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“Diljit Dosanjh: A True Indian

A True Sikh – Don’t Let Politics Silence India’s Global Icon”



The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi, July 2 – In a deeply unfortunate and politically charged move, Indian authorities have banned the release of a new film starring globally beloved actor and singer Diljit Dosanjh. The decision,



which appears to be a case of political revenge, has outraged the Sikh community, Punjabi audience, and artistic circles around the globe. Diljit Dosanjh is not just another actor, he is a true Indian, a true Sikh, and a global cultural ambassador of India, widely



respected by Punjabi communities across continents. His art and humility have connected millions, and his conduct has always reflected the true spirit of Indian democracy and secularism. World Embraces Him, But India Bans His Film.

While the film has seen wide releases across the world—including in Pakistan, the UK, Canada, and the United States—it remains banned in India. Shockingly, this move has come despite the fact that the film was completed long before the Pahalgam incident (which is now being wrongly linked to it).

The truth is simple: there is absolutely no connection between the film and the Pahalgam episode.

To punish Diljit Dosanjh for a fictional story written, shot, and finalized before any such incident took place is not only illogical but deeply dangerous. It sets a precedent where artists are blamed for political events they have no control over.

News continue page. 02

5 nations, 8 days: PM Modi begins longest diplomatic tour to boost Atlantic ties

PM Modi said that the tour will reinforce India's partnerships across the Global South, enhance its footprint on multilateral platforms and foster ties across both sides of the Atlantic.



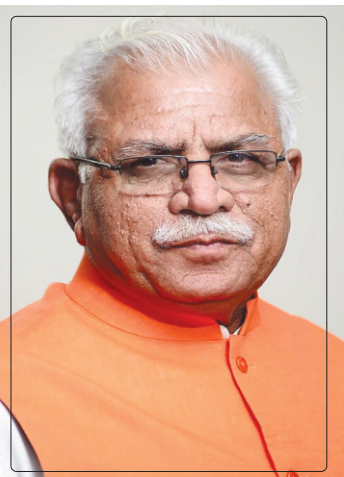
New Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday departed on an eight-day diplomatic tour covering five nations across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean with a focus on boosting ties with the Global South and deepening cooperation in trade, energy, technology and multilateral engagement. During this tour, PM Modi will visit Ghana, Trinidad, Argentina, Brazil and Namibia from July 2 to July 9.

PM Modi said that the tour will reinforce India's partnerships across the Global South, enhance its footprint on multilateral platforms and foster ties across both sides of the Atlantic. In his departure statement, PM Modi said that he will visit Ghana on July 2-3 at the invitation of President H.E. John Dramani Mahama. The prime minister will also address Ghana's Parliament.

“I look forward to my exchanges aimed at further deepening our historical ties and opening up new windows of cooperation, including in the areas of investment, energy, health, security, capacity building and development partnership,” the prime minister said in the statement. On July 3-4, Modi will visit Trinidad and Tobago, a country with deep ancestral and cultural ties to India, where he will meet President Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar to reaffirm historical connections and expand bilateral cooperation between the countries.

PM Modi's departure statement added that Argentina will be the next stop. Notably, this will be the first bilateral visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 57 years. In Buenos Aires, PM Modi will engage with President Javier Milei to discuss partnerships in agriculture, trade, technology and critical minerals.

Manohar Lal Khattar Likely to Be the Next BJP President: Trusted Face of Sangh Parivar and Modi Camp



The Sikh Times
Nareesh Malhotra

Reliable sources from within the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) have indicated that Shri Manohar Lal Khattar is emerging as the strongest contender to take over the prestigious post of BJP National President. If selected, Khattar will succeed JP Nadda and become a key figure in shaping the party's future ahead of the 2029 general elections.

Manohar Lal Khattar, a senior BJP leader and former Chief Minister of Haryana, is known for his disciplined working style, clean image, and unwavering loyalty to the party's ideology. A staunch RSS swayamsevak since his youth, Khattar has spent decades within the Sangh ecosystem, earning immense trust and goodwill among top leadership.

According to insiders, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah hold Khattar in very high regard for his dedication, simplicity, and ability to deliver results without indulging in controversy. He is also seen as someone who can maintain ideological discipline within the party while being administratively effective. Khattar's probable elevation is also being seen as a signal to party workers that long-term dedication and honesty are valued by the leadership. His appointment would further consolidate the party's ties with the Sangh Parivar and send a strong message of stability and continuity.

His tenure as Haryana CM was marked by strong governance, infrastructural development, and maintaining law and order despite multiple challenges. He also

successfully implemented several central government schemes at the ground level.

If appointed, Khattar is expected to focus on organisational restructuring, energising booth-level workers, and expanding the party's footprint in southern and eastern states where BJP aims to grow further.

Political analysts say that Khattar's image as a non-controversial, loyal, and grounded leader could help the BJP maintain internal unity and navigate the post-Modi transition period whenever it arises.

"Try Basic Web Search": Jyotiraditya Scindia Jabs Mallikarjun Kharge Over Digital India

Agency New Delhi.

Union telecom minister Jyotiraditya Scindia unleashed a string of data, ranging from BSNL's consecutive profit after 18 years to connecting over 2 lakh gram panchayats with broadband, on social media platform X to counter claims of Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on the Digital India programme. Mr Scindia suggested Mr Kharge to go check on the web for telecom scams in India which will show activities related to the UPA regime while the present regime is recognised with leadership in technology.

“Mr. @Kharge, let me offer a simple suggestion: try a basic web search for 'telecom scams in India'. What you'll find is a list featuring Congress/UPA-led crony capitalism at its best!” he said.

The minister said that at present when the world looks at India as a global leader in telecom, 5G, and satellite connectivity, it is the PM Modi government that made it possible, not by doing favours, but by doing reforms and "undoing the mess of the Grand Old Party." "The Congress' contribution to Digital India has been very clear which is to Scam India and leaving behind a legacy steeped in kleptocracy and institutionalised corruption," Mr Scindia said.



Mr Kharge had alleged that false claims have been made by the ruling government citing several instances, including coverage of villages aimed at under the Bharatnet project, abysmal performance of BSNL despite a financial package of over Rs 3 lakh crore, rise in cyber crimes, weakening of RTI by Data Protection Law in works.

Countering Mr Kharge's allegations, Mr Scindia said that BharatNet is still ongoing and 2.12 lakh Gram Panchayats have already been connected compared to just 58 gram panchayats that were connected under the 10 years of the UPA regime.

He said that when the UPA left office, BSNL was on critical life support - marred by the 2G scam, starved of investment, and

systematically sabotaged. "Today, thanks to targeted reforms and indigenous innovation under PM Modi's leadership, we revived Bharat's national telecom sovereignty. BSNL posted consecutive quarterly net profits, Rs 262 crore in the third quarter and Rs 280 crore in the fourth quarter of FY 2024-2025; first time after 2007 after 18 years!" the minister said. He said with operating profit growing to Rs 5,395 crore in FY2024-25, BSNL has deployed over 90,100 4G towers that are powered by Atmanirbhar Made-in-India technology.

RCB created nuisance, cops not magicians or gods: Tribunal on Bengaluru stampede

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said Nitish Kumar is not the "master of his heart" anymore and flagged his frequent flip-flops across the political aisle.

Agency Patna.

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar lacks credibility and cannot handle Bihar anymore, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, has told NDTV. In an exclusive interview as the state preps for Assembly polls, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader also mocked Mr Kumar, his former ally, by saying that the JDU now has Prime Minister Narendra Modi's photo in its office.

"He is not in his senses. That's why the JDU office, which never had a photo of (Prime Minister Narendra) Modiji, now has one. This is the same Chief Minister whose handshake (with Prime Minister Modi) would spark a row and he would run after shaking hands. Now he has Modiji's



photo in his office," Mr Yadav said. The RJD leader said Mr Kumar is not the "master of his heart" anymore and flagged his frequent flip-flops across the political aisle. "The Chief Minister says some people took me, so I went. Then he says some people took me (to the other side). He is not a master of his heart. Where is his consent?" he said, adding

that after every flip-flop, Mr Kumar said he won't switch again. "Why are you repeatedly trying to give a proof. He knows he has no credibility. Age is also a factor. He can't handle Bihar."

"Tell me one press conference he addressed. So many incidents have happened in the country and Bihar. Has he given an interview?" he said. Mr Yadav said RJD has the vision and passion to take Bihar forward. Countering the NDA's "jungleraj" barbs, he said, "We showed work in 17 months. Tell me, which jungleraj came during those 17 months? I became Deputy Chief Minister for two terms. Did jungleraj come? We gave jobs, brought investment, formulated policies increased reservation.

Repeated Ignorance of NGT Orders by AAP Led to Worsening Pollution: Sirsa

The Sikh Times
New Delhi: Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh and Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa today jointly addressed a press conference on the issue of End-of-Life Vehicles (ELVs) in Delhi.

The Hon'ble ministers clarified that the crackdown on ELVs—vehicles —resulted from multiple orders issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) since 2014 and a subsequent Supreme Court ruling in 2018. These directives prohibit the operation of such aged vehicles on Delhi's roads due to their contribution to air pollution.

“This is not a matter of blame game but it is due to failure of the previous government to contain pollution,” said Transport Minister



Dr Pankaj Kumar Singh. Maninder Singh Sirsa said that Delhi's air pollution crisis and subsequent action against end-of-life vehicle are direct results of the AAP government's prolonged inaction.

“The NGT had, as early as 2014, directed the deregistration and ban of vehicles older than 15 years (petrol) and 10 years (diesel) in Delhi due to rising pollution levels. These orders were repeatedly ignored by the then AAP-led state government.

As a result, pollution worsened, and the courts had to intervene again in 2015, 2016, and 2018. Had the NGT orders from 2014 onwards and Supreme Court ruling of 2018 been acted upon in time, we wouldn't have reached this stage. Unlike other metro cities

like Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai or Bengaluru, such harsh vehicular restrictions became necessary only in Delhi. That's because the previous regime failed to control pollution when it was still manageable. The NGT even noted that AAP's odd-even schemes failed to improve Delhi's air quality.

What we are dealing with now is a legacy of negligence,” he said. The Environment Minister said the AAP government neither safeguarded public health nor protected the interests of Delhi's vehicle owners.

“When AQI levels refused to drop, and pollution worsened year after year, the courts had to step in and enforce a blanket ban on such vehicles,” Shri Sirsa said.

News continue page. 02

Frant News continue..

“Diljit Dosanjh: A True Indian, A True Sikh — Don’t Let Politics Silence India’s Global Icon”

Across the world, especially in Canada, the UK, USA, Australia, and other countries with a strong Punjabi presence, the community has expressed deep disappointment over this ban. The Punjabi community sees Diljit as a symbol of their roots and India's cultural strength.

Many now fear that such a ban sends the wrong signal to the world. “Please don’t make him an anti-national. This message will damage India’s global image,” said one community leader from Toronto.

The outrage has escalated further as certain fringe voices in India are demanding the cancellation of Diljit Dosanjh’s Indian citizenship, a demand that has been rightly condemned by millions. In fact, such voices are themselves acting against India’s interests. To question Diljit Dosanjh’s nationality is an insult not only to him but to every Sikh and every patriotic artist of this country. This incident has saddened and disturbed the entire Sikh community, both within India and abroad. At a time when Indian cinema is being celebrated globally, banning one of its most respected faces damages India’s soft power, unity, and freedom of expression. We appeal to the Government of India to take a positive and courageous step. Lift the ban on the film immediately. Publicly recognise Diljit Dosanjh as a respected national figure. Silence the anti-national voices who are misusing patriotism to defame a proud Sikh Indian. India must not punish its heroes. Diljit Dosanjh is not just a star, he is India’s cultural identity in the eyes of the world. Let us not tarnish that.

Repeated Ignorance of NGT Orders by AAP Led to Worsening Pollution: Sirsa

The Environment Minister said the AAP government neither safeguarded public health nor protected the interests of Delhi’s vehicle owners. “When AQI levels refused to drop, and pollution worsened year after year, the courts had to step in and enforce a blanket ban on such vehicles,” Shri Sirsa said.

He further announced that the Delhi government will soon approach the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to apprise it of all the measures being taken by the Delhi Government to tackle pollution in the city. The Delhi Government is taking several measures to combat pollution. These measures are installation of anti-smog guns on high-rise buildings, repairing roads, enforcing dust control measures, actively working toward clearing all garbage mountains by the end of 2027 etc.

“We are fighting this battle with full force and standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Delhi. Wherever we need to go, we will go—but let’s be clear, the crisis we face today is a direct result of the negligence and failure of the previous AAP government. The disease that Arvind Kejriwal brought to Delhi — the city must now be freed from it. The pollution problem in Delhi is unlike any other part of the country, and that’s because of the mess left behind by their inaction. We will present all facts before the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM)—what steps we have taken, how enforcement is being implemented, and how we’re cleaning up the air that was left to rot. It is unfair that the people of Delhi are today being forced to pay the price the failures of the AAP government, when they deserve to be treated at par with those in any other state,” said Sirsa.

Woman, aide arrested for luring Dalit minor to Kerala and forcing her to convert: Police

Lucknow. THE PRAYAGRAJ police have arrested a 19-year-old Muslim woman for allegedly luring a minor Dalit girl from her neighbourhood and taking her to Kerala, where she was reportedly forced to undergo religious conversion. Police said the accused also put pressure on the victim to take part in “jihad training”. Last week, the minor girl managed to escape from the location she was being held at and contacted the Kerala Police, who then informed their counterparts in Prayagraj and her family, police said.

The victim has been brought back to Prayagraj and in accordance with the directions of the Child Welfare Committee (CWC), was sent to a government shelter in Prayagraj, said a police officer.

Apart from the prime accused, Darkasha Bano, the police have also arrested her 20-year-old associate, Mohammad Kaif, who allegedly took the victim to a railway station from where Darkasha and the victim boarded a train to Kerala. Kaif is also accused of molesting the girl on the way to the railway station on a motorcycle, said police.

“All angles are being investigated and three police teams have been formed to arrest the remaining accused,” said the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Prayagraj, Kuldeep Singh Gunawat.

Gujarat sees wettest June since 2015, ‘orange alert’ in several places for Thursday

While Akalis claimed it to be a spiritual visit, the Punjab Police cited a security threat at the Mohali court complex, where senior party leader Bikram Singh Majithia is scheduled to be produced.

Ahmedabad. Gujarat recorded its wettest June in the last ten years this time owing to two low pressure systems formed over the Arabian Sea between June 17 and 29, along with a monsoon trough, which moved towards the south of its usual position.

As per State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) data, June received the highest average rainfall since 2015. In a two week period — since the onset of southwest monsoon in Gujarat on June 15 till June 30 — Gujarat has recorded 288.7 mm of average rainfall, which is 32.73 per cent of the total rainfall usually received by the state throughout the season.

Earlier, in 2023, June recorded 200.83 mm average rainfall — 22.9 per cent of the total rainfall received by Gujarat in the entire season.

“On most days, the monsoon trough was in the south of its normal position, especially during the second half of June. This resulted in good rainfall over central and northwest parts, including Gujarat. The two low pressure systems over the Arabian Sea have also caused a good amount of rainfall in Gujarat,” India Meteorological Department (IMD) Regional Director AK Das told.

The least rainfall recorded in June as per the SEOC rainfall data was in 2016, at 36.76 mm.

The state is expected to keep receiving heavy to very heavy rainfall in the first week of July as well. The IMD has, meanwhile, issued an ‘orange alert’ for Wednesday, with a forecast of heavy to very heavy rainfall for the districts of



Sabarkantha, Aravalli, Dahod, Mahisagar, Navsari and Valsad. An ‘orange alert’ has also been issued in Banaskantha and Sabarkantha for Thursday.

Most parts of the state has been put under ‘yellow alert’, with prediction of heavy rainfall till July 7. An ‘orange alert’ has been issued in Aravali, Dahod, Mahisagar for July 5; in Banaskantha, Sabarkantha Aravalli, Navsari and Valsad for

July 6; and Banaskantha and Sabarkantha for July 7. On Tuesday, a meeting of the Weather Watch Group was also held at the SEOC to review the situation in the state and the preparedness of various departments.

Based on the IMD’s forecast of heavy to very heavy rain in various parts of the state this week, departments have been put on alert, the state government stated in an official release.

A total of 32 teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response force (SDRF) have been deployed at the district level to meet any emergency situation led by heavy rain. Two teams have been kept on standby. As per the Irrigation department, out of the 206 reservoirs in the state, 21 are on ‘high alert’, 12 on ‘alert’ and 19 reservoirs on ‘warning’. Officials from the Road and Building department stated that currently, 94 roads are closed owing to waterlogging and that they will be reopened after the water recedes.

After a major dip in the maximum temperature, which stood 8.8 degrees below normal on Sunday, it rose on Tuesday despite rainfall. However, it still remained lower than normal.

Road concretisation: Rs 38.93 crore fine slapped on nine contractors so far for lapses

Mumbai . Since the ambitious mega road concretisation project kicked off in October 2023, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has levied a cumulative penalty of Rs 38.93 crore on all the nine contractors, roped in to execute works across the city, for lapses such as delay, bad quality etc. However, the brunt of delayed work has been faced by the city’s eastern suburbs wherein the contractor — Eagle Infra — has been imposed the highest penalty of nearly Rs 17 crore.

In June 2022, former chief minister Eknath Shinde, who had just taken charge, announced plans for the mega concretisation project in a bid to make Mumbai’s roads “pothole-free”. Following the announcement, the civic body issued tenders and awarded contracts for work orders in two



phases to concretise nearly 700 km of roads across the city at a cost of Rs 17,733 crore. Of the total road length earmarked, 320 km (700 roads) is to be concretised in phase I while 378 km of roads (1,421 roads) are set to be taken up in phase II. According to officials, nine agencies

have been awarded work orders in the project — with four contractors appointed for phase I works and five contractors roped in for phase II.

After the tenders for the first phase were awarded in March 2023, work on the project commenced on ground after monsoon withdrawal by October 2023.

shows that between 2023 and May 2025, a total penalty of Rs 38.93 crore has been imposed on all contractors of which Rs 33.71 crore was imposed in penalties under phase I while Rs 5.22 crore has been imposed on contractors of phase II. Furthermore, at Rs 17 crore, civic records show that the highest penalty was imposed on Eagle Infra India, which had been roped in to concretise roads in the eastern suburbs in the first phase. According to the civic body, the penalty was imposed owing to delayed works.

Sukhbir Badal, senior Akali leaders detained ahead of Majithia’s court appearance

Mohali. Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) president and former Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Singh Badal and several senior party leaders were detained by the Punjab Police in Mohali Wednesday near Burali Jail ahead of his address at a workers rally in the city.

While the Akali leadership maintained



their visit was “purely spiritual”, the police pointed to heightened security concerns due to the court appearance of senior Akali leader and Badal’s brother-in-law, Bikram Singh Majithia, who was scheduled to be produced at the Mohali Court Complex after a seven-day Vigilance Bureau remand. Among those accompanying Badal were former

minister Sikander Singh Maluka, party spokesperson Parambans Singh Buntty Romana, Youth Akali Dal President Sarabjit Singh Jhinjer, Mohali Halka Incharge Parvinder Singh Sohana, and dozens of party workers.

Their convoy was intercepted by the police near Gurdwara Amb Sahib.

Despite Badal’s insistence that they were only going “to pay respects at the gurdwara”, all leaders were swiftly taken into custody and transported in waiting police buses and taken to the Phase 11 Police Station, and shifted to Chandigarh.

Meanwhile, security restrictions were put in place at the Mohali District court, with access even denied to court staff. Reports suggested nearly 20 court employees were barred from entry despite showing valid ID cards. The Punjab Vigilance Bureau arrested Majithia on June 25 over money laundering allegations involving Rs 540 crore of “drug money”. He was sent to a seven-day Vigilance Bureau remand on June 26.

Several Mohali villages pass resolutions, say won’t give land to govt

Chandigarh. Farmers in several Mohali villages on Tuesday dealt a major blow to the Greater Mohali Area Development Authority (GMADA)’s plan to acquire 3,537 acres under the Punjab government’s new land pooling policy for the expansion of Aerotropolis Phase, which includes the development of proposed sectors E to J.

However, Land Acquisition Collector (LAC) Sanjeev Kumar claimed that around two dozen farmers from the region submitted written consents to give their land. “These farmers will be brought to the notice of senior officials,” he said.

