

Demarcation, Delimitation At Borders: India Shares 4-Point Plan With China

The bilateral conversation centred around maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and charting a roadmap for long-term border stability.

The Sikh Times New Delhi.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday met his Chinese counterpart, Admiral Dong Jun, on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' Meeting in Qingdao. The bilateral conversation, India's highest-level military dialogue with China in recent months, centred around maintaining peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) and charting a roadmap for long-term border stability.

A Four-Point Roadmap

During the meeting, Mr Singh proposed a four-point plan designed to prevent further deterioration in India-China relations:

1. Strict Adherence to the 2024 Disengagement Agreement: Both sides are expected to honour and implement the disengagement pact signed in October last year, covering the remaining friction points in Eastern Ladakh, particularly Demchok and Depsang.
2. De-escalation Measures: Mr Singh called for continuous efforts to de-escalate tensions and avoid any flare-ups along the LAC.
3. Demarcation and Delimitation: Mr Singh urged for fast-



tracked negotiations towards finalising the boundary delineation process. Mr Singh stressed on border management and to have a permanent solution of border

demarcation by rejuvenating the established mechanism on the issue," a government statement read.

4. Addressing Trust Deficit: The Defence Minister stressed the need to create good neighbourly conditions to achieve the "best mutual benefits" as well as to cooperate for stability in Asia and the world. He also called for bridging the "trust deficit" created after the 2020 border standoff.

This dialogue marks the first high-level military engagement since India and China concluded the disengagement process at Demchok and Depsang Plains in October 2024. That agreement was the outcome of intense negotiations, culminating in the October 23 Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping meeting in Kazan on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit.

The meeting coincided with the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra after a nearly six-year suspension. Originally halted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and later extended due to the border standoff, the pilgrimage to the Tibet Autonomous Region was viewed by both sides as a symbolic gesture towards normalisation.

Man Injured As Elephant Runs Wildly At Ahmedabad's Rath Yatra



Agency Ahmedabad .

One person was injured on Friday during the Rath Yatra procession in Ahmedabad, when a male elephant, agitated by excessive noise, broke a barricade and rushed into a narrow lane, officials said.

The mahouts on two other elephants followed the jumbo and controlled it, ensuring that the procession proceeded smoothly on its designated route, said R.K. Sahu, superintendent of Kankaria Zoo in the city.

"One bystander was injured after an elephant got disturbed and entered a narrow lane in the Khadia area. The injured person has been shifted to a nearby hospital. The procession is going ahead as scheduled," said Deputy

Commissioner of Police (Control Room) Komal Vyas. The 148th Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath began in Ahmedabad on Friday morning, with thousands of devotees joining the annual event.

The grand procession, which rolled on from the 400-year-old Jagannath temple, is expected to return by 8 pm after making its way through the old city.

The procession usually has 17 elephants, 100 trucks, and 30 akhadas (local gyms). It covers 16 km during the day. Only one among these elephants is male, said Sahu, who is responsible for checking the health of these elephants and issuing fitness certificates ahead of the event. "When the procession

reached Khadia Gate, the male elephant suddenly got agitated due to loud music and whistle sounds.

It started running and veered off the designated path," said Sahu. The mahouts on two female elephants followed the male elephant and controlled it, he said. In a viral video, the elephant can be seen breaking a barricade and running into a crowd before entering a narrow lane.

"The elephant was quickly brought under control without the help of a tranquiliser. The male and the two female elephants were then tied at that same place. They will no longer take part in the procession, which went ahead after this brief disruption," said Sahu.

'Can He Spend One Night In Bihar Village': Prashant Kishor Dares Rahul Gandhi

The Sikh Times Patna.

As the political heat intensifies in Bihar ahead of the forthcoming Assembly polls, Jan Suraaj Party chief Prashant Kishor targeted Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, questioning his commitment to Bihar and accusing him of token gestures rather than genuine political engagement.

In an interview with ANI, Mr Kishor, who has been tirelessly walking through Bihar's hinterlands as part of his ambitious outreach, challenged Mr Gandhi to spend even one night in a Bihar village to prove his connection to the state's grassroots.



"Rahul ji keeps coming and going here, but doesn't really undertake any Yatra. If Rahul Gandhi has ever spent even one night in a village in Bihar, let us know. If he can spend just one night in a village, we'll accept it," he said. "Tum Delhi mein bethkar Bihariyu ke naam par haste ho aur yaha bethkar gyan dete ho (You sit in Delhi, laugh at Biharis then come here to lecture us)" Mr Kishor

said.

He also hit out at Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy for his remarks about Bihar people, demanding an apology and slamming Congress for what he described as years of neglect and disrespect toward the people of Bihar. "In Telangana, their Chief Minister is Revanth Reddy, it's been two years since he became CM. Before that, he was in the TDP (Telugu Desam Party), and before that,

he was in the RSS and the BJP. After becoming Chief Minister, he officially stated that doing labour is in the DNA of Biharis.

Biharis are born to do labour work. Why did he say this? Because most of his rival KCR's officers had a Bihar background. So he was implying that Telangana is in a bad state because Biharis are running it. And to justify that, he added another statement saying it's in Biharis' DNA to do labour, and that's why KCR appointed them as bureaucrats," Mr Kishor said.

Justice will be served: Trinamool as its student leader arrested for gang-rape

Agency Kolkata.

"We unequivocally condemn the tragic rape incident at South Calcutta Law College," the Trinamool Congress said in a post on its official X handle, while reacting to the gang-rape of a law college student.

Stating that the Kolkata Police "swiftly apprehended all three accused", the ruling party in West Bengal said, "...the full weight of the law will be brought to bear, ensuring the most severe measures are imposed on those found guilty." A 24-year-old student of South Calcutta Law College was gangraped by three persons – two of them current students, and the main accused an alumnus who is also said to be an active member of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP), the student wing of the Trinamool Congress.

The West Bengal ruling party, however, also stated that the "tragedy once again underscores the urgent need for the implementation of the Aparajita Anti-Rape Bill".

The Sikh Times New Delhi.

New Delhi, Date: 27th June 2025 Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh, Cabinet Minister for Public Works (PWD) and Water, Government of NCT of Delhi, undertook a comprehensive tour of the Chhatarpur Assembly constituency today. The visit focused on reviewing ground-level development works and engaging directly with

During the visit, the Minister reached out to residents across several key locations, including 100 Feet Road, CDR Chowk, Jonapur Village, Neb Sarai Chaupal, and Maidangarhi Village. He listened to public concerns and assured fast-tracked, accountable development.

Key Announcements and Progress

• Mandi Road are in the process of being handed over to NHAI (National Highways Authority of India). Once transferred, these roads will be widened and upgraded to national standards, providing long-term relief from congestion and poor road conditions.

• A major boost to the area's water supply is underway with the upcoming 80 MGD Water Treatment Plant (WTP) in Chhatarpur. Raw water will be brought from Himachal Pradesh, ensuring reliable and clean water access for thousands of residents.

• 85 tube wells have already been sanctioned for the region, and installation work has commenced.

• UGR (Underground Reservoir) connectivity projects are progressing swiftly to enhance water storage and distribution.

• On the sanitation front, Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh confirmed that tendering for sewerage works has been completed, and execution will begin shortly. [Continue news page 02](#)



the people of the region.

Reflecting on his deep personal connection with the area, the Minister said:

"Chhatarpur is not just a political constituency for me – it is a part of my life. My father also served as an MP from this region. I have grown up knowing its soil, its struggles, and its spirit. For me, public service here is not politics – it's family responsibility."

Health Minister conducts surprise inspection at Maharishi Valmiki Hospital in North-West Delhi

The Sikh Times New Delhi.

Delhi Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh yesterday conducted a surprise inspection of Maharishi Valmiki Hospital located in Pooth Khurd, Bawana, North-West Delhi. The visit focused on evaluating the quality of healthcare services and reviewing the progress of ongoing civil and infrastructure works. He was accompanied by Delhi's Minister for Social Welfare, Shri Ravinder Indraj Singh.

During the inspection, Dr. Singh thoroughly assessed the hospital's OPD block, emergency arrangements, the availability of doctors, nurses, medical equipment, cleanliness, and medicine stock. He also personally reviewed the facilities provided to patients.



While inspecting the hospital, the health minister interacted with patients, their

attendants, doctors, and other medical staff to understand their concerns directly. Taking a serious note of delays in civil work and staff shortages, the minister strongly reprimanded

the hospital administration and instructed officials to immediately improve services and ensure the timely completion of all pending work.

He also directed that all infrastructure-related deficiencies be rectified without delay and in coordination with concerned departments. "Maharishi Valmiki Hospital was established to serve the residents of Outer Delhi. People come here with hope, expecting timely and quality healthcare. Our government is committed to eliminating all infrastructure gaps swiftly and strengthening the health delivery system," Dr. Singh said.

Cabinet Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh emphasized that providing accessible and quality medical services to every citizen of Delhi is the government's top priority. He added that the government is working toward ensuring that there is no shortage of doctors

and paramedical staff in public hospitals, while also prioritizing cleanliness and safety. "In the coming days, citizens will visibly experience improvements in the services and infrastructure of all government hospitals in Delhi," he stated.

After speaking with patients receiving treatment at Maharishi Valmiki Hospital, Dr. Singh noted that the responsibility of the Health Department extends beyond patients to include the welfare of doctors and medical staff. "The conduct of doctors and hospital employees toward patients must always be professional and respectful. Every patient deserves dignity and proper care within a safe and supportive hospital environment. I am personally conducting surprise inspections to ensure every patient receives the best possible treatment and facilities," he said. [Continue news page 02](#)

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Roads, Clean Water, and Sewerage Projects Accelerate under Parvesh Sahib Singh's Leadership

Speaking on the broader vision, Minister said: "Our commitment is clear — Delhi's villages will no longer be left behind. Under BJP's leadership, rural development is not a slogan, it's a mission. The same quality infrastructure and amenities that urban colonies receive must reach every village too."

He further added "Whether it is roads, clean water, or sewer systems — every essential service is being prioritized. And let me assure you — funds will never be a hurdle for the progress of Delhi's rural belt. We are building not just infrastructure, but trust."

The Minister was accompanied by officials from PWD, Delhi Jal Board, and other concerned departments. He instructed all departments to ensure that work is completed within deadlines, with full transparency and the highest quality standards.

Health Minister conducts surprise inspection at Maharishi Valmiki Hospital in North-West Delhi

He further said providing world-class healthcare is his priority, and addressing any challenges within the system is the government's foremost responsibility. "We are committed to working collectively to create a better and more responsive atmosphere for both patients and health workers," said the Health Minister.

Dr. Singh said under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the leadership of Delhi Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Government is fully committed to building a world-class healthcare system in the capital.

He said the Delhi Government is continuously strengthening emergency services, medicine supply chains, and other key arrangements across all public hospitals.

Dr. Singh also pointed out that due to the mismanagement of previous governments, many hospitals remain in poor condition. "The previous regime deliberately delayed tenders for critical infrastructure, leading to setbacks in projects like OT and other essential medical facilities. Since assuming office, our government has made technical infrastructure a priority to ensure the swift completion of civil works in hospitals," he said.

Four new gharials shifted to display gallery at Mumbai zoo

Mumbai. Four new gharials have been introduced into the viewing gallery at Mumbai's Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Vanaspati Udayan and Zoo following an animal exchange programme with the Bhagwan Birsa Biological Park in Ranchi. Aged between six to eight years, the four gharials were traded in exchange of eight cockatiel birds from the Byculla zoo.

According to officials, the four gharials—all aged between six and eight—were received from the Ranchi Zoo on May 10. They were transported through trucks, in a journey which spanned over 4.5 days. Upon their arrival, the reptiles were kept in quarantine at the Byculla zoo for a period of over a month. On June 17, the four new gharials were shifted to the display gallery for public viewing. With their arrival, the total tally of gharials at the Byculla zoo has risen to six.

Speaking to The Indian Express, Abhishek Satam, a biologist at the Byculla zoo said the four new animals were traded in exchange for eight cockatiel birds from Mumbai zoo—which encompassed four white cockatiels and four grey cockatiels. The underwater reptile-viewing gallery, which houses the gharials and crocodiles, is among the newest exhibit which was launched in 2023. Touted as Asia's first zoo to have a crocodile viewing gallery, the facility spans over 4,200 square metres and enables visitors to observe the underwater movement of reptiles through the glass.

GHMC to roll out breakfast at Rs 5 from next month

HYDERABAD. The GHMC will roll out a Rs 5 breakfast scheme across the city starting next month, modelled on the existing Rs 5 Annapurna Meals initiative. Initially, breakfast will be served at 128 existing Annapurna centres. The rotating menu will include idli, upma, pongal and puri, with one item served per day and no repetition the next day. In future,

additional items like dosa and uthappam will be added. Each breakfast plate costs Rs 19, of which GHMC will subsidise Rs 14. The remaining Rs 5 will be paid by the customer.

The state government plans to rebrand the Annapurna meal centres as 'Indira Canteens', similar to the initiative by the Karnataka government, after revamping them. The GHMC standing committee approved the proposal on Thursday, officials told.

Currently, 128 Rs 5 meal centres operate in GHMC limits, including 11 with permanent seating.

Panjab University's Hoshiarpur centre receives more than 100 placement offers

In line with national missions like Digital India, Startup India, and Make in India, the institute is actively fostering collaborations with start-ups, public sector undertakings, and innovation-driven enterprises.

Chandigarh. The Panjab University Swami Sarvanand Giri Regional Centre, (PUSSGRC), Hoshiarpur, has received more than 100 placement offers for the academic year 2024–2025. The highest package offered this year is an impressive Rs 24.79 lakh per annum (LPA). Placement offers were secured through over 50 recruitment drives, with participation from more than 40 reputed companies and first-time recruiters from varied sectors such as IT services, core engineering, data analytics, intellectual property research, and business development.

The Faculty of Engineering at PUSSGRC, which offers undergraduate degrees in Computer Science, Information Technology, Mechanical Engineering, and Electronics and Communication Engineering, is recognised for its academic rigour and industry-relevant curriculum.

Among the key placement highlights, Infosys selected 13 students for various roles including Specialist Programmer (Rs. 9.5 LPA), Digital Specialist Engineer (Rs. 6.5 LPA), and System Engineer (Rs. 3.6 LPA). Noteworthy individual achievements included Saurabh Kumar's promotion to the Specialist Programmer role



and Ashrurup Singh's selection as a Graduate Trainee Engineer at Steel Strips Wheels Ltd, representing success in the core mechanical engineering sector. Notably, around 23 students secured double placements, further underscoring the centre's strong industry engagement and the versatility of its students.

Appreciating the placements, PU Vice-Chancellor Professor Renu Vig congratulated the students and the placement team, stating that in today's highly competitive environment, securing placement offers is the true test of "academic strength and industry-relevant skills". "This strong performance highlights not only the academic excellence and holistic

development but also the readiness of our students to meet real-world challenges," she said.

Director of PUSSGRC Dr H S Bains expressed pride in the achievements of the PUSSGRC students, highlighting the institute's "culture of innovation, discipline, and personal growth". PUSSGRC Training and Placement Officer Dr Vrajesh Sharma acknowledged the collective efforts behind this success. He emphasised that the UIET and the Department of Computer Science and Applications (DCSA) at Hoshiarpur have consistently maintained a

"strong placement record due to their ongoing industry interaction and strategic placement planning". Director of PU Central Placement Cell Prof.

Meena Sharma said, "the placement achievements at PUSSGRC are a reflection of dedicated preparation, strong academic foundations, and active industry collaboration". To prepare students effectively for placements, the institute conducted extensive pre-placement training sessions covering aptitude development, logical reasoning, quantitative skills, and soft skills such as resume writing, group discussions, and interview techniques.

Bombay HC upholds Rs 15k monthly interim maintenance to estranged wife; says 'entitled to same standard of living'

Mumbai. The Bombay High Court, while rejecting a plea that challenged a family court order directing a 36-year-old man to pay Rs 15,000 monthly interim maintenance to his estranged wife, last week observed that there was "huge disparity" between their incomes and the woman was "certainly entitled to be maintained with the same standard of living as she was accustomed to before their separation." The court said that even assuming that certain expenses were required to maintain himself and the other family members, the remaining amount was sufficient enough to enable him to support the estranged wife as per family court order. "Merely because the wife is earning, she cannot be deprived of the support from her husband with the same standard of living to which she is accustomed to in her matrimonial home," the HC noted.

A single-judge bench of Justice Manjusha A Deshpande on June 18 passed an order on the



man's writ plea, a detailed copy of which was made available on Thursday. The petitioner had challenged the order passed by Family Court, Bandra in August 2023, granting interim maintenance of Rs 15,000 per month to the respondent woman till disposal of the divorce proceedings.

The man claimed that the estranged wife was a working woman and was earning nearly Rs 22,000 per month along with additional income

of Rs 2 lakh per annum through tuition classes and also had additional income through interests on her fixed deposits. However, the respondent woman argued that her in-hand income after expenses was insufficient for her needs.

The bench noted that the petitioner earns much higher income of over Rs 1 lakh per month compared to the respondent woman, and his parents were not financially dependent on him.

Judge Deshpande noted that the income of the respective parties, their age, responsibilities, reasonable needs, necessities and income derived from other sources, if any, are required to be considered while determining the quantum of maintenance. "In the present case, though the wife is earning, the said income is not sufficient for her own maintenance since she has to travel a long distance for her job. She is staying with her parents which she cannot carry on indefinitely.

Heavy rains lash Saurashtra and South Gujarat districts, orange alert issued till July 2

Ahmedabad. Districts of Saurashtra and South Gujarat region, including Surat, Navsari, Valsad, Tapi, Junagadh, Gir Somnath, Porbandar, Devbhoomi Dwarka, and Morbi, received heavy rainfall on Thursday. Among the 170 talukas affected by the downpour in Gujarat, Maliy Hatina in Junagadh received the highest amount of rainfall — of 135 mm — till 8pm on Thursday. This was followed by Mahuva in Surat that recorded 121 mm, Visavadar in Junagadh (118 mm), Khergam in Navsari (108 mm), Talala in Gir Somnath (102 mm), Chikhli in Navsari (102 mm), Bardoli in Surat (88 mm), Ranavav in Porbandar (82 mm), and Kalyanpur in Devbhoomi Dwarka and Kamrej in Surat (81 mm each).

