

# "Moment Of Pride": Amit Shah After Maratha Military Landscapes Get UNESCO Tag

**The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India's 44th property to receive this recognition.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Union Home Minister Amit Shah expressed happiness after the "Maratha Military Landscapes of India" earned the UNESCO World Heritage status, saying that it is a moment of immense pride for all countrymen.

In a post on X, Amit Shah said, "It is a moment of immense pride for all countrymen that UNESCO has included 12 forts associated with the life of Maharajadhiraj Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the UNESCO World Heritage list." "Just a few days ago, I visited the Raigad Fort and had a spiritual experience of the symbols associated with the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. These forts have been the main pillars of protection of Hindu Swaraj and from here, crores of countrymen have been getting continuous inspiration towards their

mother language and culture," the post further reads.

The 'Maratha Military Landscapes of India' have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List, becoming India's 44th property to receive this recognition. The inscription took place during 47th session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, France, marking a significant milestone in the global acknowledgment of India's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Spread across the states of Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the selected sites, include Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khandri, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and

Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, along with

Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu.

While Shivneri fort, Lohgad, Raigad,

Rajgad, Khandri fort and Pratapgad are protected by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums, Government of Maharashtra.

The Maratha Military Landscape of India was nominated under criteria (iv) and (vi), recognizing their exceptional testimony to a living cultural tradition, their architectural and technological significance, and their deep associations with historic events and traditions. The purpose of including these heritage sites in UNESCO's list is to preserve and promote shared heritage based on OUVs (Outstanding Universal Values) found in cultural, natural as well as mixed properties across

196 countries. On its part, India became a member of the World Heritage Committee from 2021-25.



Suvarnadurg, Panhala fort, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg and Gingee fort are protected under the Archaeological Survey of India whereas Salher fort,

## DK Shivakumar's Tongue-In-Cheek Remark Amid Power Tussle With Siddaramaiah

**The Deputy Chief Minister's comments drew chuckles from the audience but is also seen as a veiled reference to the ongoing power struggle within the ruling Congress in the southern state.**

►One should always seize the opportunity to sit if one finds a chair, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said  
►His remarks were seen as a veiled reference to the ongoing power struggle in the ruling Congress  
►Recently, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he would complete the full term and that his post was "not vacant"

**Bengaluru. (Agency)**

One should always seize the opportunity to sit if one finds a chair, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has said in a tongue-in-cheek remark that came amid possible talks of a power-sharing agreement with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Speaking at the Kempewoda Jayanti celebrations organised by the Bangalore Advocates Association on Friday, Mr

Shivakumar said: "I see many lawyers here who are not sitting despite the availability of vacant chairs, while we are all scrambling to find one. Getting a chair is not easy. When you get the opportunity, you must sit and not let go of the chance."

He added: "It seems many of you are very sacrificial by nature. Such a good building has been made with great chairs, make use of the opportunities when you get them."

The Deputy Chief Minister's comments drew chuckles from the audience but is also seen as a veiled reference to the ongoing power struggle within the ruling Congress in the southern state.

Rumours had persisted since the Congress came to power in May

2023 that a power-sharing deal existed between Mr Siddaramaiah and his deputy. According to the purported agreement - which the Congress neither confirmed nor

"not vacant."

The question of leadership is not with the high command. It (Shivakumar's challenge) has been resolved. I am getting the full support of the Congress high command... I wouldn't have continued if they had not supported me," he told after returning from New Delhi.

Mr Shivakumar, who also returned from the Capital, refused to comment on the Chief Minister's remarks.

"The Chief Minister has already communicated what the high command has said. He has answered all your questions. After that, it's not right for me to keep making statements or for you to keep asking them. I don't know why you're so concerned or in such a hurry about me. I'm certainly not in a hurry," he said.

denied - Mr Siddaramaiah was to serve the first two-and-a-half years, after which Mr Shivakumar would take over as Chief Minister. On Thursday, Mr Siddaramaiah, however, firmly asserted that he would complete the full term and that the Chief Minister's post was

denied - Mr Siddaramaiah was to serve the first two-and-a-half years, after which Mr Shivakumar would take over as Chief Minister. On Thursday, Mr Siddaramaiah, however, firmly asserted that he would complete the full term and that the Chief Minister's post was



## Largest youth population, democracy are India's two limitless powers: PM Modi at Rojgar Mela

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly-appointed youth in various government departments and organisations. Addressing the 16th edition of Rozgar Mela, Prime Minister Modi said the event reflects government's commitment to "empowering the youth and making them catalysts in building a developed India".

Speaking at the event, PM Modi said, "Today, more than 51 thousand youths have been given appointment letters. Through such employment fairs, millions of young people have already secured permanent jobs in government departments. Now these young people are playing a significant role in nation-building."

He further said that today the world acknowledges that India possesses two boundless powers—one is demography, the other is democracy. "In other words, the largest youth population and the largest democracy. This strength of the youth is both the greatest asset and the greatest guarantee of India's bright future. Our government is tirelessly engaged in making this asset a formula for prosperity."

"I returned from a five-country visit and in every country, the resonance of India's youthful energy was heard. During this time, all the agreements that were made will surely benefit the youth of India, both nationally and internationally," he added.

Prime Minister Modi also underlined that the ecosystem of startups, innovation, and research being built in the country today is enhancing the capabilities of the nation's youth. He also asserted that the Indian government's focus is also on creating new employment opportunities in the private sector.

"Recently, the government has approved a new scheme... Employment Linked Incentive Scheme... Today, one of India's greatest strengths is our manufacturing sector. A large number of new jobs are being created in manufacturing. To boost the manufacturing sector, the Mission Manufacturing has been announced in this year's budget," he said.



## Rahul Gandhi Pleads Not Guilty In Defamation Case Over Savarkar Remarks

**Pune. (Agency)**

Congress MP and Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP) Rahul Gandhi on Friday pleaded not guilty before a Pune court in connection with a defamation case filed against him over his remarks on Hindutva ideologue Vinayak Damodar Savarkar.

The plea was submitted before Judicial Magistrate (First Class) and Special Judge for MP/MLA cases, Amol Sriram Shinde, at the Pune District Court. Advocate Milind Pawar

appeared on behalf of Rahul Gandhi, as the Congress leader was not personally present during the proceedings.

The defamation complaint was filed by Satyaki Savarkar, the grandnephew of V D Savarkar, alleging that Rahul Gandhi made defamatory and derogatory statements about the freedom fighter during an event organised by the Overseas Congress in the United Kingdom in 2023. The remarks were subsequently circulated



on social media, allegedly damaging Savarkar's legacy and public image.

