



What can officially be called tea? FSSAI defines
Term 'tea' can only be used if the leaves belong to the plant *Camellia sinensis* | **SCITECH** PAGE 14

AHMEDABAD, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2025

www.ahmedabadmirror.com

20 Pages PRICE Rs 3.00

AhmedabadMirror

To advertise with us, call 98256 12227 | To order your copy, call 95123 08178 or for subscription, mail subscribe@ahmedabadmirror.com

TEMPERATURE Max 29.6 | Min 16.4 | Humidity 40% | **CLEAR SKY**



Sunrise 0719 hrs | Sunset 1802 hrs | Moonrise 1136 hrs | Moonset 2344 hrs

Exports likely to grow 3% to \$850bn

India's goods & services exports are likely to grow by 3 per cent to USD 850 billion in 2025-26, think tank GTRI said on Thursday



BUSINESS | PAGE 9

PM Modi inaugurates Rashtriya Prerna Sthal



NATION | PAGE 10

BNP leader returns to B'desh after 17-yr exile



WORLD | PAGE 11

PICS: JIGNESH VORA



Ahead of New Year parties...

Cops carry out surprise saliva tests to check consumption of drugs

123 citizens, including women, checked at Pakwan and SBR; all test negative; checks to continue across city until December 31

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com | Posts @ahmedabadmirror

With New Year rave parties just days away, city police randomly tested 123 people near Pakwan Crossroads and along Sindhu Bhavan Road on Thursday afternoon. All tested negative for drugs. The Special Operations Group carried out

checks between 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm using instant-result saliva kits. Men weren't the only ones screened—several women were also tested, catching onlookers by surprise. Many welcomed the move as necessary to protect youngsters from drugs, though a few appeared irritated by the sudden checks.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

NK Proteins

Khaana Banaye Healthy Family Rahe Happy



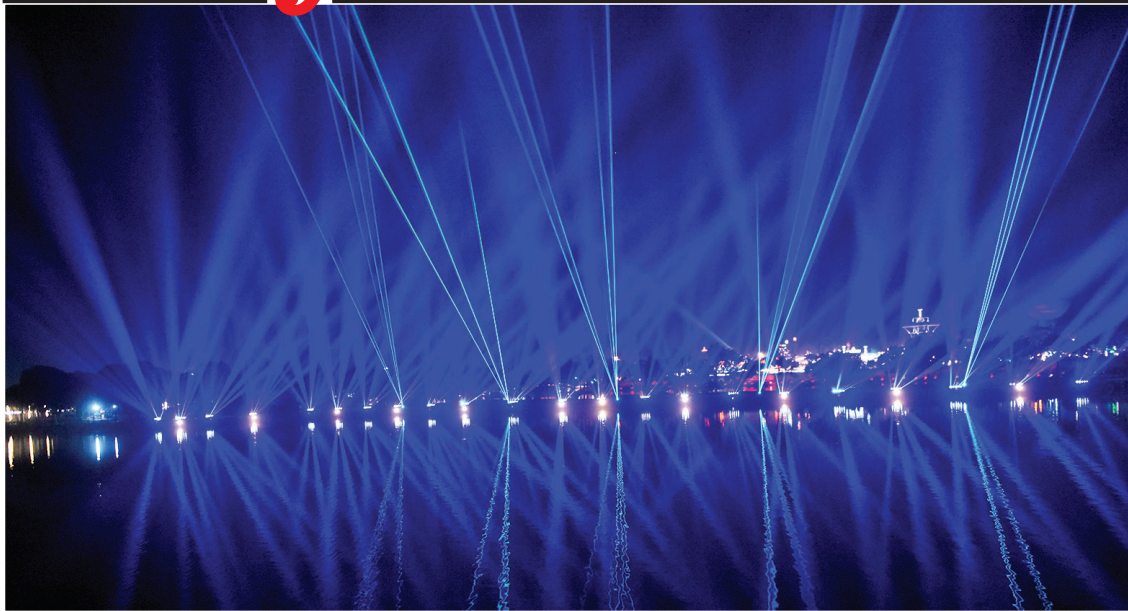
TIRUPATI
Edible Oils

HEALTHY WAALI HAPPINESS

A happy family starts with healthy meals. With Tirupati Edible Oils, enriched with vital nutrients and vitamins, every dish you cook stays light, tasty, and full of goodness. So, cook with care and serve happiness every day.

Rich in tocopherol, vitamins and nutrients that boost good cholesterol

Healthy waali happiness comes from a healthy lifestyle. Tirupati Edible Oils recommends a healthy lifestyle that includes balanced use of oils, a nutritious diet and regular exercise. Based on clinical trials. Individual results may vary.



Carnival begins at Kankaria

Amid light, laser show and music, the much-awaited Kankaria Carnival kicked off at the Kankaria Lakefront on Thursday, with Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurating the festivities. The festival, city's biggest crowd-puller, will run daily from 6 am to 11 pm



Rajendra Patel's name surfaces in multi-crore land conversion scam

Action against Surendranagar collector put on hold pending govt nod; silence over raids raises eyebrows

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com

Posts @ahmedabadmirror

Even as an FIR has been registered against Surendranagar Collector Rajendra Patel, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has held back action, saying a formal investigation against an officer of his rank can begin only after mandatory approval from the state government. The move comes as the alleged land conversion scam, involving properties worth crores, continues to widen. Patel, meanwhile, was transferred late on Wednesday evening.

More than 48 hours after a formal complaint was lodged with the Sub-ACB, the agency has maintained a studied silence on progress against three other accused officials, raising questions over the pace and transparency of the probe.

According to official sources, the ACB has booked four government employees in the alleged land conversion and non-cultivation scam. The accused are Patel; Chandrasinh Mori, deputy mamlatdar; Mayur Gohil, clerk at the collectorate; and Jayarajsinh Jhala, personal assistant to the collector.

The ACB says it is carrying out a preliminary verification of Patel's properties, bank accounts and lockers. However, under existing rules, any coercive action against a collector requires prior sanction from the state government.

The case gathered momentum after the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Delhi, began a parallel probe into suspicious land deals involving agricultural land worth several crores, allegedly shown as non-cultivated in violation of norms. During the ED investigation, the role of four officials, including the sitting collector, came under scrutiny.



Surendranagar Collector Rajendra Patel

The ACB carrying out a preliminary verification of Patel's properties, bank accounts and lockers. However, under existing rules, any coercive action against a collector requires prior sanction from state govt

After what it described as substantial evidence, the ED filed a formal complaint with the ACB on December 23, triggering the corruption case. While the ACB claims the probe against the three subordinate officials is under way, it has declined to disclose what searches, if any, have been conducted or whether cash, documents or digital evidence have been seized.

The silence has fuelled speculation, with sources alleging that the probe slowed once Patel's name surfaced. Critics say the ACB appears to be treading cautiously, mindful of the high-profile nature of the accused.

Dy Speaker Jethabhai Bharwad resigns

Cites busy schedule and other responsibilities

Gujarat Assembly Deputy Speaker Jethabhai Bharwad resigned from his post on Thursday, citing a "busy schedule" and other responsibilities, the state government said in a release. Bharwad, accompanied by CM Bhupendra Patel and state BJP president Jagdish Vishwakarma, submitted his resignation to Speaker Shankar Chaudhary at the latter's official residence in Gandhinagar. Chaudhary accepted the resignation.

Bharwad, 75, is a six-time MLA from the Shehra constituency in Panchmahal district. He currently serves as chairman of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing



Federation of India (NAFED), a post to which he was elected unopposed in May 2024 with BJP backing.

Bharwad had held the Deputy Speaker's post continuously for more than four and a half years. He was first elected in September 2021 and re-elected in December 2022. **AM**

Bank clerk saves elderly woman from complete financial wipeout

Scammers posing as Delhi ATS, NIA chief spun chilling espionage plot

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com

Posts @ahmedabadmirror

An elderly woman stood at a Bank of Baroda counter in Sabarmati on Thursday, clutching withdrawal slips for Rs 27 lakh. Terror showed on her face. A bank employee's quick thinking and the city's cybercrime cell's rapid response stopped what could have been a complete financial wipeout. This marks the fifth rescue from a digital arrest scam in the past month, all because bank employees spotted fear on victims' faces.

Harshad Parmar, who handles cheque clearances, knew something

was wrong. The woman had broken all her fixed deposits early – Rs 27 lakh in total – and insisted on transferring the money into an unfamiliar, suspicious account.

Branch manager Dilip Chauhan tried repeatedly to counsel her but the woman wouldn't explain herself.

The bank alerted the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell, suspecting fraud. ACP Hardik Makadia of the cyber crime cell said a police team rushed to the bank. "When our officers approached her, she was trembling. After reassurance, she finally broke down and revealed that scammers had contacted her on WhatsApp and placed her under a so-called 'digital arrest,'" ACP Makadia said.

Fake espionage plot

The fraudsters told the woman that 21 confidential Army photographs had been sent to Pakistan using her mobile phone. The scammers posed as officers from Delhi ATS. They accused the woman of cross-border money laundering worth Rs 50 crore.

Even as cybercrime officials spoke to the victim, her phone kept ringing. The caller name flashed repeatedly on the screen: 'Pradeep Lal.' "The intimidation was psychological. She was convinced she'd be arrested," an officer said. The moment the fraudsters sensed police presence, the calls stopped. WhatsApp messages ceased. The woman, finally safe, broke down in tears.

State targets 100gw renewable energy

Integrated Renewable Energy, Green Hydrogen and Pumped Storage policies to attract Rs 5 lakh cr investments: CM

The Gujarat government on Thursday launched three energy policies aimed at shifting the state to non-fossil fuel sources. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled the Gujarat Integrated Renewable Energy Policy-2025, Gujarat Green Hydrogen Policy-2025 and Gujarat Pumped Storage Project Policy-2025. The policies will remain in force for 10 to 40 years or until the government notifies replacements.

State positioned as green energy leader

The policies position Gujarat as a green energy leader by targeting over 100 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, contributing significantly to India's 500 GW non-fossil fuel goal. The government expects the policies to create over 20 lakh jobs. The policies stress building centres of excellence and promoting women in the workforce.

The state will allocate wasteland for projects and has announced incentives to promote green energy production and use. The Chief Minister will head apex committees overseeing implementation of all three policies.

Green hydrogen: Rs 5 lakh crore investment

The state is targeting over Rs 5 lakh crore in investments for green hydrogen and renewable energy, with the potential to generate six lakh jobs.

The government plans 3 million tonnes per annum of green hydrogen production capacity, backed by 30 GW of electrolyser capacity and 75 GW of renewable energy capacity. The state aims to cut at least 2 million metric tonnes per annum of natural



CM presents cleanliness competition award to the state govt's Energy and Petrochemicals dept officials led by ACS S J Haider

gas use through green hydrogen and eliminate 5 million metric tonnes per annum of CO2 emissions.

Companies will get capital subsidies, grid charge reimbursements, stamp duty waivers and support for green hydrogen infrastructure and vehicles. MSMEs using green hydrogen and City Gas Distribution operators doing blending will also get incentives under defined caps.

Gujarat's current green hydrogen demand stands at around 1.3 million tonnes per annum, driven by refineries, steel and fertilizer industries. This is expected to rise to nearly 2 million tonnes per annum by 2030, reinforcing Gujarat's strategic role in India's net-zero and clean manufacturing ambitions. The government is pushing battery storage systems to improve grid stability. Grid-connected and co-located battery storage projects with solar, wind and hybrid installations will get support.

For wind energy, the state is allowing repowering and refurbishment of existing turbines. Measures include a 24-month extension for repowering, waiver of transmission charges on unused capacity during transition,

priority for renewable energy connectivity and relaxed micro-siting rules. The government is backing pilot projects for ocean energy, geothermal energy, concentrated solar thermal, building-integrated photovoltaics, agrivoltaics and vertical-axis wind turbines. The state is also pushing rooftop and distributed renewable energy, encouraging private participation and start-ups, and linking employment and skill development.

Pumped storage: 75 GWh by 2035

With the pumped storage policy, the state aims to become a national hub for energy storage, targeting 75 GWh capacity and Rs 75,000 crore investment by 2035. Projects get 40-year incentives including exemptions from electricity duty on renewable energy input and relaxed water charges for specific types.

The state wants to tackle grid problems from large-scale renewable energy while creating green jobs and supporting local technology development. The government has set a target of 100 pumped storage projects by 2047. **AM**

Double-sided printing now mandatory for legal docs

Gujarat High Court's new directive is aimed at standardising legal filings and ensuring reduced use of paper across the state

The Gujarat High Court issued a new directive to ensure double-sided printing (printing on both sides of a paper) for legal documents in a bid to standardise legal filings and promote environmental sustainability across the state's judicial system.

A circular dated December 22, 2025, issued by Registrar General Sanjay D. Suthar, stated that all District Judiciary units must transition to using A4-size paper with printing on both sides for all legal documents. This de novo circular supersedes previous instructions issued in October and is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2026, officially.

The new mandate, approved by the Chief Justice following the recommendation from the Gujarat High Court



and District Judiciary Rules Committees, applies to every category of legal paperwork. This includes pleadings, petitions, affidavits, applications, and memoranda of appeals, as well as official orders and judgments issued by the District Courts.

Through double-sided printing, the High Court intends to streamline the voluminous paperwork typically associated with legal proceedings while significantly reducing paper

consumption.

Legal practitioners and court staff must use superior quality A4 paper (29.7 cm x 21 cm) with a minimum weight of 75 GSM. The formatting guidelines stipulate a margin of 4 cm on the left and right sides, and 2 cm on the top and bottom of each page. Line spacing is set at 1.5, though quotations and indents are permitted at single line spacing.

The circular also standardises typography for both the regional and English languages. For documents filed in Gujarati, the court has authorised the use of Lohit Gujarati, Noto Sans Gujarati, or Noto Serif Gujarati at font size 13. English documents must utilise Times New Roman at font size 14, while quotations in both languages should be set at font size 12. **AM**



Atal Behari Vajpayee statue unveiled

CM Bhupendra Patel unveils A B Vajpayee's statue on Thursday to mark 101st birth anniversary of the former Prime Minister, in presence of DyCM Harsh Sanghavi and other dignitaries.

CBSE gets 25,30,581 applications for CTET

1.61L applications found incomplete; CBSE opens correction window

At the end of the online application process for the 21st edition of the Central Teacher's Eligibility Test, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) received as many as 25,30,581 applications. However, around 1,61,127 applications were found incomplete, forcing the board to start another application round for four days starting December 27, said officials.