Owing to a trough from northeast Arabian Sea to low-pressure area over northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas of Odisha and West Bengal across south Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for certain districts till July 2. While a yellow alert against heavy rainfall has been issued for the entire state till July 2, light thunderstorms with lightning and surface wind of 30-40 kmph accompanied with light to moderate rain is expected across Gujarat till June 30. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected in Banaskantha, Patan, Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Mahisagar, Navsari, Valsad, Rajkot, Junagadh and Kutch on Friday, the weather department stated. For Saturday, an alert against very heavy rain has been issued for Banaskantha and Patan, Jamnagar, Morbi, Dwarka and Kutch.

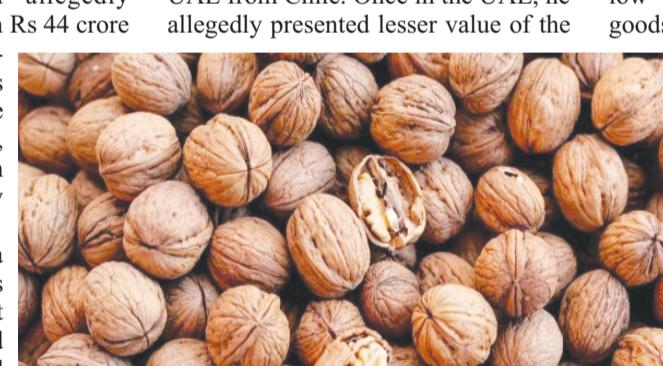
Officials of the Mumbai unit of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Wednesday arrested a Surat-based businessman for allegedly evading import duty worth Rs 44 crore by showing under-valuation of walnuts imported from Chile. The accused, Sneh Kakadiya, was taken to Mumbai on Thursday on a one-day transit remand.

Sources said that following a tip-off, the DRI officials maintained a watch at Surat airport and arrested Sneh as soon as he arrived there. Sources said Sneh and his father are proprietors of different firms in Surat and Mumbai, and are involved in the import of inshell walnuts from Chile. A case against Sneh and his father Dipak Kakadiya was registered with the Mumbai unit of DRI. Sources said the accused had misdeclared

the original value of goods, using manipulated invoices. They said the accused had routed the walnuts to the UAE from Chile. Once in the UAE, he allegedly presented lesser value of the

goods in the invoices of the firm based in the Middle East nation. Later, the same goods were imported to India showing manipulated invoices, said the sources.

During investigation, DRI officials found actual invoices issued by the Chile company, the sources added. Sources in DRI said the consignments were knowingly undervalued at a very low rate before the Customs. The goods, which, on an average, cost more than USD 2.7/Kg, were undervalued at a cost of around USD 1.50/Kg. This involved clearance of more than 3,610 Metric tonnes of inshell walnuts, thus evading a significant Customs Duty worth Rs 44 crore, said the sources. Inshell walnuts are those from which the outer covering has not been removed. During investigation, it was found that Sneh had committed cognizable and non-bailable offence under Section 135 (1) (a) and (b) of the Customs Act, 1962, punishable under section 135 (1) (a) (i) (A) and 135 (1) (b) (i) (A). He was produced before a court by DRI officials and was sent to transit remand for a day.



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Etawah tonsuring incident: Protesters clash with police after FIR against kathavachaks

19 arrested for alleged rioting, say police; minister alleges Akhilesh Yadav's statement incited violence

Lucknow. The controversy over tonsuring of the head of two kathavachaks (religious speakers) belonging to the Yadav community by upper-caste men in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district snowballed into violence on Thursday when a large number of people protesting against the registration of an FIR against the duo allegedly pelted the police with stones and attacked their vehicles, officials said. The clash occurred when the protesters were trying to enter Dadarpur village in Mahewa block where the purported tonsuring incident took place on June 21, it is learnt. The FIR against the two was registered earlier in the day on the charges of "fraud" for hiding their caste and identifying themselves as Brahmin.

Later, the police arrested at least 19 people allegedly involved in the clash.

Meanwhile, Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh claimed that the incident was a fallout of provocative statements by Samajwadi Party

president Akhilesh Yadav even as Yadav and his party leaders continued to allege that PDA (Pichhde, Dalit and Alpsankhyak) were being targeted in the state. The minister said, "Police have been deployed in the area and the law and order has been ensured. Nineteen rioters have been identified and arrested. The government strongly believes that those who take law and order in their hands and spread anarchy would not be spared at any cost. They might be of any caste, sect or religion. Those who indulge in crime, their caste is crime only."

"Only criminals have been arrested and it has nothing to do with any caste," he added.

"The incident took place after Akhilesh Yadav ji constantly tried to give it a caste angle. He made baseless allegations against the Brahmin community and misled people. He

and his party have always tried to create a divide based on caste while the BJP always tries to provide justice to all no matter which caste they belong to. Even police vehicles were attacked," Singh said. Etawah SSP Brijesh Srivastava said, "We came to know through social media in the morning that

some organisations were gathering in the Bakewar police station area to protest against an incident that took place three days back. We deployed police force at Dadarpur village to prevent any untoward incident. Around 1:30pm, a large number of people gathered on the road, and many were dispersed. But nearly 70-80 people tried to enter Dadarpur village despite being warned by the police, leading to a law and order situation. Nineteen people have been arrested, while 13 vehicles have been seized."

A video had gone viral on social media a few days ago, wherein a group of upper-caste men were seen tonsuring the head of the two kathavachaks — Mukut Mani Yadav and Sant Singh Yadav. Taking cognisance of the video, the police had arrested four persons involved in tonsuring the head of the two.

5 dead in Himachal flash floods



Shimla. Three bodies were recovered in Kangra on Thursday, taking the toll from flash floods triggered by cloudbursts to five, said officials. Search operations are on to find the missing persons — three each from Kullu and Kangra. Meanwhile, an unknown person died after drowning in a rivulet in Kullu on Thursday. The flash floods occurred in Kangra and Kullu districts on Wednesday. "Out of five, four were identified. As per the information provided to us by the contractor at the Hydroelectric power project, three people are still missing. Separately, a man, who had climbed up and entered a forest area to save himself yesterday from the increased water at the hydro power project site, was traced today," said Deputy Commissioner (Kangra) Hemraj Bairwa.

The three deceased have been identified as Chain Singh, a resident of Jammu & Kashmir, Aditya Thakur from Chamba, and Pardeep Verma and Chandan from Uttar Pradesh, Kangra SP Shalini Agnihotri said.

Deputy Commissioner (Kullu) Torul S Raveesh, said a search was on for three persons who had gone missing on Wednesday in Sainj valley. "We have called the teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to assist," he said.

"A man died today (Thursday) due to drowning in a rivulet which was overflowing due to incessant rain. The victim appeared to be a tourist who might have gone close to the river.

Many saw him drowning. His identity is yet to be established," Raveesh said.

Meanwhile, scores of tourists were stranded in Manikaran Valley, Banjar, Kullu and Manali due to the incessant rain and damage to roads. Officials said efforts are on to rescue them.

CM Yogi launches several new initiatives on World MSME Day

The Sikh Times

Lucknow, June 27: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Friday, said that the previous governments were too busy fueling caste-based conflicts, which left the youth of the state struggling with an identity crisis. He added that those governments not only ignored entrepreneurs but also encouraged caste-based divisions in society. On the occasion of World MSME Day, the CM launched several key initiatives to promote entrepreneurship during a grand ceremony held at Lok Bhawan. In his address, the CM reaffirmed the commitment of the double-engine government to providing equal opportunities to youth from all communities by eliminating caste-based discrimination. He inaugurated the 'Youth Adda' platform, launched the CM Yuva mobile app, and also unveiled ODOP Common Facility Center (CFC) projects worth Rs 18 crore in Bareilly and Moradabad. During the event, CM Yogi mentioned that before 2017, Uttar Pradesh was known for riots, mafia gangs, and was one of the most unsafe states for daughters and traders. He accused previous governments of promoting caste-based conflicts and running the state based on family politics, where each district was controlled by a different mafia. As a result, people in the state faced an identity crisis. He also pointed out that despite being established in 1950,

Uttar Pradesh never celebrated its Foundation Day until January 24, 2018. "Earlier governments were too busy divid-

scheme. He said, "ODOP has given each district's unique product a global platform. The scheme has provided equal opportunities to



ing society along caste lines and serving their own families instead of working for the state's development," he remarked. CM Yogi further inaugurated Common Facility Center (CFC) projects worth Rs 18 crore in Bareilly and Moradabad under the ODOP

artisans and entrepreneurs from all castes and communities, helping products like Moradabad's brassware, Bhadohi's carpets, and Lucknow's chikankari gain international recognition." The Chief Minister shared that Uttar Pradesh now has over 96 lakh MSME

units employing more than 2 crore people across all communities. He emphasized that the government has provided a financial safety net of Rs 5 lakh and social security to these units without any discrimination. With a 14% share in the country's MSME sector, UP is now a leading state in this domain. Reflecting on the state's economic progress over the last eight years, CM Yogi said that Uttar Pradesh's exports have grown from Rs 80,000 crore in 2017 to over Rs 2 lakh crore today. The per capita income has increased from Rs 46,000 to Rs 1.2 lakh, and the state's GDP has surged from Rs 12 lakh 75 thousand crore to Rs 31 lakh crore. He credited this remarkable growth to improved law and order and the government's commitment to providing equal opportunities to all communities. He shared that under the Mukhyamantri Yuva Udyami Vikas Abhiyan, 55,000 youth have been provided interest-free loans of Rs 5 lakh along with a 10% government subsidy. He emphasized that selections were made purely based on talent, not on caste or region. The initiative has opened up opportunities in entrepreneurship for youth from all communities. Speaking about the Vishwakarma Shram Samman Yojana, CM Yogi said that over 1 lakh traditional artisans have been given toolkits and access to affordable loans. These artisans come from various castes and communities, many of whom were previously neglected. "We have

given respect and opportunities to artisans from every village and town so they can take their skills to new heights," he added. The CM also announced the third edition of the International Trade Show, scheduled to be held in Greater Noida from September 25 to 29 this year. He stated that the event will serve as a global platform to showcase and promote Uttar Pradesh's MSME products to international buyers. He highlighted the success of the previous two editions, saying, "products made by artisans from all communities in UP have made a strong mark globally." Highlighting the state's commitment to preserving traditional crafts, CM Yogi informed that 77 products from UP have received the GI tag, and work is underway on 75 new applications. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Human Welfare Association to support artisans from all communities in protecting and promoting their products. "We will ensure that no one else can claim ownership of our cultural heritage," the CM asserted. In his address, CM Yogi laid special emphasis on speaking of his government's core objective to eliminate caste-based discrimination and provide equal opportunities to every youth and artisan. He added that through such initiatives, Uttar Pradesh is playing a vital role in building India's economy and realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India.

Panipat's Hali Lake lies in ruins despite Rs 24-cr makeover

The Sikh Times

Sonepat: Once envisioned as a flagship urban beautification project, Panipat's historical Hali Lake — revived at a staggering cost of Rs 24 crore — now lies in a state of utter neglect, drawing widespread public criticism and calls for a high-level probe into what many are calling a major scam. Constructed just three years ago, the lake and its adjoining 28-acre park were part of a grand redevelopment initiative announced by former Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar in December 2014. The Municipal Corporation (MC) later awarded a Rs 23.69-crore tender to a Delhi-based company in 2018, with the project deadline set for August 2019.

However, delays and poor execution soon followed. As per the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the plan included an open-air theatre, jogging tracks, children's swings, an open gym, memorial, yoga park, café, auditorium, sound system and CCTV surveillance — all intended to transform Hali Lake into a recreational and cultural hub. A separate pipeline was even laid to fill the lake with water from the nearby canal. But on the ground today, the picture is starkly different. Industrial effluents and sewage have found their way into the lake, filling the air with a foul stench. The once-glorified infrastructure now lies in ruins: broken walking tracks, abandoned and

vandalised buildings, stolen fixtures and overgrown vegetation choking every structure from the café to the theatre. "Crores have been spent, but look at the state of it.



The café, auditorium and open gym are crumbling. Doors, windows and electric fittings have been stolen. It's nothing short of a scam," said Vikram

to initiate an inquiry and take action against those responsible for the misuse of public funds. Chauhan also suggested that the project be hand-

ed over to the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) for long-term maintenance. "If IOCL can bring crude oil from Bombay High through pipelines running 1,500 km, it should not be difficult to bring water from the Delhi Parallel Canal, just 2 km away." Sandeep Ralhan, a local BJP leader and daily visitor, echoed these concerns, calling the project a textbook case of official negligence. "Rs 24 crore has gone down the drain. What remains is sewer water, crumbling buildings, fallen trees and darkness. The environment has been polluted and the vision has collapsed," he said. In response to the mounting criticism, Mayor Komal Saini acknowledged the

issue. After visiting the site and meeting with MC officials, she said, "I have instructed the officers to prepare a comprehensive plan to revive the lake and the park. We will ensure better facilities are soon made available to the public." Panipat City MLA Pramod Vij also weighed in, stating that the matter was recently discussed in detail with MC officials and the mayor. "We have taken the concerns seriously. The lake and park will be restored within the next three to four months," he assured. For now, however, the grand revival project stands as a grim reminder of unfulfilled promises, poor planning and the critical need for accountability in public infrastructure development.

Rains lash parts of Himachal; Met issues orange alert

The Sikh Times

Shimla, Jun 27: Shimla, Moderate to heavy rainfall on Saturday lashed several parts of Himachal Pradesh, with the local Met office issuing an orange alert of heavy to very heavy rain at isolated places in five districts on Sunday and nine districts on Wednesday. According to the orange alert, heavy to very heavy rain is likely at isolated places in Hamirpur, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla and Sirmour on Sunday and nine out of 12 districts barring Kullu, Kinnaur and Lahaul and Spiti on Wednesday. In the past 24 hours, Kangra was the wettest in the state with 87.8 mm of rain followed by Nagrota Suriyan 56.4 mm, Jogindernagar 54 mm, Guler 40.8 mm, Nadaun 30 mm, Sujanpur Tira 28.5mm, Baijnath 28 mm, Palampur 20 mm and Nahan 18.2 mm. Thunderstorms accompanied with rain and gusty winds of 37 kmph lashed Sundernagar, Kangra and Bajaura. The conditions are favourable for further advancement of southwest monsoon over the remaining parts of Himachal Pradesh in the next two days, the Met office said. Meanwhile, the director general of police has issued instructions to the police officials to ensure power backup for functioning of communication equipments, generator sets, adequate fuel and test communication systems in the remote areas. The instruction included organizing mock drills and maintaining proper inventory for rescue operations in the districts in view of the monsoon season, said an order. There was no major change in the minimum and maximum temperatures. Kukumseri was the coldest at night recording a low of 11.8 degrees Celsius while Una was the hottest during the day with 34 degrees Celsius.

UP man gets wife married to her lover, she claims wedding forced on her

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, Jun 27: The man, in the presence of a priest, washed off the sindoor from his wife's forehead and saw her exchange garlands with the other man, locals said. A man arranged the wedding of his wife of fifteen years to another man here in a village, and said he wanted to have no ties to her, claiming she tried to poison him and offer drugs to their son. The marriage was held on Thursday evening at a temple, and the man, in the presence of a priest, washed off the sindoor from his wife's forehead and saw her exchange garlands with the other man, locals said. The wedding was arranged after Harishchandra, 42, allegedly caught his wife Karishma, 36, with Shivraj Chauhan on Tuesday, following which a lengthy community meeting took place but yielded no solution. Karishma, however, claimed the entire thing was forced upon her, and said while she had an ongoing discord with her husband, she was not in a relationship with Shivraj, locals said. Khodare Station House Officer (SHO) Prabodh Kumar said that no formal complaint has been received from any party yet but if a complaint is filed, a thorough investigation will be conducted and appropriate legal action will be taken. Locals said that Harishchandra and Karishma had been married for 15 years and have two children. After the temple marriage, Karishma took their daughter with her, while their son remains with Harishchandra. Harishchandra said that he no longer wishes to have any ties with Karishma.

Newly-wed woman murdered over dowry, husband's family stages it as suicide

Ballia, Jun 27: Three women were arrested here in connection with the alleged murder of a newly-wed woman over the matter of dowry, officials said on Saturday. Sapna, wife of Narendra Chauhan, was found dead in a room at her-in-laws' house in Kotila village, under the Maniyar Police Station area. Her body was allegedly discovered in a position that suggested suicide, as it was found hanging from a ceiling fan, the police stated. Maniyar Station House Officer Ratnesh Dubey stated that upon receiving the information, the police reached the scene, took custody of Sapna's body, and sent it for post-mortem examination at the district hospital. A case was registered based on the complaint filed by Sapna's maternal grandfather, Babbu Chauhan. "The FIR names her husband, Narendra Chauhan, his sister, Champa Devi, and two sisters-in-law, Puja Devi and Reena Devi. They were booked under sections of the BNS and Dowry Prohibition Act," the SHO said. Citing BBC report, Rahul Gandhi accuses UP govt of suppressing Maha Kumbh toll: 'This is the BJP model' Bangladesh govt reacts to vandalism of Rabindranath Tagore's ancestral home: 'Altercation between...' Janhvi Kapoor makes showing off bralette fashionable in chic black bodycon dress for Miu Miu store launch. Pics BJP, RSS discourage English learning to deny poor opportunities: Rahul Gandhi Indian businessman buys custom pink Rolls-Royce for one-year-old daughter: 'Such a Dubai Dad move' Bengal BJP chief Sankanta Majumdar apologises for hurling slippers at Sikh officer Haryana: Model killed on suspicion of being in another relationship. Citing the registered FIR, SHO Dubey stated that Sapna was married to Narendra Chauhan on March 2, 2025, 90,000 via bank transfer, three lakh in cash, along with a gold chain and a ring, were given as dowry to Sapna's in-laws, the complaint mentioned. Despite this, they allegedly continued to harass Sapna, demanding a Bullet motorcycle and an additional three lakh. When Sapna's family expressed their inability to fulfil these demands, she was allegedly murdered.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Sunil alias Dhare S/O Om Prakash, R/O JG-37, Block-E-2, Suterpur, Suterpur C Block, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as DHARE.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shabab Husain s/o Mehandi Husain, R/o 76, 3rd Floor, Block-E, Sector-1, Rohini, Delhi-110085, have changed my name to Shabab Husain Mansuri permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, HAWA SINGH CHAUDHARY Father of No. 17003299F Rank-NK Name-VINOD KUMAR Presently residing at VILL-MALIYAR JATT, PO-BALSPUR, TEH-TIJARA, DIST-ALWAR, RAJASTHAN-301411, have changed my name from HAWA SINGH CHAUDHARY to HAWASINGH for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1965 instead of my correct date of birth as 04/03/1971 vide Affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Rajasthan.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANHILATA DEVI Mother of No. 17003299F Rank-NK Name-VINOD KUMAR Presently residing at VILL-MALIYAR JATT, PO-BALSPUR, TEH-TIJARA, DIST-ALWAR, RAJASTHAN-301411, have changed my name from SANHILATA DEVI to SNEHLATA for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1960 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1975 vide Affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Rajasthan.