Bakarpur village panch Gurpartap Singh said, “Bari, Matran, Siau, Kurari, Patton Bakarpur, Chhat and Kishanpura villages passed resolutions in their gram sabhas, outright rejecting the new policy and refusing to give their land.

The farmers not only denied discussions with the GMADA team but also did not allow any photography or videography of the meeting.”

“The panchayats of Patton, Siau, Kishanpura, Bakarpur and Kurari “submitted formal letters



of objection with signatures of sarpanchs, panchs, village heads, and other notable residents to the GMADA team,” Gurpartap Singh added.

Bakarpur sarpanch Sukhwinder Singh pointed out, “According to maps shown earlier, 175 acres along the road from the Airport

Symptoms cited to meet ailing father ‘common for almost every senior citizen’: Mumbai court denies interim bail for Elgaar Parishad accused

Mumbai. A special court in Mumbai Tuesday denied interim bail for two weeks sought by an accused in the Elgaar Parishad case, citing that symptoms suffered by his father are “quite common for almost every senior citizen”. Singer-performer Ramesh Gaichor has been behind bars since 2020 over alleged Maoist affiliation. He sought temporary bail, citing that he wants to meet his father and be with him, given the latter’s age and medical condition.

The court said that while his father was admitted to a hospital, he had been discharged and that the medical officer observed nothing serious. “Besides weakness, breathlessness, loss of appetite, hyper acidity, chest pain, there is nothing serious mentioned in the doctor’s order-sheet. All these symptoms are quite common for almost every senior citizen. Even they are common in many young men. None of the certificates reveals that the physical condition of the father of the applicant/accused is serious, so as to require him to immediately visit his father,” Special Judge C S Baviskar said in his order. The court stated that in the past, accused in the same case have been granted interim bail on humanitarian grounds, such as to attend exams or study, but only after reasonable cause was established.

“Perhaps, this somewhat liberal approach and earlier orders of this court prompted this applicant/accused to move this application, without much serious cause,” it said, adding that the plea was filed “for the sake of filing” and “to take a chance to persuade the court on emotional ground”.

The case concerns alleged inflammatory speeches made at the Elgar Parishad conclave in Pune on December 31, 2017.

These speeches allegedly incited violence the next day near the Koregaon-Bhima war memorial on the outskirts of the city. Gaichor and 15 others were arrested in the case, where the National Investigation Agency (NIA) claimed that the accused were members of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist). While one of the accused, Stan Swamy, passed away pending trial, nine are now out of jail, while six remain in custody, including Mahesh Raut, who was granted bail by the Bombay High Court in September 2023.

road to Derri village were supposed to include commercial plots for farmers. However, no such plots were allotted, despite prior promises.”

Kurari village sarpanch Nahar Singh said farmers termed the policy ‘anti-farmer’. “Farmers accused GMADA of offering residential and commercial plots of lesser value. They said GMADA is not allotting adjoining plots,” Nahar Singh added. “We want development, but development with equality,” said farmer leader Gurminder Singh of Bakapur. “You can’t

build cities and towers by uprooting those who give you their land. What kind of development is this? Government officers have permanent jobs and salaries, but farmers will be left with nothing. We don’t want this kind of exploitative development.”

Mangrove Forest Diversion Proposal: Environment ministry grants crucial stage I approval for second phase of coastal road

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is now set to approach the High Court, whose approval will pave the way for the construction of the next phase of the project which spans from Versova to Bhayandar.

Mumbai . IN A boost to the second phase of Mumbai Coastal Road Project, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has granted the Stage-1 (in-principle) approval for the mangrove forest diversion proposal for the development of the project. The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) is now set to approach the High Court, whose approval will pave the way for the construction of the next phase of the project which spans from Versova to Bhayandar. A crucial clearance for the civic body, the stage 1 approval was granted on June 19. Set to connect Versova in the western suburbs with the satellite city of Bhayandar, the north phase of the Coastal Road Project encompasses interchanges, elevated roads and twin tunnels. The mega

project passes through land and creeks with most of the area falling under the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ). Nearly 8.24 hectares of mangrove forest area will be permanently affected to develop the project with at least 9,000 mangrove trees set to be cut and over 36,000 mangrove trees to be affected.

So far, the civic body has procured environmental clearances and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from the central as well as the state government for the project. In November 2024, the CRZ permissions were acquired from the union ministry of environment, forest and climate change.

Having now procured the in-principle Stage 1 approvals for the mangrove forest land diversion from the MOEFCC, the BMC is set



to approach the High Court to acquire their permissions. For perspective, the Stage 1 (in-principle) approvals from the central government is the first step towards diverting forest land for non-forest purposes, followed by Stage 2 clearances. According to civic officials, the actual work on the project will commence after the working permissions

from the High Court is acquired. “We have already acquired permissions such as from the CRZ. On June 19, we also received the stage 1 in-principle clearance from MOEFCC which marks a crucial approval for the project. After this, we will now approach the High Court, who will grant the permission. Following this, once the working permission is acquired, we will commence the project works.

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Public grievances must be redressed promptly and transparently: CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Corakhpur, July 2: During his stay in Gorakhpur, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath attended the Janata



Darshan at Gorakhpur Temple for the second consecutive day on Wednesday, patiently hearing public grievances. He directed officials to resolve all issues promptly, transparently, and responsibly, warning against any negligence. He stressed that timely and satisfactory redressal of public concerns remains a top government priority. The Chief Minister heard the concerns of around 200 people gathered in the auditorium of the Mahant Digvijaynath

Smriti Bhawan, located on the temple premises, and assured them of justice. He referred their applications to the concerned officials, directing them to ensure swift and

effective resolution, reaffirming the government's firm commitment to supporting every citizen in need. CM Yogi urged officials to act with sensitivity and ensure justice for all, warning against any exploitation or land encroachment and calling for strict legal action in such cases. He also assured full government support to those seeking medical aid, directing officers to expedite treatment estimates and submit them promptly for approval.

Haryana Vidhan Speaker issues key directives ahead of first National ULB Conference

The Sikh Times

Chandigarh, July 2: Ahead of the much-anticipated first-ever National Conference on Urban Local Bodies, Haryana Vidhan Sabha Speaker, Sh. Harvinder Kalyan reviewed final preparations at ICAT, Manesar on Wednesday. He emphasised on making the conference a memorable event. On this occasion, Sh. Harvinder Kalyan remarked that the legislature is not merely a law-making body but the soul of democracy. Strengthening the responsibility of local bodies would deepen the roots of democratic governance. He directed the officers concerned that the preparations for the conference should not be treated as merely technical or logistical tasks, but must reflect the democratic and national significance of the event. The Speaker said that this conference will provide a new direction for dialogue, coordination, and collaboration between legislative institutions, urban local bodies, and administrative units across the country. He emphasised that the goal is not just to discuss policy but to ensure grassroots participation in democracy. This can only happen when

the legislature is aware and active. On the eve of the National Conference, the Speaker personally reviewed every detail along with concerned officers. He directed them to ensure that the hospitality extended to the guests should be so exceptional that the experience

bring together over 500 delegates from various states and union territories. Organised through the joint efforts of the Lok Sabha and Haryana Vidhan Sabha, the inaugural session will be graced by Lok Sabha Speaker, Sh. Om Birla as the Chief Guest. The Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, and Urban Local Bodies Minister, Sh. Vipul Goel will also attend the conference. Governor, Sh. Bandaru Dattatraya and Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, Sh. Harivansh Narayan Singh will also grace the event. The Haryana Vidhan Sabha is proudly hosting this first-of-its-kind national conference, which offers a valuable opportunity for smaller legislative institutions across the country to learn, understand, and grow. The excitement around the conference is palpable. Sharing more details, Deputy Commissioner Sh. Ajay Kumar, informed that on the first day of the conference, artists from major Indian cities like Bhubaneswar, Coimbatore, Indore, Pune, Surat, and Visakhapatnam will deliver captivating cultural performances. Moreover, successful initiatives by urban local bodies in their respective states will be discussed during the sessions.



remains memorable for years to come. Guests attending the National Urban Local Bodies Conference must receive a warm welcome and carry back cherished moments. This, he said, is the shared responsibility of all involved. The two-day conference will witness comprehensive discussions on various aspects of urban development. To be held on July 3 and 4 at ICAT, Manesar in Gurugram, this historic National Conference on Urban Local Bodies will

Freight Unloading at NFR holds steady growth during the month of June 2025

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 2nd July, 2025: The Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) continues to show consistent growth in its freight unloading operations. In June 2025 alone, the zone unloaded 1,099 freight-carrying rakes, marking a significant 17% increase compared to 939 rakes during the same month last year. NFR had successfully handled a total of 13,091 freight rakes during the FY 2024-25, underscoring its strong operational performance and commitment to efficiency. During the month of June



2025, a total of 627 rakes of freight carrying trains were unloaded in Assam out of which 315 were loaded with essential commodities. 72 rakes in Tripura, 15 rakes in Nagaland, 5 rakes in Meghalaya, 6 rakes in Mizoram, 7 rakes in Arunachal Pradesh and 9 rakes in Manipur were unloaded during the month. Moreover, 198 freight rakes in West Bengal and 160 freight rakes in Bihar were also unloaded during the month of within the jurisdiction of N. F. Railway. NFR has transported goods like FCI rice, sugar, salt, edible oil, food grains, fertilizer, cement, coal, vegetables, auto, tank and other items during the month and unloaded them in different goods sheds within its jurisdiction. Essential and other commodities are being transported regularly not only to meet the essential requirements of common people but also to keep the local economic activity of the region moving and growing. Continuous monitoring at all levels has also resulted in reduction of turnaround time and has increased unloading efficiency.

2 labourers killed, 7 missing in Uttarkashi

The Sikh Times

Uttarkashi (U/Khand): Two construction workers were killed while seven went missing early Sunday after a landslide triggered by a cloud-burst demolished their shelters along the Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district, officials said. Bodies of two missing labourers were recovered from the banks of the Yamuna river near Tiladi Shaheed Smarak, about 18 km from the place where the landslide occurred, Sub-Inspector Vikram Singh said. The bodies have been sent to Nagaon community health centre while the search for seven others continues, he said, adding

the bodies have not been identified yet. The labourers, who are said to be of Nepali origin, were engaged in the construction of a hotel. District Magistrate Prashant Arya said the landslide occurred at Silai bend about 4 km ahead of Paligad, Uttarkashi. The labourers were engaged in the construction of a hotel, he said, adding a new landslide zone has developed close to the hotel. There were 29 labourers at the camp site below the hotel when the landslide occurred washing away around 10 metres of the highway. Twenty of them were evacuated to safety while nine went missing, the district emergency operation centre said. NDRF, SDRF and police personnel are carrying out search and rescue operations at the site, the district magis-

trate said. The highway is blocked by landslide debris at Silai bend and Gujri bend, he said. Reopening it may take a few hours, the DM said, adding a PWD team is busy clearing the route. Chief Minister Puskhar Singh Dhani prayed for the safety of the missing labourers. "Search and rescue operations are underway at the site. I am constantly in touch with the officials concerned," he said. The missing labourers are said to be of Nepali origin, Barkot Station House Officer

Deepak Kathait said. In another development, the Chardham Yatra has been suspended for a day in view of rainfall and possibility of landslides. The MeT department has issued a red alert for heavy rains on June 29 and 30 in various districts of Uttarakhand, including Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Nainital, Champawat and Udham

Singh Nagar prompting authorities to put the Chardham yatra on hold for a day for the safety of pilgrims. In view of continuous heavy rainfall in the state and the possibility of landslides, the

Chardham Yatra has been postponed for a day as a precautionary step for the safety of the pilgrims which is paramount, Garhwal Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, HIMANSHI D/O MAHENDER PAL R/O 1989, Gali No. 8, CHUNA MANDI PAHAR GANJ, SWAMI RAO TIRTH NAGAR S/O, CENTRAL DELHI, DELHI-110055 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MAHENDER in my educational documents, caste certificate no. 90500001122259, birth certificate no. 5581, pan card no. BJRPH3714B, adhar card no. 243564455950, voter card id no. RIN2540409. The actual name of my father is MAHENDER PAL which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Abhishek s/o Tikam Singh R/O D-229, Gali No.53, Mahavir Enclave, Part-3, Uttam Nagar, Delhi-110059 have changed my name to Abhishek Singh permanently

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. K.V. Venkateswaran s/o Late Mr. K.V. Vaidyanth is the owner of Freehold Residential Property bearing no. 20, area measuring 200 sq. yds. in Block-E Situated in Green Park Extent., Delhi, by virtue of Relinquishment Deed dated 18.06.2025 as Doc no. 2025/7177351, Vol no. 8529 Page no. 91-104 SR. V.A. and our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and Basement & Ground floor without roof rights sold to be Mr. Rakesh Choudhary & Mrs. Rekha Choudhary and same has been finance by Piramux private & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Kaushambi Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211, sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09586971432

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public on behalf of our client (SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd.) that Mr. Deepak Kapoor, Mr. Ram Narain Kapoor, and Mr. Vijay Kumar Kapoor are claiming to be the owners of Property Municipal bearing No. 19/97, area measuring 111.26 sq. yds. situated at West Moti Bagh, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi-110035, vide Relinquishment Deed dated 13.12.2019 executed by Mrs. Ragini Anand, Mrs. Radha Chopra, and Mrs. Neezu Chadha, duly registered as SRO-I Kashmir Gate, as Document No. 12739, Book No.1, and Volume No. 7949, on Pages 38-42, on 26.12.2019. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owners want to sell the said property to someone who intends to take loan from our client i.e. SMFG India Credit Co. Ltd. against the said property, if anybody has any objection upon the ownership of above owners over the said property, its title/sale and/or mortgage, and any other kind of objection/litigation etc., kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

For Kumar & Associates Advocates & Consultants 200, Second Floor, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, New Delhi-15 legal@knalegal.com 011-41112527-28

NAME CHANGE

I, Rameshwari Pawar w/o Jitendra R/O RZ D/151, Plot No.2930, Gali No.5, Block-D, Jyoti Colony, Palam Village, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Rameshwari permanently

ELECTRICAL WORKS AT MALIGAON

E-Tender Notice No.: DYCEE-PS-MLG-HQ-52-25-26 Dated: 01-07-2025. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: Name of work: At Maligaon(HO) -Electrical work for Renovation of PCSTE, PCEE, PCPO, PCMD, PCSC & PCOM/NFR and other Officer's chamber and Offices including up gradation of common toilet blocks. Tender Value: ₹70.22,326/-, Earnest Money: ₹1,40,500/-, Date & Time of closing of Tender: 15.00 hrs. of 14-07-2025. The complete information with the tender documents of above e-tender will be available in the website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.CEE/PS/Maligaon/HQ NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

NAME CHANGE

I, PRAVEEN KALYAN RATHINAM father of LAKSHITH holder of Indian passport No V4961023 issued at ABU DHABI, UAE of issue on date of 02/11/2022, Permanent resident of 42 N NO 51 NORTH STREET AMMAPATTI PO UTHAMAPALAYAM TK, THENI PIN-625533, TAMIL NADU, INDIA. And presently residing at VILLA no 32, ALPARAS STREET, MADINAT ZAYED AL DHAFRA WESTERN REGION, ABU DHABI UAE, do hereby change my son's name LAKSHITH to LAKSHITH PRAVEEN, with immediate effect.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD SHAHAB UDDIN S/O GULAM MUSTAFA R/O R-178 GALI NO-8 RAMESH PARK, LAXMI NAGAR, EAST DELHI, DELHI -110092 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SAHABUDIN FOR ALL PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rajesh Mishra S/o Deen Dyal Mishra R/O L-221, L-Block, Shastri Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed the name of my minor son Divyansh Mishra aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as Divyansh Mishra.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Narendar Kumar alias Narendar Kumar Gupta S/o Ramesh Chand R/O B-40 UPG Floor, Block-B, Rama Krishna Road, Deep Vihar, Parsell, Pehlad Pur, Narela, North West Delhi, Delhi-110042 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Narendar Kumar Gupta.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as MAJNA WATI alias MEENA daughter of Shri HARI and wife of Shri KRISHNAN KUMAR residing at Kh. No.35/142, Pradhan Enclave, Burari, PO: Burari, District: North Delhi, Delhi-110084, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MEENA.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as KHEM SINGH son of Shri AMRIT DAS residing at A-366, Gali No.10, Prem Nagar, Near Mangal Bazar Road, Karawal Nagar, North East, Delhi-110094, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RAJEEV SHAKYA.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMAD AMAN C/O HADISA BEGUM R/O 28A SECOND FLOOR, GAT NO.18 BHARAT NAGAR NEW FRIENDS COLONY SOUTH EAST DELHI 110025 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO MOHD AMAN

NAME CHANGE

I, MAHEEN KHAN W/O SAMIR KHAN resident of 9914 GALI PARDE WALI NAVAB GANJ AZAD MARKET DELHI-110006 have changed my name to MAHIN KHAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sincy Jomon alias Sincy D/O Joseph W/O Jomon George R/O U-77 2nd floor Subhash Park Uttam Nagar Delhi 110059 have changed my name to Sincy Mappalakayil Joseph for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, CHANDUBEN DHUMAL, mother of I-156744924, Rank-HAV, Name-DHUMAL VIJAY KRISHNA, permanently residing at VILL-LAHORE KHODA, PO-LOHARMAI, TEHSIL-POLADPUR, DISTT-RAIGAD, MAHARASHTRA-402303, have changed my name from CHANDUBEN DHUMAL to CHANDUBEN KRISHNA DHUMAL for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/07/1953 instead of my correct date of birth as 06/03/1953. Vide Affidavit dated 02/07/2025 before Notary Public Delhi

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-4591507N Rank-SEP Name-CHAUHAN NARESHJI RAMANJI, residing at THAKOR VAS, VILL-RASANA MOTA, BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT-385535, have changed my mother's name from JYOTSNA BEN TO JYOTSANABEN RAMANJI CHAUHAN for all future purposes and in my service records my mother's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1987 instead of her correct date of birth as 01/01/1978. Vide Affidavit dated 02/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, NO-4591507N Rank-SEP Name-CHAUHAN NARESHJI RAMANJI, residing at THAKOR VAS, VILL-RASANA MOTA, BANASKANTHA, GUJARAT-385535, have changed my father's name from CHAUHAN RAMANJI to RAMANJI RAYCHANDJI CHAUHAN for all future purposes and in my service records my father's date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/01/1986 instead of his correct date of birth as 01/01/1977. Vide Affidavit dated 02/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SANDEEP KUMAR GUPTA S/O ONKAR NATH R/O C-187, SAHU BHAWAN, BACK SIDE, HARI NAGAR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110064, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as SANDEEP GUPTA in my minor daughter MIHIKA GUPTA aged 13 years in her school records and birth certificate. MOCDLR0111004930228. The actual name of mine is SANDEEP KUMAR GUPTA, which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE

I, Gayatri Gopinath w/o Sameer Kishore Bhatnagar R/O 158 B, Pocket A-2, Mayur Vihar Phase-3, Mayur Vihar, Delhi-110096, have changed my name to Gayatri G Bhatnagar permanently

NAME CHANGE

I, No. 2611627K, Rank-HAV Name-SHELA SANDEEP BABASAHEB, residing at - 368B, SADAR BAZAR, SATARA, MAHARASHTRA-415001, have changed my father's name from SHELA BABASAHEB BABASAHEB TO BABASAHEB BABURAO SHELA for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 02/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RAJPAL S/O HEERA LAL, R/O MCD Flat No. 185, Sultan Sector - 4, Near Water Tank, Rohini Sector - 7, PO: Rohini Sector - 7, Dist: North West Delhi, Delhi - 110085 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PALE.

NAME CHANGE

I, GOVIND HARISHCHANDRA BHOJPURIA S/O HARISHCHANDRA BHOJPURIA, R/O K-94A, Third Floor, Kalkaji, South Delhi, Delhi-110019, have changed my name from Pradeep Tanwar to Pradeep Tanwar for all future purposes. In Future I WILL BE CALLED AND KNOWN BY THE NAME OF Pradeep Tanwar, for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Pradeep Tanwar S/O Sh. Ravinder, R/O H.No.12, Gujjar Mohalla Fatehpur Beri, Chandan Hota, South Delhi, Delhi-110074. I have changed my name from Pradeep Tanwar to Pradeep Tanwar for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohd Zuber s/O SALAUDDIN residing at K-283, NEAR JAMA MASJID, NEW SEELAMPUR, BHAIJAN PURA, DELHI-110053, have changed my name to MOHD ZUBAIR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, KM SHAFFALI SONI W/O SURAJ KUMAR R/O HNO-0164, ANNANDAM AVAS NEAR GARHIALA WALPUR (29A), REWARI, HARYANA-123108, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SHAFFALI SONI FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE.

