



# THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

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### SCREENING DOES NOT STOP AFTER VISA HAS BEEN ISSUED, WARNS U.S. EMBASSY

The US embassy in India on Saturday said that visa screening is an ongoing process and warned American visa holders against violating US laws

### VISA CAN BE REVOKED, VIOLATORS DEPORTED

In a strongly worded warning, issued through the New Delhi-based US embassy's X handle, the diplomatic mission said that if visa holders don't follow US laws, then their visas can be revoked and they can be deported. The latest warning came a day after the embassy said that "falsifying or omitting information can lead to visa denial and future visa ineligibility"

### MUST DISCLOSE SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLES

On Friday, through a detailed video, the US embassy had sought student and exchange programme applicants to list all social media handles used in the past five years on their DS-160 visa forms

"If you omit your social media information, it could lead to a visa denial, and you might become ineligible for future visas," it said

JUNE 19

AN EARLIER EMBASSY ADVISORY TERMED AMERICAN VISA 'A PRIVILEGE, NOT A RIGHT'

## REPLY TO SHAH

### AIADMK will form govt with majority: EPS

BAGALAVAN PERIER @ Cuddalore

THE All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) will win the 2026 assembly elections with a majority and form the government, said party general secretary and former chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami on Saturday in response to Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks during an exclusive interview with *TNIE*. Shah had said that NDA will get a landslide victory in Tamil Nadu and BJP will be part of the government.

When asked about Shah's remarks, Palaniswami responded tersely to reporters in Pudukcherry, saying, "Have I not said it clearly? AIADMK will win with a majority and form the government."

He did not elaborate or categorically rule out the possibility of including alliance parties in the government if the AIADMK secures a majority on its own.

Palaniswami's comment on Saturday is seen as his most unambiguous reaction so far to the idea of an alliance government, and indication of AIADMK's reluctance to share power with the BJP.

The idea of coalition government has remained a thorny issue ever since the AIADMK renewed its partnership with BJP. **P7**

## AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION BUREAU'S REPORT TRIGGERS SPECULATION ABOUT PILOT ERROR

**01:38:39 pm**  
Air India 171 lifts off

**01:38:42 pm**  
Maximum recorded airspeed of 180 Knots

Immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and 2 fuel cutoff switches transition from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another within 1 sec

One of the pilots heard on the cockpit voice recorder asking the other why did he cutoff the engines. The other says he didn't

**01:38:47 pm**  
Ram Air Turbine gets deployed during initial climb immediately after liftoff as engines lose power

**01:38:52 pm**  
Engine 1 fuel cutoff switch transitions from CUTOFF to RUN

**01:38:54 pm**  
Engine 1 fuel inlet door begins to open

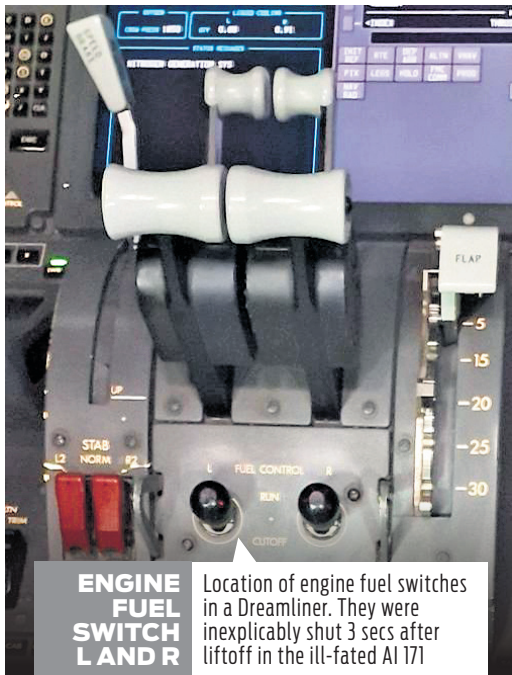
**01:38:56 pm**  
Engine 2 fuel cutoff switch transitions from CUTOFF to RUN

Engine 1's core deceleration stops, reverses, starts progress to recovery

Engine 2 relights but could not arrest core speed deceleration; re-introduces fuel repeatedly to increase core speed acceleration and recovery

**01:39:05 pm**  
One pilots transmits "MAYDAY MAYDAY MAYDAY" call. Plane crashes into a building

No significant bird activity observed in the vicinity



### IN THE COCKPIT

**Capt Sumeet Sabharwal, 56,** with 30 years of experience at AI. Had 15,638 flying hours, including 8,596 hrs on Boeing 787

**Co-pilot Clive Kunder, 32,** had 3,403 hours of total experience, with 1,128 on Dreamliner. Was flying AI 171 under Sabharwal's watch

## Whodunit: Fuel cut after 3 secs in air

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

A month after a horrific Air India plane crash in Ahmedabad killed 260 people, including 19 non-passengers, a preliminary report released by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau in the wee hours of Saturday indicated possible human error as fuel supply to both the engines of the aircraft was stopped just three seconds after takeoff. The two fuel cut-off switches were activated to the CUT OFF mode within a gap of a second, resulting in engine deceleration and plane crash though the fuel switches were subsequently switched back to RUN.

