

'Pashu' is inappropriate, animals are 'jeevan dhan': President Droupadi Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said she feels that using the word 'pashu' for animals was 'inappropriate' and referred to them as 'jeevan dhan' or wealth of life.

► **Animals vital for life, were traditional help for farmers, President Murmu said**
 ► **Indian culture sees God in all creatures, she added**
 ► **President Murmu stressed the need for widespread animal vaccination**

Agency New Delhi.
 President Droupadi Murmu on Monday said she feels that using the word 'pashu' for animals was "inappropriate" and referred to them as 'jeevan dhan' or wealth of life. Speaking at the 11th convocation ceremony of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Murmu said life without animals cannot be imagined. "Truly speaking, animals and human beings share a relationship. Today, we have technology, but in the past, they (animals) were our 'saadhan' (for transportation) and 'bal' (force) for the farmers. "Hence, I do not find the word 'pashu' appropriate for animals as they are 'jeevan dhan'. We cannot think of life without them," Murmu said.

She said in the Indian culture, the presence of God is seen in all creatures. The president also asserted that vaccination of animals

morning and was welcomed by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel. In a post in Hindi on X, Adityanath said, "Hearty welcome and felicitation to Hon'ble President Draupadi Murmu ji in 'Nath Nagri' Bareilly." The President's Secretariat said on X, "Governor of Uttar Pradesh Smt Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, received President Droupadi Murmu on her arrival at Bareilly." ICAR-Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) in Izatnagar is dedicated to research and development in the field of veterinary and animal sciences.



plays an important role in the prevention of diseases. Murmu arrived in Bareilly in the

Red Alert Issued For Himachal Pradesh; Beas River Experiences Heavy Flooding

(IMD) issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Himachal Pradesh starting June 29, with warnings of potential flash floods.



Mandi. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert in Himachal Pradesh. Due to very heavy rainfall in the region, the Beas River is experiencing severe flooding, raising concerns among officials.

IMD predicted light to moderate rainfall at many places in several districts of Himachal Pradesh on Sunday. IMD has warned of light to moderate rainfall at many places in the districts of Bilaspur, Solan, Shimla, Sirmour, Hamirpur, Mandi, and Kangra, with a few spells of intense to very intense rainfall likely to occur at isolated places. "Light to moderate rainfall is likely to occur at a few places in the Districts of Kullu, Una, and Chamba," it added. The weather department also warned of light rainfall likely to occur at isolated places in the districts of Kinnaur, Lahul, and Spiti during the next 3 to 4 hours.

On June 26, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Himachal Pradesh starting June 29, with warnings of potential flash floods, rising river levels, and landslides in several districts.

Speaking to, Sandeep Kumar Sharma, a Senior Scientist at the IMD's Shimla Centre, said that the state has experienced widespread rainfall over the past 24 hours, with some areas recording intense precipitation.

Bhagwant Mann's War on Drugs: Punjab Government Launches Historic Crackdown Against Narcotics Mafia



Delhi betrayed in just 5 months: Arvind Kejriwal vs BJP showdown over demolitions

Arvind Kejriwal accused the BJP of razing Delhi slums for "rich friends" and threatened protests, while the BJP hit back, calling his rally a flop and labelling him "double-faced".

The Sikh Times New Delhi.

Former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday accused the BJP government of bulldozing slum settlements to benefit its "rich friends", warning that the ruling dispensation

had betrayed its promise of "Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makan" and instead was clearing slums within months of forming the government. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of giving "fake guarantees" and warned that his party would launch a fresh agitation if demolitions were not stopped.

"It's been only five months of this (BJP) government in Delhi, and the people are forced to come to Jantar Mantar to protest against them. Before the (Assembly) elections, I had asked you not to vote for them because your 'jhuggi' is their target. They are destroying Delhi. In this hot weather, they are making the poor homeless," the Aam Aadmi Party chief said. Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'liar', Kejriwal said, "PM Modi's guarantees are fake. He promised 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makan'. The truth is: 'Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Maidan'. They want to clear your land and hand it over to their friends".

would not complete its term if the demolitions continue. The BJP, however, dismissed Kejriwal's protest as a "flop show", calling him a "double-faced leader" who failed the poor during Covid-19. Addressing supporters at Jantar Mantar, Kejriwal claimed the BJP, which returned to power in Delhi after 25 years,

had betrayed its promise of "Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makan" and instead was clearing slums within months of forming the government. He accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of giving "fake guarantees" and warned that his party would launch a fresh agitation if demolitions were not stopped.

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Party chief said. Calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'liar', Kejriwal said,

"PM Modi's guarantees are fake. He promised 'Jahan Jhuggi Wahan Makan'.

The truth is: 'Jahan Jhuggi, Wahan Maidan'.

They want to clear your land and hand it over to their friends".

"There Are Kathavachaks Who Charge Rs 50 Lakh": Akhilesh Yadav Jabs Dhrendra Shastri

Agency Lucknow.

Amid an ongoing controversy over the assault on a non-Brahmin 'kathavachak' (religious storyteller) in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday took a jibe at religious leader Acharya Dhrendra Shastri and said there are many storytellers who charge Rs 50 lakh.

"Many kathavachaks charge Rs 50 lakh for an event. Can anyone afford Dhrendra Shastri for a katha (religious ceremony) at their residence? He takes the money under the table," he told reporters in Hindi.

Mr Yadav said he doesn't know how much Mr Shastri, also known as Bageshwar Baba, charges for storytelling, but claimed "it is not free". There was no immediate response from Mr Shastri.

'Kathavachak' Row In UP

Akhilesh Yadav's charge comes days after two Bhagwan Katha preachers, Mukut Mani Yadav, and his aide, Sant Singh Yadav, were allegedly tonsured and humiliated in a village in Etawah.

It's in High Command's hands, says Congress chief Kharge. Who is it, asks BJP

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge told the media that the question of changing Karnataka Chief Minister can only be answered by the party high command. BJP MP Tejasvi Surya asks who exactly is this 'high command'.

The Sikh Times Karnataka.

When asked about the renewed buzz over a possible leadership change in Karnataka, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge had just one answer: "It is in the hands of the party high command." The man who heads the All India Congress Committee said, "It is in the hands of the party high command. No one can say what is going on in the high command," implying he doesn't know who actually constitutes the said Congress high command.

"It is left to the high command and they have the right to take further action, but no one should create problems unnecessarily," Kharge told the media as the rumours regarding Shivakumar soon becoming the next Karnataka Chief Minister gained ground.

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya seized the moment to ask the most obvious question: Who exactly is this "unseen, unheard" high command? Taking a swipe at Kharge, Surya questioned if not the Congress president, who is this high command, for the high command to decide."

In April, too, Karnataka Congress MLA Basavaraj Shivanganga, a Shivakumar loyalist, openly called for Siddaramaiah's ouster by December. The demand highlighted the ongoing factionalism within the state's Congress unit, despite the party high command's diktat against public dissent.

Tribute to the Lion of Delhi Dehat: Remembering Sahib Singh Verma

The Sikh Times.

Thousands gathered today at Swabhiman Sthal, Ghevra Mod to pay heartfelt tribute on the Punyatithi of Late Shri Sahib Singh Verma, former Chief Minister of Delhi, Cabinet Minister in the Central Government, and the undisputed voice of Delhi Dehat (Rural Delhi). The event was not just a moment of remembrance, but a reaffirmation of the values he lived and led by – simplicity, sacrifice, and service.

To honor his legacy, a large-scale welfare distribution program was organized in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a Government of India enterprise. Under the ADIP Yojana and the Rashtriya Yojana, free assistive devices were distributed to hundreds of differently-abled individuals (Divyangjan) and senior citizens. The initiative truly embodied the life and mission of Sahib Singh Verma, who always believed that governance must empower the weakest



sections of society first. Born into a humble farming family in Mundka, Sahib Singh Verma rose to become a stalwart of politics but never left behind the values of rural India. He carried the soil of Delhi's villages in his heart, and became the most trusted leader of Delhi's rural belt, affectionately called "Dehat ke sher" (Lion of the Villages). Even in the highest office, he never distanced himself from farmers, laborers, school teachers, and small traders. The Prarthna Sabha organized in remembrance of Sahib Singh Verma witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, including Delhi Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and Delhi BJP President Shri Virendra Sachdeva. Senior party leaders and public representatives gathered to pay their heartfelt tributes to the late leader, recalling his immense contribution to public life and his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people.

Speaking at the Prarthna Sabha organized by Swabhiman Sansthan, his son and Cabinet Minister in the Delhi Government, Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, said: "My father was not just my parent — he was my first teacher, my role model, and my moral compass. He showed us that even in politics, you can stay honest, humble, and deeply rooted in your culture. He didn't just represent Delhi in the Assembly or Parliament; he represented its soul — especially that of rural Delhi. Today's initiative is a small step in carrying forward his lifelong mission: 'जर्जाही धर्मही' (Service is duty)." My father lived for the people. He believed that politics is not a means for power, but a tool for service. Today, as we distribute these assistive devices to those in need, I can feel his presence and his teachings guiding me. This is not just an event, it's our way of continuing his mission of inclusive, compassionate governance."

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Frant News continue..

Bhagwant Mann's War on Drugs: Punjab Government Launches Historic Crackdown Against Narcotics Mafia

Many former addicts are now receiving government assistance to rebuild their lives and join the mainstream through jobs, education, and emotional recovery.

Unprecedented Political Will and Administrative Transparency, one of the most remarkable aspects of this war on drugs is the political will and transparent governance demonstrated by Chief Minister Mann and his administration. Even when the drug mafia included powerful individuals with political or financial influence, the government did not hesitate to act. Arrests have been made across party lines, without bias or compromise.

This bold, impartial approach is setting a national example.

Where hopelessness once gripped families across Punjab, today there is renewed hope. In rural areas, mothers now believe their sons can be saved. In urban areas, students are speaking of jobs and aspirations — not addiction. Every FIR, every arrest, every recovered narcotic sends a message that Punjab is no longer silent.

People are beginning to trust that Punjab can and will become drug-free.

Wider Government Actions Against Drugs (2024-25):

- *Over 4,000 drug traffickers arrested
- *More than 1,000 kg of narcotics seized
- *Over 80 interstate drug syndicates busted
- *500+ drug-linked properties confiscated
- *5,000+ FIRs registered across Punjab

*Deployment of Special Task Forces in all districts

*Strengthening of the informer network

*CCTV surveillance in hotspot areas

The government has issued special directives to monitor schools and colleges, where addiction often starts:

1. Anti-drug surveillance teams appointed in educational institutions

2. On-campus awareness programs and workshops

3. Regular checking drives and surprise inspections

4. Special helplines for students and parents

5. Collaboration with NGOs to offer rehabilitation and psychological support

The Punjab Government is also relying on modern surveillance tools to tackle the drug trade:

Use of drones in border districts for real-time surveillance, Highway narcotic monitoring units to track inter-state drug trafficking, Drug detection dog squads operational in sensitive zones. Creation of Narcotics Intelligence Cell for data-driven targeting of syndicates

The public has been empowered to contribute in this mission: A 24x7 toll-free helpline to report drug activity anonymously. Local awareness campaigns in villages and towns. Gram Panchayats and school management committees engaged in community vigilance. Dedicated reward system for whistleblowers. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has consistently emphasized: "This is not just a government mission. It is Punjab's fight for its soul. Drug lords will be hunted down, and our youth will be rescued. We will not rest until Punjab is clean."

His direct involvement in reviews, inspections, and sudden visits to border districts has added pressure on enforcement agencies and boosted morale among the public. Across social media, community halls, and marketplaces, one thing is clear: people are standing behind the government's anti-drug movement. The campaign has rekindled community unity — from mothers in villages to teachers, from shopkeepers to ex-army men — all are stepping forward to support.

What began as a government crackdown has now become a social revolution. The campaign is no longer just about arrests and seizures — it's about reclaiming Punjab's future.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's efforts have instilled not just fear in the drug mafia — but hope in the hearts of millions.

And this hope is rising into a movement.

A movement that declares:

"No more poison in our land. We choose life. We choose Punjab."

Tribute to the Lion of Delhi Dehat: Remembering Sahib Singh Verma

The distribution drive included wheelchairs, walking sticks, hearing aids, and other life-enhancing support equipment, all provided free of cost to eligible citizens. The turnout and enthusiasm were a reflection of the deep love and respect people still carry for Sahib Singh Verma.

His influence was not limited to political achievements. He was an educationist, a reformer, and a rare voice who bridged the gap between rural simplicity and urban governance. He believed that politics must not be a platform for power, but a vehicle for transformation.

Even years after his passing, Sahib Singh Verma continues to live on — in every village road he built, every school he upgraded, every poor family he uplifted, and every young mind he inspired to dream without fear.

As the floral tributes were offered and assistive devices distributed, one thing was clear: Delhi Dehat hasn't lost its leader. His values are alive, his path is clear, and his son, Parvesh Sahib Singh, is carrying the torch with the same sincerity and strength.

Wayanad's tribal artists look to hit the right note on 'fellowship' of music

KOZHIKODE. Until a few months ago, most of the 17 tribal musicians now part of the Earthlore Fellowship could have never imagined that their centuries-old songs would travel beyond the hills of Wayanad or the forest fringes of Coorg.

For many, music was simply a way of life, performed during harvests, births, or rituals with no thought that these oral traditions would one day be showcased on prestigious stages or recorded for a global audience. The idea of receiving structured training, a stipend, mentorship from acclaimed musicians, and national recognition never even crossed their minds. That changed with the launch of the fellowship. Now, these young artists — from communities such as the Kurichiya, Paniya, and Adiya — find themselves at the heart of a cultural movement that is giving voice, value, and visibility to indigenous music like never before. A total of 20 fellows, including three non-tribal musicians from different parts of the country, have been selected through a rigorous process to join this pioneering initiative by the Archival and Research Project (ARPO), supported by Tata Trusts and the Samagata Foundation.

Launched this April in Mananthavady, Wayanad, the fellowship is more than a training programme in the arts. It is a bridge between heritage and modernity, between forest and festival; tradition and transformation.



For the first two months, fellows trained in the scenic Priyadarshini Tea Environs, a unique tea estate managed by a tribal cooperative. Structured 12-day residential workshops immersed them in vocal training with playback singer Sreekanth Hariharan, music arrangement with composer Charu Hariharan, and rhythm sessions with veteran percussionist Viveick Rajagopal.

Speaking to , Sruthin Lal, executive director of ARPO, said, "This is the first time such a

dedicated initiative has been launched for tribal artists of Wayanad. Our goal is to elevate their status to that of recognised professionals, not just local performers." He added that the transformation is already visible. By October, the fellowship's performance phase begins with a national tour.

Their performances will not only introduce tribal folk music to new audiences but also assert the artistic legitimacy of voices long confined to the margins.

Illegal B'deshis skipping usual entry points, learning Hindi first: Cops

Mumbai. Many Bangladeshi nationals illegally entering India are bypassing traditional illegal routes through West Bengal's Kalyani, Howrah and Kolkata due to increased border patrolling and are instead opting for roads to Guwahati, shows MIDC police's probe. Upon arrival, they allegedly stay confined to homes for some time to learn Hindi and scrub out all markers of identity from their speech to avoid detection when stepping out to look for jobs. MIDC police, who arrested seven illegal Bangladeshi in Mumbai and Pune last week, have found that agents in West Bengal are charging Rs 50,000-1 lakh each for forged Aadhaar and PAN cards to allow such immigrants to settle in different parts of the country. Of the seven who were arrested, five—all women—were sent to Pune immediately upon arrival in India and confined to a rental home. There, a police officer said, they underwent training in Hindi. The women

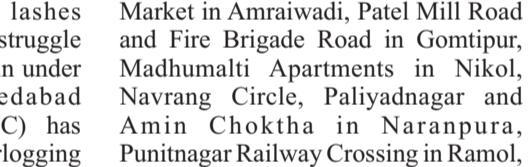
worked as domestic help and at salons. Police caught them on June 26 and plan to take legal proceedings against the flat owner. MIDC police's action began with the arrest of Bayajid Shaikh (24) on June 24. Shaikh, a Bangladeshi, entered India through Guwahati and stayed in Palghar while being employed in Andheri for

the past year. Authorities learnt that he brought at least six women from Bangladesh, employing them in Mumbai and Pune. Based on information from Shaikh, DCP (zone 10) Datta Nalawade led a team, including ACP Shashikant Bhosale, MIDC police inspector Sanjay Chavan, assistant inspector Yash Palwe, and SIs Mahadev Jagtap and Dhanashree Dembare, that nabbed two persons in Andheri and then the five women in Pune. The police investigation began after a govt resolution was issued on June 23, which held owners of establishments accountable if they employ illegal Bangladeshi migrants, effectively making them responsible for providing shelter to such individuals. It said govt will amend the laws, if needed, to initiate action against offenders. Govt will also implement an online system for document verification, according to the home department's directive.

Three dead, 12 injured as speeding truck rams tempo traveler in Tirupati

TIRUPATI. Three people were killed and twelve others injured when a speeding lorry rammed into a tempo traveller near Chennamari Mitta in Kurabalakota mandal of Annamayya district in the early hours of Monday. The deceased have been identified as Meghraj (17), Charan (17), and Sravani (28), all residents of Bagepalli in Karnataka. According to police, the tempo traveller was heading from Madanapalle towards Bagepalli when it was hit by the lorry. The impact was so severe that the three died on the spot, while twelve others sustained injuries. Four of the injured are reported to be in critical condition and have been shifted to the Government Hospital in Madanapalle for further treatment. The remaining injured are also undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

CI Satyanarayana said the lorry involved in the collision fled the scene, and a case has been registered. Police have launched an investigation. Andhra Pradesh Minister Mandipalli Ramprasad Reddy expressed deep sorrow over the tragic accident. He enquired about the condition of the injured and instructed officials to provide them with immediate medical care.