NAME CHANGE

I, HIRDESH GUPTA S/O RAKESH GUPTA R/O KW-40 MALIBU TOWN, SOHNA ROAD, SECTOR-47, GURGAON, HARYANA-122018, HAVE CHANGED MY MINOR DAUGHTER NAME FROM "RIDHIMA" TO "RIDHIMA GUPTA" FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSES.

NAME CHANGE

I, Kartikeya is Son of No. JC-774493N Rank-SUB Name-CHAVAN ANNASAHIB HARISHCHANDRA, UNIT/POSTED AT-211 FD VKSP COY EME (617 EME BN) C/O 99 APO, R/O VILLAGE HATOLA, TEH-WASHI, DISTT-OSMANABAD (DHARASHIV), STATE- MAHARASHTRA, PIN-415526, have changed my name from KARTIKEYA to KARTIKEYA CHAVAN for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2025 before Sub Divisional Magistrate Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, ADITI is daughter of No. JC-774493N Rank-SUB Name-CHAVAN ANNASAHIB HARISHCHANDRA, UNIT/POSTED AT-211 FD VKSP COY EME (617 EME BN) C/O 99 APO, R/O VILLAGE HATOLA, TEH-WASHI, DISTT-OSMANABAD (DHARASHIV), STATE- MAHARASHTRA, PIN-415526, have changed my name from ADITI to ADITI CHAVAN for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2025 before Sub Divisional Magistrate Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAYALI is legally spouse of No. 2808481A Rank-SEP Name BABAR VINOD EKNATH, R/O VILL-KHOCHI, POST - KHOCHI, TEH-HATKANANAGALE, DIST-KOLHAPUR, STATE - MAHARASHTRA, PIN-416110, have changed my name from SAYALI to SAYALI VINOD BABAR for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, VAISHALI is legally spouse of No. 2804170P Rank HAV Name MALI DEEPAK SITARAM, R/O VILL EKLHARE, POST-EKLHARE, TEH-AMALNER, DIST-JALGAON, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, PIN-425011, have changed my name from VAISHALI to VAISHALI DEEPAK MALI for all future purpose. Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, ARCHANA Spouse of No. JC-774493N Rank-SUB Name-CHAVAN ANNASAHIB HARISHCHANDRA, UNIT/POSTED AT-211 FD VKSP COY EME (617 EME BN) C/O 99 APO, R/O VILLAGE HATOLA, TEH-WASHI, DISTT-OSMANABAD (DHARASHIV), STATE- MAHARASHTRA, PIN-415526, have changed my name from ARCHANA to ARCHANA ANNASAHIB CHAVAN. And have changed my date of birth from 26/09/1984 to 23/03/1982 for all future purposes. Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2025 before Sub Divisional Magistrate Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHIKHA PANIGRAHI is legally spouse of No. 14829081L Rank-HAV Name PARASHRAM OJHA S/O SHIRDHANATH OJHA R/O 66, BLOCK-15, KALYANPURI EAST DELHI, DELHI-110091, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PARSHURAM in my minor daughter namely ANANDI aged 16 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is PARASHURAM OJHA which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAVITA is legally spouse of No. 2806244X Rank HAV Name GHORPADE SUDHIR JAGANNATH, R/O VILL SHIRDHON, POST-SHIRDHON, TEH-KOREGAON, DIST SATARA, STATE-MAHARASHTRA, PIN-415501, have changed my name from SAVITA to SAVITA SUDHIR GHORPADE for all future purpose. Vide affidavit dated 01.07.2025 before Public Notary Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SIKHA PANIGRAHI is legally spouse of No. 14829081L Rank-HAV Name PARASHRAM OJHA S/O SHIRDHANATH OJHA R/O 66, BLOCK-15, KALYANPURI EAST DELHI, DELHI-110091, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as PARSHURAM in my minor daughter namely ANANDI aged 16 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is PARASHURAM OJHA which may be amended accordingly.

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/FS, Delhi Division, Northern Railway, in terms of Railway Board letter No. 2022/TC(FM)/10/04 Dt. 13.06.2022, invites bids through e-Auction (www.ireps.gov.in) for the contract of Parking cum Management and Stacking of Parcel at New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side, NE-1) (Area 2191.87 Sq Mtrs) for 2 (Two) years as per detail and schedule given below:

S. Date & time of e-Auction	Assets to be auctioned
1. 17.07.25 at 11.00 am	The contract of Parking cum Management and Stacking of Parcel at New Delhi Railway Station (Ajmeri Gate Side, NE-1) (Area 2191.87 Sq Mtrs) for 2 (Two) years

Important notes: 1.For more information, requirement and various aspects regarding these e-Auctions, interested bidders are advised to visit http://www.ireps.gov.in/html/helpdesk/learning_centre.html. (E-Auction learning section). 2.Earnest Money Deposit (EMD): 10% of the total contractual bid value to be deposited online during the auction. EMD of the successful bidder will be retained as Security Deposit. 3.Railway Administration reserves the full and absolute rights to short terminate these contracts at any point of time and/or for taking any decision regarding the discontinuation/continuation of these contracts with modified/ additional terms and conditions depending upon the situations.

SERVING CUSTOMER WITH A SMILE 1993/2025

NORTHERN RAILWAY NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Name of Work and its Location	30-Elect-13-T-2025-26-E3 Electrical work in connection with Repair of defective solar plant, solar water heater (SWH), solar pumps and stand-alone solar street light and CAMC of above plant over Delhi Division.
Approx Cost of the works	Rs. 2,07,08,225.00
Address of the office	Sr. Div. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.
Earnest Money	Rs. 2,53,600.00
Last Date & Time of Submission of Tender	25.07.2025, 12:00 Hrs.
Opening of Tender	25.07.2025, 12:00 Hrs.
Website & Notice Board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE 1991/2025

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) CORRIGENDUM No. 5

No. 2024/RS(E)/TM/2 New Delhi, Dated 01.07.2025
Sub: E-open Global Tender No: 2024-TM-2 closing on 02.07.2025 for Design, Manufacture, Supply, Testing & Commissioning of 41 nos. of Ballast Regulating Machine (BRM) along with Training of Indian Railway personnel and 3 years post warranty AMC.
1. The due date of closing of the subject tender has been changed from 02.07.2025 (Wednesday) to 15.07.2025 (Tuesday).
2. All other terms and conditions of the tender shall remain the same.
DIRECTOR, RAILWAY STORES (F) (RAILWAY BOARD)
1990/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

E-AUCTION PROGRAMME FOR THE MONTH OF JULY, 2025

E-Auction programme for sale of Railway scrap material under the Jurisdiction of Lumding Division for the month of JULY, 2025 is hereby fixed as under.

SN	MONTH	DATE FIXED
1.	JULY, 2025	17-07-25, 21-07-25, 25-07-25 & 30-07-2025

Interested bidders are advised to bid through IREPS website (www.ireps.gov.in) for participation in e-auction.

Sr. DMM, Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Shakuntla Devi W/O Sajan Lal Yadav residing at WS-NC, Workshop, Sant Nirankari Colony, GTB Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110009 declare that the name of mine has been wrongly written as Shakuntla in my minor son namely Anson Yadav aged 14 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Shakuntla Devi which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RIDHII SINGH D/o Shri BHAGWAN SINGH and Ex. wife of Shri PRASHANT BHOJANI, residing at Y-46 Group B Floor, Hauz Khas, Delhi-110016, declare that I got divorce from my husband vide court decree No. SMA No.14/2025 dated 07-04-2025. Further I have changed the name of my minor daughter AARIA BHOJANI aged 06 years and she shall hereafter be known as AARIA SINGH.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NEWS BOX

An oil-drilling ship capsized in the Gulf of Suez, killing at least 4 crewmen, Egypt says

AIRO. An oil-drilling ship capsized in the Gulf of Suez, killing at least four crewmen and leaving four others missing, authorities said Wednesday.

The drilling ship overturned Tuesday evening off the city of Ras Ghareb, on the African side of the Gulf of Suez, the Red Sea’s northwestern arm and a crucial shipping route, the Petroleum Ministry said in a statement. There were 30 workers on board when the drilling ship capsized, said Amr Hanafy, governor of the Red Sea province. Rescue teams recovered four bodies and rescued two 22 others who were taken to hospitals, he said. He said ships from the Egyptian navy joined the search-and-rescue efforts which were still ongoing overnight for four missing crewmen. It wasn’t immediately clear what caused the drilling ship to capsize and authorities say investigations were ongoing. Local media reported it was being tugged for excavations in another area when it overturned. The capsizing happened in an area called Gabel el-Zeit, a prominent Egyptian oil production site around 300 kilometers (186 miles) south of the Suez Canal, the ministry said in a statement. The capsizing didn’t disrupt vessels transiting through the canal, which links the Gulf of Suez to the Mediterranean Sea, Adm. Ossam Rabei, head of the canal authority, said. Rabei said in a statement that 33 vessels were scheduled to transit Wednesday through the global waterway.

Trump says Israel has agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza, urges Hamas to accept deal

WASHINGTON. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Israel has agreed on terms for a 60-day ceasefire in Gaza and warned Hamas to accept the deal before conditions worsen. Trump announced the development as he prepares to host Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for talks at the White House on Monday. The U.S. leader has been increasing pressure on the Israeli government and Hamas to broker a ceasefire and hostage agreement and bring about an end to the war in Gaza.

"My Representatives had a long and productive meeting with the Israelis today on Gaza. Israel has agreed to the necessary conditions to finalize the 60 Day CEASEFIRE, during which time we will work with all parties to end the War," Trump wrote, saying the Qataris and Egyptians would deliver the final proposal. "I hope, for the good of the Middle East, that Hamas takes this Deal, because it will not get better — IT WILL ONLY GET WORSE," he said.

Trump's promise that it was his best and final offer may find a skeptical audience with Hamas. Even before the expiration of the war's longest ceasefire in March, Trump has repeatedly issued dramatic ultimatums to pressure Hamas to agree to longer pauses in the fighting that would see the release of more hostages and a return of more aid to Gaza's civilian populace.

Still, Trump views the current moment as a potential turning point in the brutal conflict that has left more than 56,000 dead in the Palestinian territory. The Gaza Health Ministry does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its death count. Hamas is still capable of landing fatal blows to Israeli forces. But U.S. officials believe that the group's been significantly diminished as its centralized command and control capabilities have deteriorated over the course of the nearly 21-month conflict. Meanwhile, Hamas' chief backer Iran was badly battered last month by 12 days of strikes by Israel and the United States on Tehran's key nuclear facilities..

US won't send some weapons pledged to Ukraine following a Pentagon review of military aid

WASHINGTON. The U.S. is halting some shipments of weapons to Ukraine amid concerns that its own stockpiles have declined too much, officials said Tuesday, a setback for the country as it tries to fend off escalating attacks from Russia. Certain munitions were previously promised to Ukraine under the Biden administration to aid its defenses during the more than three-year-old war. The pause reflects a new set of priorities under President Donald Trump and came after Defense Department officials scrutinized current U.S. stockpiles and raised concerns. "This decision was made to put America's interests first following a review of our nation's military support and assistance to other countries across the globe," White House spokesperson Anna Kelly said in a statement. "The strength of the United States Armed Forces remains unquestioned — just ask Iran." That was a reference to Trump recently ordering U.S. missile strikes against nuclear sites in Iran. Pentagon stocks of some weapons found to be low, official says The Pentagon review determined that stocks were too low on some weapons previously pledged, so pending shipments of some items won't be sent, according to a U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity to provide information that has not yet been made public. The Defense Department did not provide details on what specific weapons were being held back. So despite the success of HIV drugs and PrEP, precarious health-care systems and high drug costs mean we can't rely on them to bring an end to the ongoing global HIV pandemic. That's why we also still need to look at other options. America's military has never been more ready and more capable," spokesman Sean Parnell said, adding that the major tax cut and spending package moving through Congress "ensures that our weapons and defense systems are modernized to protect against 21st century threats for generations to come."

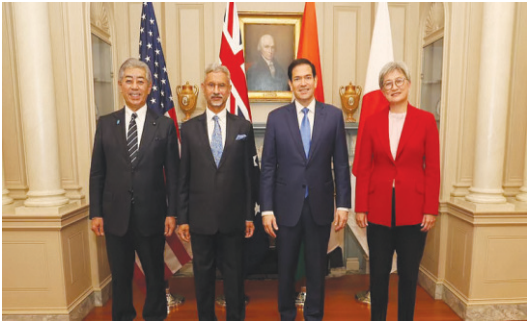
Quad launches major initiative to steady supply of critical minerals

In a joint statement, the Quad foreign ministers expressed 'deep concern' over the 'abrupt constriction and future reliability' of key supply chains, specifically for critical minerals.

WASHINGTON. In a significant move, the Quad grouping has launched an initiative to ensure the availability of critical minerals under a broader goal to strengthen economic security amid concerns over China's coercive tactics, including price manipulation in the sector. The decision on rolling out the "Quad Critical Minerals Initiative" was announced after a meeting of foreign ministers of the member nations of the grouping in the US capital on Tuesday. A readout of the meeting said the

new initiative is an "ambitious expansion" of the Quad partnership to strengthen economic security and collective resilience by collaborating on securing and diversifying critical mineral supply chains. The meeting was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and her Japanese counterpart Takeshi Iwaya.

"This new flagship initiative, alongside the high-impact programmes and outcomes the Quad is realising, will enable our four countries to bring economic opportunity and prosperity to our people and the region," it said. In a joint statement, the Quad foreign ministers expressed "deep concern" over the "abrupt constriction and future reliability" of key supply chains, specifically for critical minerals. "This includes the use of non-market policies and practices for critical minerals, certain derivative products, and mineral



processing technology," they said without directly mentioning China. "We underscore the importance of diversified and reliable global supply chains. Reliance on any one country for processing and refining critical minerals and derivative goods production exposes our industries to economic coercion, price manipulation, and supply chain disruptions, which further harm our economic and national security," they said. A fact-sheet unveiled at the end of the meeting said the Quad is expanding maritime law enforcement cooperation

which will support efforts to curtail illicit maritime activity, including piracy, drug trafficking, infringements on border security, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated (fishing). It also noted the launch of the first-ever "Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission" this month. The initiative is aimed at strengthening interoperability and knowledge-sharing to address unlawful maritime activities across the Indo-Pacific. Later this month, the Quad will hold the second maritime legal dialogue to advance efforts to uphold maritime order, the document noted. It aid the "Quad Critical Minerals Initiative" will strengthen cooperation on priorities such as securing and diversifying reliable supply chains, and electronic waste, critical minerals recovery and re-processing. "The Initiative will expand the Quad's cooperation on supply chain resilience measures for critical minerals, and we look forward to coordinating with private sector partners to facilitate increased investments," it added.

Iran president gives final approval for suspension of IAEA cooperation

world. Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian has granted a final approval to a law to suspend cooperation with the United Nations nuclear watchdog, state media said Wednesday. "Masoud Pezeshkian promulgated the law suspending cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency," state TV said, meaning the measure drawn up in the aftermath of the Iran-Israel war last month is now in effect. Last week, Iranian lawmakers voted in favour of a bill to suspend cooperation with the IAEA, citing Israel's June 13 attack on the Islamic republic and later strikes by the United States on nuclear facilities. Earlier on Monday, Pezeshkian told his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron that Tehran halted cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog due to what he called the agency chief's "destructive" behaviour towards the Islamic republic. "The action taken by parliament members... is a natural response to the unjustified, unconstructive, and destructive conduct of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency," Pezeshkian told Macron in a phone call

late Sunday, according to a presidency statement. Since the start of the war with Israel, Iranian officials have sharply criticised



the agency for failing to condemn the strikes. Iran has also criticised the watchdog for passing a resolution on June 12 accusing it of non-compliance with its nuclear obligations.

On Monday, France, Germany, and Britain condemned what they called "threats" against the IAEA chief Rafael Grossi after Iran rejected its request to visit nuclear facilities bombed during the war. None specified which threats they were referring to, but Iran's ultra-conservative Kayhan newspaper recently claimed

documents showed Grossi was an Israeli spy and should be executed. Iran has said Grossi's request to visit bombed sites signalled "malign intent" but insisted that no threats were posed against Grossi or the agency's inspectors. On Monday, Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said the Iranian parliament's decision to halt cooperation with the IAEA reflected the "concern and anger of the Iranian public opinion."

He further criticised the United States and European powers for maintaining what he described as a "political approach" toward Iran's nuclear programme during his weekly press conference. Baqaei also questioned how the safety of IAEA inspectors could be ensured while the extent of the damage to Iran's nuclear facilities -- targeted by Israel and the United States during the 12-day war -- remains unknown. "One aspect of this issue is how to ensure the safety and security of the agency's inspectors, in a situation where there is still no accurate assessment of the severity of the damage," he said.

Daughter of assassinated civil rights leader Medgar Evers sees painful echoes of political violence in America

MISSISSIPPI. More than 60 years after a white supremacist assassinated civil rights leader Medgar Evers, his daughter still sees the same strain of political violence at work in American society. "It's painful," said Reena Evers-Everette. "It's very painful."

Evers-Everette was eight years old when her father, a field secretary for the NAACP, was shot to death in the driveway of his home in Jackson, Mississippi. A few months after Evers' killing in 1963, President John F. Kennedy was gunned down. The deaths of civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, and U.S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy followed later that decade. Now, experts say the level of political violence in America over the past few years is likely the highest it's been since the 1960s and 1970s. The past year alone has seen the assassination of a Minnesota state lawmaker and her husband, the killing

of two Israeli Embassy staffers, and two assassination attempts on then-presidential candidate Donald Trump.

At a four-day conference celebrating Evers' life just before what would have been his 100th birthday on July 2, his daughter was joined by the daughters of slain civil rights leaders: Kerry Kennedy, the daughter of Robert F. Kennedy, and Bettie Dahmer, the daughter of civil and voting rights activist Vernon Dahmer. The 2025 Democracy in Action Convening, "Medgar Evers at 100: A Legacy of Justice, a Future of Change," was held in Jackson. "I just was feeling so much pain, and I didn't want anyone else to have to go through that," Kennedy said, recalling that after her father died, she prayed for the man who killed him. "I was saying, 'Please don't — please don't kill the guy that killed him.'" Two-time Georgia gubernatorial candidate and voting rights activist Stacey

Abrams spoke at the event, denouncing efforts by the Trump administration to strip the names of activists from Navy vessels, including possibly Evers. "They want to take his name off a boat because they don't want us to have a reminder of how far he sailed us forward," Abrams told the conference crowd. U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has undertaken an effort to change the names of ships and military bases that were given by President Joe Biden's Democratic administration, which often honored service members who were women, people of color, or from the LGBTQ+ community. Abrams drew parallels between acts of radical political violence and the Trump administration's use of military resources against protesters in Los Angeles who were demonstrating against immigration enforcement actions.

Mystery surrounds Jeffrey Epstein files after US A-G Bondi claims 'tens of thousands' of videos

WASHINGTON. It was a surprising statement from Attorney General Pam Bondi as the Trump administration promises to release more files from its sex trafficking investigation of Jeffrey Epstein: The FBI, she said, was reviewing "tens of thousands of videos" of the wealthy financier "with children or child porn." The comment, made to reporters at the White House days after a similar remark to a stranger with a hidden camera, raised the stakes for President Donald Trump's administration to prove it has in its possession previously unseen compelling evidence.

That task is all the more pressing after an earlier document dump that Bondi hoped angered elements of Trump's base by failing to deliver new bombshells and as administration officials who had promised to unlock supposed secrets of the so-called government "deep state" struggle to fulfill that pledge. Yet weeks after Bondi's remarks, it remains unclear what she was referring to. The Associated Press spoke with lawyers and law enforcement officials in criminal cases of Epstein and socialite former girlfriend Ghislaine Maxwell who said they hadn't seen and didn't know of a trove of recordings like what Bondi described.