However, Civil Aviation Minister K Ramamohan Naidu urged people not to jump to conclusions on the role of pilots in the plane crash, as there are multiple things that need to be looked into before preparing the final investigation report.

The 15-page report says the aircraft "achieved the maximum recorded air speed of 180 knots at 1.38 pm and immediately thereafter, the Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUT OFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec. The Engine N1 and N2 began to decrease from their takeoff values as the fuel supply to the engines was cut off," it said. The fuel cut-off appears to have

shocked one of the pilots. "In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why did he cut-off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," the report states.

There was, however, no clarity on the identity of the pilot who asked and the one who responded.

How the fuel switches could have flipped if no one in the cockpit took ownership for it, was also not clear.

The Convention on International Civil Aviation Organization and Rule 3 of Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents), Rules 2017 mandate a preliminary report on air accidents be filed within one month and final report within a year.

The preliminary report said no significant bird activity was observed in the vicinity of the flight path, nor was there any quality issue with the aviation fuel.

It was the cockpit voice recorder, the black box housed in the cockpit, that gave the investigators a sense of what happened during the crucial seconds leading to the crash. Data from the second black box housed in the tail of the Dreamliner is yet to be retrieved as it has been badly damaged.

The Airline Pilots' Association of India alleged the report was biased, saying the probe "is being driven in a direction presuming the guilt of pilots". **P9**

## GINGEE FORT GETS WORLD HERITAGE SITE TAG

The TN fort and 11 other forts that were part of the Maratha Military Landscapes got the UNESCO recognition on Friday | **P4**

## IIM-C rape: Student sent to police custody

KAUSHIK PRADHAN @ Kolkata

A Calcutta court on Saturday remanded a student of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIM-C), arrested in connection with a rape case, in police custody till July 19.

According to sources, police arrested the student based on a complaint by a woman, a clinical psychologist by profession. The woman was allegedly called to the IIM-C boys hostel on Friday for a counselling session. She was allegedly given pizza laced with drugs and she fell unconscious. After she woke up, she realised she was raped, police officials said.

The woman went to Thakurpukur police station to file a complaint but officials there directed her to Haridevpur police station, under whose jurisdiction the IIM-C falls.

However, in a new twist, the woman's father said later that his daughter was not raped. He claimed his daughter filed a police complaint "by force" without explaining what it meant. The IIM-C said it was cooperating with the probe.

## Ball change to using buffalo hide in India, Dukes in focus

FIROZ MIRZA @ London

JUST like the centuries of KL Rahul and Joe Root, even the Dukes balls used during the Test series were in the news.

They were changed twice on Friday — once when the new ball was taken after 80 overs and was only 63 balls old and the second time when the replacement ball was booted only 48 balls later. It was changed once on Saturday. It made Root to propose a limit to ball change. "I personally think that if you want to keep getting the ball changed then each team gets three challenges every 80 overs and that's it," he said on Friday. Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah added a new dimension to it when he said hot and dry weather

could be one of the reasons. Incidentally, Dilip Jadodia, the manufacturer of the Dukes ball, termed dry weather as one possible reason.

The material used to make the balls too was in focus. Jadodia said they have been using hide of Scottish cows in England however, in their India operations, because of religious reasons buffalo they shifted to buffalo hide.

"Buffalo hide is used in India instead of cow. The leather is local and sometimes we use buffalo hides. You know the religious aspect, I think, it is unfortunate because at the end of the day, life is short and what we are using from a cow is a waste product," he told this daily. **P13**



KL Rahul scored a hundred on Saturday | **AFP**

**India all out for 387**  
Century from KL Rahul and half centuries from Pant and Jadeja help India equal first innings score (387) of England

## 'L' TAKES U-TURN

## TN schooled over classroom seating idea

PRAVEENA S A @ Chennai

JUST hours after Tamil Nadu's Director of School Education issued a circular mandating that seating arrangement in classrooms can be in the form of a semi-circle, resembling the Tamil letter Pa (ஊ), the directive was put on hold as it received a wave of criticism, especially on social media, from educationists, health experts, and political leaders.

The seating arrangement was intended to eliminate the stigma of 'backbenchers' and promote equality among students.

The circular issued by S Kannappan, Director of School Education, said, "En-



gagement begins with arrangement, the 'Pa' shape opens the floor for open minds." It said the arrangement would enhance interaction, ensure that all students have a clear view of the blackboard and teacher, and allow teachers to monitor all students effectively, besides

ensuring students' comfort. However, the proposal sparked immediate reaction over its practicality and health implications with many questioning whether any consultations were held with stakeholders concerned before issuing the instructions. **P7**

**'50% of kids may develop neck issues'**

"Students on the sides will be forced to turn their necks for hours, five days a week. This can lead to 50% of the students developing serious neck-related issues, and 15% may face very serious issues," a neurosurgeon said in a post on X handle

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