the specified period. This report is expected to include documentary evidence of plantation, including survival rates and geo-tagging, if available.

**Mandatory Location Specification:** The NGT has also ordered

that for all future tree-felling permissions issued by the PMC's Tree Authority, the exact location of the compensatory plantation must be explicitly mentioned in the permission document. This is aimed at enhancing public accountability and monitoring.

**Deadline and Next Hearing:** The PMC has been granted

a period of two weeks to file its detailed affidavit and report. The matter is posted for the next hearing on February 11th 2026 for compliance review.

**Applicant's Statement:**

The applicant, Krunal Gharre, commented on the Tribunal's order: "This order is a massive step towards making environmental governance accountable and transparent. For too long, compensatory plantation has been a paper formality; a box to be ticked. By mandating the geo-location of every new sapling planted and demanding a full historical audit, the NGT has ensured that the promise of green cover is not lost in bureaucratic files. Our efforts are aimed at securing genuine, sustainable development for Pune."

## Pune Metro Line 3 to Begin as Planned; University Chowk Flyover Opens Soon

PUNE, CORRESPONDENT

In a key review meeting held at the Vidhan Bhavan's Cabinet Hall, the Maharashtra government approved more than 220 development projects for Pune district. The decisions were taken during the fifth meeting of the Pune Metropolitan Planning Committee, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. A total of ₹32,523 crore has been sanctioned to support infrastructure expansion across the region.

Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil, and several legislators, including Tanaji Sawant, Sunil Shelke, Siddharth Shirole and Shankar Mandekar, were present.

During the meeting, CM Fadnavis emphasised the need to prepare the Structure Plan for the Pune Metropolitan Region within the specified timeline, keeping future urbanisation and population growth in mind. He said development should be managed by a single authority rather than splitting responsibilities across multiple agencies.

The Chief Minister directed the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) to expedite planning for the 23 villages merged into the city limits in 2021. He also recommended



that the Development Plan for the Pune Growth Hub be reviewed with support from the Maharashtra Institution for Transformation (MITRA).

**University Flyover to Open Without Ceremony; TP Schemes to Be Fast-Track**

Fadnavis instructed officials to complete the Maan-Mhalunge Township Planning Scheme at the earliest. He said 15 integrated TP schemes currently underway should be assigned clear deadlines and completed on time.

He further directed that the flyover at Pune University Chowk be opened to commuters immediately, without

waiting for a formal government inauguration. The CM also called for a meeting of all committee members to gather inputs for preparing a forward-looking Comprehensive Mobility Plan for Pune.

Chief Secretary Rajesh Agarwal, Additional Chief Secretaries OP Gupta and Asim Kumar Gupta, and senior officials from PMC, PMRDA, and the District Collectorate joined the meeting. PMRDA Commissioner Yogesh Mhase presented progress updates on ongoing works.

**Major Approvals:** Sewerage, Fire Safety, River Rejuvenation

Revised approval was granted for ₹1,209.08 crore worth of sewerage projects across 27 villages in the PMRDA area, benefitting nearly 39.42 lakh residents. Fadnavis also instructed PMRDA to prepare a citywide Fire Prevention Measures Plan using revenue collected through the Fire Service Fee, adding that the remaining ₹300 crore should be used to enhance fire safety infrastructure.

He stressed the urgency of rejuvenating rivers in the metropolitan area and preventing polluted water from entering natural water bodies. The CM directed officials to begin work on service roads along NH-48 and NH-548DD near the accident-prone Navale Bridge stretch.

**Metro Line 3 to Begin Operations As Scheduled**

Fadnavis ordered that the Maan-Hinjawadi-Shivajinagar Metro Line (Line 3) be completed within the stipulated timeframe so that passenger services can begin as planned. The PMRDA covers 697 revenue villages across nine talukas, spread over 5,383 sq km.

**Progress Review Highlights**

127 road works covering 589 km are currently underway. An 83 km circular road within Pune city is in progress.

Road infrastructure connecting industrial clusters, development nodes and Pune airport is being upgraded. Three flyovers and bridges are under construction.

Three housing projects are in progress.

Four water supply schemes are underway; Wagholi water supply works have been completed.

**Upcoming Projects in the Pune Metropolitan Region** 3 major river rejuvenation initiatives for the Pawana, Indrayani, Mula and Mutha rivers.

17 new projects to reduce congestion at key traffic bottlenecks.

A proposed 20 km Yerawada-Katraj underground tunnel, costing an estimated ₹7,500 crore, is under feasibility study.

10 tourism development centres, one skywalk, and five multi-modal transport hubs will be launched soon.

## Over Rs 106 crore in CM relief fund, only Rs 75,000 disbursed to farmers: RTI



NAGPUR, AGENCY

Despite widespread crop losses caused by heavy rain, hailstorms, and pest attacks across Maharashtra, the state government disbursed only Rs 75,000 from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) to affected farmers in October, according to information released under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.

The RTI request was filed by activist Vaibhav Kokate on November 4.

In its response, the CMRF

office disclosed that the fund had accumulated Rs 1,06,57,96,331 (over Rs 106 crore) during the month through contributions from citizens, social organisations, and corporate donors.

Despite the substantial inflow, the amount actually allocated to farmers was minimal, raising questions about the utilisation and prioritisation of relief resources.

The fund is intended to assist people impacted by natural disasters and other emergencies with disbursements made after applications are examined and approved by the Chief Minister's office.

The limited support extended to distressed farmers has triggered criticism from activists and citizens who are demanding greater transparency and more efficient distribution of relief.

## Congress MLA Amin Patel flags Mumbai's acute water shortage in Assembly

### 600-800 ML daily shortfall



NAGPUR, AGENCY

Congress MLA Amin Patel on Thursday raised an alarm in the Maharashtra Assembly over Mumbai's worsening water shortage, warning that the city could plunge into a major crisis if the monsoon fails even for a single year.

He said the metropolis is currently grappling with a daily shortfall of nearly 600 to 800 million litres of water, a deficit that has persisted despite rapid growth in population and demand.

Patel pointed out that since the completion of the Middle Vaitarna project, no new dam has been constructed to augment Mumbai's drinking water supply. He said the lack of alternative water sources has left the city vulnerable and overly dependent on its existing reservoirs. The MLA urged the state government to expedite the Gargai dam project, calling it

essential for securing Mumbai's long-term water needs.

Highlighting the seriousness of the situation, Patel noted that several areas—including B ward in his constituency, Mumbadevi, Byculla, Colaba, and Govandi—have experienced severe water scarcity for years. He said repeated appeals to both the state administration and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai have failed to produce any significant improvement.



Patel warned that Mumbai lacks wells or other auxiliary sources to fall back on during a poor monsoon year, making the city highly susceptible to an urban water emergency. He demanded that the government and municipal authorities formulate a comprehensive, forward-looking roadmap that includes the construction of new dams and sustainable water management systems.

He stressed that ensuring a stable and equitable water supply for all citizens must be treated as a top priority, arguing that the city's current trajectory is unsustainable without urgent and coordinated intervention.

## Nana Patole slams Maha Govt after HC flags Pune land deal

NAGPUR, AGENCY  
Senior Congress leader Nana Patole on Thursday alleged that the Maharashtra government has repeatedly shielded individuals involved in corruption, including Parth Pawar, the son of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Patole was addressing the media at the Vidhan Bhavan premises during the ongoing Winter Session when he was asked about the Bombay High Court's observations related to the controversial Pune land transaction. He said the state administration has shown several instances of to shield those facing corruption allegations.

Citing an example, he said that a Mumbai Assistant Municipal Commissioner accused of corruption during the COVID-19 pandemic had merely been sent on a compulsory month-long leave instead of being dismissed. The government is protecting such officials and even Parth Pawar," he added.

On Wednesday, the Bombay High Court questioned the police investigation into the Pune land deal, wondering why Parth Pawar had not been named in the FIR despite being the majority partner in the firm involved in the deal. Justice Madhav Jambard asked whether the police were safeguarding the Deputy Chief Minister's son by investigating only others.

The land sale in question involves 40 acres in the upscale Mundhwa area of Pune, sold to Amadea Enterprises LLP where Parth is a major stakeholder. It later emerged that the land belongs to the government and was not eligible for sale. The firm was also allegedly spared from paying Rs 21 crore in stamp duty.

Asked about the absence of many senior ministers from the Assembly on Thursday, Patole said they were preoccupied with their own priorities and showed little concern for legislative responsibilities. He accused the government of diminishing the dignity of the legislature.

## State govt will provide adequate funds for all farmer-oriented grant schemes: Min Bharne

NAGPUR, Maharashtra Agriculture Minister Dattatray Bharne on Thursday assured the Legislative Council that the state government will provide adequate funding for all farmer-oriented grant schemes, including assistance for farm ponds and the purchase of agricultural machinery.

He stressed that every eligible farmer will receive benefits under the relevant programmes.

Bharne made these remarks during question hour in response to queries raised by MLCs Ranjitsinh Mohite Patil, Sanjay Khodke, Shashikant Shinde, Sadabhau Khot, Satej Patil and others.

The members sought clarification on reports that nearly 48 lakh farmer applications



for grants had remained pending without action for the past four years.

They also demanded details on how many farmers had received aid and how many were still waiting.

According to Bharne, of the 47 lakh applications examined, about 10 lakh farmers were found

eligible for various grants. He reaffirmed that the government would ensure that every qualifying farmer is included and no one is overlooked.

Responding to a question from MLC Shashikant Shinde regarding the additional funds required, the minister said that

approximately Rs 2,000 crore would be needed.

He again assured the House that the government is committed to delivering the benefits to all rightful beneficiaries.

In a written statement, Bharne also informed the Council that during a cabinet meeting held on April 29, 2025, the government approved an annual allocation of Rs 5,000 crore for five years starting from 2025-26 under the "Krishi Samruddhi Yojana". The initiative aims to enhance agricultural income by promoting climate-resilient practices, strengthening farm infrastructure, supporting organic farming, and encouraging crop diversification to reduce costs and improve long-term sustainability.