Indictments and detention memos do not reference the existence of videos of Epstein with children, and neither was charged with possession of child sex abuse material even though that offense would have been much easier to prove than the sex trafficking counts they faced. One potential clue may lie in a little-noticed 2023 court filing — among hundreds of documents reviewed by the AP — in which Epstein's estate was revealed to have located an unspecified number of videos and photos that it said might contain child sex abuse material. But even that remains shrouded in secrecy with lawyers involved in that civil case saying a protective order prevents them from discussing it.

The filing suggests a discovery of recordings after the criminal cases had concluded, but if that's what Bondi was referencing, the Justice Department has not said.

The department declined repeated requests from the AP to speak with officials overseeing the Epstein review. Spokespeople did not answer a list of questions about Bondi's comments, including when and where the recordings were procured, what they depict and whether they were newly discovered as authorities dug through their evidence collection or were known for some time to have been in the government's possession.

"Outside sources who make assertions about materials included in the DOJ's review cannot speak to what materials are included in the DOJ's review," spokesperson Chad Gilmartin said in a statement.

US plans to begin breeding billions of flies to fight a pest. Here is how it will work

TOPEKA. The US government is preparing to breed billions of flies and dump them out of airplanes over Mexico and southern Texas to fight a flesh-eating maggot. That sounds like the plot of a horror movie, but it is part of the government's plans for protecting the US from a bug that could devastate its beef industry, decimate wildlife and even kill household pets. This weird science has worked well before.

"It's an exceptionally good technology," said Edwin Burgess, an assistant professor at the University of Florida who studies parasites in animals, particularly livestock. "It's an all-time great in terms of translating science to solve some kind of large problem." The targeted pest is the flesh-eating larva of the New World Screwworm fly. The US Department of Agriculture plans to ramp up the breeding and distribution of adult male flies — sterilizing them with radiation before releasing them — so they can mate ineffectively with females and over time

cause the population to die out. It is more effective and environmentally friendly than spraying the pest into oblivion, and it is how the US and other nations north of Panama eradicated the same pest decades ago. Sterile flies from a factory in Panama kept the flies contained there for years, but the pest appeared in southern Mexico late last year.

The USDA expects a new screwworm fly factory to be up and running in southern Mexico by July 2026. It plans to open a fly distribution center in southern Texas by the end of the year so that it can import and distribute flies from Panama if necessary. Fly feeds on live flesh

Most fly larvae feed on dead flesh, making the New World screwworm fly and its Old World counterpart in Asia and Africa outliers — and for the American beef industry, a serious threat. Females lay their eggs in wounds and, sometimes, exposed mucus. "A thousand-pound bovine can be dead from this in two weeks," said Michael



Bailey, president elect of the American Veterinary Medicine Association. Veterinarians have effective treatments for infested animals, but an infestation can still be unpleasant — and cripple an animal with pain. Don Hineman, a retired western Kansas rancher, recalled infected cattle as a youngster on his family's farm.

"It smelled nasty," he said. "Like rotting meat." How scientists will use fly's biology

against it The New World screwworm fly is a tropical species, unable to survive Midwestern or Great Plains winters, so it was a seasonal scourge. Still, the US and Mexico bred and released more than 94 billion sterile flies from 1962 through 1975 to eradicate the pest, according to the USDA. The numbers need to be large enough that females in the wild can't help but hook up with sterile males for mating.

One biological trait gives fly fighters a crucial wing up: Females mate only once in their weekslong adult lives.

Why US wants to breed more flies

Alarmed about the fly's migration north, the US temporarily closed its southern border in May to imports of live cattle, horses and bison and it won't be fully open again at least until mid-September. But female flies can lay their eggs in wounds on any warm-blooded animal, and that includes humans. Decades ago, the US had fly factories in Florida and Texas, but they closed as the pest was eradicated.

NEWS BOX

Maharashtra to form committee to make Bhiwandi ‘largest logistics hub in Asia’

The Maharashtra government will form a committee in order to realise the plan of making Bhiwandi the largest logistics hub in Asia. The committee will include officials from the Industries and Urban Development Department and Bhiwandi East MLA Rais Shaikh, Industries Minister Uday Samant announced in the Legislative Assembly.

During the discussion in the Assembly, MLA Rais Shaikh drew the government’s attention to developing Bhiwandi as a logistics hub. “There is a need to appoint an IAS officer for the Bhiwandi Surrounding Notified Area. 60 villages and Bhiwandi city together have an area of 144 square kilometers, which is 30 percent of Mumbai. All the powers of local bodies are with the authority. Government land worth Rs 3,000 crore is being encroached upon and needs to be saved. If the government is serious about this issue, Bhiwandi will have the biggest share in making the state’s \$1 trillion economy,” said MLA Rais Shaikh in the Legislative Assembly.

Responding to this, Industries Minister Uday Samant said that the largest logistics hub in Asia can be built in Bhiwandi. “The government agrees to the technical difficulties such as appointing an IAS officer and taking back the powers of MMRDA. Therefore, accepting the request of MLA Rais Shaikh, we will form a committee of four or five people including officials from Industries, Urban Development, and we will move forward after finalising the policy,” announced Minister Uday Samant.

Delegation visits Switzerland for dialogue on Olympics



Ahmedabad. A high-level Indian delegation comprising Minister of State for Home, Sports and Youth Affairs, Harsh Sanghavi, concluded a visit to Lausanne, Switzerland, to engage in the International Olympic Committee’s (IOC) ‘Continuous Dialogue’ process, a release by the Gujarat government said on Tuesday.

Even as the Gujarat government plans to bid for the 2036 Olympics, it is looking at the games as “a catalyst to elevate Indian sport, offering 600 million young Indians their first opportunity to witness the Olympics on home soil...the Games would be a generational springboard for socio-economic development, innovation, education, and youth pride, advancing both India and the Olympic Movement”, the release said.

Sanghavi was quoted as saying that hosting the games “would be a monumental step for Gujarat, fostering unprecedented growth and inspiring a new generation”. The visit was aimed at exploring the opportunity and feasibility of India hosting a future edition of the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The Indian delegates also included Indian Olympic Association (IOA) President PT Usha and other officials of the IOA and the Gujarat government.

Rain misery for Cuttack as city goes under water

CUTTACK. Rain wreaked havoc in Cuttack on Tuesday after a heavy downpour which lasted for over an hour left several residential and market areas of the city severely waterlogged.

The city received around 70 mm rainfall in just one-and-a-half-hour prompting the Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) authorities to engage dewatering pump sets. What added to the residents’ misery was the choked drains that worsened the waterlogging issues.

Among the 130 places that were submerged under water, the situation turned grim in Patapola, Makarabag Sahi, Meria Bazar, Gamadia, Kesharpur, Dhoi Lane, Sutahat, Dagabar Sahi, New Rausapatana, Shilpi Kumbhar Sahi, Balu Bazar, Kazi Bazar, Rovers Street, Jhola Sahi, Kathagada Sahi, Tulasipur, Hariapur, Bhagatpur, Pithapur, Roxy Lane etc., where overflowing drain water gushed into several houses located in low-lying areas. “Heavy rain lashed the city from 3.30 pm to 5 pm resulting in overflowing drains and gushing of sewage water into our houses. Such was the situation that we had to shift our belongings to safer places. The filthy water emanated a foul smell and created a very unhygienic surrounding,” said Sanjay Pani, a resident of Sutahat New Colony.

Communication too, was severely hit as roads and streets were submerged under knee-deep waters making commuting difficult for people. Residents attributed the situation to the alleged apathy on part of the CMC in clearing the choked drains. “After completion of the box drain project on main storm water channel (MSWC)-1, we were hopeful of getting relief from the persistent waterlogging problem.

But nothing improved as the civic body failed to desilt and repair the drains in time. Despite making tall claims, the CMC did not clean the branch drains.

Govt relief package: 110 Surat schools submit 3,200 forms for fee assistance

The criteria to avail the scheme benefits include the diamond polisher being unemployed for the last year and having worked in the industry for at least three years. The government will directly pay the fees to the schools.

Surat. At least 110 schools in Surat submitted over 3,200 application forms for fee assistance — as a part of the state government relief package for diamond polishers’ children — benefiting 10,921 students to the Surat District Industries Centre on Monday, sources familiar with the matter said on Tuesday. The forms will be verified by the Surat Diamond Association before being forwarded to the approval committee headed by District Collector Dr Sourabh Pardhi.

Earlier in May, the state government announced a special assistance package for the diamond industry. Under the relief package, the state government will cover the school fees of children of diamond polishers, providing an annual sum of Rs 13,500 for one year. The criteria to avail the scheme benefits include the diamond polisher being unemployed for the last year and having worked in the industry for at least three years. The government will directly pay the fees to the schools.

The diamond industry has been experiencing a prolonged period of recession for over two-and-a-half years now. The diamond polishers, along with middle and small diamond unit owners, have been facing great financial difficulty due to the reduced demand for polished diamonds in the international market.



There are over 4,000 small, medium, and large diamond factories in Surat city, employing a workforce of over 5 lakh diamond workers. Out of the 10 polished diamonds found in the world, eight are cut and polished in Surat city. The majority of the workforce in the diamond industry hails from Saurashtra and other parts of Gujarat and are settled in Surat city.

Following the announcement of a special relief package by the state government, schools were instructed to make students and their parents aware of the scheme. The school authorities had also distributed forms among the students, seeking all necessary details. The form submission is being done in three phases, with the first phase ending on Monday, while the

second and third phases are scheduled for July 7 and 23, according to sources in the Surat district administration.

On Monday, 110 schools submitted 3,200 forms to the district industries commissioner. Majority of such schools are located in Katargam, Kapodara, Sarthana, and Varachha areas in Surat city.

Surat District Industries Commissioner Jigar Dave told The Indian Express, “We have received 3,200 application forms from 110 schools, and the number of beneficiaries is over 10,921 students”. “We will be sending these forms to the Surat Diamond Association for verification, including confirmation of whether the applicant is actually a diamond polisher and if they have been jobless for the last year. There are two more phases left for accepting such forms. Once these forms are verified, it will be sent to the scrutiny committee, and later it will reach the approval committee headed by Surat District Collector Dr Sourabh Pardhi”.

Surat Diamond Association President Jagdish Khunt told The Indian Express, “We are expecting more such forms in the coming days. A core committee meeting regarding the disbursement of the special assistance package will be held on Thursday”.

Valiyathura pier to fade away as state abandons heritage structure

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. The iconic Valiyathura pier -- which is a testament to the maritime heritage of the capital -- will soon be a distant memory, with the Kerala State Maritime Board (KSMB) officially ruling out any restoration efforts, citing exorbitant cost and lack of functional relevance.

A KSMB official confirmed that the 214-m-long pier, battered by years of neglect, sea erosion and repeated cyclone assault will not be revived. The pier, which split into two last year owing to rough waves, have further deteriorated after the advent of southwest monsoon.

Built in 1956, Valiyathura pier was a hub of cargo movement, used by local fishermen for venturing into the sea during monsoon and a major tourist landmark. However, severe coastal erosion and repeated cyclone have caused structural damage. An official pointed out that it is not economically viable to restore or renovate the structure. “There is no point in spending `25 crore on a structure that offers no



real benefit, especially to local fishermen. Neither the fisheries department nor the harbour engineering department has proposed any restoration plan to use the pier for fishing purposes. Hence, we have no plans to restore the pier,” said the official, adding that many of the piers across the state were in a dilapidated state, with little practical use.

An IIT Chennai report had recommended a comprehensive renovation plan, and suggested constructing a submerged breakwater to reduce

wave activity and protect the pier from further damage. “The government is not very keen on investing so much. We initially had plans to restore the pier using central funds. But we decided not to pursue that plan,” the official added. Despite shelving the restoration project, the Maritime Board is actively exploring new avenues for 4.5 acres of land attached to the pier. “The property adjacent to the pier, which includes a couple of British-era warehouses, will be developed. We will be inviting Expression of Interest soon. The warehouses have historical value, and we’re open to concepts for developing them. Once we receive the proposals, we will refine our plan and move forward with a public-private partnership (PPP) model,” said the official.

According to officials, the project is awaiting approval from the state government. “We have requested the government to call for a stakeholder meeting ahead of inviting the EoI.

Drifting speed-breakers, concrete coming off: How one bout of rain washed away Rajkot roads

Rajkot. The residents of Rajkot, who recently mourned the untimely death of its local MLA and former Chief Minister Vijay Rupani in the Air India plane crash on June 12, have new reasons to worry. Despite Rupani having worked hard to match Rajkot’s standards with other major cities of Gujarat, the first bout of rain this year washed out its roads.

From a speed-breaker drifting off the road to layers of asphalt coming off, from six-month-old roads throwing up asphalt bits to road contractors seen carrying out patchwork repairs along a waterlogged street, Rajkot residents now wonder if this is the situation within just a week from the arrival of monsoon, how will the city reckon with the rest of the season.

Viral video

A week ago, a resident of Mahudi in Ward 11 of Rajkot city, put up a video on social media that has since gone viral. Dilip Vora, 42, who owns an electric business,

recorded the video in which he is heard describing how a speed breaker constructed recently on a cement road drifted to the side of the road.

Speaking to Vora said, “During every monsoon, the area near



Mahudi Chowkdi gets waterlogged. This is nothing new for us. But when in 2019, they built a 12-15-feet RCC (reinforced cement concrete) road, we hoped the situation would change as the corporation would have surely made arrangements for stormwater drainage. But that was not the case. Then they made an asphalt speed breaker on top of the

cement road without anchoring it to the road. So when it rained last week, the speed breaker came off and drifted to the side of the road.”

Speaking on the current situation, Vora said, “While the road, now made of cement, doesn’t get washed away, the problem of waterlogging remains and if it rains heavily, even cars get stuck in the middle of the road. The force of the water is so strong that you cannot even cross the road.”

The reached out to Rajkot Municipal Commissioner Tushar Sumera, who said, “We have investigated the matter and found that while the speed-breaker came off, the road remained intact. This means that there was a problem in the binding agent or technology used for the same. While this needs to be resolved, we must see that there are more than 50 such speed-breakers and only one of those has come off. Correctional measures are being taken.”

Four days after wedding, Chennai woman kills self in suspected dowry harassment

10 sovereigns of gold jewellery was agreed as dowry and 5 sovereigns were given during marriage; due to pressure, the woman's family gave four more sovereigns, but the husband's family was not satisfied.

CHENNAI. In a case of suspected dowry death, a 25-year-old woman died by suicide at her parents’ house on Monday, allegedly owing to harassment by her in-laws who were demanding one sovereign gold and an AC. The woman had got married only four days back, the police said. The victim’s husband and mother in-law have been arrested and are being interrogated, a senior police officer said. An RDO enquiry is underway.

According to the police, P Logeshwari of Muslim Nagar near Ponneri got married to E Panneer (37), of Kattavur village in Ponneri, on June 27. While 10 sovereigns of gold jewellery was agreed as dowry, 5 sovereigns were given during marriage.

However, soon after the wedding, her in-laws, including her sister-in-law Nadhiya, allegedly demanded the remaining gold jewellery agreed



upon. Logeshwari’s family gave them four more sovereigns, but Panneer’s family kept harassing her for the remaining one sovereign and an AC also, the police said.

A day after getting married, the newly-weds had gone to Logeshwari’s parents’ house. On Monday night, Logeshwari was found dead in the washroom by her mother. She alerted the police who recovered the body and sent it for post mortem. Following a complaint, the police registered a case under BNS section 108.

“We do not know what Logeshwari and Panneer spoke inside their room. Logeshwari locked herself inside the washroom and did not come out for a long time. Only after my other daughter alerted me about her absence, I checked the washroom and found her dead,” Logeshwari’s mother told the media.

HC dismisses pleas against govt decision to give Mayor’s bungalow for Thackeray Memorial

It said that the petitioners who filed the PILs were not opposed to the memorial itself and their challenge to the site chosen by the government was outside the scope of judicial review.

Mumbai. The Bombay High Court Tuesday dismissed petitions challenging permission given by the Maharashtra Government to convert the Mayor’s Bungalow in the city’s Shivaji Park area into a memorial for late Shiv Sena chief Bal Thackeray. The court said that it did not find any valid ground for challenging the decision.

The division bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Sandeep V Marne noted that the work of setting up of the memorial is “virtually complete” and that it is a policy decision by the government in which the court is not inclined to interfere.

It said that the petitioners who filed the PILs were not opposed to the memorial itself and their challenge to the site chosen by the government was outside the scope of

judicial review. “When it comes to setting up of memorials for leaders and persons revered for their contribution, it is also well settled that such act constitutes a public purpose and decision of the executive to set up a memorial to commemorate such persons, is a matter of policy of the State,” the court said.

A Government Resolution was issued in 2016 granting approval for setting up of the memorial at Mayor’s Bungalow and for constitution of a public trust, the Balasaheb Thackeray Rashtriya Smarak Samiti, for the purpose and its construction is nearly complete. “This court also takes notice of the fact that the work of setting up of the Memorial is virtually complete by now. Mr. Khambata (senior advocate appearing for



the trust) a has taken us through the photographs of the site, which shows that the grandiose structure of Mayor’s Bungalow has not only been kept intact, but has been restored. Its heritage significance is not disturbed. Since the work of setting up of the Memorial is virtually complete by now, this could be yet another reason for this

Court not to interfere in the impugned decisions and actions,” the court said. Four Public Interest Litigations (PIL) by activists and NGO Jan Mukti Morcha, challenged the decision, claiming that the proposed construction violated the Environmental Protection Act and the Coastal Zone Regulation notification. The petitioners also claimed that since the bungalow, built in 1928, is a heritage structure, it cannot be converted into a memorial. Lawyer Uday Warunjikar appearing for the NGO submitted before the court that decision by the state government was arbitrary and that the petitioners are not opposing the setting up of a memorial for Thackeray but the site chosen and the manner in which the trust is set up, like a “private trust”.

Indian identities: Remaining vocal about being local

I am an Indian first and everything else later. Feels good to say that. Am proud that I am an Indian. I am a nationalist, and love to be one. India is in my DNA. Not everyone needs to say that, or feel that for sure. This is something very personal. Nationalism and a feel for the nation must not be thrust upon you. You must feel it, if at all. And you don't need to feel it all the time as well. You don't need to wear jingoism on your sleeve, do you?

Even as I write this, there is noise around Diljit Dosanjh. Dosanjh is a star who represents Punjabi culture to the Indian and global audiences. He does say, at every show, that he is a Punjabi. He represents the culture proudly. How is it a crime to represent your roots, then? He is the first Punjabi artist to perform at the Coachella fest in the US. The first to make an appearance on The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon. These and his recent appearance at the Met Gala in New York are all personal milestones that put Punjab on the world map, in his own words. At the Met Gala, Dosanjh presented himself in an ivory-and-gold sherwani paired with a tehmat (draped bottoms) and a sweeping cape embroidered with the silhouetted map of Punjab—not of India. His turban completed the look and around his neck hung a copy of the famed Patiala necklace. What's wrong with representing Punjab? What's wrong with wearing Punjab on your cape? Is Diljit a Punjabi first and an Indian later? And is that a crime of omission or commission?

Think about yourself, then. Who do you think you really are? And who do you pretend you are? The answer is personal and is different to every individual Indian. Are you an Indian first or a Malayali? This reminds me of a film that was a hit in Kerala and among the Kerala diaspora worldwide: Malayali from India. I hear this title as a social introduction at the many meetings I attend in Dubai and the rest of the UAE all too frequently. The Malayali is proud to be a Malayali, just as a Kannadiga is proud to be a Kannadiga. But what are you first—a Kannadiga or an Indian? Are you a Bengali from India or an Indian from Bengal? And does it matter at all?

Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses Some very patriotic folks feel it matters and are throwing memes and rocks at Dosanjh. Let me peel this a bit to make us all feel even more uncomfortable than we are already feeling reading all this on a Tuesday morning.

A recent sociological research into the mind and mood of Indians in rural and deep-rural markets is telling. As I study deep-rural markets (which are, really, markets very few of us know exist) I see and feel a very different India—one that lives at the level of the village and local community. People out here are that much more disconnected with national realities and come alive only to the most local realities that touch their lives and livelihoods. The nation is a very distant thought.