Of the total applications received, the second last and the last date of application saw 3,53,218 and 4,14,981 registrations respectively. "Grievances have been received that a few candidates were not able to submit their applica-

tions. On further review, it appears that there were 1,61,127 incomplete registrations which were not converted into completed and submitted final applications. Since, the present edition of CTET is being organised after a gap of around one year. Therefore, taking a sympathetic view of the matter, the Board has decided that these candidates, who had initiated the registration process for CTET, be given a one-time facility for completing their application on the portal," the CBSE stated in a note.

The correction window will be open between December 27 and December 30.

AM

1 cr passengers travel from city airport in 9 months

Over one crore people have travelled from Ahmedabad airport in just nine months so far this year, underscoring its importance as a transit point. Last year, this figure stood at 1.36 crore passengers for the entire 12 months. The airport, on average, records movement of 33,000 passengers and about 250 flights every day. "Last year, from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, around 1.36 crore passengers travelled from Ahmedabad Airport, but this year the

footfall touched 1 crore in just nine months (April 1, 2025, to December 2025)," said airport sources.

The daily flight movement at Ahmedabad Airport has also increased from 250 to 280 with new airlines and sectors getting operational at the airport. In fact, on Thursday, IndiGo and Air began a new flight service from Ahmedabad to Navi Mumbai Airport in addition to Star Air. IndiGo will operate the flight daily.

AM

Affordability gets swept under the carpet area

Experts question 'Super Built-Up Area' pricing that misleads buyers into thinking property is cheaper than it actually is

Kuldeep.Tiwari
@ahmedabadmimr.in

Posts @kuldeep_2105

A 3-BHK flat advertised at Rs 6,000 per square foot sounds affordable. But an Ahmedabad homebuyer could actually be paying Rs 13,333 per square foot for usable space without realizing it.

The reason: most developers in the city continue to sell homes based on super built-up area instead of carpet area, a practice real estate experts say misleads buyers into thinking properties are cheaper than they actually are. While Ahmedabad is considered the most affordable realty market compared to metro cities in India, the super built-up area pricing practice hides the true cost in many projects.

Maths of deception

Here's how it works. A builder may advertise a 3-BHK flat as 2,000 square feet at Rs 6,000 per square foot, making the total cost appear reasonable at Rs 1.2 crore. However, the 2,000 square feet shown is the super built-up area. The actual carpet area - the usable space inside the flat - may be

only 900 square feet.

When the buyer calculates the real cost, they are effectively paying Rs 13,333 per square foot for usable space, much higher than what was initially presented.

What's the difference?

Carpet area refers to the net usable space inside the flat: bedrooms, living room, kitchen, bathrooms and internal passages. Super built-up area, on the other hand, includes the carpet area plus common spaces such as lifts, staircases, lobbies, club-houses, and sometimes even gardens or security cabins. This inflates the size on paper and reduces transparency in pricing.

55% common area

Ankur Desai, secretary of CREDAI Ahmedabad GIHED, said some developers load up to 55% common area into the super built-up area in affordable housing projects, leaving actual carpet area as only 45% of the total. "They have the liberty to reduce the per square foot price lower than other developers," Desai said. "Therefore, it can mislead buyers if they ignore the carpet area offered in the scheme. We insist all developers

sell properties on carpet area only, which will be seen in the upcoming property show too," he added. According to real estate sources, this practice creates a false impression of affordability and makes it difficult for buyers to compare projects fairly.

GujRERA mandate

Although the Gujarat Real Estate Regulatory Authority mandates the use of carpet area for sale and registration, many builders in the city still emphasize super built-up area figures in their marketing materials and verbal negotiations with buyers.

Dhruv Patel, former president of CREDAI Ahmedabad GIHED who emphasized selling homes on carpet area in last year's property show, said homebuyers must remain cautious and insist on written carpet area details. "Calculate the true price per square foot before making a decision. Transparency in carpet area pricing is essential to protect buyers from hidden costs and ensure fair dealings in the real estate market," Patel said. "So next time you go to buy a home, compare the price with the carpet area, not the super built-up area. The amenities offered by developers are add-ons," he added.

CREDAI Property Show 45% of projects to be below Rs 1 crore

3-day GIHED Property Olympiad to begin on Jan 9; more than 400 projects on display



Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
feedback@ahmedabadmimr.com

Posts @ahmedabadmimr

The 20th edition of the GIHED Property Olympiad to be held from January 9 to 11 at the GMDC Ground in the city will have 45% of the properties on offer in the range of Rs 35 lakh to Rs 1 crore. This is what sets this year's Property Olympiad, organised by CREDAI Ahmedabad GIHED, an association of real estate developers in the city, apart.

In all, the exhibition will feature more than 400 projects across multiple segments under one roof. These properties, in the range of Rs 35 lakh to Rs 1 crore, will be mainly from areas adjoining the 200-feet SP Ring Road like Shela, South Bopal (SoBo), Shilaj, Vaishnodevi Circle, Science Park, Jundal, among others. Moreover, it will also include areas like Naranpura, Navrangpura, Sola,

Adalaj, Chandlodiya - to name a few - which will showcase redevelopment projects.

President of CREDAI Ahmedabad GIHED, Aalap Patel, said the three-day Property Olympiad would provide visitors access to a diverse portfolio of projects catering to varied budgets and preferences.

Four hundred projects will be showcased by more than 60 developers from different areas of Ahmedabad, including existing and upcoming growth corridors in its vicinity. Financial institutions are also taking part in the exhibition to assist prospective buyers with loans and financing solutions.

Chairman of CREDAI Ahmedabad GIHED, Rajesh Vaswani, said Ahmedabad getting selected as the host city for the 2030 Commonwealth Games and its plans to bid for the 2036 Summer Olympics will place the city firmly on the global map.

SRISTI organises unique Forgotten Recipe competition

70 women participants created innovative food formulations



Competition was aimed at bringing back nutritious dishes that are slowly disappearing from palates

In a dedicated effort to reintroduce traditional and fading culinary heritage into the modern diet, SRISTI (Society for Research and Initiatives for Sustainable Technologies and Institutions) organised a unique 'Forgotten Recipes' competition on its campus on Wednesday. The event was aimed at bringing back nutritious dishes that are slowly disappearing from palates. While contemporary diets are largely restricted to wheat, rice, and maize, this competition encouraged a shift toward dietary diversity.

70 women participants showcased their culinary skills by creating innovative

food formulations using various millets and unconventional leafy vegetables. They not only focused on the nutritional value of the ingredients but also presented their dishes with aesthetic arrangements.

The competition featured a wide array of traditional and creative dishes, including Bajra Upma, Palak Halwa, Malai Mahesub, and Sangri Nu Shaak. Other notable entries included Aghada Khir, Kola Laddu, Apamarga Khir, Pumpkin Chatpati, Sweet Potato Ghughra, and Pithori Khir. Participants also experimented with ingredients like Mahuda, Ragi, Oats, and Kang, presenting items such as Mahuda Laddu,

Ragi-Carrot muffins, Kang Chikki, and Ragi-Jowar steam cake. Traditional delicacies like Dodi ni Kadhi, Luni Bhaji Muthiya, and Suva Bhaji Undhiyu further highlighted the richness of local biodiversity. A key requirement was preparation of healthy dishes without the use of refined flour, paneer, cheese, or artificial food colours.

The event was presided over by a panel of distinguished experts. Judges from MS University included Dr Swati Dhruv, Dr Shweta Patel, and Dr Shruti Kantawala. They were joined by Dr Minal Chauhan and Dr Vandana Modi from the SM Patel College of Home Science, Anand. **AM**



ગુજરાત મેટ્રો રેલ કોર્પોરેશન (GMRC) લિમિટેડ

(ભારત સરકાર અને ગુજરાત સરકારનું સંયુક્ત સાહસ)

ડલોક નં. ૧, પટેલો માળ, કર્મચોગી ભવન, સેક્ટર ૧૦/એ, ગાંધીનગર-૩૮૨૦૧૦, ગુજરાત (CIN): U60200GJ2010SGC059407

ઓકશન નોટિસ નં.: GMRC/SBRS-CIVIL/STEEL PARAPET SCRAP MATERIALS/PH-1/2025

તારીખ : ૨૬.૧૨.૨૦૨૫

ગુજરાત મેટ્રો રેલ કોર્પોરેશન (GMRC) લિમિટેડ દ્વારા સાબરમતી રેલવે મેટ્રો સ્ટેશનના પડેલા સ્ટીલ પેરાપેટનો ભંગાર મટિરિયલ્સ “જેમ છે જ્યાં છે તે પ્રમાણે વેચાણ/ નિકાલ” માટે સીલબંધ બિડ મંગાવવામાં આવી રહી છે. રસ ધરાવતી એજન્સીઓ <https://e-auction.nprocure.com> અને GMRC ની વેબસાઇટ www.gujaratmetrorail.com પરથી ઈ-ઠરાણ ની નોટિસ ડાઉનલોડ કરી શકે છે. બિડ સબમિશન માટેની છેલ્લી તારીખ અને સમય ૦૯.૦૧.૨૦૨૬, ૧૫:૦૦ કલાક સુધી છે.

ડાયરેક્ટર (પ્રોજેક્ટ અને પ્લાનિંગ)

PUBLIC NOTICE DOCUMENTS MISSING

Notice here by Given that the Property being open land bearing plot no- 33, survey no-2977/1p At- Kheralu the limits of Kheralu Municipality, whose construction area is 22.00 sq.m., margin sq.m.- 37.00 and common plot etc. 32.00 sq.m., total area of the plot is 91.00 sq.m., whose document was registered at the Sub-Registrar Office Kheralu Registration Deed No- 184 on 13/05/2011. The plot was sold by Patel Ashish Pravinbhai from Desai Jagubhai Dhanjibhai. The original sale deed and RR (Registration Receipt) of the land have been lost. During My Client was Travelling near "Vrundavan Char Rasta" Kheralu. Unfortunately The Original Sale deed Had Fell Down The Vehicle and the same are not Traceble, If anybody is in possession of the original documents relating to the said property they are requested to hand over the same to below address, which has been reported to Kheralu Police Station in writing. The Client are requesting the title/NOC of this property. If any person has any objection, dispute, interest, share, right, share,

interest, relationship, mortgage, gift, sale, encumbrance, lien and any other right or share in relation to the said property, all concerned individuals, banks, institutions, etc., are requested to submit their written objections along with supporting evidence to our address mentioned below within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. If you fail to do so, we will issue a title clearance certificate stating that the title of the property under this notice is clear and free from encumbrance after the expiry of the period of this notice. All objections or disputes will be entertained after the expiry of the notice period. All individuals and organizations concerned with the public are requested to take note of the said notice.

As per the instructions and orders of the client through us:-

Hardik J Brahmbhat (Advocate)

Office- F-5, Ganapati Complex, Rajmahal Road, Near New Fountain Mehsana, Mo. No. 9726158329

Bharat Ki Bal Shakti @2047

Come, let us come together to celebrate,
inspired by the bravery and courage of the Sahibzadas

VEER BAL DIWAS

26 December 2025

On this occasion

the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

will address children across the nation

and

**interact with the recipients of the
Pradhan Mantri Rashtriya Bal Puraskar**



CBC 46101/13/0020/2526

Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi | Live telecast on DD News from 12:30 PM onwards

AI, Robotics take centre stage at Neuro Update 2025

Neurologists meet in city to discuss changing trends in neurological treatment

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com

Posts @ahmedabadmirror

The 23rd Annual Neuro Clinical Symposium, "Neuro Update 2025", was held in Ahmedabad on December 20 and 21, bringing together neurologists and physicians from across India to discuss recent developments in neurological care. The two-day national-level academic programme was led by Padma Shri awardee and senior neurologist Dr Sudhir Shah.

The symposium featured scientific sessions focusing on updated clinical practices in neurosciences. Doctors discussed emerging treatment approaches and the growing role of technology in managing neurological disorders. The event included separate sessions for neurologists on the first day and physicians on the second day, allowing focused discussions based on clinical needs.

Dr Sudhir Shah said, "The symposium has been organised annually since 2003 with the support of the Association of Physicians of



Padma Shri awardee and sr neurologist Dr Sudhir Shah led the event

Ahmedabad and Smt. NHL Municipal Medical College. He added that the aim is to keep doctors updated on changes in neurological diagnosis and treatment so that patient care can be improved." Dr Shah also spoke about how technologies such as artificial intelligence, robotics, brain-computer interfaces, virtual reality, neurostimulation and precision drug therapy are increasingly influencing neurological treatment.

Sterling Hospitals MD and CEO Santosh Marathe said the programme helped doctors understand recent clinical and technological develop-

ments in neurosciences. He said Sterling Hospitals has been involved in neurological care for over two decades and works with public health authorities on stroke awareness and academic initiatives.

Dr Heli Shah said "Neuro Update 2025 provided a common platform for neurologists from different parts of the country to share clinical experiences. She added that the two-day structure helped ensure practical learning for both neurologists and physicians." The symposium saw participation from senior neurologists across India.

Surat man falls from 10th floor in sleep, survives

#SURAT

A 57-year-old man sleeping on the window of his 10th-floor flat in Surat slipped and miraculously survived after getting stuck in the metal grill installed outside a window on the 8th floor on Thursday, officials said.

Nitin Adiya remained suspended upside down in agony for an hour before being rescued, the fire official said. Dramatic videos of his rescue have gone viral on social media.

Adiya was sleeping near a window of his flat at Times Galaxy building in Surat's Jahangirabad area when he accidentally fell out. **PTI**

Cops carry out surprise saliva tests to check use of drugs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Part of wider crackdown

ACP Baldevsinh Solanki of the SOG said the operation followed instructions from senior officers as part of a citywide push against drugs ahead of New Year.

"Over the past week, the SOG and City Crime Branch have raided multiple locations and nabbed around 25 drug peddlers and suppliers," ACP Solanki said. "To further track down the supply chain, we conducted surprise checks on Thursday with the Forensic Science Laboratory," he added, talking to *Mirror*.

The FSL team brought 26 saliva kits which determine within minutes whether someone has consumed drugs.

Hygiene maintained

FSL experts maintained hygiene during testing. Alongside the 26 saliva kits, the team brought plastic strips to collect saliva samples from each subject's mouth and nose. These strips are then inserted into the kits, which deliver results within minutes.

The kits can detect amphetamine, benzodiazepines, cannabis, cocaine, methamphetamine and opioids.

Locations to change

Inspector V H Joshi, who led four teams during the drive, said such checks will continue in the coming days at varying locations.