NAME CHANGE

I, Urvashi D/o Daya Kishan R/o H No-7071 Nihal Colony Part-2 Beighera Chowk Madan Atta Chakki, Sarai Alwadi Choma(62), Gurgaon Haryana-122017 I have changed my name to Urvashi Kishan

NAME CHANGE

I, SUNITA W/O NARDEV R/O H.NO-328 B/NEAR RAM MANDIR MIAN BALI COLONY GURGAON-122001 HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA YADAV FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, DILEEP KUMAR TEKWANI S/O KISHAN CHAND TEKWANI R/O H-208, SECOND FLOOR, DLF PHASE- 4, GURGAON, HARYANA-122002, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DILEEP TEKWANI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shreeshan S/O Raghunandan Prasad Jaiswal, Resident of CMC 4901, Superitech, Capitol, Sector 12, Noida, Uttar Pradesh -201301 hereby declare that I have changed my name to Shridhar Jaiswal for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as AJAY HOODA alias AJAY KUMAR S/o RAM RATAN HOODA R/o F-31, Rajender Park Ext, Nangli, West Delhi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name to AJAY KUMAR from HAWA SINGH CHAUDHARY for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1965 instead of my correct date of birth as 04/03/1971 vide Affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Rajasthan.

NAME CHANGE

I, ROHIT KUMAR YADAV S/o VIJAY SINGH YADAV R/o Post Office Ujwa Nagarpur, Hasan Pur, South West Delhi, Delhi-1100041 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAKESH in my minor daughter's name SANJANA aged 16 years and her in her 10th class educational documents and birth certificate no. MCDOLR-012-00275378. The actual name of mine is RAKESH KUMAR which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, SANJANA DEVI Mother of No. 17003299F Rank-NK Name-VINOD KUMAR Presently residing at VILL-MALIYAR JATT, PO-BALSPUR, TEH-TIJARA, DIST-ALWAR, RAJASTHAN-301411, have changed my name from SANJANA DEVI to SNEHLATA for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1960 instead of my correct date of birth as 01/01/1975 vide Affidavit dated 14/06/2025 before Executive Magistrate, Rajasthan.

NAME CHANGE

I, Urvashi D/o Daya Kishan R/o H No-7071 Nihal Colony Part-2 Beighera Chowk Madan Atta Chakki, Sarai Alwadi Choma(62), Gurgaon Haryana-122017 I have changed my name to Urvashi Kishan

NAME CHANGE

I, SUNITA W/O NARDEV R/O H.NO-328 B/NEAR RAM MANDIR MIAN BALI COLONY GURGAON-122001 HARYANA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SUNITA YADAV FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, PRINCE JASWAL ADVOCATE CH. NO. 409 SAKET COURT COMPLEX NEW DELHI-110017

NAME CHANGE

I, NAMITA KUMARI S/O CHANDRILAL CHHABHAR RESIDENT OF 104, 1ST FLOOR, 1ST BLOCK, SAKET, NEW DELHI-110017 have changed my name to Sarthak Gupta and gender as male. I Neha Gupta henceforth be known as Sarthak Gupta S/o Dilip Kumar Gupta

NAME CHANGE

I, Neha Gupta D/o Dilip Kumar Gupta R/o 604-W-2, Taj Nagar, Bara Kanpur Nagar Uttar Pradesh-208027 hereby undertake that I Neha Gupta want to change my name to Sarthak Gupta and gender as male. I Neha Gupta henceforth be known as Sarthak Gupta S/o Dilip Kumar Gupta

NAME CHANGE

I, Neha Gupta D/o Dilip Kumar Gupta R/o 604-W-2, Taj Nagar, Bara Kanpur Nagar Uttar Pradesh-208027 hereby undertake that I Neha Gupta want to change my name to Sarthak Gupta and gender as male. I Neha Gupta henceforth be known as Sarthak Gupta S/o Dilip Kumar Gupta

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NAME CHANGE

I, Neha Gupta D/o Dilip Kumar Gupta R/o 604-W-2, Taj Nagar, Bara Kanpur Nagar Uttar Pradesh-

NEWS BOX

Thailand to hold trade talks with US next week amid Trump's tariffs threat

BANGKOK. Thailand's finance minister will travel to the United States next week for trade talks, local media reported Friday, as the kingdom seeks to secure a deal with Washington over US President Donald Trump's threatened tariffs. Thai exports face a 36 percent levy on key exports to America under the US president's raft of "Liberation Day" measures if no agreement is reached to head them off before next month's deadline. Finance Minister Pichai Chunhavajira told reporters he has scheduled talks with a US representative and plans to depart next week, according to local media outlet Thai News Agency MCOT. His remarks followed online speculation that the tariffs would be cut to 18 percent after the talks, which he dismissed in a post on X. "It's just a projection made by economists," he told reporters at Government House, as quoted by local media. In May, Pichai said the proposal aimed to reduce the trade imbalance and expand US export access to Thailand's market.

America's goods trade deficit with Thailand hit \$45.6 billion in 2024, up 11.7 percent from the year before, according to US Trade Representative data.

The Thai government last month cut its 2025 economic growth forecast to 2.3-3.3 percent, from 3.2-4.2 percent, citing uncertainty over "reciprocal tariffs."

AFP has reached out to Pichai's party representative who was unable to confirm details of the trip.

Many Southeast Asian nations were threatened with the highest "reciprocal" tariff rates: 49 percent on Cambodia's exports, 46 percent on Vietnam's and 44 percent on Myanmar's.

South Korea detains six Americans for trying to send rice, Bibles to North Korea by sea

SEOUL. Six Americans were detained Friday in South Korea for trying to send 1,600 plastic bottles filled with rice, US dollars bills and Bibles toward North Korea by sea, police said. The Americans tried to throw the bottles into the sea from front-line Gwanghwa Island so they could float toward North Korean shores by the tides, said a police officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak to media on the issue. He said they are being investigated on allegations they violated the law on the management of safety and disasters. A second South Korean police officer confirmed the detentions of the Americans. The police officers gave no further details, including whether any of the six had made previous attempts to send bottles toward North Korea. Activists floating plastic bottles or flying balloons carrying anti-North Korea propaganda leaflets across the border has long caused tensions on the Korean Peninsula. North Korea expressed its anger at the balloon campaigns by launching its own balloons carrying trash into South Korea, including at least two that landed in the presidential compound in Seoul last year. In 2023, South Korea's Constitutional Court struck down a 2020 law that criminalized the sending of leaflets and other items to North Korea, calling it an excessive restriction on free speech. But since taking office in early June, the new liberal government of President Lee Jae Myung is pushing to crack down on such civilian campaigns with other safety-related laws to avoid a flare-up in tensions with North Korea and promote the safety of frontline South Korean residents. On June 14, police detained an activist for allegedly flying balloons toward North Korea from Gwanghwa Island. Lee took office with a promise to restart long-dormant talks with North Korea and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. Lee's government halted frontline anti-Pyongyang propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts to try to ease military tensions.

Israel-Iran war highlights Asia's dependence on Middle East oil, 'slow' progress on clean energy

HANOI. Asia's dependence on Middle East oil and gas — and its relatively slow shift to clean energy — make it vulnerable to disruptions in shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a strategic weakness highlighted by the war between Israel and Iran.

Iran sits on the strait, which handles about 20% of shipments of the world's oil and liquefied natural gas, or LNG. Four countries — China, India, Japan and South Korea — account for 75% of those imports.

Japan and South Korea face the highest risk, according to analysis by the research group Zero Carbon Analytics, followed by India and China. All have been slow to scale up use of renewable energy.

In 2023, renewables made up just 9% of South Korea's power mix — well below the 33% average among other members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, or OECD. In the same year, Japan relied more heavily on fossil fuels than any other country in the Group of Seven, or G7.

A truce in the 12-day Israel-Iran war appeared to be holding, reducing the potential for trouble for now. But experts say the only way to counter lingering uncertainty is to scale back reliance on imported fossil fuels and accelerate Asia's shift to clean, domestic energy sources. "These are very real risks that countries should be alive to — and should be thinking about in terms of their energy and economic security," said Murray Worthy, a research analyst at Zero Carbon Analytics. Japan and South Korea are vulnerable. China and India are the biggest buyers of oil and LNG passing through the potential chokepoint at the Strait of Hormuz, but Japan and South Korea are more vulnerable.

Japan depends on imported fossil fuels for 87% of its total energy use and South Korea imports 81%. China relies on only 20% and India 35%, according to Ember, an independent global energy think tank that promotes clean energy.

The justices are weighing a three-year battle over congressional districts in Louisiana that is making its second trip to the Supreme Court.

WASHINGTON. The Supreme Court is meeting Friday to decide the final six cases of its term, including President Donald Trump's bid to enforce his executive order denying birthright citizenship to U.S.-born children of parents who are in the country illegally. The justices take the bench at 10 a.m. for their last public session until the start of their new term on Oct. 6.

The birthright citizenship order has been blocked nationwide by three lower courts. The Trump administration made an emergency appeal to the Supreme Court to narrow the court orders that have prevented the citizenship changes from taking effect anywhere in the US. The issue before the

justices is whether to limit the authority of judges to issue nationwide injunctions, which have plagued both Republican and Democratic administrations in the past 10 years. These nationwide court orders have emerged as an important check on Trump's efforts and a source of mounting frustration to the Republican president and his allies.

Decisions also are expected in several other important cases. The court seemed likely during arguments in April to side with Maryland parents in a religious rights case over LGBTQ storybooks in public schools. Parents in the Montgomery County school system, in suburban Washington, want to be able to pull their children out of lessons that use the storybooks, which the county added to the curriculum to better reflect the district's diversity. The school system at one point allowed parents to remove their children from those lessons, but then reversed course because it found the opt-out policy to be disruptive. Sex education is the only area of instruction with an opt-out provision in the county's schools. The justices also are weighing a three-year battle over congressional districts in

Louisiana that is making its second trip to the Supreme Court. Before the court now is a map that created a second Black majority congressional district among Louisiana's



six seats in the House of Representatives. The district elected a Black Democrat in 2024. Lower courts have struck down two Louisiana congressional maps since 2022 and the justices are considering whether to send state lawmakers back to the map-drawing board for a third time. The case involves the interplay between race and politics in drawing political boundaries in front of a conservative-led court that has

been skeptical of considerations of race in public life. At arguments in March, several of the court's conservative justices suggested they could vote to throw out the map and make it harder, if not impossible, to bring redistricting lawsuits under the Voting Rights Act. Free speech rights are at the center of a case over a Texas law aimed at blocking kids from seeing online pornography. Texas is among more than a dozen states with age verification laws. The states argue the laws are necessary as smartphones have made access to online porn, including hardcore obscene material, almost instantaneous. The question for the court is whether the measure infringes on the constitutional rights of adults as well. The Free Speech Coalition, an adult-entertainment industry trade group, agrees that children shouldn't be seeing pornography. But it says the Texas law is written too broadly and wrongly affects adults by requiring them to submit personal identifying information online that is vulnerable to hacking or tracking.

'Shocking' COP30 lodging costs heap pressure on Brazil's host city Belem

RIO DE JANEIRO. "Belem is ready," Brazilian officials have insisted ahead of the COP30 gathering in November — but eye-watering lodging costs in the northern city have panicked many would-be attendees. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has personally championed the symbolic choice of holding the major UN climate conference in the Amazon. And with months to go before the November 10-21 meeting, work is in full swing, AFP journalists witnessed recently. But members of national delegations, civil society, and the media have been faced with a major dilemma: how to find a room at a decent price? "I've never seen anything quite like the situation unfolding in Belem. The soaring accommodation prices, which mean it will now cost thousands of dollars a night for even basic rooms," Mariana Paoli, with the NGO Christian Aid, told AFP. The steep rates are "not just shocking, it is



exclusionary," said Paoli, a Brazilian who has attended several UN climate summits before. "Delegates from across the Global South, particularly

the Brazilian Climate Observatory collective warned that delegations are mulling cutting back on the number of attendees. "Everybody's concerned because at this point, five months to the date, everybody should have hotels and no one has," he told AFP in Bonn, Germany, where technical negotiations have been held over the past two weeks. CEO rules out relocation. Brazil is no stranger to hosting major events, particularly in Rio de Janeiro. After the 2016 Olympic Games and last year's G20 summit, Rio will host a summit of the BRICS group of emerging economies next month. Some have speculated about a possible last-minute move to a large city, maybe Rio. COP30 chief Ana Toni, while sharing concerns over the lodging, ruled out any last-minute relocation to a larger city. "Let's be very very clear, it's all happening in Belem," she told AFP in Bonn.

Justice Department says Kilmar Abrego Garcia will face US trial before any move to deport him again

WASHINGTON. The Justice Department said Thursday that it intends to try Kilmar Abrego Garcia on federal smuggling charges in Tennessee before it moves to deport him, addressing fears that he could be expelled again from the U.S. within days. U.S. Magistrate Judge Barbara Holmes in Nashville, Tennessee, recently ruled that Abrego Garcia has a right to be released from jail while awaiting trial on the smuggling charges. But she decided Wednesday to keep him in custody for at least a few more days over concerns that U.S. immigration officials would swiftly detain him and try to deport him again.

But DOJ spokesman Chad Gilmartin told The Associated Press that Abrego Garcia will first be tried in court on the charges. "This defendant has been charged with horrific crimes, including trafficking children, and will not walk free in our country again," Gilmartin said. Abrego Garcia became a flashpoint over President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies when he was mistakenly deported to El Salvador in March. Facing

mounting pressure and a Supreme Court order, the Trump administration returned him this month to face the smuggling charges, which Abrego Garcia's attorneys characterized as an



attempt to justify his erroneous deportation. As Abrego Garcia's criminal case has moved forward, concerns grew that he would be swiftly deported upon his release from jail in Tennessee. Abrego Garcia's lawyers filed an emergency request Thursday to a federal judge in Maryland to order the government to take Abrego Garcia to that state upon release, an

arrangement that would prevent his deportation before trial. If this Court does not act swiftly, then the Government is likely to whisk Abrego Garcia away to some place far from Maryland," Abrego Garcia's attorneys wrote. Abrego Garcia had lived and worked as a construction worker in Maryland with his American wife and children for more than a decade before his deportation in March. His wife, Jennifer Vasquez Sura, is suing the Trump administration over his deportation in the Maryland federal court where Abrego Garcia's attorneys filed their emergency request. "We have concerns that the government may try to remove Mr. Abrego Garcia quickly over the weekend," one of his attorneys, Jonathan Cooper, told U.S. District Judge Paula Xinis in Greenbelt, Maryland, during a conference call Thursday afternoon. Justice Department attorney Jonathan Guynn acknowledged on the call that the U.S. government plans to deport Abrego Garcia to a "third country."

Syria's wheat war: Drought fuels food crisis for 16 million

DAMASCUS. Rival Syrian and Kurdish producers are scrambling for shrinking wheat harvests as the worst drought in decades follows a devastating war, pushing more than 16 million people toward food insecurity. "The country has not seen such bad climate conditions in 60 years," said Haya Abu Assaf, assistant to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative in Syria. Syria's water levels have seen "a very significant drop compared to previous years, which is very worrying," Abu Assaf told AFP. As a relatively short winter rainy season and decreased rainfall take their toll. "A gap of between 2.5 to 2.7 million tonnes in the wheat crop is expected, meaning that the wheat quantity will not be sufficient to meet local needs," Abu Assaf said, putting "around 16.3 million people at risk of food insecurity in Syria this year." Before the civil war erupted in 2011, Syria was self-sufficient in wheat, producing an average of 4.1 million tonnes annually.

Nearly 14 years of conflict have since crippled production and devastated the economy. The FAO estimates that harsh weather has impacted nearly 2.5 million hectares of wheat-growing land.

"Around 75 percent of the cultivated areas" have been affected, as well as "natural pastures for livestock production," said Abu Assaf.

Imports, competition

To bridge the wheat gap, imports would be essential in a country where around 90 percent of the population lives in poverty. Before his ouster in an Islamist-led offensive in December, Syria's longtime ruler Bashar al-Assad used to rely on ally Russia for wheat. In April, new authorities reported the first wheat shipment since his removal arrived in Latakia port, with more Russian shipments following. Iraq also donated more than 220,000 tonnes of wheat to Syria. During the war, Damascus competed with the semi-autonomous Kurdish administration in the northeast to buy



wheat from farmers across fertile lands. Last year, Assad's government priced wheat at \$350 per tonne, and the Kurds at \$310. After Assad's ouster, Damascus and the Kurds agreed in March to integrate Kurdish-led institutions into the new Syrian state, with negotiations ongoing on implementation. Damascus set wheat prices this month at between \$290 and \$320 per tonne, depending on the quality, plus a \$130 bonus. The Kurdish-led administration offered \$420 per tonne

including a \$70 bonus. 'Poverty and hunger'

Damascus' agriculture ministry expects a harvest of 300,000 to 350,000 tonnes in government-controlled areas this year.

Hassan Othman, director of the Syrian Grain Establishment, acknowledged Syria was not self-sufficient, in comments on state television. But he said authorities were working "to ensure food security by importing wheat from abroad and milling it in our mills." In northeast Syria's Amuda, farmer Jamshid Hassu, 65, inspected the tiny wheat grains from his fields, which cover around 200 hectares (around 500 acres). Despite heavy irrigation efforts to offset scarce rainfall, he said, production has halved. The FAO's Abu Assaf said indicators showed that "about 95 percent of rain-fed wheat has been damaged and affected", while irrigated wheat yields were down 30 to 40 percent.

Tibetans face up to uncertain future as Dalai Lama turns 90

DEHRADUN. Tibetans in exile celebrate the 90th birthday of spiritual leader the Dalai Lama next week, an occasion overshadowed by uncertainty about the future of the role and what it means for their movement. The charismatic Nobel Peace Prize-winning Buddhist — who Tibetans say is the 14th reincarnation of the 600-year-old post — will reveal if there will be another Dalai Lama after him. The inevitable change ahead brings wider concerns for Tibetans over the struggle to keep their identity alive after generations in exile, following a failed 1959 uprising against Chinese rule.

