

The Sikh Times

National Daily

Shashi Tharoor Calls PM Modi "Prime Asset For India" In New Provocation For Congress

Mr Tharoor said the Op Sindoor delegations explained the "calibrated and measured" nature of India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Sikh Times Agency New Delhi.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor - who led the ruling BJP's anti-terrorism diplomatic outreach to the United States, Brazil, and three other nations last month, after Operation Sindoor - has called for more support for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "energy, dynamism and willingness to engage (with other countries)" and labelled it "a prime asset for India on the global stage". In an article published by The Hindu (paywalled) Monday morning, Mr Tharoor said the outreach - seven cross-party MP delegations visited 32 countries, including the US, the European Union and member nations, Saudi Arabia, and Russia - was "a moment of national resolve and effective communication (and) affirmed that India, when united, can project its voice with clarity and conviction..." He said the delegations explained the "calibrated and measured" nature of India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack, underscored Pakistan's continued links to terrorism. He specifically referenced the crossover of Indian and Pak delegations in the US and said, "Even as a Pakistani delegation was simultaneously present, we found US



representatives... echoing our concerns and urging decisive action against terror groups... our arguments, grounded in facts and consistent advocacy, were reinforcing the legitimacy of India's position."

"We consistently highlighted the severity of the threat from across our borders, aiming to build global consensus to hold perpetrators accountable," he wrote, calling the outreach a success. Mr Tharoor was one of a dozen opposition leaders who were part of these delegations;

the list included high-profile figures like Mr Tharoor and others from the Congress, as well as AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi, the Shiv Sena (UBT)'s Priyanka Chaturvedi, the DMK's Kanimozhi.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP's selection increased friction between himself and his party; the two already have a frosty relationship over several issues, including continuing positive words for the PM.

That friction has led to talk of a blockbuster political switch, i.e., the four-time Lok Sabha MP, who was also a former top United Nations official and a former External Affairs Minister, was preparing to jump from the Congress to Mr Modi's side. In fact, after news of his appointment to lead the US-bound delegation, arguably the most important of the seven, sections of the Congress called him a 'super spokesperson' for the BJP's 'publicity stunts' and accused of flattering Prime Minister Modi. However, Mr Tharoor has repeatedly dismissed talk of a switch, insisting he could not swap the Congress for the BJP. Speaking to NDTV last week he again played down any friction with the party, calling such incidents "differences of opinion... with only some elements of leadership".

Flailing hand and dusty broom: How Nilambur and Ludhiana byelection outcome can decide Priyanka and Kejriwal's future



► The upcoming byelection results in Kerala's Nilambur and Punjab's Ludhiana West hold significant political weight for Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal. A Congress win in Nilambur, where Priyanka actively campaigned, would act as a boost for them in the state, while an AAP win in Ludhiana would be a comeback Kejriwal and the party.

Agency Kolkata.

The cloud hovering over Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and AAP Supremo and former Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal's political fate has cleared for now, with the parties' victories in two byelections. The Congress, despite its performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections which delighted the party and surprised many, had faced some setbacks since then. On the other hand, AAP was voted out of power in Delhi and is now clutching at Punjab.

While Priyanka is still trying to become the leader that everyone has always wished her to be, Kejriwal is trying to regain lost ground after the huge setback in the national capital. Amid such a scenario, the results of byelections for two seats in Punjab and Kerala have become significant for them. Notably, Priyanka has reportedly worked hard to win the Nilambur seat in Kerala by personally leading the campaigns.

Wayanad in Kerala is the Parliamentary constituency of Priyanka, and Nilambur falls under that. Hence, she has toiled effortlessly to ensure Congress' victory in this by-election. With the Kerala Assembly elections scheduled to be held next year, the Nilambur byelection result can provide her party a massive boost. The resignation of PV Anwar of the ruling Left alliance triggered the election, and he contested again with a TMC ticket. In the previous election, the Left clinched victory in this seat, but the political landscape of the state has changed significantly since 2021. In these years, the BJP has significantly expanded its footprint in Kerala. Priyanka, the MP from Wayanad, succeeding her brother Rahul Gandhi, faced a tough challenge with the BJP posing a considerable threat.

Behind Chirag Paswan's 'Bihar First' Poll Entry Is Unexcited JDU, No Options

The Sikh Times

Agency Mumbai.

Lok Janshakti Party boss Chirag Paswan's decision to contest the Bihar election this year - despite already being a MP and a union minister - does not seem to have gone down well with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's Janata Dal United.



JDU sources have viewed his decision to enter the fray - he had said "I will contest for Bihar and its people... will realise the dreams of my father (popular state leader Ram Vilas Paswan) and work for 'Bihar first, Bihar first' - as a 'pressure tactic' for more seats when the Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance names candidates. Publicly the BJP has backed Nitish Kumar to remain as Chief Minister, but sources say some within it

event the NDA retains power. As such, JDU sources have stressed Mr Paswan's decision to contest is a personal choice and not one formally backed by the NDA, meaning the BJP does not support his candidature. In fact, the sources said the party would even have the final say in LJP candidates for allotted seats.

Story Behind JDU-LJP Tension

The LJP and JDU (and ex-Chief Minister Jitan Manjhi's H/industan Awami Morcha (Secular)) are allies but relations are fragile.

The unease dates back to the 2020 election, when, allegedly egged on by the BJP, Mr Paswan's party contested against the JDU. This, Nitish Kumar party seniors still maintain, ate into their votes and allowed the BJP to become as the dominant

Over 50,000 Affected, Villages Submerged After Overflowing River Floods Odisha's Balasore

Agency Balasore.

The Subarnarekha River, which flows through Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha, has flooded large parts of Balasore district in Odisha, affecting over 50,000 people and inundating dozens of villages.

Heavy rains and the release of excess water

floodwaters continued to rise for three days, washing away homes, roads and fields in muddy torrents. In such a situation, families were forced to flee with children and cattle, moving to wherever high ground they could find. The flood-like situation worsened as the Galudih barrage in Jharkhand released excess water, which accumulated due to incessant rains. The sudden increase in the inflow worsened the flood situation in the downstream areas of the Subarnarekha river in Odisha. The Baliapal, Bhograi, Basta and Jaleswar blocks have been inundated as water from the Chandil Dam in Jharkhand released excess water, reportedly without enough notice.

District authorities say Bhograi block is the worst-hit, where five gram panchayats, including Kusuda and Gabgan, were submerged this morning. One person has reportedly gone missing after being swept away by floodwater. Authorities say 50 villages have been cut off as the water level of the Subarnarekha river receded below the danger mark on Sunday.

from Jharkhand pushed the Subarnarekha River to flow above the danger mark of 10.36 meters, inundating 61 villages in 21 gram panchayats of Baliapal, Basta, Bhograi and Jaleswar blocks. Authorities, on Saturday, issued an alert as the water level in the Subarnarekha river crossed the danger mark, creating a flood threat in some parts of the district. Visuals from flood-affected areas show



Karnataka Congress MLA slams own party over pending work, threatens to resign

Karnataka Congress MLA Raju Kage threatened to resign over delayed work orders for Rs 25 crore in sanctioned development funds. He slammed the state administration, comparing his situation to corruption allegations raised by MLA BR Patil.

Agency Karnataka.

Karnataka Congress MLA from Kagwad, Raju Kage, has threatened to resign over prolonged delays in executing development works in his constituency, blaming the state administration for inaction. Speaking in Ainaupur, Belagavi district, Kage expressed frustration that not a single work order has been issued, two years after the Chief Minister approved a Rs 25 crore special grant. The sanctioned funds included Rs 12 crore for road development and Rs 13 crore for the construction of 72 community halls.

"Despite submitting proposals, not a single work order has been approved. Why does it take two years just to begin the work?" he asked.

Kage, who is also the chairman of the North Western Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), said he fully supports fellow Congress MLA BR Patil. "My situation is quite similar to that of BR Patil. I am not lying to you all. I fully support his statement," Kage said. In a leaked audio, Patil was speaking to Sarfaraz Khan, the personal assistant to Housing Minister

Zameer Ahmed Khan, alleging that houses under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Corporation scheme were allotted only to those who paid bribes, while recommendation letters from elected representatives like himself were ignored.



The MLA accused the state machinery of complete failure and said he was disheartened by the lack of progress. "I am so disheartened that I am even considering resigning. Don't be surprised if I go and submit my resignation to the Chief Minister in the next two days," he warned.

How India sees Iran as it walks a tightrope in the Middle East war

The Sikh Times

Agency New Delhi.

Last week, in a special gesture, Iran exclusively opened its airspace for India to evacuate its nationals amid its conflict with Israel. Days later, as the US bombed Iran's key nuclear facilities, India was among the first nations that Tehran called. The developments underscore the deep-rooted ties between the two nations, but leave India in a difficult spot in its balancing act policy with Iran and Israel. While Iran has been a long-standing friend to India, bound by deep cultural and civilisational ties, relations with Israel, particularly in defence and technology, have strengthened since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014. Thus, at a time



when Iran finds itself increasingly isolated, India has refrained from picking a side, sticking to its mantra of "dialogue and diplomacy".

INDIA'S VITAL STAKES IN IRAN

This, despite the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's occasional criticism of India over the Kashmir issue and

its "treatment of minorities". However, Iran has never acted against Indian interests.

India has vital stakes in Iran, especially the Chabahar port project, and sees the country, which shares borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan, as a key player in the region. Even the US's sanctions on Iran have failed to derail the ties between the two nations.

India has, however, halted importing crude oil from Iran since the US sanctions, turning towards Russia to fulfil its energy requirements. In such a scenario, the connectivity initiatives between India and Iran form the bedrock of their ties. The Chabahar port is critical for India's connectivity plans as well as expanding its geopolitical influence in Central Asia in the face of a belligerent China.

While Iran has been a long-standing friend to India, bound by deep cultural and civilisational ties, relations with Israel, particularly in defence and technology, have strengthened in the past decade.

NEWS BOX

Woman ends life with eight-year old daughter over property dispute in Bengaluru



BENGALURU. A woman tied her eight-year-old daughter to her back and ended their lives by jumping into an agricultural pond. The incident occurred on the outskirts of Bengaluru, under the Vishwanathapura police station limits, around 3 am on Saturday. The deceased are Mala (30), a homemaker, and her younger daughter Anushree (8), a Class 2 student at a private school. Mala is survived by her husband and daughter aged 10.

Investigations revealed that the woman took the extreme step following a property dispute at home. Her husband had transferred 10 guntas of land to a relative after a discussion with his mother and brother. Mala was upset that her husband made the transfer without informing her, leading to an argument, the police said.

The police said that on Saturday morning, the family members began searching for Mala and Anushree when they noticed the two were missing. They later found their bodies floating in the agricultural pond and alerted the police.

Based on a complaint filed by the woman's family, a case under section 108 (abetment of suicide) of the BNS has been registered against her husband, police added.

Super speciality GH for kids to come up in Guindy

CHENNAI. The state government has identified 6.5 acres of land at the King Institute of Preventive Medicine and Research in Guindy for setting up a super speciality hospital exclusively meant for children. The construction will begin in September and the work will be completed in two years, health minister Ma Subramanian said.

Subramanian along with health secretary P Senthilkumar and Dr MGR Medical University vice-chancellor Dr K Narayanasamy inspected the site on Sunday. Speaking to reporters, Subramanian said the project will cost Rs 487.7 crore. The hospital will have a six-storey building and will include quarters for nurses, doctors, and professors, among other facilities. It will have 20 specialities and 750 beds, including 100 for ICU, he added.

Apart from paediatric super speciality departments including medicine, critical care, surgery, and gastroenterology, it will also have higher paediatric super speciality departments including oncology, urology, neurosurgery, and transplant unit, the minister said. It will be constructed with biochemistry, microbiology, pathology and imaging suite diagnostic labs apart from dialysis unit, endoscopy suite, interventional radiology and other facilities. An announcement regarding an exclusive super speciality hospital for children had been made in the Assembly earlier.

Pedestrians left in the lurch at Tarnaka junction



HYDERABAD. Crossing the road at Tarnaka junction has become a daily hazard for pedestrians, especially women, children and the elderly. With free left turns allowed on all four sides, continuous vehicle movement leaves little room for safe passage. The junction sees heavy foot traffic due to its proximity to Osmania University and EFLU. One arm leads into an industrial zone, bringing a surge of trucks, especially at night. "It's worse after dark. Trucks zip through as if they're flying," said Keerthak, a local.

The chaos is compounded by two-wheelers and delivery riders driving on the wrong side, and routine violations like lane-cutting and ignoring pedestrian right-of-way. Weak enforcement has allowed these behaviours to go unchecked.

"This junction connects the city's western side and it's a puzzle every time we try to cross," said a local. Citizens suggest a simple fix: halt free left turns at two-minute intervals to create a safe window for pedestrians. Even when pedestrian signals turn green, motorists often ignore them. "I had a close shave last week — a car took a sharp left despite the green pedestrian signal and nearly hit me," said a university student.

"It's gone beyond inconvenience," said Anjali, a working professional. "We need pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and urgent, consistent enforcement."

Riding on eggshells: Half-helmet menace on in Bengaluru

"The camera can't distinguish between half helmets and fully covered helmets, so people usually get away with it," shared DCP Traffic South Shivaprakash Devaraju.

BENGALURU. Despite being banned in multiple cities, half helmets or "shorties" continue to be widely used by motor vehicle riders in Karnataka, violating both safety and legal standards. Even after measures were taken to solve the problem, half helmets have become a common choice for motorists.

"In Kochi, if I go out wearing this cap-like half helmet, I am sure I would be fined," said Adarsh, a commuter new to the city.

"Though half helmets are not specifically 'banned' in Karnataka, they're definitely not safe for commuters. We have conducted many initiatives and awareness programmes. The camera can't distinguish between half helmets and fully covered helmets, so people usually get away with it," shared DCP Traffic South Shivaprakash Devaraju.

"Half helmets violate ISI standards due to their low quality and the exposure of the chin and face. The traffic police are supposed to take action against them, but they have other responsibilities too which doesn't give them time to check every individual," explains Sreehari M N, a traffic expert. "There is no protection you get from such helmets. The side arms aren't protected, therefore, in case of an accident, the impact can be severe," says Dr

Anand N Chavan, consultant-orthopaedics at Fortis Hospital. "There are so many cases here with head injuries due to such mishaps. We were able to save the patients those who wear the

Yellappa Kumbar (52), who was returning home in Dharwad from Hubballi on his bike when the accident happened. Kumbar was knocked down by an unidentified speeding vehicle near Itigatti.

Police have registered a case of hit-and-run accident. Police said ASI Kumbar, who was working at the Hubballi rural police station, died of head injuries. Navalgund MLA NH Konaraddi was travelling on the same route when the accident occurred.

He got down from his vehicle and called an ambulance, but the victim could not be saved. Road users have alleged that sudden diversions on the bypass road are causing accidents. They have demanded CCTVs along the road and stressed on the need to monitor speeding vehicles.

Motorist argues with cop over fine, leaves without paying, arrested

Bengaluru: The Jnanabharathi police on Sunday arrested a 30-year-old man for allegedly obstructing a traffic police officer from discharging his duty. The accused, identified as Naveen Gowda, had fled following an argument with the traffic police officer, who had stopped him for riding without a helmet, near Ullal Main Road on Saturday.



protective gear," he said.

"If you wear these 100-rupee helmets, it means your head is only worth of that. Two of my friends lost their teeth because of this. There's a reason why we're told to wear riding gears," said Ashwini MS, a bike enthusiast.

Cop dies of head injuries in hit-and-run case

Dharwad: Yet another accident on the Hubballi-Dharwad bypass road claimed the life of a cop late Saturday night. The victim has been identified as Assistant Inspector of Police (ASI) Dr

Leone on Thursday.

During questioning, Kouame admitted to having



ingested capsules containing narcotic drugs for smuggling them into India. He was immediately

admitted to a nearby government hospital. During his stay at the hospital over the past two days, the foreigner has expelled 67 capsules containing 1.139 kg of cocaine, which is valued at Rs 11.39 crore in the international illicit market, the DRI stated.

The recovered cocaine was seized under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, and the accused passenger was subsequently placed under arrest.

The DRI is further probing the matter and trying to find out details of the person who was supposed to receive the contraband from the accused, who was playing the role of a carrier in lieu of a commission, sources said.

The agency is also checking if the accused had come to India in the past with the intention of smuggling, sources added.

Foreigner arrested at Mumbai airport for smuggling cocaine worth Rs 11 crore from West Africa

Mumbai. Officers with the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Sunday arrested an Ivory Coast national at

Leone on Thursday.

During questioning, Kouame admitted to having

Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport for allegedly smuggling cocaine worth Rs 11.39 crore into India from a West African country.

The accused foreigner, identified as Ane Charles Joselin Kouame, had concealed the cocaine-stuffed capsules by ingesting them. The agency suspects a large-scale racket could be behind the smuggling. The central agency on Sunday stated that on receiving specific intelligence regarding an Ivory Coast national who would be smuggling narcotics into India, DRI officers intercepted a male passenger who had arrived at Mumbai airport from Sierra

After car rams into auto-rickshaw in Mumbai, cops use number plate to nab driver

Mumbai. A driver of a car rammed into an auto-rickshaw in Mumbai's Ghatkopar, causing it to turn turtle and injure a woman and its driver, and fled from the spot last Thursday night. The Mumbai police said they are using the number plate of the car to track down its driver, who did not realise that it broke, and was lodged into the three-wheeler due to the impact of the collision.

The police said they lodged a First Information Report (FIR) Sunday based on the woman's complaint at the Pant Nagar Police Station in Ghatkopar (East).

As per the FIR, the incident took place when the victim Aishwarya H was headed back to her home from the R City Mall in Ghatkopar. She took an auto-rickshaw from outside the Ghatkopar Railway Station at around 11.15 pm, and was about to get inside the vehicle when a car coming at high speed rammed into it from behind.

As a result of the impact, the auto-rickshaw fell on her, and she sustained injuries to her hand, leg and other body parts. Those present at the spot managed to pull her out, and rushed her and the auto-rickshaw driver, who also sustained injuries, to the hospital.