"We've identified several hotspots where drugs are sold and consumed. On Thursday it was Pakwan Crossroads and SBR—tomorrow it

CGST Rajkot busts Rs 92.71cr fake ITC racket, three arrested

Probe finds fictitious firms used to generate bogus invoices

Ahmedabad Mirror Bureau
feedback@ahmedabadmirror.com

Posts @ahmedabadmirror

The Central GST (CGST) department in Rajkot has uncovered a Rs 92.71 crore fraudulent input tax credit (ITC) racket, in which fictitious and non-existent firms were allegedly created to generate fake invoices and wrongfully claim tax credit, officials said on Wednesday.

Several fictitious and non-existent firms were created and used to generate fake invoices, which were then used to wrongly claim input tax credit. The firms existed only on paper and had no actual business activity, supply of goods or services.

Officials said the accused used these fake firms to pass on bogus

ITC, causing a huge loss to the government exchequer. The investigation revealed a well-planned network designed to show fake transactions and rotate invoices to claim and transfer ineligible tax credit.

During the probe, CGST officers identified the key individuals behind the operation. Three persons, including the alleged mastermind of the racket, were arrested in connection with the case. They were later produced before a court and sent to judicial custody.

The department stated that further investigation is underway to trace other beneficiaries, firms and links connected to the racket. Officials are also examining the flow of funds and the extent of fake ITC availed or passed on through the network.



13th PINK PARADE held in city

Samved Breast Clinic, Ahmedabad organized THE PINK PARADE- 13th edition of the Breast Cancer Awareness Walkathon on December 7, 2025. A motivational talk by Dr Darshna Thakkar and an inspiring speech by the organiser and director Dr Shefali Desai were highlights of the event. The event was hosted by RJ Nimisha and started with a warming up session by Ruju Desai.

IN THE HIGH COURT

HC stops multistorey project in co-op housing soc in Vadodara

Rules that the project was carried out in violation of laws and municipal conditions

Nikunj.Soni
@ahmedabadmirror.com

Posts @NikunjMIRROR

The Gujarat High Court has intervened to stop a multistorey construction project within a cooperative housing society in Vadodara, ruling that it was being carried out in "oblivion" of both society bye-laws and official municipal conditions. Justice Niral R. Me-

hta quashed a previous order of the lower court that allowed the construction to proceed, effectively granting an interim injunction in favour of the Alka Co-operative Housing Society. The battle began when the housing society filed a suit against its members Hiren-bhai Sureshbhai Patel and three others, accusing them of undertaking unauthorised construction on four combined plots.

Full report: ahmedabadmirror.com

'Unseal flats used for commercial activity'

Gujarat HC directs VMC to unseal as flat owner agrees to file an undertaking

The Gujarat High Court has directed the Vadodara Municipal Corporation (VMC) to remove the seals from residential properties owned by a hospitality firm, provided the owner submits a formal undertaking to cease unauthorised commercial activity. The order comes in response to a petition filed by JB Trivedi Hospitality Pvt Ltd, which challenged the corporation's decision to seal four flats located within the Samanvay Splendid Co-operative Housing Society.

The legal dispute began after the VMC issued a show-cause notice on December 1, regarding the use of residential flats for hospitality purposes. The petitioner owned four units across the ninth and tenth floors of the society and had been offering them for hospitality use. While the corporation argued that these activities were carried out without necessary permissions and were advertised online, the petitioner maintained that they were unaware of the specific prior permissions required.

Full report: ahmedabadmirror.com

could be any area in the city," he said. "We won't reveal the names because that would put peddlers on alert."

Targeting the network, not just users

Officials stressed the police focus isn't to harass people but to break the drug network by identifying users.

"We're not after addicts alone. Through users, we want to break the entire supply-and-demand network," a police official said. "The aim is to save the youth from this addiction, especially at a time when New Year parties and late-night gatherings increase the risk of drug circulation."

With rave parties set to peak as New Year approaches, the message from city police is clear: the city will party, but not at the cost of its youth.

Sketching the horizon of the divine

Horizon of Divinity is a deeply personal exhibition shaped by faith, observation and years of disciplined practice. Inspired by a visit to the Gabbar Parikrama at Ambaji — home to symbolic representations of the 51 Shaktipeeths — the artist Vinod Patel translates an overwhelming sense of divinity into lines, horizons and stillness on paper. Created entirely with pen and pencil, the works reveal patience, control and an intimate understanding of line strength, depth and composi-

tion. In an age of digital speed, this exhibition quietly reaffirms the power of sketching as both academic discipline and spiritual practice — where the artist's truest identity lives within the work itself.

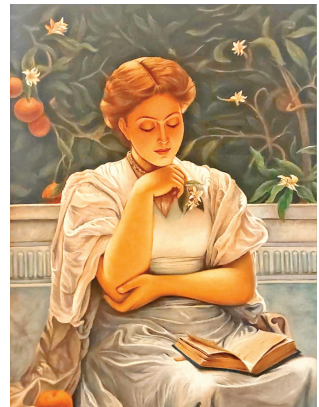
🕒 **WHEN:** Till Sunday, 4 pm to 8 pm

📍 **WHERE:** The Art Gallery, Amdavad ni Gufa, Kasturbhai Lalbhai Campus, Opp Gujarat University Campus, CEPT Campus, Navrangpura

🎟️ **ENTRY:** Open for all

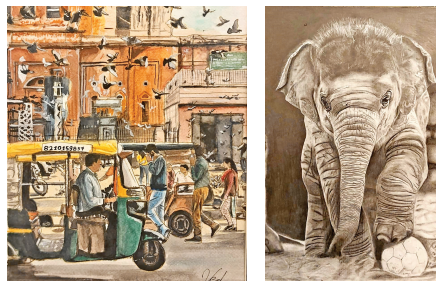


Artworks that bridge generations and cross experience



Generations on Canvas is a group exhibition and sale curated by artist and mentor Rupal Sonigara that brings together age, experience and expression under one roof. The show features works by 50 students, aged six-year-olds discovering colour to adults returning to art with fresh intent. Spread across mediums and styles, each piece carries a personal story, an emotion, a way of seeing. What binds them is thoughtful guidance and a shared creative spirit. Generations on Canvas is less about technique alone and more about how art quietly bridges generations, proving that creativity thrives at every age.

🕒 **WHEN:** Today, 4 pm to 8 pm 📍 **WHERE:** Hutheesing Visual Art Center, Kasturbhai Lalbhai Campus CEPT, Opp University, Navrangpura 🎟️ **ENTRY:** Open for all



A film where movement tells the story of how art is made



This week at Arthshila Ahmedabad, cinema meets movement with a screening of *Vaikhari* by Lubdhak Chatterjee, presented in collaboration with the Public Service Broadcasting Trust. The film follows dancer-choreographer Parwati Dutta as she shapes a choreographic response to Meghdootam, while gently opening up the inner worlds of artistic contemplation. Anchored in padhant, the rhythmic recitation of mnemonic syllables central to Indian classical percussion and dance, *Vaikhari* moves between theory and practice, sound and silence. Meditative and precise, the film invites viewers to listen closely to how thought, rhythm and body come together in the making of art.

🕒 **WHEN:** Today, 5.30 pm 📍 **WHERE:** Arthshila Ahmedabad, 2-G, opposite Ahmedabad Management Association, Panjrapol, Ambawadi 🎟️ **ENTRY:** Open for all

Healing with needles, threads

SE(W)CULAR STITCHES invites children and young adults into a healing space where needle, thread and conversation come together. This hands-on workshop uses simple stitching and embroidery to spark dialogue. Participants will stitch their dreams onto fabric, contributing to a growing, cross-border tapestry woven from shared stories. Facilitated by Rubina, textile activist and founder of Rafunaama, the session welcomes beginners.



🕒 **WHEN:** Sunday, 12 noon to 3 pm 📍 **WHERE:** Conflictorium, Gool Lodge, Opp. R.C High School of Commerce, Delhi Chakla, Mirzapur 🎟️ **ENTRY:** Open for all by registration

India-Mauritius Summit 2025 Sets a New Direction for Global Trade and Africa-Focused Growth

The recent India-Mauritius Summit 2025 marked a



defining moment in international trade collaboration led by Mr. Sangeet Sejjal, Honorary

Trade Commissioner, India Africa Trade Council – Mauritius, who highlighted the urgent need for decisive trade frameworks that empower businesses. The summit featured distinguished guest speakers, including Mr. Mookhesswar Choonee, Former High Commissioner of Mauritius and Advisor to the Prime Minister of Mauritius. Also addressing the summit was Dr. Asif Iqbal, President, IETO – Indian Economic Trade Organization.

IN OTHER HAPPENINGS 🎟️ ENTRY: By ticket

Short films screening

Immerse in a cinematic evening at Short Film Adda, showcasing three thought-provoking short films by filmmaker Naitik Raval — *The Bet*, *Ultra Pher* and *50-50*.

🕒 **WHEN:** Today, 8 pm onwards

📍 **WHERE:** Kanoria Centre for Arts, Navrangpura

Food fest

Attend the Hungrito Food Fest, featuring a spread of gourmet food stalls, flea market shops, as well as vibrant game zones and activity corners.

🕒 **WHEN:** Till Dec 31, 6 pm onwards

📍 **WHERE:** Vivenza By Gopi Farm, Ognaj

Time for some laughs

Stand-up comedian Anubhav Singh Bassi brings to the city a set of relatable jokes that'll make you think even as you laugh out loud.

🕒 **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 5 pm

📍 **WHERE:** AUDA Auditorium, Shela

Pictionary meetup

A high-energy game night of chaotic sketches, teamwork, and shared laughter — where art skills don't matter and the only rule is to have fun.

🕒 **WHEN:** Till Jan 18, 3 pm onwards

📍 **WHERE:** Espresso Martini Café: Ahmedabad, Prahlad Nagar

HANDLOOM & HANDICRAFT

EXHIBITION CUM SALE

◀ Khadi Shirt-Kurti
◀ Ladies Kurti-sarees
◀ Gents Tshirt-Shirt
◀ Consumer Products
◀ Ludhiyana Socks
◀ Fancy Top-Chappal
◀ Socks
◀ Chashma
◀ Kids wear
◀ Khadi Shirt
◀ Jewellery



UP TO 75% OFF **BOOK FAIR**
English, Hindi & Marathi & Gujarati Language available

◀ Stationery - Toys
◀ Sofa Cover Handloom
◀ Carpet Sofa
◀ Kashmiri Shawl
◀ Khurja Pottery
◀ Mukhwas
Sofa 30% Offer on Selling Price
Jacket, Topi, Maflar, Hudi, Socks, Sweter
GHARVAKHRI & Stationery Starting 20/-
Time: 11am to 10pm
Entry / Parking Free
Auda Ground, Opp. Sobo Center, SOUTH BOPAL

PHOTO OF THE DAY

Merry Christmas!

A Santa Claus distributes sweets among children at CNI Church in Ahmedabad as part of Christmas celebrations



We feature heartwarming glimpses from the city and from around the globe — moments that stir the soul, celebrate human spirit and mark triumphs. You too, can share photographs of people, your surroundings, festivals and contemporary life. Send us the picture clicked by you with your name and number at

ahmedabadspeaks@gmail.com



SVGU conducts awareness session on tobacco usage

The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit at Sardar Vallabhbhai Global University (SVGU), in partnership with The Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (GCCCI), hosted an awareness session titled 'Say No to Drugs and Tobacco' at the Chimanbhai Patel Institute Campus. The event featured Alpesh Parikh, Co-Chair of the GCCCI's CSR Committee, along-side health and social awareness speaker Dr Twinkal Patel, who spoke to students about personal responsibility and thoughtful decision-making. The session concluded with an oath-taking ceremony, where participants pledged to reject drugs and tobacco.

St Xavier's concludes its annual culfest 'Antarnaad'



St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) showcased its vibrant spirit at the annual three-day Xavier's Art Festival, Antarnaad, where the departments of Science, Arts, and Commerce engaged in friendly competition across events such as quizzes, elocutions, debates, and spelling bees. Dramatic performances tackled societal issues, while cultural dance forms blended contemporary styles with traditional roots. The event culminated in the Psychology Department being crowned the overall CulFest Winners for 2025, while the English Department secured the runner-up position.

TAP THE CHATTER

where Amdavadis speak their mind

Ahmedabad realty is witnessing a new trend of 'box pricing' for residences priced below Rs 1 crore, doing away with tedious per sq ft calculations.

Are you for it or against it?

Current system is better for buyer

Box pricing may look simple and easy to understand but it may not be a good option for home buyers. Under box pricing, comparing properties can be difficult, and negotiations with the seller can be tricky due to a lack of clarity. Box pricing is a very standardised method with no option for flexibility. A one-size-fits-all approach may not work in today's world. The current practice of rate/sq ft is not that difficult to understand. It's simple math that helps the buyer understand how much they may be paying the seller and various government authorities. The current style also allows buyers to choose their location. In a nutshell, under the current practice of rate/sq ft, a buyer is fully aware of the actual value of their home.

Yash Parikh, sports professional



May be beneficial for first-time buyers

For first-time home buyers, 'box pricing' reduces confusion, appears more transparent with fewer technical terms, and helps speed up decision-making by focusing only on upfront prices. However, box pricing can mask variations in size, layout efficiency, floor level or amenities, and may blur comparisons across projects. Hidden charges or flexible specifications could still emerge later. While the model reflects evolving buyer preferences and developer marketing, it demands greater due diligence. Box pricing may be convenient but clarity should not come at the cost of informed choice.

JK Nathani, academician



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

The FSSAI has issued a warning to food biz operators against using the word 'tea' for herbal infusions and plant-based blends not derived from Camellia sinensis, terming it a case of misbranding (Read Pg 14 report).

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer by 12 noon today, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us at ahmedabadspeaks@gmail.com or WhatsApp on 09023749937 in the FORMAT: Name, age, area, occupation/profession, and contact number. Your selfies — without sunglasses — are a must.

SSRMAC conducts thalassemia screening camp for students



Smt SR Mehta Arts College, under the Navgujarat Group of Colleges, hosted a Thalassemia Screening Camp at its Ashram Road campus in Ahmedabad. Approximately 70 students participated in the camp that was supported by the Indian Red Cross Society and local Rotary Clubs. The initiative aimed to raise awareness and promote early detection of thalassemia among young adults, emphasising the importance of preventive healthcare.



HLCAA gathers for its annual sports meet

The HL College Alumni Association (HLCAA) held its annual sports meet at the HL Plaza recently, and the event witnessed over 200 participants participating in indoor games like table tennis, carrom, chess, and a children's painting competition. The event celebrated vibrant alumni-family participation, fostering a festive atmosphere. Winners in all categories were honoured, promoting sportsmanship and creativity across all age groups.