Drain delay: Water takes 5+ hours to clear at 10 city spots

Ahmedabad. As monsoon lashes Ahmedabad, the city's chronic struggle with waterlogging is once again under the spotlight. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has officially identified 147 waterlogging hotspots ahead of the 2025 monsoon, up from the 125 announced last year. Of these, 10 locations see water stagnate for more than five hours after rainfall, raising serious concerns for residents, traffic, and safety. In the western area of the city, there were two spots in Thaltej ward's Bopal and Ghuma areas, two in Gota, and one in Bodakdev where water does not recede for over five hours. In the eastern area, one spot in Naroda, three in Saraspur-Rakhial, and one in Bapunagar face similar issues. The most severe case is Hirabaug in Paldi, where rainwater can accumulate up to 3 feet. At least 11 spots across the city have water depths exceeding 2 feet, disrupting daily life and posing health and safety risks. Areas like Ekta Nagar in Danilimda, Satyamnagar Vegetable

Market in Amraiwadi, Patel Mill Road and Fire Brigade Road in Gomtipur, Madhumalati Apartments in Nikol, Navrang Circle, Paliyadnagar and Amin Choktha in Naranpura, Punitnagar Railway Crossing in Ramol, and Makarba Police Headquarters in Sarkhej are among the worst-affected.

Between Aug 25 and 27 last year, Ahmedabad received an average of 10 inches of rain, leading to waterlogging at over 300 locations. While water at most of the spots cleared within a hour, 157 spots remained waterlogged for

longer, with 10 enduring inundation for one to four days. This event added 32 new waterlogging spots, increasing the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation's (AMC) initial July 2024 list of 125 to 157. New problem areas emerged in Saraspur, Rakhal, Makarba, Vejalpur, Bopal, Ghuma, and Danilimda.

Of the 147 spots, the East Zone has the most with 39 spots, followed by the North West Zone (32), North Zone (24), West Zone (22), South Zone (15), Central Zone (8), and South West Zone (7).

The AMC is spending crores to tackle these issues. Following unseasonal rain on May 7, 2025, which again caused waterlogging, the water and sewerage committee provided an update on May 12. They approved 36 projects worth Rs 841.45 crore, with 29 projects (worth Rs 644.34 crore) already underway and six more (worth Rs 42.11 crore) awaiting approval. Additionally, a Rs 155 crore project tender has been floated. However, it is unlikely most of these projects will be completed before the monsoon season begins.

Cholera outbreak: Odisha flush with systemic rot

The recent diarrhoea and cholera outbreaks in coastal districts that took at least 24 lives expose gaping holes in public health infrastructure, water supply and sanitation across rural and urban regions of the state, reports Hemant Kumar Rout.

Odisha. The morning air hung heavy with grief and an unknown fear. On the fringes of Suanri village, about 25 km from Cuttack, 17-year-old Lopamudra Bal struggled to keep the earthen stove burning as she stirred rice for her mother's ninth-day ritual, an essential part of Hindu rituals. She now has an additional responsibility of watching over her polio-afflicted brother, Rohit. The siblings lost their 38-year-old mother Urmila Bal to severe diarrhoea. She is one of the victims in the recent outbreak that gripped at least nine districts in coastal, central and western Odisha. "I was in my maternal uncle's place when Maa fell sick on June 14. I rushed home but by that time she had been shifted to SCB medical college and hospital in Cuttack after preliminary treatment at Tangi hospital. Doctors could not save her. She succumbed the next morning," Lopamudra said with a choked voice. Urmila's death has left the family broken. Her husband Santosh Bal, a contract labourer in a cement factory nearly 8 km away, first caught

the infection. He suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting when he was at work on June 13. As his condition worsened, his nephew, also a worker in the same firm, brought him home. After treatment, he recovered but Urmila fell sick. Soon 12 others in the village were affected, one after another. Eleven days later, Sulochana Bal (70), another member of their extended family died at a hospital. What has made the pain worse is the way villagers turned their back on them. "People are scared even since the outbreak. Neighbours have stopped coming to our house. Some believe diarrhoea and cholera transmit by touch or simply by being close to those who are infected," said Santosh. His elder brother Gobinda Bal said the situation was so horrible that he and his four family members were to be shifted in a transport vehicle as the ambulance was not available at the nearby Tangi hospital.

Suanri was not where it all began. The diarrhoea outbreak was reported first in Pakhara village under Dharmasala block in neighbouring Jajpur district on June 9, a day after hundreds of villagers had food at the reception party in the village. At least 60 of them suffered from diarrhoea. While 23 were hospitalised, the rest were managed at the village by a medical team. **Widespread affliction**

In Jajpur district, six blocks and one urban local

Slump hits LSGIs' waste management efforts, department launches grassroots-level review

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. Local Self Government Institutions (LSGIs) in the state are witnessing a decline in waste management performance, raising concerns about the sustainability of the much-lauded Malinya Muktham Nava Keralam campaign. Enforcement and waste collection activities have slowed down following the campaign's peak in March. These LSGIs were declared garbage-free on March 30, coinciding with the observance of Zero Garbage Day. In response, the LSG department (LSGD) has launched a comprehensive grassroots-level review to identify low-performing local bodies. The review will analyse monthly trends in waste collection and disposal to flag areas that show a dip in performance.

According to data with the Clean Kerala Company Ltd (CKCL), it processed over 7,000 tonnes of non-biodegradable waste from LSGIs in March 2025. However, this declined to 6,500 tonnes in April — a 6% drop.

"We have identified the issue and are reviewing the situation at the grassroots. A meeting with presidents and secretaries of LSGIs is scheduled from July 3 to 5 to assess the situation," LSGD Minister M B Rajesh told.

The declaration on March 30 was celebrated as a milestone, with 1,195 out of 1,200 LSGIs certified as garbage-free following rigorous evaluation. However, the current dip in performance has raised alarm. "Sans regular auditing and accountability, the garbage-free status may remain only on paper," said an official associated with the campaign. Despite months of awareness efforts, the public attitude has not changed significantly. Enforcement must be strengthened and violators need to be penalised if we are to sustain momentum of the campaign," Rajesh said.

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body were worst affected. People from Dharmasala, Danagadi, Korei, Jajpur Road, Dasarathpur, Rasulpur and Vyasanagar municipality areas came under the grip of diarrhoea within a week. Patients initially suffered due to shortage of doctors as the hospitals in the district are being managed by only 39 per cent (pc) of the sanctioned posts.

As cases spiked, understaffed hospitals in the district were overwhelmed by patients. Dharmasala community health centre (CHC), where an additional team of seven doctors camped, has treated over 400 diarrhoea patients in one fortnight.

NEWS BOX

Canada rescinds tax on US tech firms in hopes of Trump trade deal

OTTAWA. Canada will rescind taxes impacting US tech firms that had prompted President Donald Trump to retaliate by calling off trade talks, Ottawa said Sunday, adding that negotiations with Washington would resume. The digital services tax, enacted last year, would have seen US service providers such as Alphabet and Amazon on the hook for a multi-billion-dollar payment in Canada by Monday, analysts have said. Washington has previously requested dispute settlement talks over the tax -- but on Friday Trump, who has weaponized US financial power in the form of tariffs, said he was ending trade talks with Ottawa in retaliation for the levy. He also warned that Canada would learn its new tariff rate within the week. But on Sunday, Ottawa binned the tax, which had been forecast to bring in Can\$5.9 billion (US\$4.2 billion) over five years.

Finance Minister Francois-Philippe Champagne announced today that Canada would rescind the Digital Services Tax (DST) in anticipation of a mutually beneficial comprehensive trade arrangement with the United States," a government statement said. It added that Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney "have agreed that parties will resume negotiations with a view towards agreeing on a deal by July 21, 2025." There was no immediate comment from the White House or Trump. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent told CNBC on Friday that Washington had hoped Carney's government would halt the tax "as a sign of goodwill." Canada has been spared some of the sweeping duties Trump has imposed on other countries, but it faces a separate tariff regime.

Since returning to the White House in January, Trump has also imposed steep levies on imports of steel, aluminum and autos. Canada is the largest supplier of foreign steel and aluminum to the United States.

Debate is underway in the Senate on Trump's big bill. It may go all night

WASHINGTON: Debate is underway in the Senate for an all-night session Sunday, with Republicans wrestling President Donald Trump's big bill of tax breaks and spending cuts over mounting Democratic opposition — and even some brake-pumping over the budget slashing by the president himself.

The outcome from the weekend of work in the Senate remains uncertain and highly volatile. GOP leaders are rushing to meet Trump's Fourth of July deadline to pass the package, but they barely secured enough support to muscle it past a procedural hurdle in a tense scene the day before. A handful of Republican holdouts revolted, and it took phone calls from Trump and a visit from GOP Sen. Thom Tillis of North Carolina announced Sunday he would not seek reelection after Trump badgered him for saying he could not vote for the bill with its steep Medicaid cuts. A new analysis from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office found that 11.8 million more Americans would become uninsured by 2034 if the bill became law. It also said the package would increase the deficit by nearly \$3.3 trillion over the decade. But other Senate Republicans, along with conservatives in the House, are pushing for steeper cuts, particularly to health care, drawing their own unexpected warning from Trump. "Don't go too crazy!" the president posted on social media. "REMEMBER, you still have to get reelected."

All told, the Senate bill includes some \$4 trillion in tax cuts, making permanent Trump's 2017 rates, which would expire at the end of the year if Congress fails to act, while adding the new ones he campaigned on, including no taxes on tips.

Canada To Bring New Permanent Residency Route: What We Know So Far

Ottawa. In a move to strengthen its economic immigration framework, Canada is planning to launch a new permanent pathway to residency in 2025, building on the success of the existing Economic Mobility Pathways Pilot (EMPP). The program aims to offer a stable route to skilled refugees and displaced individuals to live and work in the country, according to a report by CIC News. The announcement about the launch of the new program was part of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's (IRCC) annual plan for 2025-2026. The Mark Carney government has said the new program will be launched before the EMPP expires on December 31, 2025, but has not announced the program structure or the eligibility criteria. The EMPP was launched in 2018, and to date, nearly 970 individuals have settled in Canada under this initiative, according to official data as of March 2025.

Other Initiatives Under IRCC's 2015-26 Program

IRCC said Canada is also planning to create a new foreign labour stream and a type of work permit for the agriculture and fish processing sector. In a good move for students, including Indians, seeking to study in Canada, IRCC is planning to establish a framework for updating the field of study requirements for post-graduation work permits (PGWPs). Canada also wants to change the eligibility requirements for spousal open work permits (SOWPs) issued to spouses of foreign workers and international students. The details regarding the new requirements are not known yet. The IRCC also reaffirmed its commitment to prioritise permanent residency for healthcare workers, trades workers, education workers, and French speakers under Express Entry's category-based selection.

Priority will also be given to temporary residents already in Canada for PR admissions, with an aim of at least 40 per cent of PR admissions coming from temporary residents (TRs) already in Canada.

Canada also plans to speed up the processing of family sponsorship applications for family members living outside Canada.

Key moments from the closing arguments at Sean 'Diddy' Combs' sex trafficking trial

Two prosecutors insisted that he had coerced, threatened and sometimes viciously forced two ex-girlfriends to have sex with male sex workers to satisfy his sexual urges. They cited multiple acts of violence he carried out against them as proof that they had no say.

NEW YORK. A jury will begin deliberations on Monday over the fate of Sean "Diddy" Combs after hearing wildly differing views from prosecutors and a defense lawyer over whether he engaged in sex trafficking for two decades. Two prosecutors insisted that he had coerced, threatened and sometimes viciously forced two ex-girlfriends to have sex with male sex workers to satisfy his

sexual urges. They cited multiple acts of violence he carried out against them as proof that they had no say. A defense lawyer then mocked the government's closing argument and warned that prosecutors were employing a novel approach to sex crimes that risked turning the swinger lifestyle that Combs and his girlfriends enjoyed into potential crimes for all Americans. Combs, 55, the founder of Bad Boy Entertainment, has pleaded not guilty to sex trafficking and racketeering conspiracy charges in the trial, which continues Monday when the judge will read instructions on the law to jurors before they begin deliberations. Here are key moments from closing arguments on Thursday and Friday: Prosecutors showed they weren't withdrawing claims against Combs. Prosecutors triggered headlines last week that they had backed off or eliminated claims of arson and kidnapping against Combs when they said they were removing instructions on the law regarding them to be given jurors on Monday in response to the judge's request to streamline the case for the jury. "The Government is no longer planning to

proceed on these theories of liability so instructions are no longer necessary," prosecutors wrote in a letter to the judge. But when Assistant US Attorney Christy Slavik launched closings on Thursday, she gave the allegations of arson and kidnapping a starring role in her first



sentences, naming them before any others. "Over the last several weeks, you've learned a lot about Sean Combs. He's the leader of a criminal enterprise. He doesn't take no for an answer. And now you know about many crimes the defendant committed with

members of his enterprise: Kidnapping of one of the defendant's employees; arson by trying to blow up a car; forced labor, including of an employee; the defendant repeatedly sexually assaulted; bribery of a security officer to keep damning evidence against the defendant buried; and of course, the brutal crimes at the heart of this case

— sex trafficking," she said. The arson claim stemmed from evidence that Slavik said showed Combs was behind the firebombing of rapper Kid Cudi's Porsche in 2012. The kidnapping allegation also related to Cudi. Slavik said Combs kidnapped one of his employees to join him when he broke into Cudi's home after learning the rapper was dating his girlfriend.

A defense lawyer strikes back, belittling government's case Attorney Marc Agnifilo in an at-times folksy presentation spared few theatrics in mocking the government's case against Combs as overreach, saying hundreds of agents poured into Combs' residences in Miami and Los Angeles to seize hundreds of bottles of baby oil and Astroglide lubricant.

Lone shooter who killed three first responders found dead after ambush on US firefighters in Idaho

world. US authorities said late Sunday that one shooter was found dead and is believed to have acted alone, after firefighters were ambushed while tackling a blaze in the northwestern state of Idaho.

"Based on preliminary information, we believe that was the only shooter," Kootenai County Sheriff Robert Norris told a news conference, adding, "there is no threat to the community at this time." Firefighters were ambushed by sniper fire while responding to a blaze in a northern Idaho mountain community Sunday. Authorities said that the man armed with a rifle started the wildfire and then began shooting at first responders. Three firefighters were killed during a barrage of gunfire over several hours in an attack the governor called a "heinous" assault.

The three victims were brought to Kootenai Health, said hospital spokesperson Kim Anderson. Two were dead on arrival and the third was



being treated for injuries, Anderson said. The wounded firefighter was "fighting for his life" after surgery and was in stable condition, Norris said. A shelter-in-place order was lifted Sunday night after a tactical response team used cell phone data to "hone in" on a wooded area where they found the suspect's body with a firearm nearby as flames rapidly approached, Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said.

Officials did not release his name, nor did they say what kind of gun was

found. "We do believe that the suspect started the fire, and we do believe that it was an ambush and it was intentional," Norris said at a Sunday night news conference. "These firefighters did not have a chance." Three victims were brought to Kootenai Health, said hospital spokesperson Kim Anderson. Two were dead on arrival and the third was being treated for injuries, Anderson said. The wounded firefighter was "fighting for his life" after surgery and was in stable condition, Norris said. Sheriff's officials said crews responded to a fire at Canfield Mountain just north of Coeur d'Alene around 1:30 p.m., and gunshots were reported about a half hour later.

The scene was sheer pandemonium as the brush fire burned and firefighters rushed to the scene only to come under heavy fire.

A week into the fragile Israel-Iran peace agreement, here's what we still don't know

The fragile peace, brokered by the U.S. the day after it dropped 30,000-pound "bunker-busting" bombs on three of Iran's key nuclear sites, is holding. But much remains unsettled.



totally destroy the facilities. Rafael Grossi, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday that the three Iranian sites with "capabilities in terms of treatment, conversion and enrichment of uranium have been destroyed to an important degree."

But he added, "some is still standing" and that because capabilities remain, "if they so wish, they will be able to start doing this again." He said assessing the full damage comes down to Iran allowing inspectors access. What future US-Iran relations might look like

After the ceasefire deal came together, Trump spoke of potentially easing decades of biting sanctions on Tehran and predicted that Iran could become a "great trading nation" if it pulled back once-and-for-all from its nuclear program talks.

China resumes some Japanese seafood imports after Fukushima ban

BEIJING. China has lifted a ban on seafood imports from most regions of Japan, partially mending a years-long dispute over Tokyo's handling of nuclear wastewater. China and Japan are key trading partners, but increased friction over territorial rivalries and military spending has frayed ties in recent years.

Japan's brutal occupation of parts of China before and during World War II remains a sore point, with Beijing accusing Tokyo of failing to atone for its past.

Japan began gradually releasing treated wastewater from the stricken Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean in 2023. The move was backed by the International Atomic Energy Agency and the plant operator TEPCO says all radioactive elements have been filtered out except for tritium, levels of which are within safe limits. But it drew sharp criticism from Beijing, which banned imports of Japanese seafood as a result. Russia later followed suit. Samples from long-term monitoring of nuclear-contaminated water from



Fukushima had "not shown abnormalities", China's General Administration of Customs said in a statement Sunday. As a result, China "decided to conditionally resume" seafood imports from Japan, with the exception of imports from 10 of the country's 47 prefectures, including Fukushima and Tokyo, which remain banned. The Japanese government received the decision "positively", Kazuhiko Aoki, deputy chief cabinet secretary, told reporters in Tokyo.