Meanwhile, the car driver fled from the spot without trying to help the victims. Officers said Aishwarya H approached the Pant Nagar Police Station Sunday as she could not lodge a complaint immediately because of her injuries. "Luckily, while the car driver fled from the spot, as a result of the impact, the car's number plate broke off and got stuck in the auto.

Indians, many from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, stay put in Israel despite rising tensions

Israel-TG body president says most people are afraid of losing their 'steady' jobs since life remains manageable

HYDERABAD. Amid escalating tensions in the Middle East, most Indian expatriates in Israel, including many from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, are reluctant to return home, despite evacuation efforts by Indian authorities.

Soma Ravi, president of the Israel Telangana Association, told TNIE that the Indian Embassy has arranged transportation for those willing to leave. "On Monday, the embassy will facilitate travel from Tel Aviv to Jordan, with repatriation to India expected by evening," he said.

Most Indians living in Israel are

construction workers and caretakers. "Most Indians don't want to leave because returning means losing their jobs, which are their primary livelihood," Ravi explained. "There's fear that once they leave, companies will replace them, adding to the financial burden of existing debts back home."

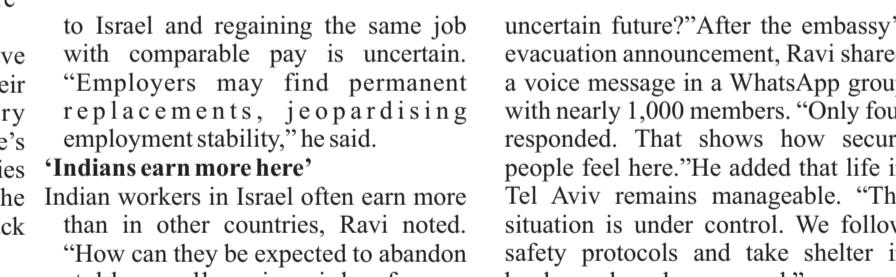
Even with employers' consent, returning

to Israel and regaining the same job with comparable pay is uncertain. "Employers may find permanent replacements, jeopardising employment stability," he said.

Indians earn more here

Indian workers in Israel often earn more than in other countries, Ravi noted. "How can they be expected to abandon stable, well-paying jobs for an

uncertain future?" After the embassy's evacuation announcement, Ravi shared a voice message in a WhatsApp group with nearly 1,000 members. "Only four responded. That shows how secure people feel here." He added that life in Tel Aviv remains manageable. "The situation is under control. We follow safety protocols and take shelter in bunkers when alarms sound."



Tamil Nadu awards first large-scale battery storage project to NLC India Renewables

Under the central government's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme, 30% of the capital cost for BESS will be provided as financial support.

CHENNAI. In a major step towards augmenting clean and reliable power supply in Tamil Nadu, a first-of-its-kind contract for setting up 500 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) has been awarded to NLC India Renewables Limited (NIRL).

The project awarded by Tamil Nadu Green Energy Corporation Limited (TNGECL) is the first large-scale battery storage system to come up in Tamil Nadu after the state came up with an exclusive policy for energy storage systems. Under the central government's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme, 30% of the capital cost for BESS will be provided as financial support. Tamil Nadu is among the six renewable energy-rich states that were allocated BESS capacities under the initiative alongside Gujarat,

Karnataka, Rajasthan, Telangana, and Maharashtra.

Officials said the battery system will help store surplus solar and wind energy, which are seasonal energy sources, and supply the power generated when needed, especially during night hours or cloudy days.

The award comprises development of three standalone BESS projects with a combined capacity of 250 MW / 500 MWh, to be established at 400/230/110 kV Ottapidaram Substation, 400/230/110 kV Annpunkalum Substation and 400/230/110 kV Kayathar Substation in Tamil Nadu.

A senior official from TNGECL said that large-scale tapping of renewable energy sources like solar and wind comes with its own



challenges, including technology for storing power during lean seasons and managing the state's power grid, as these sources are not available throughout the year. Speaking to the official, said, "Since renewable energy is not steady all the time, we are facing integration issues in the grid. To make better use of the existing transmission lines even

Odisha government reduces land kisams from 7,797 to just 22, swatwas from 750 to 4

Similarly, over 750 types of swatwas in the RoR were making the land acquisition, transaction and their administration more complicated.

BHUBANESWAR. Simplifying the land classifications and ownership in the record of rights (RoR), the state government has reduced the number of 'kisams' (type of land use) from existing 7,797 to 22, and 'swatwas' (type of land holding) from 750 to four, to get rid of confusion and associated bottlenecks in land administration.

The government has also constituted a committee headed by a secretary of the Board of Revenue to examine and map existing kisams and swatwas with the newly-proposed kisams and swatwas, and submit the report for final approval.

The 22 reclassified kisams include Jalasechita do-fasali, Jalasechita eka-fasali, Anajalasechita, Bagayat, Jalasaya, Gharabari, Byabasaika, Khani Khadan, Anusthanika, Jungle, Unnayana Jyoga, Nala, Nayanajori, Gochar, Nadi, Rasta, Rail Line, Smasana, Graveyard, Samudra, Patita and Mountain/hill. Similarly, the four swatwas include Rayati/Stihiban, Pattadar, Dharmanusthan and Amrutamanohi.

As per the resolution issued by the Revenue and Disaster Management department on Saturday, the reform was necessary in view of the digitisation of land records and introduction of Land Record Management System (LRMS) - Bhulekh and Bhunaksha. "Due to changing times and digitisation of land records, the reclassification and remapping of kisams and swatwas was imperative," it stated.

Revenue officials said, a large number of vernacular names - 7,797 in total - existing for the kisam in the RoR was creating unnecessary confusion and delaying the process of mutation and valuation. Similarly, over 750 types of swatwas in the RoR were making the land acquisition, transaction and their administration more complicated. Limiting the number of kisams and swatwas will now remove bottlenecks in land acquisition and transaction, speeding up land administration more efficiently in the state, they added.

when solar or wind power is not available, battery energy storage systems (BESS) are the best solution."

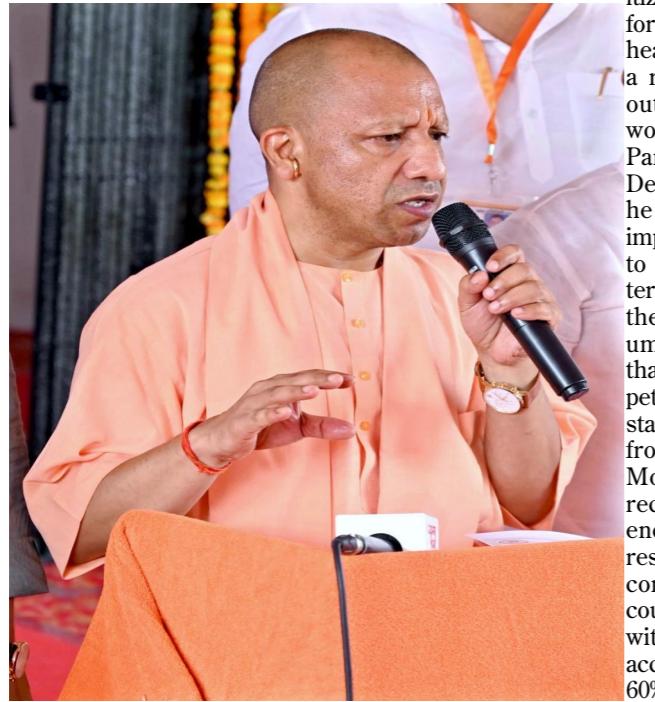
He further said that storing solar power during the day will help supply clean electricity during evening hours when power demand is high. "This will reduce costs and also support clean energy usage beyond daylight hours, helping the state move towards low-carbon growth," the official added.

TNGECL has planned to set up 1,000 MWh of battery storage capacity in selected substations under the State's Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme. In the first phase, a 500 MWh BESS project has been awarded. Plans are under way to set up 4,000 MWh of battery storage in Tamil Nadu in the coming years.

Bhadoli is progressing in the right direction: CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Bhadoli, June 23: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath visited Bhadoli on Monday, where he conducted a review meeting with local public representatives on the district's development projects. Acting on their demands, he announced several key development initiatives, stating that



Bhadoli is widely known for its exceptional craftsmanship and is progressing in the right direction. Responding to demands raised by local representatives, CM Yogi granted immediate approval for

a bridge over the Ganga River near Dengurpur in Sitamarhi and a Railway Over Bridge (ROB) on the railway line between Gopiganj and Mirzapur. He noted that while an auditorium had already been sanctioned for the district headquarters, it is now being developed as a multipurpose hall. The CM also prioritized residential facilities for officers and staff at the headquarters and sought a report on the status of outsourced sanitation workers under the Panchayati Raj Department. Additionally, he directed officials to improve road connectivity to the district headquarters and expedite work on the approved mini-stadium. The CM remarked that ten years ago, the carpet industry was in a dire state, but with inspiration from Prime Minister Modi, local artisans received significant encouragement. As a result, Uttar Pradesh now contributes 60% of the country's carpet exports, with Bhadoli alone accounting for more than 60% of that figure. The district has also received a GI tag for its carpets. In light of this, both the Centre and the state supported the development of the Carpet Expo Mart. CM Yogi emphasized that Bhadoli's craftsmanship has given both the state and the country a

unique identity. Multiple government-led initiatives have been launched to support entrepreneurs and artisans. The aim is to further promote and support India's ancient handicrafts and establish a stronger international market presence. The Chief Minister inspected the district hospital and stated that it had become a symbol of past governments' inefficiency and corruption. He stated that the current government has revived the stalled project and resumed development work at the facility. The Chief Minister reviewed the ongoing construction of a new 50-bedded critical care center and informed that funds have been sanctioned for renovating the hospital's old building. The Rajkiya Nirman Nigam has been assigned to complete the work by December 2025. He also stated that efforts are underway to establish a medical college in Bhadoli under the PPP model, with preparations underway to meet the necessary standards. Furthermore, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that land requirements for Kashi Naresh Rajkiya PG College have been submitted, and an agricultural faculty is already functional with manpower being provided. If over 50 acres of land becomes available, the institution could be developed into a state university—marking a significant milestone for Bhadoli. The CM also praised the collaborative efforts of the district administration, public representatives, and citizens in rejuvenating the Morwa river. Additionally, he directed officials to effectively expand the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign.

Departments must work in coordination to resolve public issues: Shri Ravinder Indraj

Delhi, Delhi Jal Board (Maintenance and Project),



ensuring adequate water supply, repairing damaged

Zonal Revenue Officer and the Delhi Development Authority were present during the inspection. Shri Ravinder Indraj directed that urgent works such as drainage of water logging, pipelines and construction and repair of roads should commence without delay. He emphasized that all departments must work in close coordination to provide timely relief

to residents and to ensure the development of the area. The Social Welfare Minister further stated that all works must be of high quality and completed within stipulated deadlines. He underlined that resolving pub

Northeast Frontier Railway steps up services for Ambubachi Mela devotees

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 23rd June: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has made extensive arrangements to ensure smooth and comfortable travel for pilgrims attending the Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple. A series of measures have been implemented to manage the heavy rush of devotees visiting this significant spiritual event. To cater to the increased passenger demand, NFR has set up special ticket counters at Kamakhya and Guwahati stations. These additional counters are operational round the clock to facilitate quick and hassle-free ticketing for pilgrims. In an initiative to support devotees, the Northeast Frontier Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (NFRWWO) under the leadership of Mrs. Shalini Shrivastava, President of NFRWWO has undertaken food and drinking water distribution at Kamakhya station and surrounding areas. Packets of hygienically prepared food and water bottles are being distributed to ensure pilgrims' well-being during their journey. Moreover, to clear the extra rush of passengers, NFR will operate two pairs of special unreserved trains. The first is Train No. 05672/05671 Guwahati – Alipurduar Junction – Guwahati

Unreserved Special Train No. 05672 (Guwahati – Alipurduar Junction) will run from Guwahati at 19:25 hours daily from 22nd to 26th June, 2025 to reach Alipurduar Junction at 04:00 hours on the next day. While in return direction Train No. 05671 (Alipurduar Junction – Guwahati) will run from



Alipurduar Junction at 08:00 hours daily from 23rd to 27th June, 2025 to reach Guwahati at 16:20 hours on the same day. Additionally, a Guwahati – New Jalpaiguri – Guwahati Unreserved Special Train No. 05698/05697 will also run to further assist passengers. Train No. 05698 (Guwahati – New Jalpaiguri) will depart from Guwahati on Thursday at 23:55 hours on 26th June, 2025 to reach New Jalpaiguri at 08:15 hours on the next day. Train No. 05697 (New Jalpaiguri –

GRP) personnel, along with commercial and technical staff, have been mobilised to guide passengers, maintain order and assist in crowd management. Help desks and enquiry booths have been set up to provide information and necessary support to visitors. NFR remains committed to providing safe and convenient rail services during the Ambubachi Mela and appeals to passengers to cooperate with railway staff for a smooth travel experience.

NAME CHANGE

I, RIZWAN S/O FAJUJ HASAN R/O N.H. NO-63, GALI NO-27, VIJAY PARK MAUJUPUR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME RAIWAN FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, KAUSAR JAHAN W/O ASLAM HASHMI R/O H. NO. C-6/29, YAMINA VIHAR, NORTH EAST, DELHI-110053 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME KAUSAR HASHMI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE

I, SURAJ KUMAR S/O SUBHASH KUMAR R/o 1480, Gali No. 2, Gulab Vatika, Loni, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh-201102, declare that name of my father and my mother have been wrongly written as SUB-HASH CHAND and MAMLESH in my 10th and 12th class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are SUB-HASH KUMAR and MAMTESH DEVI respectively.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that We, KESHAV DAYAL aged about 49 years S/o Mr. RAMESHWAR DAYAL & Mrs. SANDHYA GOYAL aged about 55 years W/o Mr. KESHAV GOYAL BOTH RESIDENT OF HOUSE NO. 29, GALLI NO. 6-A, MOLAR BAND EXTN. BADARPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044, have separated/debarred our disobedient son namely "VINAY GOYAL" aged about 28 years & his wife namely "CHHAVI GOYAL" aged about 23 years, they have been residing separately from our home. We have disowned/disintegrated them from our moveable and immovable properties. If any person's deal with any consideration amount they have sole responsible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, KRISHAN KUMAR S/O OM PRAKASH R/O 610/A, Bagari Mohalla, Pana Uday Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi -110040 have separated/debarred our disobedient son namely "VINAY GOYAL" aged about 28 years & his wife namely "CHHAVI GOYAL" aged about 23 years, they have been residing separately from our home. We have disowned/disintegrated them from our moveable and immovable properties. If any person's deal with any consideration amount they have sole responsible.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Naval Singh S/o Mr. Chat Ram is the owner of Freehold Residential House area measuring 447.55 Sq. Yds. i.e. 374.20 Sq. mtrs. out of Khasra No.380 Situated at Village Dagarpur Tehsil Khekre District Baghpat, U.P. by virtue of Gift Deed dated 27.03.2025 Vide Doc No.1788, Book No. 1, Volume no.3303, on Page Nos.369-386, Registered on 27/03/2025, in S.R. Khekre, in the chain Documents below mentioned document not available i.e. Death Certificate & SMC of Mr. Chat Ram now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property, and Built-up Right Hand Side Portion on Second Floor only without its roof right area measuring 50 sq. yds. sold too be Mr. Subir Sarkar & same has been financed by AAVAS FINANCERS LIMITED Branch: Rajinder Place, Delhi. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA

Advocate
F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad
Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 0956871432

NAME CHANGE

I Dharmendra Srivastav S/o Nandkumar Srivastav R/o B-35, Block B, Timber market, Kirti Nagar, Ramesh Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110015 have changed the name of my minor son Rudheer aged 8 years and he shall hereafter be known as Rudra Srivastav.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Mithlesh W/o Narend Kumar R/o 2/C, DDA Flats, Masjid Mohd Phase-1, New Delhi, Delhi-110048 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mithesh.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Atika Dhandha D/o Kamal Chand Dhandha R/o L-7/A 1st Floor, South Extension Part-2, Andrewsjan, South Delhi-110049 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Atika Dhandha.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

The Chief Engineer/Const./RSP/INR, 901 B, Tower-1, 9th Floor, Konnectus Tower, DMRC Building, Ajmeri Gate, New Delhi-110002 for and on behalf of the President of India invites e-tender under Two Packet System for the under noted work-

1 Full Name of work Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) for ROB/RUB works in Lucknow & Moradabad divisions under CAO Construction (RSP) Unit of Northern Railway.

2 Approx. Cost ₹ 20,31,95,247.16 Only (Rupees Twenty Crore, Thirty One Lacs, Ninety Five Thousand, Two Hundred Forty Seven and sixteen paise only.)

3 Completion period of the work 36 Months Period

4 Earnest Money ₹ 11,66,000.00 Rupees only (Eleven Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Rupees only)

5 Sale/availability of tender document on Rly. Website Tender document will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.ireps.gov.in from 20.06.2025 to 16.07.2025

6 Last date/Time of upload of tenders Tender document can be uploaded on IREPS website on upto 16.07.2025, 11:30 hrs

7 Date and time of opening of tender Any time after 16.07.2025, 11:30 hrs.

No. 15-W-09-2025-WA-Dy.CEC-RSP Dated: 20.06.2025 1881/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

NEWS BOX

Trampled down territorial integrity: North Korea condemns US strikes on Iran

Seoul. North Korea said on Monday it strongly condemns the US strike against Iran as a grave violation of a sovereign state's security interests and territorial rights, the North's state media reported. The United States and Israel are the culprits of the current tensions in the Middle East born out of Jerusalem's "ceaseless war moves and territorial expansion" accepted and encouraged by the West," North Korea's foreign ministry said. "(We) strongly denounces the attack on Iran by the US which ... violently trampled down the territorial integrity and security interests of a sovereign state," the unnamed spokesperson said in a statement carried by KCNA news agency. The just international community



should raise the voice of unanimous censure and rejection against the U.S. and Israel's confrontational acts," the statement said. Iran and North Korea have maintained friendly ties and have been suspected for decades of military cooperation, including in developing ballistic missiles.