Exports to rise 3% to \$850bn in 2025-26

In 2024-25, the overall exports touched \$825 billion, with \$438 billion in merchandise and \$387 billion in services

NEW DELHI

India's goods and services exports are likely to grow by 3 per cent to USD 850 billion in 2025-26, think tank GTRI said on Thursday. In 2024-25, the overall exports touched USD 825 billion (USD 438 billion in merchandise and USD 387 billion in services). Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) said the country's exports in 2026 will face a far tougher global trade environment than it has seen in years. Rising protectionism in advanced economies, weakening global demand and new climate-linked trade barriers are colliding just as India is trying to scale up exports, it said.

The result is an outlook marked less by expansion and more by the challenge of holding ground, GTRI founder Ajay Srivastava said.

"In FY26, goods exports are likely to stay broadly flat, squeezed by weak global demand and renewed US tariff pressure, while services exports may inch past USD 400 billion. That would lift total exports to roughly USD 850 billion," he said.

The external environment is deteriorating fast, he said, adding that Europe presents a different, but equally costly, challenge. The European Union will activate its Carbon Border Adjustment



'Indian exports can help NZ cut China dependence'

Indian exporters in various sectors like agriculture, petroleum, pharma, apparel, electronics and auto have potential not only to scale up shipments to New Zealand but also help the island nation reduce its dependence on China. In FY25, New Zealand imported goods worth over \$10 billion from China compared to just \$711 million from New Delhi. Wellington's total imports in that fiscal year were \$50 billion. GTRI's report stated that opportunities exist for various Indian sectors to increase penetration in the island nation.

Mechanism (CBAM) on January 1, 2026, effectively imposing a carbon tax on imports.

Even before payments begin, compliance and reporting requirements have already pushed India's steel exports to the EU down by about 24 per cent, he noted.

"From 2026, EU importers will price Indian goods inclusive of CBAM costs, with payments settled through

certificate surrender in 2027," he added.

GTRI suggested that the government urgently review the performance of its FTAs' sector by sector to ensure they are actually expanding exports, integrating Indian firms into global value chains, and delivering measurable trade gains rather than remaining under-utilised diplomatic trophies. **PTI**

Small and midcap stocks lag behind blue-chip peers

Rupee slide, concerns over US-India trade talks, persistent Foreign Institutional outflows led to sharp risk-off reaction

NEW DELHI

Smaller stocks lagged behind their bigger blue-chip peer Sensex this year as elevated valuations triggered profit-taking after a strong rally in the last two years.

Analysts attributed the underperformance of smallcap and midcap indices in 2025 due to market normalisation after their exceptional outperformance in 2023 and 2024.

Depreciation of the rupee, concerns over the US-India trade negotiations and persistent foreign fund outflows also led to a sharp risk-off reaction in the broader market, experts noted.

On the road ahead, market experts are of the view that the outlook for smallcap and midcap indices remains cautiously optimistic. They said that as valuations cool and earnings visibility improves, selective opportunities should emerge, supported by India's steady GDP growth and strong domestic liquidity.



Till December 24 this year, the BSE midcap gauge went up marginally by 360 points. The BSE smallcap index, however, declined by 3,687 points or 6.68%.

In contrast, the 30-share Sensex jumped 7,269 points or 9.3% during the period under review.

"The underperformance of smallcap and midcap indices in 2025 is primarily a result of market normalisation after two years of exceptional outperformance.

"In 2024, the BSE smallcap index delivered returns of over 29%, while the midcap index gained 26%, far outperforming the Sensex. Such sharp rallies pushed valuations to

elevated levels, especially in smaller companies where earnings growth did not keep pace with price appreciation," Ponmudi R, CEO - Enrich Money, an online trading and wealth tech firm, said.

In 2025, this imbalance began to correct, he said.

"Investors shifted focus toward largecap stocks with stronger balance sheets and stable earnings visibility amid global uncertainty. Smallcap and midcap companies, which are more sensitive to funding costs, margin pressures, and economic slowdowns, faced higher volatility. As a result, capital rotated toward blue-chip stocks, leading to relative underperformance in the broader market segments," Ponmudi said.

According to market analysts, smaller stocks are generally bought by local investors, while overseas investors focus on blue-chips or large firms.

PTI

2025 an impressive year for primary mkt Dalal St raises record Rs 1.95L cr via IPOs

Over 365 IPOs hit market in 2025; Rs 3.8 lakh crore raised in 2 years

MUMBAI

The Indian primary market has raised around Rs 3.8 lakh crore through 701 IPOs over the last two years, significantly higher than the Rs 3.2 lakh crore raised between 2019 and 2023 through 629 IPOs, a new report said on Thursday.

The numbers highlight how quickly the IPO market has expanded, both in size and breadth, driven by growing investor confidence in Indian equities, data compiled by Motilal Oswal showed.

The report noted that 2025 has been another impressive year for the market. So far, more than 365 IPOs have raised about Rs 1.95 lakh crore, surpassing the previous record of Rs 1.90 lakh crore raised in 2024 through 336 IPOs.

The mainboard continued to dominate fundraising, contributing about 94% of the total amount raised in 2025, almost unchanged from the previous year.

Over the last two years, main-



board IPOs alone have raised nearly Rs 3.6 lakh crore from just 198 companies, showing that large issuances continue to attract strong demand. At the same time, the SME segment has also remained very active in terms of the number of listings, the report said.

The report highlighted that sector diversity has improved sharply. Unlike earlier years when IPOs were concentrated in a few emerging sectors, companies from a wide range of industries have tapped the market over the past 24 months.

In 2025, NBFCs emerged as the biggest contributors, followed by capital goods, technology, healthcare, and consumer durables. **PTI**

India's petrol pump count network crosses 1L-mark

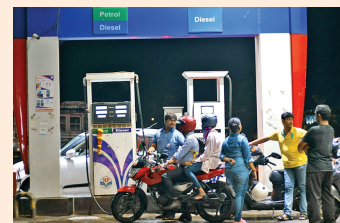
Doubles in decade as state-owned retailers push fuel access deeper into rural, highway corridors

NEW DELHI

India's petrol pump network has crossed the 1,00,000-mark, doubling since 2015 as state-owned fuel retailers aggressively expanded outlets to defend market share and push fuel access deeper into rural and highway corridors amid a sustained boom in vehicle ownership.

At the end of November, the country had 1,00,266 petrol pumps - the third largest after the US and China with a much bigger geographical area, according to data available from the Petroleum Planning & Analysis Cell of the Oil Ministry.

Over 90% of the pumps are owned by state-owned firms such as Indian Oil Corporation (IOC),



Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL).

Russia's Rosneft-backed Nayara Energy Ltd is the largest private fuel retailer with 6,921 outlets, followed by 2,114 stations owned by a joint venture of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP. Shell has 346 outlets.

PTI

Retail sector to see robust growth, led by metros

Indian retail industry is valued at \$1.1 tn

NEW DELHI

Shrugging off past disruptions, the Indian retail industry is gearing up for 2026 with a solid foundation and is expected to see better margins, driven by a shift in demand from major metros to Tier II and III cities, all while maintaining its position as the world's third-largest retail market. The Indian retail industry, is valued at approximately \$1.1 tril-



lion. With policy interventions such as GST reforms and income tax relief, coupled with a good monsoon and higher Minimum Support Prices (MSP), the industry anticipates a silver lining in consumer demand. Moreover, the rise of the value retail boom and premiumisation, is expected to usher in a year of accelerated growth.

PTI

VAJPAYEE'S BIRTH ANNIVERSARY



Towering statues of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shyama Prasad Mookerjee and Deendayal Upadhyay unveiled

PM Modi inaugurates Rashtriya Prerna Sthal

Opening of Lucknow monument marks 101st birth anniversary of Vajpayee

#LUCKNOW

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said the BJP took pride in having the opportunity to "tear down the wall of Article 370" and slammed the Congress' dynastic politics, accusing it of "one family glorification".

Modi said this after inaugurating the Rashtra Prerna Sthal in Lucknow on the 101st birth anniversary of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The Rashtra Prerna Sthal features 65-foot bronze statues of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Syama Prasad Mookerjee and Pt Deendayal Upadhyaya, and a lotus-shaped museum spread over 98,000 square feet, which Modi later visited.

The PM said the Rashtra Prerna

Sthal symbolises the ideals that have guided India on the path of self-respect, unity and service, and called for collective efforts towards nation-building.

Addressing a public gathering after the inauguration, Modi said, "The BJP is proud that our government had the opportunity to tear down the wall of Article 370," adding that the legacy of good governance created by the BJP-led NDA government was now being taken to new heights at both the Centre and state levels.

"We must not forget how after Independence, a tendency developed to attribute every positive achievement to a single family," he said.

The prime minister said his government had made Pt Deendayal

Upadhyaya's Antyodaya vision its mission to ensure that government schemes reached all the poor without discrimination. "Before 2014, about 25 crore people were covered under social security schemes, while today this number has increased to 95 crore," he said.

Modi also said the day was not far off when Uttar Pradesh's defence corridor would be known globally for defence manufacturing. PM Modi was accompanied by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Governor Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and other senior leaders.

He was warmly welcomed by people who waved the tricolour and raised slogans in his honour. **PTI**



Happiness to everyone's lives

PM Narendra Modi during the Christmas morning service at Cathedral Church of the Redemption, in New Delhi. Extending Christmas greetings to people in India and across the world, the PM said "this festival should bring happiness into everyone's lives"

Unnao rape case

Petition filed in Supreme Court against suspension of Sengar's jail term

Seeks a stay on the high court order

#NEW DELHI

A plea has been filed in the Supreme Court challenging a Delhi High Court order suspending the jail term of expelled BJP leader Kuldeep Singh Sengar in the 2017 Unnao rape case. The petition filed by advocates Anjale Patel and Pooja Shilpkar has sought a stay on the HC order. They contended that the HC passed the order without considering that the trial court observed that Sengar must remain in jail for the rest of his natural life.

"The High Court failed to appreciate the material evidence relied upon by the prosecution which clearly demonstrates the barbarity and brutality of the accused, coupled with his demonstrated muscle power, financial influence and criminal propensity, as evidenced from the fact that even while the victim's father was under judicial custody, the accused orchestrated and executed victim's father murder to silence the family and frustrate the due course of justice," the plea said. **PTI**

Top maoist leader Ganesh Uike killed

Five others also gunned down in Odisha; major breakthrough, says UHM Amit Shah

#BHUBANESWAR

Top Maoist leader **Ganesh Uike** was among six red rebels killed in gun battles with security forces in Odisha's Kandhamal district, police said on Thursday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah called it a "major breakthrough", while Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi described it as a "remarkable success" to build a Naxal-free India.

CPI(Maoist) central committee member Uike, who carried a bounty of Rs 1.1 crore on his head, was the chief of the banned outfit in Odisha, Sanjeeb Panda, an ADG rank officer heading anti-Naxal operations in the state, said.

Two Maoists from Chhattisgarh were killed in an exchange of fire with security forces in Gumma forest in Belghar police station area on Wednesday night. Fresh gun battles took place in a forest in Chakapad police station area on Thursday

morning, in which four other Maoists, including Uike, were killed, he said.

"Four Maoists were killed in the gunfight. One of them was identified as 69-year-old Ganesh Uike, who is also known by his aliases Pakka Hanumantu, Rajesh Tiwari, Chamru and Rupa. He was a native of Pullemala village under Chendur mandal in Telangana's Nalgonda district," Panda said.

The identity of the other three Naxals, including two women, was yet to be ascertained, the officer said.

Taking to X, Shah said, "In a major operation in Kandhamal, Odisha, 6 Naxalites, including Central Committee Member Ganesh Uike, have been neutralised so far. With this major breakthrough, Odisha stands at the threshold of becoming completely free from Naxalism. We are resolved to eliminate Naxalism before the 31st of March 2026." **PTI**



Navi Mumbai Airport starts ops

An aircraft accorded a ceremonial water cannon salute as Navi Mumbai International Airport commenced commercial flight operations on Thursday

HC issues notices into missing forest boundary pillars in Mussoorie

#NAINITAL

The Uttarakhand High Court has issued notices to the CBI, the Centre, and others in connection with the investigation into 7,375 missing forest boundary pillars and the alleged rapid and unusual increase in the assets of field forest officers posted in the Mussoorie Forest Division.

A division bench of Justice Manoj Tiwari and Justice Subhash Upadhyay directed all respondents, including the state government, the Survey of India, and the Central Empowered Committee (CEC), to file their affidavits within six weeks

and fixed February 11 as the next date of hearing.

During the hearing, the court expressed strong displeasure over the disappearance of such a large number of boundary pillars.

A petition filed by environmental activist Naresh Chaudhary seeks directions to the Survey of India to conduct a comprehensive, scientific, and geo-referenced survey of all forest areas falling under the Mussoorie Forest Division to identify the exact locations of all missing boundary pillars and to re-establish them in a time-bound manner. **PTI**

Attack on Hindus: B'desh police offers bounty for info

Miscreants had set on fire a Hindu household

#DHAKA/NEW DELHI

Bangladesh police announced a reward for information on attackers who set on fire a Hindu-owned house near the southeastern port city of Chattogram, as mob violence emerged as a major crisis in the changed political landscape.

Chattogram range's police chief Ahsan Habib offered the bounty on Wednesday night without specifying the amount during his visit to the burned-down house of Qatar expatriate workers Shukh Shil and Anil Shil at Raojan area on the outskirts of the city, Ittefaq newspaper reported on Thursday.

According to reports, unidentified miscreants set the home on fire on Tuesday night, but the residents managed to come out of the house unharmed.

Family members said they woke up after sensing the heat of the fire in the predawn hours, but were initially unable to come out as the doors were locked from the outside. The eight members of the two families escaped the burning house after cutting through tin sheets and bamboo fencing. **PTI**

B'desh leader returns after 17 years in exile

BNP leader Tarique Rahman, son of ex-PM Khaleda Zia, appeals for building an inclusive Bangladesh

#DHAKA

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) acting chairman Tarique Rahman returned to Dhaka to a rousing welcome by thousands of his supporters on Thursday after over 17 years in self-exile -- a homecoming that is expected to energise the party ahead of the February 12 elections.

Shortly after landing at the Hazrat Shahjalal International airport, Rahman, the leading contender to be the country's next prime minister, stood barefoot on Bangladeshi soil in a symbolic gesture to mark his return to the country's politics.

Hours later, the 60-year-old son of ailing ex-PM Khaleda Zia, addressing his supporters, gave a clarion call to maintain peace and stability in the country and presented a broad plan to build an "inclusive Bangladesh".