But Japan "will strongly demand the Chinese side lift remaining import regulations on seafood from 10 prefectures", he added. Japanese Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi also called China's move "a major milestone". In 2011, a huge earthquake triggered a deadly tsunami that swamped the Fukushima nuclear facility and pushed three of its six reactors into meltdown. China vociferously opposed the release of the treated wastewater, casting it as environmentally irresponsible. But in September last year it said it would "gradually resume" importing the seafood. Production companies that had suspended trade must reapply for registration in China and would be "strictly" supervised, Beijing's customs administration said Sunday.

Ukrainian woman beat cancer, but her fight to free captive husband isn't over

KYIV. "You have no moral right to die." That's what Olha Kurtmalaieva told herself as she lay in intensive care, her body shutting down after emergency chemotherapy. Her cancer had progressed to Stage 4, meaning it had spread to other parts of her body and was now incurable. The pain was unbearable. The doctors weren't sure she'd make it through the night. She was facing death alone in the Ukrainian capital, while her soldier husband was in Russian captivity in the more than three-year war. "If I die now, who will bring him back?" Olha thought to herself. "He has no one else in Ukraine."

Against the odds, she learned she was in remission last year. But even after multiple prisoner exchanges, including one that freed over 1,000 people, her husband, a Ukrainian marine, remains a captive. She hasn't given up. At nearly every exchange, she's there waiting, one of hundreds of Ukrainian women still trying to bring home their husbands, sons and

brothers. "He's everywhere in my life," Olha said. "His (photo) is on my phone screen, in my wallet, on the kitchen wall, in every room."

Day and night, questions circled in her mind: "What can I do to speed this up? What did I do today to bring him home?" Life before Russia's full-scale invasion Olha was just 21 when she learned she had cancer. It was Hodgkin's lymphoma, Stage 2. The tumours were growing but were still treatable. "At that age, you're thinking: cancer? Why me? How? What did I do?" she recalled. Her husband, Ruslan Kurtmalaiev, promised to stay by her side through every round of chemotherapy. When they met, in 2015, he was 21 and she was just 15. "It wasn't love at first sight," she said with a wide smile, eyes sparkling. Their attraction blossomed gradually that summer in Berdiansk, in what is now the Russian-occupied zone in the southern Zaporizhzhia region. Three years later, as soon as she turned 18, they wed.



When they first met, it was not long after Russia illegally seized Crimea, Ruslan's homeland, in 2014, and also invaded eastern Ukraine. Ruslan, a professional soldier, had already served on the front line. From the beginning, Olha understood that life as a military wife meant constant sacrifice, long separations, missed milestones, and the uncertainty of war. But she never imagined that one day she would be waiting for her husband to return from captivity. When she describes Ruslan, tears

well up in her eyes. "He's kind, he has a heightened sense of justice," she said. "For him, it was a matter of principle to return home and bring our Crimea home," she said, a loss she fully comprehended only after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"Only when I lost my home did I fully understand him." Facing cancer and hair loss Olha managed to complete only two sessions of chemo before the full-scale invasion. When her long hair began to fall out, she shaved her head. When she sent Ruslan a photo, he didn't hesitate: "God, you're so beautiful," he told her. Later, he made a confession. "He told me, 'Yeah, I saw your hair falling out in the mornings. I gathered it all from your pillow before you woke up? so you wouldn't get upset.' At the time, she believed that losing her hair was the worst thing that could happen to her. But soon after, she discovered what real tragedy meant.

NEWS BOX

With 'terror link', threat, 75-year-old swindled of 8cr

Mumbai. Cyber criminals posing as Mumbai police and Enforcement Directorate (ED) officials forced a 75-year-old from Kolhapur to transfer Rs7.86 crore in phases, between May 26 and June 23, on the pretext of an "inquiry into a case of funding a banned terror outfit and money laundering".

This was one of the biggest cyber frauds to have been reported from western Maharashtra. The complainant, who settled in Kolhapur after retiring as assistant vice-president from a refinery in Jamnagar, exhausted all his earnings from investment in shares and fixed deposit (FD) held jointly with his wife to make 14 transfers to accounts with banks in Mumbai, Nashik, Akola, Chandigarh, Prayagraj, Manoharpur, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

The man's three sons are settled in the US. He had rejoined the refinery in 2017 for two years before finally starting a retired life, police said.

According to the FIR, at one point, the elderly man even told one of the crooks, who identified himself as an ED official, that he had no connection whatsoever with money laundering and that the call appeared to him as a cyber fraud. The caller then disconnected the call. Later, he got another call from a man, who identified himself as a serving senior officer from Mumbai police and asked him to cooperate with the ED official.

After securing all his investment and bank balance details in the name of inquiry and verification, the crooks even used bogus "Supreme Court order, RBI and SEBI" letters to convince the man to sell off his shares and deposit the generated money and his joint FD funds to accounts shared by them.

Two persons killed in separate accidents



Ahmedabad. A 49-year-old sanitation worker, Dahi Chauhan, died following a road accident near Delhi Darwaza on Sunday morning. Chauhan was on her way to report for duty at the Madhupura muster when she was hit by a car while crossing the BRTS road. The car, driven by a man identified as Shashank Rai, a resident of Shahibaug, struck Chauhan and later crashed into the BRTS corridor railing. Chauhan, who suffered serious injuries to her body and face, was taken to the Civil Hospital where she died during medical care.

L Division Traffic Police have taken the driver into custody and registered a case against him. Chauhan was a resident of Dariapur's Valmiki Vas. Following the incident, sanitation work in the Madhupura ward remained suspended on Sunday as a mark of protest, and mourning by civic staff.

In another incident, Ganpat Thakor, a 46-year-old daily wager, died in a accident near Prem Darwaza in Madhupura area on Saturday. According to the complaint filed by his sister Kailash Thakor, he was crossing the road when he was hit by a motorcycle. Ganpat fell and suffered injuries to his head, arms, back, and leg. He was taken to Civil Hospital, where he was admitted to the trauma ward.

Robbery bid on Visakha Express foiled

GUNTUR. A robbery attempt on the Visakha Express was foiled by the alert escort police, who opened fire in the air to scare away a gang near Tummalacheruvu village in Palnadu district in the early hours of Sunday. According to the Railway Police, two unidentified miscreants pulled the alarm chain around 3.30 am, bringing the train to an unscheduled halt. When the escort police personnel got down from the train to look into the cause, the gang hurled stones at them, and fled into the nearby fields. In response, the police fired five rounds with a 9 mm pistol, and four with a 303 rifle in the air to scare away the gang. The train resumed its journey after a 10-minute halt, Guntur Railway DSPP Akkeshwara Rao told. It is suspected that the miscreants might belong to a seven-member robber gang operating from the Bihar-Maharashtra belt.

No hesitation to open fire on robber gangs: DSP

The gang used to target trains on vulnerable stretches, especially those near highways that offer quick escape routes. The gang was suspected to be involved in train thefts near Nadikudi earlier.

A day earlier, some miscreants tampered with the railway signals to stop the Visakhapatnam-Charlapalli special express train near New Pedigurud. Later, they snatched away gold chains from two women passengers.

In another recent incident near Komali in Anantapur district, the Chengalpattu Express was halted by manipulating the signal, and a woman passenger was robbed of 27 grams of gold. Signal tampering poses a grave threat to trains as it may lead to major mishaps. Common tampering methods include short-circuiting junction boxes, damaging circuit boards, cutting signal wires, forcing red signals, or covering signal lights with cloth to block visibility.

Pedalling against peddling! Kerala Cop kicks off ambitious anti-drug tour on retirement day

PATHANAMTHITTA. Retirement often is the transition to a quiet, carefree life, but for sub-inspector Shahjahan, of Kollam West police station, it marked the start of a bold new mission. On May 31, after completing 31 years of service in the force, Shahjahan mounted his bicycle and set off on an ambitious 2,025km expedition across the state to raise awareness about the growing menace of drug abuse.

Shahjahan, a career officer known for his dedication to public welfare, has always gone beyond the call of duty. At 50, he undertook a 1,700km, cross-state cycle tour, advocating the use of helmets and seat belts. That campaign, supported by police associations, earned him widespread recognition, including a certificate of appreciation from then-police chief Loknath Behera. "The increasing use of drugs among youth is a silent epidemic that threatens families, communities, and the future of our country. I wanted to address this pressing issue with a journey that would leave an impact," Shahjahan told.

The decision to begin the campaign on the day of his retirement was symbolic.

"I wanted my retirement to be a gift to the country, not just a personal milestone," he said. On the last leg of the 33-day expedition, Shahjahan reached Pathanamthitta on



Saturday, where he was welcomed by narcotics cell DySP B Anil at the district headquarters camp. Addressing a small gathering, DySP Anil lauded Shahjahan's effort, calling the journey a "powerful statement" against the drug crisis.

"Such initiatives not only raise awareness but also inspire others to take action. It's heartening to see an officer dedicate his post-retirement life to such a noble cause," Anil said. Shahjahan's journey spanned all 14 districts, with the route meticulously planned for wider reach. Starting in Kollam, it wound through urban centres, coastal towns, and remote villages.

"My goal is to engage directly with people -- students, parents, and communities -- and urge them to take collective responsibility against drug abuse," he explained.

At every stop, Shahjahan takes the opportunity to interact with people, particularly students. "It's not just about enforcement; it's about education. People need to understand the long-term impact of addiction," he said.

His journey is also a show of solidarity with Kerala police's anti-drug campaigns. The officer's unwavering determination and the overwhelming support he has received reflect a shared hope -- that a drug-free Kerala is not just a dream but an achievable reality.

Rajkot's Vyom makes it to IIM-B on third attempt

Ahmedabad. What happens when you score consistently above the 99th percentile, receive call letters from almost all IIMs, but fail to convert it into admission to your dream IIM? Some may move on or accept what's on offer, but not Vyom Vasavada. This Rajkot lad set his eyes on IIM Bangalore (IIM-B) as his dream destination and held on to his dream. In the third attempt, he again scored marks that put him into the 99.93rd percentile and got him on the first merit list! It was always the dream. The kind of leadership culture, academic excellence, and peer learning it fosters, I knew I wanted to be part of this environment," Vyom told TOI from the IIM-B campus.

Vyom completed his BTech in mechanical engineering from Pandit Deendayal Energy University (PDEU) in Gandhinagar. He later pursued an MTech in aerospace engineering from IIT Bombay. After completing the course in 2021, he joined HCL Technologies and later worked with a leading multinational brand in Bengaluru. It was this stint that fuelled his aspiration to be in a leadership role. "I was

trying to lead, innovate, and make strategic decisions that shape the future. I thus gravitated towards an MBA," said Vyom. He appeared in the Common Admission Test (CAT) in 2022 when he was among the students who scored in the 99.85th percentile. Despite the impressive score, he could not make it to the top. Undeterred, he prepared for CAT again in 2023 and secured a position in

the 99.94th percentile. On the waitlist for IIM-B, he missed out by just seven positions. But the third time was the charm when he made it to his dream B-school. Satish Kumar, Vyom's mentor in his journey for CAT, said that IIM-B not only rewards 2-3 years of work experience but also gives a multiplier score ranging from 0.25 to 2 based on the quality of work experience that helped Vyom secure the seat. "It can be seen as a combination of his perseverance, academic profile, and professional background," he added.

Satish Kumar, Vyom's mentor added that for the category Vyom belonged to -- general, engineering, male, popularly known as GEM -- the competition is stiff. Securing a spot for GEM at top IIMs is an uphill task given the volume of high-performing aspirants and limited seats, he added. "I always believed I could do it -- it was just a matter of when," said Vyom, adding that his two attempts also helped him prepare better. "I would tell other aspirants not to lose heart and prepare with much more conviction and always learn from mistakes."

Fort's 100-year-old Jimmy Boy is not shutting down: 'It's a speed breaker, not a final verdict,' says Sherzad Irani

Mumbai. Amid news that Jimmy Boy, the 100-year-old Parsi eatery on the ground floor of Vikas Building near Horniman Circle in Fort, is shutting down, its custodian Sherzad Irani, who runs the restaurant alongside Nazneen Irani, assured us otherwise.

The BMC noticed some cracks in the wall facing Cheetah Gate and issued a notice to vacate the premises," said Irani. While he acknowledges the situation is unfortunate, he added, "Lawyers from the building (Vikas Building houses several law firms) have approached the High Court, and the matter is currently in progress." The building has been declared a C1 category structure (dilapidated), which prompted the BMC's notice. However, lawyers have since filed a petition in the High Court, seeking a stay and reclassification to C2, which would allow for structural repairs instead of evacuation, shared a lawyer who works out of Vikas Building.



In the meantime, Jimmy Boy, which is gearing up for its centenary celebration in September, continues to serve customers via its Mahim outpost.

"We're delivering Parsi fare all the way from Colaba to Andheri through online food delivery platforms," said Irani.

He added that they also serve at Olive Green, Colaba, where customers can enjoy their

signature puffs and other confectionery.

Now an iconic institution, Jimmy Boy was founded in 1925 by Jamshed Irani and his brother Boman Irani as Cafe India, offering all-day breakfast. It later expanded to serve traditional Parsi delicacies for lunch and dinner. In 1999, Jamshed's son, Aspy Irani, renamed it Jimmy Boy, in honour of his father.

Body found in Tamil Nadu brought to Kozhikode for DNA test

KOZHIKODE. The decomposed body of Hemachandran, 53, a small-time chit fund operator from Sulthan Bathery who was brutally murdered and buried in Cherambadi, Tamil Nadu, has been brought to Kozhikode for DNA test and identification procedures. The body, recovered from a shallow grave in the Cherambadi forest, was transferred to Kozhikode Medical College, where it will remain until DNA tests confirm the identity. Deputy Commissioner of Police Arun K Pavithran revealed that multiple suspects are involved in the crime, including two women. "The prime suspect, Noushad, is currently in Saudi Arabia. A lookout notice has been issued, and efforts are underway to bring him back.

Within three days, all persons connected to the crime will be identified," he told reporters on Sunday. Hemachandran, who went missing from his rented house in Mayanad, Kozhikode, on March 20, 2024, was reportedly lured by a

female acquaintance and abducted under the guise of a financial deal. His family filed a missing person report on April 1, 2024. At first, police suspected he had gone into hiding due to financial pressure, but



further investigation into his transactions revealed deeper foul play. According to police, Hemachandran was taken to an unoccupied house in Sulthan Bathery, Wayanad, owned by a friend of the accused Noushad. He was tortured and ultimately murdered. The accused -- Jyotish Kumar, 32, and Ajesh B S, 27, both from Sulthan Bathery -- later buried his body in the dense Cherambadi forest, in the TANTEA plantation area.

Andhra Pradesh government initiates PACS nominations

VIJAYAWADA. In a move welcomed by TDP, JSP, and BJP activists in the erstwhile Krishna district, the State government has initiated the process of filling up nominated posts for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS). These much-anticipated appointments are expected to be completed in the coming days, bringing joy to party cadre who have been waiting for over five years since the last PACS elections in 2018.

As per official sources, the names of PACS Chairmen and members for Krishna district have been finalised and forwarded to the District Cooperative Office by the Commissioner for Co-operation and Registrar of Co-operative Societies. Out of the 424 PACS under Krishna DCCB -- 212 in Krishna and 212 across NTR and Eluru districts -- 75 nominations were released on Sunday. These appointments largely cover constituencies like Machilipatnam, Pedana, Penamaluru, Pamarru, and parts of Gannavaram. The Krishna District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd (DCCB), under which the PACS function, is the

largest in AP. With deposits amounting to Rs 3,094 crore, advances of Rs 7,955 crore, and a total business volume of Rs 11,049 crore, the DCCB holds major influence in rural finance and agricultural support. The PACS under DCCB provide crucial services such as loans, fertilizers, and implementation of farmers' welfare schemes.

Given its prominence, the DCCB Chairman post is highly sought after, often contested vigorously in PACS elections. However, since 2018, no PACS elections have been held. The previous YSRCP government opted to fill these posts through nominations, treating them as political accommodations. After the TDP-led government assumed office in 2024, there was speculation that the PACS elections would be revived. Instead, the government chose to continue with the nomination process, responding to requests

from party workers and grassroots cadre. A single-man committee, headed by the bank's secretary, was appointed to oversee



PACS operations until the process could be regularised. With this committee's term ending in July, the nomination drive has gained pace. In April, CM N Chandrababu Naidu

announced the appointments for DCCB Chairman posts. Now, the PACS Chairman and member appointments are being rolled out phase-wise, based on the recommendations of local MLAs and Mandal party presidents.

The first list of 75 names has brought visible jubilation among the party cadre. Katta Nagaraju, soon to be Chairman of Kondepudi PACS in Pedana segment, expressed heartfelt gratitude to CM N Chandrababu Naidu, Pedana MLA Kagitha Krishna Prasad, and Mandal President Salapati Veera Prasad. "TDP is the only party that recognises grassroots workers like me. Many competed for this post, but the party trusted me," he said.

District Cooperative Officer Chandra Sekhar Reddy told that the nominated tenure for PACS posts would likely last six months. The full process, including the formation of three-member committees, will be completed by July.

Hamirpur barrage-cum-bridge project completion target pushed to June 2026

OURKELA. Construction of the low-height barrage-cum-bridge project over Koel river at Hamirpur is likely to pick up pace after the monsoon with a revised completion target of June 2026. The project envisages to secure drinking water availability for Koel Nagar, Shakti Nagar and Jagda within the Rourkela Municipal Corporation (RMC) limits and part of the captive township of Rourkela Steel Plant. It would also establish communication link across the river and have provision for irrigation. The project is running behind schedule largely for technical reason and acquisition of private land. Construction work is now moving at a snail's pace due to rise in water level of Koel river during the monsoon.

Reliable sources said major portion of the structural work has been completed. The length of the barrage-cum-bridge has been kept at 446.1 metre with two-lane road width of 7.5 metre. A total of around 60 acre of land is required for the approach roads on both sides and guide walls of the barrage. The project cost is around Rs 309 crore excluding GST and cost for land acquisition. It is learnt that an agreement was signed with the executing agency in September 2022 with completion target of 30 months. But with final approval of design and drawing taking time and a few technical issues cropping up, major works commenced from January 2024.