During the proceedings, Judge Shinde

read out the defamation charge under Section 500 of the Indian Penal Code. Advocate Pawar confirmed that his client had received copies of the complaint and all relevant documents. When asked by the court whether Gandhi understood the nature of the allegations, Pawar responded affirmatively. Asked if he wished to plead guilty, Advocate Milind Pawar on behalf of Rahul Gandhi clearly stated, "No. I do not plead guilty."

## No More Tangled Wires, No More Darkness: CM Rekha Gupta

**The Sikh Times**

**Simmi Kaur Babbar**

**New Delhi. 12 July 2025**

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today formally inaugurated the capital's first pilot project to convert overhead electric wiring to an underground system in BH (East) Block, Shalimar Bagh Assembly. The Chief Minister shared that this ambitious project will be completed in approximately three months. The initiative aims not only to enhance Delhi's visual appeal but also to ensure the safety of its citizens. Delhi Power Minister Shri. Ashish Sood was also present during the inauguration. Sharing details about the project, the Chief Minister said that around 5,500 families residing in the BH Block Janta flats of Shalimar Bagh will benefit from the scheme, which

will also improve the aesthetic landscape of the area. With a budget of ₹8.07 crore, the project involves removing 5 kilometers of overhead HT and LT wires and replacing them with 10 kilometers of underground LT (440V) and 1.2 kilometers of HT (11KV) network. Additionally, 23 new double-source feeder pillar boxes will be installed to enhance the reliability of the power supply. New GI octagonal poles and CCMS switches will also be installed for street lighting, significantly improving night-time lighting. Once implemented, the project will ensure uninterrupted 24x7 power supply in all seasons. The Chief Minister emphasized that the underground wiring initiative marks a pilot project for Delhi. It reflects not only



technological advancement but also a clear and forward-looking vision to make the capital's energy infrastructure safer and more organized. The current condition of open and tangled wires affects both the city's beauty and public safety. This project is a concrete effort to address such issues and enhance

citizens' quality of life. She further stated that this is just the beginning, and the government plans to expand this pilot project to other parts of Delhi soon. A dedicated budget of ₹100 crore has been allocated for the phased rollout across various areas of the capital. The underground wiring system will make the electricity supply more reliable, safe, and efficient. The Chief Minister added that the project aligns with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Smart Infrastructure" mission. Whether it is the Yamuna cleaning drive, construction of roads along canals, or the implementation of modern urban systems, under the PM's guidance and support, Delhi is rapidly progressing toward becoming a clean, beautiful, and sustainable capital. [continue page 2](#)

## PWD Minister Visits Jor Bagh to Acknowledge High Voter Turnout

**The Sikh Times**

**Sourabh Sharma**

**New Delhi, July 12, 2025**

PWD Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh yesterday visited the Jor Bagh area in the New Delhi constituency to personally thank the residents for their enthusiastic participation in the democratic process. The visit comes in recognition of Jor Bagh setting a record for high voter turnout in the recent elections. Accompanied by senior officials of the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) and the Public Works Department (PWD), the Minister held an interactive session with local residents to understand their grievances and to assure swift resolution. Speaking at the site, Parvesh Sahib Singh said, "Before the elections, I had made a commitment to the people of Jor Bagh that if the voting percentage here is high, we will prioritize development works in the area. I am glad to see that Jor Bagh has set an example, and I have come here today with the entire NDMC team to ensure that every concern raised by the public is taken seriously and acted upon immediately." During the visit, residents raised several civic issues including street lighting, cleanliness, water supply, pruning of trees, and maintenance of internal roads. The Minister directed concerned officials to take up each matter on priority and submit an action-taken report within a stipulated timeframe. The Minister also took the opportunity to highlight the visible improvements in the area. "Earlier, during the monsoon, this locality used to face severe waterlogging issues year after year. But this time, things were different. There was no waterlogging because desilting of drains was completed well in advance. Timely pruning in parks and maintenance of road infrastructure also helped. All of this was possible because we worked proactively and with accountability." [continue page 2](#)

## Don't jump to conclusions based on pilots' conversation: Centre on crash report

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu on Saturday said the report on the June 12 Air India crash was just preliminary and urged the public and the media to refrain from jumping to conclusions until the final findings are released. The initial probe has revealed that three seconds after take-off from Ahmedabad, fuel supply to both engines of the Air India Boeing 787 got cut off. The aircraft's fuel control switches flipped from "RUN" to "CUTOFF" position within a second of each other.

Describing the probe as "challenging", the Union Minister lauded the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) for conducting a transparent, mature and professional investigation.

"The Civil Aviation Ministry is analysing this report thoroughly. Let's not jump to any conclusions. Once the final report is out, only then can we arrive at a concrete conclusion," Naidu told reporters.

The AAIB report, however, does not mention whether the shift in the fuel control switches, which regulate fuel flow into a plane's engines, was inadvertent or deliberate. The report, however, mentions the chat between the pilots caught on the

cockpit voice recorder. One of the pilots can be heard asking the other why he cut off the fuel. The other pilot said he did not. The flight was being commanded by 56-year-old Sumeet Sabharwal, who had a total flying experience of 15,638 hours. His co-pilot was Clive Kunder, 32, who had 3,403 hours of total experience. Minister of State (MoS) for Civil Aviation Muralidhar Mohol said no conclusions could be drawn based on the conversation of the pilots alone, as it was a very brief exchange. "The AAIB conducts investigations without any interference. We did not send the black box abroad... it was decoded right here in our own country. No conclusions can be drawn based on the pilot's conversation alone, as it was a very brief exchange," Mohol said.



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# 'Operation Fire Trail': DRI seizes Rs 35-cr worth of Chinese firecrackers from Mumbai ports

**Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted 7 containers at Nhava Sheva Port, Mundra Port, and the Kandla Special Economic Zone and seized Chinese firecrackers.**

**Mumbai .(Agency)**

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized Chinese firecrackers worth approximately Rs 35 crore, following a multi-port operation codenamed 'Operation Fire Trail', the agency said on Friday.

The action, based on specific intelligence inputs, led to the interception of seven containers at Nhava Sheva Port, Mundra Port, and the Kandla Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

According to a statement by the DRI, the seized cargo weighing nearly 100 metric tonnes was illicitly imported in the name of a KASEZ unit and certain Import-Export Code (IEC) holders. The goods were falsely declared as 'Mini Decorative Plants', 'Artificial Flowers', and 'Plastic Mats' in an attempt to evade detection.