## Congress alleges massive temple land grabs, demands 'White Paper'

NAGPUR, AGENCY

Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar on Thursday alleged large-scale encroachment and irregularities involving temple lands across Maharashtra and demanded that the state government release a comprehensive white paper on the issue.

Speaking during the discussion on the Hyderabad Inam and Cash Grant (Repeal and Amendment) Bill in the ongoing winter session, Wadettiwar claimed that nearly half of the temple land in the state has been illegally taken over through collusion between administrative officials and political actors.

He stated that several cases involved document tampering, fraudulent registration, and misuse of authority.

Referring to the recently reported Mundhwa land case, Wadettiwar said that land classified under "Mahar Vatan" had been improperly transferred, adding that questions remained over the selective action taken by authorities.

He argued that the alleged irregularities concerning temple lands were even more serious and required full disclosure.

Citing further examples, Wadettiwar pointed to reports of Nizam-era inam land worth Rs 159 crore being acquired in the name of a Member of Parliament's driver, questioning whether such transfers constituted legal acquisition or land grabbing.

He said such incidents indicated widespread corruption in land administration.

He urged the government to publish a white paper detailing the status of all remaining inam, temple, and government lands in Maharashtra, asserting that transparency was essential to restore public trust. Earlier, Revenue Minister Chandrashekar Bawankule introduced the Hyderabad Inam Repeal and Amendment Bill in the Assembly.

As the debate continued, Wadettiwar demanded immediate measures to safeguard temple properties and review past transfers suspected to be fraudulent.

With several land irregularity cases surfacing in recent months, it remains to be seen whether the government will respond with a white paper or initiate further inquiries during upcoming sessions.

## Solapur Central MLA raises delay in water supply project and temple site project

NAGPUR : Solapur Central MLA Devendra Kothe raised the delay in the long-pending water supply project proposed to address the water supply issue faced by the city and its residents.

He urged the state government to immediately float tenders for the rupees Rs 892-crore project that has already received in-principle approval.

MLA Kothe also demanded an additional Rs 10 crore fund for the beautification of the northeast entrance of the Siddharameshwar Temple, the city's 'gramdaivat', after clearing the encroachments in the Lakshmi Market area.

MLA Kothe said that during the last Winter Session, he had sought funds for completing of the parallel water pipeline, after which Devendra Fadnavis approved Rs 89 crore. However, the city required a comprehensive allocation of Rs 892 crore for pipelines, water



tanks, and the internal water distribution network—this proposal too received approval from Fadnavis.

During a meeting held on March 7 in the Budget session, the proposal was presented and subsequently received technical approval. However, differences among officials—including the Finance Secretary—over the funding head delayed the process.

Kothe stated that Fadnavis had instructed officials to prioritise the project, noting Solapur's importance and stressing that the water supply scheme must proceed without delay. Guardian Minister

Jaykumar Gore has also been actively pursuing the matter.

The Chief Secretary had assured that the tender will be floated within the next eight days. Kothe insisted that the allocation for the first and second phases should be made immediately so the project can be completed on time and the city can receive water daily.

Speaking about the beautification demand, Kothe said the Siddharameshwar Lake—constructed in the 12th century through community participation—and the temple complex resemble the Golden Temple structure in Amritsar. Clearing encroachments at the northeast entrance and beautifying the area would enhance spiritual tourism. Devotees visiting nearby pilgrimage towns such as Akkalkot, Tuljapur, and Pandharpur could also be attracted to Solapur in larger numbers. For this, he urged the state government to approve Rs 10 crore.

## Maha Ministers skip Ravi Bhavan, stay in luxury hotels, wasting public funds: Patole

NAGPUR, AGENCY

Congress leader Nana Patole on Thursday alleged that several state ministers are bypassing government-arranged accommodation at Ravi Bhavan and opting to stay in upscale five-star hotels instead.

Speaking to reporters at the Vidhan Bhavan premises, Patole claimed he has details of the hotels where the ministers are allegedly staying, terming the practice a blatant misuse of public funds.

He further accused the ministers of taking commission cuts in the process. Commenting on the recent leopard-goat episode, Patole criticised the government's stance, calling it "absurd" to suggest that a goat could deter a leopard.

He added that wild boars and other animals routinely damage farmers' crops and should also be captured, but asserted that the real motive behind the goat-related decision was to siphon off money allotted under that scheme.

## Smell-based repellent among several innovations to tackle leopard menace at agri trade fair in Pune

PUNE : At the bustling Kisan Agri Show at Moshi in Pune, Pestosys LLP Wednesday unveiled 'Animal Out', a natural smell-based repellent pitched as a game-changer against the rising leopard attacks terrorising Maharashtra farmers and populace alike.

Its organic formula, developed to repel predators, claims to offer protection without harm. Sprayed on field boundaries or animal paths, it triggers an unpleasant odour to feline senses, deterring incursions while remaining safe for humans, the environment, and wildlife, the company claimed.

Leopards straying from forests into farmlands near villages have long menaced crops and human lives in Maharashtra. Lately, the incidents of human-leopard conflicts have risen sharply in Maharashtra, with deaths reported in the rural areas, along with the presence of leopards.

Subsequently, in a first, several exhibitors at the ongoing Kisan show at Moshi, who earlier offered solutions aimed at predators like nilgai, boars and others, showcased innovations to tackle the growing leopard menace.

A start-up displayed solar-powered alarm systems that emit light and sound to deter wildlife entry at night, while a

few others demonstrated motion-sensor fences minimising human intervention.

Another product was a night torch with a sound button that users could press if they suspected a wild animal nearby. The button would then emit a powerful sound to scare the creature away. An AI-driven camera-trap solution that tracks animal movements in real time also drew attention for helping forest officials and farmers respond swiftly.

Alongside these, various NGOs held awareness campaigns stressing coexistence strategies and early warning networks. Together, the stalls reflected a newly discovered unified call for a technology-driven approach to protect farmlands, forests, and, most importantly, lives. Developed by founder Avinash Salunke, a 25-year veteran in pest management, Animal Out turned out to be one of the more popular stalls, thronged by visitors. Much of this could be due to recent procurement orders for the product from the Maharashtra Forest Department, which underscored the product's credibility.

The Chakan Range has approved 10 litres of the repellent on December 1 for man-leopard conflict mitigation, followed by identical procurements in Junnar, Ghodegaon, Khed and Shirur.

# Opposition walks out of Maha Assembly over crop price crisis

NAGPUR, AGENCY

The Maharashtra Assembly on Thursday witnessed a loud and heated protest as opposition legislators walked out, accusing the Mahayuti government of neglecting cotton and soybean farmers and mishandling procurement amid a widening disparity between market prices and the assured rates.

Dissatisfied with Agriculture Minister Jayakumar Rawal's responses during Question Hour, opposition members shouted slogans and charged the government with indifference toward farmers' distress.

They slammed the administration for failing to start official cotton procurement centres in several districts



and for not ensuring the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for soybean. Infuriated by what they described as vague and inadequate answers from Minister Rawal, the opposition ultimately stormed out of the

House.

Congress Legislature Party leader Vijay Wadettiwar said the government was treating farmers' issues with mockery. Raising concerns during Question Hour, he said cotton

procurement had been stalled due to stringent conditions imposed by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) and due to a low procurement cap.

He further criticised the Centre's decision to bring down the 12 per cent import duty on cotton to zero, a move, he said, would push domestic prices downward because of increased imports. "Out of 50 trucks carrying cotton, 40 are being turned away. What are farmers supposed to do?" he asked.

Wadettiwar and other opposition MLAs also alleged that soybean is not being purchased at the MSP of Rs 5,300 per quintal and that most of the produce is being rejected at procurement centres. Challenging

the minister, Wadettiwar said, "Ministers sit comfortably in offices, come with us to the farms to see the reality."

He pressed the government to clarify whether it would conduct blanket procurement of soybeans, considering that nearly 70 per cent of the harvest is being refused, and whether it planned to request the Centre to reconsider the cotton import duty decision.

As discussions grew tense and the minister's answers failed to pacify the opposition, Speaker Rahul Narwekar directed that a meeting be convened later in the day to address the concerns. Opposition leaders, however, insisted that the government first make a

statement in the Assembly. With the government failing to respond satisfactorily, leaders including Vijay Wadettiwar, Nana Patole, Rohit Pawar, Siddharth Kharat, Arjun Khotkar, and Daulat Daroda trooped into the Well of the House, chanting slogans condemning the government's approach toward farmers.

Cries of "Shame on the government that exploits farmers!" and "Down with the anti-farmer government!" echoed through the Assembly.

Minister Rawal attempted to defend the administration, asserting that efforts were underway to procure cotton and soybeans and to ensure MSP was declared. But his explanation failed to calm the opposition.

## Aditi Tatkare Denies Talks of Merger Between NCP Factions



NAGPUR, CORRESPONDENT

Minister Aditi Tatkare has clarified the ongoing speculation about a possible merger between the two factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP). She stated that no such meeting took place yesterday and dismissed the merger discussions as baseless.

According to Tatkare, a cordial dinner had been organised for MPs on the occasion of Sharad Pawar's birthday. The event was meant for select invitees, and Ajit Pawar's presence at the programme was purely because he was invited. She stressed that no closed-door meeting was held regarding the unification of the two NCP groups.

Tatkare further said that she and her colleagues continue to work under the leadership of Ajit Pawar. Any future decision on whether the NCP factions will come together will be taken by the party's senior leadership. As of now, she reiterated, there has been no meeting or discussion aimed at unifying the two factions.