Superintending engineer (SE) of Rourkela Irrigation Division Dhananjay Kala said he is hopeful of meeting the project's revised completion target of June 2026. So far, around 66 per cent of structural works have been completed. The work would pick up pace after the monsoon and land acquisition process is simultaneously underway. Kala said the project primarily envisages storage of drinking water, stabilisation of the potential for mega lift irrigation and create self-command area to irrigate around 1,200 hectare.

Capt Kohli's spirit will forever echo in the mountains

An era came to an end with the peaceful passing of Captain Mohan Singh Kohli, aged 94, on June 23 in New Delhi. All his dear ones were there by his bedside: his wife Pushpa (his rocklike support in life), sons Maninder and Ravinder, with their wives and children. He had led a full life. By far India's most renowned mountaineer, he is best known as the leader of the epoch-making Indian Everest Expedition 1965. Nine climbers reached the summit, creating a world record which held for 17 years. Indira Gandhi, while describing it as one of India's six major achievements since Independence, paid a rich tribute: "The record of Commander Kohli's expedition will find a special mention in history. It was a masterpiece of planning, organisation, teamwork, individual effort and leadership." According to mountain writing legend Walt Unsworth, the Indian success by its very magnitude completed the mountaineering subjection of the Southeast Ridge. All this added immensely to national pride and the great resurgence of mountaineering in India. Captain Kohli was born on December 11, 1931, at Haripur surrounded by Kagan hills, on the banks of the Indus, in the foothills of the Karakoram mountains in the erstwhile NWFP, now in Pakistan. His love affair with the mountains began in his childhood itself. Psychologically, the 1947 Partition, where he survived the mass massacre of innocents, was a major turning point in his life: emerging physically and mentally stronger with a survivor's instincts. These traits came to the fore in 1962 when as the deputy leader of the Everest expedition and leader of the summit party, he, along with two others, spent three nights, two without oxygen, in raging blizzards. They had, in Unsworth's words, almost passed the point of no return. The descent had the qualities of a nightmare. Earlier, in 1960, on India's first expedition to Everest, he reached the South Col as a member of the second summit party when the expedition had to be called off due to bad weather and the onset of monsoon. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1954, reporting to INS Shivaji at Lonavala, the offshore training institute. He later joined the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and developed the force into a formidable mountaineering organisation. Starting with Saser Kangri (25,170 ft) in 1956, Captain Kohli was a member/leader of 20 major expeditions, which included the first ascents of Nandakot (1959) and Annapurna III (1961). Having reached the pinnacle of his mountaineering career in 1965, Captain Kohli did not rest on his laurels. Later that year, he was involved in an exciting Indo-US secret mission to install nuclear-powered listening devices on the Himalayan peaks, notably Nanda Devi and Nandakot, to monitor Chinese missile capabilities, vividly described in his book, 'Spies in the Himalayas'. He joined Air India in 1971. He began by promoting trekking in the Himalayas and India's other vast outdoors with their unlimited scope for adventure. There is hardly any discipline in the realm of aero, water and terrestrial sports that escaped his attention. In 1978, he flew over the South Pole. He became deeply involved in the 'Save the Himalayas' movement. In 1989, he co-founded the Himalayan Environment Trust (HET) with Sir Edmund Hillary, also involving mountaineering legends such as Maurice Herzog, Chris Bonington, Reinhold Messner and Junko Tabai and eminent Indian personalities like Dr Karan Singh. He had a long stint as the vice-president and president of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation and his achievements were many. He mentored the 1984 Everest expedition which had the distinction of having the first Indian woman, fifth in the world, Bachendri Pal, reaching the summit. I was the leader of this expedition.

Buddhism that rose in India around 500 BC did not thrive in the land of its origin after 1200 AD. When people speak of how Buddhism was driven out of India — either by Brahmins or Islamic invasion — they often overlook the possibility that Buddhism could have simply moved out to greener pastures, to lands of receptive kings. In Buddhist lore, the decline of Buddhism was always prophesied, in keeping with the doctrine of impermanence. It was related to the failure of kings to protect Buddha's legacy (sasana). But this failure was compensated by the resilience of monks. Brahmins believed journeys to distant lands would result in loss of caste. The fear also restricted the movements of Jain monks. By contrast, Buddhist monks were adventurous, willing to travel to spread Buddha's word. Much of Buddhism's initial success lay in its appeal to foreign kings such as Yavanas, Shakas and Kushans, who controlled the Gandhara-Mathura-Ellora-Sopara-Amravati trade routes between 200 BC and 200 AD. When the Shaks and Kushans were pushed out by local kings, Buddhism moved with them to Central Asia. India, which was the centre of the Buddhist world, or Jambudvipa, in 700 AD, came to be seen on the edge by 1700 AD. By then, China was known as the land of Manjushri, Mongolia the land of Vajrapani Mahakala, and Tibet the land of Avalokiteshvara Padmapani. The most magnificent Buddhist temples and pagodas were built in South-East Asia: Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Borobudur in Java, Ayutthaya in Thailand, Bagan in Burma, and Anuradhapura in Sri Lanka. The last of the great Buddhist kings in India was Harshavardhan of Thaneshwar, a contemporary of Tang dynasty in China, and Prophet Muhammad in Arabia. The Theravada school of Buddhism had reached Sri Lanka by the 5th century AD. It spread further in the 10th century to Burma and Thailand. Meanwhile, the Mahayana school of Buddhism became popular in China from as early as 300 AD. Chinese emperors imported relics from India and imitated Ashoka in building stupas. They sent monks to study original texts in Nalanda and other universities.

New forms of Buddhism emerged in the East, focused not on Gautama Buddha, but more on future Buddha Maitreya, wise Buddha Manjushri and King Buddha Amitabha, of Pure Land Buddhism. There was even a female Bodhisattva, Kwanyin. In Tibet, the Vajrayana, or the occult school of Buddhism, thrived from 1000 AD, introducing ideas such as "war magic". Buddhist Mahakala and the fierce Heruka deities of Tibet were venerated by the Mongols who conquered China. Opposition to Buddhism began in the Ganga river basin during the Gupta period, 400 AD. Gupta kings saw themselves as the wild-boar Vishnu-Varaha saving the earth and dharma from Buddhism-patronising foreign rulers. Sun-worshipping Hunas attacked Buddhist monasteries in Gandhara in north-west India and wiped out Taxila universities around 500 AD. In the Deccan region, long-trade routes collapsed with the fall of the Roman Empire. Attention of kings, after 600 AD, shifted from trade to agricultural income. Brahmin skills in managing farm lands through temple-corporations made them popular amongst Chalukyas, Pallavas, Pandavas, Gangas and Cholas.

By 800 AD, India had three major religious influences: a powerful Buddhist lobby in the east led by Palas, a dominant Jain lobby in the south led by Rashtrakutas, and

a significant Shaivite presence in the north led by Gurjara-Pratihara. Many wars were fought between the three. Hindu hagiographies from India and Nepal, composed after 1300 AD, claim that Adi Shankara (who lived around 700 AD) won many debates against Buddhists. But Tibetan books, composed after 1500 AD, claim he lost to Buddhist masters. Relying on texts is unreliable. By 1000 AD, the Buddhist Palas were replaced by Shiva and Vishnu worshipping Senas. Jain Rashtrakutas were replaced by Shiva and Vishnu worshipping Chalukyas and Gangas, and later Hoysalas, Kakatiyas and Yadavas. After 1300 AD, Islamic Sultanates stopped supporting Buddhist universities.

To survive, many monks migrated to Sri Lanka and South-East Asia. Emphasising the "pushing out" of Buddhism frames it as a passive victim. Its "pull out" strategy in response to local hostility, and greater opportunities in foreign lands, reminds us that even ideologies can have agency.

Universe: Buddhism was pushed out, or pulled out

When people speak of how Buddhism was driven out of India, they often overlook the possibility that it could have simply moved out to lands of receptive kings



Dumping threat looms elsewhere as India nears U.S. deal

While the contours of the proposed deal are unknown, it's likely that it would enhance economic partnership, transform bilateral trade and lower tariffs, making products competitive across sectors

Donald Trump has dropped a big hint about signing a "very big" trade deal with India. The remarks, coming ahead of his July 9 deadline for striking deals or resuming 'reciprocal' tariffs, offer a significant relief for markets, policy makers and industry. Tariff-related uncertainties have triggered a massive sell-off in global and domestic equity markets, with foreign portfolio investments remaining volatile. While the contours of the proposed deal are unknown, it's likely that it would enhance economic partnership, transform bilateral trade and lower tariffs, making products competitive across sectors such as energy, agriculture, defence and aviation. It's also possible that India would gain market share in some American sectors owing to lower tariffs; although the gains would depend on India's comparative advantage against other countries. The anticipated direct export loss is pegged at \$14 billion, amounting to 0.38 percent of India's GDP, according to a working paper published by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy.

The export basket might change, too. Some of India's top 10 exports to the US—including electronic goods and gems & jewellery—may lose market share as competing



countries are subject to lower tariffs on these products. On the other hand, we may gain in the footwear, apparel, electrical machinery and toy markets. For instance, according to the NIPFP paper, China, Vietnam, Indonesia,

Italy and Cambodia account for 45.5 percent of the total in footwear exports to the US. Even if China is excluded, India can potentially corner a bigger share from Vietnam and Indonesia, which are subject to much higher tariffs of 46 percent and 32 percent, respectively. Similar opportunities exist in the furniture and sports equipment markets, too. At the same time, a multi-product, multi-country dumping threat looms over India. We should be watchful as China, Vietnam, Taiwan and others facing higher tariffs look to flood us with cheaper goods. While India reduces the tariff deficit with the US, it needs to offer calibrated concessions on select US goods like aerospace components. We should secure sector-specific exemptions, negotiate duty waivers for auto components and electronics, and diversify export markets away from the US, pursuing opportunities in the EU, the UK and ASEAN. Above all, India should strengthen domestic manufacturing, boost Make in India initiatives in key areas such as semiconductors, renewable energy and electronics to reduce import reliance and attract investments.

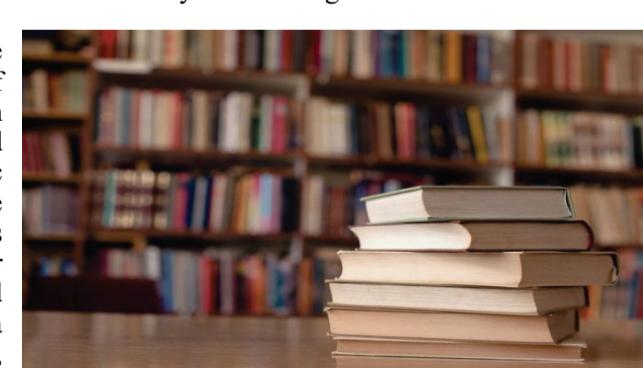
Turning back the pages of time

At any given time, I always have 10 or 15 unread books on my shelves and feel the richer for it

Hazaribagh in Bihar in the early 1960s. I was 10 when I first got to know Dr Binoy Chatterjee. I don't know how old he was, but he looked pretty old to me because when you are 10, everyone beyond 40 looks like a centenarian. Dr Chatterjee was our family doctor, a homeopath, and I don't think he charged us a penny. He was a big, burly man but I think he had some problems with his feet because they were always bandaged and he never stepped out of his house. Why do I remember him after almost 60 years? Because he introduced me to the wonders of the English language and the habit of reading. I was studying in St Xavier's and, as you can imagine, we were given a constant overdose of the classics, Wren and Martin and Palgrave. These did not, however, excite Dr Chatterjee much. "Abhay," he used to counsel me in that rolling Bengali accent which in later days Mamata Banerjee transformed into a rolling pin, "Classical literature is useful, but it puts the English language into a strait-jacket. Na, baba, it makes it too serious. Language must be fun, you should be able to play with it like a puppy with a ball; it should be capable of many meanings, like the fleeting glance of a beautiful woman." I saw what he meant, vaguely; I had a puppy at home and every woman looked beautiful to me, but each in a different way. And so the good doctor took it upon himself to initiate me into the unfettered world of an English language that could convey the joy of living, and not just its grim tragedies. Leave the classics in school, he told me sternly, and plied me instead with Mark Twain, Steinbeck, Oscar Wilde, JH Chase, Perry Mason, Bennett Cerf, JJ Hunter, Jim Corbett, Max Brand,

Billy Bunter, Zane Grey, Manohar Malgaonkar, Alistair Maclean, Spike Milligan, Richard Gordon, even the first edition of Fitzgerald's 'Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam'. He had the most wonderful collection, carefully packed in cartons, catalogued and indexed. On top of his list was PG Wodehouse. The prescription was simple: one's reading must be eclectic, every genre is as important as the next, if reading is not fun then it's a waste of time. And then there were the magazines: Punch, RD, Imprint and a glossy precursor of the National Geographic whose name I now cannot recall. And I didn't have to buy a single book: Dr Chatterjee had trunk loads and disbursed them to me lovingly, after conducting a short viva voce on each book returned by me! The good doctor's bug made me a bookworm for life. My family moved to Calcutta, where my grandfather had two bookshops in New Market and one in the Grand Hotel. I soon struck a Trumpian deal with him: during my school/college holidays, I would help in selling the books (for which I received a commission of 4 annas per book), and spend the rest of the time devouring as many more as I could. I could never afford to buy a new book, of course, having started life on a pocket money of 5 rupees a month, which subsequent inflation took to 25 in my college days. So, one scoured College Street in Calcutta, Navin Market in Kanpur and the Red Fort/Chor Bazaar markets in Delhi in later life for second-hand books. I still have them — handsome, leather-bound, picked up for as little as 8 annas in those pre-globalisation days. Till today, I cannot buy a book at its printed price — it has to be a discounted Amazon

one, a Book Fair offering, or a gift! Old habits, like old Gods, die hard. During this journey from Mulk Raj Anand to Bill Bryson, however, I have picked up quite a few quirks. During my younger days, I was not beyond filching a book or two from a



bookshop when in a severe state of penury, which was most of the time. The SOP was quite simple, really: walk in with three books and walk out with four, the desired title sandwiched between the others. Fortunately, this phase didn't last long, preventing me from becoming the head librarian in Tihar jail. I don't like people borrowing books: I consider it an invasion of my private space and akin to borrowing someone's girlfriend. I hoard newly bought books and defer reading them for as long as I can. It's like these tomes are my capital, a kind of fixed deposit, and reading them would amount to breaking the FD and depleting this precious stock. So, at any given time, I always have 10 or 15 unread books on my shelves and feel the richer for it. My

sons have tried to introduce me to Kindle and digital reading, without success. How does one explain to them that a book is a living entity and not a jumble of algorithms? That it must feel good to touch; the smell of paper, ink and time fondly reminds one of where and when it was bought (or filched); enables one to make notes in the margins. It's a difficult feeling to convey, but I think Jawaharlal Nehru came closest to it, though in an entirely different context. At a formal dinner, Nehru and Lord Mountbatten were having tandoori chicken. Nehru was eating with his fingers, but Mountbatten was making heavy weather of it with knife and fork. Panditji could not contain himself: "My lord, use your fingers. Eating tandoori chicken with a knife and fork is like making love to a beautiful woman through an interpreter, you know!" That is exactly what Kindle does to reading: it can make you a promiscuous reader but not a faithful or sated one. I have just acquired my latest tome, Yuval Harari's 'Home Deus'. It's at number 16 of my waitlisted books, and in the normal course its turn for reading should come in 2026 or 2027. But it is all of 1,000 pages and weighs about 2 kg. If I wait too long, the Grim Reaper may knock on my doors before I finish it. I have seriously considered doing a Chetan Bhagat to it, i.e. read the first and last pages only, and instantly get the gist of all that lies in-between. But that would be worse than using an interpreter — it would be like employing a stenographer. So I think I'll just give it away to Arnab Goswami. It will fill the yawning gaps in his education but best of all.

Abandoned after birth, 2 hyena cubs rescued in Haryana

Gurgaon. In a first for Haryana, two hyena cubs, abandoned by their mother shortly after birth, were rescued and brought to full health by veterinary professionals at Pipli Zoo in Kurukshetra and Rohtak Zoo. The cubs, born on June 2, were found in critical condition but made a remarkable recovery, marking a significant achievement in wildlife conservation in the region. A female hyena at Pipli Zoo gave birth to two cubs. The mother abandoned her offspring, leaving the tiny cubs vulnerable and in dire straits.

According to wildlife department officials, a departmental veterinary surgeon was immediately informed of their critical situation. He assessed the cubs and said both cubs were dehydrated and needed immediate treatment. Chief wildlife warden (Haryana) Vivek Saxena told TOI on Sunday, "The cubs were swiftly transported to Rohtak Zoo, where specialised care could be provided. At Rohtak Zoo, the veterinary doctor oversaw the intensive 24-hour care required to save the fragile cubs." Saxena said, "Today, both cubs have returned to Pipli Zoo in completely healthy condition, a testament to the successful intervention and care they received. This successful intervention highlights the critical role of dedicated wildlife care in preserving species, especially those facing challenges in the wild." Wildlife experts have hailed the hand-reared cubs' rescue as a significant step in conservation. Sunil Harsana, a wildlife expert, said, "Hyenas are often misunderstood, but they play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. Every life saved is a step toward preserving biodiversity. These cubs now represent hope and resilience." Meanwhile, both the accused were brought before a local court, following which Tanwar was released on bail. Maurya, however, failed to furnish the bail bond.