The closest thought is my home and the village I live in. To me, my world is my village. I know everyone in my village, and I spot every newcomer to the village like an aberration. I watch him and her carefully, with suspicion even. A lot of government folks come in on transfers. They are also watched carefully as temporary residents. I trust them less than my fellow-villagers. The villager owns the village; everyone else rents it. Ownership is the ultimate respect.

In the deep-rural markets of India that represent the gut of the country, villagers identify themselves differently. In the beginning, I am from Mayyadi, my village. To those who don't understand what that means, I am from the area called Bijoor. And to those who do not identify with that bigger identity, I am from Coondapura. And to those who don't understand even that, I am from the Greater Mangaluru area, if I may dub it that. I am from Karnataka, of course. And I am most certainly from India.

Politics & optics of govt recruitment in Uttar Pradesh

Yogi Adityanath has been in power in UP since 2017. The “sudden realisation” of over 60,000 vacancies means that the government has not followed a regular recruitment process.

ON June 15, newspapers carried full-page advertisements proclaiming the ‘distribution of letters’ among 60,244 civil police constables by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Uttar Pradesh. The advertisement also stated that the constables, including 12,048 women, were “selected through a fair and transparent recruitment process by the Uttar Pradesh Police Recruitment and Promotion Board”. Despite a regular selection procedure, the distribution of job letters by the Home Minister apparently conveyed the impression that the appointments were largesse bestowed by the ruling party. No wonder former UP CM and Samajwadi Party MP Akhilesh Yadav commented on X, “To overcome the shortage of policemen, long-term steps like regular recruitment drives should be undertaken because by the time the recruitment process is completed in 3-4 years under the BJP rule, 50,000-60,000 policemen would have retired and the shortage will remain the same.” Public appointments in India at all levels are constitutionally ordained. Articles 308 to 312 under Chapter I Part XIV of the Constitution elaborate the processes for recruitment for all posts of the Union and the States. Chapter II prescribes public service commissions at the central and state levels. Article 309 provides that “... Acts of the appropriate Legislature may regulate the recruitment, and conditions of service of persons appointed, to public services and posts in connection with the affairs of the Union or of any State.” Further, it enables the President—and in the case of a state, the Governor, or any ‘such person’ authorised by him—to “to make rules regulating the recruitment, and the conditions of service of persons appointed to such services and posts” until a provision under an Act of the appropriate legislature is made. Article 309 thus gives an option for making immediate recruitment.

While distributing the letters, Shah praised the chief minister for the “largest ever” such appointments that would help in maintaining law and order in the state. Praising Adityanath’s reign, he said, “Goon no longer dictate terms in the state. The rule of law has been established. Each of you was selected purely on merit from among 48 lakh applicants. There were no bribes, recommendations or caste-based bias, unlike when other governments were in office.” While the initiative of filling vacancies in the constabulary needs to be lauded, this exercise and its amplification raise a number of questions. Adityanath has been in power in UP since 2017. This “sudden realisation” of over 60,000 vacancies means that the government has not followed a regular, time-bound recruitment process. The reason for such a large-scale appointment in one go is also not clear. These recruits will have to go through proper training, for the police job is highly specialised. The increasing use of technology by criminals has made policing far more complex and challenging. Gone are the days when the constabulary was a lathi-wielding, uniformed herd of personnel needed for mechanical duties, including serving seniors as orderlies (this demeaning task has not



been scrapped by states). Uttar Pradesh has constable training centres in Meerut, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Agra and Kanpur. Can these centres accommodate and train such a large number of recruits simultaneously? The training period for constables in the state is six months, while in other states, it varies from nine months to a year. The training schedule and syllabi drawn up for the constabulary by the Bureau of Police Research and Development is very extensive and comprehensive. Is this being followed and can this be achieved logistically, given the learning capacity of the recruits, in six months? The need to upgrade the constabulary was recognised in the early 1960s. In 1961, the Bihar Police Commission observed: “A constable should be expected to exercise his discretion and assume responsibility. In all progressive police forces, every constable is a live unit of the force...” The National Police Commission, in its first report (1979), stressed “the changed needs of policing the country” and “the importance of making the constables function as a responsible functionary with due sense of values,

discretion and judgment...” Obviously, the recruits in the police organisation, even at the lowest level, must be trained keeping the needs of the 21st century in mind. Both the Centre (since 2014) and the Adityanath government have shown an inclination to use the latter part of Article 309 to escape the regular processes of making appointments and/or promotions to higher levels in various departments. For example, while the Centre has used lateral entry and extensions, the UP government has tried to evade the Supreme Court guidelines that the UPSC must be involved in the selection process for the appointment of the Director General of Police (DGP). The state government has skirted the guidelines by appointing acting DGPs (three so far) in succession since May 2022. At the central level, some secretaries, Director (Intelligence Bureau) and the Research & Analysis Wing chief have got extensions over the years. In 2023, the Supreme Court declared two extensions granted to the Director of the Enforcement Directorate, beyond the fixed cut-off date, as “not valid in law”.

Puri stampede probe must lead to better crowd management

Cherry-picking fall guys can assuage the prevailing mood, but accountability must be fixed and it should start right from the top. The government would also do well to explain the role of the special panel headed by a deputy chief minister constituted to ensure smooth conduct of the festival

The stampede that claimed three lives in Odisha’s Puri had gross administrative lapses and negligence written all over it. One of the most popular religious festivals of the country, this year’s Rath Yatra saw the largest bandobast of security in recent memory. Over 10,000 police personnel were pressed into duty and 22 IPS officers manned various responsibilities, with the state administration’s top brass watching over the arrangements. Yet, in the small hours of Sunday, an utterly avoidable tragedy occurred. Eye-witnesses complained that inadequate police presence and poor medical response led to the death of devotees, two of them middle-aged women.

The journey of the deities from Srimandir to Gundicha temple this time, in state law minister Prithiviraj Harichandan’s admission, witnessed 1.5 times the normal crowd. The first day of the yatra always draws the largest footfall, as it involves chariot-pulling for which devotees from all over the world converge. The ritual has witnessed crowd surges in the past, too. But never has any mishap



been recorded on the third day of the festival. The police as well as the Jagannath temple administration had clear knowledge of the devotees’ inflows since a large number of vehicles had made a beeline for the town the night of the mishap; but it went unresponded. The outcome was an all-round coordination failure despite having the required

resources and technology at hand. The BJP government responded by removing the district collector and a police superintendent, and suspending two police officers. It ordered an administrative inquiry and carried out a shake-up in the overall management, since other key segments of the festival are due over the next five days. Cherry-picking fall guys can assuage the prevailing mood, but accountability must be fixed and it should start right from the top. The government would also do well to explain the role of the special panel headed by a deputy chief minister constituted to ensure smooth conduct of the festival. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi’s personal apology to Jagannath devotees for the loss of lives was earnest; but he must use the opportunity to crack the whip and prepare a robust blueprint for crowd management—for both the temple and the yatra. Professional management using data science and case studies of other festivals must be explored. The probe into the tragedy must not be perfunctory—it must lay a safer road ahead.

When the spin is the win

In a post-truth world, we live in the bubble of one official narrative or another. It doesn’t matter whether the US strikes on Fordo in Iran had the desired effect. With the loudest megaphone in his hand, Donald Trump’s claims drown out others’

These days, truth is much like a B2 stealth bomber. It is hard to detect it, though it hovers right over our heads. The US bombing of the nuclear reactors in Fordo, Natanz and Isfahan was allegedly on behalf of Israel. How did a war between Israel and Iran spin around to consolidate the narrative that the US has returned as the global supercop and that Donald Trump is the only world leader worth talking about? Satellite imagery showed six gaping wounds at Fordo, a blackened sprawl at Isfahan, and an 18-foot hole at Natanz. Trump repeatedly asserted that Iran’s nuclear programme was “completely obliterated”, a claim the Israel Atomic Energy Commission backed. Yet, making defiant noises from his bunker, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei proclaimed a “severe slap” to America and a “victory” over the “Zionist regime”. There were photographs of Iranians dancing on the streets in celebration, having chosen to believe in their victory. As a great author said, patriotism is the opium of the people. Closer home, one thought of Operation Sindoor. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said it was an unqualified success. Pakistan’s General Asim Munir, in return, claimed his army had shot down Indian planes. We chose officially not to believe him. Yet, the latest on this front is an admission of downed planes by an Indian defence attaché, a naval officer, at a seminar in Jakarta on June 10. But we still don’t know how many planes India might have lost, or how many died or were wounded during the operation. We don’t even seem to know for certain if the families of the Pahalgam

victims have been compensated for their plight. In short, we are swallowed by the official bubble. In the absence of clear evidence, then, you are free to live in the truth bubble of your choice. Or so one thought until Trump bombed Iran, marking the return of the unipolar world, where the American version of the truth increasingly seems to be the only one, gaining ascendance over other national narratives. The indeterminacy of reality is a haze enveloping the world. Never mind if we are living in one of the most surveilled times in history: almost nothing goes unrecorded. Even what we search for on the internet comes back to haunt us as advertisements. We walk naked in the crowd, as it were. Great events happen right in front of us, but we do not know for what reason. And because we do not know the reason, what transpires before our very eyes appears distant and unreal, a game whose rules and meaning are unknowable to us.

An instance of such mass illusion happened last fortnight when, after ‘obliteration’, Iran fired 19 missiles at the US military base at Al Udeid in Qatar. Clearly, this was retaliatory and a gesture of assurance to the Iranian people. But how meaningless it was. According to reports, Iran informed Qatar and the US of its intent in advance, so they could evacuate the base. It was all like a game. It happened and did not happen. More on this

later. Why is truth so elusive even when facts are available? No independent body—the United Nations, Nato or the International Atomic Energy Agency—can pierce the fog. The UN, a toothless pensionary, issues platitudes that vanish into the void, its Security Council paralysed by vetoes.



Nato, a military white elephant, watches from the sidelines, irrelevant as Trump’s America bypasses allies for unilateral glory. The IAEA, meant to guard nuclear safety, is barred from Iran’s shattered sites; its director, Rafael Grossi, is reduced to parsing satellite images and guessing the damage. We don’t even know if there was a radiation leak post bombing. Prime Minister Modi has always been quick to claim India’s ‘growing’ role in

international affairs. Yet, when it came to collecting credit for calling off Operation Sindoor and making peace with our one constant enemy, Modi’s version, so appealing to the patriot, was shot down by Trump, who said he was the one who brokered peace. Last week at the White House, Trump said in the course of a speech: “I said, cancel all deals with India and Pakistan... Look, you want to have trade with the United States. It’s great, but you want to go and start using nuclear weapons on each other. We are not going to allow that. And they both agreed.” To revisit an earlier point, Khamenei’s claim of victory is a case study of the world becoming a mirage of itself. He had hailed Iran’s missile strikes on Israel as a crushing blow. Yet, the facts sneer in his face: Israel swatted most missiles and officially incurred only 28 civilian deaths. Iran’s Qatar strike grazed the base, killing no one. Why would you warn your enemy? The missiles were not meant to kill but to strike a posture, to feed a narrative of defiance against the “Great Satan” and the “Zionist enemy”. In a post-truth world, the posturing is the point. But even this is in dire straits as a pumped-up US blows out into being the one bubble that swallows the rest of the world. As the wise said, history is the writ of the victor. And the world increasingly seems to have only one.

NEP, new online system blamed: 14,127 RTE-eligible children still await admission in Haryana; schools resume after summer break

GURGAON. While schools have reopened after the summer break and classes have resumed, over 14,127 students in Haryana are still waiting for admission.

The students are eligible for free admission under the Right to Education (RTE) Act. The Haryana education department recently released a provisional list of potential RTE beneficiaries. However, students are still required to undergo a verification process. If their documents are not verified, they may lose their chance at the admission. The department originally planned to begin the online application process by June 25, but delays pushed the start date to July 11. The delay has left parents anxious and fearing academic loss to their children as the current school session is already underway. Education officials have acknowledged the substantial delays in the RTE admission process this year. An official from Gurgaon said this year's provisional list for primary admissions, particularly for LKG and junior classes, has been affected by the New Education



Policy (NEP) and the introduction of 'Bl Vatik'. Moreover, multiple deadlines for the admission process have been missed. While the central govt reportedly advised initiating the RTE admission process by Dec, work in Haryana only commenced in

April, leading to a significant procedural delay. A key reason cited for the current delays is the implementation of a new, centralised online system for RTE admissions. This system is designed for record-keeping and facilitating

reimbursements. The central server of the Department of School Education (DSE) now handles the allotment and random selection of students. A nodal officer from Gurgaon said local bodies merely execute orders from above. Another factor contributing to the delays has been the reluctance of private schools to admit students under the RTE Act. The nodal officer said there have been instances where schools would "not accept forms" from parents, which would eventually lead to vacant seats. Then the govt decided to take over the seat allotment process. Frustrated by the delay in admissions under the RTE Act, Rajkumar, who works as a daily wage, recently enrolled his child in a govt-aided school. "My elder son was admitted through the RTE scheme, and I hoped to do the same for my younger one as well. But with no updates on the admission process, I couldn't wait any longer," he said.

2 years on, NHAI steps in to carry out repair of sewer after cave-ins on Sohna highway



Gurgaon. A day after a portion of Sohna highway caved in near SD Adarsh Public School, NHAI on Tuesday said it is planning taking up the rehabilitation of the master sewer line — after being locked in a blame game. The cave-in on Monday was the fifth such incident over the last two years due to the damaged sewer line. This comes after nearly two years of inaction and repeated back-and-forth between GMDA and the highway authority even as commuters have been suffering. In 2022, the sewer line was officially handed over to GMDA once the Sohna highway project was completed. However, since Dec 2023, repeated sinkholes developed along the same stretch. A senior NHAI official said, "We have been pursuing GMDA for over a year now to carry out the rehabilitation of the sewer line, but the work hasn't started. Now they are raking up an old estimate from before GMDA was even formed. But given the repeated collapses, we are deliberating to take up the work ourselves as per GMDA's specifications. We will soon request their formal consent."

NHAI officials say they have been asking GMDA to take up the permanent repairs in vain. GMDA, which earlier floated a tender to carry out the sewer repairs using cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) technology, is now saying the responsibility lies with NHAI. The CIPP technique involves inserting a flexible liner into the damaged pipe, which is then cured to form a new, seamless pipe within the old one, effectively sealing any leaks and restoring structural integrity without the need for excavation.

Gurgaon's illegal concrete plants to face sealing, power shutdown: Minister Rao Narbir Singh

Gurgaon. Illegal ready-mix concrete (RMC) plants in the city will face action from the discom and the pollution board, said industry and commerce minister Rao Narbir Singh on Tuesday, asking the pollution control board to seal illegal RMC plants, and the electricity department to immediately cut off their power supplies. This came after it was found that the RMC plants were operating even after being sealed. While speaking at a review meeting held with officials of the DHBVN and pollution control board on Tuesday regarding departmental works in the district, action on illegal activities, and strengthening of infrastructure, Singh said,

"Whenever the pollution control board seals any illegal RMC plant, the electricity department should cut its power

connection with immediate effect so that a strong message is sent to those who violate the rules." Singh directed the pollution board and DHBVN officials to jointly take action against such illegal RMCs. Besides, the discom was directed to fix hanging wires on all major roads in the city to maintain smooth traffic flow. "These wires pose an increased risk of accidents during the rainy season, and thus, such areas should be identified and addressed on a priority basis," said Singh. Additionally, he instructed the officials that electric poles located in the middle of roads or within residential areas in rural regions be relocated according to regulations. Singh also acknowledged the issues faced by farmers and workers in rural fields and instructed that old and dilapidated wires should be replaced

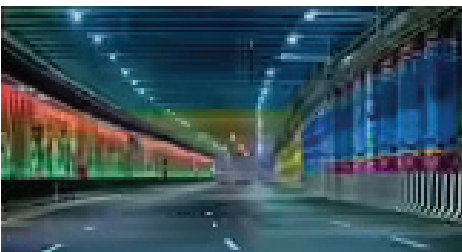
systematically.

He stated that after the harvest, immediate repairs should be conducted in areas where wires are hanging low to prevent accidents. Rao stressed the importance of regular monitoring of departmental work to ensure all tasks are completed according to set standards and timelines. He warned departmental officials that any negligence or laxity at any level would result in accountability and strict action. GMDA issued notices to four ready-mix concrete (RMC) plants in the city in March for causing dust pollution. The plants, located on the dividing road of Sectors 112/114 and Sectors 78/79A, were accused of taking illegal access from sector dividing roads, damaging the roads, and spilling slurry, leading to dust pollution.

Opened a month ago, no mobile signal in Dwarka e-way tunnel

Gurgaon. Barely a month old, the Dwarka Expressway tunnel has made travel to and from NH-8 a seamless ride. Still, the tunnel — 3.6km of the main section and spurs to IGI Airport and Gurgaon — is a digital dead zone for thousands of daily commuters. There's no signal. No calls. And no GPS, seconds after one drives into the tunnel. "It's a smooth ride, but the moment you enter, your phone goes dead. Many of us attend office calls during our commute or make calls home. But there is just no mobile signal. In this day and age, a new tunnel without mobile connectivity feels like a basic oversight," said Vibhuti Verma, who travels regularly from Imperial Garden in Sector 102 to Delhi's Aerocity. For those unfamiliar with the area, the lack of mobile network can be more challenging. "Locals may still be aware of where they are going, but what about those coming from outside NCR? They won't know where they are inside the tunnel. If GPS is pre-downloaded, it may work, but anyone relying on live navigation will get confused. With UER-

II expected to open within the next two months, this tunnel will cater to traffic all the way from Chandigarh. Mobile connectivity is a basic need," said Prakhar



Sahay, another commuter. UER-II, a six-lane highway, has been planned as Delhi's third Ring Road. Likely to be opened by Aug, it is expected to cut travel time from IGI Airport in Delhi to Gurgaon and Chandigarh. Another commuter said the stretch could be risky for women who take cabs. "Cabs depend on GPS, and without signal, neither the driver nor the passenger can track location inside the tunnel. If

something goes wrong mid-route, there's no way to call for help. It's a major safety gap, especially for women travelling alone," said Reetu Jain, a resident of Chintels Serenity in the city. According to an official estimate, around 60,000 commuters use the tunnel, which was opened for trial run on May 29, on average every day. Officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which built the tunnel, said on Tuesday that it is equipped with emergency response mechanisms with SOS call boxes. "We have installed call boxes every 200 metres in the tunnel. In case of an emergency, commuters are advised to use them. These devices are directly connected to the control room, which can quickly identify the location and dispatch assistance," a senior NHAI official said. He added that on surface roads, a person in distress can identify own location by pointing out nearby landmarks or buildings. "But pinpointing exact locations in tunnels is challenging.

On the wrong side of law: A risky shortcut, that too without helmet near Dasna in Ghaziabad

Ghaziabad. It's a deadly combination, literally, of wrong-side driving and the absence of helmets, which has created a dangerous scenario in the areas near Dasna. From Jan to May, more than 1.1 lakh challans were issued for wrong-side driving. But that is statistics. The facts is: The ride should be "faster", for their passengers' sake, and no-nonsense especially in absence of cops — this is what seems to "compel" people to flout the law. Wrong-side driving — on NH9 and nearby roads in Dasna particularly during peak morning and evening periods — has significantly increased the risk of severe injuries in case of accidents.

Motorists travelling from Kallu Garhi or Dasna jail during morning and evening hours routinely drive against traffic whilst heading towards Dasna village or Rafeeqabad area. A majority of two-wheeler riders and pillion riders neglect wearing protective helmets as if this is none of their business. Among those on the wrong side of the law, the worst offenders are auto-rickshaw, two-wheeler and truck drivers, all of whom avoid longer routes. A 30-year-old motorcyclist, travelling against traffic flow, admitted to leaving his helmet at his residence in Dasna village. He said riding on the incorrect side helped him conserve time, energy and petrol. He said using the proper route via the underpass, situated approximately 400 metres away, would



add 15 minutes to his journey due to heavy traffic congestion. Drivers take advantage of the absence of traffic police officers to drive on the wrong side and violate other traffic regulations. Drivers were seen avoiding the Dasna underpass, which is almost 400 metres away and is the correct route as well. Auto-rickshaws, often crowded with passengers, flouted road rules, thereby endangering passengers and other road users. An auto-rickshaw driver, who carried five

passengers while driving on the wrong side, said "it had become routine", adding that taking the correct route would make the passengers late to their destination. The pressure to reach destinations "quickly" often led him to take such risks. Despite knowing the dangers, he felt "compelled" to prioritise the passengers' demands for a faster journey. According to traffic police data, from Jan to May, a total of 402,061 challans were issued to two-wheelers, 99,464 challans to four-

wheelers and 57,166 challans to three-wheelers. ACP (Traffic) Ziauddin Ahmad said police are continuously conducting drives to educate people in schools and colleges. They have asked the students to inform their parents, family members and friends about the traffic rules. "From June 16, we started a dedicated drive against wrong-way driving in 80 places across Ghaziabad and till June 30, a total of 2,578 challans have been issued and more than 35 vehicles have been seized," he said.