There is widespread support among Tibetans in exile for the Dalai Lama to remain, said Dawa Tashi, once jailed in Tibet for his criticism of Beijing. The Dalai Lama has said the institution will continue only if there is popular demand. "I strongly believe the reincarnation of the 14th Dalai Lama will continue," said Tashi, of the India-based Tibetan Centre for



Human Rights and Democracy. "This hope is not only shared by Tibetans inside and outside Tibet, but by thousands who are connected to the Dalai Lama across the world," he told AFP. The leader, who turns 90 on July 6, and thousands of other Tibetans have lived in exile in India since Chinese troops crushed the uprising in the Tibetan capital Lhasa. The Dalai Lama has been lauded by his followers for his tireless campaign for greater autonomy for Tibet, a vast high-altitude plateau in China about the size of South Africa.

'Vested political interests'

The Dalai Lama handed over political authority in 2011 to an exiled government chosen democratically by 130,000 Tibetans globally. At the same time, he warned that the future of his spiritual post faced an "obvious risk of vested political interests misusing the reincarnation system." Many Tibetans in exile fear China will name a successor to bolster its control over Tibet. The Dalai Lama has said that if there is a successor it will come from the "free world" outside China's control. The Dalai Lama has long said he does not seek full independence for Tibet. Beijing says the territory is an integral part of China and that the Dalai Lama "has no right to represent the Tibetan people".

NEWS BOX

2 injured as elephants run amok during Jagannath Rath Yatra in Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad. The procession continued after the elephants were escorted away by the police. The incident occurred at approximately 10.15 am on Friday while the Rath Yatra was passing through the Khadia area of the city. A caparisoned elephant suddenly moved away from the group and ran in the opposite direction, sparking panic in the crowded, narrow street in the walled city area. One or two other elephants also strayed away from the route.

Even as the police warned people to move away, the mahouts chased the elephant that ran amok and brought it under control.

According to the GVK-EMRI paramedic service deployed at the scene, a woman police personnel received first aid on the spot, and a male devotee was taken to Ahmedabad Civil Hospital for treatment.

Videos of the incident show one of the elephants running amok along the road, with people lined up on both sides, and police personnel trying to keep devotees from panicking for a few tense moments before the elephant is brought to heel by the mahouts. The Ahmedabad City Police, at 10.28 am, said in a post on X, "After elephants went out of control in the Khadia area, they have been dismissed from the Rath yatra and the procession is continuing as per schedule."

The 16 km procession of the 148th Rath Yatra began early Friday morning after Union Home Minister Amit Shah did the mangala aarti at 4 am at the Jagannath temple in Jamalpur, and Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel did the 'pahind' (sweeping with a golden broom) ritual later.

GHMC, Hyderabad cops partner to free public spaces from pestering beggars



HYDERABAD. The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), in coordination with Hyderabad City Police, has launched a special drive to remove beggars from busy traffic junctions and public spaces. The initiative aims to relocate them to shelter homes or reunite them with their families.

The GHMC's Urban Community Development (UCD) wing has so far identified 221 individuals — 173 men, 37 women, and 11 children. Of these, 19 have been shifted to GHMC-run shelters, while others were counselled and sent back to their families.

As per GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan's instructions, the drive covers key locations such as Basheerbagh, Secretariat, Nampally and Begum Bazar. Special UCD teams are working across all GHMC circles.

Officials are conducting medical checks before relocating people to shelters. The initiative not only clears public spaces but also offers care, rehabilitation, and a path toward reintegration for the marginalised, they said.

ACB raids RTA, sub-registrar offices in Telangana, seizes unaccounted cash amid graft crackdown

HYDERABAD. Amid ongoing corruption allegations in the Transport department, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday carried out surprise inspections at multiple locations across Telangana, seizing over Rs 2.7 lakh in unaccounted cash. This marks the fourth such crackdown on Road Transport Authority (RTA) offices since May 2024.

Raids were conducted at the Salabatpur RTA check post in Kamareddy district and RTA offices in Peddapalli, Trimulgherry, and Uppal. A total of Rs 1.81 lakh was recovered from these sites, along with evidence of procedural violations. In simultaneous checks, sub-registrar offices in Burgampadu (Khammam) and Bheemadevarapally (Warangal) were also raided, yielding Rs 91,000 in unaccounted money. Several irregularities were flagged.

ACB officials said detailed reports would be submitted to the state government for further action. In May 2024, the ACB raided 12 RTA offices and checkposts across the state, seizing Rs 2.70 lakh and uncovering multiple violations. Sleuths, posing as drivers and common citizens, exposed bribery by RTA agents and officials. As a result, promotions of some staff were stalled. Earlier, on December 4, 2024, ACB teams seized Rs 62,500 at Bhoraj (Adilabad), Rs 86,600 at Vishnupuram (Nalgonda) and Rs 29,200 at Alampur (Gadwal) checkposts. In March, Rs 27,000 was recovered from an agent at the Nizamabad District Transport Office.

NIA searches 18 locations in Punjab, Haryana, UP over grenade attack at ex minister Manoranjan Kalia's house

NIA conducts raids across three state in probe into BKI linked grenade attack at ex-minister's residence.

Chandigarh. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Thursday searched 18 locations across Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh as part of their investigation into the alleged Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)-linked grenade attack at the residence of former Punjab minister and senior BJP leader Manoranjan Kalia. According to an NIA statement, the searches were conducted on the premises of suspects linked with BKI operative Kulbir Sidhu, US-based gangster Manish, alias Kaka Rana, and their nodes based in India and various other countries. The agency seized various incriminating materials, including mobile/digital devices and documents, it added.

The statement said agency officials also searched the residence of YouTuber and digital content creator Sukveer Khipal in Budhlada

town of Mansa district for his alleged links with Pakistan-based suspects. Khipal, who lives in Chandigarh, was not available at his Budhlada residence when the NIA team

Khipal has 1.07 lakh followers on Instagram. Kulbir Sidhu, originally from Yamunanagar in Haryana, is currently in Germany and is a key aide of designated terrorist and BKI chief Pakistan-based Wadhwana Singh Babbar, the NIA said, adding that Sidhu is also an accused in the case related to the murder of VHP leader Vikas Prabhakar in Nangal, Punjab, in April 2024.

The terror attack on the Punjab former minister's house in Jalandhar was committed on the night of April 7 allegedly by Saidul Ameen, who was arrested by the state police on April 12. This was one of a series of grenade attacks carried out by BKI operatives in Punjab on the directions of foreign-based handlers of the proscribed terrorist organisation, the NIA said.

In Punjab, the agency searched several locations in Hoshiarpur, SBS Nagar, Jalandhar, Gurdaspur, Tarn Taran and Mansa districts. In Haryana, searches were conducted in Kurukshetra, Yamuna Nagar, Karnal and Ambala districts. Extensive searches were also conducted in Amroha district of Uttar Pradesh.



reached there. The NIA team spoke with his family, demanded his mobile phone, and directed them to send Khipal to the NIA Chandigarh office for questioning, it said. Mansa SSP Bagirath Singh Meena confirmed that the NIA team searched Khipal's residence.

Youth who sneaked into IIT Bombay claims he wanted 'IITian' tag

The police have found that Bilal Ahmed Teli, a Mangalore resident, had done a six-month IT course earlier and has told the police that he wanted an 'IITian' tag on his name due to which he stealthily entered the premises.

Mumbai. A 22-YEAR-OLD youth who 'sneaked into' IIT Bombay and stayed there for 20 days without being a student had left the institute for nearly three days when he went to Surat to meet his relatives before, he returned to the IIT Bombay campus and stayed there for another five days. The police have found that Bilal Ahmed Teli, a Mangalore resident, had done a six-month IT course earlier and has told the police that he wanted an 'IITian' tag on his name due to which he stealthily entered the premises.

The Mumbai police are however taking no chances and have transferred the case to the crime branch that is further probing the matter.



An official said, "Ironically after managing to gain entry on May 27, Teli left the premises on June 7 and returned on June 10. Eventually he was seen by an administrator and handed over to the police. He told us that he had some

relatives in Surat, and he left to meet them and returned." The officer added, "He had come to the institute from Surat having taken a train on May 25. While he got in thanks to a one-day course at the institute for which one could register online, he did not leave." The official said that while they suspect it is likely a misadventure or overenthusiasm by him, there are some unanswered questions regarding his conduct that they have not got a satisfactory explanation to. "Why did he come to IIT Bombay when there are other IITs that would be closer to Mangalore? Why was he so keen to ensure he did not leave behind any digital footprint and used 21 e-mail addresses," the official said.

Whale vomit worth Rs 1.58 crore seized, six arrested in Vadodara

Based on a tip-off about a car carrying ambergris likely to pass through the city's Bill Atladara area, the LCB Zone 2 unit set up a watch and intercepted a hatchback car with a Vadodara registration number, recovering the contraband.

Vadodara. Six persons were arrested for allegedly smuggling ambergris (whale vomit) worth Rs 1.58 crore, weighing about 5.252 kg, in a car in Vadodara city, said police.

The arrest was made by Vadodara city police, Zone 2, Local Crime Branch (LCB) on Thursday.

Based on a tip-off about a car carrying ambergris likely to pass through the city's Bill Atladara area, the LCB Zone 2 unit set up a watch and intercepted a hatchback car with a Vadodara registration number, recovering the contraband. The accused have been identified as Vadodara-residents Surendrasinh Chavda (25), Gautam Vasava (22), Siddharth Tadvi (23), Surajsinh



Commissioner of Police, D Division, AV Katkad said, "The LCB team of Zone 2 were patrolling when they received information that a vehicle carrying ambergris was roaming in the Bill canal area." "We have learnt that they were carrying the contraband

with the intention of illegal sale... We had called in the Forest Department and the FSL to the spot. The product has been seized and sent to the forensic laboratory. The person who brought the ambergris is yet to be arrested," said Katkad.

Ambergris, also called whale vomit, is a wax-like product produced in the digestive tract of sperm whales and is believed to have a high medicinal value and is a sought-after ingredient in exotic perfumes.

The product is found in the seas in a stone-like form as it hardens over time after being ejected as an intestinal slurry by sperm whales.

The substance is prohibited in India as it is considered a byproduct of sperm whales, which are protected under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Punjab gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria's mother dies after shooting in Batala

Chandigarh. The mother of Punjab's gangster Jaggu Bhagwanpuria, who was also a former village sarpanch, died after being shot in Batala on Thursday night. Harjot Kaur was critically injured in the attack in which one other person, identified as Karanvir Singh, was declared dead on arrival at the Batala Civil Hospital. The shooting took place outside a bakery on Kadian Road, where three unidentified assailants on a motorcycle allegedly opened fire on a car. The attackers fled the scene immediately, the Batala police said. The police received information about the incident at 10.45 pm. "We got a call about the gunfire late in the evening and rushed to the spot," said DSP Parmveer Singh.

Kaur, originally from Bhagwanpura village and a resident of Urban Estate, was referred to a hospital in Amritsar due to her critical condition. She later died during treatment, according to sources.

Dr Sukharaj Singh of the civil hospital confirmed that Singh, a resident of Bhikhwali village, died from bullet injuries. Senior police officials visited the scene and have launched an investigation. Checkpoints have been established in the area to trace the suspects.

Police said the motive behind the attack is still under investigation. Kaur was active in public life and previously served as an elected member of the village panchayat in Bhagwanpura. She had faced allegations of attempting to



influence voters during elections. She had also approached the courts multiple times seeking security for her son while he was in jail. In 2022, she demanded that he be provided with a bulletproof jacket in custody. Earlier in March this year, Bhagwanpuria was arrested by the Narcotics Control Bureau from Bathinda Central Jail and transferred to Silchar Jail in Assam.

Crackdown on group targeting, harassing women spotted with men of other communities in public places: Police

Lucknow. THE UTTAR Pradesh Police are collecting information and identifying members of a group of young men belonging to a particular community that is allegedly targeting and harassing young women and girls spotted with men of other communities in public places such as parks.

Police said on Wednesday that the group members allegedly approach girls in public when they are seen with youths purportedly from another community, confront them in a manner that makes them uncomfortable and record videos while making comments about "modesty". These videos are later uploaded on social media, often accompanied by objectionable language. The group, which identifies itself as 'Haidri Dal Bareilly' on social media, came under the radar of the Bareilly police over three weeks ago, after a video surfaced online.

Bareilly Senior Superintendent of Police

Anurag Arya said they had earlier received information that a group of youths was harassing girls seen in public with men from other religions. Most of the time, by the time police reached the spot, the youths had already fled after recording videos and making remarks.

A case was registered in the matter at the Kotwali police station by police. The police have ensured that the videos have been deleted from social media. He added that the police were eventually able to track down the group and have so far arrested five of its members—all in their 20s. Four youths were arrested about two weeks ago, while the fifth was taken into custody yesterday. Police said they are making arrests as the identities of the accused are revealed. During investigation, police discovered that another group had



created an Instagram ID under the name 'Haidri Dal 25' and was also engaging in similar activities. The SSP said the fifth accused was operating an Instagram account under the name 'Haidri Dal 25'. He had created the Instagram account.

Police also found that the group was collecting funds from its members, with the money being deposited into two bank accounts, both of which have now been seized, said SSP.

On June 7, the police received information about a video circulating on social media. Upon verification, they found that the video had been shared on Instagram through an account whose bio mentioned 'Haidri Dal Bareilly'. The video appeared to have been recorded at Gandhi Udyana, a public park. In it, a few young men from a particular community are seen stopping girls from their own community who were in the company of men from another religion. The Muslim men can be heard making remarks about modesty and objecting to the girls interacting with youth of a different faith.

Delay in FYJC admissions, first merit list to be out on June 30



Mumbai. The first merit of the First Year Junior College (FYJC) admissions in Maharashtra which was to be declared on Thursday, will now be out on June 30 (Monday).

This is the fourth revision to FYJC admission schedule adding another delay of four days to the Common Admission Process (CAP).

Director of Education (Secondary) Mahesh Palkar, said, "The data which is huge in numbers is yet under process leading to the delay in declaration of merit list. Now the first merit list will be declared on June 30. And a revised admission schedule for CAP will be released soon." But with a lack of clarity on postponement on Thursday, there was panic among FYJC aspirants and their parents who kept refreshing the official admission website to check for the first merit list.

According to parents, there is already much chaos around FYJC admissions and every delay is leading to increased anxiety among students.

One of the parents said, "The least they could do is put up a message on the official website that the first merit list is not going to be declared on Thursday as per the schedule. We kept checking the website after every hour for the merit list." Several parents have also pointed out that with another delay to FYJC admissions, their wards are now sitting idle for more than three months. The SSC (Class 10) board exam was over in March. It was declared that board exams are being held early so that the next academic year will begin on time after admissions. But now, even as June is ending, there is no clarity on FYJC admissions. The FYJC admissions this year are extended to the entire Maharashtra as opposed to a separate online process for each city, which was the practice until last year.

Boon or bane? Expert says India's Colon Hydrotherapy trend may not be for everyone



New Delhi. Colon hydrotherapy or colonic irrigation has taken India's wellness scene by storm. Said to detoxify the body by purifying, detoxifying, aiding weight loss, and ensuring healthy skin, it has emerged as a so-called therapy service at spas, naturopathy centers, and luxury wellness resorts. However, while the idea of detoxifying the body is in vogue among Indians with a health-conscious lifestyle, doctors are cautioning people to use caution. Colon hydrotherapy entails inserting a pipe into the rectum to flow massive quantities of water into the colon, which is afterward flushed out to supposedly purify the intestines. While it may sound harmless cleansing method, the medical aspect of this trend must be unravelled before it can be taken as a health treatment.

Dr. Aravind Badiger, Technical Director, BDR Pharmaceuticals, explained why this trend is becoming famous among Indians.

Why Colon Hydrotherapy Appeals to Urban India

Growing digestive issues like bloating, gas, and unpredictable bowel habits are driving Indians into quick fixes.

A growing number of wellness influencers and social media marketing have fuelled the idea that colonic cleansing is a necessary reboot for health. Most people experience instant relief and lightness after the procedure, which also drives demand. But the science disagrees.

The Colon Cleans Itself: The human body is very efficient at detox. The colon, kidneys, and liver all work together in the natural removal of waste. There is no scientific basis for which colon flushing increases this process naturally. Over-involvement can deplete good gut bacteria that support digestion and immunity.

Potential Risks and Complications: Side effects of colon hydrotherapy include dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, bowel perforation, or infections, especially if improperly or too frequently performed. Prolonged treatments may impair the normal ability of the colon to contract, resulting in chronic constipation or addiction.

Not Recommended for Everyone: People with a history of gastrointestinal issues like hemorrhoids, diverticulitis, or inflammatory bowel disorders like Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis are at higher risk for complications. Elderly individuals and pregnant women should also avoid it unless recommended by a doctor.

The dependence on psychological factors: Individuals might have a psychological need for colonic surgeries in certain situations so that they can feel "healthy" rather than taking longer-term, more effective treatments such as medication or diet changes.

A More Secure Route to Digestive Health: To encourage regular bowel movement, boost your intake of fibre found naturally in foods including fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. Drink plenty of water during the day to make digestion easier and soften the feces.

Regular exercise to boost the natural digestion of the body: Walk, exercise gently, or do yoga daily to naturally stimulate your digestive system. To maintain your gut microbiota balance, have probiotics in your diet through curd or fermented foods.

IN the end, Tehran's roar of anger over the blatant violation of its sovereignty by Israel and the US came out as little more than a hesitant whimper. Its missile attack on the US Central Command air base at Al Udeid in Qatar on the night of June 23 had been telegraphed well in advance, and the 40 American fighter jets and several thousand defence personnel had been evacuated to safe locations. Their air defence systems were waiting, the incoming missiles were intercepted, but Iran's faltering regime could announce that it had hit back at the enemy and could now accept a ceasefire. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called it a historic win for his country. For Iran, pragmatism and a strong instinct for self-preservation had prevailed over bravado and bluster. Like Iraq under Saddam Hussein, the Iranian regime stood exposed before the world and before its own people for the shambolic performance of its armed forces in the face of Israel's technological superiority. Its vast defence and security infrastructure was clearly more effective in suppressing its own people than in countering a real enemy. Having survived the ordeal, the regime quickly declared its own victory so that it can again turn its misogynist eye towards its own people. Even as the guns have nervously fallen silent, it is useful to review the events of a truly unprecedented fortnight since Israel launched its unprovoked attack on Iran's nuclear and military facilities on June 13. Netanyahu has clearly accomplished something of a coup in the US, even as a second one in Tehran remains an aspirational goal. Against odds, he persuaded President Donald Trump to use the full force of US weaponry against Iranian nuclear facilities in Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan. Trump agreed to do Netanyahu's bidding despite testimony by Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard before the US Congress in March that Iran was not building a nuclear weapon and that Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei had not reauthorised the nuclear weapons programme that had been suspended in 2003. And Trump acquiesced to Netanyahu's demand despite strong opposition from MAGA stalwarts like Steve Bannon, Tucker Carlson and Marjorie Taylor Greene and his own campaign pledges to stay away from foreign conflicts.