In Gurgaon, SUV ploughs into parked vehicles, knocks down 2

Gurgaon. A man, who was drunk, caused chaos in the Palam Vihar area on Sunday after crashing his SUV into parked vehicles and hitting a pedestrian. The CCTV footage of the incident that surfaced on social media showed the SUV dragging the injured man for around 20 metres. The car first crashed into six parked vehicles in a narrow lane before hitting over two people standing near the community centre in Mullaheera. One man narrowly escaped, while another suffered injuries. He is currently undergoing treatment. The accused, Vishal of Mullaheera, was arrested at the scene with the car involved in the incident. Witnesses stated that the three men were inside the vehicle, all in an intoxicated state. The car reportedly stopped only after it got stuck behind a tanker. Two men fled the scene, while locals managed to catch one and handed him over to the police. "One man was taken into custody on-site, and the seized Scorpio SUV used in the crime has also been recovered," said Palam Vihar SHO Bijender.

A case was registered under 281 (rash driving) and 125 (a) (endangering life) based on a complaint from the owner of two of the damaged vehicles (Creta and WagonR), both of which belonged to the same person. The injured victim, who resides in Mullaheera, was on his way to work when the vehicle hit him, said a police officer, adding that statements of eyewitnesses will be recorded to confirm the identity of the other two individuals involved.

Monsoon is here, choked drains to trigger flooding in Palam Vihar



Gurgaon. As the city's tryst with monsoon begins this year, residents of C1 block in Palam Vihar have complained of a choked drain along Bajghera rail overbridge that has turned their locality into a flood-prone area. The garbage in the drain even pushes rainwater mixed with silt back into their homes, they say. The drain, which was built over five years ago by public works department (PWD) during the construction of the rail overbridge, has never been cleaned, they alleged.

"Every time it rains, the service lane becomes inundated. We are confined in our homes, and even heavy commercial vehicles start using the wrong side to get to Krishna Chowk," said Anil Varma, a resident.

With no re-engineering of the surrounding roads during the construction of Bajghera rail overbridge, the service lane has become a low-lying stretch that collects runoff from both the bridge and Krishna Chowk.

Without a functional drainage system, water stagnates—sometimes for days—bringing not only inconvenience to the residents but also health risks.

"During heavy rains, as vehicles pass by, sewerage water gets pushed back into our homes," Varma said.

Moreover, encroachments along parts of the stretch have made things worse. Despite repeated complaints to MCG and GMDA, residents say no action was taken.

"We have been asking MCG and GMDA to do something about this ever since the flyover came up, but nobody is ready to listen. During heavy rainfall, all the water backflows into our homes, damaging furniture and property. It's not just waterlogging—it's years of civic apathy," said Rakesh Wadhwani, another resident.

Meanwhile, MCG executive engineer Praveen Kumar said, "The work of drain cleaning in Palam Vihar has already been allotted. This includes C1 block. Work has started and will be complete soon."

31 FIRs filed in 3 months as illegal quarrying scars Nuh Aravalis

Gurgaon. Thirty-one FIRs have been registered and penalties amounting to Rs 14 lakh have been imposed on violators in three months in Nuh. Despite Supreme Court's blanket ban on mining in 2009 in the Aravalis, illegal operations continue to plague the district. Over the past three months, 59 trucks involved in unauthorised mining activities were seized while FIRs were registered against 31 vehicles for overloading and three individuals for direct involvement in illegal mining, resulting in fines totalling Rs 8.6 lakh. An additional Rs 5.7 lakh was imposed for storing illegally mined stock, bringing the total recovered amount to Rs 14.3 lakh, according to data. Nuh deputy commissioner Vishram Kumar on Thursday said, "Illegal mining will not be tolerated. We are committed to protecting our ecological heritage and ensuring strict enforcement of the law."



Supreme Court explicitly prohibited mining in the ecologically sensitive Aravali region, which includes parts of Nuh, to protect the fragile ecosystem and prevent further environmental degradation. Joint teams from the mining department, police and revenue department are conducting

regular surveillance and raids. Citizens are being encouraged to report illegal activities, with assurances of confidentiality and prompt action. Meena also emphasised the "need for vehicle checks" on all possible routes and roads leading to and from mining areas. He suggested cooperation from local residents could be valuable in identifying and reporting illegal activities and called

Committee pointed out that around 25% of the Aravali range was lost due to illegal mining in Rajasthan between 1967 and 1968. Officials said the rocky terrain makes it difficult for the authorities to crack down on the miners. Multiple narrow roads cutting through forests lead to Rajasthan. Years of penalty and seizure of vehicles have failed to stop stone quarrying and sand in the Aravalis. The business is financially viable, given the rise in the number of housing projects coming up in Gurgaon and nearby areas. We are carrying out surveillance and taking action as per the direction," said a mining official. TOI reported in Dec 2024 officials of the Haryana mining department carried out a survey and found fresh signs of stones being quarried from the protected hills in Nuh's Rava village. According to their estimates, 6,000 metric tonnes of stones were mined from the south Haryana district and a hillock in Rava was blown to pieces on the night of Dec 19. Supreme Court is currently hearing a case on unauthorised construction of roads to facilitate the transportation of illegally quarried stones from Haryana's Nuh to Rajasthan, where there is no ban on mining the Aravalis.

50 farmhouses, walls built in protected Aravalis to face bulldozers this week

Gurgaon. Farmhouses and other illegal structures such as walls, banquet halls, shops and cafes built in the protected Aravalis of the city will be demolished in a drive from the first week of July. Fifty illegally built farmhouses—identified in a survey earlier this year—will be demolished, forest department officials said on Thursday. Officials said show cause notices have been issued for any new construction carried out on protected Aravali land in Behrampur, Ghata, Gwalpahari and Sakatpur areas. These property owners have been given 15 days to raze the structures on their own, after which the department will demolish the construction too. A forest officer said, "We started giving out notices on June 3 and by June 26, around 50 notices have been sent." Once the illegal construction is brought down, the forest department will also conduct drone surveys every month to ensure that no further encroachment takes place on the protected land.

The Aravalis in these areas are protected under sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) and the Aravali Plantation project. Chief conservator of

forest (south circle) Subhas Yadav told TOI, "Notices have been sent to the farmhouses. They were given 15 days to respond. We will clear areas under sections 4 and 5 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA) and the Aravali Plantation project in Gurgaon."

"Currently, our team is removing encroachments in Faridabad Aravalis and within a week, demolitions in Gurgaon will start," he said. Forest officials said the owners of any new structures—which were built in the Aravalis after the survey earlier this year—will be issued show cause notices too. Areas notified under these provisions are considered as 'forests', and thereby, they are covered under the Forest (Conservation) Act. The FCA prohibits the felling of trees, construction and any other 'non-forest' activities without explicit permission. On Sept 8, 2016, the forest department proposed to establish a total of 52 security outposts for the protection of nearly 1 lakh hectares of Aravalis hills of south Haryana. The department also recommended that an "Aravali protection force" be formed and recommended that a

typical naka should have at least four persons assigned to it for round-the-clock vigilance. This has never happened to date. Despite several court orders, illegal construction is not uncommon in the hills. Activists criticised the govt's role in not being able to carry out timely demolitions and said not acting on the SC's order is allowing more encroachments. Experts said on Thursday authorities should ensure continuous monitoring of the Aravalis due to the unusual land ownership pattern, which divides it among panchayats and private owners despite the FCA being in place. "It is not clear why the govt has not been able to carry out any demolition even over a year after the SC order. It seems that more illegal structures are coming up in the protected Aravalis and no action has been taken," Vaishali Rana, a Gurgaon-based environmentalist, said. In 2023, TOI reported that around 35 acres of Aravali forest land was cleared for the construction of farmhouses in Behrampur village, which is located just a kilometre from the Golf Course Extension Road in Gurgaon.

STP defunct, drain with filth empties out into Kasna canal, Hindon

NOIDA. The drain near Ishan College in Knowledge Park, opposite Jagat Farm, has turned into a major source of pollution, with residents alleging that untreated sewage from several Greater Noida sectors is being dumped into it. Despite a sewage treatment plant (STP) in the vicinity, it remains non-functional. The stagnant, black water flowing through the drain eventually reaches the Kasna canal and then the Hindon river. The problem worsens during the monsoon, with intensified foul odours and risk of methane gas emissions. Residents who met GNIDA officials earlier this week said the issue has persisted for years despite repeated complaints. "Greater Noida city is expanding rapidly, but there is still no proper sewage treatment system in place," said Praveen Bhartiya, a



resident. He added that the dirty, clogged drains are making life difficult, especially during the summer and monsoon seasons. "Dangerous gases like methane are released from the stagnant water, adding to the health risk," he said. Bhartiya further claimed that all sector drains eventually

feed into the Kasna canal, which has turned into a channel of untreated waste. "Twenty years ago, the canal water was clean. Now, it is black and toxic," he said. Seeking urgent action, a delegation of residents led by Master Dinesh Nagar from the social group Corruption Free India (CFI) met SDRM Jitendra Gautam last week and submitted a memorandum. "We demanded immediate treatment of sewage before it enters the canal. This will help protect our environment and the Hindon river," Nagar said. Other members of the delegation included Yogesh Bhati, Satveer Tiger, Rinku Bhati, Bobby Gurjar and Aman Dinesh Nagar. Officials have assured to look into the matter, but residents remain skeptical given the long-standing nature of the issue.

Monsoon hits Gurgaon, weeklong wet spell likely



bring relief from the heat, with Gurgaon recording a minimum temperature of 26.9°C and a maximum likely to range between 33.1°C and 35°C. Wind speeds during the showers may reach 30 to 50 kmph, according to IMD predictions. Maximum temperature was 35.7 degrees Celsius, 2.6 notches lower than the previous day, while the minimum temperature was 28.2 degrees Celsius, 1.3 notches lower than the previous day. The monsoon has been declared nine days ahead of its usual schedule of July 8, marking a significant meteorological milestone. The IMD bulletin said, "The Southwest Monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, West Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and the entire Delhi today (June 29). Thus, it covered the entire country against the

normal date of July 8." The monsoon trough at mean sea level passes through Firozpur, Sonipat, Ayodhya, Gaya, Purulia, the centre of the low-pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining West Bengal and Bangladesh coasts and thence southward to the northeast Bay of Bengal," it said. Meteorological data indicates a low-pressure area over Saurashtra, Kutch and adjoining south Rajasthan, with an associated upper air cyclonic circulation extending up to 5.8km above mean sea level. Another cyclonic circulation lies over north Haryana and nearby regions, extending up to 1.5 km above mean sea level, contributing to the unstable weather conditions. Meanwhile in Delhi, light rain on Sunday announced the arrival of the

monsoon in Delhi and the seasonal phenomenon's countrywide coverage for this year. The remaining parts of India that had not seen the seasonal rain, such as parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, also got rain. In Delhi, a few areas recorded very light to light rain. For Delhi, the arrival of the monsoon was two days late as June 27 is the normal date. But in cross-country coverage, the monsoon was early by nine days. "The southwest monsoon has further advanced into the remaining parts of Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh and Haryana and all of Delhi on June 29," said RK Jenamani, senior weather scientist at the India Meteorological Department (IMD). "Thus, it has covered the entire country, against the normal date of July 8." This year saw the onset of the monsoon over the entire country to be the earliest in the last five years. "Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to continue over many parts of north-west, central, east and north-east India in the next 7 days, with isolated extremely heavy rainfall over Jharkhand on June 29 and 30 and Odisha on June 29," the IMD statement said. For Delhi, the IMD had forecast the monsoon's arrival on June 24. Last year, the monsoon arrived in the city on June 25, bringing 228.1mm of rainfall in one day. That was the highest single-day precipitation in Delhi for June since 1936. However, this year, the monsoon arrived with just 5.1mm recorded at the base station, Safdarjung, till 5:30pm.

Improper parking, no PUCC, riding without helmet top 3 traffic offences in Delhi, shows data

Agency New Delhi.

With over four lakh challans issued till May 31, improper and obstructive parking is the top offence going by the challans issued by the Delhi Traffic Police (DTP) this year. Plying vehicles without a pollution under control (PUC) certificate and riding two-wheelers without helmets also make the list of the top three traffic violations in the Capital.

A total of 4,19,230 challans were issued against obstructive parking, 3,73,197 against vehicles plying without PUC certificate, and 2,59,123 against helmetless riders on two-wheelers, as per the official data till May 31. More than two lakh challans were issued against drivers not carrying a licence.

Dr S Velmurugan, Chief Scientist and Head, Traffic Engineering and Safety Division, Central Road Research Institute, opined, "There are many ways to control such offences... some require enforcement, while some need basic sense among people. For PUCC, refilling of fuel can be denied, or the vehicle can be impounded.



Even AI-based solutions can be adopted to find a possible solution."

On improper parking as an offence, he said, "The population of humans and the number of vehicles are way beyond what the city can accommodate, and it is next to

impossible for policemen and even technology to be omnipresent. The issue of improper parking is more of a civic and behavioural problem. The same is the issue of riding without a helmet. Considering that road accidents lead to

loss of lives, especially in a scenario where people are riding without helmets, it should be more of a practice at an individual level than an imposition," Velmurugan said.

He added that wearing the right quality of helmet is also another practice that must be followed.

The Delhi Traffic Police takes several measures on the ground to ensure that rules are followed. Apart from on-ground challans, notices are also issued for violations caught on cameras. "Some of the offences like driving without a licence, underage driving, driving on the wrong side of the road, improper parking are the issues wherein the individual is well aware of the violation... yet they are doing it.

Parking on the roadside or improper parking also adds to the traffic woes as a lane is occupied, and if just one car is parked, others follow. In some scenarios, due diligence is a must," said Ajay Chaudhary, Special CP Traffic.

In public transport boost, Noida to get 8 double-decker e-buses. Here are the details

Agency New Delhi.

In a boost to Noida's public transport, the city is set to receive eight double-decker electric buses, which will run between Botanical Garden Metro Station and Greater Noida West, said officials.

Of the eight buses, four will operate between Botanical Garden and Pari Chowk, while the remaining four will run deeper into Greater Noida West. Officials said the routes and stops for these buses are still under consideration. An announcement in this regard is expected soon. The authorities are expected to launch a trial run around mid-July.

Earlier, the plan was to transport the buses to Noida by road. However, due to the lack of charging facilities along the route, the Uttar Pradesh Transport Corporation has now decided to bring them by rail instead. "The buses are expected to arrive by mid-July," Manoj Kumar, Regional Manager, Gautam Buddha Nagar, told the media.

Surveys are being conducted to finalise the routes for the four buses that will serve Greater Noida West. Authorities are taking into account infrastructure constraints such as underpasses and foot overbridges to ensure the buses can move safely and without obstruction. Officials also said the buses would run on service lanes to avoid congestion on main roads and reduce the chances of flyover-related accidents.

At present, a large number of private buses operate between Botanical Garden and Pari Chowk. Commuters have raised repeated complaints about high fares, lack of designated stops, and frequent overcrowding. "These double-decker buses are expected to provide a safer and more reliable option," Kumar said. The fare structure for the new service will be announced soon. The transport department is also working on a monthly pass system for regular passengers to make daily travel more convenient. The buses are likely to operate till 10 pm each day, even as this schedule may be revised based on ridership patterns once the service is started, officials said.

Fuel ban policy faces key hurdles

Agency New Delhi.

In a bold move to combat pollution, the government is set to launch an unprecedented solution: a complete fuel ban on end-of-life vehicles (ELVs). The initiative, the first-of-its-kind in the country, aims to curb the emissions from vehicles that are believed to be the most polluting. Backed by cutting-edge technology, including Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras, the new system will automatically detect and block fuel access for these vehicles at petrol pumps, preventing them from refuelling at petrol stations, effectively taking them off city roads.

But with just one day left before the highly anticipated rollout, all is not smooth sailing. A visit at over a dozen petrol stations revealed a troubling lack of preparation.

There's confusion among petrol pump staff, many of whom are still unaware of how the new system works, and missing standard operating procedures (SOPs). Adding to the chaos is an absence of coordination between the gas stations and the implementing agencies responsible for enforcing the order, which raises concerns about how effectively the ambitious plan will take off. As the countdown begins, the question remains: can this unprecedented solution deliver on its promise or will it stumble at the starting line?

What's behind fuel ban system

Despite previous attempts at curbing pollution through odd-even schemes, BS-VI fuel adoption, and EV incentives, older internal combustion engine vehicles remain a major hurdle. Majority of the ELVs are operating on below BS VI emission standards or even lower to BS III and BS II.

Vehicles particularly those operating below BS-VI emission standards, have significantly higher emission potential. BS IV vehicles have 5.5 times higher PM emissions than the BS VI vehicles. The new rule, announced by the Delhi Transport

Department under directives from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), defines end-of-life vehicles (ELVs) as those diesel vehicles that are more than 10 years old and petrol vehicles older than 15 years. The policy draws on a 2015 order of the National Green

Tribunal (NGT) banning such overaged vehicles from the capital's roads, which was later upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Delhi government seeks Rs 1K crore for measures to clean up air

PWD Minister Verma along with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, was inspecting the Nehru Park area as part of the government's initiative to install air purifiers in the city.

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi government has requested a grant of Rs 1,000 crore from the Centre to deploy new technology and implement measures to improve the Air Quality Index (AQI) of the national capital, PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said on Sunday.

Singh, along with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, was inspecting the Nehru Park area as part of the government's initiative to install air purifiers in the city.

"Since we have formed the government, our cabinet minister Singh Sirsa and his department have taken several steps in lowering pollution and AQI in Delhi. We will identify spots in Delhi and come forward with our best technology. We have requested a funding of Rs 1000 crore from the central government for this," Sahib

Singh said. The ministers visited Nehru Park to review the feasibility of creating a pilot Clean Air Zone. The government is evaluating whether the installation of

Nehru Park has been identified as a potential pilot site for the installation of 150 advanced air purification machines, subject to further analysis.