The press release noted that some of the consignments were routed through the Kandla SEZ with the intent of illegal diversion into the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), in violation of the

SEZ provisions. A key individual, identified as a partner of the SEZ unit, has been arrested for

licences from the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO) under the Explosives Rules, 2008. The DRI pointed out that the smuggled firecrackers contained banned chemicals such as red lead, copper oxide, and lithium, which are hazardous to health and the environment.

"Firecrackers pose a significant risk to public safety, port infrastructure, and the broader logistics supply chain due to their highly combustible nature," the DRI said in its statement, adding that the successful seizure prevented potential threats such as accidental explosions and disruptions in cargo handling operations.

"This meticulously planned and seamlessly executed operation underscores DRI's resolve to detect, deter, and dismantle illicit networks that undermine the Exim trade ecosystem and endanger public safety," the release said.

his role in the smuggling operation and remanded in judicial custody by the court. The import of firecrackers is classified as 'Restricted' under the ITC (HS) Classification of the Foreign Trade Policy and requires



Photo: PTI

## Landslide cuts off Suligeri village, people stranded without power, fuel for three weeks

Teachers who come to Suligere schools to teach have been forced to turn the schools into their home for the past 10 days.

**SULIGERI (UTTARA KANNADA)**

**(Agency)**

With the landslide near Kodasalli in Uttara Kannada remaining unattended for the past 10 days, 35 families in the village of Suligeri are cut off from the world, deprived of transport, communication, and basic amenities like electricity, petrol and kerosene. There is a fear that the villagers could soon run out of rations.

The landslide occurred on July 2, leaving the village of 35 families marooned. Suligeri sank into darkness three weeks ago when heavy rainfall brought down three electricity poles, putting a stop to all activities after 5pm. "There has been no power since the past 21 days, and we spend our evenings in darkness.

There is no kerosene to light lamps. We have dinner in the evenings and sleep early, and wait for the first light of dawn. Students are deprived of studies, and whatever they study in school is all," said Nagaraj Naik, a resident.

The landslide has brought many problems for students. A girl here who was to attend

counselling for hostel admission missed her interview. A college student from Ulavi wrote her semester examination after a determined effort to reach Kadra -- she got help from a bike rider who crossed the landslide, after which she hired a vehicle and reached the town and went to college in a bus.

A few students have rented a room in Kadra,



and a few others are staying in houses of relatives as they cannot return home. Teachers who come to Suligere schools to teach have been forced to turn the schools into their home for the past 10 days.

**Frant news continue**

## No More Tangled Wires, No More Darkness: CM Rekha Gupta

The Chief Minister remarked that Delhi is no longer just a national capital but is fast emerging as a smart, energy-efficient, and green-energy adopting modern city. With uninterrupted electricity to every home, sustainable solutions for industries, and eco-friendly infrastructure this is the envisioned future of Delhi.

She congratulated Power Minister Ashish Sood and his team for their efforts and reiterated the government's goal of ensuring that no part of the city remains tangled in overhead wires. All electrical lines will be safely shifted underground, transforming the capital into a clean, secure, and modern energy-efficient city.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister also reviewed ongoing development works in the Shalimar Bagh area and said that the Delhi Government is committed to ensuring equitable expansion of basic facilities in every part of the capital. She informed that new drains are being constructed in BH (East) Shalimar Bagh at a cost of 10 lakh. Similarly, a new sewer line is being laid in Sahipur village, also estimated at 10 lakh.

## PWD Minister Visits Jor Bagh to Acknowledge High Voter Turnout

He further emphasized that such proactive governance will continue in the constituency, especially in areas where the public has shown greater civic responsibility. Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh reaffirmed that his department is committed to transparency, responsiveness, and public participation. "Where the public shows faith in the system, the system must respond with dedication," he concluded.

## KIIT to send largest Indian university contingent to 2025 World University Games in Germany

Bhubaneswar. KIIT-DU is set to make history by sending the largest contingent of student-athletes among all Indian universities to the 2025 World University Games (WUG) in Germany. With 40 athletes competing across seven sporting disciplines, KIIT will have the highest representation by a single Indian university in any edition of the Games.

The 2025 World University Games will be held from July 16 to 27 across the Rhine-Ruhr region and Berlin. Known as the Olympics for university athletes aged 17 to 25, the event will see participation from over 300 Indian student-athletes from 61 universities, selected through trials that drew entries from more than 400 universities nationwide.

KIIT has also been entrusted once again as a Nodal University by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), continuing a leadership role it has played in previous editions such as Napoli 2019 and Chengdu 2023.

The athletes representing KIIT include Ms. Rupal (400m sprint); Ms. Ankita Dhyani (3000m steeplechase); Mr. Jeswin Aldrin (Long Jump); Mr. Praveen Chithravel (Triple Jump) and Mr. Animesh Kujur (current national record holder in 100m sprint). Congratulating the sports persons and also the Indian Team, the Founder of KIIT and KISS Dr Achyuta Samanta said, we are promoting "Education with Sports" model at KIIT.

## BMC files FIR against Hiranandani builders for unauthorised excavation in hilly area of Powai

**The BMC received a complaint on July 3, 2023 regarding unauthorised excavation in the hilly area near a helipad in Powai from an individual**

### 6.6mm rain floods roads, hits traffic in South Bengaluru for brief while

**BENGALURU .(Agency)**

The city witnessed 6.6 mm of rainfall on Friday evening. Though the rain was brief, it was enough to throw traffic out of gear in core areas and also at places where civic agencies have taken up development works over the last few days.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) maintained that only South Bengaluru and surrounding areas received heavy rainfall and there were no issues.

As per the Varunamithra application of the Karnataka Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre, Vidyapeeta received 33 mm rainfall, Nayandahalli 19 mm, Bommanahalli 18 mm, Doddabidarakallu 17.50 mm and Pattabhiramanagar 13.50 mm till 5.30 pm. Weather officials predicted light to moderate rainfall on Saturday as well. Roads were flooded and the level in stormwater drains rose for a

brief time. Taking to social media on flooding of roads and low-lying areas in city in the past, Deputy Chief Minister, who is also Bengaluru Development Minister, DK Shivakumar, posted on X, "When heavy rains occur in Bengaluru city, low-lying areas get flooded, and to put an end to this, a project has been undertaken to rejuvenate the stormwater drains passing through the city.