FedEx founder Fred Smith, a Marine Corps veteran who revolutionised package delivery, dies at 80

MEMPHIS. Fred Smith, the FedEx Corp. founder who revolutionised the express delivery industry, has died, the company said. He was 80. FedEx started operating in 1973, delivering small parcels and documents more quickly than the postal service. Over the next half-century, Smith, a Marine Corps veteran, oversaw the growth of a company that became something of an economic bellwether because so many other companies rely on it. Memphis, Tennessee-based FedEx became a global transportation and logistics company that averages 17 million shipments per business day. Smith stepped down as CEO in 2022 but remained executive chairman. Smith, a 1966 graduate of Yale University, used a business theory he came up with in college to create a delivery system based on coordinated air cargo flights centered on a main hub, a "hub and spokes" system, as it became known.

The company also played a major role in the shift by American business and industry to a greater use of time-sensitive deliveries and less dependence on large inventories and warehouses. Smith once told The Associated Press that he came up with the name Federal Express because he wanted the company to sound big and important when in fact it was a start-up operation with a future far from assured. At the time, Smith was trying to land a major shipping contract with the Federal Reserve Bank that didn't work out.

In the beginning, Federal Express had 14 small aircraft operating out of the Memphis International Airport flying packages to 25 U.S. cities. Smith's father, also named Frederick, built a small fortune in Memphis with a regional bus line and other business ventures. Following college, Smith joined the U.S. Marines and was commissioned a second lieutenant. He left the military as a captain in 1969 after two tours in Vietnam where he was decorated for bravery and wounds received in combat.

Global Warming Clouds Changes Are Making Earth More Even Hotter: Study

MELBOURNE. At any given time, about two-thirds of Earth's surface is covered by clouds. Overall, they make the planet much cooler than it would be without them. But as Earth gets warmer, mostly due to the rise in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere from humans burning fossil fuels, clouds are changing too. And that might already be causing more warming: adding to the greenhouse heat boost, and changing clouds even more. Over the past few years, the world's average temperature has increased more than climate scientists were expecting. In our latest research, led by NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, we show that changes in clouds have made a significant contribution to turning up the thermostat.

Clouds and climate. Clouds help to keep Earth cool by reflecting sunlight back out to space before it can reach the ground. But not all clouds are equal. Shiny, white clouds reflect away more sunlight - especially when they are closer to the equator, in the parts of Earth that receive the most sun. Grey, broken clouds reflect less sunlight, as do clouds closer to the poles where less light falls.

Research published last year showed that Earth has been absorbing more sunlight than the greenhouse effect alone can explain. Clouds were involved, but it wasn't clear exactly how. Bright cloud zones are shrinking. Our new study shows what is happening. The areas covered by highly reflective clouds are shrinking. At the same time, the areas containing broken, less reflective clouds are growing. The net effect is that additional energy from sunlight is reaching Earth's surface. Here it is absorbed, leading to extra heating. We also looked at the effect of changes in the properties of the highly reflective clouds, caused by things such as changes in the amount of aerosol pollution in the atmosphere. However, we found these effects are much smaller than the effect of the change in area. The global picture

In the big picture, Earth's wind patterns are driven by hot air rising near the equator and the rotation of the planet. This creates huge, looping currents of atmospheric circulation around the globe.

Mahmoud Khalil greeted friends and spoke briefly to reporters at New Jersey's Newark International Airport a day after leaving a federal immigration facility in Louisiana.

NEWARK. A Palestinian activist who was detained for more than three months pushed his infant son's stroller with one hand and cheered as he was welcomed home Saturday by supporters including U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Mahmoud Khalil greeted friends and spoke briefly to reporters at New Jersey's Newark International Airport a day after leaving a federal immigration facility in Louisiana. A former Columbia University graduate student and symbol of President Donald



Trump's clampdown on campus protests, he vowed to continue protesting Israel and the war in Gaza. "The U.S. government is funding this genocide, and Columbia University is investing in this genocide," he said. "This is why I will continue to protest with every one of you. Not only if they threaten me with detention. Even if they would kill me, I would still speak up for Palestine." Joining Khalil at the airport,

that they are violating the law." Khalil, a 30-year-old legal resident whose wife gave birth during his 104 days of detention, said he also will speak up for the immigrants he left behind in the detention center. "Whether you are a citizen, an immigrant, anyone in this land, you're not illegal. That doesn't make you less of a human," he said.

Khalil was not accused of breaking any laws during the protests at Columbia. However the administration has said noncitizens who participate in such demonstrations should be expelled from the country for expressing views it considers to be antisemitic and "pro-Hamas," referring to the Palestinian militant group that attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023. Khalil was released after U.S. District Judge Michael Farbiarz said it would be "highly, highly unusual" for the government to continue detaining a legal resident who was unlikely to flee and had not been accused of any violence. The government filed notice Friday evening that it was appealing Khalil's release.

Hands off Iran: Anti-war protests flood US cities after strikes on nuclear sites

WORLD. Several US cities witnessed massive anti-war protests, with demonstrators carrying banners with slogans "Hands off Iran" and "No US-Israel war on Iran", after the US bombed three Iranian nuclear strikes, causing a major escalation in the Middle East crisis.

Protests flooding the X showed demonstrators holding up banners and chanting anti-war slogans as they called on the President Donald Trump-led administration to stop supporting Israel and have no further involvement in the Jewish nation's conflict with Iran. As part of Operation Midnight Hammer, the US military hit Iran's Fordow, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites. The demonstrations took place in Boston, Chicago, outside the White House in Washington DC, and at the iconic Times Square in New York City, among others. Besides asking the US to step back, the protesters called out Israel for initiating the conflict with Iran as well as their Gaza military operation. The anti-war protests erupted as major US cities, including

New York and Washington, were placed on high alert after the airstrikes on Iran. Law enforcement agencies said though there were no specific or credible threats so far, additional



enforcement agencies to share intelligence and ensure the safety of residents, visitors, and businesses. Meanwhile, Trump reiterated on Monday US forces' "bullseye strike" on Iranian nuclear sites, which he said caused "monumental damage" and obliterated Fordow, Natanz, and Isfahan. Soon after the US dropped bombs on the sites, Trump in a post on Truth Social, praised the "great American warriors" and warned Iran to come to the table for peace talks.

Commercial satellite imagery indicated severe damage to the Iranian sites, but there was no confirmation, news agency Reuters reported. On Sunday, Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation said there were no signs of radioactive contamination following the US air attack. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, fiercely condemned the US strikes and warned of Tehran's harsh and decisive response. Calling out the "Zionist enemy", he said it made a "big mistake, committed a big crime" and must be punished.

Pakistani politicians, others ask government to review Trump's nomination for Nobel Peace Prize

ISLAMABAD. Several Pakistani politicians and notable figures have asked the government to reconsider its decision to recommend President Donald Trump for the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize after the US bombed Iran's three nuclear sites. The government, in a surprise move on Friday, announced that it would nominate Trump for the prestigious award due to his peacemaking efforts during the recent India-Pakistan conflict. A letter of recommendation, signed by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, has already been sent to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in Norway. But the decision came under scrutiny after the US bombed Iran's Fordo, Isfahan and Natanz nuclear sites, joining Israel to dent Tehran's nuclear programme. The Dawn newspaper reported that some leading politicians demanded the government

review its decision in light of the latest development. Veteran politician Maulana Fazlur Rehman, who heads



the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F), demanded that the government rescind its decision. "President Trump's claim of peace has proven to be false; the proposal for the Nobel Prize should be withdrawn," Fazl told workers at a party meeting in Murree on Sunday. He said that Trump's recent meeting and lunch with the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) Field Marshal Asim Munir

"pleased Pakistani rulers so much" that they recommended nominating the US president for the Nobel Prize.

"Trump has supported the Israeli attacks on Palestine, Syria, Lebanon and Iran. How can this be a sign of peace?" Fazl questioned. "With the blood of Afghans and Palestinians on America's hands, how can he claim to be a proponent of peace?" Trump had campaigned for office as a "peacemaker" who would use his negotiating skills to quickly end wars in Ukraine and Gaza, but both conflicts are still raging five months into his presidency.

Former senator Mushahid Hussain wrote on X: "Since Trump is no longer a potential peacemaker, but a leader who has willfully unleashed an illegal war, Pakistan government must now review, rescind and revoke his Nobel nomination!"

Russian attacks on Ukraine kill at least nine, injure over a dozen

KYIV. A Russian drone and missile attack on Ukraine's capital overnight killed at least six people and injured others, according to local officials, as rescue workers and firefighters sought to remove people they believed were trapped under debris in a partially collapsed apartment building. Elsewhere in Ukraine, a Russian short-range drone attack killed two people and wounded 10 more in the Chernihiv region late Sunday night, authorities said. According to the regional administration head, Viacheslav Chaus, three children were among the wounded. Another person was killed and eight wounded overnight in the city of Bila Tserkva, around 85 kilometers (53 miles) southwest of the capital. The strikes came nearly a week after a combined Russian attack on Ukraine last Tuesday killed 28 people in Kyiv, 23 of them in a residential building that collapsed after sustaining a direct hit by a missile. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called that attack one of the biggest bombardments of the war, now in its fourth year. In the early hours of Monday, drones and missiles hit residential areas, hospitals and sports infrastructure in numerous districts across Kyiv, emergency services said, with the most severe damage occurring in the Shevchenkivskyi district, where one section of a five-story apartment building collapsed. Kyiv Mayor Vitali



Klitschko said six people were confirmed dead in the Shevchenkivskyi district. Ten others, including a pregnant woman, were rescued from a nearby high-rise that also sustained heavy damage in the blast.

Dozens of vehicles, some burned out and others mangled by flying debris from the blast, formed a snarl in the courtyard in front of the building, which had collapsed down to the second floor. Onlookers, some wrapped in blankets, watched tearfully as the cleanup operation took place. Dozens of volunteers worked to remove broken glass, downed tree branches and other debris.

Klitschko told reporters from the scene that "we very much hope that the death toll will not increase," but that rescue workers were still searching the collapsed building for further casualties. Russia fired a total of 352 exploding drones and decoys overnight, Ukraine's air force said. Russia also launched 11 ballistic missiles and five cruise missiles. Air defenses intercepted or jammed 339 drones and 15 missiles before they could reach their targets, the statement said.

Tarnished by Oct. 7, Netanyahu's legacy may be reshaped by war with Iran

Many Israelis are attuned to Netanyahu's campaign against Iran's nuclear program, which they view as a major threat to their country and are therefore relieved by the direct involvement of the U.S. military.

TEL AVIV. In the days after Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu seemed a shellshocked shadow of himself. He looked diminished and downtrodden by the surprise assault that created a national emergency and caused his public support to plummet. Now, as Israel faces another unprecedented crisis in a war with Iran, Netanyahu appears rejuvenated. With the U.S. lending its support against a threat he has devoted his life to confronting, Netanyahu is demonstrating a resurgent confidence that could signal a new turning

point in his lengthy political career. Even as Iranian missiles pound Israeli cities, Netanyahu, 75, has the chance to salvage his sagging political fortunes and reshape a legacy punctured by Hamas' attacks, a corruption trial and a history of divisive rule. If he succeeds, it will cement his reputation within Israel as a political wizard who can rise from the ashes.

"Netanyahu has proven that he is a phoenix," said veteran Israeli journalist and Netanyahu biographer Mazal Mualem. The war is far from won. Israel is still vulnerable to Iranian attacks, and whatever political boost Netanyahu gains from the latest developments could dissipate by elections scheduled for next year. He is the same polarizing leader he was yesterday. Internationally, he faces an arrest warrant for charges of war crimes in Gaza. He is widely reviled across the Arab world. And after nearly two years of regionwide conflict, many critics see him as a warmonger responsible for tens of thousands of deaths in Gaza and elsewhere

in the Middle East. But domestically, where Netanyahu's eyes are always focused, his legacy has been granted a lifeline. Many Israelis are attuned to Netanyahu's campaign against Iran's nuclear program,



which they view as a major threat to their country and are therefore relieved by the direct involvement of the U.S. military. Netanyahu is seen as a very divisive and destructive leader. He is seen as someone who talks a lot and doesn't do anything," said Aviv Bushinsky, a former Netanyahu aide. "Today, Netanyahu

redeemed himself, big time." In an early morning video statement after the U.S. strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, Netanyahu could barely contain a smile as he thanked President Donald Trump. He

said the intervention would "change history." It's a stunning turnaround for an Israeli leader who critics and analysts largely wrote off in the days after Oct. 7, when he presided over the deadliest attack in Israel's history. Many hold Netanyahu personally responsible for overseeing policies that enabled Hamas to retain power in Gaza for many years and build up a formidable arsenal. Netanyahu has been buoyed occasionally since then by military successes against Hamas and the Iran-backed Hezbollah in Lebanon. But with the Gaza war dragging on with no end in sight, and dozens of Israeli hostages still in captivity, his approval ratings have remained low. The week-old assault on Iran, highlighted by Sunday's U.S. attack, grants Netanyahu a chance for salvation.

NEWS BOX

Kochi Metro speeds up Phase II work to meet revised 2026 deadline

KOCHI. As Kochi Metro observes its eighth anniversary, the focus has now turned to the construction of the second phase, extending from Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium to Infopark via Kakkanad, which was awarded to Afcons Infrastructure in June 2024 with a tight 600-day construction deadline. With the work suffering a delay, Kochi Metro Rail Ltd (KMRL) is now striving hard to meet the revised December 2026 deadline by carrying out the job even in the monsoon. "We've resolved the hurdles, including those related to road widening and replacing overhead power lines with underground cables along the route. Now the construction activities have been hastened and we're catching up with the revised deadline.

The work is progressing even amid the rain. A total of 552 piles have been constructed. Even today (on Thursday), the pile and pile cap concreting works were carried out," said a senior KMRL official.

"The works of piles are progressing smoothly, that of pier caps have started and the construction of pillars will start soon," said the official who added that the (work completion) figures don't give the correct picture.

Students honoured for Yoga and drawing talent at Sarvodaya Trust Freedom Fighters Association building in Vijayawada

VIJAYAWADA. To mark the 11th International Yoga Day, a prize distribution ceremony was held on Sunday at the Sarvodaya Trust Freedom Fighters Association building in Vijayawada on Saturday. The event celebrated the winners of Yoga and Drawing competitions held earlier on June 19, jointly organised by Sarvodaya Trust, Krishna-NTR District Yogasana Sports Association, and Dream Young and Children's Arts Academy.

Over 150 students from various schools took part in the yoga competitions, while around 600 students participated in the drawing competitions, showcasing their artistic and physical skills. Nearly 100 prize-winning students attended the ceremony to receive their awards. Governor Nandan Nilekani attended as chief guest and presented merit certificates to the winners. The event was also graced by Dr GV Mohan Prasad, President of Sarvodaya Trust; MV Venkateswara Rao, Secretary of the Trust; V Ramesh, President of Dream Young and Children's Arts Academy; and LMuralikrishna, Secretary of the Krishna-NTR District Yogasana Sports Association.

23-year-old techie from Hyderabad booked for driving BMW recklessly

The Cyberabad traffic police caught 329 people for drunk driving during a special enforcement drive over the weekend.

HYDERABAD. A 23-year-old software professional from Hyderabad, Mohd Umar Khalid, currently working in Germany, has been booked for allegedly driving his brother's BMW rashly and causing an accident in Hitec City on June 17. The incident came to light after CCTV footage showing the speeding car hitting a bike was shared widely on social media platforms.

Raidurgam police said a preliminary investigation confirmed Khalid was behind the wheel. A case has been registered, a notice served and the vehicle seized. Further investigation is under way.

329 caught for drunk driving

The Cyberabad traffic police caught 329 people for drunk driving during a special enforcement drive over the weekend. As part of the operation, police seized 248 two-wheelers, 23 three-wheelers, 54 four-wheelers and four heavy vehicles. Of those caught, 283 had Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels between 35 mg/100 ml and 200 mg/100 ml, 37 between 201 mg/100 ml and 300 mg/100 ml, and nine between 301 mg/100 ml and 500 mg/100 ml. All offenders will be produced before the court.

Accidents under DUI can lead to 10-year jail term: Police

Cyberabad police reiterated that driving under the influence is a serious offence. Those involved in fatal accidents while intoxicated will be booked under Section 105 (culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which carries a maximum punishment of 10 years' imprisonment and a fine.

Former Andhra Pradesh CM Jagan booked for culpable homicide in rally death case

In Kolkata, a female journalist bravely fought off a 55-year-old man who molested and assaulted her on a crowded bus near Ultadanga. Despite a violent attack, she alerted fellow passengers and the police, leading to the perpetrator's arrest.

GUNTUR. In a dramatic escalation following the death of a 55-year-old man during a rally, former Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has been booked for culpable homicide, with Guntur police confirming that the vehicle involved in the fatal accident was the one he was travelling in. The case, initially considered a road mishap involving an unauthorised vehicle, took a serious turn after video evidence and eyewitness accounts revealed that the black SUV carrying Jagan had run over party worker Cheeli Singaiha.

Speaking to the media on Sunday, Guntur SP S Satish Kumar said that, alongside Jagan, police have named his personal assistant K Nageshwar Reddy, former MP YV Subba Reddy, former ministers Perni

the incident.

The case, initially filed under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) based on a complaint by the victim's wife Cheeli Lurdhu

political rally from Tadepalli to Rentapalli.

More than 50 vehicles joined Jagan's rally. According to the police, Singaiha tried to approach Jagan's vehicle to throw flowers, slipped in the crowd, and fell under the front wheel. Though the vehicle paused briefly, it moved ahead, leaving the injured man behind. He was rushed to hospital by ASI Rajashekhar but was declared dead. Initially, the police claimed a white Tata Safari, unauthorised and ahead of the convoy, was responsible. However, after reviewing CCTV footage, drone visuals, and accounts from witnesses, they confirmed that the SUV carrying Jagan was directly involved in the mishap.

The police had permitted only 14 vehicles for the rally, including the main convoy and support vehicles, but more than 50 joined, leading to confusion and serious crowd control failures.