"We are conducting a study. The technology has shown promise in limited applications, and we aim to determine whether it can work across larger green zones, such as Nehru Park. We aim to ask people if the technology fit to work or not in their feedback," said Sirsa. "This is part of a proactive approach—testing innovation before scale, and only where it truly benefits people." Each proposed purifier is over 9 feet tall and uses advanced filtration technology to capture harmful PM 2.5 particles. If implemented in the future, these could cover a 400-600 square meter radius and offer year-round relief to walkers, joggers, and children using the park.



outdoor air purifiers across public parks can create micro-climates of significantly cleaner air, particularly during days with increased AQI levels. This is part of a larger exploratory study that could lead to Delhi's first Clean Air Zone if found viable. The 85-acre

Two years on, Jamia's medical college still a distant dream

Agency New Delhi.

In 2023, the then Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Najma Akhtar, made a major announcement that sparked hope and excitement within the university and among medical aspirants: the launch of a full-fledged medical college, with admissions expected to begin as early as 2024.

Nearly two years later, the promise remains unfulfilled, with no visible signs of construction or official updates on the project.

The ambitious plan, aimed at bringing Jamia on par with other central universities housing medical institutions, was touted as a step forward in expanding access to quality medical education. However, as of mid-2025, there is little to suggest that any groundwork—figuratively or

literally—has been laid. "No construction has started. No announcements, no tenders, no official circulars. We don't even know if the plan is alive anymore," said a senior faculty member on condition of



anonymity. Najma Akhtar had proposed setting up the medical college within the campus as an eight-storey building, previously referred to as the 'Health Sciences Building.'

Before her retirement, she announced that the work was in progress.

She also revealed that the university had reserved five acres of land near Jasola for a 150-bedded hospital. The medical college and the hospital could be at different locations, and ideally, the hospital should be away from the university premises due to hygiene concerns. The former Vice Chancellor had intended to have the project framework ready before leaving office.

Attempts to reach current Vice Chancellor Mazhar Asif for comments went unanswered. Meanwhile, students and staff have grown increasingly skeptical. Setting up a medical college in India requires approval from the National Medical Commission (NMC), along with infrastructure, faculty appointments, and substantial funding.

Nearly 1/4th of MCD drains in Delhi are yet to be desilted: Report

Desilting is an ongoing process, said officials — it started on January 1 and is being carried out in a phased manner. The target is set for the entire year, as per the report

Agency New Delhi.

The Southwest monsoon has reached the Capital, and 77.5% of drains have been desilted across the city, as per the Municipal Corporation of Delhi's status report. A total of 2,29,018 metric tonnes of silt has been removed from the drains that come under the civic body's jurisdiction in 12 zones till June 23, the report underlined.

The report was issued by the civic body after questions were raised on monsoon preparedness at the first meeting of the Standing Committee on June 27.

At 59%, Karol Bagh was at the bottom of the list of 12 zones achieving the total desilting target. In some areas, such as Central Zone and Keshav Puram, the total silt removed exceeded the estimated tonnes of silt.

Desilting is an ongoing process, said officials — it started on January 1 and is



being carried out in a phased manner. The target is set for the entire year, as per the report. The civic body said a Rs 36 crore

budget has been allocated for 2025-2026 for drain cleaning. The report has been segregated into two

Despite facelift, many find Arogya Mandirs as old wine in new bottle

Agency New Delhi.

The newly launched Urban Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (U-AAMs), transformed from existing dispensaries operated by the government and municipal bodies, are being projected as a significant overhaul of the city's primary healthcare system. These centres promise a wider range of services, including online registration, advanced diagnostic facilities, daycare admissions, regular yoga sessions, and more.

"Infrastructure has drastically improved. There was a lot of seepage earlier. CCTV cameras will also be installed. DOT and malaria centres are being upgraded too," said a nurse at the Sewa Nagar U-AAM.

Doctors reported that footfall has increased since the transformation, indicating growing public interest in the initiative. "We are seeing a significant rise in patients coming to the facility ever since it turned into a U-AAM. It may also be due to the online registration facility. Patients don't have to stand in a queue for consultation. It's saving their time," said Dr Nikhil Kumar, medical officer at the Defence Colony U-AAM. A medical officer at the Molarband centre said that minor trauma care—previously unavailable—is now functional across all U-AAMs. "We have a dresser now. Minor accidents can be managed at the facility itself," he said.

Dr Kumar added that the centres now offer daycare admissions and oxygen support. "Patient admission for oxygen support is available. We have enough equipment like oxygen cylinders, concentrators, and masks," he further said.

Currently, 11 types of diagnostic tests—including HIV, blood sugar, typhoid, and malaria—are conducted at U-AAMs. For advanced investigations, a private diagnostic firm has been engaged, the officials said. Additionally, each centre is preparing a dedicated space for biweekly yoga sessions for patients. While the upgraded infrastructure—with fresh paint, floor tiling, and improved waiting areas—has enhanced the appearance of these centres, many long-time patients say the quality of care remains largely unchanged.

'We maintain parks well, can oversee sweeping': Gurgaon RWAs seek speedy handover of sanitation duties from civic body

Agency New Delhi.

Residents in Gurgaon have called for the municipal corporation to promptly transfer sanitation duties to Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) amid a rising garbage menace in the area. Despite a proposed agreement for RWAs to take over these responsibilities, no formal policy has been established, they said.

In a meeting on May 18, more than 60 RWAs in Gurgaon resolved to take over sanitation duties from the municipal corporation. The decision received in-principle approval from the previous municipal commissioner Ashok Garg, but the handover of sanitation duties has not commenced formally. A corporation official also confirmed that no policy in this regard has been finalised and notified yet, despite the civic body having accepted the handover of sanitation duties to RWAs.

Residents alleged that current policies do not adequately address the garbage issues, leading residents to hire additional labour at their own expense. The existing policy only deals with the operation and maintenance of sanitation in sectors without specifying the number of labourers needed to be posted, said residents.

"For two years now, residents have been crying about this, but nothing has happened. We sent a representation, but the commissioner said there is no policy. When we have been maintaining parks, which are under the horticulture department, we can oversee sweeping, too, rather than let the situation slide further," said Kusum Sharma, a Suncity RWA member. Sharma added that the civic officials in power appear not to be concerned about the sanitation issue.

parts: drains with a depth or width of less than 4 feet, and more than 4 feet. As per an overview of the data, the civic body has desilted small drains in large numbers, but deeper and larger drains remain to be cleared.

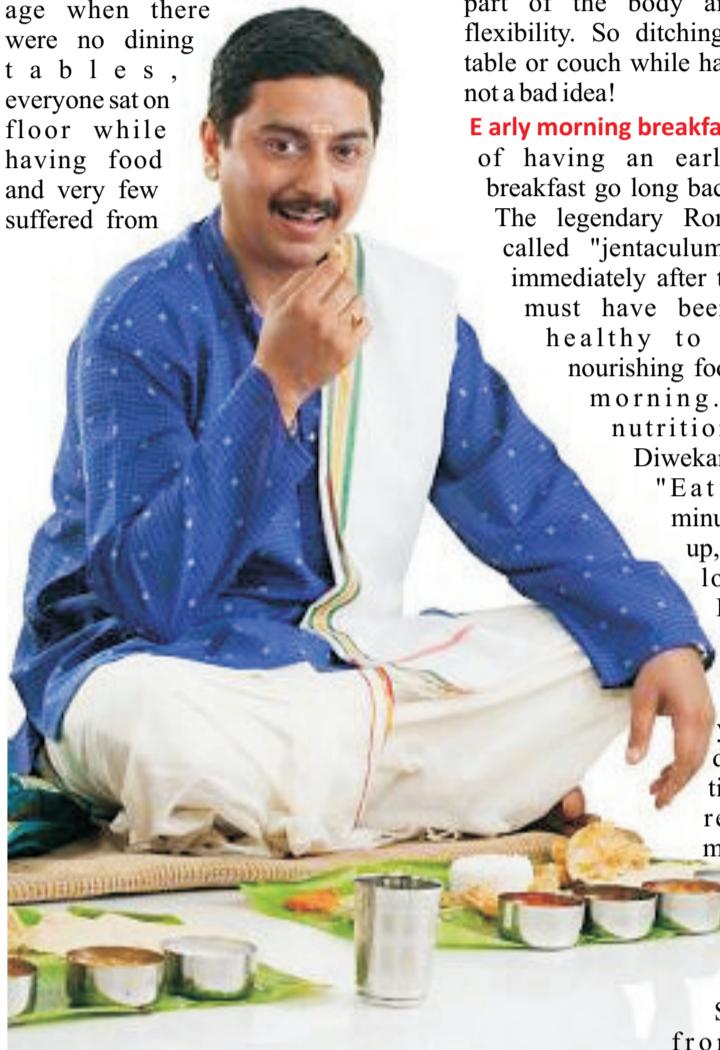
While Najafgarh, the longest running drain in Delhi, achieved 110% of the desilting target, only 67% of the drains of height or width of 4 feet and above have been desilted in the area.

For North Shahdara Zone, the MCD cleared 100% of % silt from small drains (less than 4-ft deep), but only 60% of the targeted silt had been removed from bigger drains.

Likewise, for the South Zone, only 63% of silt from the 45 km stretch of deeper drains has been removed before the monsoon. For the West Zone, while 86% of the small drains are cleared, only 67% of the targeted silt from deeper drains has been cleared, as per the report.

Food habits have played a major role even in the rise and fall of civilizations. Aryans would not have migrated to India in 1500 BC had their lands in Central Asia not fallen short of pastures for their cattle. The simple 'Mediterranean' foods that dieticians are tardily recommending us today must have played a great part in the remarkable achievements of the Greeks. Even the small habits that we have grown up hearing like, "don't go out on an empty stomach, do not talk while eating, do not share glasses, do not chomp...are much more than good manners. In fact going back to some of these habits can magically impact our health.

Sitting on the floor while eating: In an age when there were no dining tables, everyone sat on floor while having food and very few suffered from



Food contamination with saliva:

Sharing drinks from common glass, food from the same plate and

lifestyle diseases that have become so rampant in our times. According to experts, sitting on the floor cross legged while having food as practiced in India is typically a yogic posture called Sukhasan which is said to massage the abdominal muscles, boost circulation in lower part of the body and increase flexibility. So ditching the dining table or couch while having food is not a bad idea!

Early morning breakfast: The roots of having an early morning breakfast go long back in history.

The legendary Roman breakfast called "jentaculum" was taken immediately after the sun rise. It must have been considered healthy to indulge in nourishing food early in the morning. Celebrity nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar recommends, "Eat within 15 minutes of waking up, if you want to lose weight." Postponing or skipping your breakfast not only makes you ravenous during lunch time, but also reduces your metabolism.

taking bite from the same pizza slice appears to be quite a normal practice for many of us and rather impolite to refuse if a friend is offering it. But it was a taboo in ancient India and is still held in abeyance and considered forbidden in a number of traditional Indian families. The concept of contamination with saliva called uchchishtam (sanskrit), "engili" (Telugu), "jutha" (in North India) is considered unhygienic and washing hands after eating or putting them in the mouth is considered a must lest the food/person/thing touched would be contaminated.

While it has time and again been given religious connotations, it should actually be looked upon as a practice of hygiene and a wise way to prevent spreading of diseases. Don't we live in an age of paradoxes when at one hand we use sanitizers and medicated hand-washes and on the other do not mind licking into someone else's ice-cream with traces of the other person's saliva?

Not talking while eating: Most of us have grown up hearing that talking

while eating is a bad manner. In older days, it was considered a taboo to converse while eating. The main reason behind it probably was the fear of choking on food or hurriedly gulping it down without chewing. Nutrition scientists and doctors say that chewing food well enables in better digestion.

Cooking in earthen utensils:

Our ancestors must have cooked food in earthenware because they did not know about plastic, steel and aluminium. But that was not the only reason for it. Cooking in clay pots adds calcium, phosphorus, iron, magnesium, sulphur and several other minerals to food. Clay pots are also alkaline in nature so they mix well with acidic food and balance its PH level. Remember, deadly diseases like cancer do not develop in an alkaline atmosphere.

Not stocking up prepared meal for the whole day: Celebrity nutritionist Rujuta Diwekar in her bestseller, "Don't lose your mind, lose your weight" recommends that if possible one should consume meal within four hours of preparing it, to get the maximum benefits. In ancient times when there were no ready to eat and frozen foods, there were fewer lifestyle diseases. Food starts losing its nourishment as soon as it is prepared. So it is advisable to eat it fresh. While in most busy households today the concept of preparing meals three times a day has given way to bulk preparation once, it is an unhealthy practice that should be



given up.

Early Dinner: In ancient Rome, dinner was called "cena" and was the main meal of the day. It was taken late in the afternoon or when the sun started going down.

Are not nutritionists asking us today to have dinner before 7 pm? The simple reason behind this healthy practice is that the earlier you have your food, the more time the body has to digest it before it goes to rest during sleep. This practice prevents body from piling weight. Eating late also negatively impacts sleep.

Eating food with hands: Even as a number of people proudly claim that they are not able to eat unless they have a spoon, the

ancient shastras recommended eating with hands "which had to be cleaned thoroughly before and after the meal". Eating with hands is neither uncouth nor tacky, but is extremely healthy. According to Ayurveda when we put food in our mouth through our hand, the five fingers together form a mudra (a yogic position) which activates the sensory organs that keep prana in balance. It also improves digestion because when the hand touches the food, the brain sends signals to the body releasing digestive juices. This is probably the reason why food tastes better when eaten with hands. So, chill! You are not a culinary barbarian if you are using your hands to consume food. You are wise!



5 ways you can use mint in your kitchen this summer



If you think that mint was meant only for garnishing, then you need to upgrade your kitchen knowledge. This summer you can play around it to create something more interesting, unique and delicious. City's chefs reveal their mint secrets on how to use it and add an edge to the summer platter.

-Chop a few fresh mint leaves and add to your salad with some freshly grated ginger and lemon zest. You may choose to add cubes of watermelon too. The flavour of this combo is beautiful and can impart great



summery flare to any boring salad. -Chop mint leaves and add them to your ice cube tray. Drop these ice cubes into your guests' drinks or blend them for a minty smoothie.

-Instead of using vinegar for sweet and salty flavour in gravy, use dry mint leaves. Crush them and mix them in half cooked gravy to add flavour.

-Fresh mint leaves boiled with sugar to make mint syrup can be used to sweeten drinks. After boiling, the mint flavour blends well with sugar and can give refreshing taste to any drink.

-Stir yogurt, mint, garlic, lemon juice and cumin in a small bowl. Add salt and pepper to taste. This yogurt mint sauce can be refrigerated and used for a couple of days.

Hamburger Day - How burgers are eaten around the world



The hamburger is a fast-food staple throughout the world, but there are many versions served in restaurants globally. What differentiates them? The protein, the toppings and, sometimes, even the buns. This Hamburger Day, which is tomorrow, we give you the lowdown on some burger versions from around the world...

RICE BURGER

East Asia- Rice is a staple in this part of the world -China, Vietnam and Japan, for instance -so substituting a regular burger bun with compressed rice is pretty popular. And instead of the usual beef patty, anything from grilled pork and beef strips to shrimp fritters are used.

CHIVITO

Uruguay- This burger-like sandwich typically contains beef churrasco (a grilled meat preparation), mozzarella, tomatoes, mayonnaise, olives, bacon, ham and eggs. And it's usually accompanied by fries.

PLJESKAVICA

Serbia- This is Serbia's traditional minced meat dish and is usually made with two or more different types of protein - such as beef, lamb, pork or veal -with onions. It's generally eaten as a main course, but can be eaten burger-style with

lepinja, a kind of flatbread.

BURGER WITH THE LOT

Australia and New Zealand- This is pretty much the same kind of deal as in the US, except that the toppings could include pineapple, sliced beets, a fried egg and bacon.

HAMBURGUESAS MEXICANAS

Mexico- This local version includes ham and cheese fried on top of the burger, and local toppings like jalapenos or avocado slices.

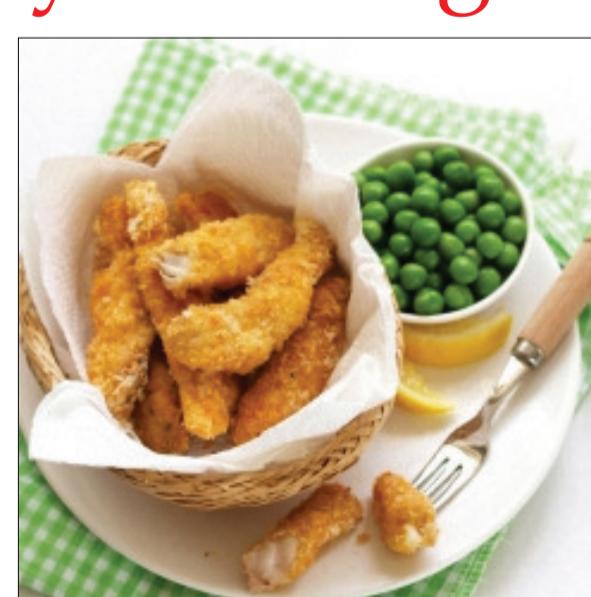
HAMBURGSTEAK

Germany- This is where the idea for the modern hamburger came from. It's a steak that's been chopped into tiny pieces and re-made into a patty, but is served without a bun.

VADA PAV

India- This is widely considered pretty much the only exclusively vegetarian burger in the world. The vada pav consists of a potato patty that's been deep-fried in chickpea flour and placed in a soft bun.

Healthy appetiser: Healthy fish fingers



Love fish fingers? This fish finger recipe is perfect for the entire family. They are simple, tasty, healthy and easy to prepare. Try this healthy version of fish finger recipe shared by Aakansha Jhalani - Nutritionist, Mumbai, when your fetish for yummy fish food can't stop.