News box

Notices to 266 for business operations at homes, building code violations in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. For the third consecutive week, the district town planner (enforcement) team carried out the 'office on the spot' drive in Sushant Lok phases 2 and 3. Around 266 notices were pasted on homes violating building norms, zoning laws, and OC rules. Of these, 183 were in phase 3 and 83 in Phase 2. In total, over 650 notices have been issued in the past three weeks. The team led by DTP (enforcement) Amit Madholia conducted a door-to-door survey in Sectors 55, 56, and 57 to identify properties being misused for commercial use. DTPE found that several houses were operating businesses like salons, PGs, clinics, and tuition centres; real estate offices; boutiques; car service centres; and printing shops — all without necessary permissions.

Also, officials found structural violations, including unauthorised construction in zoning areas, rooms in stealth parking zones, covered cut-outs, and additional structures on rooftops. Madholia said many homeowners who received initial notices either did not respond or submitted unsatisfactory replies. "We are now preparing to issue restoration orders against such properties," he said. "These will be followed by sealing actions, cancellation of OCs, and blocking of registry transactions at the tehsil level." The department has completed the notice-pasting exercise in all parts of Sushant Lok 2 and 3. Officials have also stated that enforcement will also extend to violations of fire safety regulations, especially in properties hosting paying guests or commercial kitchens. Meanwhile, each property owner has been given a 7-day window to respond. Those failing to do so can expect immediate punitive action, marking a tough stance by the authorities to preserve residential zoning integrity.

Suspended sarpanch removed over mining in protected Nuh Aravalis

Gurgaon. Nuh district administration on Tuesday dismissed the suspended sarpanch of Basai Meo gram panchayat for "dereliction of duties". The dismissal of Mohd Hanif comes in the wake of the ongoing crackdown on illegal mining in the Aravalis region.

Nuh deputy commissioner Vishram Kumar Meena said, "Hanif was found guilty of failing to discharge the duties assigned to a sarpanch and the gram panchayat."

The action comes amid serious findings against Hanif, including failure to uphold his responsibilities as a sarpanch and alleged complicity in enabling illegal activities. The order references key findings documented in a Central Empowered Committee (CEC) report. CEC has been monitoring and reporting illegal mining in ecologically sensitive zones, including Basai Meo.

Basai Meo has been under scrutiny following revelations illegal road construction and mining were carried out in forest and agricultural land, directly violating Supreme Court directives and environmental norms. The CEC report confirmed the illegal construction of a 1.5km road, allegedly created to facilitate transportation for illegal stone mining. The committee also noted inaction from the local panchayat and raised questions about the role of elected representatives. The removal was carried out under Section 51(3)(e) of the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, based on a detailed factual investigation report submitted by ADC and the regular inquiry officer. Hanif's dismissal comes under sections 19, 21, 49 and 50 of the Act. These sections pertain to the sarpanch's responsibility to safeguard public land, ensure lawful governance, prevent environmental damage and enforce accountability at the village level. The DC's action follows a series of high-level investigations in Nuh district, especially in the Ferozpur Jhirka block, which has emerged as a hub of illegal stone mining. In June, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) arrested multiple officials of the land consolidation department linked to similar violations in Basai Meo.

Noida to take gardening lessons from Delhi

Noida: In a move to improve the management of parks and vast green belts in the city, and save them from further deterioration, the Authority's horticulture department has sought help from New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Under this partnership, NDMC will conduct specialised workshops to train Noida Authority staff in better maintenance practices.

andana Tripathi, additional CEO of the Authority, said despite the hard work, the city has not been able to achieve the same level of upkeep as compared to Delhi's parks around places like Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate, hence the move to reach out to NDMC, which is otherwise known for its expertise in maintaining iconic parks in the national "We have seen how NDMC maintains parks around Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate. Our staff works hard, but the results are not the same. During a brainstorming session, we realised that our gardeners lack proper training. That's when we decided to consult NDMC," she said. Workers will get training sessions on topics such as plantation, plant trimming techniques, appropriate use of fertilisers, seasonal plantation planning, nursery management, and eco-friendly practices like composting and use of biofertilisers. Noida currently maintains 729 parks spread across 1,401 acres and 195 green belts over 1,071 acres, underscoring the need for professional intervention to manage such a vast green expanse.

The NDMC manages 1,250 acres of green spaces in central Delhi, maintaining iconic gardens like Lodhi Garden, Nehru Park, Talkatora Garden, Central Park (Connaught Place), and Children's Park (India Gate). Known for sustainable horticulture, it plants species-specific avenues—Arjun trees on Janpath and Park Street, Neem on Aurangzeb Road and Aurobindo Marg, Jamun on Ashoka and Raisina Roads, and Semal on Niti and Nyaya Marg. It also runs a school of gardening at its Purana Qila Road nursery, offering training in vertical gardening, urban landscaping, and composting.

The Authority believes that adopting NDMC's horticulture model will uplift the quality and visual appeal of its urban green infrastructure.

India to launch review to eliminate China-made parts in military equipment

The ministry is likely to appoint an external agency to audit claims of indigenous content, map supply chain dependencies and carry out detailed evaluations of cost structures.

Agency New Delhi.

The Ministry of Defence is set to launch a comprehensive review of military procurement to identify Chinese-origin components in equipment supplied to the armed forces and to assess vulnerabilities within the defence supply chain.

Although strict guidelines already prohibit the use of Chinese parts in military hardware, recent reports have indicated that some companies may still be sourcing components from China to manufacture products intended for defence use. As part of its broader 2025 reforms, the ministry is likely to appoint an external agency to audit claims of indigenous content, map supply chain dependencies and carry out detailed evaluations of cost structures and technology transfer processes.

At a recent event, Major General C.S. Mann, Additional Director General of the Army Design Bureau, reiterated the Army's objective to eliminate Chinese components from its

suppliers. He said that reducing foreign dependency, particularly on China, remains a key priority to address potential security risks. The Army is also working to identify and support



Indian companies capable of manufacturing critical components domestically under the "Make in India" initiative. The new review

initiative comes amid growing concerns that certain vendors have exaggerated their indigenous content figures, with essential components often traced back to China, sometimes via third countries. Drones and anti-drone systems have emerged as particularly sensitive areas under scrutiny.

The consultants hired by the ministry will also evaluate patent ownership and investigate instances where private firms may have underquoted development costs, raising concerns of inflated prices at later stages.

Since Operation Sindoor, the ministry has fast-tracked equipment procurement, with heightened scrutiny on vendors suspected of using Chinese components in gear meant for frontline forces.

In February, the ministry cancelled drone procurement orders after discovering the use of Chinese parts, citing national security risks. With the newly launched review, officials believe more defence hardware may undergo rigorous inspection to ensure full compliance with security guidelines.

Dalai Lama shuts out China, reveals when his successor will be chosen

Agency New Delhi.

Exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, said the 600-year-old institution would continue after his death, and it would choose his future reincarnation, effectively excluding China from any role over appointing the 15th Dalai Lama. In an official statement released on Wednesday, the 14th Dalai Lama announced that the Gaden Phodrang Trust — the official office of the Dalai Lama — alone will decide on the recognition of the 15th reincarnation. "The process by which a future Dalai Lama is to be recognised has been clearly established in the 24 September 2011 statement which states that responsibility for doing so will rest exclusively with members of the Gaden Phodrang Trust, the Office of His Holiness the Dalai Lama," the Buddhist monk said.

"They should consult the various heads of the Tibetan Buddhist traditions and the reliable oath-bound Dharma Protectors who are linked inseparably to the lineage of the Dalai Lamas. They should accordingly carry out the procedures of search and recognition in accordance with past tradition. I hereby reiterate that the Gaden Phodrang Trust has sole authority to recognise the future reincarnation; no one else has any such authority to interfere in this matter," he added. The statement, released days before his 90th birthday on July 6, has far-reaching implications for his millions of Buddhist followers worldwide. It also came as a message to Beijing, which has long sought to control Tibetan religious traditions to tighten its grip over the region.

The Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 after a failed uprising against Chinese rule in Lhasa, has since lived in exile along with thousands of Tibetans. While China brands him a separatist and a rebel, the Dalai Lama remains for many a global icon of non-violence, compassion and the Tibetan struggle to preserve their identity.

Delhi HC upholds injunction order stopping luggage-maker VIP from using 'Carlton' mark



Agency New Delhi.

A division bench of the Delhi High Court on Tuesday dismissed appeals challenging an injunction order against Indian luggage manufacturer VIP Industries from using the mark 'Carlton'. A division bench of Justices C Hari Shankar and Ajay Diggapaul upheld a single judge's order of July 17, 2023, ruling that Carlton Shoes Limited (CSL) had "goodwill of the CARLTON mark, as used by it in India, prior to the commencement of user of the CARLTON mark by VIP in 2006".

A single judge order of July 17, 2023, dealing with cross suits of infringement by Carlton Shoes Ltd (CSL), incorporated in UK in 1992, and VIP Industries had enjoined VIP from using the 'Carlton' mark in respect of goods covered by Class 18 and had rejected VIP's application for a similar injunction against CSL. Class 18 pertains to leather and imitations of leather, and goods made of these materials, and not included in other classes.

In 2019, VIP had issued a legal notice to CSL, objecting to the use of 'Carlton' for bags, which VIP claimed to have been using for its bags and suitcases and other such items since 2006.

VIP had contended that it had been using the 'Carlton' mark for luggage, or travel luggage, and enjoyed the goodwill in the said mark for over 15 years, whereas CSL had never used the 'Carlton' mark for luggage till 2019.

UP minister refuses to use vehicle with illegal lights, asks cop to issue challan

Agency New Delhi.

Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Social Welfare (Independent Charge), Asim Arun, refused to use an official vehicle fitted with unauthorised lights during his visit to Varanasi on Monday.

Upon noticing the unauthorised modifications, Minister Arun immediately declined to use the vehicle and wrote a formal letter to the Police Commissioner of Varanasi, recommending a challan (fine) against the vehicle. The vehicle, bearing registration number UP 65 QT 9650, was assigned for his official use. The minister also included photographic evidence showing the illegal lights.

"Please be informed that on the occasion of my arrival in Varanasi on June 30, a vehicle was arranged for my use. Since the vehicle was fitted with an unauthorised light, I did not use it," the minister's letter issued to the Varanasi Police Commissioner read. "Please ensure that a challan is issued against this vehicle for violating the rules by



using an unauthorised beacon," he added with an attached photo of the vehicle and number.

In his letter, the minister said that it is important to uphold traffic rules, even in cases involving government vehicles.

Asim Arun was in Varanasi earlier this week to attend the Anusuchit Jaati evam Janjaati Swabhimaan Sammelan



(SC/ST Dignity Conference), organised by the Uttar Pradesh Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Committee at Kabir Inter College Ground, Bhullanpur, on the 94th birth anniversary of social worker Narendra Kumar Shastri. He also attended a meeting at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

What led to Air India crash? Pilots simulate accident, find key flaw, says report

Agency New Delhi.

While the reason behind the crash of the ill-fated AI 171 jet is yet to be ascertained, Air India pilots re-enacted the aircraft's parameters in a flight simulator and identified technical malfunction as a possible cause, Bloomberg reported, quoting sources.

As part of the simulation, the pilots kept the landing gear deployed and the wing flaps retracted. However, it was found that these configurations alone would not have resulted in a crash.

Air India has declined to comment on the findings.

"These are speculations, and we will not be able to give any comments at this time," an Air India spokesperson told.

WHAT SIMULATION FOUND?

Pictures of the wreckage of the doomed Boeing 787 Dreamliner showed that the flaps were in an extended position, and not retracted, as speculated. The



flaps provide the extra lift required by an aircraft during the take-off and landing phases when its speed is slow. The London-bound aircraft crashed into

a medical college campus within seconds of takeoff in Ahmedabad, killing all but one of the 242 passengers and crew on board, and another 34 individuals who were on the ground. The results, along with several expert analyses, have reinforced the technical failure angle as one possible cause of the crash.

DUAL ENGINE FAILURE?

An aviation expert, former US Navy pilot Captain Steve Scheibner, has suggested dual engine failure might be behind one of the worst aviation accidents in India in several decades.

In an interview with India Today, he said the deployment of the ram air turbine (RAT) shortly after takeoff pointed to a dual engine failure.

Parliament breach accused get bail, barred from posting on social media on case



Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted bail to Neelam Azad and Mahesh Kumawat, both of whom were arrested in the Parliament security breach case which happened on December 13, 2023.

The court while announcing its decision directed the accused to furnish a bail bond of Rs 50,000 each, along with two sureties of like amount. As part of the bail conditions, the court has barred the accused from giving interviews or making any public statements related to the case and restrained them from posting anything on the social media relating to the incident in question.

The court has also restricted them from leaving the city of Delhi and directed them to report to the designated police station every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10 am. A division bench comprising Justice Subramonium Prasad and Justice Harish Vaidyanathan Shankar pronounced the order which was reserved on May 21.

On 13 December 2023, the breach was orchestrated by a group of six individuals, of whom two, Sagar Sharma and Manoranjan D, managed to infiltrate the Lok Sabha chamber. During Zero Hour, they leapt from the public gallery, discharged yellow gas from canisters and shouted slogans until MPs and security personnel subdued them. During the investigation, it was found that the accused were linked through a social media page named 'Bhagat Singh Fan Club' and had met in Mysuru. The group, which used encrypted communication through the Signal app to coordinate their actions, acted on their plan one and a half years later.

British woman's rape: She came thinking she was meeting a friend, Delhi Police tells court



Agency New Delhi.

A conversation on Instagram, which started in January, led a British woman to meet a labourer at a hotel in Delhi in March, where he allegedly raped her, the Delhi Police has said in a 109-page chargesheet it filed before the court on May 22.

The woman was allegedly raped on March 12 after she was molested by a housekeeping staff of the same facility, while she was on a trip to India, the police have said. An officer said the woman, who was visiting the country while she was allegedly raped, had herself booked the hotel for the two, thinking she was meeting a friend.

"The victim said she came in contact with the primary accused on Instagram in January and became friends with him. On March 7, she came to India and stayed in Goa there till March 11. She wanted to meet him, so she booked a hotel in Delhi. There, he allegedly forced himself upon her," a police officer said. The chargesheet was filed in the court of Aniket Singh in Patiala House Court.

The police said that in the chargesheet, they have mentioned the version of events given by the accused. "The prime accused works as a labourer at a glass shop. According to chat records, he and the woman communicated in a friendly manner," said an officer.

Delhi gets DGCA nod for first cloud seeding trials to tackle air pollution; 'historic achievement', says Minister Manjinder Sirsa

Cloud seeding trials will be held between August 30 and September 10. Minister Manjinder Sirsa said the effort is part of the larger Environment Action Plan 2025, which aims to prepare Delhi for the winter season when air quality worsens.

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi has become the first state in India to receive final clearance from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) for conducting cloud seeding trials aimed at reducing pollution, according to officials in the Environment Department. Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa announced the development on Tuesday, calling it a "historic achievement" and a major step forward in Delhi's fight against air pollution. Cloud seeding has been spoken about for years but never implemented, Sirsa said.

The method involves dispersing hygroscopic particles like sodium chloride below the cloud layer to encourage rainfall and help wash out pollutants from the atmosphere. The trials, originally planned for early July, will now be held between August 30 and September 10, over areas

including Alipur, Bawana, Rohini, Burari, Pavi Sadakpur and the Kundli border.

"For ten years, it remained only on paper. We took it up, secured all approvals including from the DGCA, and now Delhi will finally witness cloud seeding," he said.

The aircraft to be used for the operation is a Cessna 206-H (VT-IIT), operated by the Department of Aerospace Engineering at IIT Kanpur. It is fully fitted with cloud seeding equipment and will be manned by a trained crew with prior experience in similar missions. Sirsa added that while the original window approved by the DGCA was July 4 to 11, experts from the India Meteorological Department and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, advised postponing the exercise. The experts cited that weather conditions



during that time were not ideal for cloud seeding.

Based on their recommendation, IIT Kanpur and the Delhi government requested a revised schedule, now approved for the end of August to early September, the minister explained.

The DGCA's permission comes with strict conditions. The flights must be conducted under Visual Flight Rules (VFR), with full

visibility of terrain at all times. Use of aerial photography or videography is banned during operations, and the aircraft must stay within approved airspace. Operators must also coordinate closely with Air Traffic Control, report any abnormal incidents, and ensure that all activities are properly documented.

Sirsa said the effort is part of the larger Environment Action Plan 2025, which aims to prepare Delhi for the winter season when air quality typically worsens. "These trials will give us critical data to fine-tune and scale up cloud seeding efforts later in the year. Our aim is to create a cleaner winter for Delhiites," he said. He also pointed out that Delhi is the only city where both the Supreme Court and the National Green Tribunal had to intervene due to the poor air quality. "That pressure was a result of inaction in the past.

Parents can benefit by looking at themselves as coaches who build life skills. In an extract from her book, a family therapist and psychologist prescribes a gentler approach.

We measure our worth according to how well the children fit into those dreams. If they fall short, we feel cheated, angry, depressed and wonder 'Why me?' We feel inadequate and, in our anxiety, react by cranking up our resentment towards our children. We become judgemental, critical and comparative. And, therefore, get stuck in a spiral of negativity. Before we know it, unhealthy patterns of a lifetime get carved out. A long time back I came across this book titled, Stop Parenting, Start Coaching and I really loved the title.It resonated so deeply with my belief that our role as parents is to help our children build life skills. Here are seven steps to highly effective coaching.

CLEAR GOAL

‘What is the one skill I want to nurture in my child which will help her become a more healthy, responsible, independent and happy human being?’ Depending on the age of the child, it could range from eating well, sleeping on her own, staying fit, doing less screen, being more organised, managing time better, being financially savvy, getting better grades, being more communicative, articulate, confident, happy, sociable, respectful, emotionally balanced, focused and so on and so forth. We would all like that in our children. It makes our work easier as parents and feels good to boot. However, just start with one or two skills. Make it very specific. Rather than making good habits a goal as it is too vague, be more specific and narrow it down to one or, maybe, two activities. For example, clear up the bathroom after using it or go and play in the park every day.

Rate it on a scale of 0 to 10 where 5 is in the middle

‘Where is my child right now in that skill?’

‘Where does he need to be?’

‘What is the one step he needs to take that will help him move one point up in that scale?’

‘What would I need to do to help him move one step further?’

These are extremely important questions as they help you clarify the goal and establish the next step forward, for you and for your child. For example, you want your child to get better grades. You might identify that on the scale he is at 3 where the goal is 8. I would always suggest that you stay away from making 10 as a goal as it will then make you seek perfection (which I think is a huge problem) and establish extremely high expectations (for a child who is at 3 right now). The next step that you might think would work in helping him move to 4 would be to make him sit down and study for an extra half hour every day. You might want to keep yourself free around that time so that you could provide him some level of 'scaffolding' till he is ready to sit and work on his own.

ASK INSTEAD OF TELLING

We are constantly telling children what they need to do and not ask them as much as is required what they would want to do. So, you could sit down with your child and ask, ‘Are you happy with your grades right now? Do you think you are putting in enough time? How can I help you in this?’ Make sure you ask without sounding sarcastic or angry.

DRAW UP A PLAN

For any change to happen you would have to get down and draw up a clear plan. So you might want to first make sure that your connect with your child is solid and strong.Then you might want to sit with him and ask him a few questions regarding how he feels about his grades. Initially, he might show a bit of his rebellious child (I hate studying, it is so boring); listen to him, empathise with it (I



7 effective ways to coach

Your Kids



know it can be a drag sometimes. I remember feeling like that), but bring him back to the issue (I can understand you find it boring but we still need to do it).After being listened to and understanding your point of view, he might agree that he needs to work on his grades too. That's when you need to gently work out a plan of action. Make sure you don't make it too overwhelming and remember he is at 3 and we just want him to move up to 4 and not 8. Work out when he could take out that hour for studying, where he would like to study, with whom, how, etc.