Mary, has now been reclassified under Sections 105 (culpable homicide not

In Kolkata, a female journalist drags man off the bus after he molests and slaps her, tears her clothes



Kolkata. In an act of incredible bravery, a female journalist fought back against her molester despite being severely attacked. The perpetrator, a 55-year-old man, molested, assaulted and verbally abused the woman inside a crowded private bus on the night of June 20. It happened near Ultadanga where the accused, identified as Sanjay Basak from Narayanpur, was occupying a seat reserved for women.

After he occupied the seat near Ultadanga and sat next to the journalist, the man began to touch her inappropriately. According to a report by the Times of India, the woman had asked the man several

SUMMER SPECIAL TRAINS-2025							
For the convenience of rail passengers, Railways have decided to run the following Summer Special Express Trains as per schedule given below:-							
Train No.	Station From	Dept. Time	Station to	Arr. Time	Frequency	Day	Period
04088	New Delhi	15:50	Patna Jn	08:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025
04087	Patna Jn	10:00	New Delhi	03:20			upto 11.07.2025
04064	New Delhi	09:30	Sheikhpura	04:30	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04063	Sheikhpura	06:00	New Delhi	01:10		Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04066	New Delhi	21:35	Saharsa Jn	22:00	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04065	Saharsa Jn	23:55	New Delhi	23:30		Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04022	New Delhi	14:00	Gorakhpur	05:00	Weekly	Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04021	Gorakhpur	07:00	New Delhi	23:10		Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04081	New Delhi	23:45	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	11:40	Tri-weekly	Mon, Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04082	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	21:20	New Delhi	09:30		Tue, Thu, Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04012	Delhi Jn	19:30	Darbhanga Jn	20:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04011	Darbhanga Jn	22:00	Delhi Jn	22:40		Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04024	Delhi Jn	19:30	Varanasi Jn	09:45	Tri-weekly	Mon, Thu, Sat	upto 10.07.2025
04023	Varanasi Jn	18:35	Delhi Jn	08:50		Tue, Fri, Sun	upto 11.07.2025
04026	Delhi Jn	23:05	Raxaul Jn	19:00	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04025	Raxaul Jn	22:00	Delhi Jn	17:45		Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04018	Anand Vihar (T)	09:00	Muzaffarpur Jn	04:30	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04017	Muzaffarpur Jn	06:15	Anand Vihar (T)	03:10		Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04020	Anand Vihar (T)	19:30	Barauni Jn	18:00	Weekly	Sun	upto 06.07.2025
04019	Barauni Jn	20:00	Anand Vihar (T)	19:00		Mon	upto 07.07.2025
04096	Anand Vihar (T)	04:59	Jaynagar	05:20	Bi-weekly	Mon, Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04095	Jaynagar	07:30	Anand Vihar (T)	08:10		Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04098	Anand Vihar (T)	05:00	Sitamarhi	02:30	Bi-weekly	Tue, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04097	Sitamarhi	03:45	Anand Vihar (T)	01:30		Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04094	Anand Vihar (T)	23:55	Jogbani	07:30	Weekly	Thu	upto 10.07.2025
04093	Jogbani	09:30	Anand Vihar (T)	16:00		Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04207	Lucknow Jn	08:05	New Delhi	18:30	Weekly	Mon	upto 07.07.2025
04208	New Delhi	20:20	Lucknow Jn	06:35		Mon	upto 07.07.2025
04217	Varanasi Jn	06:25	Lucknow Jn	11:45	Daily		upto 30.06.2025
04218	Lucknow Jn	16:30	Varanasi Jn	21:50			upto 30.06.2025
04219	Shahganj Jn	22:35	Ayodhya Dham Jn	01:40	Daily		upto 10.07.2025
04220	Ayodhya Dham Jn	02:10	Shahganj Jn	04:40			upto 10.07.2025
02270	Lucknow Jn	14:15	Chhapra	21:30	06 days a week	Except Tuesday	upto 11.07.2025
02269	Chhapra	23:00	Lucknow Jn	06:30		Sun	upto 06.07.2025
04604	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	18:15	Varanasi Jn	19:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 08.07.2025
04603	Varanasi Jn	05:00	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	06:00			
04206	Varanasi Jn	14:50	Chandigarh	07:45	Weekly	Sat	upto 05.07.2025
04205	Chandigarh	09:30	Varanasi Jn	01:20		Sun	upto 06.07.2025
04518	Bhatinda Jn	20:50	Varanasi Jn	17:30	Bi-weekly	Mon, Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04517	Varanasi Jn	20:40	Bhatinda Jn	17:00		Tue, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04302	Yog N Rishikesh	15:20	Muzaffarpur Jn	13:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 15.07.2025
04301	Muzaffarpur Jn	15:00	Yog N Rishikesh	14:20		Wed	upto 16.07.2025
04610	Jammu Tawi	06:20	Varanasi Jn	05:10	Weekly	Thu	upto 09.07.2025
04609	Varanasi Jn	09:00	Jammu Tawi	07:45		Fri	upto 10.07.2025
04304	Yog N Rishikesh	15:20	Gorakhpur	06:20	Weekly	Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04303	Gorakhpur	09:00	Yog N Rishikesh	05:55		Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04602	Firozpur Cantt Jn	15:10	Patna Jn	18:00	Bi-weekly	Wed, Sat	upto 12.07.2025
04601	Patna Jn	20:50	Firozpur Cantt Jn	23:55		Thu, Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04608	Amritsar Jn	20:10	Darbhanga Jn	02:30	Weekly	Fri	upto 11.07.2025
04607	Darbhanga Jn	04:00	Amritsar Jn	10:30		Sun	upto 13.07.2025
04211	Lokmanya Tilak (T)	16:35	Sultnpur Jn	23:00	Weekly	Tue	upto 24.06.2025
05559	Raxaul Jn.	05:30	Udhnna Jn.	12:35	Weekly	Sat	upto 26.07.2025
05560	Udhnna Jn.	15:35	Raxaul Jn.	00:15		Sun	upto 27.07.2025
04058	New Delhi	19:30	Saharsa Jn.	19:50	Bi-weekly	Tue	

If Cost of death escalates, will the State invest in keeping its citizens alive

The tragic air accident in Ahmedabad involving the Air India flight has shocked the world. Air travel is one of the safest modes of transport, and when such a tragedy occurs, it is heartbreaking. Although nothing can compensate for the loss of life of the dear ones, Air India's parent company, Tata, has announced a compensation of ₹1 crore for the families of the victims. Though this may appear generous, under the international Montreal Convention, the airline is liable to pay a compensation amounting to ₹1,51,880 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) per deceased passenger. This translates to approximately ₹1.8 crore at the current exchange rates to the next of kin. It is unclear whether the Tata offer is in addition to the mandatory payment of ₹1.8 crore as per law.

A few days before the tragic air accident, some passengers of Mumbai's infamous local trains fell off the overcrowded compartments and died. These were daily commuters struggling to make a living in one of the world's most prosperous cities. The Maharashtra government promptly announced a compensation of ₹5 lakhs. Railways have remained silent so far, but as per the Railways Act of 1989, the Railways are bound to give a compensation of ₹8 lakh. For this, the kin of the victim will have to file a claim with the Railway Claims Tribunal, and the compensation may take many years to be fruitful, if at all. On an average, the passengers in an international flight are wealthier than an average commuter in a Mumbai local. The disparity in compensation between the two sets of victims is glaring. All lives are equal, but some lives are more equal in our society. Life is so cheap in India. The victory celebration of the IPL champions claimed many lives in Bengaluru a few weeks ago. Many died in a stampede in Kumbh Mela; we don't even know how many actually died there. The accident in Mumbai local that claimed five lives are in headlines only because they happened together in one tragic accident. It is estimated that on an average seven people die every day in accidents related to Mumbai local. That is around three thousand victims a year. To put things in perspective, total number of terror victims in India last year was 87, including the terrorists killed. In other words, commuting to office or college in a Mumbai local is more dangerous than living in a terror-prone area.

If trains are death traps, then Indian roads are veritable killing fields. Potholes—those innocuous-looking craters that pockmark our streets—claim a staggering 2,342 lives annually. And those are merely the documented cases. One can only imagine the grim statistics lurking in the shadows of administrative indifference.

The irony is palpable. While Air India passengers' families receive crores in compensation and Mumbai local victims' kin fight for their meager lakhs, the families of those who perish in pothole-related accidents often receive nothing but condolences—if they're lucky enough to get even that. What's particularly galling is the absolute absence of accountability. When a plane crashes, aviation authorities scramble into action. Investigations commence, heads roll, systems are overhauled. When pothole deaths occur? Crickets chirp in the halls of municipal corporations. The maintenance engineers who signed off on substandard road work continue drawing their salaries. The contractors who used sand instead of cement in their mixtures secure the next tender with a knowing smile and a well-placed bribe.

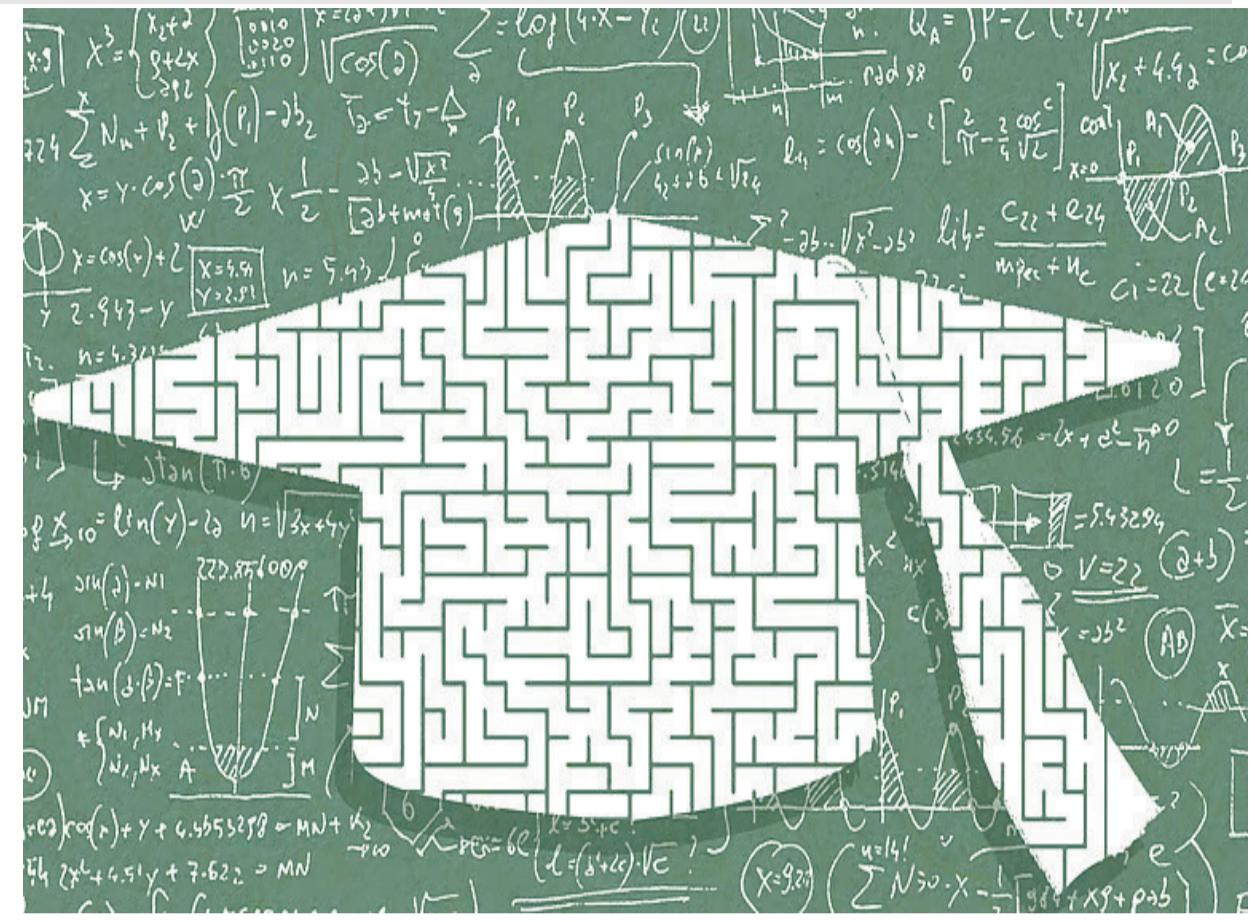
Why aren't these negligent engineers cooling their heels in prison cells? Why aren't the contractors facing manslaughter charges? A pothole isn't an act of God—it's the physical manifestation of human corruption and callousness. Yet somehow, when a motorcycle swerves to avoid one such crater and collides with an oncoming truck, it's classified as a "tragic accident" rather than what it truly is: institutional homicide.

Mainland autonomy requires oceanic depth

The regulatory framework for Indian universities in India requires more autonomy which may be given to the top 100 NIRF universities to begin with

The triple cities—GIFT, Delhi and Mumbai have taken the initial lead to bring home foreign university campuses in India with more upscale metros getting ready. Foreign university campuses easing its way to India raises a million-dollar question—when will Indian universities operate in foreign style in India? With Trump's MAGA assault on American universities turning out to be a recipe of uncertainty and academic chaos, the global mobility of students finding alternate routes to various other foreign destination and India's growth story continuing to get stronger, this converging trifecta offers hope for the Indian university ecosystem to charter a homegrown pathway for excellence. The geopolitical turbulence including the polarised immigration policy for Chinese students in American universities and India's rise in the global student mobility chart is all set to fire this double-barrelled gun with domestic policy ammunition. Some Indo-American-Chinese points to navigate before we close with a policy recommendation. The federal financial freeze to premier American Universities like Harvard, Columbia, etc. has sent ripples in the research waters of American academia. Harvard President Alan Garber's undeterred counter is also equally resistive considering Harvard's robust balance sheet.

The 2024 year ending financials for Harvard University saw rise in revenue and expenses (rate of expense rise more than revenue) with dominant source of operating revenue (USD 6.5 billion) coming from endowment income (32 per cent) and dominant expense towards people expenses (USD 3.3 billion) being 52 per cent of the total opex. With a fat and growing endowment of USD 53.2 billion (increased by USD 2 billion during 2024), Harvard can deftly manage Trump's policy shrug. But the optics is more important. Same is the case with major universities like Columbia, Yale, University of Southern California, Princeton, etc. which a war-chest endowment and non-excessive reliance of tuition fee-based revenue. The Harvard University's degree seeking tuition fee revenue is only 12 per cent of its total revenue and the share of foreign students in 28 per cent. Similar figures apply to other globally popular and elite universities of US who have financial shock absorbers to manage diminishing enrolment of foreign students and are capable of attracting domestic students who otherwise would have studied in tier 2 or 3 universities. Such universities will now orchestrate more promotional road shows in their promising markets of China, India, Indonesia, Africas, Philippines, etc. Advertisement The Chinese reaction to the American immigration fracas has strategic undercurrents with a view to not only create alternate models but also emerge as a global education hub. I have previously written on the Chinese build-up



towards building world class universities through state facilitated policies with a long-term plan. The size and speed at which they are advancing is shaking certain fundamentals of the game.

The 'haigui' (sea-turtles) as the foreign educated returning Chinese are called, have been instrumental in building the science and engineering education in many universities like Tsinghua and Peking comparable to America. Some Chinese are looking at Singapore, Hong Kong, Japan, etc. as alternate geographies besides the increasing others who want to develop Chinese University using this turbulence as an opportunity. The Chinese government cannot change what America is doing but certainly is changing what it can do. The Indian side of the foreign landscape is a mixed bag. Surpassing China in terms of growth rate last year, China still retaining the top status of sending the largest number of Chinese to top five destinations—the US, UK, Canada, Australia and France, India is second to China in absolute numbers. India also seems to find an alternate growing

interest in Australia, EU, Japan, etc. but needs more efforts to build the native Indian university ecosystem with a foreign touch. Though India and China have invested roughly the same in education (averaging 4.1 per cent to 4.6 per cent of GDP), the Chinese per capita investment is five times more than that of India. The lucrative research grants and the magnetic incentives luring back overseas Chinese to China are the double engines of university reforms in China besides revitalising its university autonomy.

The UGC Regulations for establishing foreign university campuses in India is a route for foreign universities taking the Pacific or Atlantic or Arabian Sea route to enter India with an oceanic depth in autonomy. The global academic freedom index is a pointer for more university autonomy in India. The regulatory framework for Indian universities in India requires more autonomy which may be given to the top 100 NIRF universities to begin with. There will be marginal collateral damage but it is worth the effort as mainland institutional autonomy requires the oceanic depth that others enjoy. Is anybody listening?

Infra lending norms should raise spending closer to the government

Following the pile-up of bad loans that resulted in a twin balance sheet problem, India's infrastructure sector has been grappling with massive delays and cost overruns

Lending months of hand-wringing, the RBI has finally rolled out the regulatory framework for lending towards infrastructure projects. The proposed norms, applicable from October, will replace multiple circulars, standardise the treatment of project loans across sectors, and align norms for commercial banks, non-banking financers and cooperative banks. The biggest breakthrough is the relaxed provisioning requirements, which are applicable only on new project loans, while the existing exposures will stay under the current prudential provisioning framework. As a result, banks' profitability would remain unaffected. The norms, which are also RBI's first attempt to provide a comprehensive regulatory framework for project financing in India, strikes a balanced approach to infrastructure lending. The proposals are part of a broader wave of banking regulations; alongside the repo rate cuts and liquidity-boosting measures, they should help revive overall credit growth. Banks were worried when the RBI first released the draft guidelines in May 2024, advocating the provisioning of 5 percent during the project's construction phase, 2.5 percent during the operational phase, and further down to 1 percent once the



project starts generating sufficient cash flows. The Indian Banking Association is reported to have appealed against the proposed norms, suggesting instead an initial provisioning of 1-2 percent, a modest increase over the existing 0.4 percent. Heeding to their concerns, the RBI

offered a relief keeping the provisioning requirement to 1 percent, which should aid in meaningfully improving the lending and borrowing appetite. Following the pile-up of bad loans that resulted in a twin balance sheet problem, India's infrastructure sector has been grappling with massive delays and cost overruns. According to official data, about 800 out of the Union government's 1,800 ongoing projects valued at over ₹150 crore each were behind schedule in April 2024. Notwithstanding the efforts, infrastructure expenditure remains far below the required rate of ₹20 lakh crore a year under the National Infrastructure Pipeline. To succeed as the world's third largest economy, we need collective efforts between the government, private sector and financial institutions to carefully execute infrastructure projects, which are often complex and have long gestation periods. Infrastructure is one of the key pillars of economic growth and essential for mass job creation, besides boosting the manufacturing sector. The government should also undertake reforms to prevent project delays and facilitate access to credit.