From a distance, it looked like a case of the tail wagging the dog? Netanyahu's own histrionics were on repeated display as he warned against Iran's suspected nuclear weapons programme as an imminent and existential threat for Israel. It's a line that he has been practising since he was a

When the tail wags the dog

Trump's stern warning to Israel played a key role in shoring up a fragile ceasefire with Iran

young Member of the Knesset in 1992, one that he has repeated in testimony at the US Congress in 2002, at the UN in 2012 and on numerous other occasions. "By next spring, at most by next summer..." he cried as he displayed a kindergarten-level cartoon drawing of a bomb in the UN General Assembly. His melodrama invoked incredulous gasps from an audience that still remembered US Secretary of State Colin Powell brandishing fuzzy satellite images to make the infamous case about Saddam's 'Weapons of Mass Destruction' as a prelude to the disastrous invasion of Iraq. In between bombing Iranian facilities and carrying out targeted assassinations of key figures from the Iranian regime, Netanyahu also shifted gears on the dubious and dangerous gambit of regime change in Iran. The notion quickly travelled to Washington and produced some

some 2,500 years ago. "The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must", aka "Jiski laathi, uski bhaains". Second, the hypocrisy of the Western nations as they line up to support the case for Israel's attack on Iran. In doing so, they ignore the glaring contradiction that Israel's formidable fighting force, armed with an estimated 90 nuclear bombs and enjoying the unlimited support of the world's only military superpower, faces 'an existential threat' from Iran because of suspicion that it is developing a nuclear weapon. Commitments to a rules-based international order and sovereign borders that were so central when Russia invaded Ukraine now lie discarded in the dustbins of convenience. And third, beware the law of unintended consequences. Several middle powers will now view the acquisition of nuclear weapons as an essential insurance policy. The case histories of Ukraine and Iran will be contrasted with the experience of Israel and North Korea and indeed of India and Pakistan to reinforce the logic of going nuclear. No one should be surprised if Iran becomes the first in this race to go nuclear despite the damage wrought on its declared and clandestine facilities. The Arab countries of the Gulf also got a reality check as they faced precisely the kind of scenario that they had hoped to avoid when they rolled out the red carpet for Trump in May. Transactional Trump was happy to take the big arms deals, the business and crypto contracts and even the gilded Boeing 747, but the vital interests of his allies in the Gulf quickly fell by the wayside. Their fears of Iran as a regional bully that was bent upon exporting its medieval version of Islam to its neighbours are now replaced by two more immediate concerns — of Israel as the belligerent regional hegemon, and of a wounded Iran

that had its back to the wall and could have lashed out by attacking their oil facilities, the US bases that they host or even by blocking the Strait of Hormuz. This also had serious implications for India in terms of our energy security, trade flows and the wellbeing of our nine million-strong expatriate community in the Gulf states. Fortunately, Trump likes to position himself as the big dog in a fight. He surprised everyone, including members of his own team, by announcing a ceasefire in the early hours of June 24. And his stern warning to Israel to stop its planes from bombing Iran played a decisive role in shoring up a fragile ceasefire. It is still early days, but Trump showed that when push comes to shove, he can still turn around and snap at his tail.

genuinely mind-bending dissonance, with Vice President Vance and Secretary of State Rubio vigorously denying any such intent, while Trump mused about its virtues in his social media posts. Memories of the unmitigated disasters that followed US-led regime change operations in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and elsewhere were temporarily erased by Washington's selective amnesia. Amid the din of the 12-day war and its aftermath, three elements stood out. First, the emasculation of the UN and the burial of international law under the debris of the 14 GBU-57 'bunker buster' bombs that the US dropped on Iran. The collapse of the multilateral international order is now proceeding on steroids. It is being replaced by the ancient reality of hard power spelled out by Thucydides

Fix Kabini dam soon to avert disaster

Although experts have ruled out an immediate threat to the Kabini dam structure, they have insisted that any neglect or delay in filling up the cavity and crack can have disastrous consequences

The 51-year-old Kabini dam in Karnataka's Mysuru district has raised serious concerns after an inspection. Underwater robots and cameras deployed by the irrigation department recently detected a crack of up to half a metre and a cavity through which water is leaking. The dam is on Kapila river, a tributary of the Cauvery, and is crucial to provide water for irrigation, drinking and power generation in both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, between whom water-sharing is a very sensitive issue. Kapila as a feeder to Cauvery benefits the Karnataka districts of Mandya, Hassan, Tumakuru, Ramanagara, Mysuru, and the state capital Bengaluru, besides the Tamil Nadu districts of Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Mayiladuthurai, Pudukkottai, Cuddalore and Ramanathapuram. The Kabini reservoir now is almost up to the brim, recording 2,278.4 feet against the maximum storage height of 2,284 feet, due to the persistent heavy rains in its catchment area over the past few days. Any weakening of the structure leading to more water leakage could pose severe problems for the downstream Krishnaraja Sagara dam, which is already filled up to 120.9 feet against a maximum height of 124.8



feet. Unusual flows from these dams would not just adversely affect agricultural activities in the delta regions of the two states, but a worse-case scenario like a structural collapse can be catastrophic with flooding of

parts of Mysuru and Kodagu. Although experts have ruled out an immediate threat to the Kabini dam structure, they have insisted that any neglect or delay in filling up the cavity and crack can have disastrous consequences. Irrigation department officials are preparing a report for the 785-crore strengthening work to present to the Union government and are expecting to invite project bids in November. The high turbidity of water is claimed to be an obstacle for professional divers to do the filling up right away, raising the question why maintenance works were not taken up when the reservoir's levels were not as high. Dam Safety Act, 2021 mandates both the state and central institutional frameworks to undertake regular maintenance. The Karnataka and Union governments must work together on a war-footing despite their political differences to avert any catastrophe arising from delayed maintenance work at these crucial sites.

A look below India's poverty lines

While a World Bank report claims India's poverty rates have fallen sharply, other studies show that tackling deprivation remains a deeply challenging endeavour. While the government's safety nets have helped, India must fix its unemployment problem and grow at a much faster rate if it is to eradicate poverty in the near future

Has poverty been nearly eradicated in India? Yes, if one goes by the findings of a World Bank brief on poverty and equity released in April. As per the report, the proportion of people in India living below the revised international poverty line of \$3 per capita per day at 2021's purchasing power parity (PPP) has declined sharply from 27.1 percent in 2011-12 to 5.3 percent in 2022-23.

If one uses the previous international poverty line of \$2.15 per capita per day (2017 PPP) the proportion below the poverty line in India fell from 16.2 percent in 2011-12 to 2.3 percent in 2022-23. This implies that over the period from 2011-12 to 2022-23, about 171 million people were lifted above the poverty line. If, on the other hand, one uses the international poverty line of \$3.65, applicable for lower middle-income countries such as India, the proportion declined from 61.8 percent to 28.1 percent during the same period. The World Bank's findings are based on data from India's Household Consumer Expenditure Surveys of 2011-12 and 2022-23. Given that the methodology used for these two surveys was different, the World Bank has not clarified how these two sets of data were made comparable. The Indian government did not release the 2017-18 HCES due to data quality issues, although it followed the same methodology as the 2011-12 survey.

In a recent article, former RBI Governor C Rangarajan and Mahendra Dev, Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, argue that India's GDP growth primarily explains this decline in poverty. This is questionable considering the history of East Asian economies, which experienced a sharp decline in poverty levels

only at high economic growth rates. China, for instance, reported a sharp decline in poverty levels only when GDP growth exceeded 10 percent between 1978 to 2010. India's average GDP growth rates have ranged between 3.8 percent and around 7 percent in the last 10 years, except for -5.38 percent in 2020 due to the Covid pandemic.

Moreover, evidence shows the fruits of growth have largely accrued to the rich. Despite the growth, the share of labour in India's gross value added has recorded only a slight increase whereas corporate profits have surged. Oxfam's Inequality report for India shows the richest 1 percent controlled more than 40 percent of the country's total wealth, whereas the bottom 50 percent owned a mere 3 percent. About 73 percent of the wealth generated in 2017 went to the top 1 percent, whereas the bottom half reported a mere 1 percent increase in their wealth. Then what explains this steep decline in poverty? There is no doubt that the safety nets provided by the government such as the provision of free foodgrains to over 60 percent of the population and subsidised LPG to poor households largely explain it. However, if less than a twentieth are extremely poor in India, one may question the justification for providing free foodgrains to three-fifths of the population overlooking its adverse fiscal

implications and impact on agricultural prices. Unlike the monetary-based poverty line used by the World Bank, the UNDP's multidimensional poverty index (MPI) measures the extent of deprivation based on 10 health,



education and standard of living indicators. Based on it, India reported 234 million people as multidimensionally poor in 2024. The poverty rate in terms of this broader definition of deprivation was 16.4 percent. India along with Pakistan, Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo accounted for nearly half the global multidimensionally poor population of 1.1 billion people. According to the National Family Health

Survey conducted in 2019-21, despite the government's initiatives to address malnutrition such as POSHAN and Integrated Child Development Services, about 35.5 percent of children aged under 5 years are stunted, 19.3 percent 'wasted', and 32.1 percent underweight. Further, 7.7 percent of children are 'severely wasted', or are facing acute malnutrition. Unemployment among youth, women and rural people continues to be high alongside wage stagnation among workers. As per the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey data released by the Union ministry of statistics, the unemployment rate among youth in the age group 15-29 years in rural areas rose to 13.7 percent in May 2025 and 17.9 percent in urban areas. Unemployment rates for women also rose to 5.8 percent. The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy states that India's youth unemployment rate during the past decade has hovered around 22 percent. Critics therefore refer to the past decade as one characterised by jobless growth. India still has a long way to go before poverty can be totally eradicated. For this to happen, India's annual GDP growth rate needs to be accelerated to 10 percent or more. While it is laudable that India has outstripped Japan in total economic output, the GDP per capita in India—at \$2,711 in 2024—is still a tenth of that in Japan, where it is at \$33,950.

Taps run dry, tankers take over, tempers rise in Gurgaon's BPTP Astaire Gardens

Gurgaon: Hundreds of families living in BPTP Astaire Gardens have been reeling under an acute water crisis for weeks, with no let-up in sight yet. The supply from GMDA has been erratic and inadequate, forcing 700 families of the residential society in Sector 70A to depend heavily on private tankers. Residents estimate they have spent nearly Rs 3 lakh on private water tankers this month alone. Despite multiple complaints to GMDA on May 3, 10 and 22, no tangible action has followed. Earlier, GMDA cited "pipeline damage", but residents say there has been no clear explanation or accountability since. "We're spending from our own pockets for a basic necessity that the govt is supposed to provide us," Astaire Gardens RWA president Jaswant Rao said. On Monday, a delegation met deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar and submitted a formal complaint, demanding immediate restoration of supply and a long-term plan to prevent recurrence. "This is mentally and financially exhausting," RWA general secretary Aruni Shukla said. "We pay taxes and water charges, yet we're left scrambling for tankers every day just to maintain basic hygiene." With summer pushing daily demand to nearly 8 lakh litres, the shortfall has been severe. Residents say GMDA's supply has declined steadily since mid-May — hitting zero on May 22. "Not a single drop came that day. We had to survive on stored water and extreme rationing," said Rao. GMDA officials admitted a shortfall. A senior GMDA official said Sector 70A currently receives water via the Sector 51 boosting station. A new boosting station in Sector 72 is under construction and is expected to be operational by year-end. Officials also said water output at the Chandu Budhera plant has been augmented by 50 MLD to ease the pressure, but residents argue these long-term measures offer only little relief for their ongoing distress.

Just one-fourth of environmental penalties recovered in 6 years, Haryana pollution board to NGT

Gurgaon: Just a quarter of environmental compensation (EC) imposed on those found violating norms in six years was recovered, Haryana's pollution control board told NGT, urging it to consider ways for taking legal action against defaulters. HSPCB told the National Green Tribunal (NGT) earlier this month that it imposed EC amounting to Rs 499 crore on 462 industrial units operating without mandatory clearances between April 2019 and Mar 2025. Of this, Rs 132 crore was recovered as EC, but the remaining — Rs 367 crore — was pending. HSPCB said that it runs into several obstructions in recovering EC. A key problem is that small-scale industrial units evade paying compensation by abandoning rented or illegally occupied premises after they are issued closure orders. These units operate in compact or open spaces, making enforcement and tracking difficult. Once vacated, the EC notices remain undelivered, it said. HSPCB also pointed out that the lack of any statutory mechanism or policy to write off EC dues means that they keep mounting. "There is no policy/scheme to settle or write off the environmental compensation of such units, and thus the amount remains outstanding," the May 20-submission by Krishna Kumar, regional officer, HSPCB (Gurgaon-south), read. "It is also necessary to bring into kind notice of this honourable tribunal that due to the absence of any statutory backup for imposition and recovery of environmental compensation, it is humbly prayed to this tribunal to impel the defaulter units and to initiate the action against them for recovery of the environmental compensation," the submission added. HSPCB's response came on a petition by activist Varun Gulati, who sought a manner to address delays in recovering EC imposed by the board on polluters. Gulati argues that such delays may benefit polluters as the slow pace of enforcement allows them to continue operations without facing timely financial consequences. "It is clear that HSPCB has failed to do its job. Even though it has imposed EC, it hasn't collected EC. Then what's the use of imposing EC? Instead of paying up the fines, many of the 'sealed' or 'closed' units just begin operations somewhere else. Owners get away by saying the units have been dismantled or closed."

No service, but forced to pay: Societies protest against MCM's sanitation charge

Gurgaon: Thousands of residents of group housing societies living in new sectors are up in arms against imposition of sanitation charges by MCM despite no door-to-door waste collection services by the corporation. In what residents call an "arbitrary and coercive" collection under the guise of municipal taxation, MCM has appended sanitation tax to their property tax bills even though no civic worker has ever entered their compounds for waste pickup. The charges, enforced without service, are not just causing inconvenience — they block transactions like property sales and lease agreements, since a No Dues Certificate (NDC) cannot be obtained unless the tax is paid. They pointed out that the directorate of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) earlier instructed MCM to levy such charges only where door-to-door garbage collection is provided. On Monday, representatives from several housing societies met with additional commissioner Jitender Kumar and submitted a memorandum demanding an immediate waiver of the sanitation charges. "Why are we paying for something we never received? Our society spends around Rs 7 lakh every month on sanitation managed by us, yet MCM forces us to pay again just to get a No Dues Certificate. This is nothing short of coercion," said Dharmvir Singh, president of Mapski Casaballa RWA. In a letter to the MCM commissioner, RWAs have demanded an independent forensic audit of sanitation deployment records and expenditure, alongside the immediate rollback of the charges and legal action against any officials involved in violating the ULB order.

Auto-cracy: Cops are gone, overloading back in Noida's Sector 52

Noida. A week after traffic police crackdown, auto-rickshaw drivers outside the Sector 52 metro station continue to overload passengers heading to Greater Noida West and nearby areas. A visit to the spot on Wednesday showed a long line of autos parked along the left lane between Sector 51 and Sector 52 metro stations, calling out to commuters heading to Gaur City, Surajpur, and other areas. Sumit Kumar, an auto driver, said that traffic police recently cracked down on overloading and seized several vehicles. "Earlier, we used to carry five passengers on a shared basis from Sector 52 to Gaur Chowk, charging Rs 40 each — three passengers in the back and two next to the driver — earning Rs 200 per trip. Now, the police have barred us from taking passengers in the front seat, which means we can only carry three people and earn Rs 120 per trip," he said. Auto drivers had raised the fare to Rs 60 per passenger in response to the drive, sparking protests last Friday evening and forcing police intervention. "Either we raise the fare or we overload. Plying on the route with the



existing fare with three passengers is not viable for us," said Sonu Kumar, another auto driver. There are over 18,000 registered autos in the city but most do not follow metered fares, citing outdated tariff structures. Despite traffic police taking action previously, auto drivers have resumed overloading in the absence of

consistent monitoring. The problem of overcharging has also persisted. Harsh Kumar, a resident of Gaur City, said that the fare hike is unjustified, especially when there is no bus or metro connectivity in Greater Noida West. "I travel daily from Gaur City to Nehru Place via Sector 51. The autos are the only viable mode for

last-mile connectivity. Arbitrarily increasing the fare is not fair," he said. Several commuters heading to the 7x sectors also reported being overcharged by auto drivers as there is no fixed auto fare and drivers do not pay by meter. The Sector 50 and Sector 52 metro stations serve as crucial interchanges between Delhi Metro's Blue Line and NMRC's Aqua lines, and witness heavy footfall as people switch modes or take autos towards various parts of Noida and Greater Noida West. These stations are currently linked by a pedestrian walkway, with a skywalk expected to open later this year. In the meantime, pedestrians face considerable inconvenience navigating through a footpath encroached by hawkers, vendors, and other roadside sellers. When it began operations in Jan 2019, the Aqua Line's daily ridership was around 11,852. By April this year, the daily ridership had increased to 59,336. As per 2023 ridership data, Sector 51 metro station sees around 17,000 passengers daily, while Sector 52 caters to about 45,000 commuters daily.

Haryana powers up MSME sectors with Rs 170 crore cluster development plan

Gurgaon. Eleven clusters of MSME (micro, small, medium enterprise) are being developed in Haryana at an estimated cost of Rs 169.6 crore, while a subsidy of Rs 20 crore will also be provided by the state govt. The move is aimed at developing the industry, with the govt setting out to upgrade technology, common facilities and infrastructure. An official of the industry department said on Monday, "Haryana Cluster Development Scheme for MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) has plans to establish shared facilities like testing centers, training centers and research centers as well." Haryana's industry and commerce minister Rao Narbir Singh said, "The comprehensive approach towards MSME development reflects the govt's focus on creating a robust industrial ecosystem that can compete effectively in the national and global markets." Rao said under the scheme, 46 projects worth Rs 158 crore have been approved so far. The minister said the state govt has formed a separate MSME directorate under the startup programme started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to motivate youth towards self-employment. Under this, 90% grant assistance is provided for the mini-cluster development programme. The minister also highlighted the success of the cluster plug and play scheme, under which 33 projects valued at around Rs 359 crore have been approved. The govt has allocated Rs 75.98 crore as grant support for these projects. Rao said the MSME directorate has prepared a framework to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the industries. When there is a sudden power cut, assistance is duly provided to reduce the loss of production time and reduction in quality. Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided on the capital expenditure. He said the aim is to establish Haryana as a major investment destination of the country and abroad by preparing new enterprise development and regional schemes and policies.