# HC: Standing at Train Door Not 'Negligence'; Compensation to Kin Upheld

MUMBAI, CORRESPONDENT

In a significant ruling, the Bombay High Court has clarified that standing at the door of a local train cannot be termed negligence, especially given the severe overcrowding in Mumbai's suburban railway system. The court upheld the compensation awarded to the family of a passenger who died after falling from a Western Railway local, dismissing the railway administration's plea to exempt itself from liability.

The court observed that during peak hours, entering a local train itself is a struggle for daily commuters. Under such circumstances, passengers are often left with no choice but to stand near the door or on the footboard due to extreme rush. Hence, such a situation cannot be equated with careless behaviour, the court noted while also rebuking the railway authorities.



The case pertains to the 28 October 2005 incident, where a passenger travelling from Bhayandar to Marine Lines fell from a crowded train. The victim's family had approached the Railway Claims Tribunal seeking compensation, which was granted. Challenging this order, the Central Government had moved the High Court, arguing that the deceased was negligent as he was standing at the train door.

However, Justice Jitendra Jain rejected this contention, holding that the railway administration cannot escape responsibility by blaming the victim. The court confirmed that the compensation awarded to the deceased passenger's family will remain unchanged.

## Tree Felling at Nashik's Tapovan Sparks Outrage Ahead of 2027 Kumbh Mela Preparations

NASHIK, REPRESENTATIVE

Tree cutting has begun in Tapovan, Nashik, triggering strong protests from environmental groups. Around 300 trees have already been felled to make way for a new Sewage Treatment Plant (STP). Despite opposition from environmental activists, the work is being carried out as part of the preparations for the 2027 Simhastha Kumbh Mela, which will bring lakhs of sadhus, saints and devotees to the city.

A large-scale 'Sadhugram' is planned in



Tapovan for the upcoming Kumbh Mela, and nearly 1,800 trees may need to be removed for the project. Environmentalists have fiercely opposed the deforestation, criticising authorities for ignoring ecological concerns. Actor Sayaji Shinde recently visited Tapovan and voiced his protest, even meeting MNS chief Raj Thackeray over the matter.

The felling activity officially commenced today, intensifying the anger among green activists. They allege that while the issue of 1,800 trees for Sadhugram remains

unresolved, the administration has hastily started cutting trees for the STP project.

Meanwhile, the Nashik Municipal Corporation claims it has official permission to cut 447 trees for the STP. The proposed Sadhugram project has also run into controversy due to land acquisition issues. Farmers in Tapovan strongly oppose the land acquisition through TDR and insist on compensation in cash at market rates. The municipal corporation's proposal of 50% TDR and 50% cash has been firmly rejected by the landowners.

## Kothe Demands Swift Action on Solapur Water Supply Project Seeks ₹10 Crore for Siddheshwar Temple Beautification

Solapur, Representative

Solapur Central MLA Devendra Kothe took an aggressive stand in the Assembly on Wednesday regarding the city's long-pending water supply issue. He urged the state government to immediately float tenders for the ₹892-crore project that has already received in-principle approval to ensure daily water supply to Solapur city.

MLA Kothe also demanded an additional ₹10 crore fund for the beautification of the northeast entrance of the Siddharameshwar Temple, the city's granddair, after clearing the encroachments in the Lakshmi Market area.

MLA Kothe said that during the last Winter Session, he had sought funds for completing the parallel water pipeline, after which Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis approved ₹89 crore. However, the city required a comprehensive allocation of ₹892 crore for pipelines, water tanks, and the internal water distribution network—this proposal too received approval from Fadnavis.

During a meeting held on March 7 in the Budget Session, the proposal was presented and subsequently received technical approval. However, differences among



officials—including the Finance Secretary—over the funding head delayed the process. Kothe stated that DCM Fadnavis had instructed officials to prioritize the project, noting Solapur's importance and stressing that the water supply scheme must proceed without delay. Guardian Minister Jaykumar Gore has also been actively pursuing the matter.

The Chief Secretary has assured that the tender will be floated within the next eight days. Kothe insisted that the allocation for the first and second phases should be made immediately so the project can be completed on time and the city can receive water daily.

Speaking about the beautification demand, Kothe said the Siddharameshwar

Lake—constructed in the 12th century through community participation—and the temple complex resemble the Golden Temple structure in Amritsar. Clearing encroachments at the northeast entrance and beautifying the area would enhance spiritual tourism. Devotees visiting nearby pilgrimage towns such as Akkalkot, Tuljapur, and Pandharpur could also be attracted to Solapur in larger numbers. For this, he urged the state government to approve ₹10 crore.

**MLA Kothe Appreciates Guardian Minister Gore's Efforts**

To push forward the Solapur water supply issue, Guardian Minister Jaykumar Gore personally met the Chief Secretary at Nagpur's Hyderabad House (the Chief Minister's office) on Wednesday, accompanied by MLA Devendra Kothe. They explained the seriousness of the water crisis, after which the Chief Secretary instructed senior official Govindaraj to expedite the matter.

Gore and Kothe also met Govindaraj directly, and instructions were subsequently issued to Municipal Commissioner Dr. Sachin Ombase.

Acknowledging Gore's proactive involvement,

## Vijay Diwas Celebrations in Karad from December 14-16; Main Parade Cancelled Due to Stadium Renovation

KARAD, CORRESPONDENT

The Vijay Diwas Samiti in Karad will commemorate India's historic victory in the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War with a series of events from December 14 to 16, 2025. The celebrations, held annually since 1998, will feature blood donation camps, seminars, award ceremonies, and tributes, though the traditional grand parade and thrilling military demonstrations at the main ground have been cancelled this year due to ongoing construction work at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Stadium.

Advocate Sambhajirao Mohite, speaking on behalf of the Vijay Diwas Samiti, announced the schedule at a press conference. He was joined by committee member and tree enthusiast Chandrakant Jadhav, and retired army officer Kulkarni.

The programme kicks off on December 14 with a blood donation camp at 9 a.m. at Chhatrapati Shivaji Akhada, followed by the inauguration of a weapons and military exhibition at 3 p.m. at Sadguru Gadge Maharaj Mahavidyalaya, Karad.



On December 15, a grand ex-servicemen's conference and award ceremony will be held at 5 p.m. at Sau. Venutai Chavan Sabhagruha. The event will be graced by Brigadier Joydeep Mukherjee of the Indian Army as the chief guest, and Dr. Mahadev Sagare, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Bharati Vidyapeeth, Pune, as the guest of honour.

This year's Jeevan Gaurav Yashwant Puraskar (Lifetime Achievement Award) will be conferred on veteran Karad-based painter Dadasaheb Sutar. The Adarsh Mata Puraskar, instituted in memory of Satyabhama Gyanadev Kanse, will be awarded

to Saharabi Sayyad, a dedicated animal and bird rescuer from Karad. On December 16, the Indian Army will pay tribute to the samadhi of Sarsenapati Hambirrao Baji Mohite in Talbid.

The Vijay Diwas Samiti, chaired by Colonel Sambhajirao Patil, has appealed to citizens, especially the youth, to participate in large numbers and honour the sacrifices of the armed forces.

The annual Vijay Diwas celebrations in Karad have become a significant event in Maharashtra, drawing attention to India's triumph in the 1971 war that led to the creation of Bangladesh.

## Joint Maharashtra-Gujarat Survey Begins to Resolve Palghar Border Dispute

PALGHAR, CORRESPONDENT

To resolve the ongoing border dispute between Gujarat and Maharashtra in the Palghar district, the administrations of both states have initiated coordinated action. Residents of Vejji in Talasari had alleged that Gujarat authorities were encroaching upon the jurisdiction of their village panchayat.

Following these allegations, on Thursday, 11 December 2025, officials from both states began a joint boundary demarcation survey in the area. The process was carried out in the presence of officers from the Palghar district administration, the Umbergaon Tehsildar from Gujarat, Public Works Department officials, and land records authorities.

The survey is expected to

clarify the extent of Gujarat's encroachment, if any, onto Maharashtra's territory. However, locals have criticized the timing of the exercise, alleging that the district administration is deliberately delaying action by conducting the survey during the Assembly session. All eyes are now on the final report of the joint measurement.

## Mahayuti Finalises Election Strategy for Upcoming Civic Elections

NAGPUR, CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Mahayuti alliance has reportedly finalised its formula for seat-sharing in the upcoming municipal corporation elections. The agreement outlines how the three constituent parties — the BJP, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Ajit Pawar faction of the NCP — will contest in key municipal bodies across Maharashtra.

According to sources, the three parties will jointly contest elections in major corporations including Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan-Dombivli, Nashik and Nagpur. In Mumbai, discussions on seat-



sharing have progressed significantly, with both sides moving towards a consensus. The Shiv Sena (Shinde) is said to be firm on a 50:50 formula, while final adjustments are being negotiated. However, in Pune and Pimpri-

Chinchwad, the strategy will be different. Here, the BJP and NCP (Ajit Pawar) will contest separately, rather than as allies.

Both parties have strong local bases in these two cities. To ensure maximum opportunities for local leaders, avoid internal conflict, and prevent rebellion, the alliance has decided not to enforce a unified formula in these regions. By contesting independently, the parties hope to win more seats collectively and push opposition parties to the sidelines — a move seen as part of Mahayuti's broader electoral strategy.

## Good Values Essential for Children Along with Education — Makarand Patil

KHANDALA, REPRESENTATIVE

We must accept the changes occurring in this competitive era. We are witnessing the beginning of the century of Artificial Intelligence. In this environment, while giving a good education to our children, it is also essential that they have good moral values (Sanskar), stated Makarand Patil, the State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation.

The groundbreaking ceremony (Bhoomi Pujan) for the building of the P.M. Shri Zilla Parishad Primary Adarsh Kendra School in the city was organized. Initially, the Bhoomi Pujan was performed by Minister Hon. Makarand Patil, followed by the worship of Goddess Saraswati and the lighting of the lamp by Minister Hon. Patil, senior leader Shankararao Gadhav, and other dignitaries.