Currently, there is a flow of 860 km of stormwater drains in the city. Out of this, the lining work for 491 km has been completed, and work on 125 km is in progress.

A project has been formulated with World Bank assistance to rejuvenate the remaining 173.9 km of stormwater drains. This project to reconstruct stormwater drains and make Bengaluru city flood-free will be completed in the next 3 years."

On June 15, the airline activated a helpline in Ahmedabad to process claims for the interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and to the lone survivor, Air India has said in a



excavation work the next day. Hence, the BMC officer approached the police and filed a complaint on Thursday. The Hiranandani Builders and its owner have been booked under sections 52 (Penalty for unauthorised development or for use otherwise than in conformity with development plan) and 43 (Restrictions on development of land) of the Maharashtra Regional

and Town Planning Act, 1966 and further investigation has been initiated, said a police officer.

Commenting on the development, a company spokesperson from Hiranandani Builders, stated, "There is no unauthorised construction or excavation of any kind on the said plot.

What began as a barren quarry with merely seven trees has been transformed by us into a thriving green sanctuary, home to lakhs of trees and rich biodiversity. To suggest any intent to harm the very environment we have painstakingly restored is not only inaccurate but fundamentally contrary to our core values and long-standing commitment."

## 'Why did it happen?': Month after Air India plane crash, families of victims continue to look for answers

**Ahmedabad .(Agency)**

Families of those who died in the June 12 Ahmedabad plane crash are exploring every option available to get justice, or to keep the memory of their loved ones alive. While a newly married woman's family has decided to take the compensation and are planning to use it in her memory, the kin of at least one of the deceased have decided to pursue litigation against Boeing. They have only one question: "Why did it happen?"

On June 15, the airline activated a helpline in Ahmedabad to process claims for the interim compensation of Rs 25 lakh to the families of each of the deceased and to the lone survivor, Air India has said in a

statement.

A statement quoting an airline spokesperson said Friday, that as on July 10, "Air India has released interim compensation to 92 families of the passengers, and



those deceased at the accident site to help them meet their immediate financial needs."

The documents related to 66 others have been verified and the interim compensation is being released "progressively to their families,"

the statement said. A month after the crash, The Indian Express spoke to a few families that lost their loved ones on June 12.

She was 24 and recently married In January, the Rajpurohit celebrated the wedding of their 24-year-old daughter Khushbu with much fanfare. She was supposed to fly to London to join her husband Vipul Singh, her first trip after exchanging vows. Instead, it was Singh who flew down to Ahmedabad and got busy with formalities for his dead wife, says Ravi Dadhich, Khushbu's uncle.

Her family had come down from Jodhpur, Rajasthan, to Ahmedabad to see Khushboo off. As the family was returning, they heard the news of the plane crash and came back to Ahmedabad.

## Bill on resuming bullock cart races passed unanimously; 'historic': Punjab CM Mann

**The petitioners said that despite filing a marriage application, the authorities in Chandigarh had neither registered the marriage nor rejected the application.**

**Chandigarh .(Agency)**  
The draft of the anti-sacrilegious Bill was not tabled in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha Friday, despite an assurance from Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann a day earlier, even as the House passed the Punjab Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Punjab Amendment) Bill 2025, paving way for the resumption of bullock cart racing in the state.

The government, however, extended the duration of the two-day special session by two more days amid speculations that it may table the Bill then. This, however, evoked a strong reaction from Sarb Dham Beadbi Rokko Kanoon Morcha, an organisation whose activist Gurjeet Singh Khalsa has been protesting atop a 400-ft telecom tower for the last over 270 days demanding a law on sacrilegious acts. It was following a meeting with the Morcha on June 28 that Mann had



announced that his government would bring a law for stricter punishment for sacrilegious acts. Morcha convenor Gurpreet Singh questioned the urgency behind passing the Bill providing for resumption of bullock cart races in the state. "The bullock cart races

are more important for the government than the life of a Sikh, who has been protesting atop a 400-feet tower for over 270 days," he said.

Gurpreet said after listening to Mann on Thursday, the Morcha had planned to get Khalsa down from

the tower. "But the Bill was not tabled. Khalsa's condition has worsened. He is lying unconscious since morning. A youth, who had climbed up to meet him in the morning, reported that he is in a bad shape. We are now sending a lab technician up to get his tests done. It is unfortunate that he will be able to suffer for four more days..."

"The special session was called for the anti-sacrilegious Bill. They should have tabled it," said Gurpreet.

# Prosperity is not possible without the well-being of farmers: CM Yogi

## The Sikh Times

Lucknow: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, on Saturday, said that India is an agrarian country and prosperity cannot be achieved without the well-being of its farmers. Agriculture and livestock have always been closely interlinked in India. A farming household is never complete without livestock, and vice versa, he said. He added, "In this context, the steps taken over the last 11 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ensure farmers' prosperity are highly commendable. Drawing inspiration from the PM, Uttar Pradesh too has taken significant strides in this area. Benefiting from the energy of the double-engine government, Uttar Pradesh today ranks first in the country in milk production." CM Yogi made these remarks while inaugurating the national workshop on 'Development of Animal Breeds in India' at

Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund in Amethi, Bareilly, and Mathura. A booklet was also released during the event.

efforts are being renewed to achieve saturation coverage. The state government, he assured, will fully contribute to making livestock FMD-free and

some regions of Uttar Pradesh have succeeded in improving breeds through indigenous methods, others have lagged behind. Several local breeds today face extinction. Focused efforts in breed development can create a sustainable source of income for livestock farmers. Thanking the Government of India, the CM noted that five milk producer companies are currently operational in Uttar Pradesh—in Balini (Jhansi), Gorakhpur, Agra, and Kashi, among others. These initiatives have empowered lakhs of women, who now engage in milk collection through cooperative societies. These women are not only becoming self-reliant, but also contributing to breed improvement and value addition in dairy production, thereby transforming rural livelihoods. CM Yogi also shared inspiring success stories of farmers from Gorakhpur and Kashi. Reflecting on the situation prior to 2017, the CM said that the state faced major challenges due to the lack of timely breed improvement. Stray cattle frequently roamed roads, farmlands, and even reached slaughterhouses, leading to accidents and distress for farmers. In response, the government launched a comprehensive plan in 2017 and began implementing shelter homes for stray cattle in 2018.