A minute may last a lifetime

Cherish the one minute you have. Because in them lies the power to connect, to reflect, and perhaps, if grace allows, to awaken

A minute. That's all it takes. One minute. Much more than just 60 fleeting seconds. It's almost unimaginable, isn't it? How something so brief can change everything. One moment, you're fastening your seat belt, and the next, you're re-evaluating your entire existence on a crashing aircraft. It's as if time itself has a sense of irony—dark, twisted, and utterly mind-numbing.

The recent crash of Air India Flight AI 171 over Ahmedabad was one such moment. A routine flight turned catastrophic—not over hours or even minutes, but in a mere 32 seconds. In under a minute, nearly 300 lives were changed or lost. And with them, a ripple of grief swept through a nation that watched, helpless, as the news unfolded on TV screens and mobile phones. In the unyielding march of time, a single minute often passes unnoticed. Yet, within that fleeting span, life can pivot, transforming from the mundane to the profound. This transient moment, so easily overlooked, underscores the fragile illusion of control we hold over our existence. Take Newton, for instance. The man was sitting under an apple tree, minding his own business, when an apple fell on his head. And apparently just like that, gravity was discovered. One minute, he's enjoying the shade; the next, he's rewriting the laws of physics. Talk about a freak day. Then there's Archimedes, who was relaxing in his bath when he noticed the water level rise as he got in. Eureka! he shouted. In that moment, Archimedes had an epiphany that led to the principle of buoyancy. All it took was a bath and a bit of water displacement. And let's not forget Patanjali, who didn't need apples or baths. His moment of clarity came when he achieved mental stillness. In that stillness, he found the foundations



of yogic wisdom. No fruit, no water, just a quiet mind. If only it were that simple. In the Vedic tradition, the momentous minutes called 'Muhurta' is derived from two Sanskrit roots: 'Muh' meaning 'moment' or 'immediate' and 'Rta' meaning 'order' or 'cosmic law'. 'Muhurta' is considered crucial for the success and prosperity of various activities, such as weddings, housewarmings, starting a new business, or embarking on significant journeys. A 'muhurta' is a momentous moment that carries the cumulative effect of

millions of space-time events, expressing the cosmic order. Tragedies like the crash of AI 171 confront us with minute's deep intensity. But they also deepen our reverence for life and for the fleeting nature of awareness. The same fraction of time that brings upheaval can also bring understanding. For perception—that quiet inner compass—often shifts not over years, but in sudden flashes. They're reminders that clarity often comes unannounced—in a second's whisper, a sigh, a moment of silence. We often believe

wisdom is earned only after a long struggle. But sometimes, all it takes is a shift in how we see the world. The world remains the same, but the eyes that see it are transformed. In this light, time becomes a curious thing. A minute may represent a lifetime. And a lifetime may pass without a single minute's insight. If we must take anything from such heart-breaking moments, let it be this: Cherish the one minute you have. Because in them lies the power to connect, to reflect, and perhaps, if grace allows, to awaken.

Clogged drains, dirty water from taps: What's ailing Sector Alpha 1 & 2 in Greater Noida

Noida. Over 4,000 residents of Alpha 1 and 2 in Greater Noida are grappling with clogged drains, overflowing sewers, and poor water quality. Despite complaints, GNIDA has failed to address these issues, leaving residents in dire conditions. Residents allege that the basic infrastructure in the sectors has deteriorated to a level worse than village conditions, despite their regular payment of charges for water, sewer, garbage, and other civic services. "The drains of Greater Noida Sector Alpha 2 have not been cleaned yet. At many places, they are broken and choked with filth," said Subhash Bhati, RWA president of Sector Alpha 2. "The condition of the H block is pathetic, with overflowing sewers and clogged drains. Even a village wouldn't be this dirty in today's time. We are being charged for services, water, sewer, metro, garbage but none of them are being provided. GNIDA officials are sleeping while the sectors are deteriorating." Echoing the concerns, NP Singh, RWA general

secretary of Sector Alpha 2, said residents are forced to fend for themselves due to lack of monitoring. "Contractors are making a fool of the authority, and there's no accountability. Sanitation, water supply, and encroachment issues persist. In Alpha 1 and 2, open drains are filled with sewage sludge, manholes are overflowing, and the water supply is erratic and contaminated with mud. Sweepers don't show up, trees are untrimmed, and parks are in a neglected state," he said. Residents of Sector Alpha 1 reported similar problems. Sher Singh Bhati, RWA president of the sector, said clogged drains packed with construction and demolition (C&D) waste, broken drain covers, and a spike in mosquito breeding due to stagnant water and lack of fogging have become common. "There has been no cleaning, no fogging, and no care for public spaces. Overgrown grass, untrimmed shrubs, and zero sanitation in parks have added to the distress," he said.



'Not fit to fly aircraft, go back and forth': IndiGo trainee pilot alleges casteist abuse in office; names 3 colleagues in FIR; claims 'unjustified' pay cuts, forced retraining

GURGAON. An FIR was registered against three officials of IndiGo Airlines after a colleague accused them of subjecting him to caste-based harassment and humiliation at the company's corporate office in the city. The case — under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and BNS — was initially filed as a zero FIR in Bengaluru, but was transferred to DLF-1 police station in Gurgaon. IndiGo Airlines did not respond to requests for comment on the FIR. The complainant, a 35-year-old trainee pilot from Bengaluru, accused his seniors, Tapas Dey, Manish Sahani, and Captain Rahul Patil of verbal abuse and discriminatory behaviour during a meeting on April 28 at Emaar Capital Tower 2 — where the airline is headquartered. The victim alleged that the harassment began immediately after he arrived in office when Dey demanded he leave his phone and bag outside in a "demeaning manner". "His instruction set the tone for the abuse that followed," he said in his complaint. The trainee pilot claimed that the three officials made casteist remarks during the 30-minute meeting from 3.30pm, which included statements like "you are not fit to fly an aircraft, go back and forth slippers" and "you don't even have the worth to be a watchman here". He alleged that the harassment continued for days and was designed to pressure him into resigning. "The statements they made were not only humiliating but clearly aimed at degrading my identity and status as a Scheduled Caste person," the complaint read. The harassment allegedly extended beyond verbal abuse. It included "professional victimisation" through unjustified salary deductions, forced retraining sessions, revocation of travel privileges, and unwarranted warning letters. Despite escalating the matter to higher officials and the company's ethics committee, the complainant claimed no action was taken, compelling him to approach the SC/ST cell for legal intervention.

Walkers, watch out! Open drains & broken footpaths raise safety fears in Gurgaon's Greenwood City

Gurgaon. An uncovered drain near Greenwood City's B & C block has posed a threat to pedestrians for the past two months, with complaints to the civic authorities falling on deaf ears, according to the residents. The drain, located near the main entrance of the society, poses a severe risk, particularly during the evening hours when visibility is low, residents said. Adding to the concern, a footpath outside the society — constructed just two years ago — is already showing signs of deterioration. Tiles have begun to crack at some places and debris from construction remains dumped in the vicinity. "This is sheer negligence. The drain was cleaned in April, but still, they did not cover it. This is our main entrance — many people walk here, vehicles turn in from here, and children and elderly residents pass through regularly. One misstep could lead to a serious injury. We have informed the

civic authorities multiple times, but nothing has been done about it," said Vineeta Sinha, RWA president of Greenwood City's B & C block. Moreover, residents pointed out that while the footpath was built with tactile pavers for



the visually impaired, by ignoring the gaping hole, the authority was now behaving like residents' well-being was

not their concern. Deepak Agrawal, treasurer of the RWA, who often takes evening walks, said, "The footpath from our society to ISKCON temple has uneven tiles and missing drain covers. Even those installed after drains are cleaned are not fixed properly. At night, it's even more difficult to walk here. The civic body needs to act before someone gets hurt." Residents also expressed frustration over construction debris lying unattended near the society, on a green belt, for over two years. "We have been asking GMDA to remove the debris and develop the green belt. We are willing to maintain it ourselves — but first, they must clear it," Sinha added.

Meanwhile, a senior GMDA official maintained that no complaints regarding these issues were received yet. "However, I will get the matter checked and the needful will be done," the official said.

Company running hospital where fake doctor operated saw its Hisar centre blacklisted 3 years ago

Gurgaon. The private healthcare company that ran a centre at Faridabad's BK Civil Hospital, where an under-qualified doctor committed an identity theft and operated on patients for months as a cardiologist, saw another centre — in Hisar — blacklisted in 2022 over fake bills. That, however, had no bearing on its contracts to run hospitals under the public-private-partnership (PPP) model in other parts of the state. Now, even as allegations of serious malpractice at the Faridabad centre are under investigation by the anti-corruption bureau (ACB), officials said talks continue with Meditirina Hospital Pvt Ltd to restart operations there. The heart centre at BK Civil Hospital's fourth floor was shut abruptly this Feb, four months after ACB filed an FIR under sections 120B criminal conspiracy, 420 (cheating), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 203 (giving false information) and 467, 468 and 471 (forgery) of IPC on Oct 29, 2024, based on a complaint filed by a lawyer. A 'Temporarily Closed' sign now hangs

outside its main door. The lone caretaker, who says he was hired 10 days ago, says he has no idea when the centre will reopen. A second FIR related to the Meditirina-run heart centre in Faridabad was filed on June 10 against SGM Nagar police station in Faridabad against the fake cardiologist and others. Allegations of malpractice made by the lawyer, Sanjay Gupta, in the Oct FIR include reusing equipment such as needles and catheters in surgeries. Meditirina signed a contract with the state govt to run the heart centre in Faridabad in 2018. Meditirina also runs centres at Panchkula, Gurgaon and Ambala Cantt in Haryana, at Kollam, Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, and at Jamsheedpur and Chas-Bokaro in Jharkhand. Doctors at BK Civil hospital's other departments said Meditirina staffers took all patients' medical records, leaving them with no way to continue treatments for regulars at the heart centre. "Even emergency cardiac cases are being referred elsewhere. We are helpless," a

senior physician said. The hospital does not have a separate cardiology department. Meena Devi, a Ballabhgarh resident who took her father to the heart centre regularly for checks, told TOI, "My father needs follow-ups after his stent procedure. Private hospitals are beyond our reach."

The allegations Gupta told TOI he had to approach police because multiple complaints to the hospital management, the district's chief medical officer, and the health department did not elicit a response. He said it was in June 2024 that some patients' families and a former centre head hired by Meditirina reached out to him for help.

The FIR lists the names of 39 patients who were allegedly treated with re-used devices. "According to guidelines of Medical Council of India and World Health Organization, reused wires, balloons and other equipment should not be used in the treatment of cardiac patients. Doing so poses a serious risk to the patient's life" the FIR reads.

News box

Monsoon just days away in Gurgaon, but bear with humidity till then

Gurgaon. The city experienced a warm and humid Sunday as it anticipates an early monsoon arrival in the next two days, according to IMD. The Gurgaon observatory didn't record the day's minimum temperature but the maximum temperature was recorded at 35.3°C and nearby Ayanagar registered 28.4°C minimum temperature with 73% relative humidity. The city has already received 42.4mm rainfall between June 1 and 22, marking a 77% increase over the normal average. This is just short of the monthly normal of 47.1mm. With over a week left in the month and more rainfall expected, the city is likely to exceed its June average. Last year, Gurgaon received 62.6mm (33% above normal), while June 2023 witnessed bountiful rainfall, with 115.8mm, more than double the average. June 2022 was comparatively drier, with 37.8mm recorded. As residents eagerly await the arrival of the monsoon, IMD suggests that its onset over Gurgaon and adjoining areas is expected over the next two days. The southwest monsoon has further advanced into most parts of Himachal Pradesh, the entire regions of Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, most parts of Jammu, and some parts of Punjab. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for the next five days, predicting light to moderate rainfall in Gurgaon, with the possibility of isolated heavy showers accompanied by thunder and gusty winds. Meteorologists attribute the favourable conditions to the presence of a low-pressure area over southeast Uttar Pradesh and its neighbourhood, along with a trough extending from north Punjab to north Bihar across south Haryana. Additionally, a cyclonic circulation associated with the low-pressure system is observed over central parts of south Uttar Pradesh in the lower tropospheric levels.

Leak in pipeline causes water to go down the drain in Sector 9A

Gurgaon. Damages in the pipeline has led to water supply leaking out onto roads and down the drains in Sector 9A. Despite repeated complaints to MCG over the past two months, no action has been taken to fix the situation, residents said. The leakage, which pops up daily near the market and boosting station during water supply hours, has turned into a serious concern for residents, who are worried not only about the wastage but also potential contamination issues. They have attributed the issue to old and corroded pipelines, which are prone to frequent



damage, adding that MCG's failure to renew the maintenance contract in time has further exacerbated the issue. "When we complain about the leaks, officials often say no plumber is available because the contract for operation and maintenance hasn't been renewed. This happens again and again. We are not just losing water; it is posing a serious risk to health," said Suraj Bholi, general secretary of Sector 9A RWA. In 2020, MCG had sanctioned Rs 2.15 crore for laying a new water pipeline in the sector. The work was supposed to be completed in six months, but three years later, only about 80% was finished. "Unless the new pipeline is fully commissioned, the old one cannot be decommissioned. We are fed up with the MCG. Neither are they completing the pipeline project, nor are they ensuring routine maintenance. Leakage complaints are just ignored," Bholi added.

Pipeline damaged, Sohna road lane blocked for days in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. Commuters using Sohna highway are having a tough time. Now, they should brace for delays over the next week, as a critical stretch near SD Adarsh Public School remains partially blocked for sewer line repairs. While GMDA began work on Sunday, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has already barricaded one and a half lanes of the main carriageway. With the road now narrowed and local traffic being funnelled through a service lane, snarls can be seen during morning and evening peak hours. Nikhil Bansal, a resident of Malibu Towne, said, "The entry point near Raheja Mall becomes a choke point during office hours. It's chaotic, especially with one-and-a-half lanes blocked. We have seen repeated repairs of the road on the same spot."

With daily traffic of nearly 35,000 passenger car units on Sohna Road, the area is lined with residential societies such as Vipul Greens, Central Park 2, Sispal Vihar and Malibu Towne, as well as malls, office buildings and commercial establishments. NHAI officials said road surface restoration will begin only after GMDA completes the sewer repair. Until then, diversions will remain in place. "We have asked GMDA to strengthen the sewer line with trenchless Cured-In-Place Pipe technology for a permanent solution," the NHAI official said. MVN Athens RWA president Mahesh Khatana who commutes daily to Delhi via Sohna highway says, "Even when the stretch is functional, we face regular traffic snarls from Subhash Chowk to Islampur." "Now, with only one lane open and repairs underway, the congestion has worsened" Khatana asks. GMDA began work after a section of the road "settled" in simple terms soil erosion due to pipeline sink last Wednesday, yet another collapse linked to a 30-year-old sewer pipeline that failed multiple times in the past two years.

Gap in slide at Greater Noida condo park claims portion of two-year-old girl's toe

Noida. A defect on a slide in the play area of a Greater Noida society ended in an injury that a two-year-old will have to adapt to for the rest of her life. On June 13 in Ecovillage 3, Amansha Sharma was going down the slide when her middle toe got caught in a metal gap that should not have been there. As momentum carried her downward, a portion of her toe came off. "My wife quickly picked her up, and we rushed to a nearby clinic where first aid was given and the wound was covered. We were advised to take her to a hospital for further examination," Amansha's father Amar Sharma (33), who lives on the fifth floor of Tower A9, told TOI on Sunday.

The couple took Amansha to Kailash Hospital in Sector 71. There, doctors recommended a surgery, which was performed over five to six hours on June 16. Amansha, doctors told the couple, can use a prosthetic on the damaged part of her toe once she grows up. The girl, parents said, is recovering. The accident throws light on the larger malaise of poor finishing and safety compromises that are often seen in public places, like a drain cover left open on a footpath, a wire hanging loose from a pole, a nail

poking out of a door or a loose tile on a stairwell. Loopholes like these in public infrastructure can be particularly



traumatic for his daughter and such hazards should be fixed immediately.

"I am submitting this formal complaint to bring the matter to the immediate attention of the estate's management. I also request that all necessary repairs and safety measures be undertaken without delay... to minimize injury risks and thorough safety audit of all play equipment and the surrounding areas," Amar wrote. He added that the complaint was "not only as the parent of an injured child, but also on behalf of many concerned families in the society". Our children's safety must be prioritised, and preventive action should be taken urgently," he wrote.

The society manager Ajeeb Singh took cognisance of the issue and said rubber mats have been installed in the play area. Singh has sought time of about 10-15 days to get the rest of the repairs done as the expenditure is being worked out.

Around 1,500 residents live in the township, which has 3,248 flats. Noida resident Rahul Sohal, a civil engineer who has previously worked with the Delhi Metro and govt contractors, told TOI that well designed infrastructure needs to be equipped with all safety gear and maintained

consistently. For instance, he said, all play areas should be reinforced with hybrid polyurethane, a polymer, which has glass fibre added to it for strength. There should be no PVC, latex and phthalates, nor heavy metals in such places as these do not absorb moisture and do not prevent bacteria or fungal growth. All exposed metal parts — bolts, screws or protruding hardware on swings should be capped with protective plastic or rubber sleeves," he said.