Defunct pumps: Two engineers served notices over waterlogging at Gurgaon's Gulmohar Park

Gurgaon. MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya on Monday issued show-cause notices to two engineers, a day after a junior engineer was suspended. The notices to an executive engineer and an assistant engineer were issued due to non-operational motor pumps at the sump well at Gulmohar Park in Sector 15 area of the city. The pumps were not functioning because of the absence of an electricity connection. Sunday's rainfall transformed Gulmohar Park into a severely waterlogged area, with images of the flooded location circulating widely on social media platforms. Subsequently, MCG took disciplinary action by



suspending a junior engineer for dereliction of duty on Sunday. The civic body has given three days to the engineers to submit a written explanation for their failure to ensure an electrical connection

and subsequently operate the motor pumps. If the engineers fail to produce an explanation, disciplinary action will be taken against them. "It has been observed the motor pumps installed at the sump well in Gulmohar Park remain non-functional due to the lack of an electricity connection even though repeated instructions were issued to you for addressing the matter urgently," read the notices sent to executive engineer (electrical) Parveen Kumar and assistant engineer Naim Hussain.

Finally, a permanent fix: Work on drain starts to tackle eway flooding in Gurgaon

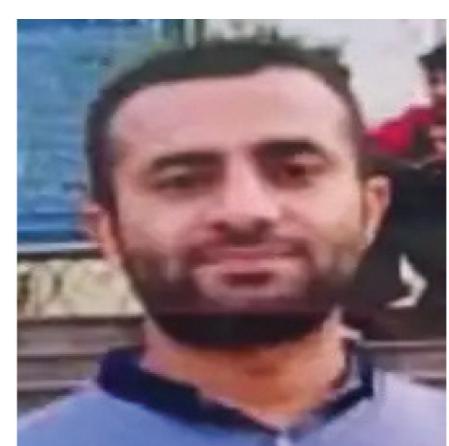


Gurgaon. GMDA on Monday began construction of a 750m-long open drain to connect the flood-prone Narsingpur area directly to the Badshapur drain — a move officials hope will end waterlogging on this critical section of NH8. With this, commuters and businesses may finally see a solution taking shape after years of monsoon misery and waterlogged roads that would choke one of the busiest

stretches of Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway. Until now, water from the Narsingpur area was pumped out using temporary pipelines and motors deployed by NHAI and GMDA, a method that failed to cope with intense rainfall. The new open drain is expected to eliminate reliance on these short-term fixes. GMDA executive engineer Vikram Singh said, "The work to ensure the free flow of stormwater and

curb any waterlogging situation along the low-lying area of Narsingpur was held up due to the non-availability of clear right of way (ROW) on HSIIDC land. Now, with land issues resolved, GMDA has commenced work on linking this patch directly to the Badshapur drain. "This connection is expected to offer a long-term solution to flooding concerns on this vital highway stretch," Singh said. Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar visited the site on Monday evening to take stock of the progress and urged officials to expedite the work. Earlier in the day, GMDA, in coordination with Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), conducted a joint demolition drive to clear a six-metre-wide corridor for the drain. "Efforts to secure the land were ongoing for over a month. A court case delayed the project, but we explored alternate alignments. In a recent meeting, we reached an agreement with a private landowner and HSIIDC. A duty magistrate was deployed on Monday to oversee the clearance and ensure there were no law and order issues.

Going out for important work. Will come home & eat': Noida cop's last text to wife before Ghaziabad raid



NOIDA. Saurabh Kumar was always at the forefront of high-stakes action, which is why the 32-year-old constable was assigned to the special operations group (SOG) and was part of the seven-member team that went to Ghaziabad's Nalih village to catch Qadir, one of NCR's most wanted criminals.

"I'm going out for some important work, and will eat after returning," Saurabh told his wife Ayushi, when she messaged him around 9pm to ask about having dinner at home. Ayushi called him two hours later, but the call went unanswered. Minutes after that, Saurabh was caught in an ambush and shot dead by around 8-10 miscreants during the raid.

The family was informed about his death by 1.30am. Saurabh, who belonged to Badhai Kannukheda village in Shamli, always wanted to join the forces.

In 2016, he joined UP Police and was posted to Noida ever since. In 2020, he married Ayushi, daughter of a Delhi Police cop.

Saurabh's colleagues say he was one to count on. "He was good at catching criminals. He was always part of the teams that would go to nab notorious criminals inside and outside the state. He played a role in many notable arrests and received honors," a colleague from the Phase 3 police station, where Saurabh was posted, told TOI on Monday.

Another colleague said that Saurabh had recently been talking about going on a vacation. "He told us that it had been a

Noida plans skywalk for Sector 62-63 roundabout along Delhi-Meerut Expressway

Noida. Noida Authority will soon build a modern circular skywalk at the Sector 62-63 roundabout along Delhi-Meerut Expressway to ease pedestrian movement and reduce traffic congestion. The skywalk will be built above the ground to mirror the roundabout. It will be around 400m long and covered with an iron roof so that people can use it comfortably even during rain or heat. To make it more accessible, an escalator and an elevator will be installed on each side of the skywalk. The skywalk will also be connected to the foot overbridge that stands on the side of the highway only a short distance away from the roundabout, making it easier for pedestrians coming from Ghaziabad to reach Noida without crossing traffic. Previously, the Authority had planned a 3.5km model road from Sector 62 to Mamra.

perpetrators. Noida Police, too, rallied around the family. Commissioner Laxmi Singh announced that every officer and employee of the Gautam Budh Nagar Commissionerate would contribute one day's salary while she would add Rs 1

lakh from her paycheck, totaling Rs 75.1 lakh that would be dedicated to the family. "On behalf of Commissionerate Gautam Budh Nagar, we express our heartfelt condolences to the family of our martyred brave soldier," Singh said.

How a Kathak dancer is rewriting tradition, in ghungroos and turban

Ludhiana-based Taranjot Singh, one of India's first practising Sikh Kathak dancers, with all the markers of his faith intact, is challenging norms to follow his passion

At a modest dance studio in Delhi's Vikaspuri, 20-year-old Taranjot Singh — his turban tied neatly and beard flowing — turns his wrists to gently flick his little finger, mimicking the movement of kohl being applied to the eyes.

A gesture from Kathak's shrigar ras, a staple in its presentation for centuries, it is meant to convey the intimacy of beautifying oneself. In the dance studio, a group of girls attending Singh's masterclass mimic the gesture, trying to find the grace that he brings to the fore. Most students, along with their mothers, who sit outside waiting, have been following Singh's work on social media, where clips of him performing Kathak routines on Hindi film songs have struck a chord. For many, it is also the first time they have seen someone who looks like him — bearded and



wearing a turban — taking on the role of a Kathak performer.

"I never wanted to cut my beard and shear my hair. I believe in my faith, which has taught me to stay grounded... But I also wanted to dance, specifically Kathak," says Singh, perhaps the first Sikh Kathak dancer in India with a turban and a flowing beard.

Like many boys in Punjab, he grew up with bhangra and Punjabi music, but also wanted to explore contemporary music. One day, 13 years old and a student at Kala Nikhar, a dance academy in Ludhiana, he saw one of his teachers, Puklit Jain, performing Kathak while donning heavy ghungroos.

"The speed, the spins, the variation in spins, the difficult footwork — I thought it was all beautiful. And that I could do it all too," says Singh. Jain, a student of legendary Kathak dancer Pandit Rajendra Gangani, is a noted name from the Jaipur gharana, which is associated with powerful footwork and rhythmic virtuosity. One of the other prominent Kathak gharanas, Lucknow, emphasises bhav (expression), baithak thumri presentations (the art of sitting and expressing through one's face and subtle body movements) and storytelling.

"After Puklit Sir encouraged me, I decided to give Kathak a shot. I never knew it would become such a significant part of my identity... Whatever I am today, it's because of Kathak," says Singh, who went on to win many local youth festivals and competitions before his television stint in 2024.

Delhi Police arrest criminal after shootout in Rajouri Garden

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi Police on Thursday night arrested a hardened criminal after a shootout in the Rajouri Garden area of West Delhi. According to the police, the encounter between the accused, Vinay, 36, and the police team took place behind the Sanjay Gandhi Animal Hospital around 10 pm, during a targeted operation to nab suspects involved in robberies and snatching cases in the area. Vinay, who sustained a gunshot injury to his right leg, was immediately overpowered and shifted to a hospital, said the police.



The accused, a resident of Sultan Garden in Najafgarh, is a habitual offender with 56 cases registered against him. According to e-prison records, he was also involved in a shootout with Delhi Police's Special Cell in 2021.

Acting on a tip-off, the police teams had been tracking the movements of the suspect, also called Mota, a hardened criminal with a long history of offences. The police mobilised multiple teams to intercept Vinay on Thursday after his movement was detected near the Rajouri Garden area, an officer said. After he was spotted on a motorcycle near the Nala Road stretch, the police cordoned off the area and attempted to stop him. However, Vinay allegedly opened fire on the police party, and one of the bullets struck a bulletproof jacket worn by a member of the police team. In response, the police team returned fire in self-defence, during which the accused, the officer said.

Delhi government extends excise policy for 9 months, till March next year

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi government on Friday decided to extend its existing excise policy, under which only government liquor shops are allowed in the city, for another nine months, till March 31, 2026.

According to officials, the government has formed a high-level committee to chalk out a new policy, and it will need time to finalise the modalities and guidelines. Meanwhile, as the existing policy's term ends on June 30, the excise department decided to extend the old excise regime under which four government corporations run liquor shops in Delhi.

"The Competent Authority has granted approval for continuation of Excise Duty Based Regime which is in effect from licensing year 2022-23, (which was continued in 2023-24 and 2024-25) for Excise Year 2025-26 (w.e.f. 01.07.2025 to 31.03.2026), for grant of wholesale licenses on basis of same terms and conditions and accordingly new L-1, L-1F, L-2 Licenses are allowed on same terms and conditions of Excise Duty Based Regime," a notification issued by Tanvir Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner, Excise, on Friday reads. The notification said that the terms and conditions of all licences, which are renewable every year, are also continued for the excise year 2025-26 within the following timelines:

If the licensees pay the renewal fees within 30 days of the circular being issued, only the requisite licence fee (pro-rata) as per the licence category has to be paid.

If the payment is made in the 30-60 day period from the day of issuance of the circular, the licensees have to pay an additional fee of 25 per cent of the annual licence fee (pro-rata) along with the licence fee (pro-rata) as per the category.

Licensees who cross the 60-day period will have to pay an additional fee of 100 per cent of the annual licence fee (pro-rata) along with the license fee (pro-rata).

Meanwhile, the department has also asked concerned branches dealing with all the licences and permits granted or renewed to issue necessary circulars in this regard.

Delhi CNG pump owner robbed at farmhouse of Rs 30 lakh: Victim's drivers among 4 arrested

The incident took place on Monday night when the victim, Karan Chopra, was with his family at his farmhouse in Ghitorni.

Agency New Delhi.

Three days after a CNG pump chain owner was robbed of Rs 30 lakh, the Delhi Police arrested four men — including two of the victim's drivers.

The two drivers — Satendar Singh, 35, and Anil, 54 — and their accomplices, Santosh Tripathi, 40, and Shammi, 49, were arrested from different parts of Delhi where they had fled to evade capture.

The incident took place on Monday night when the victim, Karan Chopra, was with his family at his farmhouse in Ghitorni.

A man posing as a delivery boy knocked on his door. As soon as Chopra opened the gate, he was pushed aside by the accused while three more men entered his house, police had said earlier.

"They told him that they have guns. They

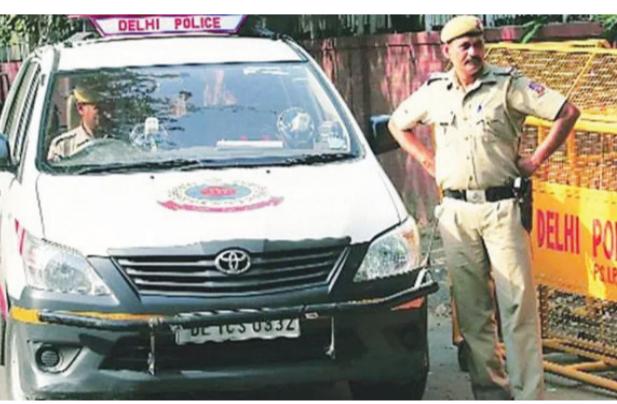
told him to stay calm, and let them leave with the cash. They took whatever money and jewellery was at the farmhouse. Then they took Chopra

— Rs 3.15 lakh from Satendar; Rs 95,000 from Anil; Rs 1.95 lakh from Santosh; and Rs 10,000 from Shammi. Police said the two drivers, who were

arrested late Wednesday, were the brains behind the whole operation.

"The two knew everything about the amount of cash that was kept at both the victim's house and his office. They called in the other two accused to help pull off the robbery for a fraction of the proceeds," DCP (Southwest Delhi) Amit Goel said.

After questioning Satendar and Anil, police arrested the other two accused on Thursday morning. "Attempts to recover the rest of the stolen amount are being made," a police official said.



to his office on MG Road in Gurgaon in his own car to take out more cash," a police officer had said.

Following the arrests, police said a total of Rs 6.6 lakh of the stolen amount has been recovered from the four accused

DU undergrad admissions: New tie-breaker rule introduced, here's how it will work

The rush comes amid several changes to the admission process, including a new tie-breaking formula and the introduction of a "direct auto-accept" option for seat allocation.

Agency New Delhi.

Over a week after Delhi University opened its undergraduate admissions for the 2025-26 academic year, the varsity has recorded 83,296 registrations on its Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS) portal, The Indian Express has learnt. The rush comes amid several changes to the admission process, including a new tie-breaking formula and the introduction of a "direct auto-accept" option for seat allocation.

In response to challenges faced last year, DU has revised its tie-breaking rules — it will now take into account marks scored by students in Class X as one of the options.

Explaining why the varsity has

considered the new rule this year and how it would be implemented, DU, Dean of Admissions, Haneet Gandhi, told The Indian Express, "Until last

and merit-based approach. So we decided to use Class X marks. We will take the average of all subjects taken by a student in Class X and use that to break the tie."

The move, Gandhi said, ensures that "meritorious students would be considered without fail".

Until last year, for cases where two or more applicants have the same CUET score for a given programme-college combination, the CSAS guidelines said tie-breaking rules would be applied in this order:

— Candidate with a higher percentage of aggregate marks in the best three subjects of Class XII will be given preference.



year, we were working with raw data and, in some cases, we had to allocate seats based on the alphabetical order of names."

"This year, we wanted a more rational

'Think of how an old post may be problematic, then delete it': New US Visa rule fuels student anxiety over social media

Outlining each visa adjudication as a "national security decision," the United States has mandated that applicants reveal their social media usernames or handles for every platform used in the past five years.

Agency New Delhi.

A 24-year-old from Delhi, who recently secured admission to Harvard University in the United States, describes how his days now begin with combing through his Instagram account. "Every few hours, I think of how an old post may be problematic, and then delete it," he says. "Even memes feel risky now."

He is one of the several Indian students who spoke to The Indian Express about the rising anxiety over a recent US directive requiring all F, M, and J visa applicants to make their social media accounts public.

The advisory, citing "national security and public safety," instructs visa applicants to change their privacy settings to allow for vetting by consular officers — a marked shift from previous years, when only publicly visible content could be viewed and considered. The F, M, and J visas are non-immigrant visas for foreign nationals seeking to study or participate in exchange programmes.

"national security decision," the United States has mandated that applicants reveal their social media usernames or handles for every platform used in the past five years. On Thursday, the US Embassy in India issued a statement, warning that failure to disclose social media

what that is supposed to mean."

For most students, the process of making years of personal content accessible to immigration authorities has been stressful, especially because there is little clarity on what might raise red flags. A 23-year-old from Mumbai, who also got into Harvard, says he made all his accounts public on May 22 — the day he submitted his online non-immigrant visa application (DS-160 form). "Since then, I've archived everything even remotely political. I've stopped liking posts too, just in case even that is visible," he shares.

Career counselling firms said they had to swiftly adapt in light of the change. "The recent US government directive is a significant development — but one that serious academically-oriented applicants can certainly navigate successfully," underlines Aman Singh, co-founder, GradRight, Gurgaon. "Our core guidance now focuses on helping students understand and actively manage their digital footprint. It's about being mindful



information "could lead to visa denial and ineligibility for future visas."

"I gave my interview earlier in June, and I'm still waiting for my visa," says the Delhi-based student. "The guideline is very vague. It says 'anything that violates American values.' We don't even know

Gangster Manjot Mahal's nephew shot dead in Delhi's Bawana; police say fallout of a gang war



Agency New Delhi.

A 30-year-old man was killed and his seven-year-old daughter was injured when unidentified men shot at them in Delhi's Bawana area while they were out on a morning walk Friday.

The man has been identified as Deepak, and sources in the Delhi Police said they suspect the shooters could be linked to the gang of Kapil Sangwan, who is also known as Nandu, as the deceased is the nephew of jailed mafia don Manjeet Mahal, the Nandu gang's longtime rival.

According to senior police officers, the shooting took place at around 7.30 am when Deepak was walking with his daughter. Deepak died on the spot, and his daughter sustained injuries to her hand. She has been treated and is out of danger. Deepak's body has been sent for post-mortem examination, the police said.

Meanwhile, the crime and forensics teams have reached the spot where the shooting took place, and are analysing the bullet shells.

Mahal and London-based Sangwan have been in each other's crosshairs even before he fled to the United Kingdom. The Delhi Police say the rivalry between the gangs originated out of a money lending dispute in 2015, when Mahal's associate allegedly gunned down Sangwan's brother-in-law over a pending loan. Sangwan then launched a full-scale gang war against Mahal, now jailed, and orchestrated the killing of his father in 2017.

Massive fire breaks out at chemical factory in Noida; no injuries

Agency New Delhi.

A massive fire broke out early Friday at a chemical manufacturing unit in Noida's Sector 2, prompting a multi-agency response. Officials confirmed that the blaze, which started at around 5.30 am at Sham Paints Industries located in Sector 2, was brought under control with no injuries or casualties reported.