"It is time for us all to build the country together. We want to build a safe Bangladesh. In Bangladesh, no matter who a woman, man, or child is, they should be able to leave their



BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman waves to supporters as he is escorted by security personnel, in Dhaka, on Thursday. PTI

homes safely and return safely," he said. The homecoming of the BNP heir apparent comes amid a fresh wave of unrest and political instability gripping Bangladesh following the killing of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi, who was a prominent face in last year's mass protests that forced the collapse of the Sheikh Hasina government. "I have a plan for the people of my country and for

my country," he said referring to US civil rights activist Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" remark. In his speech to BNP supporters in Dhaka, Rahman said: "We have people from the hills and the plains in this country Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and Christians. We want to build a safe Bangladesh, where every woman, man and child can leave home safely." **PTI**

Slain B'desh leader's brother accuses govt of his murder

Alleges that Hadi's murder was a bid to derail elections



#DHAKA

Bangladesh's slain radical leader **Sharif Osman Hadi's** brother has alleged that a section within the interim government of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus plotted the killing to derail the upcoming general election.

Hours after his claim, Md Khuda Baksh Chowdhury, Special Assistant (Ministry of Home Affairs) to the Chief Adviser, resigned from the position. "It is you who got Osman Hadi killed, and now you are trying to foil the election by using this as an issue. Those who are in power when Osman Hadi was killed, you won't be able to evade the responsibility," Hadi's brother Omar Hadi told a protest rally in the capital staged by Inqilab Mancha on Tuesday. Omar said that the government must "immediately expose the entire group involved" in his brother's killing to the nation. **PTI**



Pope Leo XIV remembers Gaza's suffering in first Christmas homily, calls for peace

#VATICAN CITY

Pope Leo XIV during his first Christmas Day homily on Thursday remembered the people of Gaza "exposed for weeks to rain, wind and cold" and said the world's many conflicts can only be silenced through dialogue. Leo led the Christmas Day Mass from the central altar beneath the balustrade of St Peter's Basilica. **AP**

Blast at mosque in Nigeria kills 5, injures over 30

#LAGOS

Five people have been killed in Nigeria's northeastern Maiduguri after a bomb exploded during prayer at a mosque on Wednesday night, a police statement said.

Police added that 35 people were injured in the attack, which it said is likely a suicide attack. "Preliminary investigations further suggest that the incident may have been a suicide bombing, based on the recovery of fragments of a suspected suicide vest and witness statements recorded, while investigations are ongoing to establish the exact cause and circumstances," Nahum Daso, spokesperson for Borno state police command, said in the statement. **AP**

China hits out at Pentagon report

Report accuses Beijing of trying to weaken US-India ties, using reduced border tension

#BEIJING

China on Thursday denounced a Pentagon report, which accused Beijing of leveraging reduced border tensions with India to undermine US-India ties while deepening defence ties with Pakistan as an attempt to sow discord with false narratives.

"The Pentagon's report distorts China's defence policy, sows discord between China and other countries, and aims at finding a pretext for the US to maintain its military supremacy," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told media here when asked about the US Department of War report submitted to the American Congress. China firmly opposes the report, Lin said.

Separately, Chinese Defence Ministry spokesman Zhang Xiaogang denounced the Pentagon report, which also highlighted the cooperation between China and Pakistan in sectors such as defence and space, with plans to set up a military base.

The US releases such reports year after year, grossly interfering in China's internal affairs, Zhang told a separate media briefing.

The US report maliciously misinterpreted China's national defence



The Pentagon's report distorts China's defence policy, sows discord between China and other countries, says China

policy, made unfounded speculations about China's military development, slandering and smearing the normal actions of the Chinese military, he said, declining to directly respond to a question on the report alleging China's expanding defence and cooperation with Pakistan. The report is full of erroneous understandings of China and geopolitical biases, exaggerating the so-called "Chinese military threat" to mislead the international community, Zhang said. **PTI**

N Korea displays nuke-powered sub

Kim Jong Un visits shipyard to inspect 8,700-tonne submarine

#SEOUL

North Korea on Thursday displayed apparent progress in the construction of a nuclear-powered submarine, with state media photos showing a largely completed hull, as leader Kim Jong Un condemned rival South Korea's push to acquire the technology.

North Korea's official Korean



Central News Agency said Kim visited a shipyard to inspect the construction of what the North describes as an 8,700-ton-class nuclear-propelled submarine. The North has indicated it plans to arm the submarine with nuke weapons, calling it a "strategic guided missile submarine" or a "strategic nuclear attack submarine." **AP**

Dominant India look to seal series

They take on Sri Lanka in the third women's T20I at Thiruvananthapuram today

#THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A dominant India will look to seal the five-match series with another ruthless display when they take on a low-on-confidence Sri Lanka in the third women's T20 International here on Friday.

India have been outstanding with both the bat and the ball in the first and second T20Is, registering comprehensive eight-wicket and seven-wicket wins respectively in Visakhapatnam to underline their overall dominance over Sri Lanka.

It was India's ninth win in their last 11 T20Is against the island nation, who last tasted victory against the hosts in July 2024 at Dambulla.

India boast of an enviable batting line-up, with different players stepping up in the two games. The bowling unit has been equally sharp, with the spinners calling the shots by restricting Sri Lanka to 121 for 6 and 128 for 9 in the two matches. Youngsters N Shree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma and Kranti Gaud have shared the workload effectively, bowling with discipline and control.

Fielding was the lone area of concern in the opening game, where India dropped five catches, but they showed marked improvement in the second match with three sharp run-outs. Led by Harmanpreet Kaur, India will aim to continue raising their standards as the series moves to Thiruvananthapuram, which will host the next three matches.

Match starts at 7 pm.
Agencies



India have been outstanding with both the bat and the ball in the first and second T20Is



Well-settled India are trying out new things, says head coach Muzumdar

#THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A well-settled India are trying out a few new things in the ongoing five-match T20I series against visiting Sri Lanka keeping in mind next year's ICC Women's T20 World Cup in the UK, said head coach Amol Muzumdar here on Thursday.

Reigning ODI world champions India have already taken a 2-0 lead and are hoping to seal the series here on Friday in the third game. India had won the first two T20Is by eight and seven wickets respectively in Visakhapatnam. "We tried to be as settled as possible during the

ODI World Cup as well. Six months down the line there is a T20 World Cup and we are very well aware of certain things, what we need to do and in what direction we want to take this T20 side," Muzumdar said on the eve of the game. "Trying out a lot of stuff, making sure that we are

well and truly settled before the World Cup." Muzumdar said India are a progressive side, which is constantly looking to improve in all departments of the game. "Whatever it is, it's a pleasant change. They seemed to be more happy on the ground. It's a good place to be in," he said. **Agencies**

Long way to go but I'm very excited, says Rani

'My journey as a player has finished and new one as coach has started'

#NEW DELHI

After an illustrious playing career, former India women's hockey team captain Rani Rampal has stepped into a new role, this time from the sidelines. Rani opened up about her transition from player to coach, the challenges of managing diverse personalities, her vision for Soorma Hockey Club at the Hockey India League 2026, and what it's like working alongside long-time teammate Savita Punia in a mentor's role.

For Rani, retirement from playing hasn't meant stepping away from hockey; it has meant starting all over again. "This is just the beginning of a new journey," she says. "When one journey ends, another begins. My journey as a player has finished, and a new one as a coach has started. There's a long way to go, but I'm very excited."

Rani compares her current phase to her early days as a player, full of learning, curiosity, and growth. Her biggest motivation is giving back to the sport by guiding the next generation. "I want to learn everything



Rani Rampal

from scratch in this role so that I can help youngsters and the new generation of players."

One of the toughest adjustments, Rani admits, has been shifting the mindset from that of a player to a coach

One of the toughest adjustments, Rani admits, has been shifting the mindset from that of a player to a coach. "The mindset of a player and a coach is very different," she explains. "After playing for so many years, it's not easy to suddenly think differently. In the beginning, you still think like a player."

As a coach, patience has become key. "You have to remember that some players are fast learners and some are slow learners. As a coach, you need much more patience." According to Rani, coaching goes beyond tactics and techniques. "You can always teach technical and tactical aspects, but managing players, keeping everyone on the same page, and sharing one vision, that's what really matters." **Agencies**

Joao Fonseca sets sights on world top 15

I will also be aiming for consistent results without ups and downs, says Brazil's tennis star



Joao Fonseca

#RIO DE JANEIRO

Brazilian teenager Joao Fonseca has set a target of breaking into the world's top 15 men's tennis players next year as he looks to build on his recent progress. The 19-year-old won two titles in 2025, his first full season on the ATP Tour, but said he sees that as a starting point.

"I intend to break into the world's top 15. It's bold, but I'm thinking big," Fonseca said. "I will also be aiming for consistent results without ups and downs."

Fonseca began this year ranked 113th but has jumped to No. 24 following wins in Buenos Aires (ATP

250) and Basel (ATP 500). His other 2025 highlights included reaching the third round at the French Open and Wimbledon.

Brazil's only men's Grand Slam singles champion is Gustavo Kuerten, who won the French Open in 1997, 2000, and 2001.

Fonseca has so far reached at least the second round in all four Grand Slam tournaments in 2025, managing to reach the third round in the French Open and Wimbledon. He has also represented Brazil in the Davis Cup with a 4-2 win-loss record in the prestigious men's team competition.

Agencies

4th Ashes Test from today

Australia to go with a pace-heavy attack against England



England lost first three Tests to allow Australia retain Ashes

#MELBOURNE

Australia won't attempt to replace injured Nathan Lyon with another spin bowler for the fourth Ashes Test against England and will go into Friday's start of the match with a 12-man, pace-heavy squad.

After Lyon suffered a long-term hamstring injury in the Ashes-clinching win in Adelaide and later underwent surgery, offspinner Todd Murphy was called into the squad. But with the MCG pitch showing plenty of grass, Australia opted to leave Murphy out when it named its squad on Thursday. Captain Steve Smith will wait until the toss at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on Friday before con-

firmed a starting XI. England lost each of the first three Tests to allow Australia to retain the Ashes in just 11 days of on-field action. It's unusual for an Australian team not to select a spinner at the MCG, a place where Shane Warne and Lyon have had success.

"A lot of the wickets we're playing on at present are certainly more seam-friendly than spin-friendly," Smith said on Thursday. "Last week (in Adelaide) was an anomaly; we saw some rough and we saw Nathan come in to play big-time. This one out here looks like it's going to offer a fair bit of assistance for the seam bowlers."

Agencies

SPORTS BRIEFS

Shruti, Tanvi in prequarters

The experienced Shruti Mundada, Tanvi Patri and Parul Choudhary upset higher-ranked opponents to reach the women's singles prequarterfinals of the 87th Senior National Badminton Championships in Vijayawada on Thursday. Shruti packed off seventh seed Jiya Rawat 21-14, 21-9 while Parul got the

better of 9th seed 18-21, 21-18, 21-12 to advance to the next round. Tanvi Patri also ended the campaign of eighth seed Isharani Baruah 22-20, 21-19. Also advancing to the next round were top seed Unnati Hooda, second seed Anupama Upadhyaya, third seed Anmol Kharb, and world junior silver medallist Tanvi Sharma.

Harsha secures double titles

Emerging tennis star Harsha Deshpande made a remarkable showing in the Gujarat State Ranking Tennis Tournament (GSTA) State Ranking Tennis Tournament, securing a double victory by claiming the Girls' Under-14 and Girls' Under-16 singles titles in Ahmedabad. Harsha demonstrated maturity, steady-

ness and tactical awareness beyond her years in both age groups of the event that took place in Ahmedabad from December 20 to 23. In the girls' Under-14 category, Harsha clinched the title with a 7-3 victory over Zia Thakkar in the final. In Under-16 category, she beat Sarah Rias 7-3 in the final.

'Balaji core member of team'

India's Davis Cup captain Rohit Rajpal on Thursday said experienced doubles specialist N Sriram Balaji remains very much in the national reckoning despite being left out of the squad for the upcoming tie against the Netherlands, stressing that team combinations dictated

the selection. Rajpal explained that the choice was influenced by the need for a deuce-court specialist in the doubles pairing, with Rithvik Bollipalli fitting that role alongside Yuki Bhambhani. "We were searching for a deuce-court player. Balaji will remain in the fray," Rajpal said. Agencies

I feel for them, says Smith

Smith empathises with England after 3-0 Ashes drubbing

#MELBOURNE

Steve Smith showed sympathy toward Ben Stokes-led England as the team endured criticism following their early Ashes series defeat to Australia. England suffered losses in the first three Tests, and the hosts took an unassailable 3-0 lead upon winning the recent Adelaide Test.

Smith will rejoin the Australian team for the Boxing Day Test and continue as stand-in captain in place of Pat Cummins after recovering from an



English team, which is under heavy scrutiny. Smith is familiar with the pres-

inner-ear issue. With Australia already having secured the urn and now aiming for a clean sweep in the Ashes, Smith was asked if he felt any sympathy for the

sures of being in the spotlight and expressed empathy for England's current situation. "When you're losing, the spotlight is always on you and things can get spoken about and get blown up pretty heavily. So ... I feel for them, in a way. You're in a country where you know you can go out and about and enjoy yourselves, and with big breaks, you know, you've got to experience the country that you're in as well. And they had a pretty big break in between," Smith said. Agencies



"PMJAY-MA" Yojana

For All Hospitals Empanelled Under the PMJAY-MA Yojana:

- Under the PMJAY-MA yojana, it is mandatory for all hospitals to migrate their hospital empanelment from HEM 1.0 to HEM 2.0 portal by 31-12-2025. If any hospital does not wish to remain empanelled under the scheme, they must submit a written notification to the concerned District/Corporation Health Officer and log in to HEM 2.0 to apply for withdrawal. They are requested to immediately contact the District/Corporation Health Officer for this.
- It is mandatory for private hospitals under PMJAY-MA to display free/foldable signboards clearly informing visitors and beneficiaries about the services available.

For All Beneficiaries of the PMJAY-MA Yojana:

- NFSA (National Food Security Act) ration card holders can obtain their Ayushman Card by using only their ration card and Aadhaar card.
- All senior citizens aged 70 years or above can obtain an Ayushman Card by using only their Aadhaar card, without considering social or economical status.
- Beneficiaries can visit beneficiary.nha.gov.in to register themselves and obtain the PMJAY card.
- Information such as nearest PMJAY hospital, Ayushman Card Details, treatment received and wallet balance can be accessed by downloading **Ayushman App** from the Google Play Store.