RHYTHMS AND ROUTINES

When we lived in England, I heard a very experienced nanny say once, ‘There is nothing like a bad child, there are just bad routines!’ It sounds a bit drastic but there is a lot of truth in that statement. I do believe that if children follow a clear routine then you have already won half the battle. Routines give a rhythm and flow to the day. If a child knows that after school she can relax for an hour followed by homework time at 4 p.m., playtime from 5 to 7 p.m. and then bath, dinner, reading in bed and

lights off at 9 p.m., then chances of her following it every day without much protest are higher. However, if there is no clear routine and the homework can be done anytime she chooses or dinner time changes every day, then she might push things around as she deems fit and everything might turn into a battle ground. It could vary during the holidays when you make it more flexible with timings that can be stretched a little like ‘get ready and finish breakfast by 10 a.m.’ or ‘finish homework before going to the park in the evening’. Teenagers can be given a choice in making their own time schedule with some basic expectations outlined by you. I would also like to point out that it is most important that as parents we also need to follow a routine before we start advocating it to our children. Do remember that children have very sensitive hypocrisy radars.

RECOGNITIONS

Recognitions are a very powerful tool in parenting. They are about acknowledging and celebrating the child in front of you. It is about building in the child a sense of

worthiness that is authentic and genuine. It is not about praising and making them feel good about themselves but about recognising and valuing every trait and skill that you want to nurture in them.The former makes them feel they have to please, perform and be perfect in order to get appreciation, whereas the latter builds a solid sense of ‘I am valued for who I am right now’. So let's see how recognitions can be used as a coaching tool too. Take an example of a child who is being trained to be more organised.

On a scale of 0 to 10, she is on 3 and needs to reach 6:

- Through active recognitions you could highlight the child every time you see her put her things in the proper place: ‘I see you have put the books in your school bag.’
 - By giving value recognitions you could focus on the skills you want to help build in your child: ‘I saw you put the toothbrush and toothpaste back in the mug. I see that your organisational muscles are becoming stronger.’
 - Proactive recognitions could be used to highlight the exceptions: ‘I did notice that rather than throwing the towel on the floor, you hung it back on the peg. I think the towel looks really happy!’
 - Finally, creative recognitions to showcase little opportunities for success. So, after baking a cake, both of you could clear up the kitchen together and you could tell others how your little one ‘was so helpful in cleaning up and putting everything back where it belonged’.
- Therefore, through recognitions, the child is able to see and build another side to her identity, which is just not ‘messy’, ‘disorganised’, ‘chaotic’ but also ‘organised’

and 'careful with her things'. We have to water the wholesome seeds rather than just the negativity seeds of lack, deficit and what's wrong.

EXTERNALISATION

However, you might want to address the 'problem' sometimes, but how can you do that without the child feeling attacked. In Narrative Therapy, we use an approach pioneered by the late Michael White called

Externalisation. Through this approach, we place the problem outside the child rather than within him and give it a name. So, for example, if the child is struggling with anger we might call the problem Anger and talk to the child as if the Anger was separate from him. So the questions statements might go as, ‘Did you see how Anger was controlling you yesterday?’ (It is best to do this when the child is calm and more receptive.) I think Anger is really troubling you nowadays in the evening.’ ‘Can you make out when Anger is coming close?’ It might seem a little bizarre but children take to this slight change in language and approach very well. Personifying feelings, difficulties, imaginations and fantasies come very easily to them.

Do remember you have to be consistent in this approach otherwise you might end up confusing the child.If you feel unsure about it or after trying it you feel it does not work, just drop it. It needs practice and a way of thinking (the problem is the problem, the child is not the problem) that does not come easily to most of us. The best part of externalisation is that it can be tried with so many issues -anger, tantrums, crankiness, bed-wetting, soiling, laziness, procrastination, etc. I remember when my daughter was little she was going through a phase when she would become a little whiny at times when she was tired or hungry.

We would playfully call that mood ‘Chimpu’ and there was much talk about how ‘Chimpu’ was troubling Anya and what we needed to do to make it run away and leave Anya alone. This was a sure way to get her giggling and in her usual bubbly, happy mood soon.

Things you should never say to a mom with a colicky baby

- Have you tried... (insert cliché parenting advice)? You mean I'm supposed to feed him when he's hungry?!? Come on, people. We're tired, but we're not that tired!
- I only got six hours of sleep. Really? I can't remember the last time I slept more than an hour straight. Six hours of sleep sounds like a luxurious vacation.
- Did you see the latest episode last night?

The only thing we use our television for anymore is watching videos of Liza Minnelli on repeat, because it's the only thing that keeps the baby quiet.

- Are you feeling okay?

If you ever ask this question of a new



mother, you should probably run and hope she's too exhausted and anemic to catch you.

- When is the last time you showered? I'm pretty sure it was a Tuesday, but what month?

- Cherish these times, they're only young once.

If you have never had the privilege of spending an extended amount of time with a colicky baby, then here's some help — never after these lines to mums of such infants!

Would you like to babysit?

- Tried cutting gluten?

I'm pretty sure those are the only things keeping me sane. Don't take away my

cookies.

- My kids never cried like that. No? But you might if you ever say that again!

- Thank God those days are behind me. I'm not sure you've rubbed enough salt in my wound. Here's some

lemon juice.

- Why don't you post more photos online? Because who doesn't love babies with puffy eyes, red, blotchy faces, and snot bubbles oozing out of their noses?

- Weird, he never cries when I'm watching him. Then he's all yours'

What are you buying your pet this Puja?

Maa Durga and her beloved pet lion are all set to pay us their mandatory annual visit. Soon, the sounds of dhaks and cymbals will fill the air and we'll pull out our brand new clothes and accessories to accessories to dress up for our reunion with the goddess.

But have we forgotten someone here, like those furry lit tle bundles of love who welcome us with excited barks or purrs every time we return home? Not really, says Subhajit Saha, owner of Pet Palace. "Earlier, people would only buy clothes for their pets, but now they've become a little more thoughtful. Fancy steel bowls, chew toys, combs, flyer disks, slicker brush, colourful leases and collars are among the bestselling gift items this season. The sale goes up during the Pujas and it's heartening to see that people are buying new stuff for their pets in the festive season," he says. From clothes like smart jackets and dainty frocks to accessories like cosy beds, colourful bows, pet owners in the city have been smitten by this adorable new trend.

They are thronging pet stores to buy their furry friends a whole new wardrobe for Puja. Shaswati Basu, who works with a travel and tourism company , is busy shopping for



herself and her precious spitz, Diamond. "I've bought satin ribbons of various colours for Diamond as well as a new belt so that he feels fancy . I will dress him up in ribbons of different hues on each of the four days of Puja. I want him to look his best. I've also bought special treats for him," she says. Professional contemporary dancer Dipshikha

Ghosh has also been busy shopping for her babies -Stuart, a two-and-half-year-old spitz and Scooby , a four-month-old golden retriever. "I have a 12-year-old son and when I went out to shop for him, I couldn't stop myself from shopping for my fur babies too. So, I got them collars and am also planning to buy them quirky T-shirts and toys for Puja. Pets are like our own children and they should not be dispossessed of gifts during the festive season and I'm really looking forward to take them out during the festival in their new collars and tees," she says. Snehasish Sawoo, owner of the pet store, Zoo o Pet, feels, unlike last year, there has been a steep rise in pet shopping this season. "Earlier, there was demand for new collars and bowls, but this season, there has been a considerable rise in the sale of other accessories. I have had customers coming in to order dog bags, T-shirts and shoes. Some have even ordered customized shoes for their cats," he says.

Don't ignore your EPF: Here's why checking it regularly matters

New Delhi. Many salaried employees do not check their Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) accounts for years, often thinking it will quietly grow in the background until retirement.Would you leave your bank account unchecked for years, so why do it with your EPF?

Think of your EPF account as your financial time capsule, slowly growing in the background while you hustle through the 9-to-5 grind. But what if one day you pop it open and find a big chunk missing? Or worse, no updates for years?Experts warn that many salaried employees don't realise until it's too late that their employer hasn't been depositing funds, or that a simple KYC error has locked their money away. And by then, the damage is already done, to both your money and your peace of mind.Abhishek Kumar, Sebi Registered Investment Adviser and Founder at SahajMoney.com, said it is important for employees to keep an eye on their EPF accounts. "It helps in keeping one updated on their retirement savings growth and interest accrual," he said.

One major reason to check your EPF regularly is to ensure that your employer is depositing the money properly. In some cases, employers deduct the EPF amount from the salary but fail to deposit it with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO). "Checking the EPFO balance helps in identifying such issues early on," Abhishek explained.There are several other problems people face when they do not track their EPF accounts for a long time. "Common issues include missing or delayed employer contributions, outdated KYC information, and technical errors that can make funds inaccessible or cause withdrawal delays," he said.Incorrect or missing deposits also hurt your savings in the long term. Over time, this could result in a smaller retirement fund than expected. "Missing or incorrect deposits reduce one's retirement corpus and the compounding interest they earn over time. This can significantly impact their financial security after retirement and limit their access to EPF benefits," Abhishek added.

Stock market holidays July 2025: Here's what traders should know

New Delhi. Before you plan your trades, book profits, or sneak in a quick holiday, one common question pops up for every investor: Is the stock market shut today?

For the month of July 2025, there's good news for active traders and investors. Both the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and National Stock Exchange (NSE) will stay open all weekdays throughout July. There are no special trading holidays lined up for this month.However, as usual, the markets will be closed on Saturdays and Sundays. So, in total, trading will be paused for eight days in July, four Saturdays and four Sundays.

NEXT MARKET HOLIDAY IN AUGUST

According to the trading holiday list released by the NSE, the next official market holiday will fall on August 15, 2025, when the country celebrates Independence Day. After that, trading will also take a break on August 27 for Ganesh Chaturthi.

OTHER KEY HOLIDAYS IN 2025

Looking further ahead, the stock exchanges will remain closed on other key dates in 2025, including Mahatma Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, Diwali Laxmi Puja on October 21, Balipratipada on October 22, and Prakash Gurburb Sri Guru Nanak Dev on November 5.The final market holiday of the year will be Christmas on December 25.

So, if you're planning any trades this July, you can do so freely on weekdays. Just keep an eye on the weekends, the market will take its usual break then.

Ola, Uber get government okay for surge pricing, can charge double the base fare

New Delhi. Cab aggregators will now be permitted to charge up to twice the base fare during peak traffic hours, as per the Motor Vehicles Aggregator Guidelines (MVAG) 2025 issued by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on July 1. Until now, the upper limit on surge pricing was capped at 1.5 times the base fare.States have been advised to implement the updated guidelines within the next three months. The revised fare structure is aimed at giving platforms flexibility during high-demand periods, while maintaining an overall regulatory framework for pricing and operationsThe MVAG 2025 also addresses a longstanding regulatory gap by allowing the use of non-transport (private) motorcycles for passenger journeys via aggregators, subject to state government approval. According to the guidelines, "The state government may allow aggregation of non-transport motorcycles for journey by passengers as shared mobility through aggregators," with the objective of reducing traffic congestion, lowering vehicular pollution, and improving access to affordable mobility and hyperlocal delivery.States will have the authority to levy daily, weekly, or fortnightly fees on aggregators for the use of such motorcycles under Clause 23 of the guidelines.Bike taxi operators like Rapido and Uber, who have operated in a regulatory grey zone in several states—including Karnataka, where a recent ban led to protests—have welcomed the move. Rapido called the clause a "milestone in India's journey towards a Viksit Bharat," saying the change would help improve last-mile connectivity and expand affordable transport in underserved areas.Uber also lauded the revised guidelines as a step toward innovation and regulatory clarity."Timely adoption by states will be key to ensuring uniform implementation and building much-needed predictability for all stakeholders. We commend the ministry for its consultative and balanced approach," a company spokesperson said.The MVAG 2025 guidelines replace the 2020 version and reflect changes in India's shared mobility landscape, including increased demand for bike taxis, e-rickshaws, electric vehicles, and flexible pricing models.

Ghee, soap and snacks to get cheaper Big GST cut likely, say sources

Sources say the government is weighing a major rejig of GST slabs that could bring down the tax burden on everyday essentials.

New Delhi. In what could bring major relief to middle- and lower-income households, the central government is seriously considering a restructuring of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) slabs, sources told India Today. A key proposal under discussion is to either reduce the GST on certain essential items from 12% to 5% or to eliminate the 12% slab altogether.

According to sources, most of the items currently attracting 12% GST are goods commonly used in everyday life by



ordinary citizens. These include products that feature heavily in the consumption patterns of middle-class and economically weaker households.The

plan under consideration involves reclassifying these items into the lower 5% tax bracket, effectively making them cheaper for end consumers. Alternatively,

the government may choose to scrap the 12% slab entirely and reallocate items into existing lower or higher slabs.A final decision is likely to be taken at the upcoming 56th meeting of the GST Council. As per protocol, a 15-day notice is required before convening a Council meeting, but sources indicate that the session could take place later this month.

The move is expected to be politically significant, especially in a pre-election year, and could help ease inflationary pressure on essential goods consumed by a large section of the population.

The GST Council, chaired by the Union Finance Minister and comprising state finance ministers, holds the authority to recommend changes in tax rates.

If the proposal goes through, it would mark one of the most significant overhauls of GST rates since the indirect tax system was rolled out in 2017.

57% of Indians call skills critical, but relevant frameworks still lag: Report

New Delhi. Across Asia Pacific, a quiet shift is underway inside boardrooms and HR departments. As technology changes fast and the world grows unpredictable, companies are realising that skills, not just experience, hold the key to staying ahead.Aon's latest APAC Skills Impact Survey shows that a huge number of organisations are putting skills at the heart of their people strategy. But are they truly ready?According to the survey, in India's buzzing job market, one thing is clear, skills are now more than just a buzzword. As companies race to attract, grow and keep good people, skills are stepping into the spotlight. But while India's workforce is huge and tech-ready, the country still has work to do to fully catch up with its APAC neighbours.

TOP TALENT PRIORITIES FOR INDIA

Aon's 2025 APAC Skills Impact Survey reveals what really matters for Indian firms today. For the next two to three years, their main priorities are

attracting and keeping top talent, building a strong bench of future leaders, and making the workforce agile and resilient in the face of



change.These are not small goals, but Indian companies are waking up to the power of skills to get there. 61% of Indian organisations focusing on these priorities have adopted skills-driven measures.

SKILLS ARE VALUED, BUT IS INDIA USING THEM FULLY?

57% of Indian respondents say skills are vital for business success, followed by 50% in China, 62% in Australia, and 67% in Malaysia. Yet India still trails

Australia and Malaysia in building mature skills frameworks.Australia leads the region, with nearly 70% seeing progress towards advanced skills programmes, while about 13% of Malaysian organisations have reached high maturity.Despite advances in tech and AI, India and China are not ahead in skills maturity, maybe because abundant talent supply dampens the drive to invest heavily in skills development.

HOW INDIA CAN STAY AHEAD

Aon's report shows that while many firms have started building skills frameworks, few have a comprehensive organisation-wide plan. Most frameworks remain focused on specific departments or job families like technology, data, or risk and compliance.Despite much talk about skills-based pay, only a few organisations have put it into practice, revealing a big opportunity to strengthen skills-based performance and pay programmes across APAC, the survey mentioned.

SBI classifies Reliance Communications loan account as 'fraud'

New Delhi Reliance Communications on Tuesday said that the State Bank of India (SBI) has classified its loan account as "fraud" and plans to report the company and its former director, Anil Ambani, to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).In a stock exchange filing, the company stated that SBI has taken the decision in connection with credit facilities dating back to August 2016. Reliance Communications is currently undergoing insolvency proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) and has a resolution plan awaiting final approval by the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT).According to a report by CNBC-TV18, SBI had sent show-cause notices to the company in December 2023, March 2024, and September 2024.After reviewing the company's responses, the bank concluded that Reliance Communications failed to adequately explain non-compliance with the terms

and conditions of its loans and the irregularities in the conduct of its accounts.SBI's Fraud Identification Committee subsequently resolved to classify the account as fraud and initiate the process of informing the



RBI, including naming Anil Ambani in accordance with regulatory requirements to report key managerial personnel associated with such accounts.In its response, Reliance Communications said the loans

referenced by SBI pertain to the period prior to the initiation of its Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (CIRP) in 2019.The company argued that under Section 32A of the IBC, once the resolution plan is approved, it is to be granted immunity from liabilities relating to offences committed before CIRP began."These facilities are necessarily required to be resolved under the resolution plan or liquidation, and the company is currently protected from proceedings under IBC," Reliance Communications said, adding that it is seeking legal advice on the matter.This is not the first time a bank has flagged Reliance Communications' account. In November 2024, Canara Bank also classified the account as fraud, but the Bombay High Court stayed that decision in February 2025, citing a failure to follow RBI guidelines on giving the borrower a hearing.



Intraday trading is treated as speculative business income. It is taxed at the individual's slab rate, and any losses can be adjusted only against speculative gains. If not utilised, such losses can be carried forward for four years.Futures and options are considered non-speculative business income under Section 43(5). These are also taxed at slab rates, but the losses can be set off against a wider range of incomes except salary, and carried forward for up to eight years.

Short-term capital gains, such as those from selling equities within a year, fall under Section 111A. These gains are taxed at a flat rate of 20 percent. While losses in this category can be adjusted against both short- and long-term capital gains, they do not qualify for basic income exemptions.

Long-term capital gains from listed equities are covered under Section 112A.

HDB Financial lists at 13% premium: Should you book profit or hold

HDB Financial share price: The stock opened at Rs 835 on both the NSE and BSE, compared to its IPO price of Rs 740 per share. This was better than what the grey market had expected, which had estimated a gain of around 8% to 10% on listing day.

New Delhi. HDB Financial Services made a strong debut on the stock market on Wednesday, July 2, listing at a premium of nearly 13% over its issue price.The stock opened at Rs 835 on both the NSE and BSE, compared to its IPO price of Rs 740 per share. This was better than what the grey market had expected, which had estimated a gain of around 8% to 10% on listing day.The company, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, had launched a Rs 12,500 crore IPO. This included a fresh issue of Rs 2,500 crore and an offer-for-sale (OFS) of Rs 10,000 crore. The IPO saw strong interest from all categories of



investors and closed on June 27 with an overall subscription of 17.65 times. The biggest interest came from qualified institutional buyers (QIBs), who subscribed their portion 31.73 times.After listing, the total market capitalisation of HDB Financial stood at around Rs 69,268.82 crore. This listing has drawn attention from investors who are now wondering whether to book profits or

hold the stock for long-term gains.Prashanth Tapse, Research Analyst at Mehta Equities Ltd, said that the good response to the IPO shows confidence in the company's business model and strong backing from the HDFC Group.

"The robust response signals market confidence in HDB's business model, parentage (as an HDFC group company), and long-term growth potential in the

NBFC space," said Tapse.Brokerage Emkay Global has also taken a positive view on HDB Financial. It initiated coverage on the company and gave a 'buy' rating with a target price of Rs 900 per share.This target price reflects a 22% upside from the IPO's upper price band of Rs 740. Emkay's positive outlook is based on the company's large customer base of over 1.9 crore people, diversified loan book, and wide branch network. It also noted that only 0.34% of its assets under management come from its top 20 accounts, which shows how granular its lending is.The brokerage said HDB Financial is well-diversified both in terms of geography and products, and it has been built from the ground up, having managed through difficult credit cycles including Covid. This strong foundation, combined with its reach and scale, makes it one of the key NBFCs to watch in the market.HDB Financial offers a range of lending services such as enterprise loans, consumer loans and asset financing. The company has a strong presence across the country with 1,771 branches and a workforce of more than 60,000 people.

Adah Sharma

Suffers Serious Nose Injury While Shooting Upcoming Action Thriller

Adah Sharma is known for giving her all to her roles, and her next action film is no different. While preparing for the intense action scenes, the actress ended up hurting herself during a late-night stunt rehearsal. A source revealed that she broke her nose while training with nunchucks for her upcoming thriller. But Adah, being the trooper she is, didn't let the injury stop her. Speaking about it, she told IANS, "Pain is temporary. Cinema is forever. Now I really look like an action heroine. The night I got hurt I was shooting for a romantic concept music video the next day so between the romance I was sitting with an ice pack for the swelling and we used loads of makeup to cover it."