Attendees: Present at the occasion were Mayor Ujjwalatai Sankpal, Deputy Mayor Sudhir Sonawane, former Mayor Nandatai Gaikwad, former Agriculture Committee Chairman Manoj Pawar, former Chairperson Latatai Narute, Tehsildar Suhas Thorat, Chief Officer Dr. Kalyan Hulge, Assistant Block Development Officer



Prakash Bomble, Rural Water Supply Engineer Sanjay Lad, Deputy Engineer (Construction) Madhav Patil, Kanchan Bhoite, Chairman of Lakshmi Patsanstha Ashok Gadhav, Dhansing Khandagale, Javed Pathan, Prof. S.Y. Pawar, former Sarpanch Suresh Gadhav, School Management Committee Chairman Sagar Gurav, Vice-Chairman Rahul Thombre, Corporators Shailesh Gadhav, Yogesh Sankpal, Bhausaheb Patil, Pankaj Khandagale, Sandeep Gadhav, Pravin Sankpal, Amol Gadhav, Headmistress Sangita Kadam, and other respected individuals.

Minister Makarand Patil's Address:

Minister Makarand Patil said he was delighted that a fund of ₹2 crore was sanctioned for the Khandala Adarsh Primary School after a period of 67 years. Upon visiting the site, he reviewed the school's progress chart. He noted that Marathi schools currently face the challenge posed by English medium schools. The enrollment in many Zilla Parishad schools has started to decrease. Earlier, English schools were confined to certain cities, but now they have also started in villages like Khandala, Shirwal, and Lonand. Therefore, maintaining the enrollment of Marathi schools has become a challenge for the teachers, the Panchayat Samiti, and the Zilla Parishad.

Despite the competitive environment, the Khandala school has 611 students. The Minister observed that the student enrollment at this school has been increasing every year since 2019.

He praised the teachers of the Khandala Zilla Parishad school for their sincere efforts in providing quality education to the students.

He stressed that children should be given time on the playground along with education.

"Victory and defeat happen in sports. The children must develop the strength to handle both victory and the power to accept failure," he emphasized.

The school's performance record was presented. He noted with pride and joy for Khandala that the school has received the distinction of being a PMC Zilla Parishad School, an Adarsh Primary Kendra School, and also has ISO certification, indicating a rise in its qualitative standard.

The Minister assured that efforts would be made in the future to fulfill the school's needs for a computer lab, a hall, and a library. Mayor Ujjwalatai Sankpal expressed that she was a witness to this historic moment. She acknowledged that the new school building is being constructed through Minister Makarand Patil's efforts, stating that as part of the school education committee, the Minister has consistently worked to provide necessary facilities for the students, including a substantial fund for the school playground.

The program began with an introductory speech by Headmistress Sangita Kadam. Keshav

Kode conducted the proceedings, and finally, Shri Patole offered the vote of thanks to all the attendees.

Request for Funds for Rural Hospital Buildings

Expressing his happiness during the foundation laying ceremony of the new primary school building in Khandala city, senior leader Shankararao Gadhav said that when there is a development-oriented person with vision, the village, taluka, district, and even the state develop. He noted that Minister Makarand Patil has this propensity for development, which is driving the progress of the village and taluka.

He brought up the matter of the Rural Hospital in Khandala city. He mentioned that the government previously intended to expand it, and various schemes were introduced, but they faced hurdles and the pace slowed down. He pointed to the decaying buildings in the hospital premises. Highlighting its importance for public health and its location as a taluka center, he demanded that the Minister secure funds for the improvement of the Rural Hospital buildings.

## of the day quote

India calls for a pragmatic engagement with the Taliban. A coherent policy of engagement should incentivise positive actions. A focus on only punitive measures will only ensure that a 'business as usual' approach continues as we have been seeing now for the last four and a half years

PARVATHANENI HARISH | PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN AMBASSADOR, INDIA

We've just seized a tanker on the coast of Venezuela -- a large tanker, very large, largest one ever seized, actually

DONALD TRUMP | PRESIDENT, USA

The Somali people are known around the world for their hard work. They are known for their resilience in the face of adversity. They have faced hardships and many enemies including those who deny their existence, kill them, humiliate and insult them

AHMED MOALLIM FIQI | DEFENCE MINISTER, SOMALIA

## SHORT TAKES

## US clears advanced F-16 support package for Pak

**Islamabad:** The United States has approved the sale of advanced technology and support for F-16 fighter jets valued at \$686 million to Pakistan. The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA), in a letter sent to Congress on Monday, gave the approval, reported Dawn on Thursday. The package includes Link-16 systems, cryptographic equipment, avionics updates, training, and comprehensive logistical support. The DSCA letter makes clear the rationale for the sale, stating that it "will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by allowing Pakistan to retain interoperability with US and partner forces in ongoing counterterrorism efforts and in preparation for future contingency operations."

## Bulgarian PM resigns

**Sofia:** Bulgarian Prime Minister Rosen Zhelyazkov handed in his government's resignation Thursday following weeks of street protests over its economic policies and its perceived failure to tackle corruption. Zhelyazkov announced his resignation in a televised statement minutes before parliament had been due to vote on a no-confidence motion. The resignation comes shortly before Bulgaria is due to join the euro zone on January 1. Thousands of Bulgarians had rallied Wednesday evening in Sofia and dozens of other towns and cities across the Black Sea nation, the latest in a series of rolling demonstrations that have underlined public frustration with endemic graft and the failure of successive governments to root it out.

## Airstrike on Myanmar hospital kills 34

**Bangkok:** An airstrike by Myanmar's military destroyed a hospital in an area controlled by a leading rebel armed force, killing 34 patients and medical staff, according to a local rescue worker and independent media reports Thursday. About 80 other people were injured in the attack Wednesday night on the general hospital in Mrauk-U township, an area controlled by the ethnic Arakan Army in the western state of Rakhine. The ruling military has not announced news of any attack in the area. Wai Hun Aung, a senior official for rescue services in Rakhine, told AP that a jet fighter dropped two bombs at 9:13 pm with one hitting the hospital's recovery ward and the other landing near the hospital's main building.

## Trump launches Gold Card

The Trump Gold Card is a visa based upon an individual's ability to provide a substantial benefit to the United States

Agency

**New York/Washington, Dec 11:** US President Donald Trump announced the launch of a million-dollar "Gold Card" offering a pathway for immigrants to US citizenship, saying that it is a "shame" that students from India and China have to go back to home countries.

The Trump Gold Card announced Wednesday is a visa based upon an individual's ability to provide a substantial benefit to the United States.

"It is a gift of getting somebody great coming into our country, because we think these will be some tremendous people that wouldn't be allowed to stay," Trump said during a roundtable in the White House.

Trump added that students graduate from college, "you have to go back to India, they have to go back to China, they have to go back to France. They have to go back to where ever they came from. Very hard to stay. It's a shame."

Flanked by IBM's Indian-American CEO Arvind Krishna and Dell Technologies CEO Michael Dell, Trump announced that the Gold Card website is live and companies can "buy" the Gold Card to keep the students they hire from top American universities such as Wharton, Harvard and MIT in the US.

Trump said that he has heard from Apple CEO Tim Cook several times and other executives



that they cannot hire people from the best colleges because "you don't know whether or not you can keep the person."

Trump said students are "thrown" out of the country. "You graduate number one from your college, and there's no way of guaranteeing... that they're able to stay in the country."

Trump said Cook spoke to him about this "real problem".

"It's not going to be a problem anymore. As you know, they used to send people up to Canada and other places, other countries. So we solved that," Trump said adding that through the Gold Card, the US will take in billions of dollars that will be used for the country.

"So it'll be a great thing. We'll take in, I think, billions of dollars, many billions of dollars even. So that's very exciting," he said. Trump added that the companies are now going to be very happy with the Gold Card, which will have greater advantages over a green card that offers permanent residency in the US.

He said companies will be able to go to the schools such as Wharton School of Finance, New York University's Stern Business School, Harvard, MIT, "wherever you may get

your students, any school, and you're able to buy a card and keep that person in the United States. So there's certainty."

Trump described the Gold Card as a "Green Card, but much better, much more powerful, a much stronger path and a path is a big deal. Have to be great people, but much stronger path", which also helps companies.

He cited the example that if IBM wants to hire an individual at the top of his or her class at Wharton but can't guarantee the person stays in the country, the company can buy the Gold

Card and "that employee can be there for essentially a very long period of time. It's so needed for the companies. It's basically a much better form of green card. And you can't get green cards. They are impossible to get. This is much better than a green card," Trump said.

The decision came even as pre-scheduled interviews of thousands of H-1B visa applicants slated for later this month in India have been abruptly postponed by several months, apparently to scrutinize their social media posts and online profiles.

The Trump administration has been tightening the H1B visa programme under its broader policy on checking immigration. There has been wider scrutiny now of social media posts and profiles of visa applicants.

Meanwhile, giving details of the Gold Card, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said it will cost one million dollars for an individual and two million dollars for a corporation and will involve "full" and "best" vetting to "make sure these people absolutely qualify to be in America."

"Then the company can keep them here, and they have a path to citizenship. Obviously, they have to be perfect people in America, and having passed the vetting. After five years, they'll be available to become citizens," Lutnick said, adding that then the corporation can put someone else on the card. "For a company they can keep putting people on the card, one person per card, and for an individual, it's a million dollars. And it's a gift to the United States of America, to help America be great again under Donald Trump," Lutnick said.

Walthy foreign nationals, high-skilled foreign graduates, and major US companies like Apple and IBM are the target applicants and sponsors

A new, expedited pathway to US lawful permanent residency (a Green Card) and eventual citizenship. It replaces the traditional EB-5 investor visa program

The administration aims to attract global talent, generate billions of dollars in direct revenue for the US Treasury, and address longstanding complaints from tech CEOs about retaining top foreign graduate

## B'desh to hold first vote since uprising

Agency

**Dhaka, Dec 11:** Bangladesh will hold parliamentary elections February 12, authorities said, its first national vote since a deadly student-led uprising forced then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to flee to India last year.