"Ayushman Card is like Sanjeevani – a guarantee of health for your family"

Shri Prafulbhai Pansheriya

Hon'ble Minister, Health and Family Welfare Department, Gujarat

PMJAY-MA Yojana, Block No-4/1, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan,
Old Secretariat, Gandhinagar- 382010

For more information, contact
Toll Free No. **079-6644-0104**

Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of Gujarat

What can officially be called tea? FSSAI defines

Several products are being sold as 'Rooibos tea', 'herbal tea', 'flower tea', even though they aren't derived from tea plant

#NEW DELHI

India's food safety regulator has tightened the rules on what can be officially called "tea", making it clear that only products made from the plant *Camellia sinensis* can use the word on their labels.

In a directive, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) said that many food business operators are wrongly using the term "tea" for herbal infusions and plant-based drinks that are not made from *Camellia sinensis*. According to the regulator, this practice is misleading consumers and amounts to misbranding under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

The FSSAI said it found several products in the market being sold as "Rooibos tea", "herbal tea" and "flower tea", even though these beverages are not derived from the tea plant.

The authority clarified that such products do not meet the legal definition of tea and therefore cannot be marketed using that name.

As per existing regulations, only infusions made from *Camellia sinensis* qualify as tea. This includes well-known varieties such as green tea, Kangra tea and instant tea. Any drink made from other plants,

Only products made from the plant *Camellia sinensis* can use the word 'Tea' on their labels, says FSSAI

herbs or flowers does not fall under this category.

The regulator has warned all food business operators, including manufacturers, packers, marketers, importers, sellers and e-commerce platforms, to stop using the word "tea" directly or indirectly for products that are not derived from *Camellia sinensis*.

Failure to comply, it said, will be treated as a violation of food safety laws.

FSSAI has also instructed state

food safety officials to strictly enforce these rules and ensure that both offline and online sellers follow the correct labelling norms.

"The move is aimed at protecting consumers from confusion and ensuring transparency in how food and beverage products are described and sold," experts said. **IANs**



New treatments for obesity on the cards

Researchers develop experimental obesity drugs targeting energy production process of cell

#NEW DELHI

Researchers have developed experimental drugs targeting mitochondria -- the energy powerhouse of a cell -- to work harder and burn more calories, which may make way for new treatments for obesity.

The team, led by researchers from the University of Technology Sydney in Australia, focussed on "mitochondrial uncouplers" - molecules that make cells burn energy less efficiently and release fuel as heat instead of converting it into energy the body can use.

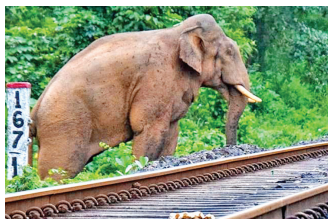
"Mitochondria are often called the powerhouses of the cell. They turn the food you eat into chemical energy, called ATP or adenosine triphosphate. Mitochondrial uncouplers disrupt this process, triggering cells to consume more fats to meet their energy needs," lead researcher Tristan Rawling, associate professor of medicinal chemistry at University of Technology Sydney, said.

Compounds inducing mitochondrial uncoupling were first discovered about a century ago, but the



drugs were lethal poisons that induced overheating and death, the researchers explained.

In a paper published in Chemical Science, the team has described safer 'mild' mitochondrial uncouplers by precisely adjusting the chemical structure of experimental molecules, allowing for a fine-tuning of how strongly the molecules boost the use of a cell's energy. While the work is still at an early stage, the research offers a framework for designing a new generation of drugs that could induce mild mitochondrial uncoupling and harness the benefits without the dangers. **PTI**



NFR's tech-driven measures save 160 elephants

Deployment of AI-based tech Intrusion Detection System is a major step

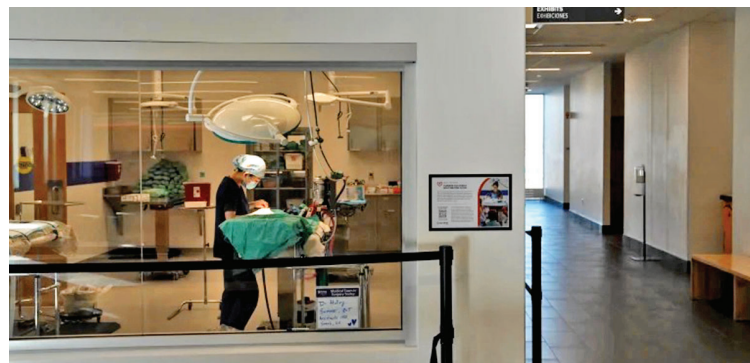
#GUWAHATI

The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has been undertaking a series of proactive, technology-driven initiatives to prevent wild elephant dashing incidents and ensure safe, uninterrupted train operations across its network, successfully protecting more than 160 wild elephants during 2025 alone.

Chief Public Relations Officer (CPRO) Kapinjal Kishore Sharma said on Thursday that NFR's sustained efforts have yielded encouraging results with over 160 elephant lives successfully protected during 2025 alone, reaffirming the railway zone's strong commitment to wildlife conservation. **IANs**

How sewage can be used to heat and cool buildings

Thermal energy from sewage powers system that heats, cools classrooms and a veterinary hospital in Denver in the US



A veterinarian works on an animal in a building that is heated and cooled by a wastewater heat recovery system in Denver. AP

#DENVER

When a massive event center was being developed in Denver, planners had to contend with two existing 6-foot (1.8 meters) wide sewer pipes that emptied into the river, creating an unsightly dilemma. Developers wanted to bury them. The utility said the wastewater needed to vent heat before entering the river. There, a problem became a solution.

Thermal energy from the sewage now powers a system that heats and cools classrooms, an equestrian center and veterinary hospital at the National Western Center complex.

It's a recent example of how wastewater flushed down the drain can heat and cool buildings in a sustainable way. Climate experts say sewage is a largely untapped source of energy due to its stable temperature of approximately 70 F (21 C). Wastewater heat recovery systems have already been installed in California, Washington, Colorado, New York and Canada. Pipes that transport sewage are already built, making it a low-cost and widely available resource that reduces the need for polluting energy sources.

There's no odor since the thermal energy transfer systems keep the wastewater separate from other components. "Wastewater is the last frontier of sustainable energy," said Aaron Miller, the eastern regional manager for SHARC Energy, adding: "Even in this current environment where environmental stuff doesn't really sell, there's a financial benefit that we can sell to business owners."

While the technology works in a variety of locations, the Denver complex was uniquely positioned because it's close to major sewer lines in a low-lying industrial zone. The vast majority of the center's heating and cooling comes from wastewater heat recovery. During extremely hot or cold weath-

er, cooling towers and boilers are used to fill in the gaps.

"Every city on the planet has a place just like this," said Brad Buchanan, the center's CEO. "This is actually a value, a benefit that the bottoms have that the rest of the city doesn't have."

How heat from sewage can warm buildings

Extracting the thermal energy starts with the water from toilets, showers and sinks traveling down usual sewage lines before flowing into a tank that is part of the heat recovery system. Heavy solids are separated and the remaining fluid flows through a heat exchanger, a sealed device with stacks of metal plates that can take heat from one source and put it into another.

Thermal energy from the wastewater is transferred to a clean water loop without the liquids coming into contact. The clean water carrying the thermal energy is then sent into a heat pump that can heat or cool rooms, depending on the weather. It can also heat potable water. Once the thermal energy has been extracted, the wastewater flows back into the sewer treatment plant.

The heat from the sewage replaces the need for energy from other sources to heat and cool buildings, such as electricity from the grid. Electricity is only needed to run the heat exchanger and pumps that move the water, far more energy efficient than boilers and chillers used in traditional HVAC systems. Miller said the systems work best in buildings with centralized hot water production, such as apartments, commercial laundromats, car washes and factories. In residential settings, Miller said the technology is best suited for buildings with 50 or more apartment units. **AP**

There's no odor since the thermal energy transfer systems keep the wastewater separate from other components



MIRRORLIGHTS

Stiffer colon may raise the risk of early-onset colorectal cancer



Chronic inflammation is likely to increase the stiffness of the colon, which may in turn increase the development and progression of early-onset colorectal cancer (CRC), according to a study. CRCs that are not caused by genetic syndromes and that occur at an average age of over 50 are known as average-onset or sporadic CRCs.

The incidence and deaths from average-onset CRC have decreased over the last three decades. At the same time, the incidence and deaths from CRCs that occur before age 50, known as early-onset CRCs, have risen dramatically during the same period.

The study led by researchers from the University of Texas-Dallas and Southwestern Medical Centre could lead to new ways to prevent and treat this deadly subset of CRC.

"This is the first study to highlight the key role of biomechanical forces in the pathogenesis of early-onset CRC," said Jacopo Ferruzzi, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering at the University of Texas, adding, "Our observations are consistent across multiple length scales and link connective tissue stiffening to altered biochemical signalling in cancer cells."

For the study, published in *Advanced Science*, the researchers worked with intestinal tissue from patients who underwent surgery to remove their cancerous tumours. They took 19 samples from patients with average-onset CRC and 14 from patients with early-onset CRC. Each sample included not only malignant tumours but also their noncancerous margins.

Tests showed that both the tumours and the noncancerous tissue were significantly stiffer in samples from patients with early-onset CRC compared with those from patients with average-onset CRC. These findings suggest that an increase in stiffness may have preceded early-onset CRC development.

Searching for reasons behind this increased rigidity, the research team examined collagen; they found that collagen in the early-onset samples was denser, longer, more mature, and more aligned than that in the average-onset samples. Those factors underscore the role of scarring in early-onset CRC tissue.

When scientists compared gene activity in the two sample types, they saw a significant increase in the expression of genes associated with collagen metabolism, blood vessel formation, and inflammation in the early-onset CRC tissues, further reinforcing that scarring from chronic inflammation is responsible for tissue stiffness.

IANs

Most people recognise that we shouldn't actively harm others at work. Yet people tend to assume that failing to act is relatively benign or inconsequential.

Imagine witnessing an employee being belittled by a co-worker. As a manager, should you step in, or could staying on the sidelines give employees room to resolve conflicts themselves?

A new research demonstrates that "perceived managerial inaction" — the belief that a manager has failed to act in response to a negative experience — can have devastating consequences in the workplace. A team of scholars and researchers from University of Guelph, Wilfrid Laurier University and Georgetown University examined how employees react when they believe their manager has failed to respond to a harmful or disrespectful incident.

Across an experiment and surveys involving hundreds of employees, they measured whether people felt their manager had a duty to intervene, whether they believed that duty was violated and how this shaped their trust, well-being and behaviour.

What is perceived managerial inaction?

Because of their formal position of authority, managers have the obligation to protect their employees from harm and maintain a safe and ethical work environment. The term perceived employee-directed managerial inaction is used to describe situations in which employees believe their managers have not acted to prevent or address potential harm to them. Three conditions need to be present for employees to perceive managerial inaction:

1. There was a potential for harm to the employee.
2. The manager was aware of this potential for harm, and
3. The manager violated perceived managerial responsibilities or obligations by failing to act in

WHY INACTION HURTS WORKPLACES

What happens when managers don't act?
New research reveals perceived managerial inaction harms people and organisations

response to this potential for harm.

When these conditions are met, employees interpret the absence of a response as a meaningful choice.

Why it matters

Perceived managerial inaction has real, measurable effects on employees' well-being and their relationship with the manager. The research reveals that even a single instance of perceived managerial inaction can result in profound consequences. Employees can lose trust in their manager, even if there was a pre-existing positive relationship and their manager had demonstrated positive leadership behaviours.

Perceived managerial inaction can also undermine managers' effectiveness. Studies indicated that it can motivate employees to protect themselves from the manager by withdrawing support, engaging in negative gossiping and resisting work-related requests.

Organisations also

face risks, as there is increasing momentum to hold them accountable for managers' inaction. As high-profile cases show — such as the California lawsuit alleging that Activision Blizzard managers failed to "take reasonable steps" to protect employees from discrimination — inaction can escalate from an interpersonal issue to a legal and reputational one.

Addressing common misconceptions

Many managers underestimate the impact of doing nothing. Research highlights four misconceptions that often keep leaders from acting and the reality behind them.

- **Misconception #1:** Inaction is benign, and employees won't notice or negatively react to managerial inaction.
Reality: Employees can be highly attuned to inaction because it has significant implications for how they perceive their manager and navigate their work environment.

ment.

- **Misconception #2:** Inaction can empower employees or help them grow.

Reality: Even if managers withheld action with positive intentions, employees experience inaction as a violation of managerial responsibilities.

- **Misconception #3:** The negative effect of managerial inaction is short-lived.

Reality: Managerial inaction can cause short- and long-term damage to employees' well-being, managerial effectiveness and organisations at large.

- **Misconception #4:** The negative effect is limited to the employee who perceived that the manager failed to act.

Reality: By failing to address harmful experiences, managers may inadvertently signal that mistreatment will be tolerated, which can normalise mistreatment within the workplace and increase its frequency.

Practical to-dos

Managers are not only responsible for their actions, but also for failing to act to protect employees from harm. If inaction occurs or is perceived to have occurred, managers can take steps to repair trust and prevent harm.

Talk to the affected employee about inaction and address the source of the harm. Listen to and support employees, including acknowledging their experience and any harm that occurred. Provide a clear explanation for why you did not act, without being defensive.

Recognise that the impact of the situation may include co-workers and the team. Those who witnessed or heard about the incident may need support or benefit from debriefing the incident.

Set an appropriate tone for the team to mitigate the negative impact of inaction. Set clear expectations for appropriate organisational conduct.

AP

'Perceived employee-directed managerial inaction' describes situations in which employees believe their managers have not acted to prevent or address potential harm



Jim shares serene moment with the Dalai Lama

Actor Jim Sarbh shared a reflective moment, posting a photograph from his recent meeting with the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. Taking to Instagram, the actor shared pictures from his meeting with the leader; for the caption, he dropped a red-heart emoji and wrote, "Lay My Love" by Brian Eno, John Cale."

'Border is a favourite'

Sonam Bajwa, who will be seen in *Border 2*, on the memories of the 1st movie

Actress Sonam Bajwa will soon be seen opposite Diljit Dosanjh in the much-talked-about war drama, *Border 2*, and she is excited, as the original drama *Border* is one of her favourite movies. Revealing that the JP Dutta film holds several precious childhood memories for her, Bajwa said, "Growing up, I can't even remember how many times I watched *Border* on television. It's one of my favourite films and holds so many childhood memories. I feel beyond grateful and truly blessed to be a part of a film like this."

Bajwa also shared how she ended up getting on board *Border 2*. As per the actress, filmmaker Anurag Singh, with whom she had already worked in the 2017 release *Super Singh*, approached her for the drama. She also pointed out that another thing in common in both these movies is Dosanjh.