## Dr. Arvind Sharma listens to 12 public issues during grievance committee meeting, says Haryana government is committed to equal development for all

Chandigarh: Haryana Cooperation, Heritage, and Tourism Minister, Dr. Arvind Sharma said that the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister, Sh. Nayan Singh Saini, is committed to the equal development of every section of society and every region. The Minister was speaking during the monthly meeting of the District Public Relations and Grievance Committee in Narnaul. Twelve public issues were discussed during the meeting. During the meeting, on behalf of poet Sh. Surender Sharma, Lata Sharma raised concerns about tampering of revenue records. In response, the Minister directed to form an inquiry committee, consisting of the Additional Deputy Commissioner, SDM Narnaul, District Revenue Officer, and two Members of Public Grievances Committee. One of the key issues raised was the drinking water problem in Nasipur and Nuni Awas. In response to a complaint by Sanjay Kumar, officers informed that a project worth approximately Rs. 148 crore is being planned under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme to provide a permanent solution to the issue. Both villages have recently become part of the municipal council. Meanwhile, the Minister directed that water tankers be sent to these areas as a temporary measure. While interacting with the mediapersons after the meeting, Dr. Sharma said that under the guidance of Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, Chief Minister, Sh. Nayan Singh Saini is working tirelessly for the holistic development of Haryana. The government is focused on service and good governance. While responding to the question regarding jail safety, the Minister said that all jails in Haryana are now equipped with modern security systems.

## Active participation of Bihar electors ensures nearly 57.48 percent Enumeration forms collected in first 15 days

Chandigarh: As a result of the active participation of Bihar electors in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) and tireless efforts of the election officers, the volunteers and 1.56-lakh proactive force of Booth Level Agents (BLAs) who have been appointed by all recognised political parties, has resulted in the collection of 57.48 percent enumeration forms in the first 15 days of the exercise with 16 more days left. By 6.00 PM yesterday, 4,53,89,881 Enumeration Forms, which is 57.48 percent of the total of 7,89,69,844 (nearly 7.90 crore) existing electors in Bihar, have been collected in the last 15 days, since the issue of SIR instructions on June 24, 2025. In the last 24 hours i.e. from 6.00 PM yesterday, 83,12,804 Enumeration Forms have been collected, which amounts to 10.52 percent collected in a single day. Maintaining the same momentum on the field, and with just about 42.5 percent forms remaining to be collected, the exercise of collecting the Enumeration forms could be completed well before the stipulated date i.e. July 25, 2025. Para 3(d) of SIR guidelines provide that the existing electors, which includes those who have temporarily migrated, in line with the section 20(1A) of the RP Act 1950, can download a pre-filled Enumeration Form from: <https://voters.eci.gov.in>.

# 2000 sports nurseries opened in state to hone talent of players: Gaurav Gautam

## The Sikh Times

Chandigarh: Haryana Sports Minister Sh. Gaurav Gautam said those with a healthy body and healthy mind play an important role in the progress of any state and country. Following this tradition, the master athletes of the state have not only kept themselves healthy but have also increased the pride of Haryana by winning medals in national and international master athletics competitions. Our master athletes are an inspiration for the youth of the state and these athletes will play an important role in making Haryana drug free. The minister was speaking as the chief guest at the felicitation ceremony of the winning players of the World and National Masters Athletics Championship organized by Haryana Master Athletics Association in Panchkula today. Sh. Gaurav Gautam said Haryana has become a powerhouse of sports. The sports policy of the state is the best in the country. To enhance the talent of the youth, 2000 sports nurseries have been opened in

the state, in which more than 37,000 players are writing a new history. He said due to the sports policy of the state, our players are bringing glory to the country by winning medals in the Olympics, World Championship, Asian and Commonwealth Games. The government is also giving full respect and honour to the players. He said from the year 2004 to 2014, the state government had spent only Rs 38 crore on the players, whereas from the year 2014 to 2024, the government has spent Rs 592 crore on the players of the state. He said the state government is not only giving financial strength to the players but is also spending up to Rs 20 lakh on the treatment of players in case of injury during the game. With the aim of promoting sports, the government is also providing loans up to Rs 5 crore to the players at affordable rates to open sports academies. The Sports Minister assured the players that they will be given maximum encouragement under the sports policy. The

minister also announced a grant of Rs 5 lakh to Haryana Masters Athletics Association from his voluntary quota. On this occasion, State President of Haryana Masters Athletics Association, Sh. Ajay Mittal, General Secretary Sh. Ramkishore Sharma and other dignitaries were present.

## Entire Khatri community joins protest march for justice for slaughtered cows

Phagwara, July 12 (Shiv Kaur) In Phagwara today, a large number of Khatri community participated in the protest march taken out by various religious, social organizations and city residents demanding the immediate arrest and strict punishment of all the culprits of cow slaughter and beef smuggling. Speaking on the occasion, Madan Mohan Bajaj, President of Khatri Sabha (Regd.) Phagwara, thanked the entire Khatri community and said that this unity will be helpful in taking the murderers to the gallows. He said that today the Punjab government should know how much anger there is among the people regarding the issue of cow slaughter and beef smuggling in Phagwara. He said that Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should issue a statement expressing sympathy with the cow protectors and cow devotees that no culprit in this case will be spared under any circumstances. Meanwhile, the vice president of the Sabha, Davinder Bhalla, Shankar Jhaji and secretary Vitin Puri emphasized that the cow is respectable for the entire Sanatan society. Knowing this, the culprits who have committed the sin of cow slaughter in a brutal manner should be hanged. Of course, why not make a special law for this. On this occasion, members of the society including Sanjeev Bhandari, Manoj Midda, Ramesh Suneja, Subhash Murgai, Gopi Bedi, Rakesh Chawla, Inderjit Jayarath, Parveen Pabbi, Pankaj Suneja, Rajan Ghulla, Harish Dhir, Ashu Bajaj, Vipan Dhir, Sanjeev Ghai Lucky, Rajinder Sondhi, Sushil Sondhi, Rajesh Wadhwa, Pankaj Kapoor etc. were present.