"Voting will take place February 12, 2026, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin said in an address to the nation Thursday.

A referendum will simultaneously be held on the voting day to elicit public opinion on a series of reform proposals of the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus-led National Consensus Commission.

An interim administration led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus has governed since, but has been grappling with fresh protests over delayed reforms, and warnings of unrest by Hasina's party, which has been barred from the vote.

Highlighting the turmoil, President Mohammed Shahabuddin - who was nominated for the largely ceremonial role by Hasina - said he would step down after the vote, halfway through his term, telling Reuters he has felt humiliated by the Yunus government.

## REFERENDUM ON JULY CHARTER REFORMS

Analysts say voters' concerns include restoring democratic rule, reviving the core export-driven garment industry and repairing ties with giant neighbour India, which have been strained by New Delhi taking in Hasina.

Nearly 128 million voters are eligible to take part at more



President Shahabuddin says he plans to quit after vote

Referendum July Charter reform plan will run alongside

NP front-runner, Jamaat returns to electoral politics

Awami League barred from election, warns of unrest

than 42,000 polling stations across 300 seats.

The vote will run alongside a referendum on implementing the so-called 'July Charter', a state reform plan drafted in the aftermath of the unrest, Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin said in a national broadcast.

The Charter proposes wide-ranging changes to state institutions, including curbing executive powers, strengthening the independence of the judiciary and election authorities, and preventing the misuse of law-enforcement agencies.

## YUNUS HAILS 'IMPORTANT MILESTONE'

Yunus welcomed the announcement of the election and referendum schedule, describing it as a defining moment for Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh's democratic journey has crossed an important milestone, strengthening the new path the nation has taken after the historic mass uprising," he said.

## Pak court sentences ex-ISI chief to 14 years in jail



Agency

**Islamabad, Dec 11:** Pakistan's former spy chief Faiz Hameed was Thursday sentenced to 14 years in jail by a military court, which found him guilty on multiple charges, including violating the Official Secrets Act and engaging in political activities.

According to a statement by the army, the process of Field General Court Martial (FGCM) against Hameed was initiated August 12, 2024, under provisions of the Pakistan Army Act, and continued for 15 months.

He was tried on four charges related to engaging in political activities, violation of the Official Secrets Act in a manner "detrimental to the safety and interests of the State", misuse of authority & government resources, and causing wrongful loss to individuals.

"After lengthy and laborious legal proceedings, the accused has been found guilty on all charges and sentenced to 14 years rigorous imprisonment by the court," the army said.

It is for the first time that a former chief of the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has been convicted and sentenced. He served as the Director General of the ISI from 2019 to 2021. He last served as Commander of the XXXI Corps before taking premature retirement in December 2022 after Asim Munir took over as the army chief. Hameed was considered close to the then Army chief Gen Qamar Bajwa.

The army said that the Court-Martial complied with all legal provisions and that the accused was "afforded with all legal rights, including (the) rights of (a) defence team of his choice." It said that the convict has the right of appeal at a relevant forum after conviction. "Involvement of the convict in fomenting vested political agitation and instability in cohorts with political elements and in certain other matters is separately being dealt with," the army said.



Servicemen of the 13th Operative Purpose Brigade 'Khartia' of the National Guard of Ukraine prepare targets with images depicting Russian President Vladimir Putin during shooting practice between combat missions, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Kharkiv region, Ukraine

## Indian artefacts stolen in high-value UK museum burglary

The items were stolen from Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection September 25 and released CCTV footage of four white male suspects in an appeal for information

Agency

**London, Dec 11:** A number of artefacts from India dating back to the British colonial era are among over 600 "high value" items stolen in a burglary at a museum in Bristol, southwest England, the police said Thursday.

The Avon and Somerset Po-

lice said the items were stolen from Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection September 25 and released CCTV footage of four white male suspects in an appeal for information.

The historic collection documents the links between Britain and countries in the British Empire from the late 19th century onwards.

"Detectives investigating a high value burglary of museum artefacts are appealing for the public's help to identify these people," the police force said in a statement.

"The building housed items from the Bristol Museum's British Empire and Commonwealth collection. More than 600 artefacts of various descriptions were taken by the offenders," the police said.



Among the items stolen in the robbery include an ivory Buddha and a waist belt buckle belonging to an East India Company officer.

"The theft of many items which carry a significant cultural value is a significant loss for the city," said Detective

Constable Dan Burgan of the Avon and Somerset Police.

"These items, many of which were donations, form part of a collection that provides insight into a multi-layered part of British history, and we are hoping that members of the public can help us to bring those re-

## Among the items stolen in the robbery include an ivory Buddha and a waist belt buckle belonging to an East India Company officer

sponsible to justice. So far, our enquiries have included significant CCTV enquiries as well as forensic investigations and speaking, liaising with the victims," he said.

The officer appealed for members of the public to contact the force if they recognise anyone from the CCTV footage released this week or may have come across any of the possible items being sold online.

It remains unclear why the police appeal is being issued over two months after the burglary. The Bristol Museum website states that its British Empire and Commonwealth collection is made up of household belongings, souvenirs, photographs and papers of British people who lived and worked in the colonies.

It is designed to give visitors an insight into the workings of the British Empire and the lives of the people who made it function. "We make these sources available to help people and communities worldwide to explore difficult, forgotten or hidden histories from their own perspectives. The majority of the collection was previously held by the former British Empire & Commonwealth Museum in Bristol," the museum states.

FORTUNE FORECAST



accuracy • reliability • trust!

FOR ASTROLOGY DIAL 55181\*

**ARIES**  
You are bursting with enthusiasm about your career and relationships. At work, you will easily persuade people to jump onto your bandwagon. But look before you leap. If things take a downturn, says Ganesha, the onus will be on you.

**TAURUS**  
Your innate creativity and resourcefulness is likely to reach new heights. Your innovative ideas and endeavours will, this day, give unexpected returns both in terms of money and influence. You should however make sure that you do not upset or offend the powers that be, particularly the higher ups.

**GEMINI**  
You have excellent communication skills. Today, you will be at your communicative best, predicts Ganesha. At work, you will be given added responsibility. You may have to investigate a tricky matter and submit your report. Even in this, you will exhibit tremendous charm and efficiency. There is something magical about you today.

**CANCER**  
Your life will spring surprises, some good and some not so good, says Ganesha. You will demonstrate your effectiveness and brilliance at work. In the evening, your loved ones will show you their appreciation for being there for them in the time of need.

**LEO**  
Walk the talk, buddy! Well, what it actually means is that today, you will be just too good at communicating ideas and expressions. So if you are at work, then look forward to being assigned some investigative job that might just turn out to be quite demanding, says Ganesha.

**VIRGO**  
A day full of sense and sensibilities in love today. Pessimism will knock more than just once throughout the day. But don't let it affect your work, warns Ganesha. At work, you will be the most wanted trouble-shooter today.

**LIBRA**  
Today shall be, let's say, different! It promises to be a resourceful day for you, says Ganesha. Chances are today you may decide to refresh your memory and knowledge by visiting a museum or a historical place later in the day. But it's not all learning for you. You don't want to be a dull Jack, do you? Ganesha expects you to indulge in some fun and frolic towards the evening, and hints that this may go a long way in improving your physical state and even work as an antidote for stressed relationships.

**SCORPIO**  
You will bank upon instinct, and spur-of-the-moment decisions will rule all action today, feels Ganesha. You will find yourself lacking focus at work and this might cause problems in the days to come. When it comes to relationships, actions will speak louder than words.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Ganesha predicts a constructive and profitable day for all you business tycoons and entrepreneurs. Loans from financial institutions may be sanctioned sometime later in the day. You will make your sweetheart know just how special and integral he/she is in your life, and that you will always cherish this love.

**CAPRICORN**  
Your despotic boss will be mighty impressed with your unique talent, and the fact that it contributed to the company earning accolades, says Ganesha. Colleagues will also be supportive of your endeavours, and will push you to go ahead with new assignments.

**AQUARIUS**  
You take inspiration from Hercules today! Your endurance will see you through adversities, asserts Ganesha. Despite this, your playful bantering will cheer your colleagues. You even manage to please your beloved, and that speaks volumes about you!

**PISCES**  
Beating deadlines, with whatever is handy, is what you will be focusing on today. No post-lunch siesta for you. The later part of the day, relaxing with your sweetheart, ought to make up for all the running around you had to do earlier, says Ganesha.



Global honour for Alia

Los Angeles: Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt and Tunisian actress Hend Sabry were honoured by Golden Globes at a glitzy gala dinner during the fifth edition of Saudi Arabia's Red Sea Film Festival.

Alia has earned critical acclaim and box-office success for standout performances in films such as *Highway*, *Raazi*, *Uda Punjab*, *Dear Zindagi* and *Gangubai Kathiawadi*, reports variety.com.

She said, "The Golden Globes are an iconic part of the global awards universe and I am delighted to be part of it and look forward to continuing my career in telling more stories of powerful and deserving women."

Helen Hoehne, president of the Golden Globes, described Sarby as "a truly iconic performer and humanitarian whose body of work reflects the depth, power, and global impact of Arab cinema," reports variety.com.

The award for Alia, she said, celebrated "her exceptional contributions to international cinema."

Sabry was named the recipient of the Omar Sharif Award and Bhatt received the Golden Globes Horizon Award.

Talking about Alia, who is the daughter of filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt and actress Soni Razadan, will next be seen in filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali's *Love and War*, starring Ranbir Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal.

The film is scheduled to release 20th March 2026.



Ananya's quirky insecurities

Mumbai: Ananya Panday recently reflected on her growing confidence as an actor during a recent interview. She spoke openly about how her early years in the industry were filled with self-doubt and discomfort, admitting that she once struggled to watch or even listen to her own work. "When I started out, I used to doubt everything that I did," she shared, recalling how she would leave the room whenever someone played her trailers because she couldn't bear to hear her own voice. She described cringing at her expressions and feeling overly critical of her appearance and performances.