Ingredients:

600 grams fish fillets
3 teaspoons red chilli powder
2 tablespoons ginger paste
4 teaspoon lemon juice
1 cup coarse rice flour
500 ml peanut oil
2 tablespoons garlic paste
Salt

Serves: 4

Preparation time: 30 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Method:

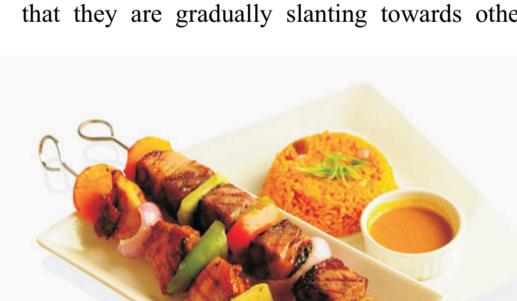
- Wash and clean the fish well and cut it into finger food pieces.
- Make a nice mixture of ginger, garlic, salt and lemon juice. Marinate the fish with this mixture for 1-2 hours.
- Now mix red chilli powder, salt and rice flour together separately. Once the mixture is prepared, marinate and roll the fingers into this mixture.
- Heat some pan in the oil and fry the fish fingers until they are golden brown and crispy.
- Serve it with tomato sauce or mint chutney.

With the increasing number of food festivals in the city, foodies in Coimbatore are on an experimental mode.

It looks like for anyone who is passionate about food, Coimbatore is the place to be. With the rising number of food festivals in the city, foodies have all the more reason to exult and explore the untried. "It's a very good sign," rejoices Chef Vijayan, from a star hotel in the city. "These food festivals introduce people to different cuisines and help restaurants dish out some variety on the food frontier."

But were Coimbatoreans always this experimental when it came to food? "Though the pace of evolution may not be on par with the metros, there has definitely been a drastic change," says Ranjana Singhal, who runs a fine dining restaurant in the city. She explains, "The reason for this change is the increase in the number of restaurants, wide clientele and youngsters who have come to the city with some exposure on the food front. Those who have travelled outside the city or the country, look for varieties in dishes. The older crowd, nevertheless, tries to play it safe, and hence we try to tweak dishes with some Indianiness to them."

Echoing her thoughts is Chef Vijayan, who says, "Coimbatoreans have travelled around and when they return, they come with some rich experience and aren't afraid to try something exclusive on the food front. They are getting quite experimental." J William Ham, managing director of a stand-alone fine dining restaurant says however, that the aim of these food festivals is to educate people about the wide array of dishes. "We recently had a momos



Oriental cuisines. "Thai is making inroads in Coimbatore and Oriental cuisine scores big among people here."

Ranjana concludes, "It's good to see Coimbatoreans on an experimental mode. But in the rat race to dish out different varieties of food, only those who continuously maintain quality and standard, and who bring in innovations in dishes will survive; not the ones that get caught in the rut of just supplying food. When there is an abundance of anything, it loses its USP value, which is why we are now looking at 'serving' food a tad differently."

Adani Enterprises to raise Rs 1,000 crore via retail bonds

New Delhi. Billionaire Gautam Adani's flagship firm, Adani Enterprises, is planning to raise Rs 1,000 crore through a retail bond issue, according to stock exchange filings. The company has submitted a draft prospectus for the same. This would mark the conglomerate's second foray into the public debt market within a year. Back in September 2024, Adani Enterprises raised Rs 800 crore in its maiden retail bond issue, which received strong investor response. The latest proposed issue includes a green-shoe option of Rs 500 crore, allowing the company to retain oversubscription if demand is strong.

The bonds will be managed by Nuvama Wealth Management, Trust Investment Advisors, and Tip Sons Consultancy Services. However, key details such as the interest rate (coupon), tenure, and launch date are yet to be announced.

The proposed bonds have been rated AA- by both ICRA and Care Ratings, signalling a relatively stable credit outlook. This move comes at a time when more corporate giants are looking to tap the retail bond market, as investor appetite for fixed income products grows amid volatile equity markets.

Most corrupt I've seen: Finfluencer on Indian metro real estate market

New Delhi. India's metro real estate market is "one of the most corrupt" spaces in the country, according to finfluencer and financial educator Akshat Shrivastava, who recently stirred debate online with a blunt critique of how property prices in big cities remain inflated by black money and speculative hoarding. In a widely shared LinkedIn post, Shrivastava claimed that just nine families control nearly 20% of Mumbai's real estate, wielding disproportionate power over pricing. "Real estate in Indian metros is one of the most corrupt I have ever seen," he wrote, pointing to how untaxed money continues to fuel demand—not out of necessity, but to park wealth securely in physical assets. "Rich businessmen deal with black money the only option is to buy real estate or physical gold," he explained. That capital, according to him, goes into properties that are often left vacant. "These rich guys don't need to rent. They're cool with keeping properties vacant," Shrivastava added. He explains that the result is a distorted market where home prices soar, rental yields shrink, and the average middle-class buyer is left chasing an increasingly unattainable dream. "You don't need to own a house in a metro," Shrivastava said, arguing that many end up buying at inflated rates for paltry rental returns—typically around 2–3%—while locking in long-term debt.

"Anyone telling you to buy a property in metros to get your 2-3% yield is a sales agent disguised as YouTuber," he warned. He urged potential buyers to do the math before investing, especially in metros, and suggested buying homes only when rental yields exceed 4%. "Treat your house as lifestyle, not investment," Shrivastava wrote. "People lie, math does not."

Sensex falls over 100 points, Nifty down slightly; Jio Financial rises 1%

New Delhi. Benchmark stock indices opened slightly lower on Thursday despite easing geopolitical tensions and strong global cues. The weak start on Dalal Street appeared to stem from mild profit booking in banking and financial services stocks, even as broader sentiment remained cautiously optimistic. Around 9:24 am, the BSE Sensex was down 56.62 points at 84,002.28, after briefly falling over 100 points in early trade. The NSE Nifty50 slipped 10.55 points to 25,627.25. The 50-share index, which has rallied in recent sessions, remains just shy of its all-time high of 26,277. Broader market indices opened largely in the green, but volatility ticked higher, signalling a likely tug of war between bulls and bears as the session progresses. Early gainers included Jio Financial Services, Eternal, ONGC, Trent and IndusInd Bank. Among the top laggards



were Hero MotoCorp, NTPC, Tata Consumer Products, Bharti Airtel and HDFC.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, pointed to favourable global tailwinds. "With the S&P 500 and Nasdaq setting new record highs, and most global markets in bullish mode, the overall market construct looks positive," he said. "The decline in geopolitical tensions in West Asia, a sharp pullback in Brent crude to \$67, and progress on trade deals between the US and major partners are all supportive of equities." He noted that recent gains in Indian markets have been driven by institutional accumulation in large-cap stocks such as HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, RIL and L&T. Meanwhile, a weak dollar index continues to favour foreign investor inflows, while steady retail participation is supporting domestic fund flows. However, Vijayakumar cautioned that while staying invested in this bull market makes sense, "making fresh investments at elevated valuations would be risky."

Alembic Pharma stock jumps 12% on US nod for its generic cancer drug

One of India's pioneering pharma companies, Alembic has been steadily building its presence in the US market recently.

CHENNAI. Shares of Vadodara-based drug maker Alembic Pharmaceuticals jumped over 12% after the company received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for its generic version of Doxorubicin Hydrochloride Liposome injection. This drug is used in cancer treatment and is part of a high-value and competitive segment in the US pharmaceutical market. The approval marks another important step in Alembic's efforts to expand its US generics portfolio.

One of India's pioneering pharma companies, Alembic has been steadily building its presence in the US market, with more than 180 Abbreviated New Drug Applications (ANDAs) filed and over 120 already approved. This latest approval is expected to add to its revenue stream and improve market visibility, especially in the oncology segment.

The company, which was previously focused mainly on the domestic market through its active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) and formulation businesses—primarily in antibiotics—has only recently begun actively expanding into international markets. "While the stock gained strongly on this development, it comes shortly after Alembic reported its financial



results for the fourth quarter of FY25. The company posted a 17% year-on-year increase in revenue, reaching around ₹1,770 crore. However, its net profit declined by about 12% to ₹157 crore due to increased investment in R&D, manufacturing capacity, and regulatory compliance. Despite the dip in profit, the company's EBITDA rose 9% to ₹286 crore, showing that its core operations remain strong. The US business continues

to be a major growth driver for Alembic. In the fourth quarter, US sales contributed around ₹521 crore, with strong year-on-year growth. The company has also been actively launching new products and investing in new facilities—in Jarod and Karakhadi—to support future growth.

Investor reaction to the USFDA approval has been positive, as the market sees this as a sign of Alembic's growing capabilities in complex generics. Although recent profit numbers were slightly lower, the long-term outlook remains promising with more product launches and international market expansion expected. The sharp rise in Alembic Pharma's share price reflects investor confidence in its US growth strategy and the commercial potential of its newly approved cancer drug.

IndusInd Bank submits CEO shortlist to RBI after leadership exits: Report

The candidates include Rajiv Anand, Rahul Shukla, and Anup Saha—all experienced financial sector leaders. The move comes after the abrupt exits of CEO Suman Kathpalia and deputy Arun Khurana in April, following a \$230 million hit from years of misaccounting in internal derivative trades.

New Delhi. IndusInd Bank has submitted a shortlist of three senior bankers to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for consideration as its next chief executive officer, reported news agency Reuters, quoting two people familiar with the matter.

The candidates include Rajiv Anand, Rahul Shukla, and Anup Saha—all experienced financial sector leaders. The move comes after the abrupt exits of CEO Suman Kathpalia and deputy Arun Khurana in April, following a \$230 million hit from years of misaccounting in internal derivative trades. The central bank, which has the final say in leadership appointments at Indian banks, had directed IndusInd to provide a list of



potential successors by June 30. The board has proposed a three-year term for the incoming CEO, one of the sources said. Anand, currently deputy managing director at Axis Bank, has held senior positions at global and domestic financial institutions. Shukla,

presently on sabbatical, was group head at HDFC Bank with over three decades of industry experience. Saha, meanwhile, serves as managing director at Bajaj Finance and has worked in financial services for 25 years. "Rajiv Anand's name has been given as the first priority by the board, given his reputation and the experience he brings to the table," one of the sources said.

IndusInd Bank, the RBI, and Saha did not respond to requests for comment. Anand and Shukla also did not respond to messages seeking comment. Shares of IndusInd Bank were up 1% around 12:35 pm, but have declined over 10% so far this year.

Government's favourite baby: Investment banker on India's real estate boom

New Delhi. Is India's real estate market in a bubble? Not even close, says investment banker Sarthak Ahuja. In a LinkedIn post, Ahuja argues that the sector isn't just growing, it's structurally protected and relentlessly supported by policy. Why? Because real estate, he says, is the Indian government's "favourite baby."

"They will always keep making policy for its growth compared to all other children," he wrote, using a metaphor to highlight the long-standing tilt in favour of the housing market over other asset classes. At the heart of Ahuja's argument is taxation. No other investment avenue, he says, enjoys the kind of fiscal privileges that real estate does. From a flat 30% standard deduction on rental income—without the need for proof or bills—to the capital gains exemption that lets investors reinvest profits from any



interest from taxable salary income. "How many other expenses can you reduce from your salary income for taxability?" Ahuja asked, pointing out that this isn't just a loophole, it's policy by design. But his reasoning goes beyond tax. India's unique demographics, he

explains, also make a compelling case. The average Indian household has around five members, far higher than the 2–3 seen in most developed countries. As nuclearisation grows and millions remain without homes, the pressure to double housing stock. Add to this the sector's economic footprint—real estate is India's second-largest employer—and it becomes clear why the government would continually prioritise its growth. "Given the skill level of the masses, they will need to continue boosting the sector to create more jobs," he said.

Ahuja's post is a rebuttal to the popular belief that India's property market is overheated or on the verge of correction. On the contrary, he believes the real action is still ahead. "Anyone who says India's real estate is in a bubble can't see what the sector will do in the next one decade," he wrote.

Rural India holds steady as urban consumption slows, finds Equirus Securities

New Delhi. India's consumption story is beginning to fracture along old lines again. While urban markets cool off under the weight of inflation, high ownership costs, and erratic weather, signs of resilience are starting to re-emerge in the countryside.

Equirus Securities, in its latest round of channel checks across sectors, reports a patchy but telling picture of the current demand environment. The mood remains subdued overall, but analysts note an undercurrent of recovery in rural pockets, led by fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG), electric mobility and segments of real estate. The report suggests that short-term momentum in auto (excluding electric two-wheelers), building materials and consumer durables will likely stay weak until the festive cycle kicks in around late August. But within that broad softness, some encouraging patterns have begun to surface.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ACROSS SECTORS? Electric two-wheelers are holding ground. Registrations rose on a year-on-year basis, with players like TVS, Bajaj and Hero seeing growing traction,

even as Ola faced sharp declines. In the FMCG space, rural demand has quietly outpaced urban, especially across essentials like staples, oral care and beverages. Retailers are adapting to urban fatigue with smaller SKUs and price discounts, but that hasn't masked the underlying caution. "Rural volume growth has meaningfully outstripped urban in recent months," the Equirus note states, adding that demand for summer-linked products like juices and cooling personal care was dented by unseasonal rains. Consumer durables, especially air conditioners and coolers, took a hit as milder-than-expected temperatures and erratic rainfall suppressed peak season sales. After a strong showing in March, volumes dropped by 10–15% in April and up to 25% in May. The southern markets were the most affected.

CAUTIOUS REVIVAL FOR REAL ESTATE

In real estate, momentum is slowly rebuilding. Pre-sales remained strong in key markets like NCR, Bengaluru and Pune, driven by recent big-ticket

launches. But Mumbai's construction pipeline remains sluggish due to regulatory headwinds. Even in markets showing energy, the earlier frenzy around redevelopment project bids is visibly



easing. Leasing activity is seeing a steady uptick across cities, though infrastructure construction, especially contract awards, remains muted. Where approvals are now falling into place, construction work has started to pick up. Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM) projects continue to dominate the bidding landscape. Still, the building materials segment, which depends on final-stage demand from both new builds and renovations, remains in the doldrums. Spending is tight and recovery from real

estate launches that began in FY22 hasn't filtered into this segment yet. Ceramic tiles, bathware, and wood panels are seeing slower offtake, delayed both by seasonal construction pauses and wider volatility in retail demand. Labour shortages, pollution-related construction bans, and cost concerns continue to cloud the outlook.

A TALE OF TWO ECONOMIES The auto sector, often a microcosm of the broader economy, reflects this divergence. Two-wheeler demand slowed after the wedding season, though brands like TVS and Royal Enfield continued to post better numbers. Passenger vehicle sales are still soft, dragged by rising ownership costs and a lull in new launches.

In QSRs and large appliances, the urban consumer's fatigue is becoming clearer. March brought a brief spurt, with consumer durables logging 25% growth year-on-year, but that energy faded fast. Volumes in April and May have trended sharply downward. It's an early sign that optimism around urban discretionary spending may have been premature.



Priyanka Chopra

Mourns Mujhse Shaadi Karogi Co-Star Shefali Jariwala's Death, Sends Condolences To Parag



Priyanka Chopra paid tribute to Shefali Jariwala, extending her condolences to her husband Parag Tyagi and family. Priyanka and Shefali worked together in *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi*, which also starred Salman Khan and Akshay Kumar. Popularly known as the *Kaanta Laga* girl, she passed away on Friday night. Priyanka Chopra took to her Instagram stories and posted a solo photo of Shefali. Mourning her, she extended condolences to her husband Parag and family. She wrote, "So shook. She was too young. Sending condolences to Parag and the family (sic)." Take a look:

Shefali Jariwala made a memorable appearance in the 2004 romantic comedy film, *Mujhse Shaadi Karogi*. Though her role was brief, she brought her signature charm and screen presence to the film, riding high on the popularity of her iconic music video *Kaanta Laga*, which also played in the background during her cameo.

Meanwhile, Varun Dhawan recently called out paps and the media or their coverage of Shefali Jariwala's death. The Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari actor wrote, "Again one more passing of a soul being insensitively covered by the media. I just don't understand why do we have to cover someone's grief everyone looks so uncomfortable with this how is this benefitting anyone. My request to my friends in the media this isn't the way someone would want their final journey covered." Last night, after Shefali's funeral, a devastated Parag appeared in front of the media and requested privacy with folded hands. He also said, "Meri pari ke liye pray kijiye aap sab log, please." Parag was surrounded by police personnel while he urged the media to pray for Shefali's soul to rest in peace.

How did Shefali Jariwala die?

Shefali Jariwala passed away late Friday night, between June 27 and 28. She was rushed to Bellevue Multispeciality Hospital in Mumbai by husband Parag Tyagi, and three close aides. She was declared brought dead. Initial reports of Shefali's death claimed she died of cardiac arrest. However, Mumbai Police stated that her body was found in her apartment and her mortal remains were sent to Cooper Hospital for a postmortem. The reason behind her death couldn't be confirmed as yet.

Hina Khan Praises Supportive In-Laws, Shares Hilarious 'Expectations Vs Reality' Video



Actress Hina Khan seems to be living like a princess post her wedding to Rocky Jaiswal. She took to her Instagram and dropped a fun video of expectations vs reality of life with in-laws. In the expectation part, Hina was seen serving food to everyone with a smile on her face just like a good bahu, whereas in the reality part she was being served by all of them.

Hina said that she feels blessed to have such a supportive group of people in her life. She penned a heartfelt note that read, "Expectations vs Reality... What a feeling it is to have In-laws so supporting.. Yes they have been my family for a long time now and they do make me feel like a princess. Not just after the official marriage but from the beginning. Even though almost all of them are Camera Shy, but they came together for this one without any hesitations or questions.. Just to make me happy... Blessed to have so much Love around me, blessed to have people who understand fun and how it's important to have a happier life. Thank you guys for being a Sport."