Similarly, the risk of slipping needs to be minimised on staircases. "Anti-skid tiles should be used. If granite is chosen, its surface must be flamed, brushed or treated for slip resistance, ensuring safe movement for all age groups, particularly children and the elderly," said Sohal. He explained that obsolete hardware should be removed. "All swing structures must be securely anchored into the ground using concrete footings or industry-approved base plates. Loose or improperly embedded frames can shift or tip over, creating a high risk for injury. Structural integrity should be verified during installation and rechecked during routine inspections, especially after monsoon or heavy use," Sohal said.

Knives out for kulfi, cash, phone: Trio robs Delhi ice cream parlour; robbers flee

Agency New Delhi.

NEW DELHI: Three unidentified masked men looted an ice cream parlour in Delhi's Keshavpuram area, escaping with cash, mobile phones, and several packets of ice cream and kulfi, police said on Sunday.

The robbery took place around 11pm on Saturday at a shop on Talab Road.

According to police, the incident was captured on CCTV, and multiple teams have been formed to identify and apprehend the accused.

"Two men were holding knives and wearing face masks. They came on a motorcycle and barged into our parlour. They threatened us, forcing my brother to sit in a corner while one was guarding, another looted everything -- cash, mobile phones and ice creams," said Narender, the owner of ice cream parlour.

CCTV footage from the scene shows the trio stuffing bags with frozen items within seconds before escaping on the same



motorcycle.

The footage is under review, and efforts are under way to identify the accused. The shop owner estimated the total loss,

including stolen stock, at Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000.

In a separate incident, an ice cream vendor was attacked and robbed near Shiv Mandir

in Subhash Place around 12:30am on the night of June 21-22. The victim, Roop Lal Prasad (45), was returning home after his day's work when two individuals approached him. One grabbed him from behind while the other assaulted him and snatched his mobile phone and Rs 520 in cash.

Prasad fell and suffered a head injury. A PCR call was received at the Netaji Subhash Place (NSP) Police Station, and one of the suspects was caught at the scene by bystanders, police added.

"While one of the accused managed to flee, the other was overpowered by locals and handed over to police," said a police officer.

The arrested accused has been identified as 18-year-old Suraj, a resident of Shakarpur, police said. The stolen cash was recovered from his possession, and efforts are ongoing to trace and arrest his associate, they added.

BJP calls Congress 'factory of fake news'; counters Rahul Gandhi's Make in India criticism with data

Agency New Delhi.

The BJP on Sunday accused the Congress of spreading misinformation and fake news, calling the party a "factory of fake news" in response to recent remarks by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on India's economic progress.

Amit Malviya, who heads the BJP's National Information & Technology Department, cited seven alleged instances of misinformation shared by Congress over the past two weeks. In a video posted on social media platform X, Malviya claimed that the Congress has repeatedly used doctored videos and fabricated documents to attack the government.

"India deserves an honest opposition, not this circus of deception," Malviya said, alleging that lies had become the Congress's primary strategy. Targeting Rahul Gandhi, Malviya said the Congress leader invokes Mahatma Gandhi's legacy but does not follow the values the Mahatma stood for, such as truth, non-violence, and national unity. Malviya on Saturday also responded to Gandhi's recent criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India programme.

Gandhi had called the initiative ineffective, particularly in creating jobs and boosting manufacturing.

Countering this, Malviya shared data claiming a sharp rise in electronics production from Rs 18,900 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 4.22 lakh crore in 2023-24. He added that mobile phone exports had increased 77 times from Rs 1,566 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 1.2 lakh crore in 2023-24, with 99.2% of mobile phones now manufactured in India—up from 26% a decade ago.

He further defended the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, stating it attracted investments of Rs 10,905 crore and generated total production worth Rs 7.15 lakh crore. On employment, he said 1.8 lakh new companies were registered in 2023-24—a 16% increase from the previous year.

Robbers loot Delhi ice cream parlour; attack seller in separate knife-point incidents

NEW DELHI. In two separate incidents, an ice cream parlour and an ice-cream seller were robbed in the national capital on knife point, an official said on Sunday. In the first incident, three unidentified masked men allegedly looted an ice cream parlour in Keshavpuram area of northwest Delhi and decamped with cash, mobile phone, and several ice cream and kulfi packets. The entire incident was also recorded in CCTV footage and police teams have been formed to nab the accused. According to the police, the incident took place around 11 pm on Saturday at a shop located on Talab Road.

Two men were holding knives, wearing face masks, came on a motorcycle and barged into our parlour. They threatened us, forcing my brother to sit in a corner while one was guarding, another looted everything -- cash, mobile phones and ice creams, shop owner Narender said. CCTV footage from the scene shows the trio filling bags with ice creams and kulfis in a matter of seconds before fleeing on the same motorcycle, police said.

The shop owner has claimed a total loss of nearly Rs 50 to 60,000, including stolen cash, mobile phone, and the cost of the looted frozen stock. Police said that they are checking the footage from the CCTV camera and the identification process is underway.

In another incident, an ice-cream seller was robbed by two persons near Shiv Mandir, Subhash Place in northwest Delhi, with one of the assailants caught by the public at the spot.

According to the police, the incident took place around 12:30 am on the intervening night of June 21 and 22, when the victim, identified as Roop Lal Prasad (45), was returning home after his routine ice-cream sales. As he reached near a sweets shop, one person allegedly grabbed him from behind while the other assaulted him with fists and took away his mobile phone and Rs 520 in cash. "While one of the accused managed to flee, the other was caught," said a police officer.

Delhi set for monsoon arrival in two days; IMD forecasts rain, thunderstorms through the week

The IMD has forecast generally cloudy skies with the possibility of rain, thunderstorms, and lightning every day through June 28.

Agency New Delhi.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms and gusty winds to persist across Delhi over the next week, as conditions continue to build for the imminent arrival of the southwest monsoon in the national capital.

The department on Sunday said that the monsoon has already advanced into most parts of Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir and parts of Punjab. Delhi is expected to witness the monsoon's onset within the next two days as conditions remain favourable over Haryana, Chandigarh, and adjoining areas.

While Safdarjung recorded a high of 36.2 degrees celsius on Sunday, 2.4 degrees celsius below normal, the

weather remained dry through the day, with just 1.2 mm of rainfall in the past 24 hours and no measurable rain between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. Minimum temperatures hovered



around 28.4 degrees celsius, slightly above normal. Across Delhi-NCR, maximum temperatures ranged from

33.6 degrees celsius to 36 degrees celsius, all markedly below seasonal norms by 2-6 degrees celsius. However, humidity levels remained high, with a peak of 83%, keeping the discomfort index elevated.

The IMD has forecast generally cloudy skies with the possibility of rain, thunderstorms, and lightning every day through June 28. Winds are expected to remain steady at 10-20 kmph, shifting from southeasterly to westerly directions midweek. No heatwave conditions are predicted during this period, offering some relief after a hot and humid start to June. However, the approaching monsoon system and a low-pressure area over southern Uttar Pradesh are likely to drive erratic weather spells in the coming days.

DU issues apology over UG admission form 'blunder'

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi University (DU) has issued an apology after its undergraduate admission form listed "Muslim" as a mother tongue while completely omitting "Urdu", triggering widespread criticism from faculty members who have alleged communal bias and constitutional insensitivity.

"The University of Delhi sincerely regrets the inadvertent error in its admission form. We acknowledge your concerns and are committed to addressing them," the university posted on social media platform X. However, it also urged people not to "vitiate the university's diverse and harmonious environment" by attributing ulterior motives to the error.

But academics from the DU have rejected this explanation, calling the language used in the form reflective of a "communal mindset." Abha Dev

Habib, professor at Miranda House, wrote on another social media platform Facebook, "Under 'Mother Tongue', the form omits Urdu entirely while listing 'Muslim'. Is it beyond DU's understanding that Muslims



speak the same languages as others from their regions? This cannot be anything but Islamophobic."

She added that the omission was particularly serious given Urdu's status as a language listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Calling it more than a clerical lapse, Rudrashish Chakraborty, associate

professor at Kirori Mal College and executive member of DUTA, said that the incident was part of a larger pattern of marginalisation. "By removing Urdu and inserting 'Muslim', the administration has effectively targeted a language and a culture," he said, calling the move a violation of both academic and constitutional principles. Chakraborty also criticised the university's choice of terminology, arguing that "native language" would have been more academically appropriate than "mother tongue".

The controversy intensified further after it emerged that the form required applicants under reserved categories to list sub-castes like "mochi" and "dhobi", a move professors called casteist and insensitive. Rights groups and faculty are now demanding a formal apology, full transparency and institutional safeguards to prevent future lapses.

Owner Of Flat, Where Sonam Raghuvanshi, Killers Lived, Suspected Of Hiding Evidence

Lokendra Tomar emerged as a suspect while the police were questioning Silome James, the property dealer from Indore who rented the flat to the murder accused.

Agency New Delhi.

The owner of the flat where murder-accused Sonam Raghuvanshi and her aides lived after killing her husband, Raja Raghuvanshi, is under the scanner of the Meghalaya SIT for concealing evidence. Lokendra Tomar, an infrastructure company owner, allegedly took Sonam's bag containing a country-made pistol, her phone, Raja's jewellery, and Rs five lakh cash from the house in Indore's Hirabagh locality, police sources believe.

Tomar emerged as a suspect while the police were questioning Silome James, the property dealer from Indore who rented the flat to the murder accused.

According to James, Tomar had asked the property dealer to remove Sonam's bag from the flat shortly after she surrendered to the police. However, when he did not, the flat owner took it. Police sources said Tomar also tried to get the CCTV footage

of the car showroom near his flat.

Tomar is currently missing, and his phone is switched off. The police are carrying out raids to locate him in Indore, sources said.

What we know about Sonam's bag

According to the Meghalaya Special Investigation Team (SIT), Silome James had rented a flat in Indore's Hirabagh locality to one of three killers - Vishal Singh Chauhan. The victim's wife, Sonam Raghuvanshi, is also believed to have stayed in the flat between May 26 and June 8, before she surrendered to the police. During her interrogation, Sonam said she left a black-coloured bag in the flat on June 8 and left for Ghazipur. Sonam's phone, Raja's jewellery, Rs five lakh cash, and a country-made pistol were kept in the bag.

However, when the police raided the house, they did not find anything. Preliminary investigation, however, revealed that two days after Sonam surrendered, James and the building's security guard, Balveer, went to the flat and removed the bag and other evidence items. They allegedly set the bag on fire and destroyed it. The security guard was

given Rs 5,000 to hide the evidence - following which he helped conceal it and escaped to his home in Ashok Nagar. James also took Sonam's laptop, which was later thrown away by his wife. The two were allegedly caught concealing the evidence in one of the CCTV cameras collected by the Meghalaya SIT. They were subsequently arrested.

The Honeymoon Murder Case Raja and Sonam got married on May 11. Nine days later, they left for their honeymoon in Meghalaya on May 20 - with a one-way ticket in hand. The couple roamed around in the Northeast for three days before going "missing". When their family members could not reach them, they reached out to the police.





6 tips for Companies to retain

Employees

Consciously hiring freshers is a popular practice across organisations these days. Most companies believe that hiring freshers from top colleges is a kind of guarantee that they will stick to the job for a relatively longer duration. While offering a good paycheck is important, companies need to go that extra mile to make sure their attrition rate is low. Progressive HR functions are now ensuring that freshers establish a long-term association with the company beyond the paycheck. Here are a few strategies they are employing:

- A WELL-DEFINED CAREER PATH:

Employees, whether freshers or ones with experience, want to understand how the leadership of an organisation can facilitate their growth. They want to see tangible examples of how their counterparts have grown in the firm. For many, growth is not just a vertical ladder. A lateral lattice is equally important. The young workforce is keen on having early experiences of doing different things rather than being sandboxed into one job role. Hence, it is important for companies to chart out well-defined career paths that factor in a 'variety of work' that encourages their employees to stick to the organisation.

- EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT:

It is true that more than half of a company's workforce, at any given time, may be open to opportunities outside their firm. In order to retain employees, it is important to keep them engaged through interesting work opportunities, workshops, personal mentoring, etc. Organisations, thus, need to delegate this responsibility to their people managers.

- WORK-LIFE

BALANCE:

Irrespective of

their industry, it is important for working professionals to maintain a work-life balance. While high-paying jobs do demand longer hours of work, organisations should implement flexible working hours and work from home policies while respecting their core office culture. Practices like occasional work from home, flexible work arrangements, 'ME' time (keeping a chunk of their time to pursue a hobby of their choice) are ways to help employees maintain a healthy work-life balance.

- RECOGNITION AND FEEDBACK:

Typically, bosses are quick on giving feedback when issues crop up. However, appreciation is rare

when things go smooth. Letting your employees know that you appreciate their efforts, recognising and highlighting impactful outcomes and giving timely feedback is crucial. Similarly, gaining feedback from employees and engaging oneself in meaningful dialogues to improve areas that are creating obstacles is important.

- ACCESSIBILITY AND COLLABORATION:

Structures are important in organisations. However,



doing away with hierarchy in various aspect of the organisational culture can create a stronger bond with employees and leaders of the firm. An open door policy, open offices, access to calendars of leaders, etc, are a few such examples.

- TRANSPARENT AND FAIR REVIEWS:

Enabling transparent and clear reviews and appraisals for employees helps them achieve more with a clear picture of being rewarded on the basis of merit. The review process should celebrate key milestones in an employee's career in an organisation where the focus is on highlighting key achievements, strengths and development areas, followed by a mutually agreed upon goal setting discussion.

Starting a new job? 10 things you need to know

Your first week at work can be challenging. Here are a few tips to help you make the most out of your first few days at your new job



Your first week at your new work place can either go well, or make you rethink about your new position. Your first day at work may be among the most memorable and perhaps stressful day of your career. Here are ten things that you should do in the first week of your new job to make the right start:

DRESS WELL:

How you present yourself says a lot about your personality.

Dressing well helps give a professional impression. You are the brand ambassador of your firm and the way you project yourself, projects the culture of your workplace.

BE A PEOPLES PERSON:

Introduce yourself to the people you come across in your organisation. Do not hesitate to have a conversation with your new team members. First impressions do matter. Use generic topics as conversation starters - for example positives of the job, the people around you, the city, the place you stay at, etc.

OFFICE SPACE AND RESOURCES: You need to understand your work place for your convenience. It also helps you feel at home. The better you know your workplace, the more engaged you will be. Speak to your colleagues and know more about your workspace.

LISTEN AND OBSERVE: One of your most important objectives during the first week must be to

familiarise yourself with the company culture, your department and your goals and responsibilities. Attending orientation programmes in addition to all team and office meetings can be of great help. Participating in informal colleague meetings will help you bond with them.

ASK QUESTIONS: As you learn about new job role, projects and people, don't be afraid to ask questions. It might be a good idea to take notes about everything you learn, even if it seems simple. Documenting your queries will ensure you don't ask the same question twice.

SPEAK UP: At the same time, don't be afraid to contribute and add value to your new organisation. Actively participate in team meetings and brainstorming sessions. If you have a skill or an ability basis which you've been hired, share that knowledge and experience with the team.

OFFER HELP: Don't sit around and wait for the team to decide the task for

you. Being proactive and volunteering to help your new teammates on a project will go a long way. This will project you as a self-motivated employee and help you build a rapport with your boss and colleagues. This will also help you learn more about your job expectations, culture and how things are done in the organisation.

FIND A MENTOR: This may be underrated but it's crucial to find a mentor in any of your seniors who has been the firm for a few years. It could be your manager or your peers from the same or even a different department. Their experience will come in handy when dealing with crucial situations.

KEEP YOUR BOSSES IN THE LOOP: Throughout the first week, and the rest of your tenure at work, ask for periodic meetings with your boss as per their convenience. In addition to getting their direction on projects and tasks you have been assigned, you can also use this time to update him/her on your learnings and observations.

DON'T COMPARE: Never compare your last job to your current one. Deciding to switch jobs was your decision. There is a difference between expectations and reality. However, if there is a massive change in role, talk to your manager and look for a solution. Those pursuing their first job must go with a clear mind.

Boss's bad jokes can improve your job satisfaction

If relationships are good, use of both positive and negative humour by leaders can help improve their subordinates' job satisfaction, suggests new research.

"Generally, people think that positive humour, which is inclusive, affiliative and tasteful, is good in leadership, and negative humour, which is aggressive and offensive, is bad," said one of the researchers Christopher Robert, associate professor at University of Missouri in the US.

"In our study, we found the effects of humour depend on the relationship between leaders and subordinates," Robert noted.

Specifically, both positive and negative humour use by leaders is positively related to their subordinates' job satisfaction when the relationship between the leader and subordinates is good. However, when the leader-subordinate relationship is bad, both negative and positive types of humour are associated with lower job satisfaction.



In other words, for leaders, sometimes good humour has bad effects and bad humour has good effects on subordinates.

To test their theory, the researchers developed two sets of matched questionnaires, one for leaders and one for their subordinates.

They analysed responses from about 70 leaders and their 241 subordinates in 54 organisations.

"The findings suggest that if leaders wish to integrate humour into their interactions with subordinates, they should first assess whether or not their subordinates are likely to interpret their humourous overtures positively," Robert said.

These results also have implications for leaders' strategic use of humor.

"Instead of using humour to build relationships, leaders should work to build strong relationships through other means such as through clear communication, fair treatment, and providing clear and useful feedback. Humour then can be used to maintain those strong relationships," Robert suggested.

10 words never to use in your resume

Creative is the most overused buzzword in LinkedIn profiles followed by effective, motivated and extensive experience, the social networking site has said.

According to career expert David Schwarz, using buzzwords not only makes your CV generic but it can give the impression that you are trying to mislead your prospective employer.

"They create almost a sense of misleading because they gloss over the detail," News.com.au quoted Schwarz, a principal consultant at career management firm Board Portfolio, as saying. Schwarz said that everything you put in a resume needs to be backed up with proof.

"If you can't put a metric or a statistic next to that statement shouldn't have it in your CV," he said.

He added that candidates should never include statement in their resume.

"I want to be, or my goal is, or in the future I want, they're all massive red flags because they all basically say you're not qualified to do the job you're doing now," he added.