With time, however, Ananya says her approach has changed significantly. She credits directors Shakun Batra and Vikramaditya Motwane for helping her evolve, explaining that their trust and creative freedom allowed her to grow. "They believe in you so much and they give you so much freedom to contribute... that as an actor, you start believing in yourself," she said.

Today, she feels far more assured in front of the camera, unburdened by the constant fear of making mistakes. She shared that she is now more confident, willing to take risks, and focused on silencing unnecessary self-judgment as she steps into the next phase of her career.



Nushratt on showbiz truths

Mumbai: Nushratt Bharuccha has always spoken candidly about the realities of the glamour-driven film industry, and in a recent event, she addressed the longstanding imbalance between male- and female-led films.

She explained why male-oriented movies often perform better. The actress said "They are made less. Males constitute the majority of the population in our country. Change doesn't happen instantly; it will take time. But it will definitely happen. Films about women that resonate with audiences tend to perform well. *Mimi*, *Chhori*, *Dream Girl*, *Akeli* and *Pink* all did well. Heroism isn't gender-based. Females can also act as heroes, though it's rarely portrayed in our country."

Reflecting on her own career, Nushratt acknowledged the challenges faced by women in entertainment. Her breakout role in *Pyaar Ka Punchnama* led many to stereotype her as fit only for commercial comedies. But *Chhori* became her turning point, allowing her to break those assumptions and prove her versatility.

On the work front, Nushratt Bharuccha recently made her appearance in an OTT film *Chhori 2*. Directed by Vishal Furia, she was seen playing Sakshi, a mother fiercely protecting her daughter. It also stars Soha Ali Khan, Gashmeer Mahajan and Hardika Sharma in lead roles.

Madhuri celebrates OTT's creative freedom

Mumbai: Madhuri Dixit recently reflected on how her earlier web projects, *The Fame Game* and *Maja Ma*, helped prepare her for the layered storytelling of *Mrs. Deshpande*. She believes the series has arrived at the perfect stage in her career, especially with the creative freedom that OTT platforms now offer.

According to her, digital platforms have transformed opportunities for women by allowing them to take on complex roles without the pressure of box-office expectations. "OTT has done that for female leads," she said, noting how actors can now experiment freely, unburdened by commercial constraints. She added that this phase encourages her to push herself, take on difficult roles, and explore new dimensions of her craft.

Madhuri also spoke about the broader shifts in the industry, emphasising the increasing presence of women across film and production departments. She recalled a time when film sets had very few women apart from actors and hairdressers, contrasting it with today's inclusive environment. "OTT has democratised filmmaking," she said, praising the platform for bringing fresh talent into the spotlight and expanding creative possibilities.

With *Mrs. Deshpande* releasing December 19 on JioHotstar, Madhuri continues to celebrate the empowering space that OTT has created, one that encourages risk-taking, diversity, and deeper storytelling for female artists.



PEANUTS



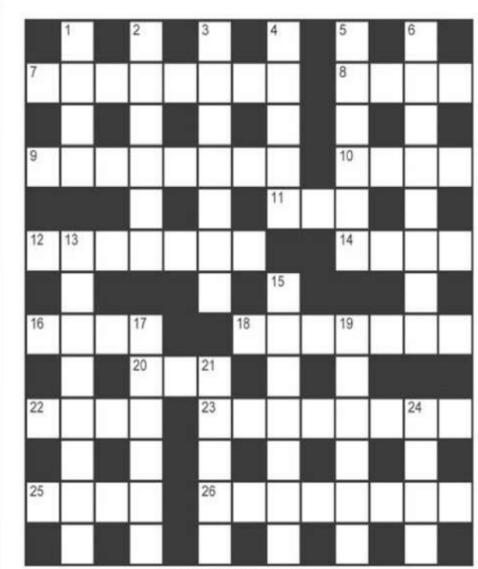
CALVIN AND HOBBS



BREVITY



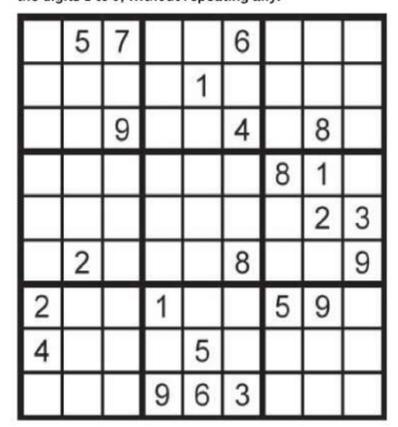
CROSSWORD



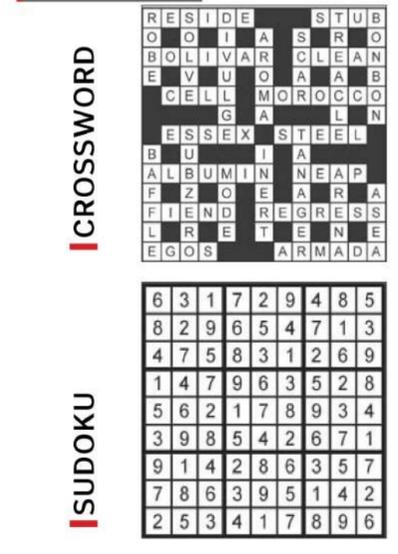
- Across
- 7 Digital plant
  - 8 Pawn
  - 9 Military man
  - 10 Outback birds
  - 11 Canon camera model
  - 12 Discard (4,3)
  - 14 Chows down
  - 16 Feudal worker
  - 18 Science of matter and energy
  - 20 Call for help
  - 22 Conclude, with "up"
  - 23 Blonde's secret
  - 25 Land measure
  - 26 Vindictive
  - 4 Sri Lanka export
  - 5 Provolone
  - 6 Kind of guitar
  - 13 Hinder
  - 15 Cucumber pickle
  - 17 Spotted
  - 19 Certain musical group
  - 21 Paroxysm
  - 24 Tympan, for example
- Down
- 1 London district
  - 2 Terrestrial lizards
  - 3 Ready to explode (5,2)

SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



SOLUTIONS



CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

## of the day quote

India will be one of our key engineering hubs, driving significant co-development, especially for the AI and SaaS platform that we are building

NAKUL DUGGAL | EXECUTIVE VP, QUALCOMM TECHNOLOGIES

I believe the GST reduction, the impact on the whole economy will be very, very significant. So I see a lot of opportunities in India

FERNANDO FERNANDEZ | CEO, UNILEVER INDIA

I request the government of India to start a new award line, social innovation line, so that social innovators can be recognised, respected, and we get the advantage of that, all of us in the society

SUHA MURTY | NOMINATED MEMBER, RAJYA SABHA

## SHORT TAKES

## Amazon to invest over \$35bn in India

**Mumbai:** Amazon plans to invest more than \$35 billion in India by 2030 to expand its operations by boosting artificial intelligence capabilities and increasing exports, the US e-commerce giant said Wednesday, as global tech firms deepen their presence in Asia's third-largest economy. Major US tech firms have poured billions of dollars into India this year, underscoring the country's emergence as a strategic hub for cloud, AI and deep-tech growth. Microsoft pledged an investment of \$17.5 billion in India for AI and cloud infrastructure by 2030 Tuesday, marking its largest investment in Asia, while Google has committed \$15 billion over the next five years to build AI data centers. Amazon's investments are "strategically aligned with India's national priorities and will focus on expanding AI capabilities, enhancing logistics infrastructure, supporting small business growth and creating jobs," the company said in a statement.

## ICICI AMC secures ₹4,815cr funding

**New Delhi:** As many as 26 domestic and foreign investors have infused ₹4,815 crore into ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company (AMC), a subsidiary of ICICI Bank, through a pre-IPO funding round. As part of this transaction, the asset management company undertook a private placement of 22,240,841 equity shares at an issue price of ₹2.165 per share, according to its public announcement Wednesday.

## Silver shines to fresh high

The white metal surges ₹2,400 to new record ₹1.94 lakh/kg

## Agency

**New Delhi, Dec 11:** Silver prices jumped ₹2,400 to a fresh all-time high of ₹1,94,400 per kilogram in the national capital Thursday tracking firm global cues amid weakness in the rupee and a rate cut by the US Federal Reserve.

The white metal had rallied sharply Wednesday, rising ₹11,500 to scale the record level of ₹1,92,000 per kg, according to All India Sarafa Association.

Since the beginning of the calendar year, silver has climbed ₹1,04,700, or 116.72 per cent, from ₹89,700 per kg December 31, 2024.

"Silver prices has reached another record high on Thursday, fuelled by robust physical and investment demand. The upward momentum in domestic prices has been significantly supported by a combination of tight market supply, record-breaking international silver prices, and a weaker Indian rupee," Dilip Parmar, Research Analyst, HDFC Securities, said. He further stated that the white metal outperformed gold in terms of returns this year, due to a combination of global

## GOLD &amp; SILVER



Spot gold prices for 24-carat in Delhi for per 10 grams. Silver prices are in national capital for per kg. Source: All India Sarafa Association. \*Provisional

The US Federal Reserve's decision to cut key interest rates by 25 bps amid persistent inflation has reinforced bullish sentiment in precious metals. With bullion already at record highs, this policy shift adds momentum to the rally, as investors seek safe-haven assets amid economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures

HAREESH V | HEAD OF COMMODITY RESEARCH, GEJIT INVESTMENTS

supply deficits, alongside consistently high demand from China and a surge in industrial consumption.

"In the domestic market, spot silver price is showing strong bullish momentum and is expected to inch towards ₹2,10,000 per kilogram in the coming days," Parmar added.

In the local bullion market, gold of 99.9 per cent purity added ₹90 to ₹1,32,490 per 10 grams from the previous close

of ₹1,32,400 per 10 grams, as per the association.