"PS- Iss video ke saare patra kalpanik hai," Hina concluded. On June 4, the 'Yeh Rishta Kya Kehlata Hai' actress announced her wedding with her long-time boyfriend with a social media post comprising some love-filled photos from the court ceremony.

The post had stills of the lovebirds embracing each other on their special day, some close-up shots of the Mehendi, along with them signing the marriage document. They wrote in the caption, "From two different worlds, we built a universe of love. Our differences faded, our hearts aligned, creating a bond to last lifetimes. We are our home, our light, our hope and together, we transcend all barriers. Today, our union is forever sealed in love and law. We seek your Blessings and Wishes as Wife and Husband. #MM'sMinimalistBride #TwinFlame #OurLoveStory #SoulBound A special piece from the one and only MM".

Hina looked beautiful as a bride in a custom-made saree by designer Manish Malhotra.

Rupali Ganguly Lauds Brother Vijay's Work In Aamir Khan's Sitaare Zameen Par: 'So Proud'



Anupama actress Rupali Ganguly has shared a lovely post on Instagram to celebrate her brother Vijay Ganguly's milestone as the solo choreographer for Aamir Khan and Genelia Deshmukh starrer 'Sitaare Zameen Par'. Sharing pictures with Aamir Khan and Vijay from the set of the film, she expressed that she is incredibly proud of her brother. In her post, Rupali also praised Rishi Shahani, who plays Sharmaji in the film. She revealed that he is her 'dancing partner' in SDIPA, where Vijay is their teacher. She wrote that she is so happy he got the chance to make his debut with Sitaare Zameen Par, a film that celebrates his abilities and uniqueness. Lastly, she also lauded the powerful dialogues by Divy Nidhi Sharma, mentioning that he is the reason why her television show Anupama's dialogues go viral.

On Sunday, Rupali Ganguly took to her Instagram to share a series of pictures with Aamir Khan, Vijay Ganguly, and Rishi Shahani from the sets of Sitaare Zameen Par. Another picture shows her brother Vijay's name in the end credits as the film's choreographer. In her caption, she wrote, "Sitaare Zameen Par a film with a heart A film special to me for many reasons... This marks a journey for my super gifted sibling ... my Pappas favourite child @vijayganguly from a beginning with "Bum Bum Bole" in Taare Zameen Par , to this film with Aamir Sir where he has solo credits as a choreographer ... I feel so so so proud when I see ur name on screen I know how special this film is to you because you could revisit training of 15 years of training specially abled children and The beauty of your choreography here is that it blends in so beautifully with the narrative here and when it has to stand out it does that too fantastically."

Rupali Ganguly Gives A Shoutout To Sitaare Zameen Par Actor Rishi Shahani

She further added, "Also big thank u for inviting me to your set where I met fabulous people like Prasanna Sir and Aamir Sir and along with my sweetheart Rishi @rishi.shahani.24 my dancing partner in SDIPA with Vijay himself as our teacher A friend for more than 25 years I m so so so proud of you that you got to make your debut with this beautiful story that celebrates your ability and your uniqueness And ofcourse our biggest asset of #Anupama... the reason why Anupama's dialogues goes viral, the most amazing writer and human being @divynidhisharma sir for adding soul to this film The dialogues uff uff uff @rs.prasanna you are a genious."

Mouni Roy's

Film Salakaar Inspired By National Security Advisor Ajit Doval's Life?

National security, mystery, and espionage seem to be at the heart of Mouni Roy's next film, *Salakaar*, which is reportedly based on the life of one of India's most respected intelligence officers, Ajit Doval. Directed by Faruk Kabir, the film is said to follow a gripping spy narrative and will premiere on JioHotstar this Independence Day, August 15, 2025. While the makers haven't officially confirmed

film's storyline unfolds across two different time periods, tracing the journey of a young Indian spy as he uncovers secrets that tie into India's complex legacy of espionage.

In a statement, director Faruk Kabir described his approach to the film: "Salakaar is not just a spy thriller, it's a deeply emotional narrative about fractured legacies and the cost of silence. We're looking at espionage not only as a mission but as a burden, as a debt that passes from one generation to another." Mouni Roy, who became popular through Indian television before venturing into Bollywood with films like *Brahmastra* and *Gold*, was last seen in *Vedaa*. Mouni rose to fame with her role as a shape-shifting serpent in the popular supernatural series *Naagin* (2015–2016) and its sequel *Naagin 2* (2016–2017). She began her acting journey in 2006 with the iconic TV show *Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi*. Her portrayal of Sati in *Devon Ke Dev...Mahadev* and *Meera in Junoon – Aisi Nafrat Toh Kaisa Ishq* further solidified her position on television. Mouni made her film debut in 2011 with the Punjabi romantic drama *Hero Hitler in Love*.

Her entry into Hindi cinema came with the 2018 period sports drama *Gold*, for which she was nominated for the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut. In 2022, her performance in the fantasy epic *Brahmastra: Part One – Shiva* earned her critical acclaim.

the connection, a report by Filmfare claims *Salakaar* draws from the real-life story of Ajit Doval, who currently serves as India's National Security Advisor. Details about the rest of the cast are still being kept under wraps, but Mouni is confirmed to play a key role. Earlier, Mouni had posted a picture with director Faruk Kabir, hinting at their collaboration for *Salakaar*, though at the time, plot details were minimal. The



NEWS BOX

Who is Ayush Shetty? India's 6ft 4in-tall badminton hope wins US Open 2025

New Delhi. A 39-shot rally in the semi-final of the US Open, a Super 300 tournament, spoke volumes about Ayush Shetty's hunger to excel on the big stage against established names. Across the net stood top seed and World No. 6 Chou Tien Chen, one of the most experienced players on the circuit. Ayush showcased his powerful jump smashes, and his improved ability to retrieve from the front court was evident throughout. In the third game, the 20-year-old played an excellent drop from the back court, but Chou lunged forward to retrieve it. As Ayush advanced to the net, he attempted a cross-court jab, hoping to catch Chou off balance. However, Chou, with his lightning reflexes, played a passing shot that nearly clinched him the point. But Ayush wasn't ready to give up. Diving backwards from the front court, he somehow managed to return the shot and eventually secured a sensational point. Ayush has been making waves at the highest level over the past couple of years, but the US Open has truly helped him grab headlines. After a hard-fought three-game win over Chou in the semi-final, Ayush clinched his first major title of 2025, defeating Canada's Brian Yang in the final on Sunday. In doing so, he became the first



Indian to win a title on the senior tour this year—signalling a bright future ahead. He became the toast of the crowd in Iowa, where strong Indian support cheered him throughout the week. "It means a lot—it's my first title on the senior circuit," Shetty said. "So I'm really happy. There are a lot of positives to take away. I played some excellent badminton here, and I'm looking forward to the Canada Open next week." On social media, his tall frame has already drawn comparisons with Olympic champion Viktor Axelsen. For the 20-year-old from Mangalore, 2025 has been a breakthrough year. Earlier this season, Shetty reached the semi-finals of the Orleans Masters Super 300, defeating former world champion Loh Kean Yew and Rasmus Gemke along the way. In May, he beat senior compatriot Kidambi Srikanth to reach the semi-finals of the Taipei Open.

US gets past Costa Rica in Gold Cup quarterfinals on penalty kicks

MINNEAPOLIS. Damion Downs scored in the sixth round of a shootout after three saves by Matt Freese, sending the U.S. to the semifinals of the CONCACAF Gold Cup with a 4-3 penalty-kicks win over Costa Rica after a 2-2 tie on Sunday night.

The U.S. advanced to a Wednesday matchup in St. Louis against Guatemala, which upset Canada on penalty kicks in the opener of the quarterfinal doubleheader. "They showed today great character," U.S. coach Mauricio Pochettino said. Freese batted away shootout attempts by Juan Pablo Vargas, Francisco Calvo and Andy Rojas.

"Penalties are my thing," Freese said. "On the plane ride over here to Minnesota I was studying the penalties and I've been studying them all week." Mexico plays Honduras in the other semifinal on Wednesday in Santa Clara, California. The championship is in Houston on July 6. The U.S. has reached the semifinals in 17 of 18 Gold Cups, including 13 straight since a penalty-kicks loss to



Colombia in a 2000 quarterfinal. Diego Luna and Max Arfsten scored in regulation for the No. 16 U.S., which faced its highest-ranked opponent of the tournament in Costa Rica (54th) after breezing through the group stage with an 8-1 goal differential. Alonso Martinez scored the tying goal for the Ticos in the 71st minute with a left-footed shot after Carlos Mora split Luca de La Torre and Arsten to take a shot on Freese and seize the rebound to set up Martinez. CONCACAF changed the rules for this edition of the biennial championship for North America, Central America and the Caribbean, eliminating extra time except for the championship game. John Tolkin had the first chance to win the shootout for the U.S. Keylor Navas knocked down his try in the fifth round. Freese then denied Rojas with a diving hand, climbing to his feet while nodding his head and sticking out his tongue toward his cheering teammates at midfield. That set up the winner by the 20-year-old Downs.

- **India have never won a Test match in Birmingham**
- **India lost the opening Test in Leeds by 5 wickets**
- **India won a Test series vs England last year after going 0-1 down**

New Delhi. India will be looking to bounce back when they take on England in the second Test, starting July 2 at Edgbaston in Birmingham. Despite having the hosts on the ropes for most of the series opener at Headingley in Leeds, India failed to seize the decisive moments on Day 5, ultimately losing by five wickets as England chased down a daunting target of 371. With the series now tilted in England's favour, the pressure



is on the visitors to stage a strong comeback and keep alive their hopes of winning a Test series on English soil for the first time since 2007. Can India turn things around at

Edgbaston? Will they find inspiration from their comeback at home last year, when they bounced back after losing the Hyderabad Test by 28 runs? Here's what history has to

say. India's record in Birmingham is far from encouraging. Since 1967, they have played eight Tests at Edgbaston and lost seven. Their only draw came in 1986, during a historic series win under Kapil Dev's captaincy. In that match, India were chasing 236 but found themselves in deep trouble at 105 for five. A gritty, unbeaten 69-run stand between Mohammad Azharuddin and Kiran More rescued the visitors and ensured a draw. More recently, in 2022, India had a golden opportunity to break their Birmingham jinx. After setting England a target of 378, they looked well-placed. But Joe Root and Jonny Bairstow stitched together a massive 269-run partnership to guide the hosts to a record-breaking chase. As India prepare to take the field in Birmingham once again, they will be eager to bury the ghosts of the Leeds defeat. A comeback is the need of the hour—but history suggests it won't be easy. If India falter in Birmingham, salvaging the series—let alone winning it—will become an uphill task.

From Bublik to Medvedev: 5 men who can spring a surprise in Wimbledon 2025

2025 has been the year for the bottlers. From RCB winning the IPL to Tottenham winning the Europa League and PSG winning their first Champions League title and more, many first-timers got their hands on a major title, and the upcoming edition of Wimbledon could see an unexpected individual laying their hands on the prestigious title. The men's singles competition is very likely going to produce some iconic battles, play out storylines that could be remembered for ages and so forth. As always, the spotlight will always be on the top draws like Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner, who are at present the best players in the world, alongside an ageing Novak Djokovic, who is eyeing that record-levelling eighth title. But the question remains if one of these stars can break the deadlock and beat the top stars to be crowned champions in one of tennis's iconic tournaments. Let us look at the top five contenders that could spring a surprise in the men's singles competition:

JACK DRAPER

The fourth-seed and British talent seems to be finding his best form in recent times. He made it to the semi-finals of the recently concluded Queen's Club tournament in London, showing



that he can be a nuisance to play against on grass. Despite being the fourth seed, it would be very interesting to see if the British number one can go far in the tournament. If he can make it to the knockout stages, he is surely going to fancy his chances of putting up a good fight and hopefully see himself through. The draw has been fairly kind to start things off, but he could be up against Alexander Bublik in the third round, which could be his first big test before the round of 16 stages.

JIRI LEHECKA

The 23-year-old from the Czech Republic had a very positive showing at the Queen's Club, where he took down some fairly big names like Jack Draper, Alex de Minaur and Gabriel Diallo. While he may have fallen short in the final, he did give a good fight to Carlos Alcaraz. He won five games in the first set and took the game to the third by winning the second set as well. Considering his recent form, it would come as no surprise if he can put up a strong showing at Wimbledon.

RCB head coach joins Southern Brave for Hundred Women's 2025

- **Luke Williams has joined Southern Brave as their head coach**
- **Williams coached RCB to their maiden WPL title in 2024**
- **Williams also helped Adelaide Strikers win the WBBL two times**

New Delhi. Luke Williams has been appointed head coach of Southern Brave for the 2025 edition of The Hundred Women's competition. He takes over from the legendary Charlotte Edwards, who recently assumed the role of head coach of the England women's team, replacing Jon Lewis. Williams had served as Edwards' assistant at Southern Brave since the inaugural season of the Women's Hundred. Under their leadership, the Brave finished as runners-up in 2021 and 2022, before clinching the title in 2023. Williams also enjoyed success in the Women's Premier League (WPL), guiding Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to the title in 2024. He has been RCB's head coach since replacing Ben Sawyer in 2023. "It's a privilege to take



charge of Southern Brave this year from Charlotte Edwards," Williams was quoted as saying in a statement. "Having worked with the team since for a number of years, we have an excellent group of players and staff and recruited well in the draft earlier this year, so hopefully we can get back to Finals Day and lift the trophy this summer," Williams added. He also enjoyed a successful stint in the Women's Big Bash League (WBBL), guiding the Adelaide

Strikers to back-to-back championships in 2022 and 2023. In addition to Williams' appointment, the Brave have brought in former England men's batter Marcus Trescothick as their new batting coach. He replaces Jimmy Connors, who will be coaching Hampshire in the Men's One-Day Cup this August. The Brave had a torrid time last season as they finished at the bottom of the points table with three points after wins in one out of eight matches.

Pakistan appoint former all-rounder as 'acting coach' for Test team

New Delhi. The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has named Azhar Mahmood as the acting head coach of the men's red-ball team, effective Monday, June 30. He replaces Aaqib Javed, who had stepped in after Jason Gillespie resigned in April 2024—just eight months into his stint. Mahmood's first assignment is expected to be the two-match Test series against South Africa at home, scheduled for October later this year. A seasoned cricketing mind, Azhar Mahmood steps into the role with an impressive portfolio of experience. Having served as the assistant head coach of the national side, Azhar has long been a pivotal part of the team's strategic core. His deep knowledge of the game, combined with hands-on international exposure and proven success in the English county circuit, make



him exceptionally well-suited for this position," the PCB wrote in a statement. Mahmood brings a wealth of coaching experience to the role. He previously served as Pakistan's bowling coach from 2016 to 2019. In 2023, he took charge as head coach during the T20I series against New Zealand. On the domestic front, Mahmood has worked as bowling

coach for both the Karachi Kings and Multan Sultans in the Pakistan Super League (PSL), and also served as head coach of Islamabad United. "His red-ball pedigree is underscored by two County Championship titles—an achievement that speaks volumes about his leadership, tactical acumen and unwavering commitment to excellence. The PCB is confident that under Azhar's guidance, the red-ball squad will continue to grow in strength, discipline and performance on the global stage," the PCB added.

Pakistan failed to qualify for the finals in both editions of the World Test Championship. In the ongoing 2023-25 cycle, they currently sit at the bottom of the standings, having suffered a shock home defeat to Bangladesh.

Armed with English wisdom, Kuldeep Yadav makes bold promise ahead of Test comeback

- **Kuldeep spent time with Pietersen during IPL, discussed bowling in England**
- **Kuldeep is likely to play the second Test against England in Birmingham**
- **The left-arm wrist-spinner last played for India in October 2024**

Birmingham. Spinner Kuldeep Yadav spent valuable time with English great Kevin Pietersen during the latter's stint as mentor of the Delhi Capitals in the Indian Premier League. While Kuldeep's primary focus was on performing in the IPL, he also absorbed key insights from Pietersen on how to succeed as a spinner in English conditions. With India's bowling attack under scrutiny following a defeat in the series opener at Headingley, speculation is rife that Kuldeep will be drafted into the playing XI for the second Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy in Birmingham. In Leeds, India fielded five bowlers, including all-rounder Shardul Thakur, but it was Jasprit Bumrah who carried the bulk of the workload. Despite a five-wicket haul in the first innings, Bumrah received little support in the second, as England chased down 371 to take a 1-0 series lead. Kuldeep, who last played a Test for India in October 2024, has been bowling at full

intensity in the nets. Having recovered from a groin injury earlier this year, he also contributed to India's Champions Trophy triumph. Reports suggest India may opt for a dual spin attack at Edgbaston, pairing Kuldeep with Ravindra Jadeja to strengthen their bowling firepower. Speaking to The Indian Express, Kuldeep made it clear that he's focused on playing an attacking brand of spin if given the opportunity in the second Test. "If you don't take wickets, you can't justify your

place in the side—especially in England. Whether you're playing at home or abroad, the goal is the same: get revs on the ball, generate drift, and take wickets," he said. Kuldeep has a strong record against England, with 21 wickets from six Tests. However, his only appearance on English soil came at Lord's in 2018, where he bowled just nine overs. Now older and wiser, Kuldeep is hoping to make a bigger impact, helped by Pietersen's guidance. "He [Pietersen] gave me a lot of insights for the England tour. We discussed field placements, pitches, and the mindset of their batters. He walked me through their line-up and stressed the importance of an attacking mindset," Kuldeep said. "Pietersen told me that most spinners come to England with a defensive mindset. They assume the fast bowlers will do the damage, and that they'll just play a supporting role."