"Director Anurag Singh reached out to me for *Border 2*, and we already share a great working relationship, having collaborated earlier as well. Interestingly, both those films also starred Diljit, so our association in Punjab has been quite special", she added.

Shedding light on her role as Manjeet in *Border 2*, the actress stated, "In *Border 2*, I play a Punjabi girl named Manjeet, who comes from Ambala and is married to Diljit Dosanjh's character, Flying Officer Nirmal Jit Singh Sekhon. Anurag told me that I was the first person who came to his mind for Manjeet, which meant a lot to me. I was incredibly excited because the moment I heard *Border 2* was in the works, it became a dream project for me."

IAN S



Sonam Bajwa

Actress unpacks how the first quarter of the 21st century has gone for her

Actress Shweta Tripathi is talking about how the industry's dynamics have changed for her personally, and about the bigger change in the industry over the past 25 years.

On her journey in the industry, Tripathi said, "I am very blessed and I keep saying this because of the kind of people I have worked with, with the kind of stories I have been attached with or I attach myself with. However, you want to look at it. But what has been very exciting is that somebody like me, who doesn't come from a conventional background."

"I have always enjoyed breaking stereotypes, and earlier opportunities were different. They were definitely boxed in, how a heroine should look or how a female actor should look. Now storytelling has expanded thanks to new platforms thanks to the diverse creators and audiences who are open to different narratives."

She added, "It's very important. Only storytellers cannot change anything. There has to be an audience supporting those stories and encouraging us. Some people do hear it because we are not making these stories just for ourselves. Professionally, I feel there is more space to experiment, to fail, to reinvent. And personally, the industry has taught me resilience and self-belief. I've learned that success doesn't have to look one way. The biggest shift has been in agency."

"When you do good work, and it is seen and celebrated, it gives you a beautiful kind of magical power which helps you connect with people. So I think that, on both personal and professional fronts, things have happened, and I have got to meet such amazing characters who stay with me," she shared.

IAN S

Now storytelling has expanded thanks to new platforms



Shweta Tripathi

SHWETA DISCUSSES INDUSTRY DYNAMICS

Sahher's SRK moment

Dancing with the Badshah of Bollywood tops the list of actress' most cherished moments of the year

Actress Sahher Bambba has spoken about the top five moments of her life and dancing with Shah Rukh Khan during the trailer launch of *The Ba***ds of Bollywood* definitely tops the chart.

"If I look back at this quarter of the century, my happiest moments are deeply personal and rooted in gratitude," the actress told IANS, elaborating, "One of the most surreal moments was sharing the stage with Shah Rukh Khan and dancing alongside him on the day of *The Ba***ds of Bollywood's* trailer launch. It wasn't just a fan moment; it felt like a quiet reminder of why I fell in love with cinema in the first place."

Bambba further said, "Another unforgettable moment was receiving the call from Aryan Khan himself, telling me that I was finally part of the

show. That call changed everything for me. It wasn't just about getting a role; it was about being trusted with something so close to his vision."

"The third would be stepping onto the set as the main lead for the first time and realising that I belonged there, not as an outsider trying to fit in, but as an actor ready to carry a story."

Talking about her fourth happiest moment, the actress further mentioned, "The fourth happiest moment has been watching my family's pride as they saw my journey take shape. Their belief in me has always been my biggest strength."

IAN S



Sahher Bambba

Carrying forward a legacy with elan

Priyanka Chahar Choudhary talks about Naagin S7

Television actress Priyanka Chahar Choudhary has opened up about stepping into the iconic role in *Naagin 7* and how she handles inevitable comparisons with her predecessors.

Speaking to IANS, Choudhary shared that she stays focused on giving her 100 per cent to the character, embracing the challenge while honouring the legacy of the show. When asked about being compared to predecessors, Choudhary said she stays focused on her performance and remains unaffected by comparisons.

"Comparisons will definitely be there, and that is very normal. I feel one should take them in a positive way because comparisons happen everywhere. If there is any comparison, I would just like to say that since the show has had six seasons, there have been many iconic Naagins and several successful seasons," she said, elaborating that, "In *Season 7* as well, we are giving our best and putting in our 100 per cent effort. I will try to carry forward the legacy the way it has been so far. I am simply playing my character with honesty, and I will continue to give my 100 per cent."

Choudhary, who has been promoting her show on social media, recently shared a post on Instagram expressing delight at the opportunity to embark on this new professional journey.

IANS



Priyanka Chahar Choudhary

Sold on the inspiration

Prateik Patil agreed to do *Four More Shots Please!* for H'wood icon James Dean

Actor Prateik Smita Patil says he loved being part of *Four More Shots Please!*, an all-women-led series, where he played a bar owner and got to dress like James Dean.

The show, which debuted in 2019, chronicled the lives of four unapologetically flawed women: Sayani Gupta, Bani J, Kirti Kulhari, and Maanvi Gagroo. The first season was released in 2019 and became an instant hit. It was followed by a second season in 2020 and a third in 2022. The fourth season debuted on Prime Video recently.

"They had approached two other actors before me. I won't mention the names. I was sold when they said I am a bar owner and the only guy with four girls. (But) that's not the reason I did the show. The reason I did the show was that Rangita (Nandy, producer) said, 'You are a bar owner and we're going to dress you like James Dean'. I was like, 'I'm in. Let's do it, when do we start, I was sold'. And all I'm thinking of is James Dean, I'm thinking of Tom Cruise from *Cocktail*," he said.

Dean, who died at 24 in a car crash in 1955, is known as a cultural and fashion icon despite his brief film career, which included starring in *Giant*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *East of Eden*.

Prateik, son of actors Raj Babbar and late star Smita Patil, said he is grateful to the fans for all the love he has received for his character over the years. "Just a lot of love for my character, a lot of female attention and love from the opposite sex," he said.

PTI



You are a bar owner and we're going to dress you like James Dean

Prateik Patil

RGV backs Aditya's superhit

Industry 'ignoring' *Dhurandhar* as it feels threatened by success, says director



Ranveer Singh in *Dhurandhar*

Filmmaker Ram Gopal Varma says whenever a pathbreaking film like *Dhurandhar* releases, the industry people feel threatened by it and choose to ignore it. Varma is a huge fan of the Ranveer Singh-starrer espionage drama that's set in Karachi's Lyari town. The film is directed by Aditya Dhar of *Uri: The Surgical Strike* fame.

"Whenever a pathbreaking and monstrous hit like *#dhurandhar* comes, the industry people will wish to ignore it because they will feel threatened by it due to their inability to match its standards. So they will think of it as a nightmare, which will vanish when they wake up in their own films," Varma wrote in a lengthy post on X.

The filmmaker — known for cult hits like *Satya*, *Rangela* and *Kaun* — also criticised the recent spate of pan-Indian movies, which aim to appeal to a cross-section of audiences.

"This is even more true of all the so-called pan-India biggies, which are right now under various stages of production. They were all written and mounted, modelled on the films made before *#dhurandhar*, which is the exact opposite of what they all believed will work... what's even more worrisome is that *#dhurandhar* apart from being an omega hit, also is the most discussed film since the last 50 years (sic)," Varma said.

According to Varma, the filmmaker who relies on the template of heavy VFX, expensive sets, item songs, and hero-worship stories will be "crucified" in their "self-created dungeon of masala films".

"More than anything else @AdityaDharFilms is forcing the industry people to look at their own films in the mirror, in comparison to the beautiful looking *#dhurandhar*," the filmmaker said.

PTI



Ram Gopal Varma

No one can beat the original

Shilpa Shinde reacts to comparisons with Shubhangi Atre on *Bhabhi ji...*



Shubhangi Atre as Angoori Bhabhi

Actress Shilpa Shinde, who is back as Angoori Bhabhi in *Bhabhi Ghar Par Hai 2.0*, spoke to IANS about how she sees no comparison between herself and the former Angoori Bhabhi, aka Shubhangi Atre.

"I don't see any comparison at all. I am sorry, but I can't compare myself with anyone," said Shinde, adding, "Bhabhi ji was always Shilpa Shinde, and that is why I am here after ten years. This is not overconfidence; this is

my hard work. I have made my own place, and I have proved myself."

The actress said, "There is no big challenge in this. When I returned to the show, it felt like I was starting the show from where I had left off. So, there wasn't any particular challenge. The only challenge is that people should see me as this character and not look for Shilpa or Shinde in it. That, for me, is the real challenge."

Shinde was part of the TV show until 2016.

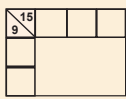
IANS



Shilpa Shinde as Angoori Bhabhi

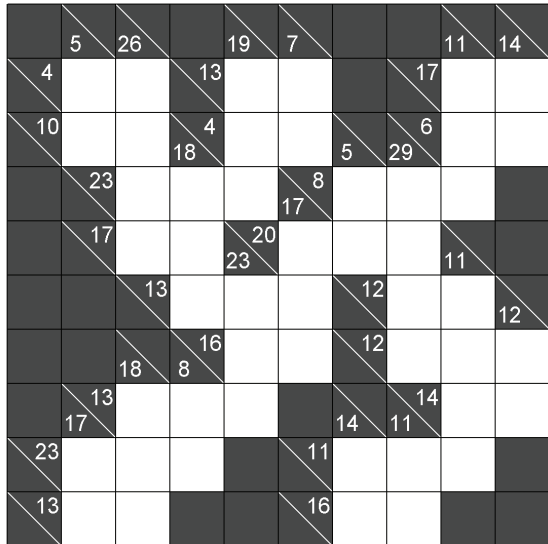
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

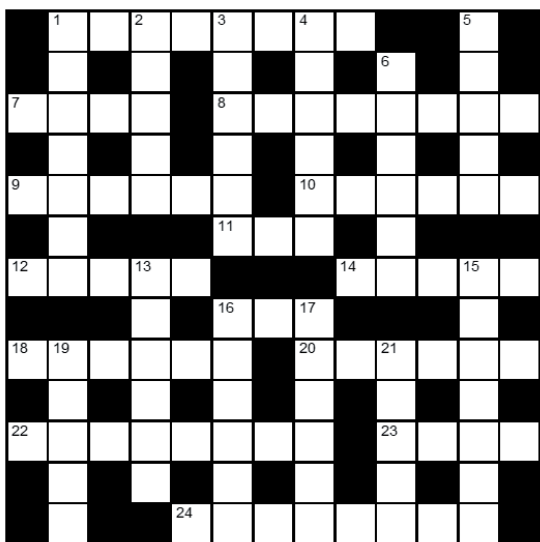


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- Homages (8)
- Indonesian island (4)
- Mollifying or relieving (8)
- Tension (6)
- Completes or concludes negotiations, etc. successfully (4,2)
- Acquire (3)
- Expel (5)
- Musical instrument (5)
- Period of history (3)
- Withdraw from a promise or undertaking? (3,3)
- Muddle, perplex (6)
- Receives a bequest (8)
- Equitable (4)
- Commonly used explosive (8)

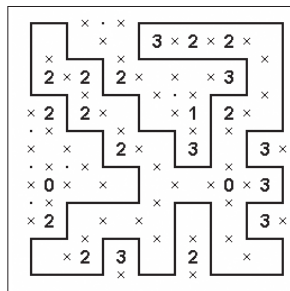
DOWN

- Shri Sharda Vidyalaya School locale (7)
- Mediterranean isle (5)
- Not famous or acclaimed (6)
- Self-centred person? (6)
- Follower of major Indian religion (5)
- Astronaut: Kalpana ____ (6)
- ____ back : suppressed emotions, etc? (6)
- Fairness (7)
- Sculpted image (6)
- Walking disorder (6)
- Payments to landlords (5)
- Civilian clothes (5)

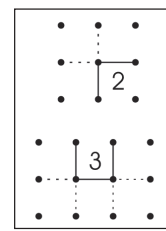
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



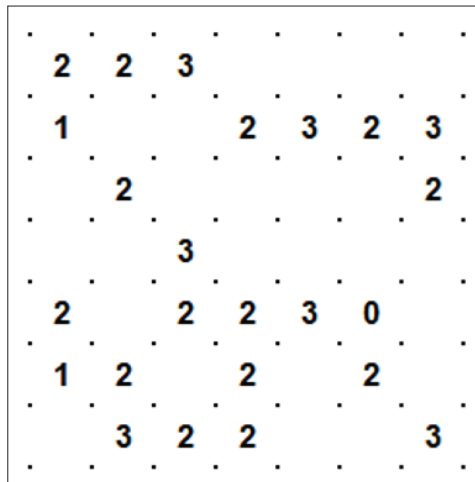
(Fig A)



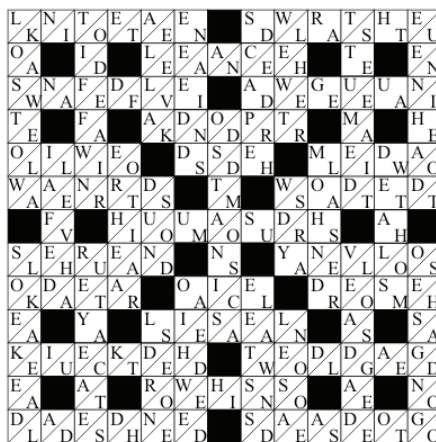
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic. Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



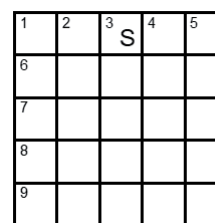
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

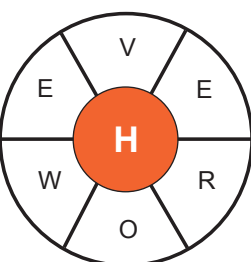
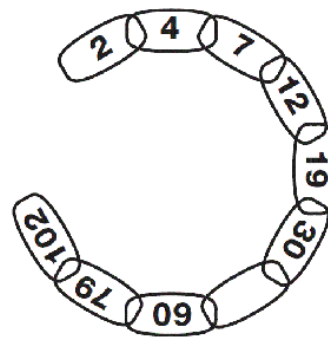
- Truss
- It nor
- Wares

DOWN

- Irish
- We dun
- Least
- Hevea
- Slide

Mensapuzzle

Which number completes the chain?

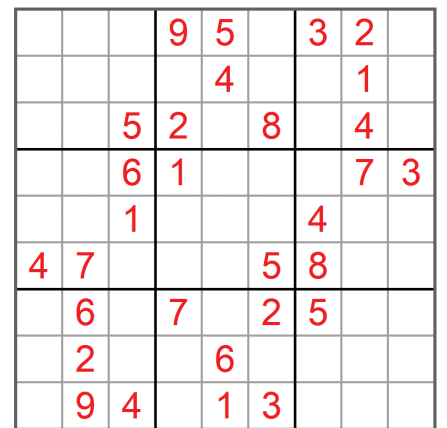


Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Each word can use a letter only once and must contain the central letter. There should be at least one 7-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as reference.