Globally, spot gold fell \$15.55, or 0.37 per cent, to \$4,213.12 per ounce.

Spot silver gained for the third straight session, rising \$1.06, or 1.71 per cent, to a record \$62.88 per ounce. So far this year, the metal has added \$33.91, or 117.06 per cent, from \$28.97 per ounce on December 31, 2024.

"The US Federal Reserve's decision to cut key interest

## BULLISH MOMENTUM

Since the beginning of the calendar year, silver has climbed ₹1,04,700, or 116.72%, from ₹89,700 per kg Dec 31, 2024

Spot silver gained for the third straight session, rising \$1.06, or 1.71%, to a record \$62.88 per ounce

rates by 25 bps amid persistent inflation has reinforced bullish sentiment in precious metals. Lower rates reduce the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding assets like gold and silver, attracting fresh investment flows. With bullion already at record highs, this policy shift adds momentum to the rally, as investors seek safe-haven assets amid economic uncertainty and inflationary pressures," Hareesh V, Head of Commodity Research, Geojit Investments Ltd, said.

He added that the post-cut weakening of the US dollar is further supporting gold and silver prices, as a softer greenback makes these metals more affordable for global buyers.

"The sharp rally in bullion is underpinned by structural supply deficits, robust industrial demand for silver, and sustained ETF inflows," Hareesh V said.

## Rupee drops to new all-time low of 90.32

## Agency

**Mumbai, Dec 11:** The rupee plunged 38 paise to close at an all-time low of 90.32 against the US dollar Thursday amid uncertainty over the India-US trade deal.

Forex traders said the rupee is expected to trade with a negative bias as the delay in the trade deal between India and the US may continue to dent investor confidence.

Moreover, prevailing risk-averse market sentiment and sustained foreign fund outflows weighed on the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 89.95 against the US dollar, then lost ground and fell to a record intra-day low of 90.48, registering a 54-paise decline from its previous close.

At the end of Thursday's trading session, the rupee was quoted at 90.32 against the American currency, down 38 paise over its last close.

On Wednesday, the rupee depreciated 7 paise to close at 89.94 against the US dollar.

Forex traders said the rupee fell to a new all-time low of 90.48 after Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran reportedly said the India-US trade deal is likely to be inked by March.

"Indian rupee hit a fresh all-time low amid uncertainty over the India-US trade deal. However, positive domestic markets and a weak US Dollar cushioned the downside," said Anuj Choudhary, Research Analyst, MiraeAsset ShareKhan.

"We expect the rupee to trade with a negative bias as delay in trade deal between India and US may continue to dent the domestic currency," Choudhary said, adding that any intervention by the central bank may also support the rupee at lower levels.

"Any intervention by the cen-

## RUPEE ₹ VS DOLLAR \$



The rupee plunged to a record low against the US dollar, a move largely fuelled by aggressive dollar purchases from the importers. Specifically, surging global prices for precious metals enforced metal importers into rush for dollars, creating immense pressure

DILIP PARMAR | RESEARCH ANALYST, HDFC SECURITIES

tral bank may also support the rupee at lower levels. USDINR spot price is expected to trade in a range of 90.10 to 90.75," Choudhary added.

Meanwhile, US Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer has said the US has received the "best" ever offers from India on the proposed trade agreement amid commencement of two-day talks here between the two countries.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 0.18 per cent lower at 98.61, after the FED cut rates and gave a not-so-hawkish guidance.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, was trading 1.25 per cent lower at \$61.43 per barrel in futures trade.

Foreign institutional investors sold equities worth ₹2,020.94 crore Thursday, according to exchange data.

## RBI eases curbs on cash credit accounts

## Agency

**Mumbai, Dec 11:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Thursday removed all restrictions on banks opening and maintaining cash credit accounts under new transaction account rules. "A cash credit account is operationally different from a current or overdraft account," the central bank said, adding banks may now offer these facilities based on customer needs without restriction.

Cash credit acts as a short-term, flexible business loan for working capital. The regulator adopted the changes following industry feedback on draft rules issued October 1, 2025.

These amendments form part of the central bank's updated transaction account rules.

The RBI also eased norms for opening and maintaining current and overdraft accounts.

Banks may now maintain current accounts without restriction for customers with banking exposures under ₹100 million.

For exposures exceeding ₹100 million rupees, banks holding at least 10% exposure to a borrower may provide current and overdraft facilities, the central bank said.

Current accounts serve businesses and individuals with high transaction volumes. The RBI classifies current, overdraft, and cash credit accounts collectively as "transaction accounts." The move is aimed at providing greater flexibility to banks, the RBI said.

## Premium Payroll package: Canara Bank signs MoU with ECoR

**Bhubaneswar:** Canara Bank signed MoU with East Coast Railways Khurda Road Division Thursday for extending the Canara Premium Payroll package to ECoR employees. The MoU signing ceremony commenced with a brief introduction of Canara Bank by Bhubaneswar Circle Head Suman Chakraborty highlighting the significant growth and progress of the bank. All Regional Heads of the bank and top officials from East Coast Railways Khurda Road Division attended the ceremony. The event continued with a presentation highlighting the features of the Premium Payroll package. Thereafter, MoU was executed by Suman Chakraborty, Circle Head, Bhubaneswar Circle and Pramod Behera, DPO (I/C), in the presence of PK Behera, ADRM (OP), Subhrajyoti Mandal, ADRM (Infra) and officials of ECoR. This partnership will enable enhanced, seamless banking solutions for the dedicated workforce of East Coast Railways.



## FED RATE CUT BOOST

## Agency

**Mumbai, Dec 11:** Indian benchmark shares closed higher Thursday in a broad-based rebound after the Federal Reserve's 25-basis-point rate cut, following a three-session slide, even as the rupee slumped to a record low on worries over the lack of a US trade deal.

The Nifty 50 rose 0.55% to 25,898.55 while the BSE Sensex gained 0.51% to 84,818.13.

Both benchmarks had lost about 1.6% each in the last three sessions.

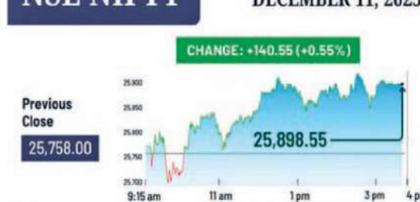
On the day, fifteen of the 16 major sectors advanced. The broader small-caps and mid-caps rose 0.8% and 1%.

Financials and information technology gained 0.6% and 0.8%, after losing 1.7% and 2.4%, respectively in the last three sessions.

Metals gained 1.1%, tracking firmer metal prices due to

## Shares snap three-day losing run

## NSE NIFTY



Stock	Change (%)
ADANI ENTERPRISES	-2.65%
JO FINANCIAL	-2.63%
TATA STEEL	-2.57%
ETERNAL	-2.38%
NOTKAT BANK	-2.06%

a weakening US dollar after the Fed rate cut.

While the Fed's projection of only one cut in 2026 underscores caution, the rate cut boosts global liquidity and improves market confidence, said Ross Maxwell, global strategy operations lead at VT Markets. Fed Chair Jerome Powell's

Stock	Change (%)
ADANI PAINTS	-1.00%
SBI LIFE	-0.88%
SHARATI AIRTEL	-0.83%
POWER GRID	-0.28%
ONGC	-0.22%

balanced outlook on future rate trajectory eased market nerves about a hawkish message, but the rate cut "alone cannot offset the structural headwinds for the Indian rupee from higher tariffs and US yields," said Rajeev Sharan, head of criteria of model development and research at Brickwork Ratings.

Both benchmarks had lost about 1.6% each in the last three sessions

The rupee weakened to a record low against the US dollar, as the absence of a trade deal with the US and dollar outflows added to the pressure on the currency.

Among individual stocks, Tata Steel gained 2.6% after it bought a stake in iron ore pellets maker Triveni Pellets, a deal expected to secure iron ore pellets supply for the firm.

India's top silver producer Hindustan Zinc and its parent Vedanta rose 2% and 1% after silver prices surged to a record high. Wires and cables maker KEI Industries rose 2.5% after beginning the first phase of commercial production of cables at its Ahmedabad unit.

## GOING GREEN Late-stage funding drives EV sector

## Agency

**New Delhi, Dec 11:** India's electric vehicle (EV) sector raised \$1.4 billion year-to-date in 2025, up 27 per cent from over \$1.1 billion raised in 2024, a report said Friday.

The funding was concentrated in just 65 funding rounds compared with 135 in the previous year, the report from market intelligence platform Tracxn said.

Electric vehicle manufacturers dominated funding, securing \$1.2 billion of the total, with Delhi leading the city rankings with \$1.1 billion raised.

Late-stage funding surged 105 per cent year-on-year from \$536 million in 2024 to \$1.1 billion in 2025 YTD, reflecting renewed confidence in scale-ready, selective and mature startups.

This indicates a transition towards performance-led capital deployment with sector maturity, the report noted.

Early-stage funding, however, dropped 49.3 per cent to \$226 million from \$446 million, while seed-stage funding dropped to \$61.2 million across 32 rounds from \$129 million over 77 rounds in 2024.

Pune followed Delhi in terms of funding, raising \$120 million, while Bangalore secured \$105 million. The investor base narrowed, with total investors falling from 150 in 2024 to 70 in 2025 YTD, and first-time investors dropped from 63 to 32.

Electric vehicle sales rose from about 50,000 in 2016 to over 2 million in 2024, representing roughly 9 per cent of the global EV stock, another recent report said, highlighting a \$100 billion export opportunity in auto components. EV penetration is expected to remain modest at 3-4 per cent, the report said, forecasting electric car volumes in the PV segment at around 1.75 lakh units for FY26. EV sales grew by 83 per cent in FY24 and 11 per cent in FY25, reaching 1.11 lakh units in FY25.