Though not much has been shared about the film yet, insiders say Adah will be doing some never-seen-before action in it. This film is expected to go beyond what she did in Commando 2 and 3.

Besides the action thriller, Adah is also busy with other projects. She'll be playing a Devi in a trilingual film directed by BM Giriraj and is returning with Reeta Sanyal Season 2. There's also talk of her signing a big horror film where she will play the lead. Talking about her work, Adah shared, "I am very fortunate to be getting the opportunity to play such amazing roles and work with such talented filmmakers. Stories like 'The Kerala Story' or fictional ones like Reeta Sanyal, I will do my best to make it as realistic as possible. I'm very lucky that creative filmmakers are offering me such varied roles."

Adah Sharma is an Indian actress known for her work in both Hindi and Telugu films. She began her acting journey after completing school and made a strong debut with the 2008 horror film 1920, where she played the role of a possessed woman. The film was a hit, and her performance earned her a nomination for the Filmfare Award for Best Female Debut.

After gaining attention in Bollywood, especially with the romantic comedy Hasee Toh Phasee in 2014, Adah stepped into South Indian cinema. She played the lead in the Telugu film Heart Attack the same year and continued her success with roles in S/O Satyamurthy (2015) and Kshanam (2016). In 2023, she took on one of her most talked-about roles as the lead in The Kerala Story.



Neha Dhupia Has A Cute Nickname For Birthday Girl Rhea Chakraborty



Bollywood actresses Neha Dhupia and Rhea Chakraborty share a strong bond. Although both have been recently involved in a series of confrontations, arguments and disagreements on the MTV reality show Roadies Double Cross, their friendship didn't take the back seat amid these tensions. On July 1 as Rhea turned a year older, Neha made a cutesy post to mark her special day. Taking to her Instagram stories, Neha Dhupia shared a photo of Rhea Chakraborty reportedly from the sets of their recent project together. Dressed in a brown-hued co-ord set, the Jalebi actress looked gorgeous. Sharing the photo, the Chup Chup Ke star captioned it as "Happy birthday Dolly @rhea_chakraborty ... this is you for me always... love love love."

The 33-year-old was also seen carrying Neha Dhupia and Angad Bedi's son Gurigh in her arms while flashing her brightest smile. The baby boy looked adorable in a red attire teamed with tiny teeny sneakers. Talking about the same, the doting mommy mentioned, "Also baby G is eating extra cake today to celebrate."

Earlier, highlighting the bonds she made on the show, Neha dropped a video on Instagram. It featured heartfelt moments of the veteran star posing with others right from the sets of the show. Alongside this, she penned an emotional note that can be read as "Until we meet again... Bye for now. Here's to the best ones @rannvijaysingha @princenarula @elvish_yadav @rhea_chakraborty @welcometogauthamcity @mtvroadies." Soon reacting to this, Rhea mentioned, "Will miss this journey," further cementing her love and dedication to her co-workers.

On the MTV reality show, Roadies XX, both Neha and Rhea were amongst the gang leaders. They have showcased their strategic gameplay during the intense tasks, amid several instances of fights with words. Throughout the season, their fans were also found divided supporting their respective leadership styles and gameplay.

Game Changer Producer Opens Up On Ram Charan Starrer's Failure: 'Thought Our Lives Were Over'



Game Changer flopped at the box office, deeply impacting producer Shirish, but he now plans a new film with Ram Charan, aiming to deliver a big hit.

Ram Charan and Kiara Advani's Game Changer was one of the most anticipated projects, but the film's fate left the entire movie industry in a state of shock. In a recent interaction, the film's producer, Shirish, who is also Dil Raju's brother, opened up about the big-budget movie's box office failure, its aftermath, and the impact it had on them.

In an interview with Great Andhra, Shirish spoke about the uncertainty that people in the showbiz industry live with. While discussing films like Sankranthiki Vasthunam and Game Changer, which were released just days apart, he shared, "Everyone knows how risky the cinema business is. For example, look at Sankranthiki Vasthunam and Game Changer. With Game Changer, we thought our lives were over. We got hope from Sankranthiki Vasthunam. Our lives changed within four days. If we didn't have that, think of our situation now."

He further opened up about how no one reached out to them after the debacle of the high-budget movie. "When Game Changer flopped, did the hero come and help us? Did the director come and help us? No one even asked us how we were doing, even out of courtesy. I am not blaming anyone, because we made the film out of our own wish, and we faced the losses. We have not come down to the stage of asking back remuneration," he said.

While Game Changer met an ill fate and left them with regret over not delivering a blockbuster with Ram Charan, Shirish is now planning a new film with the actor. He stated, "We had a setback this year with Game Changer, and we feel guilty about not making a superhit with Ram Charan. We are trying to make a hit film with him now. I will hopefully announce it soon."

Game Changer was the biggest box office failure of the year. According to Sacnilk.com, the film grossed Rs 131.1 crore in India and approximately ₹186.2 crore globally.

Meanwhile, Ram Charan is set to star in director Buchi Babu Sana's upcoming film, tentatively titled RC16, alongside Janhvi Kapoor. Kiara Advani, on the other hand, will appear in War 2, alongside Hrithik Roshan and JrNTR.

Kareena Kapoor

On Saif Ali Khan's Stabbing: 'I Was Anxious For A Few Months'



Kareena Kapoor Khan faced brutal social media trolling and targeting after an intruder attacked her husband, Saif Ali Khan, at his apartment in January this year. Questions were asked about the actress' whereabouts during the time of the incident, while others raised concerns about the intensity and authenticity of the attack on the actor. Despite all the comments, Bebo decided not to react to them in the public domain. Now, months after Saif returned from the Hospital, Kareena, during an interview, recalled the tragic event and expressed her disappointment with some of the vicious remarks made about her and her family during that difficult time, particularly about where she was after Saif was attacked.

Kareena questioned the media coverage of Saif's attack and expressed concerns about the type of content the audience is ingesting and receiving. Speaking to Barkha Dutt, she said, "It was utter garbage. I don't want to be angry since it's a negative emotion, but I'm saddened by what humanity has come to. Is this the type of consumption that people actually want? Is this what we are going to give them? Are you going to praise other people's grief?" "That is what makes me sad. Is this the digital age we are talking about? Because humanity is so much more than simply consumption," Kareena added.

Furthermore, the Laal Singh Chaddha actress shared that the incident shook her to the core, and she became very anxious.

"I'm still trying to figure out what it feels like to have someone in your child's room. We have still not come to terms 100 per cent. At least I haven't. I was quite anxious for the first few months. It was really tough to sleep and return to the person with that level of normalcy," she said. Saif was attacked by an intruder who attempted to rob the house earlier in January this year. The intruder had gained access to Kareena's youngest son, Jeh Ali Khan's room. Later on, a house staff pressed the alarm after which Saif rushed in and stopped him, but got stabbed in the scuffle. He was later taken to the hospital by autorickshaw along with Taimur and underwent two surgeries. A 2.5-inch knife was recovered from his spine.



NEWS BOX

Indian-origin players abroad may now represent India under new National Sports Policy

Players of Indian origin living abroad will be encouraged to play for the country, according to the newly-unveiled National Sports Policy, also referred to as the Khelo Bharat Niti, signalling a departure from the government’s earlier stance that only Indian passport holders can represent the country. The ban on Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card holders from representing the country in 2008 has affected India’s growth in sports such as football and tennis.

However, the 20-page Khelo Bharat Niti document stated that India will seek Peace and International Cooperation Activities through Sports so that "Sports can serve as a powerful tool for international diplomacy and cooperation.""Wherever feasible, promising and prominent Indian-origin athletes living abroad may be encouraged to come back and play for India at the international level," it states."Together, these efforts can transform sport into a dynamic tool of cultural diplomacy and nation-building, strengthening the global Indian identity."Currently, only Indian passport holders are allowed to compete for



the nation.However, the ministry has been mulling revocation of that ban to ensure that “India’s sporting ecosystem can be strengthened”.According to the new policy, India will promote international sports exchange programmes "to allow knowledge sharing, capacity building and collaborative development efforts"."Sports can serve as a powerful bridge between the Indian diaspora and India, fostering enduring emotional, cultural and social connections. To strengthen this bond, dedicated sporting events and leagues can be organized specifically for and among the Indian diaspora."

FOOTBALL KEEN ON OCIs

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has been particularly keen on allowing OCIs, even though there are no major names who can be considered for India even if the ban is revoked.In tennis, Prakash Amritraj — son of the legendary Vijay Amritraj — was one of several prominent US passport holders affected by the ban on OCI card holders.

No more Mr Nice Guy: Shubman Gill needs to show his ruthless self in Birmingham

New Delhi. We all know what Shubman Gill brings to the table as a batter. But now, as captain, he must shed the ‘poster boy’ tag and step into the role of a predator — leading the pack as India look to level the series in the second Test at Birmingham.Simply put, India’s chances hinge on how well Gill can enforce his vision, showcase his tactical mindset, and offer a glimpse of what’s to come in his captaincy tenure.India had their moments in the first Test. They started strongly, posting three centuries in the first innings. Rishabh Pant dazzled in the second innings alongside KL Rahul. But ultimately,



it was the bowling unit that fell short — owing to dropped catches, unimaginative plans, and a general lack of execution.

Leeds leadership lessons

India’s defeat in the first Test wasn’t just about missed chances on the field. It was a case of muddled planning and a lack of tactical clarity. Yes, those dropped catches could have altered the game’s course. But with the bowling attack India had, more could — and should — have been done.Take, for example, Prasidh Krishna and Mohammed Siraj persistently using hit-the-deck deliveries on a pitch that offered swing. After repeated failure, it was the captain’s responsibility to step in and change the approach. But that didn’t happen.Captaincy is not just about handing out instructions — it’s about being involved. Gill must ensure that the bowlers buy into the collective vision, rather than relying on spurts of individual brilliance. He must quickly learn to walk that fine line.

Controlled aggression, bring out the aura

Gill shouldn’t hesitate to crack the whip when needed. It’s about making the right calls, and if that means showing aggression, so be it. We’ve seen flashes of that side of him, notably during the IPL when he reacted with visible frustration after his dismissal against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Ishan Kishan's iconic 200: The moment Shikhar Dhawan knew his India career was over

- ➡**Shikhar Dhawan was amongst India's iconic opening batters**
- ➡**He has a strong record for India in ICC tournaments**
- ➡**Ishan Kishan's 200 in ODIs helped him realise it was time to step aside**



New Delhi. Shikhar Dhawan’s international career came to an abrupt end. Once a vital part of India’s limited-overs setup, the flamboyant left-hander did not receive the fitting farewell that his contributions arguably deserved.

Dhawan played a significant role in India’s white-ball success, most notably during the ICC Champions Trophy in 2013, where he finished as the top run-scorer with 363 runs in five matches at an average of 90.75. He also maintained a strong record in ICC tournaments, averaging 53.70 in ODI World Cups. His consistent performances were

crucial in keeping India amongst the title contenders in global events after their 2011 World Cup triumph, even though they were unable to add another trophy to the cabinet.However, time eventually caught up with him, as it does with all athletes. The Indian team began shifting its focus towards the future, giving opportunities to younger players who had delivered standout performances in the Indian Premier League.The game itself was also evolving, with greater emphasis on power-hitting and clearing the ropes with ease. Dhawan,

known more for his timing and fluency, did not quite fit into the new approach. Instead, Ishan Kishan, a fearless young batter from Jharkhand, entered the frame and made headlines with his record-breaking double century against Bangladesh, becoming the youngest to achieve the feat in ODIs. That record was later surpassed by Shubman Gill, who scored 208 against New Zealand in 2023.At that point, Dhawan realised that his time in the Indian jersey was likely over."I was scoring lots of 50s, I didn't score a 100, but I scored lots of 70s. When Ishan Kishan

scored that 200, my instinct told me, alright boy, this can be the end of your career. An inner voice came to me. And that's what happened. Then I remember my friends came over to, you know, give me that emotional support. They thought that I would be very down. But I was chilling, I was enjoying." Dhawan said in an interview with Hindustan Times.What made the moment even tougher was that, apart from head coach Rahul Dravid, no one from the team reached out to him. Dhawan, however, said he did not take it personally and that such things were normal in professional sport."No, it doesn't happen that way," he said."Maybe I spoke to Rahul (Dravid) Bhai. He messaged me. Everyone has their own journey, and they are doing work or they are on tours, that's something very normal. We are used to it from the age of under 14, this is not the first time I am getting dropped or getting in," he added.Despite the quiet exit, Dhawan continues to be fondly remembered for his iconic performances. His energy, flair and ability to rise to the occasion made him a fan favourite and a key figure in one of the most formidable white-ball batting units India has produced.

Wimbledon Day 3 schedule: Alcaraz, Raducanu in 2nd round, Bopanna begins campaign

London. Defending champion Carlos Alcaraz and World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka will be in action in the second round of singles at Wimbledon 2025 on Wednesday, 2 July. British No. 1 Emma Raducanu faces a stern test as she plays on Centre Court, following her close friend Alcaraz’s match.There is palpable excitement in the early rounds, as Wimbledon 2025 has already proven brutal for seeded players. As many as 13 of the 32 seeded men’s singles players bowed out in the opening round. The casualties include World No. 3 Alexander Zverev, former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev, and Lorenzo Musetti in the men’s singles, while French Open champion Coco Gauff and third seed Jessica Pegula were shown the door in the women’s singles first round.The big names will be eager to sharpen their focus, with tougher challenges looming in the coming days.Alcaraz will not take his second-round opponent, 21-year-old British qualifier Oliver Tarvet, lightly. The Spaniard, who is aiming for a hat-trick of titles at SW19, survived a massive scare in the opening round against veteran Fabio Fognini.

Meanwhile, Sabalenka, who cruised through her first-round match, will take on lower-ranked Marie Bouzkova. She is scheduled to open



proceedings on Centre Court on Wednesday.

The final match on Centre Court will feature Raducanu against 2023 champion Marketa Vondrousova. Raducanu has shown signs of stronger form in 2025, but she faces a serious challenge against Vondrousova, who recently won the Hylo Open WTA 500 tournament. The Czech star has beaten Raducanu in two of their last three meetings, including a hard-court match earlier this year.Elsewhere, 12th seed Frances Tiafoe will kick off play on Court 1 against local favourite Cameron Norrie, in what promises to be a closely contested battle. Naomi Osaka will also be in action on Court 2. She is set to face World No. 81 Katerina Siniaikova, fresh off a stunning upset of 5th seed Qinwen Zheng.

Wimbledon: How Roland Garros success overwhelmed Coco Gauff to Yastremska loss

- ➡**Gauff suffered shock first-round exit at Wimbledon 2025**
- ➡**Yastremska stunned No.2 seed Gauff in straight sets**
- ➡**Grass-court transition overwhelmed Coco after French Open win**

New Delhi. World No. 2 Coco Gauff made a shock exit from Wimbledon 2025, falling in straight sets to Ukraine’s Dayana Yastremska in the first round. The American, fresh off her triumph at Roland Garros, struggled to find her rhythm on grass, losing 7-6 (7-3), 6-1 in just over an hour. It was a disappointing outing for the 20-year-old, who is yet to make it past the fourth round at the All England Club.Just three weeks after lifting her maiden French Open title, Gauff confessed that the whirlwind of winning in Paris, the lack of celebration, and the abrupt transition to grass left her overwhelmed and underprepared. She admitted that the



time to celebrate and also get back into it...It’s the first time I’ve come off a win and had to play at Wimbledon...I definitely learned a lot about what I would and wouldn’t do again,” Gauff said during the post-match press conference.The American also reflected on her scheduling and questioned whether she should have skipped Berlin — a grass-court warm-up — and spent more time training instead.I only practiced two days. I don’t usually like to play the week before, but it’s a quick

Part Saina, part Sindhu, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma sets sights on Olympic glory

New Delhi. She is made out of the best parts of Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu," chuckled Tanvi Sharma's coach, Park Tae-Sang, after his disciple's silver-medal finish at the recently concluded US Open 2025. Park, who guided PV Sindhu to bronze at the Tokyo Olympics and gold at the Commonwealth Games, was immensely proud of his young protge's performance in the Super 300 tournament.When praise of that magnitude comes from such a seasoned coach, you sit up and take notice.

"Actually, with Tanvi, I wanted to combine both Indian legends. When she is on court, she is like Saina Nehwal – she is tricky. She’s also like PV Sindhu – she plays with aggression and is top level globally. So, I wanted Tanvi to learn the good points from both players." Park told IndiaToday.in.The coach's high praise came after the 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma went on a rampage in the



recently concluded tournament. The unseeded Indian shuttler, known mainly for her exploits in junior badminton categories, gunned down several top stars in the senior circuit to reach the final of the tournament.

An aggressive Tanvi caught her opponents off guard in almost every single match and reached the final of the tournament without losing a single game. Tanvi became one half of India's incredible success story at the US Open where 20-year-old Ayush Shetty

caused major upsets in men's singles, helping India win its maiden badminton competition in 2025.Tanvi's tournament was bittersweet. She herself admitted after the match that nervousness got the better of her in the final of the tournament. Facing World No. 18 Beiwen Zhang, Tanvi lost 11-21, 21-16, 10-21.Hours after her final, when the adrenaline rush had passed, Tanvi reflected on her game and told this masthead that she should have minimised her unforced errors.

"There were a lot of unforced errors, and I need to work on them and also on my endurance," Tanvi said.But the loss in a Super 300 final does not take away from what she had achieved in the last week. Coming from a modest family in Hoshiarpur, Punjab, Tanvi's goal this year was to graduate from junior competitions to playing the final of a major senior tournament.

Sanju Samson to CSK RR might want Jadeja or Ashwin in return, says ex-opener

- ➡**As many as six Rajasthan Royals players receieve trade interest**
- ➡**CSK have reportedly approached Rajasthan for Sanju Samson**
- ➡**Samson has been Rajasthan Royals’ key player since 2018**

New Delhi Former India opener Aakash Chopra has acknowledged media reports suggesting that Sanju Samson has attracted trade interest from multiple Indian Premier League franchises — most notably Chennai Super Kings — ahead of the IPL 2026 season.Chopra, who is now a celebrated cricket pundit, said he would be keen to see how Rajasthan Royals respond to such offers, particularly if discussions with CSK materialise. He noted that Rajasthan may seek a high-profile player like Ravindra Jadeja in exchange.According to PTI, as many as six Rajasthan Royals players have drawn interest from rival franchises during the early stages of the trading window, which opened on 4 June — a day after the 2025 IPL final — and will remain open until a week before the 2026 players’ auction. Following the auction, the trading window will reopen and close again exactly one month prior to the start of the new season.Will this trade happen? CSK have expressed interest, but they haven’t reached the stage of talks where potential trade



names have been discussed. Rajasthan may want either Ashwin or Jadeja in return. It’s well within their rights to ask, if the trade ever progresses that far," Chopra said on his YouTube show.Samson has been the face of the Royals since rejoining the franchise in 2018 after a two-season stint with Delhi Capitals. Rajasthan made him their first-choice retention, paying Rs 18 crore to keep him ahead of the mega auction last year.However, the team now finds itself with a wealth of batting options.

Dhruv Jurel, a reliable wicketkeeper-batter, has impressed at the international level, while 14-year-old sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi emerged as a breakout performer in IPL 2025. In the latter stages of the season, Vaibhav opened the batting with Yashasvi Jaiswal, with Samson moving to the middle order.With Samson now settling into the opener’s role in the Indian national team, a potential move to CSK raises intriguing possibilities.

SAMSON BEST OPTION FOR CSK?

Amid the speculation, Chopra noted that Samson could be a natural successor to MS Dhoni as a wicketkeeper-batter at Chennai Super Kings — a franchise in search of a long-term replacement for their iconic captain.CSK, who finished bottom of the table in IPL 2025, had signed Urvil Patel — an uncapped wicketkeeper-batter from Gujarat — as a replacement player. Though he impressed alongside youngsters Ayush Mhatre and Dewald Brevis in the latter half of the season, questions remain over his readiness to fill Dhoni’s shoes.