04 average; 05 good; 07 outstanding.

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

4 5 7 9 = 3

Medium

1 3 5 9 = 17

Hard

6 6 7 8 = 12

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Curtain is missing. 2. Thumb is longer. 3. Shelf is longer. 4. Arm is longer. 5. Tree is taller. 6. Rear window of car is different.

Riddler

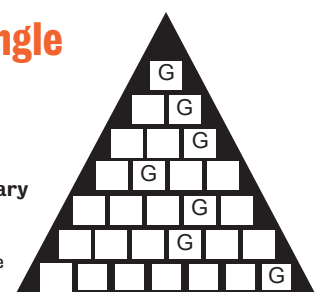
I have two arms and a back, Supported by four legs. But there is something I do lack. Actually, I have no eyes to see. I also cannot move around, Or at least, not on my own. Unfortunately I can make no sound,

Missing perhaps a squeak. If you chop off my head, You are left with a hair. If you chop off my tail, Only tea is left there. One more clue I will add, Is that you often use me. Yet you barely ever notice, In fact I'd much rather be a tree.

Alpha triangle

- Gram, abbr.
- Silver symbol
- Pester
- Hindu fire god
- Make parallel
- ____ Franca : literary journal
- Holding dear

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's clue: H equals W
HJ PJJT BI UWNJQ, BKFB HJ
CFV DJFQP BI RYBV.

COMICS

ARCHIE



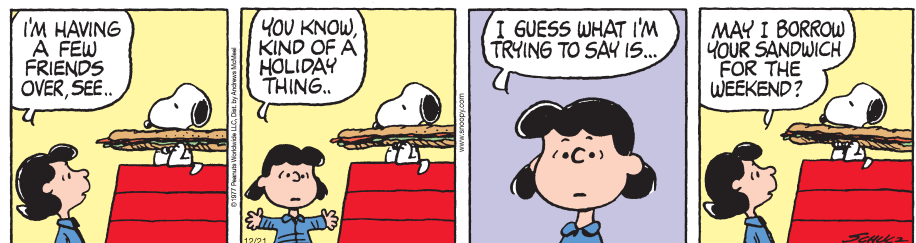
CALVIN & HOBBS



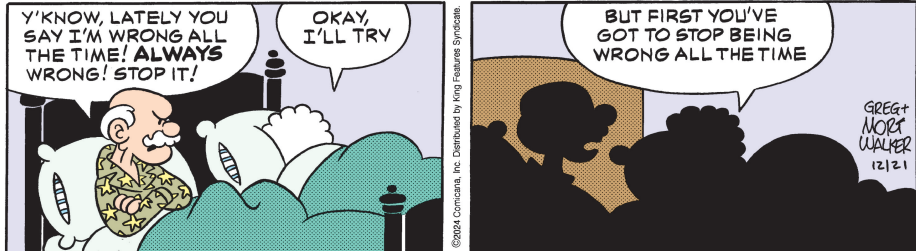
GARFIELD



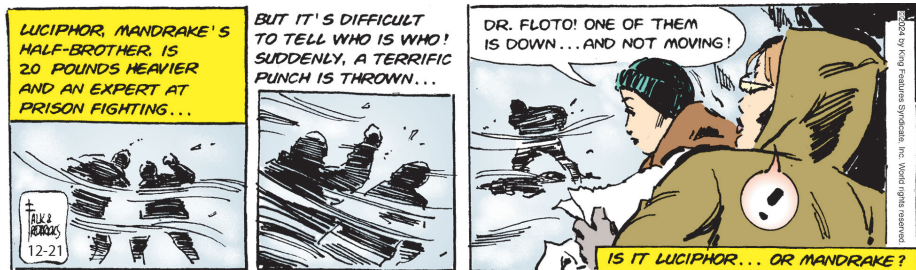
PEANUTS



BEETLE BAILEY



MANDRAKE



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries March 21 - April 20



Today, Aries may meet a stranger in the most unexpected way. The fun twist is that this person has been searching for someone with exactly your kind of energy, confidence, or clarity. Be natural and open—no effort required.

Affirmation - Emotional maturity is knowing when to pause.

Colour - Yellow, Silver

Leo July 24 - August 23



Today asks you to think beyond yourself, Leo. You may need to plan, organize, or decide keeping many people in mind, not just your own comfort. While it may feel demanding, this is where your natural leadership shines. Balance your needs with others' expectations, and you'll handle the day with grace and authority.

Affirmation - You're not behind; you're just on your own timeline.

Colour - Lemon, Purple

Sagittarius November 23 - December 22



"I'm okay to do this for love" is the clear message of your day, Sagittarius. On 26th December, you are more patient, understanding, and giving than usual. You may stretch yourself a little for someone you care about, and surprisingly, it won't feel heavy.

Affirmation - I'm exactly my type.

Colour - Blue, Burgundy

Taurus April 21 - May 20



Going green with envy isn't your usual style, Taurus—you're normally grounded and content. But meeting a friend after a long time and seeing their success stirs something unexpected within you. Don't judge yourself for it. This moment isn't about jealousy; it's a mirror. Let it motivate you, not diminish you.

Affirmation - You can care deeply without carrying everything.

Colour - Grey, Saffron

Virgo August 24 - September 23



Today, the options look a little different for you, Virgo. For once, quitting or stepping back is also a valid choice. You don't always have to push through or fix everything. Choosing rest, pause, or letting go can be just as wise as perseverance. Trust your judgment—knowing when to stop is also a strength.

Affirmation - Peace is choosing yourself without explaining.

Colour - Black, Lilac

Capricorn December 23 - January 20



You are stronger than you think, Capricorn. Challenges that once felt heavy are already shaping your inner resilience. Even on quieter days, your strength is working in the background. Trust yourself, keep moving steadily, and don't underestimate how far you've come.

Affirmation - Not everything deserves a reaction.

Colour - Silver, Purple

Gemini May 21 - June 21



You planned a quiet, boring day—but the universe had other ideas. On 26th December, others may step in with surprises you didn't see coming. Spontaneity finds you when you least expect it, and that's when you're at your best. Go with the flow, say yes more than no, and let the day unfold differently.

Affirmation - Some doors close to protect you, not punish you.

Colour - Khaki, Lavender

Libra September 24 - October 23



Over-indulgence is not the right choice today, Libra. You already have enough—time, resources, and opportunities will come steadily each day. There's no need to rush or overdo anything. Practice balance in food, spending, words, and emotions. When you pace yourself, you'll enjoy more and stay in harmony.

Affirmation - Strength can be gentle and still be real.

Colour - Mauve, Tamarind

Aquarius January 21 - February 19



Right now, Aquarius, figuring out how you will handle a certain problem feels unclear and slightly foggy. You're used to seeing solutions ahead of time, so this uncertainty may feel uncomfortable. Don't pressure yourself to have answers immediately.

Affirmation - Becoming better doesn't require becoming louder.

Colour - Purple, White

Cancer June 22 - July 23



You are truly the best, Cancer, so don't doubt yourself. With only a few days left before a new chapter begins, start building confidence now. Leave old fears behind and believe in who you are becoming. Walk into 2026 with calm strength and self-trust—the new, confident you is ready.

Affirmation - Growth often feels lonely before it feels right.

Colour - Green, Mango

Scorpio October 23 - November 22



Today, things may not go exactly as you imagined, Scorpio. You might not be in a position to welcome someone the way you had planned. Responsibilities, work, or the need for rest may take priority. Don't feel guilty—honoring your limits is important.

Affirmation - Being consistent matters more than being perfect.

Colour - Gold, Grey

Pisces February 20 - March 20



Today gently reminds you to appreciate sibling bonds or sibling-like bonds, Pisces. These relationships carry trust, familiarity, and quiet strength. Whether by blood or by choice, they shape your emotional foundation.

Affirmation - The right pace is the one you can sustain.

Colour - Blue, Hazelnut

KIDZONE

AhmedabadMirror,

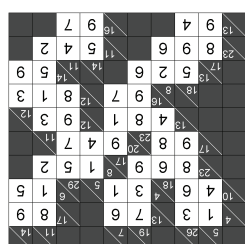
101, Om Shayona Arcade, next to Silver Oak University, Gota, Ahmedabad -382481. or email us with Name, School, Class (Only those in Class 1 and above send entries) and passport size photo at kidzone@ahmedabadmirror.com Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.



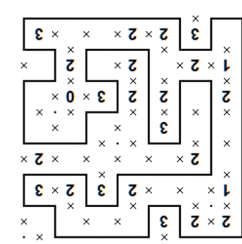
Kiana Piyush Patel,
Satellite school for children

Does your child display artistic skills? Then send her/his painting to kidzone@ahmedabadmirror.com and who knows, their work might find a place in AhmedabadMirror

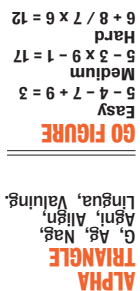
SOLUTIONS



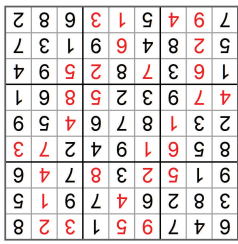
KAKURO



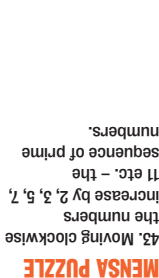
LOOP



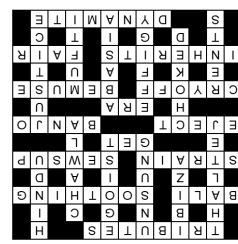
ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



QUOTE UNCODE



Sadie Sink

Sadie talks fashion, films and beyond

Stranger Things actress discusses acting, modelling work and dealing with red carpet anxiety

Hollywood actress Sadie Sink is quite satisfied with her modelling work. The 23-year-old actress made her runway debut for *Undercover* in 2018, just a few months after she became a household name playing Max Mayfield in *Stranger Things*, reports *Female First UK*. She has subsequently walked for brands, and has been fascinated by the fashion world from a very young age.

Sink told Australia's *Elle* magazine, "I've always been very interested in fashion. I remember being very young and sketching out dresses and (my brother Mitchell) and I would play games where we would be like, 'Okay, we're designing a dress for Blah-Blah and she's going here and you have to incorporate this colour'. To be able to mesh acting with fashion and work with brands I never dreamt I'd even get to wear or own has been super amazing."

Sink recently fronted a campaign for Prada's Re-Nylon with Benedict Cumberbatch and she was proud to be involved with the regenerated nylon initiative.

She said, "It's such an important conversation to have, and Prada has had so much impact (in the sustainability space). That was an amazing campaign."

As per *Female First UK*, Sink previously admitted she finds the glitz and glamour of red carpets "overwhelming" and tries to ease any stress by wearing things that she is comfortable with.

She told *Elle*, "Red carpets are such weird, overwhelming places to be as it is, so I don't like wearing anything that looks too out of place on me. The most important thing I've learned is to do those things that make me feel as myself as possible."

"Even though I'm wearing clothes that aren't mine and there's new people around me, as far as I can feel comfortable and like myself, that's what I aim for above anything else. I like looking like myself, the Sadie I see in the mirror everyday, that's when I feel the most confident. Let the freckles show, that's always the most important," she added.

IAN S

I remember being very young and sketching out dresses

Bullied for her figure

One of Kate Winslet's drama teachers once told her to settle for fat girl parts

Hollywood star Kate Winslet has said one of her drama teachers once told her that she would have a career in acting if she settled for "fat girl parts".

Winslet — known as one of the most successful stars of her generation, with movies like *Titanic* and *The Reader* and hit series like *Mare of Easttown* — has often spoken about the cruelty she endured because of her appearance at the beginning of her career.

In a radio interview, she spoke about what she faced in her drama class. "I was a little bit stocky... When I did start taking it much more seriously and got a child agent, I vividly remember a drama teacher telling me, 'Well, darling, you'll have a career if you're ready to settle for the fat girl parts,'" Winslet said during an appearance on BBC Radio 4 show *Desert Island Discs*.

The Oscar winner, 50, then said, "Look at me now. It's appalling the things people say to children."

In the radio interview, Winslet also spoke about being hounded by paparazzi after *Titanic* became a major hit.

"It was horrific. There were people tapping my phone. They were just everywhere. And I was just on my own," said the actor, who was just 22 when the movie came out.

The actress, who is in the news for her directorial debut *Goodbye June*, has also been vocal about the challenges she faced while making the film that is written by her son, Joe Anders.

The actress revealed that she only planned to star and produce the film, reports *Variety*. When she was also offered the opportunity to direct the feature, Winslet said that her initial thought was that she "cannot do three jobs. I know I'm good at multitasking, but this is too many things."

PTI



Kate Winslet

It's appalling the things people say to children

Why Macaulay walked away

Home Alone star reflects on leaving Hollywood young to reclaim a sense of normalcy

Actor Macaulay Culkin has spoken candidly about why he stepped away from acting as a teenager, saying the decision was driven by a desire for normalcy after an intensely solitary childhood in the spotlight.

Speaking on a recent episode of the *Mythical Kitchen*, Culkin, now 45, said he was just 14 when he took a break from Hollywood in 1994. "What I wanted is to be with people my own age. You have



Culkin's became a sensation after his appearance in *Home Alone* (1990)

to remember, a lot of the stuff I did when I was a kid — I'm not doing ensembles. It's me," he explained.

Reflecting on his breakout success in *Home Alone*, Culkin likened the experience to being

isolated on screen. "You'll watch *Home Alone* and I go, 'Oh my gosh, I'm in *Castaway*, except he had a volleyball to talk to,'" he said, referencing the 2000 Tom Hanks film. "People ask, 'What was it like working with Joe Pesci?' and I'm like, 'Have you seen the movie?' We do maybe two scenes together. Then it's just me in a house, by myself," he pointed out.

After starring in *Richie Rich*, Culkin said he actively chose to step back. "I wanted to go out and date girls, hang out with people my own age, go to parties," he said, laughing as he added, "I can't tell you how

many bar mitzvahs I missed."

On fame, Culkin was pragmatic. "You can't un-ring that bell," he said. "You can't put the toothpaste back in the bell," adding that stardom was never something he actively chased. "I didn't tug on my parents' sleeves saying, 'I want to be famous.' It just kind of happened. I was good at it, and I kept booking."

Culkin traced his entry into acting to a chance moment when his father took his siblings to get headshots. "My mum just wanted a break and said, 'Take Mac with you.' First audition — booked. Then booked again," he recalled.

Agencies



Macaulay Culkin