# Verification and Attestation of Degrees, Transcripts, and Certificates Now Fully Online, Paperless, Contactless, and Cashless

## The Sikh Times

Amritsar: Taking a significant step towards digital reforms, Guru Nanak Dev University (GNDU) launched the e-Sanad portal today. Addressing the inaugural event as the chief guest, Vice Chancellor Prof. Karamjeet Singh stated, "The launch of the e-Sanad portal reflects Guru Nanak Dev University's commitment to technology-driven reforms and student-centric services. GNDU is the first Government University in North India to launch this portal. It will not only enhance online convenience for students but also prepare them for global competitiveness." He emphasized that the university is prioritizing students' needs by continuously adopting technological

innovations. He further noted that the portal has been launched in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. This new initiative enables the verification and attestation of degrees, transcripts, and certificates in a fully online, paperless, contactless, and cashless manner. This eliminates the need for students to visit offices for document verification, resulting in significant time and resource savings. The event, held at the University's Senate Hall, was attended by Vice Chancellor Prof. Karamjeet Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs Prof. Palwinder Singh, Registrar Dr. K.S. Chahal, faculty members, students, and senior NIC officials. The program commenced

with a welcome address by Prof. Palwinder Singh, who elaborated on the key features and benefits of the e-Sanad portal. Senior NIC officials, including Mr. Inderpal Singh Sethi, Director General, NIC; Mr. Vivek Verma, Deputy Director General, NIC Punjab; Ms. Keerti Mahajan, Director (IT), NIC Punjab, and other officials, participated in the event. Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Karamjeet Singh highlighted that the portal marks the beginning of a new era of digital services for students and institutions. Its key features include fully online verification and attestation of degrees, transcripts, and certificates, saving significant time. By prioritizing paperless and contactless processes, the need for physical paperwork has been minimized.

He added that secure online payment facilities ensure fast and convenient transactions, with attestation services also available for foreign institutions and organizations. Speaking about the tracking facility, Dr. Karamjeet Singh noted that the ability to track application status online is a key component of the portal. To ensure security and transparency, digital signatures and verification technologies have been incorporated to guarantee authenticity. Addressing multilingual support, the Vice Chancellor stated that the portal includes support for multiple languages, enabling users from diverse linguistic backgrounds to benefit from it. The NIC team presented a live demo of the e-Sanad portal during the event, showcasing its usage, applica-

# Haryana Revolutionizes Criminal Justice: Swift Sentences, Digital Leap Mark Landmark Reforms

## The Sikh Times

Chandigarh: Setting a national benchmark through advanced technology, upgraded forensic infrastructure, and intensive training under India's new criminal laws, Haryana has emerged as a frontrunner in the country's justice reform movement. The impact of these sweeping changes is already evident most notably in a case where a death sentence was awarded within just 140 days in the rape of a minor, exemplifying the state's commitment to fast, victim-centric justice. Spearheading an ambitious revamp across police functioning, prosecution, investigation, and courtroom procedures, Haryana's model has been lauded for its "holistic and technology-driven" approach, as stated by

Additional Chief Secretary, Home Department, Dr. Sumita Misra. While interacting with media persons today during her recent visit to a national forensic exhibition at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, Dr. Misra stated that the backbone of Haryana's reforms is a massive capacity building initiative that has trained over 54,000 police personnel in the nuanced provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Saksha Adhiniyam (BSA). The training emphasized not only legal understanding but also victim-sensitive investigation, digital integration, and modern evidence handling. In parallel, over 37,800 officers have been onboarded onto the iGOT

Karmayogi platform, promoting continuous, self-paced legal education one of the most extensive digital skilling drives among state police forces, she added. Dr. Misra said Haryana's digital policing leap is anchored by full-scale implementation of platforms like eSummon and eSakshya. Over 91.37% of summonses are now issued electronically, while 100% of searches and seizures are digitally recorded. Notably, 67.5% of witness and complainant statements are being captured using the eSakshya mobile application, standardizing evidence collection and improving transparency across investigations. Dr. Misra said that the state approach to gender-sensitive justice is fortified by Fast Track Special Courts under the POCSO

Act in Gurugram, Faridabad, and Panchkula, ensuring swift trials in heinous crimes against women and children. Dr. Misra informed that under the new criminal laws, witness examination has now extended beyond traditional courtrooms whereby witnesses can now be examined at "designated places". Designated places include government offices, banks and other such places as may be notified by the government. Haryana has made tremendous and exemplary progress in this direction and 2,117 designated places have been set up for witness examination via audio/video electronic means across all districts, thereby significantly enhancing accessibility and convenience. Further, video

rooms/facility has been made available exclusively for women/vulnerable witnesses in all districts. The state has also significantly expanded its forensic infrastructure, with mobile forensic vans deployed in every district and two in larger districts. A substantial Rs. 68.70 crore investment has enabled the procurement of modern cyber forensic tools. The government has approved 208 new forensic posts, with 186 vacancies already filled, further strengthening investigative depth. Dr. Misra further informed that the seamless integration of platforms like TraKea and MedLEaPR into the workflow has ensured that post-mortem and medical examination reports are now filed digitally within seven days, accelerating

both charge sheet filing and case adjudication. Haryana is also leveraging biometric and digital identification tools such as NAFIS and Chitrakhoji to strengthen crime-tracking systems. Dr. Misra said judicial access has been modernized through the Nyay Shriti pilot project in Karnal, where five district courts are now equipped with video conferencing facilities. Over 50% of police personnel and 70% of accused individuals are now participating in judicial proceedings remotely, significantly reducing logistical challenges and saving both time and public resources. These reforms are not just theoretical they are delivering results. In addition to the 140-day death sentence conviction, several

other criminal trials have concluded in under 20 days, demonstrating Chhinh Apradh initiative, 1,683 heinous cases have been rigorously fast-tracked and monitored at the highest levels, Dr. Misra added.

## NORTHERN RAILWAY

### TENDER NOTICE

The Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/Gati Shakti Unit/Delhi, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055 invites e-tender for the following work.

1 Name of work and location	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 13 work and Passenger Lift/Elevator per RDSO specifications for various 06 Nos. Amrit Stations - Qty: 13 Nos.
2 Tender Notice No.	25-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-25-26
3 Earnest Money amount (to be deposited Online)	₹ 3,22,000.00
4 Approximate Cost	₹ 3,43,96,213.8/-
5 Date & Time for Submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders uploaded on date 11.07.2025 on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11:30 Hrs on 04.08.2025
6 Detailed Tender Notice & Tender Document	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway website i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> . Tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tender document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS website i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 21.07.2025 to 04.08.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.