Pradeep Kumar, Chief Fire Officer (CFO), Gautam Budh Nagar, said the initial alert about the fire was received from the area's police at 5.30 am.

"We were informed that a fire had broken out at



Sham Paints. Two fire tenders were immediately dispatched from the nearest station, which is barely 500 metres away," he said.

However, by the time the two fire tenders arrived, the flames had intensified significantly. "There were multiple explosions, and the flames had already spread across a wide area. Given the scale and nature of the blaze, we called in reinforcements from Ghaziabad, Hapur, Bulandshahr, Meerut, and even private sector units," Kumar said. More than seven fire tenders were deployed to the site, as five more were rushed from the neighbouring units. Firefighters first made attempts to prevent the flames from spreading to the adjacent factories, which are located near the factory that had been affected by the fire.

and authentic." While there has been a 20-25% drop in the number of students going to the US over the past 6-8 months, according to Singh, loan approvals through GradRight for students accepted to top-tier colleges have gone up by 60%. "The appeal of US universities remains strong. For strong, high-intent students, the process is still working," he adds. Akshay Chaturvedi, founder and CEO of Leverage Edu, based in Noida, says the shift merely formalises what many universities were already doing. "This update adds a new layer to visa assessments but also reinforces the value of a student's digital presence," he says. "No need to delete or disguise — just ensure coherence and avoid ambiguity." "With the right awareness, students can use this as an opportunity to project clarity and intent, traits that matter across every global education system," Chaturvedi adds. About 15-20% of the monthly student applications at Leverage Edu represent students aiming to pursue higher education in the United States.

No guarantees in mutual funds: Investment adviser warns against risky PF advice

New Delhi. Withdraw your PF and invest in mutual funds. I can get you 12% guaranteed." That's what a financial advisor told someone recently. Sounds smart? "It's actually reckless advice," said Abhishek Kumar, a Sebi-Registered Investment Adviser and founder of SahajMoney. "Because here's the truth: no one can 'guarantee' 10-13% returns in mutual funds. That's not how market-linked products work," he said in a recent LinkedIn post. Kumar, who has been in the financial planning business for over 15 years, says he has seen many such cases—"well-meaning families being misled in the name of 'higher returns.'" He calls this kind of advice dangerous, especially when it involves the Provident Fund, or PF. "PF is your retirement safety net. That money is meant to grow slowly, safely, and tax-free. Touching it for higher-risk products can wreck your future security."

While mutual funds can be valuable tools for wealth creation, Kumar stresses they are not meant to replace guaranteed instruments. "Mutual funds are great, but not for guaranteed income. Returns are market-driven. One year may give 15%, another might give -2%." The push for guaranteed returns, he adds, often comes from individuals who don't have the investor's best interests in mind. "Many 'advisors' are actually sales agents. They earn commission when you invest through them. That means their advice often serves their income, not your goals."

And just because it's possible to withdraw PF doesn't mean it's the right choice. "Yes, you can withdraw PF. But should you? Unless there's an emergency or a solid retirement backup—don't mess with it," Kumar also points out that "risk isn't always visible up front."

"When the market crashes, it's not the advisor who suffers—it's you," he added. His advice for individuals is to stay alert and avoid falling for promises related to market-linked returns. "So take 'guarantees' with a mountain of salt. If your advisor pushes risky products with fake guarantees, fire them. A real advisor will protect your peace of mind, not gamble your future."

JSW Paints to acquire majority stake in Akzo Nobel India

NEW DELHI. JSW Paints has signed a definitive agreement to acquire a 74.7% stake in Akzo Nobel India Ltd for Rs 8,986 crore, marking the Jindal Group's biggest acquisition to date and signalling a major shake-up in India's paints industry.

With this move, JSW Paints will take sole control of Akzo Nobel India, which operates under the Dulux brand, and emerge as the fourth-largest player in the decorative paints segment. The transaction involves the sale of shares held by Akzo Nobel's two promoter entities—Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd (50.46%) and Akzo Nobel Coatings International B.V. (24.30%). Following the acquisition, JSW Paints is required to make an open offer for an additional 26% stake, in line with SEBI regulations.

According to JSW Paints, Morgan Stanley acted as its exclusive financial advisor, while Khaitan & Co. provided legal counsel and Deloitte led the financial and tax due diligence.

Headed by Parth Jindal, JSW Paints has struggled to break into the top three since its launch six years ago. While newer rival Birla Opus (Grasim Industries) has already captured around 7% market share since its February 2024 debut, JSW Paints has largely operated below the radar in the decorative segment. Akzo Nobel India has historically focused on luxury and ultra-premium products under the Dulux brand, with a strong presence in urban markets. The acquisition will give JSW immediate brand equity, market reach, and capacity to challenge incumbents like Berger Paints and Kansai Nerolac. Post-deal, JSW will also become the second-largest player in the industrial paints segment, trailing only Kansai Nerolac.

Why Jio Financial Services shares are rising

New Delhi. The Jio Financial's shares are on the rise after Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) gave its nod to Jio BlackRock Broking to work as a stock broker and clearing member.

The Jio Financial stock gained around 5 percent on the BSE on June 267, 2025. The counter opened at Rs 313.85 against its previous close of Rs 312.40 and surged 4.5 per cent to reach an intraday high of Rs 326.55. At around 12:30 pm, the scrip was trading at Rs 325.80, a gain of 4.25 per cent. Jio Financial has informed the exchanges that the Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued a certificate of registration to Jio BlackRock Broking Private Limited as a stock broker and clearing member on June 25, 2025. The latest development comes after Jio Financial Services on June 11 in its exchange filing stated that Jio BlackRock Investment Advisory has received approval from SEBI to act as an investment advisor.

"Securities and Exchange Board of India, vide letter dated June 10, 2025, has granted certificate of registration to Jio BlackRock Investment Advisers Private Limited ("JBIAPL") to act as an Investment Adviser," Jio Financial has mentioned in its regulatory filing. On June 26, 2025, Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFSL) announced to pump in Rs 190 crore in its payments bank subsidiary. The company informed the exchanges that it has been allotted 19,00,00,000 equity shares of Rs 10 each of Jio Payments Bank Ltd.

The Company has today, subscribed to and has been allotted 19,00,00,000 equity shares of Rs 10/- each of Jio Payments Bank Limited, wholly owned subsidiary, for cash at par, aggregating Rs 190 crore. The transaction is between the company and its wholly owned subsidiary and hence a related party transaction. It is on an arm's length basis. None of the Company's promoter / promoter group / other group companies have any interest in the above transaction. No governmental or regulatory approval is required for the above transaction.

Rs 45 lakh for raising a child Why parenting feels like a luxury now

Rising everyday expenses, pricey education and costly healthcare are forcing many young couples to think twice about kids. According to a startup founder, starting a family is personal, but money has become a key factor.

New Delhi. Starting a family is a dream for many young couples in India. But these days, money worries are making that dream feel out of reach for some. Raising a child in urban India now costs almost Rs 45 lakh, making it an expense many young couples simply can't justify.

Bengaluru-based startup founder Meenal Goel, broke down the numbers in a LinkedIn post, showing how middle-class parenting is turning into an unaffordable luxury. She wrote, "Cost of raising a child in India is ~ Rs 45 lakhs! We are scared to have a kid, because we cannot afford it. I recently met a couple who said this, and honestly, they're not wrong." The financial demands during this phase are substantial, requiring careful budgeting and planning. Moreover, these early years set the foundation for future expenses, making it essential to plan ahead.

Goel further wrote, "So I sat down and did the math. What does it actually cost to raise a child in India in 2025?" She broke it down stage by stage. From birth to preschool, expenses quickly accumulate. Hospital delivery costs range between Rs 1.5 and Rs 2.5 lakhs, while vaccinations can add another Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000. Essential items such as baby gear, food, and diapers

account for approximately Rs 3 lakhs. Additionally, the cost of playschool and daycare can be around Rs 2.5 lakhs, bringing the total to Rs 7-8 lakhs by the time the child reaches school age. She further wrote that the school years, from

bringing this phase to about Rs 17 lakh. It doesn't end there. Higher education costs are rising too. College can take another Rs 13 lakh if you add up private college fees, hostel stay, food and other living costs.

Add all this up and the price of raising just one child lands between Rs 38-45 lakh, writes Goel. "Finance is a real fear when it comes to family planning. Are you also planning to have a kid in 2025 and feeling the money pressure?" Goel pointed out.

Put simply, the rising cost of living, expensive schooling and high healthcare expenses are making young couples think twice. Some are postponing or rethinking altogether. Though starting a family is a personal choice, money has become a big deciding factor. With expenses only set to rise, smart saving and planning ahead could ease the strain for future parents.



Where are India's ultra-rich families investing in 2025

A new EY-Julius Baer report, The Indian Family Office Playbook, reveals that many family offices are moving away from traditional wealth preservation and diving into global markets, private credit, and real assets.

New Delhi India's ultra-wealthy aren't just sitting on their fortunes anymore. In 2025, they're stepping out, investing boldly, and thinking globally. A new EY-Julius Baer report, The Indian Family Office Playbook, reveals that many family offices are moving away from traditional wealth preservation and diving into global markets, private credit, and real assets. Family offices, typically set up by high-net-worth individuals (HNIs) or ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), help manage everything from global investing and succession to philanthropy and compliance. India is now home to over 300 family offices—up from just 45 in 2018. And while 25% of them still put capital preservation front and centre, the big picture is clear: diversification is in, and legacy-building is taking centre stage. "Families now seek efficiency, transparency, and global access—all of which require a more structured approach," said Surabhi Marwah, Co-leader of Private Tax and Partner at EY

India. "The Indian family office ecosystem is at an inflection point where wealth preservation alone is no longer enough." So what does this new playbook look like? For starters, family offices are investing across borders,

2023-24. But it's not just about chasing returns. Global investing brings its own headaches. The report shows 48% of family offices are worried about shifting tax laws, and 37% are grappling with cross-border rules. These concerns are shaping strategy just as much as the returns themselves. "Family offices are increasingly catering to first-generation entrepreneurs who are more risk-tolerant and open to emerging sectors," said Umang Papneja, CEO of Julius Baer India. "As the scale and complexity of wealth grow, there's a stronger focus on strengthening governance, growing asset value and planning for legacy succession." Interestingly, despite the enthusiasm for alternatives, private markets are still approached with caution. About 57% of family offices allocate less than 10% of their portfolios to private equity or venture capital, often due to limited access or a conservative approach.



with interest rising in global equities, private equity, venture capital, and real estate. Private credit—once a niche space—is quickly gaining popularity for its steady returns and built-in downside protection. And this global hunger is backed by numbers: under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme, outbound flows jumped from \$18.8 billion in 2019-20 to \$31.7 billion in

Madras High Court backs bank appointment cancellation over adverse CIBIL report

NEW DELHI. The Madras High Court has upheld a decision by a public sector bank to cancel the appointment of a candidate due to a poor credit history. The court ruled that financial discipline is crucial in banking jobs and found no fault in the bank's action. The petitioner, who had cleared all stages of recruitment for the post of Circle Based Officer (CBO) at State Bank of India (SBI), including exams, interviews, and medical checks, had his appointment cancelled after the bank found an adverse credit report in his CIBIL history. According to a report on Live Law, the candidate argued that he had no pending dues at the time of the job notification and claimed that his appointment was unfairly revoked. He also alleged discrimination, saying

others in similar situations were allowed to join. SBI maintained that Clause 1(E) of the eligibility criteria of its recruitment policy, disqualifies

multiple credit irregularities and more than ten credit enquiries, indicating serious financial mismanagement. The bank also alleged that the candidate had failed to fully disclose this history during the application process.

Justice N Mala said the bank had acted prudently. She observed that banking employees handle public money and therefore must maintain strong financial discipline. "A person with poor or no financial discipline cannot be trusted with public money," the judge noted. The court also dismissed the claim of discrimination, stating that only those who met all eligibility requirements were appointed.

Finding no merit in the petition, the court upheld the bank's decision and dismissed the plea.



candidates with poor credit histories or defaults in repaying loans or credit card dues. The bank noted that the candidate's CIBIL report showed

Switched jobs this year? Here's how to file your ITR right

New Delhi Switched jobs or worked for more than one company this year? If yes, your income tax return (ITR) needs extra care. Many people forget that salaries from all employers must be declared. Missing this can lead to unwanted tax notices or extra dues later. For the financial year 2024-25, if you got paid by two employers, maybe you changed jobs mid-year or did multiple roles, you must add up all income, check your deductions properly, and make sure you don't claim the same exemption twice. **CHECK YOUR FORM-16 DETAILS CLOSELY**

Form-16 is your main salary proof from each employer. While filing your tax return, pay close attention to what's in your Form-16.

Check your total (gross) salary, the allowances and deductions claimed from your salary, any deductions under Chapter VI-A like 80C or 80D, and your TDS (tax deducted at source).

If you worked for more than one employer in the same year, make sure to report each salary and related deductions separately in the ITR form. Don't mix them up; each employer's income should be shown in its own section. This helps avoid overlaps and mistakes.

BE CAREFUL WITH DEDUCTIONS

One big mistake is claiming the same deduction twice. For example, Section 80C lets you claim up



to Rs 1,50,000 a year, and not Rs 1,50,000 for each job. So, add up all your actual investments and claim the total, not the sum reported by both employers.

SHOW TDS CORRECTLY

Your ITR has a separate 'Schedule TDS' section. Here, mention each employer's TDS with their name and TAN number. If you switched jobs, the new company may not have counted your old salary and TDS. If that's the case, you might have to pay extra tax yourself as Self-Assessment Tax, before filing the return. So, if you've changed jobs this year, spend a few extra minutes checking your numbers. Reporting all income and claiming only what you're eligible for will keep your taxes in order and help you avoid penalties.

Will Sensex and Nifty hit record highs in July? Here's all you need to know

With domestic flows steady and global risks fading, July could be the moment markets break through resistance. But with key events ahead, will momentum hold or falter?

New Delhi. Benchmark indices are moving closer to record highs, and the momentum looks set to continue into July, powered by resilient domestic flows, macroeconomic tailwinds, and solid performances from frontline stocks like Reliance Industries and top banks. The Nifty 50 has risen 2.9% in the June derivatives series, while small- and mid-cap indices posted gains of 5.1% and 3.1%, respectively, reported Reuters. And this rally has taken both the Nifty and Sensex within 3% of their all-time highs touched in late September last year. **NEW RECORD HIGHS IN SIGHT**

What's interesting to note here is that

foreign institutional investors are not fuelling this rally. Domestic institutional investors and steady SIP inflows have provided a strong liquidity base, even as foreign institutional investors (FIIs) have remained cautious. Analysts now say the market's resilience is hard to ignore.

"Markets have grown increasingly resilient to external noise, from geopolitical tensions to US presidential tweets. There is little doubt that the bullish momentum is here to stay," Abhilash Pagaria, Head of Alternative and Quantitative Research at Nuvama, told Reuters. The July derivatives series, which runs from June 27 to July 31, has begun with lighter FII short positions compared to the previous month, signalling a slight shift in sentiment. Retail and high net-worth investors are taking a more selective approach, scaling back on index-wide bets while leaning into specific stocks. According to Sriram Velayudhan,



Senior Vice President at IIFL Capital Services, the sustained strength in blue-chip names such as Reliance and major banks could create a path for the Nifty to reclaim all-time high levels. While the broader sentiment remains positive, some caution remains around key upcoming events. These include the July 9 deadline for US reciprocal tariffs, the Federal Reserve's next interest rate decision, and the upcoming corporate

earnings season—all of which could introduce short-term volatility.

TRADERS CONFIDENT

Still, early signals suggest traders remain confident. Open interest at the start of the July series stood at 80% on the Nifty and 89% market-wide, indicating heightened participation and conviction in continued upside. The news agency also reported that long positions are building up in sectors like telecom, cement, IT, banking, metals, and chemicals.

Meanwhile, autos are seeing some short-covering, and FMCG remains the only segment showing a marginal rise in short bets. The combination of macro stability, strong domestic liquidity, and stock-specific conviction appears to be setting the stage for a bullish July. Whether the Nifty breaks its previous record remains to be seen, but the wind, for now, is definitely at the market's back.



Katrina Kaif

Has A Hilarious Nickname For
Vicky Kaushal Amid His Night Shoots
With Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt

Vicky Kaushal and Kareena Kapoor Khan recently sat down for a candid chat with The Hollywood Reporter India, where they interviewed each other and opened up about films, relationships, and everything in between. During the conversation, Kareena brought up a question many couples in the industry can relate to — how do you find time for your partner when both of you are constantly working? She asked Vicky how he and wife Katrina Kaif manage to spend time together despite their packed shooting schedules.

To this, Vicky smiled and said, "Being an actor, both ways, you're not doing a 9-to-5 job where there's a proper structure, right? So everything comes down to about how we can figure out the time that we'll get for each other. And that sometimes in phases becomes difficult, in phases it's easy."

He went on to talk about shooting with Ranbir Kapoor and Alia Bhatt for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War and added, "Right now I'm in that phase where I'm shooting nights, so you are getting very limited time. Because you just get up and go. Now she has jokingly started pinching it in. She says, 'I'm just going to call you Mr. Go. Because every time I see you, you're like, I need to go.'

So that, but then there are phases also where you have to consciously plan out. Like, this is our time. But then, you kind of figure it out."

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal Marriage

Katrina Kaif and Vicky Kaushal tied the knot in a private yet grand ceremony on December 9, 2021, at Six Senses Fort Barwara in Rajasthan. The wedding was an intimate affair attended by close family and friends, with strict security and limited media access. Despite keeping their relationship low-key before the wedding, the couple's marriage quickly became one of the most talked-about events in Bollywood. Since then, Katrina and Vicky have often shared glimpses of their life together on social media. On the work front, Vicky was last seen in Chhava, where he portrayed Chhatrapati Sambhaji. Katrina Kaif was last seen in the movie Merry Christmas which was released in 2024.



Seerat Kapoor

To Make Her Bollywood Debut With Fahadh Faasil? What We Know

Seerat Kapoor is set for a big Bollywood debut opposite Pushpa star Fahadh Faasil, promising a fresh and powerful on-screen pairing.