The top 10 buzzwords that appear most in profiles are:



1. Creative
2. Effective
3. Motivated
4. Extensive experience
5. Track record
6. Innovative
7. Responsible
8. Analytical
9. Communication skills
10. Positive

Organisations these days need to offer more than a good paycheck to fresh graduates to retain them for a longer period of time. Here are a few tips companies can employ to reduce the attrition rate among fresh recruits.

Debt disguised as achievement: Financial expert on India's deepening EMI trap

New Delhi. A chartered financial analyst recently sparked a conversation online with a LinkedIn post about the silent financial stress many working professionals live with in India—the burden of EMIs. In his post, Sanjay Kathuria, CFA, explains how common financial milestones like buying a new car, upgrading a phone, or booking a vacation are now synonymous with debt. Not because people can't afford them, but because the default payment method is often an EMI. "You get the new car — EMI. You upgrade your phone — EMI. You book the vacation — EMI. You buy the house — 25-year EMI," he wrote, adding that this pattern is widely mistaken for success. "On the outside, you look like you've made it. On the inside, you're stressed every 1st of the month."

THE EMI TRAP

He calls it "the EMI trap," a cycle where rising income is immediately consumed by rising expenses, leaving little room for savings, risk-taking, or even personal freedom. "You're working to maintain, not grow. You can't take risks, pivot careers, or say no," Kathuria said. At the heart of his message is a call for financial self-awareness. He warns that locking future income into EMIs limits not just flexibility, but peace of mind. "The bank owns more of your future than you do," he writes. According to Kathuria, the issue is cultural as much as financial. While people are quick to sign up for instalments, few think about the cost of lost agility—from delayed freedom to reduced ability to handle emergencies or life pivots.

Indian markets open sharply lower amid US-Iran tensions

CHENNAI. Indian markets opened deep in the red on fresh geopolitical nerves and a crude-driven cost-push inflation outlook. With elevated risk aversion and economic uncertainty, investors are steering into safe assets, while traditional support levels are being tested. Sensex slumped 645 points to 81,762.8 or 0.78% in early trade (9:20 AM IST). Nifty 50 dropped 189 points to 24,923.3 or 0.75%.

The investor sentiment was weighed down by the US airstrike on three Iranian nuclear sites over the weekend (Operation Midnight Hammer), heightening Middle East tensions. Asia ex-Japan markets fell over 1% and crude oil hit five-month highs, intensifying concerns over inflation and global growth. All 13 major Nifty sectors were in the red, while mid-cap and small-cap indices also declined ~0.6% each. Investors rotated into safe havens—gold, USD, US Treasuries—while oil surged, stoking fears of rising inflation and damped Fed rate-cut timelines. GIFTY Nifty futures pointed to a 150-point gap-down in the opening.

Weekly inflows Markets had rebounded about 1.6% last week—may be offset by fresh geopolitical jitters and cautious stance from foreign institutional investors. A sudden sell-off in Accenture also impacted global IT sector sentiment, spilling over to Indian IT names. Analysts believe that the immediate resistance for Sensex is likely around 82,000, while support hovers near the 81,500–81,700 zone. Nifty support sits near 24,900; resistance around 25,000–25,100. Crude prices (trading at approximately 5-month highs), the Rupee, FII flow, and further developments from Iran in the coming hours, will set the direction for remaining trade. Investors keep a close eye on oil volatility, FII flow status, and any response from Iran for the next directional cues.

Bitcoin could hit \$1 million per coin by 2030: 'Rich Dad Poor Dad' author



New Delhi. Robert Kiyosaki, author of the best-selling personal finance book 'Rich Dad Poor Dad', has backed Bitcoin to exponentially rise in the future. Making a bold prediction, Kiyosaki projected Bitcoin could hit \$1 million per coin by 2030. Shared his long-standing investment philosophy, the author advised investors to focus on asset accumulation over short-term price movements. 'PRICE vs QUANTITY'

Poor people focus on price. I do not care much about the spot price of gold or silver. I do care about how many ounces of gold and silver I control. The same with Bitcoin. While I watch the price of Bitcoin I focus on how many Bitcoin I own. I started buying Bitcoin at \$6000 an ounce. I bought all I could. I wish I had more fake money to buy more Bitcoin. In 2030 the probability is Bitcoin will be \$1 million a coin. While price is important... the rich will still be those with the most Bitcoin. How many ounces of gold and silver and Bitcoin do you own? The quantity you own is more important for your future than the prices. Fake money is fucked. Take care." Robert Kiyosaki wrote in a recent post on X. Kiyosaki regretted not being able to purchase Bitcoin in large quantities when he first invested in the particular crypto currency. The famous author bought Bitcoin when it was priced at \$6,000. At that time, he bought as much Bitcoin as he could. Robert Kiyosaki In his post advocated for investments in solid assets like Bitcoin, gold and silver. He said if an individual invests with a long time approach, then there is no need to worry about the prices going up and down on a daily basis.

Will Iran close Hormuz Strait? What it means for oil prices in India and world

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea. It is one of the most important oil transport routes in the world. Nearly 20% of all global crude oil passes through this strait.

New Delhi. Oil prices jumped to a five-month high after Iran's Parliament approved a proposal to close the Strait of Hormuz. The final decision, however, rests with the country's Supreme National Security Council. The proposal comes shortly after the United States carried out major airstrikes on Iran's key nuclear

facilities over the weekend, raising tensions in the region and leading to fears of a possible disruption to global oil supplies. The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf with the Arabian Sea. It is one of the most important oil transport routes in the world. Nearly 20% of all global crude oil passes through this strait. Any disruption to this route could cause a sharp rise in oil prices and affect countries across the world, especially those that depend heavily on oil imports like India.

Two supertankers, Coswidom Lake and South Loyalty, made sudden U-turns while passing through the strait after the recent US strikes, reported Bloomberg. Though such movement could be part of normal shipping behaviour, it underlines growing concerns in the shipping industry about the safety of vessels in the area. There is currently no sea route alternative to the Strait of Hormuz. Countries like Saudi

Arabia and the UAE do have oil pipelines that bypass the strait, but their combined capacity of around 6.8 million barrels per day is far less than the 20 million barrels



that move through Hormuz daily.

HOW COULD IT AFFECT OIL PRICES?

If Iran does go ahead and block the Strait of Hormuz, oil prices could spike globally. Brent crude, which already rose on Monday, could see much sharper gains. According to a report by Goldman Sachs, if the flow of oil through the Strait is reduced by half for a month and remains

down by 10% for another 11 months, Brent could briefly peak at around \$110 per barrel. In a more moderate scenario, where Iranian oil supply drops by 1.75 million barrels per day, Brent could reach a high of \$90 per barrel, then ease to around \$60–70 by 2026 as supply stabilizes. The bank also said, "While the events in the Middle East remain fluid, we think that the economic incentives, including for the US and China, to try to prevent a sustained and very large disruption of the Strait of Hormuz would be strong."

IMPACT ON INDIA

For India, a country that imports over 80% of its crude oil needs, any rise in oil prices is a matter of concern. Higher oil prices mean higher fuel costs, which can lead to inflation. It also puts pressure on the government's budget, as subsidies rise and the import bill becomes more expensive.

Asian shares slip after US strike on Iran nuclear sites, oil price surge

NEW YORK. The price of oil rose and US stock futures fell as global markets react to the US strike against nuclear targets in Iran. The price of Brent crude oil, the international standard, rose 2.6% to \$79 a barrel. U.S. crude rose 2.6% to \$75.76 a barrel. On Saturday, US forces attacked three Iranian nuclear and military sites, further increasing the stakes in the war between Israel and Iran. Futures for the S&P 500 and the Dow Jones Industrial Average slipped 0.4%, while Nasdaq futures fell 0.5%. Treasury yields were little changed. The modest moves indicate markets are taking the latest development in stride. That was evident in early Asian trading. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index fell 0.6%. Other major regional markets also logged moderate declines.

The conflict, which began with an Israeli attack against Iran on June 13, has sent oil prices yo-yoing, which has in turn caused see-saw moves for the U.S. stock market, because of rising and ebbing fears that the war could disrupt the global flow of crude. Iran is a major producer of oil and also sits on the narrow Strait of Hormuz, through which much of the world's crude passes. The situation remains highly fluid, and much hinges on whether Tehran opts for a restrained reaction or a more aggressive course of action. Kristian Kerr, head of macro strategy at LPL Financial in Charlotte, North Carolina, said in a commentary. An Iran retaliation that included closing off the waterway would be technically difficult to pull off but traders are afraid Iran could severely disrupt transit through it, sending insurance rates spiking and making shippers nervous to move without U.S. Navy escorts. Some analysts think Iran is unlikely to close down the waterway because the country uses it to transport its own crude, mostly to China, and oil is a major revenue source for the regime. "It's a scorched earth possibility, a Sherman-burning-Atlanta move," said Tom Kloza, chief market analyst at Turner Mason & Co. "It's not probable." Kloza thinks oil futures will ease back down after initial fears blow over. Ed Yardeni, a long-time analyst, agreed, writing in a report that Tehran leaders would likely hold back. "They aren't crazy," he wrote in a note to investors Sunday. "The price of oil should fall and stock markets around the world should climb higher."

Other experts aren't so sure.

Andy Lipow, a Houston analyst covering oil markets for 45 years, said countries are not always rational actors and that he wouldn't be surprised if Tehran lashed out for political or emotional reasons.

Upgrading or buying a new car used to be a moment of joy for many middle-class families, but today, it's overshadowed by the heavy financial pressure it brings.

New Delhi. Buying a car in India has become a costly affair. It's not just about the price tag you see at the showroom, the taxes will leave you stunned. A LinkedIn post by chartered accountant, Arvind C Thomas, is going viral for revealing how much of a car's price actually goes and the numbers are hard to ignore.

In his post, Thomas broke down the bill of a Hyundai Creta top model car worth Rs 12.91 lakh and found that nearly Rs 6 lakh of it was just taxes. That's almost half the total cost. His post has struck a chord with many middle-class buyers who feel the pinch of hidden costs that make car ownership harder than ever. He wrote, "I recently came across an invoice for a Hyundai Creta (top variant) and this is what caught my eye:

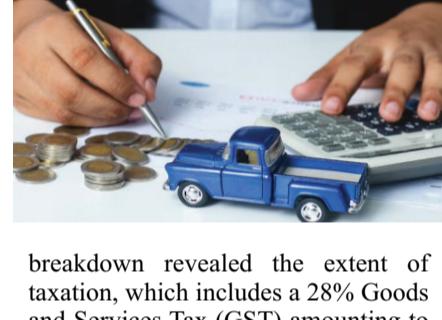
Actual cost of the car: Rs 12.91 lakhs, discount: Rs 11,000 and taxable amount: Rs 12.80 lakhs." Thomas's

include road tax, registration charges, insurance, or future fuel costs, he added.

NEW CAR, HEFTY TAXES: WHO REALLY BENEFITS?

Thomas in his post, raised a question, "Are we buying a car or just helping the government fill its coffers?" He pointed out that such high taxes turn a basic need like a car into a luxury item. For many middle-class families, upgrading or buying a new car now feels like a huge financial burden.

"With taxes this high, upgrading a vehicle feels more like a luxury than a necessity," he wrote. "The middle class keeps paying silently, and no one bats an eye. Maybe it's time we start talking about this," he concluded.



Would you hail a 'robotaxi'? Musk bets cabs will give Tesla a lift after boycotts and sales plunge

NEW YORK. Elon Musk promised in 2019 that driverless Tesla "robotaxis" would be on the road "next year," but it didn't happen. A year later, he promised to deliver them the next year, but that didn't happen either. Despite the empty pledges the promises kept coming. Last year in January, Musk said, "Next year for sure, we'll have over a million robotaxis."

Would you settle for 10 or 12?

Musk appears to be on the verge of making his robotaxi vision a reality with a test run of a small squad of self-driving cabs in Austin, Texas, that began Sunday. Reaching a million may take a year or more, however, although the billionaire should be able to expand the service this year if the Austin demo is a success. The stakes couldn't be higher, nor the challenges. While Musk was making those "next year" promises, rival Waymo was busy

deploying driverless taxis in Los Angeles, San Diego, Austin and other cities by using a different technology that allowed it to get to market faster. It just completed its 10 million paid ride. Boycotts related to Musk's politics have tanked Tesla's sales. Rival electric vehicle makers with newly competitive models have stolen market share. And investors are on edge after a \$150 billion stock wipeout when Musk picked a social media fight with a U.S. president overseeing federal car regulators who could make the robotaxi rollout much more difficult. The stock has recovered somewhat after Musk said he regretted some of his remarks. Tesla shareholders have stood by Musk over the years because he's defied the odds by building a successful standalone electric vehicle company—self-driving car promises aside—and making them a lot of

money in the process. A decade ago, Tesla shares traded for around \$18. The shares closed Friday at \$322.

Musk seemed jubilant Sunday morning, posting on X, "The @Tesla_AI robotaxi launch begins in Austin this afternoon with customers paying a \$4.20 flat fee!" The test is beginning modestly enough. Tesla is remotely monitoring the vehicles and putting a person in the passenger seat in case of trouble. The number of Teslas deployed will also be small—just 10 or 12 vehicles—and will only pick up passengers in a limited, geofenced area. Musk has vowed that the service will quickly spread to other cities, eventually reaching hundreds of thousands if not a million vehicles next year. Some Musk watchers on Wall Street are skeptical. "How quickly can he expand the fleet?" asks Garrett Nelson, an analyst at CFRA.

Explained: Why many low-income Indian households still rely on moneylenders

Despite rising financial access, millions of Indian households still rely on informal loans. Gaps in formal credit, especially for low-income and self-employed borrowers, keep moneylenders relevant and often unavoidable.

New Delhi. India's financial inclusion story has moved forward in many ways over the past decade. More people have bank accounts, digital payments are part of daily life, and fintech has made financial services easier to access. But for many low- and middle-income households, especially those earning under Rs 5 lakh a year, borrowing money remains a challenge. When cash runs short, they still turn to the local moneylender, the nearby shopkeeper, or friends and family. Formal banking may have reached their neighbourhoods, but formal credit hasn't. A new report from Piramal Enterprises,

based on CMIE's Consumer Pyramid Household Survey, brings this gap into focus. The report, authored by Debopam Chaudhuri, Chief Economist, Piramal Enterprises, shows that while access to the banking system has grown, access to credit remains uneven and out of reach for many.

Among low-income households, informal loans are still far more common than formal ones. In 2021, these households borrowed 2.6 times more from informal sources than from banks or NBFCs. For comparison, that ratio is 0.6 in Brazil and just 0.27 in the US. INFORMAL LOANS ON THE RISE Things look even more worrying for those at the bottom of the income ladder. Households earning under Rs 2 lakh a year saw formal borrowing fall by over 4% a year between FY19 and FY23. Informal borrowing in the same group grew by almost 6% each year. Even in the Rs 2–10 lakh range, more households are turning to both formal and informal credit. In other words, banks aren't replacing moneylenders; they're just another option, often not the first.

What explains this persistent pull of the informal credit system? One big reason is that many borrowers simply don't fit into the banking system's boxes. They don't



have stable jobs, payslips, or a strong credit history.

When the pandemic hit, reverse migration increased the number of people in agricultural and informal work—jobs that banks view as risky. These workers needed credit, but banks stepped back. Informal lenders moved in, as they always have. The problem is that borrowing informally often comes with steep costs. Interest rates are high, there are no clear rules, and if things go wrong, there's little

protection. It can trap families in cycles of debt that are hard to escape. Geography also plays a role. Southern states like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have higher levels of formal borrowing, partly due to the popularity of gold loans and wider fintech use. But in states like Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal, more than half of all households still depend on informal sources. Even Punjab, which traditionally had a more stable credit profile, is now seeing a shift towards informal loans. Occupation matters too. Daily-wage workers are among the most excluded. Over 55% of households in this group rely on informal loans, as banks tend to see them as too risky. The same is true for many self-employed people, especially those running small businesses. Banks often hesitate to lend to them. As a result, more of these households depend on non-institutional credit. On the other hand, salaried professionals and industrial workers have seen better access to formal loans, especially with the rise of digital lending platforms..

Chitrangda Singh

Regrets Saying No To *Tanu Weds Manu*, *Gangster*: 'I Made Those Mistakes'

Chitrangda Singh, who was recently seen in *Housefull 5*, sat down for a candid conversation with SCREEN where she looked back at her 20-year journey in Bollywood. The actress opened up about her unconventional path in the industry, her nine-year-long sabbatical, missed career-defining roles, and how personal challenges shaped her trajectory. Reflecting on her debut film *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* and how the years have flown by, Chitrangda shared, "It's been a very quick 20 years. When I look back, I feel like I have gotten far more than I expected. I don't think I was a very ambitious person. I didn't think I was going to go places. I was quite happy that I would get married and just have a good time; I never had a vision for myself. I feel that everything has been more than I expected. In 20 years, there have been 9 years of breaks in between. 11 years of working and people have not forgotten me, so I feel grateful."

Asked whether a film like *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* could be made today, she expressed hope for more meaningful cinema: "I wish films like *Hazaaron Khwaishein Aisi* get made because cinema should not just be for entertainment alone. There are films to entertain, and then there should be films about certain matters which need to go on record as cinema history. I wish we did more films like that."

On her long sabbatical, Chitrangda explained the reasons that kept her away from the screen: "The first seven years of break were because of my personal life, my commitment to that, and I had a son. I came back, and then I took another two-year break because I was going through a rough patch in my personal life again. In between that also I did not have the kind of work that I was looking for coming my way, so I decided to not be around because I was also going through my emotional ups and downs and I didn't want to do stuff that I won't be happy doing. So there was a rollercoaster of life going on. So yes, I did not do as much work as I probably would have wanted to do."

The actress also opened up about the major films she missed out on during that time and how those decisions still linger. "I have made those mistakes. I said no to Anurag Basu's *Gangster*. I refused *Tanu Weds Manu*. In *Mangal Pandey*, I said no to the role that Ameesha Patel played. There was one more that I am forgetting, and then there was *Chalte Chalte* that starred Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji, which I wasn't around for at all. They had run into some trouble and wanted to desperately cast someone. SRK had told me this. Saeed Mirza had loved my work, and they were looking for me. Juhi Chawla's brother Bobby was looking for my number. I had worked with SRK on an ad film when he had told me all this."