No: 25-DyCEE-GSU-DLI-25-26 Dated: 10.07.2025

21/2/2025

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

# CRS Inspection Successfully Concludes for Araria – Galgalia BG Line

## The Sikh Times

Maligaon: The much-awaited Araria-Galgalia Broad Gauge Line Project, spanning 110.75 kilometres, has achieved a major milestone with the successful completion of statutory inspection by Shri Sumeet Singh, Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS). The comprehensive inspection,



which commenced on 9th July 2025, concluded on 11th July 2025, paving the way for full-fledged train operations on this strategically significant route. This critical development marks a key turning point in the completion of the railway project, which is poised to enhance rail connectivity and operational efficiency across Bihar and adjoining regions. With CRS authorisation now in place, the entire stretch is ready for safe and seamless passenger and freight train movements. The Araria-Araria Court-Rahamatpur section (8.24 km) was commissioned in April 2024, followed by the Pawakhal-Thakurganj stretch (23.24 km) in November 2024. With the successful conclusion of the CRS inspections, the final and longest segment- Rahamatpur to Pawakhal (79.77 km) has also been commissioned, marking the completion of the entire Araria-Galgalia broad gauge corridor. The newly constructed line has been authorised for operations at a maximum permissible speed of 100 kmph. A flagship infrastructure project under the Northeast Frontier Railway, the Araria-Galgalia line features 64 major bridges, 264 minor bridges, and 15 new railway stations. These components demonstrate the engineering scale and complexity of the project and will collectively enhance safety, connectivity and regional accessibility. With this final milestone achieved, Northeast Frontier Railway is now poised to operationalize the entire Araria-Galgalia section, offering significant advantages in terms of passenger convenience, freight mobility and economic development for the region.

## NEWS BOX

## UN talks on Israel-Palestinian solution set for late July

**JERUSALEM . (Agency)**

UNITED NATIONS: An international conference meant to revive work on a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been rescheduled for July 28-29, diplomatic sources told AFP.

Originally set for mid-June, the conference at UN headquarters in New York was postponed at the last minute due to Israel's surprise military campaign against Iran. It has now been rescheduled to late July, diplomatic sources said, although they could not provide details on any changes to the agenda or level of attending representatives. Heads of state and government had been expected to attend in June.

The conference was convened by the UN General Assembly and is co-chaired by France and Saudi Arabia. On Thursday, French President Emmanuel Macron called during his UK state visit for joint recognition by France and Britain of a Palestinian state, saying such moves are "the only hope for peace" in the region.

## 50-Year-Old Woman Loses Arm In Horrifying Lion Attack At Popular Australian Zoo

**world. (Agency)**

An Australian woman lost an arm after being attacked by a lion at a zoo. According to The Independent, Joanne Cabban, a 50-year-old school teacher, was at Darling Downs Zoo on Sunday when the incident occurred. She was watching animal keepers working in the zoo's carnivore precinct before opening hours when she was attacked. She was airlifted by helicopter to Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital for surgery and is now in a stable condition, the zoo said in a statement. The zoo staff are cooperating with government workplace safety investigators to determine how the incident happened. The state government confirmed an investigation was underway, per the outlet.

"Inexplicably, at this stage, one animal grabbed her by one arm and caused severe damage to it," the zoo statement said. "At no stage did this animal leave its enclosure and there was no risk at all to staff members or members of the public," the statement continued.

According to The Guardian, the woman was not a staff member but a "much-loved member" of the zoo's family. Darling Downs zoo owner Steve Robinson said that Cabban, his sister-in-law, was visiting on school holidays, something she has done regularly for 20 years. The 50-year-old is currently in the hospital and is in stable condition. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is investigating the incident. Nobody else saw the attack take place, though others were nearby, per the outlet.

The zoo's owner, Steve Robinson, credited another member of staff with saving Ms Cabban's life. He said that the staff member used his wife's leather belt as a makeshift tourniquet to stop the bleeding, and then applied a thermal blanket before paramedics arrived. Mr Robinson said that the incident was not the lion's fault and people should not blame the animal. The animal will not be put down or punished in any way, he said.

## Top Bangladeshi Economist Abul Barkat Arrested In Corruption Case

**world. (Agency)**

In what is widely being viewed as a case of government overreach and a targeted assault on civil society, renowned Bangladeshi economist and former chairman of Janata Bank, Abul Barkat, was arrested by the Detective Branch of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police in connection with a corruption case.

The arrest followed late-night searches at his residence and has raised alarm among rights activists and opposition voices ahead of national elections.

Barkat's daughter revealed the circumstances of his arrest, stating that more than 20 policemen showed up at his doorstep and arrested him.

Barkat, a respected academic who taught at Dhaka University for 40 years, has long been a prominent voice speaking out on the rights and vulnerabilities of minorities in Bangladesh, particularly the Hindu



community. He has also been an unflinching critic of radical Islam and the Jamaat-e-Islami, a group that has often faced accusations of violence and discrimination against religious minorities. Barkat has previously warned that there will be no Hindus left in Bangladesh in 30 years.

His arrest has sparked accusations that the interim government led by Muhammad Yunus is moving to silence dissenting voices and suppress critics ahead of the polls. Barkat is believed to have been targeted for his outspoken criticism of the regime, especially for calling out its failure to curb extremist elements and protect vulnerable communities.

## Immigrant advocacy groups filed the lawsuit last week accusing President Donald Trump's administration of systematically targeting brown-skinned people in Southern California during its ongoing immigration crackdown.

**LOS ANGELES. (Agency)**

A federal judge on Friday ordered the Trump administration to halt indiscriminate immigration stops and arrests in seven California counties, including Los Angeles. Immigrant advocacy groups filed the lawsuit last week accusing President Donald Trump's administration of systematically targeting brown-skinned people in Southern California during its ongoing immigration crackdown. The plaintiffs include three detained immigrants and two

U.S. citizens, one who was held despite showing agents his identification.