## India-made Prada sandals debut at \$930 after backlash

Italian luxury brand faced criticism six months ago after showing sandals resembling 12th-century Indian footwear, known as Kolhapuri chappals, at a Milan show

## Agency

**Mumbai, Dec 11:** Prada will make a limited-edition collection of sandals in India inspired by the country's traditional footwear, selling each pair at around 800 euros (\$930), Prada senior executive Lorenzo Bertelli told Reuters, turning a backlash over cultural appropriation into a collaboration with Indian artisans.

The Italian luxury group plans to make 2,000 pairs of the sandals in the regions of Maharashtra and Karnataka under a deal with two state-backed bodies, blending local Indian craftsmanship with Italian technology and know-how.

"We'll mix the original manufacturer's standard capabilities with our manufacturing tech-

niques", Bertelli, who is chief marketing officer and head of corporate social responsibility, told Reuters in an interview.

The collection will go on sale in February 2026 across 40 Prada stores worldwide and online, the company said.

Prada faced criticism six months ago after showing sandals resembling 12th-century Indian footwear, known as Kolhapuri chappals, at a Milan show. Photos went viral, prompting outrage from Indian artisans and politicians. Prada later admitted its design drew from ancient Indian styles and began talks with artisan groups for collaboration.

It has now signed an agreement with Sant Rohidas Leather Industries and Charamkar Development Corporation (LID-



COM) and Dr Babu Jagjivan Ram Leather Industries Development Corporation (LIDKAR), which promote India's leather heritage. "We want to be a multiplier of awareness for these chappals,"

Prada collaborates with Indian artisans for limited-edition sandals

India-made Prada sandals to go on sale globally in February 2026

Prada has no immediate plan to expand retail stores in India

said Bertelli, who is the eldest son of Prada founders Miuccia Prada and Patrizio Bertelli.

A three-year partnership, whose details are still being finalised, will be set up to train local artisans. The initiative will include training programmes in India and opportunities to spend short periods at Prada's Academy in Italy. Chappals originated in Ma-

Once Prada endorses this craft as a luxury product, definitely the domino effect will work and result in increasing demand for the craft

PERNA DESHHRATAR | MD, LIDCOM

harashtra and Karnataka and are handcrafted by people from marginalised communities. Artisans hope the collaboration will raise incomes, attract younger generations to the trade and preserve heritage threatened by cheap imitations and declining demand.

Bertelli said the project and training programme would cost "several million euros", adding that artisans would be fairly remunerated.

Presenting  
**The all-new Seltos**  
Badass. Forever.

First-in-segment  
Automatic Streamline  
Door Handles

First-in-segment  
Smart Key Proximity  
Unlock Function

Best-in-segment  
Integrated Memory System  
(Driver Seat & ORVMs)

First-in-segment  
Relaxation Power  
Driver Seat

Best-in-segment  
10-Way Power Driver Seat  
with Power Lumbar Adjust

First-in-segment  
Auto Reverse  
ORVMs

Bookings open

Call 1800 108 5000

Visit [www.kia.com](http://www.kia.com)

Kia Seltos



**KIA**  
Movement that inspires

Scan to  
know more



## Kia Seltos Badass. Forever.

Bigger in stance, longer in profile, and stronger in presence, the all-new Seltos has arrived with a reinvigorated sense of authority. The new design strikes harder, the Trinity Panoramic Display amplifies the cabin, Ventilated Seats bring comfort, and ADAS Level 2 equips you with unmatched confidence. A complete transformation that carries forward the one thing that never changed: its unmistakable badass attitude. Experience the all-new Seltos today!

### Commanding Presence | Advanced, with attitude



Command-Centric Trinity  
Panoramic Display



Over-the-Air (OTA) Software  
Updates with Kia Remote  
Diagnostics\*



Dual Pane Panoramic Sunroof



Iconic R18 - 46.20 cm (18")  
Sporty Crystal Cut Alloy Wheels  
with Neon Brake Calipers



ADAS Level 2 with  
21 Autonomous Features\*



Front, Rear and Side Parking  
Sensors

### Robust 24 Hi-Safety Package

STANDARD ACROSS ALL VARIANTS

Front Dual Airbags | Front Seat Side Airbags | Side Curtain Airbags | Highline Tyre Pressure Monitor | ABS (Anti-lock Brake System) | BAS (Brake Assist System) | ESC (Electronic Stability Control) | VSM (Vehicle Stability Management) | HAC (Hill-start Assist Control) | ESS (Emergency Stop Signal) | Child Lock | All Wheel Disc Brakes | Rear Parking Sensors x4 | Speed Sensing Auto Door Locks | Impact Sensing Auto Door Unlock | Front & Rear All Seat 3-Point Seat Belts with Reminder | ISOFIX (Rear Anchors) | Front Passenger Airbag On/ Off Switch | Front Passenger Airbag On/ Off Indicator | Rear Occupant Alert | DBC (Downhill Brake Control) | Rollover Sensor | Auto Light Control & Headlamp Escort Function | Rear View Camera with Dynamic Guidelines

### Kia Service

Connected • Adaptive • Responsive • Engage

3 Years Unlimited  
km Warranty

Extended Warranty\*  
Up to 7 Years

My Convenience Plus\*  
Best-in-class Cost of Ownership

Scratch Care  
Program\*

IoT Based  
Smart Services\*

24x7 | 3 Years  
Nationwide RSA\*

Bookings open

Call 1800 108 5000

Visit [www.kia.com](http://www.kia.com)

Kia Seltos

Look for "Kia India" @ f i y t x

\*Terms & Conditions Apply. The product & feature images shown in this ad is for representation purpose only. Features and specifications as shown may not be part of standard fitment and may vary. The colors shown are subject to availability and may not be available across all variants and may differ slightly from those shown in this ad. The specifications and features may vary depending on models/ variants. As a standard feature in defined segment. Segment is defined as Mid SUV whose length lies between 4220-4480 mm and width between 1760-1830 mm. ADAS features are for driver assistance only. Driver is responsible for safe and attentive driving. For details on functioning of ADAS, Safety, Kia Connect 2.0 features kindly refer to the owners manual. Kia India Pvt. Ltd. (Formerly known as Kia Motors India Private Limited) reserves the right to make any changes with respect to the trims, colors, specifications, Kia Connect 2.0 features and other details of any model as mentioned in this ad to discontinue any model without prior notice. For more details visit your local Kia dealership. Kia India Pvt. Ltd. urges you to follow traffic rules, these are meant to keep you safe on roads. We do not endorse vandalism or illegal activities related to road safety. Safety is a top priority, and we urge responsible behavior regarding traffic regulations and road safety.

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: PUNE: DHONE KIA, HADAPSAR, PH: 9307300400, SATARA ROAD, PH: 9607930494, KHARADI, PH: 9341300400, AMAN KIA, PIMPRI CHINCHWAD, PH: 020-71533839, YERWADA, PH: 020-71177770, WAKAD, PH: 020-48554855, CRYSTAL KIA, BANER, PH: 020-68280011, TILAK ROAD, PH: 020-68280000, BOPODI, PH: 020-68280044, AHMEDNAGAR: PIPADA KIA, PH: 9112244444, AKOLA: JPS KIA, PH: 8855075872, AMRAVATI: JPS KIA, PH: 8855002120, BEED: PIPADA KIA, PH: 8484841057, CHANDRAPUR: PARSHV KIA, PH: 7774074707, CHHATRAPATI SAMBHAJI NAGAR: AJINKYA KIA, PH: 9112222303, WALLUJ: AJINKYA KIA, PH: 7066600647, JALNA: AJINKYA KIA, PH: 7066604898, JALGAON: AKSHAY KIA, PH: 9372788111, DHARASHIV: CELEBRATE KIA, PH: 9804184184, DHULE: AKSHAY KIA, PH: 8408881100, DOMBIVLI: MODI KIA, PH: 8238089600, GADCHIROLI: PARSHV KIA, PH: 9922895414, GONDIA: ARYODAYA KIA, PH: 9112225200, KALYAN: MODI KIA, PH: 8238089600, KHAMGAON: AKSHAY KIA, PH: 7770033643, KOLHAPUR: KONDUKAR KIA, SHIROLI, PH: 7887884050, LATUR: AJINKYA KIA, PH: 9142121111, MALEGAON: KHUSHI KIA, PH: 8767804818, MUMBAI: SALASAR KIA, KANDIVALI, PH: 9076185111, SHREENATH KIA, ANDHERI WEST, PH: 8070737737, MALAD WEST, PH: 8070757757, SHIVAJI KIA, GHATKOPAR, PH: 9987004684, AUTOBAHN KIA, PRABHADEVI, PH: 9029292929, POWAI, PH: 9029292929, VASAI, PH: 9029292929, NAGPUR: JAICA KIA, WADI MIDC, PH: 8975768392, KAMPTEE ROAD, PH: 8263918323, ARYODAYA KIA, GREAT NAG ROAD: 772065399, WARDHA ROAD, PH: 772065401, NANDED: AJINKYA KIA, PH: 9112214140, NANDED: AKSHAY KIA, DONDAICHA ROAD, PH: 7770023145, NASHIK: KHUSHI KIA, PH: 8010029979, CBS, PH: 8010029979, AMBAD, PH: 8888877821, NAVI MUMBAI: BHAVNA KIA, NERUL, PH: 9115142477, PANVEL, PH: 9115142477, KHARGHAB, PH: 9115142477, BARAMATE: DHONE KIA, PH: 9307300400, RATNAGIRI: KONDUKAR KIA, PH: 7798704050, SANGAMNER: PIPADA KIA, PH: 7499385692, SANGLI: KONDUKAR KIA, PH: 7796611118, SATARA: KANSE KIA, PH: 7350500345, SOLAPUR: CELEBRATE KIA, PH: 9804184184, THANE: SALASAR KIA, MIRA ROAD, PH: 9076134111, SHREENATH KIA, PH: 80708 58858, RAC KIA, PH: 8655327735