With grace, grit and an undeniable screen presence, Seerat Kapoor has steadily emerged as one of the most promising talents in Indian cinema. What began as a dream debut in the Telugu blockbuster Run Raja Run in 2014 has blossomed into a career marked by versatility, charm and national recognition. Her This project

performances. The script is very unique with lots of twists and turns and the film promises a gripping narrative with these south sensations sharing screen space for a Bollywood film for the first time. An official announcement is expected soon."

is reportedly built around a layered and suspenseful plot, one that will allow both actors to flex their acting skills in equal measure. While exact details about the storyline remain under wraps, insiders suggest that it will feature a thrilling narrative filled with emotional depth, unexpected twists and character arcs designed to showcase the full range of the actors' talents. Seerat, who has always remained selective with her roles, recently added fuel to the speculation through a cryptic Instagram post. Dressed in a radiant orange outfit, the actress looked stunning—but it was her caption that truly caught attention: "That quiet confidence of knowing what's about to change the game! #BollywoodCalling". The post, drenched in excitement and subtlety, sent fans into a frenzy, many of whom believed she was hinting at her Bollywood debut.

Though no formal announcements have been made by the production team or the actors involved, the film is already being viewed as one of the most anticipated collaborations in the coming months. The idea of seeing Seerat's elegance paired with Fahadh Faasil's intensity on the big screen has piqued the interest of both fans and critics alike.



According to a report by FilmiBeat, "The production is planning to bring fresh pairs onscreen and actress Seerat has been approached for the film alongside Fahadh. Seerat is winning hearts with her back-to-back

the coming months. The idea of seeing Seerat's elegance paired with Fahadh Faasil's intensity on the big screen has piqued the interest of both fans and critics alike."



Aamir Khan Makes RARE Appearance With Sisters Nikhat And Farhat Khan At Umrao Jaan Premiere

Aamir Khan attended the grand premiere of Rekha's Umrao Jaan in Mumbai with his sisters Nikhat Khan and Farhat Khan, and his daughter Ira Khan's mother-in-law.



Aamir Khan made a rare public appearance at the grand premiere of Rekha's Umrao Jaan in Mumbai on Thursday night, and this time he wasn't alone. The superstar was joined by his sisters Nikhat Khan and Farhat Khan, as well as his daughter Ira Khan's mother-in-law — Nupur Shikhar's mother — making it a warm, familial showing on the star-studded red carpet. Aamir's sister Nikhat Khan, standing to his left, looked elegant in a turquoise silk saree with black detailing and a silver border, styled with minimal jewellery. On his right, Farhat Khan wore a regal violet saree with a gold border, paired with a traditional bun and gold earrings that added to the charm. Beside her, Nupur's mother opted for a classic black saree with a red printed pallu.

Aamir Khan's sisters

Aamir Khan is the second of four siblings in a close-knit family. He has a younger brother, Faisal Khan, and two sisters — Nikhat Khan Hegde and Farhat Khan Datta. Nikhat Khan Hegde, the elder sister, began her career behind the scenes in the film industry, contributing as a producer and costume designer to projects like Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak and Tum Mere Ho. In her later years, she transitioned to acting, starring in films such as Saand Ki Aankh, Mission Mangal, and Tanhaji, as well as in the web series Special Ops 1.5. She made her TV debut in Banni Chow Home Delivery in 2022. Nikhat is married to Santosh Hegde, a businessman, and is both a mother and stepmother.

Farhat Khan Datta, the younger sister, leads a more private life. She resides in the United States with her husband, Rajeev Datta, who is the brother of Aamir's first wife, Reena Datta. Farhat maintains a low public profile and is focused on her family life. The grand screening of Umrao Jaan ahead of its re-release is a star-studded affair with several celebs in attendance and walking the red carpet in Mumbai tonight. On the work front, Aamir Khan's Sitaare Zameen Par is running in the theatres.

Rekha Admires Tabu's Beauty, Embraces Her With A Long Hug At Umrao Jaan Screening



Rekha, Hema Malini, and several Bollywood celebs have gathered under one roof to celebrate the cult Bollywood classic, Umrao Jaan (1981). The event was attended by Tabu, who received a warm welcome from Rekha. They hugged each other on the red carpet and admired each other's beauty before clicking photos.

Rekha, 70, was a vision on the red carpet as she paid a fitting tribute to her iconic character. Dressed in all-white with mogras on her hair and ethereal jewellery, the veteran actor stood in front of paps and her audience, greeting them with folded hands. Soon after, Tabu appeared, ringing on the film's theme. Usually a light dresser, the Haider actor looked mesmerising in a red lehenga choli set with intricate golden borders. Without a care in the world, they met like long lost friends and embraced each other in their arms.

Rekha, who is always more elusive in her greetings and approach, expressed her excitement by not letting Tabu go. They then, looked at each other and appreciated each other's beauty. Later, they posed for photos. Watch the video here:

Rekha's Umrao Jaan will re-release on the big screen on June 27. The film has been meticulously restored for contemporary audiences, retaining the essence of the original while enhancing its visual and auditory splendor. The film returns as part of PVR INOX's Timeless Classics initiative, which curates landmark films that have shaped Indian cinema's artistic heritage.

Rekha's depiction of the courtesan-poetess is hailed as one of the greatest performances in film history, earning her the National Film Award for Best Actress.

The film's music, composed by Khayyam with lyrics by Shahryar, features ghazals such as Dil Cheez Kya Hai, In Aankhon Ki Masti, and Justuju Jiski Thi, which continue to be cherished across generations. In 2006, the film was remade with Aishwarya Rai in the lead role. Rekha recently spoke about Umrao Jaan's re-release. She said, "Umrao Jaan is not just a film I acted in — she lives within me, breathes through me, even now."

NEWS BOX

Freestyle Chess Tour's India-leg cancelled amidst lack of sponsors, CEO confirms

NEW DELHI. The Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour, which was supposed to have its fifth event in Delhi in September, later this year has been cancelled due to the lack of sponsors. The co-founder, Jan Henric Buettner, confirmed the news to Chess.com after speculation over the event's status following the removal of the Delhi leg from the official website.

This event was supposed to be their fifth event of the inaugural Grand Slam, after posting successful shows in Weissenhaus, Paris, and Karlsruhe. Presently, GM Magnus Carlsen holds the lead at the top with 65 points after winning two events. Carlsen will be headlining the next event, which is set to be held in Las Vegas on July 16-20, later next month. He was recently seen in action against the nine-year-old Aarit Kapil from Delhi, who had come close to beating the current top-ranked player. When asked if there may be a possible replacement, Buettner provided a cryptic response and suggested that there could be something done, but the announcement has yet to be made.



"Yes and no," he was quoted as saying by Chess.com.

"We will do something special for the September leg of the tour instead. This will be announced after Las Vegas," he added.

Buettner also revealed that he is planning on stepping down from his role as CEO. In a previous interview, he had revealed how he wants to take up a more executive role instead. Now he is set to end his tenure as CEO on July 1. I hope I get out of it! I want it to be implemented in a perfect way. I am giving everything, so when all my visions in my head are implemented, then I can have a more executive role," he said.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR INDIA'S CHESS STARS?

With the Freestyle Chess Grand Slam Tour now cancelled, the next home event for India's top chess stars will be the Chennai Grand Masters, starting August 6, where the tournament comprises a 10-man round-robin format with GMs like Arjun Erigaisi, Nihal Sarin, Anish Giri, Vincent Keymer, amongst many others set to compete.

European teams vs USA weather: FIFA Club World Cup is facing the heat

New Delhi. When elite footballers start worrying more about the sun than their opponents, it's a sign something's not right. The FIFA Club World Cup was supposed to be a smooth preview for next year's expanded World Cup in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Instead, it has turned into a heatwave reality check. As temperatures soar across host cities, players and coaches are struggling - not just to win, but to keep up with the conditions. In cities like Cincinnati, Philadelphia, and Charlotte, mid-afternoon games have been played in scorching heat, often above 90F (32C). At Borussia Dortmund's group match against Ulsan Hyundai, the game kicked off at 3 p.m. under a blazing sun. Cooling breaks were allowed, but the weather made a bigger impact than any tactical change. Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca didn't hold back after experiencing the Philadelphia heat.

"It's impossible to organise regular training sessions in the afternoons," he told reporters.



Atletico Madrid midfielder Marcos Llorente agreed, saying the heat had affected how the team trains and prepares. Players have found it hard to recover quickly or maintain normal match sharpness. While European sides have struggled, South American clubs - more used to hot and humid climates - have had less trouble. All four Brazilian sides in the tournament - Flamengo, Palmeiras, Botafogo, and Fluminense - made it through to the second round without much fuss. Their advantage in such conditions has become clear.

Pitch problems add to the pressure

If the weather wasn't enough of a challenge, the playing surfaces have added another layer of difficulty. Several players and coaches have raised concerns about dry, uneven, and hard pitches at different venues - conditions that have only been made worse by the extreme heat.



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Avinash Sable eyes World Championship redemption: Preparations are going well



- **Avinash Sable overcame a year-long calf injury to return to form**
- **He trained at high altitude in Ooty and Bengaluru for peak fitness**
- **Sable aims to improve his personal best by closer to eight minutes**

NEW DELHI. India's top 3000m steeplechase athlete, Avinash Sable, is fit again and firmly focused on redemption at the upcoming World Athletics Championships in September. Having finally shaken off a nagging calf injury that plagued him for over a year, Sable is now focused on improving his personal best and making a strong statement on the global stage. The reigning Asian Games gold medalist has been steadily rebuilding his fitness, splitting his time between high-altitude training in Ooty and intense workouts at the Sports Authority of

India's Southern Centre in Bengaluru. With preparations going smoothly, Sable is quietly confident. Last year was not good, it didn't even look like I'll be able to perform well. But this year I am competing in the Diamond League, so preparation (for the World Championship) is good," Sable told a select group of reporters. "My target is to notch my personal best, closer to eight

minutes. 15 days are left of training, I think I will be able to go near eight." Since winning the 3000m steeplechase title at the Hangzhou Asian Games in 2023, Sable had been hampered by a persistent injury in his right calf and hamstring that lingered until early 2025. "I had a calf injury, there was a lot of pain in my right calf and hamstring. It started after the Asian Games and continued the

entire year. The pain was there till January-February this year," he said. Sable kicked off his 2025 season at the Xiamen Diamond League with a time of 8:22.59, followed by an 8:23.85 run in Shaoxing. Though below his usual standards, he bounced back by winning gold at the Asian Championships in Gumi, South Korea, in May, clocking 8:20.92. "Preparations are going well. I was injured in the opening of the season. But despite that I participated in two Diamond League events in China. The results weren't good because of the injury. Then I competed in the Asian Championships to boost my confidence. I started training in November, the off season also went well. I faced a lot of trouble due to injuries last season." At the previous World Championships, Sable failed to progress beyond the heats, finishing seventh in his race. This year, however, he's determined to turn things around. "At the World Championships, I want to improve my position from last time. This year I have worked on finishing the race, mileage etc. It's been nearly a year since Sable set the national record of 8:09.91, and breaching the eight-minute mark remains a key goal." Yes I want to do it. It won't happen soon but I think I'll be able to improve my personal best.

Kylian Mbappe accuses PSG of 'moral harassment, files legal complaint vs ex-club

Kylian Mbappé has accused Paris Saint-Germain of moral harassment in a legal filing, the Paris prosecutor's office confirmed on Thursday. The Real Madrid star is at odds with his former club, arguing PSG owes him 55 million euros (\$61 million) in unpaid wages. Mbappé is also unhappy with the way he was treated by the Ligue 1 club when the France captain was sidelined before the 2023-24 season, following his decision not to extend his club contract. The prosecutor's office said Mbappé is "denouncing the 'lofting' he claimed to have been subjected to at Paris Saint-Germain." The word lofting is used in France to describe a



WI vs AUS: Coach Sammy meets referee Srinath over contentious TV umpiring decisions

- **The dismissals of Roston Chase and Shai Hope were contentious umpiring decisions**
- **WI coach Darren Sammy seeks greater clarity and consistency in umpiring decisions**
- **Australia hold an 84-run lead at the end of Day 2**



NEW DELHI. West Indies head coach and former captain Darren Sammy met with match referee Javagal Srinath to express his concerns over the decisions made by on-field umpire Adrian Holdstock during the second day of the opening Test against Australia at Bridgetown on Friday, June 27. Two major decisions, both going against the hosts, sparked controversy as Australia ended the day with an 82-run lead and six

wickets in hand. The first contentious moment was the dismissal of West Indies captain Roston Chase. Australian skipper Pat Cummins delivered a ball that nipped back into the right-hander and struck him on the pads, prompting a successful leg-before-wicket appeal. Chase reviewed the decision, and the point of concern was the ultra-edge replay, which showed small, closely spaced spikes - raising questions about a possible inside edge. The second contentious decision involved the dismissal of Shai Hope, who was just two runs short of his half-century. Hope appeared to get an inside

edge off Beau Webster's delivery, and wicketkeeper Alex Carey, diving forward for the catch, seemed to have the ball in contact with the ground during the attempt, as shown in the replay. Despite being referred to the third umpire, the on-field decision was upheld. The Men in Maroon will be hoping for a stronger performance as they aim to topple the formidable Australian side, who are seeking their first Test win in the West Indies since 2003. The hosts' last home victory against Australia came in St. John's, Antigua, on May 9, 2003. Speaking after the day's play, Sammy expressed his reservations about umpire Adrian Holdstock and called for greater consistency from the match officials. "We are just trying to find some sort of understanding as to what the process is. We only hope for consistency. That's all we could ask for. When there is doubt in something, just be consistent across the board," Sammy told ESPNCricinfo. "I have noticed, especially with this particular umpire, it's something that, for me, started in England. It's frustrating."

No Kane Williamson; Milne, Henry return as New Zealand announce tri-series squad

New Delhi. New Zealand have named fast bowler Adam Milne and uncapped batter Bevon Jacobs in their T20I squad for next month's tri-series in Zimbabwe, which also features South Africa. The 15-man group will be led by Mitchell Santner, with new head coach Rob Walter beginning preparations for the 2026 T20 World Cup. Kane Williamson is among several senior players unavailable. The veteran batsman, currently turning out for Middlesex and set to represent London Spirit in The Hundred, has opted out of the tour. Lockie Ferguson has been rested to manage his workload, while Kyle Jamieson is awaiting the birth of his first child. Ben Sears is sidelined with a side strain, and there is no room for Devon Conway or Mitch Hay, with Tim Seifert preferred behind the stumps. Jacobs, yet to make his international debut, retains his place after being part of the squad for the December T20I series against Sri Lanka. The 22-year-old, who impressed during domestic competitions and earned an IPL contract with Mumbai Indians, offers an explosive option with the bat. Milne returns for the first time since November, having

missed the previous World Cup due to ankle surgery. He has recently shown strong form in Major League Cricket, taking nine wickets in four matches for Texas Super Kings. Fellow pacer Matt Henry is also back after recovering from the shoulder injury that ruled him out of the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this year. Several players who

together and getting into the work," Walter said. "It's great to have some of the experienced players back, and this series offers a valuable opportunity to look at some new faces too." He added: "Bevon has been outstanding in domestic cricket and gained good exposure in franchise leagues. It's a great chance for him to integrate with the group and push for selection. Adam brings pace and experience, and with a few regulars unavailable, it's ideal to have someone of his quality back in the squad."

Walter, appointed across all formats earlier this month, will be supported by assistant coaches Luke Ronchi, Jake Oram and James Foster. He sees the tri-series as a vital step in building towards the next World Cup. With the tournament just a

year away, every series counts. This tour allows us to test our depth, assess different combinations, and compete against strong opposition in challenging conditions," he said.



missed the March T20Is against Pakistan owing to IPL commitments - including Glenn Phillips, Rachin Ravindra and Santner - are back in the fold. "I think we've got a really strong squad for this tour, and I'm looking forward to getting the team

practice that involves isolating a player from the main squad for sporting, administrative, or disciplinary reasons. Mbappé joined Real Madrid last summer on a free transfer after scoring a club-record 256 goals in seven years at PSG, which won the Champions League without him this year. Mbappé's relationship with PSG ended amid deep tensions, and some fans booed him in his last home game at Parc des Princes. PSG felt let down by Mbappé after offering him the most lucrative contract in club history when he signed a new contract in 2022. But Mbappé was frustrated because he felt promises to sign key players were not kept. When he signed that deal, he was paraded in front of fans holding up a jersey with 2025 on it. Mbappé was reportedly annoyed because the contract was until 2024 — with a player's option for an extra season. Mbappé stunned PSG in June 2023 by informing the club he would not take the option for an extra year.

India beat England in historic Mixed Disability match at Lord's to leave series poised

- **India won the iconic match at Lord's to leave the 7-match series poised**
- **India lost the first two matches of the series in Taunton and Wormsley**
- **India and England will meet in the fourth T20I on Friday in Worcester**

New Delhi. India's Mixed Disability Team held its nerve and sealed a thrilling two-wicket win over England in the last over at Lord's in the third T20I of their groundbreaking Mixed Disability seven-match

IT20 series at the Lord's Cricket Ground on Wednesday. The occasion was historic as it was the first-ever international Disability match at the 'Home of Cricket.' The date, venue and the result of the match all made for a tremendous coincidence - 42 years ago, India, led by the legendary Kapil Dev, had clinched the 1983 World Cup on June 25 at Lord's in 1983. "We dedicate our team's historic win to Kapil Dev sir's team's 1983 World Cup winning team," said Ravi Chauhan, the Gen Secretary of the Differently-Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI). Both teams wore black armbands during the match to mourn the passing away of former India left-arm spinner Dilip Doshi on Monday in London.

June 25 is incidentally celebrated as the 'World Mixed Disability Day.' The fixture at Lord's formed part of the Cricket Disability Day, and was the biggest ever one-off showcase of disability cricket, as it was the first time that



India and England's mixed Disability teams played at Lord's. Hosted by the MCC, ECB and Lord's Taverners, the game was the showpiece event of this series. India's Mixed Disability team is now trailing 2-1 in the series after losing the first two matches at Taunton and Wormsley Cricket Club. Led by a magnificent show with the ball by seamer Vivek Kumar (three for 16 in three overs) and left-arm spinner and captain

Ravindra Sante (three for eight in four overs), India's Mixed Disability team restricted England to just 123 for nine in 20 overs after the hosts elected to bat first. A. Brown was the lone warrior for England with a brilliant half-century (77, 47b, 5x4, 5x6). Brown added 35 for the ninth wicket with A. Pyle (4 not out) off just 17 balls to help England cross the 100-run mark. He took 18 off the last over bowled by spinner Tarun, smashing him for two sixes, to give the hosts' total some respectability after they had collapsed to 49 for seven in 12 overs. Staving off a superb fightback by England with the ball, India scampered to the target in the final over, losing eight wickets. The hero of the chase was middle-order batter Sai Akash, who made 44. There are four more matches left in the series, with the next game to be played on Friday (June 27) at Worcester.