Despite the detours, Chitrangda's presence and impact have endured. She continues to believe in the power of authentic storytelling and meaningful roles. On the work front, she confirmed that another commercial film is underway and that she will be announcing a new project this September.



Siddhant Chaturvedi Gets 'Natural Botox' As His Mom Gives Him Champi, Facial Massage



Bollywood actor Siddhant Chaturvedi is quite active on social media and often shares pictures and videos, giving fans a sneak-peek into his day-to-day life. He recently posted a video that showed his mother giving him a 'champi' and lovingly massaging his head and face with an oil made from several natural, homemade ingredients. The 'Gehraiyaan' actor and his mother spoke in Bhojpuri throughout the video, and fans found it extremely endearing!

On Sunday, Siddhant Chaturvedi took to his Instagram account to share a video that showed his mom giving him a champi, and a facial massage. When Siddhant asks his mom what the oil is made of, she replies it has coconut, clove, curry leaves, aloe vera, kali mirch, ginger, flaxseed, fenugreek seeds, among other ingredients. He then jokingly asks her, "Pura kiraane ka dukaan daal di ho kya iske andar, mummy? (Did you put an entire grocery store into this, Mom?)" She then goes on to massage his forehead and eyebrows, and Siddhant playfully calls it, "Natural Botox." Sharing the video, he wrote, "#NaturalBotox #SundayDoneRight." Check out the video below!

The video left fans entertained, and fans were mighty impressed with his Bhojpuri! "Loved it when people don't hesitate to be grounded and belongings from their roots," wrote one fan, while another one commented, "Bhai tum Kitna mast bhojpuri bolte ho." A third fan wrote, "that bhojpuri conversation is hitting home," while another one wrote, "Ballia home town wala feel aawat hoi @siddhantchaturvedi." For the unversed, Siddhant Chaturvedi was born in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, and moved to Mumbai when he was five years old.

Meanwhile, Ayushmann Khurrana also commented on Siddhant's post, and dropped a red heart emoji. Actress Isha Talwar commented, "Mummy ne koi masala nahin chhodha hai. mothers are the best :)" while Dhanashree Verma wrote, "Best."

Alia Bhatt Once Revealed She Wants to Play Geet In *Jab We Met 2*, Kareena's Reaction Is Unmissable



Alia Bhatt once confessed that she would love to play the role of Bollywood's most iconic character, Geet, from *Jab We Met*. The actress had expressed her desire to reprise the role in its sequel. But it was Kareena Kapoor Khan's, who originally played the role, reaction went viral.

In 2023, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Alia Bhatt graced an episode of Karan Johar's chat show *Koffee with Karan* Season 8. During one segment, Karan asked Kareena, "Sara, Janhvi, Ananya or Shanaya: who would you pick to reprise the role of Geet in *Jab We Met 2*?" Before Kareena could answer, Alia asked KJo, "Why am I not in this list?" Alia went on to say, "Okay fine. I'd love to." Meanwhile, Kareena answered Karan's question and said, "I don't think Geet can be done again." Even fans also reacted saying that the role is only for Kareena.

On the work front, Alia Bhatt and Sharvari are currently deep into rehearsals for *Alpha*, the first female-led film in YRF's blockbuster *Spy Universe*. The movie promises to blend slick action with glamour—and now, a visually grand dance number is also in the works.

On Friday, the duo was spotted exiting a dance studio in Mumbai. Dressed in comfy athleisure wear—Alia in black pants and a side-knotted crop top, and Sharvari sporting a similar look—the actresses appeared in high spirits. Alia waved to paparazzi as she quickly stepped into her car, while Sharvari stopped to smile and pose.

Alia is directed by Shiv Rawail, who previously helmed the globally successful streaming series *The Railway Men*, also backed by YRF. The film stars Anil Kapoor and Bobby Deol in pivotal roles. Interestingly, *War 2* star Hrithik Roshan is expected to make a cameo appearance in the film, further linking it to the larger spyverse.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Kareena Kapoor Khan will next be seen in Meghna Gulzar's upcoming film *Daayra*, opposite Prithviraj Sukumaran. This crime-drama thriller explores the age-old paradox of crime, punishment, and justice with the powerhouse actors in intense, commanding roles. Bebo announced the film last month on Instagram, and wrote, "I've always said that I'm a director's actor... and this time I cannot wait to work with one of the finest director's we have, @meghnagulzar & alongside the magnificent @therealprithvi, whose work I deeply admire. To my dream team, #Daayra let's do this."

12th Fail Actor Medha Shankr's 'Impromptu Singing' Impresses Fans: 'Indian Idol...'

Actor Medha Shankr became a household name by starring opposite Vikrant Massey in the critically-acclaimed *12th Fail* (2023). Not many know, but she is a trained singer too. On Saturday, the actor took to Instagram and posted a video flaunting her singing skills. And she surely left her fans impressed. Medha Shankr's video from her "impromptu singing" session was too good. Safe to say, that alongside acting, she can also pursue a career in singing. Sitting on a table with the scenic view of mountains on the backdrop, the actor sang beautifully. It is likely that the video was clicked in Mussoorie, where she is currently shooting for *Ginny Weds Sunny 2* with Avinash Tiwary. Posting the same, she wrote, "Impromptu singing cause the weather called for it and this song is all over the Internet. Posting a song after ages. Hope you like it." Take a look: Her elated fans showered their love on the video and also advised the actor to consider *Indian Idol*. "Indian Idol producer ka call jald aayega Awesome", wrote a fan. Another posted, "Very beautiful song and you are even better than that." An verbal altercation took place between another set of social media users who claimed she didn't sing the track. However, the majority of comments praised her.

Medha, who hails from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, is reportedly trained in Hindustani classical. She also did her master's degree in Fashion Management from the National Institute of Fashion Technology, Delhi. She made her debut in the entertainment industry with

Netflix series *Beecham House*, which premiered in 2019. Directed by Gurinder Chadha, she shared the screen with Tom Bateman, Lesley Nicol, Leo Suter, and others. The historical drama was produced by Bend it TV.

Medha's official film debut was in *Shaadisthan*, a drama musical released in 2021, directed by Raj Singh Chaudhary and starring Kirti Kulhari, Medha Shankr, Nivedita Bhattacharya, Nina Borah, and others. The



film was produced by Anant Roongta and Sanjay Shekhar Shetty under the banners of Famous Studios and Opticus INC, exploring the theme of women's empowerment. However, her breakthrough role came with the release of *12th Fail*, directed by Vidhu Vinod Chopra. Next, she will be seen in *Maalik* starring Rajkummar Rao and *Ginny Weds Sunny 2*.

NEWS BOX

Gündogan has two goals, Haaland scores as Man City routs Al Ain 6-0 at the Club World Cup

ATLANTA. Ilkay Gündogan had a pair of goals, Erling Haaland scored on a penalty and Manchester City locked up its spot in the knockout round of the Club World Cup with a 6-0 rout of Al Ain on Sunday night.

Claudio Echeverri, Oscar Bobo and Rayan Cherki also scored for City, which is trying to put an encouraging capper on a disappointing season.

The English powerhouse finished third in the Premier League after four straight championships and went down to Real Madrid in the knockout playoff of the UEFA Champions League. With an entirely new lineup after a 2-0 win over Morocco's Wydad in the group opener, Man City produced a dominating performance in Atlanta against an overmatched club from the United Arab Emirates. The time of possession was a staggering 74% in favor of the English side, which outshot Al Ain 21-



5. Haaland buried the penalty for his 32nd goal of the season across all competitions after a video review found that Rami Rabia took down City's Manuel Akanji in the area on a corner kick. Cherki, one of City's high-profile signings, scored his first goal for his new club in the waning minutes. The expected result sent Man City and Italian club Juventus (both 2-0) to the Round of 16 from Group G. Al Ain has been blown out twice, losing 5-0 to Juventus in its opener. Manchester City is the reigning club champion, winning the title in 2023 under the former seven-team format.

After Gündogan flicked in an early goal over the head of keeper Khalid Eisa, Echeverri assured this would be an easy night for City in the 27th minute. With a free kick from just outside the area, he curled a shot over the wall that left Eisa frozen on one knee while the ball ripped the back of the Man City wall. Juventus on Thursday in Orlando to determine which team claims the top spot in the group.

Prithvi Shaw wants to leave Mumbai Cricket, seeks NOC from MCA to switch teams

Prithvi Shaw has written to the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) seeking a No Objection Certificate (NOC) to switch to another state team ahead of the upcoming domestic season. A source confirmed the development, saying the matter would be discussed before taking a final call. "Yes, he has written to us for an NOC. We will discuss and decide," the MCA source told India Today. Prithvi Shaw's request comes after a turbulent run with Mumbai cricket over the past two seasons. Once hailed as one of the brightest young talents in Indian cricket, Shaw was dropped from Mumbai's Ranji Trophy squad last year, with selectors citing fitness concerns. Although he returned to play the Syed



Mushtaq Ali Trophy under Shreyas Iyer's captaincy, helping Mumbai win the title, he was left out of the Vijay Hazare Trophy squad that followed. Following his omission, Shaw took to social media, posting a message that reflected both disappointment and confusion over the selectors' decision.

"Tell me God, what more do I have to see.. if 65 innings, 3399 runs at an average of 55.7 with a strike rate of 126, I'm not good enough but I will keep my faith in you and hopefully people believe in me still cause I will come back for sure.. Om Sai Ram," he wrote. Last year, the MCA had reacted strongly to Shaw's outburst. A senior official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Shaw had repeatedly violated team protocols and failed to meet basic fitness standards. "His fitness, discipline, and attitude are lacking, and we cannot have different rules for different players," the official said. "The ball would pass near him, and he would barely make an effort to reach it. Even while batting, he struggled to reach the ball." It was also reported that Shaw missed training sessions and frequently returned to the team hotel late, leading to frustration within the squad. Some senior players were understood to have voiced their concerns to the team management.

Mexico wins CONCACAF Gold Cup group after 0-0 draw against Costa Rica

Mexico's Santiago Giménez appeared to score on a bicycle kick in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time but the goal was disallowed following a video review.

LAS VEGAS. Mexico tied Costa Rica 0-0 on Sunday night to win Group A of the CONCACAF Gold Cup and will play Saudi Arabia in the quarterfinals. Mexico's Santiago Giménez appeared to score on a bicycle kick in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time but the goal was disallowed by Guatemalan referee Mario Escobar following a video review.

Giménez appeared to be offside when Luis Chávez lofted the ball into the penalty area after exchanging taps with Carlos Rodríguez on a free kick. Orlando Galo's headed



clearance attempt went in front of the goal to Giménez, who overhead kick beat goalkeeper Keylor Navas, plus-three to plus-two. Mexico, unbeaten in 10 Gold Cup matches against Costa Rica, finished even with the Ticos at seven points but won the group on goal difference. "We're growing, although not at the speed I'd like," Mexico

coach Javier Aguirre said. "It was a good game for us that didn't end with a victory. We're happy with the performance. I have noting to reproach my players for." El Tri, which defeated the Dominican Republic and Suriname in their first two matches, will play Saudi Arabia on Saturday at Glendale, Arizona, while the Costa Ricans

'I missed a lot of hundreds, I should have scored more': Sourav Ganguly's biggest regret

A look at his statistics showed that Ganguly got out in the 80s and 90s a number of times. Exact 30 times.

KOLKATA. He is the owner of 38 fantastic centuries in international cricket, but that number is not pleasing to former India skipper Sourav Ganguly, who regrets missing many hundreds during his cricketing journey.

The elegant left-hander of his times, Ganguly scored 18575 runs in Test and ODIs but regrets missing many centuries in his career in which he competed in 311 ODIs and 113 Tests. Ganguly's remorse came to fore when he was asked what advise he would give to



his old self. "I missed a lot of hundreds, I should have scored more. Too many 90s and 80s," Ganguly told PTI in an interaction. A look at his statistics showed that Ganguly got out in the 80s and 90s a number of times. Exact 30 times. If he could convert those innings into centuries he would have easily scored 50-plus centuries in his already glorious career. He loves watching his old innings, his strokeplay whenever he is alone

and it further reminds him how close he was to getting more hundreds.

"I see my (batting) videos when I am alone. When my wife is away because Sara lives in London. I go to YouTube, and watch and say 'arre fir 70 pe out ho gaya' (Gosh, I got out for 70 in this also), should have scored a hundred. But you can't change it."

In ODIs, Ganguly had 72 half centuries and in Test the number stands at 35. As a skipper sometimes a tough call becomes imperative. You have to drop a player to accommodate someone who you think is more suited for conditions or requirement. Ganguly regretted dropping Anil Kumble, one of the greatest leg spinners in the world. "Anil Kumble, a few times, because he was so good," he said. For Ganguly, Australia was his favourite rival side and pacer Glenn McGrath the most feared bowler.

Carlos Alcaraz beats Lehecka in Queen's Club final ahead of Wimbledon defense

LONDON. Carlos Alcaraz showed he will be the man to beat at Wimbledon again after defeating Jiri Lehecka in the final at Queen's Club on Sunday. The top-seeded Spaniard replicated his debut triumph on the grass courts of west London in 2023 with a 7-5, 6-7 (5), 6-2 victory. It was an 18th-straight match win for Alcaraz — in his fifth consecutive final — following his title successes in Rome and at the French Open.

Lehecka had knocked out home hope Jack Draper on Saturday to become the first Czech finalist since Ivan Lendl won the title in 1990. The 23-year-old Lehecka played his part in a high-quality final with some huge serves and powerful ground strokes, forcing the match to a decider via a tiebreaker.

But Alcaraz, the defending Wimbledon



champion, did not face a single break point and slammed down 18 aces on his way to a 21st career title, and second at Queen's. Alcaraz lifted the trophy just two weeks after his epic five-set victory over Jannik Sinner at Roland-Garros. The 22-year-old made the tight turnaround from clay to grass look simple, even though he took time out for a holiday in Ibiza before heading to London.

Alcaraz lifted the trophy just two weeks after his epic five-set victory over Jannik Sinner at Roland-Garros.

"It's really complicated, the switch from clay to grass in just few days, because that's the time I had before the tournament began," Alcaraz said. "Just two days of practicing and then I had to compete here. So I came here with no expectations at all." "I just came here with a goal to play two, three matches, try to feel great on grass moving, and, you know, give myself the feedback of what I have to improve, what I have to do better." So what I'm more proud about this week is the way that I have been improving every day. You know, since the first day until today, I think I'm a different player on grass. I just got used to it really quick."

conference on Sunday. "I've just been trying to make sure my game's in as good a place as possible and when I get in, try to make sure I make the most of it. I've tried to let the outside noise do its thing and make sure my game keeps improving, and that I get my headspace in as good a place as possible too. Pope has tried to bring about a change in his mindset wherein he doesn't feel too hard pressed to reach his first 30 runs and then feel set."

"It's almost just trying my game a little bit more: not feeling like I've got to rush to 30 to then really feel in. It's trying to enjoy the process of building an innings, rather than just, 'I want to get to 30 to then make a big one'..."

"It's something I've been working hard on, just generally putting my game in a better place and making sure my defence is as good as it can be." However, the graceful right-hander agreed that there is still a long way to go in the marathon five-Test series. "It's a long series, and there's a lot to be done in this game still as well," he added. "It's definitely (an innings) that I really enjoyed. It was disappointing not to kick on this morning, but I'm really happy with how I went about it and played, and I'm happy with where my game's at - so hopefully, I can kick on."

The harder the competition, the more fun it is: Promising shooter Suruchi

Teenager from Haryana, who has claimed three consecutive World Cup individual gold medals this season, is not daunted by big names in the sport; The 19-year-old is currently preparing for national selection trials that is scheduled to be held in Dehradun on June 29

CHENNAI. It would be an understatement to say that pistol shooter Suruchi Singh has had a swell time so far this season. Even after factoring the Indian shooters' considerable impression at the elite level in recent years, Suruchi's, who turned 19 not so long ago, exploits in the last three World Cups is quite a

gold medals in a competition of that magnitude is something that's unheard of as far as India is concerned. Moreover, what makes her tale interesting is the fact she was shooting at this level (senior World Cups) for the first time. Currently at her hometown at Sasrol village in Jhajjar district, Haryana, Suruchi, after a small break, has started training her guns for her next assignment — the national selection trials (T3) that's scheduled to be held in Dehradun on June 29. The shooter, who specialises in 10m air pistol category, knows that her World Cup exploits are just the beginning and she still has plenty of room for improvements.

"It was a good experience (World Cups) and I got to learn quite a lot during my matches, the finals. There are certain things that I have noted down, the mistakes that I made then. I have to work on those things now. It's mainly related to my technique," Suruchi, who also won two mixed team medals apart from triple individual gold, told this The New Indian Express. Wang Zifei of China might

be the only shooter who could likely claim to have a better season. Just like Suruchi, the 18-year-old, who competes in women's 10m air rifle, has three individual gold medals (including a World Record score) and three more (1 gold, 1 silver, 1 bronze) in team competitions. The fact that Suruchi was up against some giants of the sport, some who have countless years experience, is what makes her golden run even more rewarding. Jiang Ranxin (2020 Olympic gold medallist and multiple record holder from China), Oh Ye-jin (reigning Olympic champ from South

Korea), Camille Jedrzejewski (Paris Games silver medallist from France), veteran Olena Dmytrivna Kostevych (former Olympic champion) and senior compatriot Manu Bhaker of course, were some of the big names that Suruchi was facing then.

The BA first-year student said that she relishes such competitions. "Competition is fun, it's good to be part of matches that involve big names. The harder the competition, the more fun it is," she said. "I generally don't think about anything before the matches. I don't think about how big a competition will be entering the match because everyone is a strong shooter in their own rights. That is the reason I don't feel pressure from anyone." Suruchi is currently looking to sharpen her skills at the Guru Dronacharya Shooting Academy under the guidance of her coach Suresh Singh. It's a process of one step at a time for the promising shooter. "I don't want to look too far ahead but I would like to take one match at a time, that would be my next goal."