The filing in U.S. District Court asked a judge to block the administration from using what they call unconstitutional tactics in immigration raids. Immigrant advocates accuse immigration officials of detaining someone based on their race, carrying out warrantless arrests, and denying detainees access to legal counsel at a holding facility in downtown LA. Tricia McLaughlin, assistant secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, said in an email that "any claims that individuals have been 'targeted' by law enforcement because of their skin color are disgusting and categorically FALSE." McLaughlin said "enforcement operations are highly targeted, and officers do their due diligence" before making arrests. Judge Maame E. Frimpong also issued a separate order barring the federal government from restricting attorney access at a Los Angeles immigration detention facility. Frimpong issued the emergency orders, which are a temporary measure while the lawsuit



proceeds, the day after a hearing during which advocacy groups argued that the government was violating the Fourth and Fifth amendments of the constitution. She wrote in the order there was a "mountain of evidence" presented in the case that the federal government was committing the violations they were being accused of. Immigrants and Latino communities across Southern California have been on edge for weeks since the Trump administration stepped up arrests at car washes, Home Depot parking lots, immigration courts and a range of businesses. Tens of thousands of people have participated in rallies in the region

## US is selling weapons to NATO allies to give to Ukraine, Trump says

**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

The United States is selling weapons to its NATO allies in Europe so they can provide them to Ukraine as it struggles to fend off a recent escalation in Russia's drone and missile attacks, President Donald Trump and his chief diplomat said. "We're sending weapons to NATO, and NATO is paying for those weapons, 100%," Trump said in an interview with NBC News late Thursday. "So what we're doing is, the weapons that are going out are going to NATO, and then NATO is going to be giving those weapons to Ukraine, and NATO is paying for those weapons." Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Friday that some of the US-made weapons that Ukraine is seeking are deployed with NATO allies in Europe. Those weapons could be transferred to Ukraine, with European countries buying replacements from the US, he said. "It's a lot faster to move something, for example, from Germany to Ukraine than it is to order



it from a (US) factory and get it there," Rubio told reporters during a visit to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Ukraine badly needs more US-made Patriot air defense systems to stop Russian ballistic and cruise missiles. The Trump administration has gone back and forth about providing more vital military aid to Ukraine more than three years into Russia's invasion.

After a brief pause in some weapons shipments, Trump said he would keep sending defensive weapons to Ukraine. US officials said this week that some were on their way. Ukraine is seeking more coveted Patriot air defense

systems. NATO itself doesn't send weapons to Ukraine or otherwise own or handle arms — which its 32 member nations take care of — but ships items like medical supplies and fuel. "Allies continue to work to ensure that Ukraine has the support they need to defend themselves against Russia's aggression," NATO

spokesperson Allison Hart said. "This includes urgent efforts to procure key supplies from the United States, including air defense and ammunition." Germany, Spain and other European countries possess Patriot missile systems, and some have placed orders for more, Rubio said. The US is encouraging its NATO allies "to provide those weapons, systems, the defensive systems that Ukraine seeks ... since they have them in their stocks, and then we can enter into financial agreements with them, with us, where they can purchase the replacements," Rubio said.

## Kurdish PKK fighters begin laying down weapons as part of peace process with Turkey

**SULAIMANIYAH. (Agency)**

Fighters with a Kurdish separatist militant group that has waged a decades-long insurgency in Turkey began laying down their weapons in a symbolic ceremony on Friday in northern Iraq, the first concrete step toward a promised disarmament as part of a peace process. The Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, announced in May that it would disband and renounce armed conflict, ending four decades of hostilities. The move came after PKK leader Abdullah Öcalan, who has been imprisoned on an island near Istanbul since 1999, urged his group in February to convene a congress and formally disband and disarm. Öcalan renewed his call in a video message broadcast on Wednesday, saying, "I believe in the power of politics and social peace, not weapons." Fighters toss weapons into a cauldron. Most journalists weren't



allowed at the site of Friday's ceremony, in the mountains of Sulaymaniyah province in northern Iraq's semiautonomous Kurdish region. Footage from the event showed fighters — both men and women — casting rifles and machine guns into a large cauldron, where they were then set ablaze. The PKK issued a statement from the fighters who were laying down their weapons, saying that they had disarmed "as a gesture of goodwill and a commitment to the practical success" of the peace process. "We will henceforth continue our struggle for

freedom, democracy, and socialism through democratic politics and legal means," the statement said. The state-run Iraqi News Agency reported that 30 fighters had disarmed "symbolically" on Friday, and that the continuing disarmament process "will take place in stages." The process is expected to be completed by September, the agency reported.

An Iraqi Kurdish political official said representatives of the Turkish intelligence service and of the Kurdish regional government, Iraq's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party and the Peoples' Equality and Democracy Party, a pro-Kurdish party in Turkey, were present. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly. Turkish parliamentary Speaker Numan Kurtulmus said the initial disarmament step had proceeded "as planned."

## Boeing settles with a man whose family died in a 737 Max crash in Ethiopia

**CHICAGO. (Agency)**

Boeing reached a settlement Friday with a Canadian man whose wife and three children were killed in a deadly 2019 crash in Ethiopia, averting the first trial connected to a devastating event that led to a worldwide grounding of Max jets. The jury trial at Chicago's federal court had been set to start Monday to determine damages for Paul Njoroge of Canada. His family was heading to their native Kenya in March 2019 aboard Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 when it malfunctioned and plummeted to the ground. The wreck killed all 157 people on board. Njoroge, 41, had planned to testify about how the crash affected his life. He has been unable to return to his family home in Toronto because the memories are too painful. He hasn't been able to find a job. And he has weathered criticism from relatives for not traveling alongside his wife and children. "He's got complicated grief and sorrow and his own emotional stress," said Njoroge's

attorney, Robert Clifford. "He's haunted by nightmares and the loss of his wife and children." Clifford said his client intended to seek "millions" in damages on behalf of his wife and children, but declined to publicly specify an amount ahead of the trial. "The aviation team at Clifford Law Offices has been working round-the-clock in preparation for trial, but the mediator was able to help the parties come to an agreement," Clifford said in a statement Friday. A Boeing spokesperson via Friday that the company had no comment.

The proceedings were not expected to delve into technicalities involving the Max version of Boeing's bestselling 737 airplane, which has been the source of persistent troubles for the company since the Ethiopia crash and one the year before in Indonesia. A combined 346 people, including passengers and crew members, died in those crashes. In 2021, Chicago-based Boeing accepted responsibility for the Ethiopia crash in a deal with the victims'

families that allowed them to pursue individual claims in U.S. courts instead of their home countries. Citizens of 35 countries were killed. Several families of



victims have already settled. Terms of those agreements also were not made public. The jetliner heading to Nairobi lost control shortly after takeoff from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport and nose-dived into a barren patch of land. Investigators determined the Ethiopia and Indonesia crashes were caused by a system that relied

over the raids and the subsequent deployment of the National Guard and Marines. The order also applies to Ventura County, where busloads of workers were detained Thursday while the court hearing was underway after federal agents descended on a cannabis farm, leading to clashes with protesters and multiple injuries. According to the American Civil Liberties Union, the recent wave of immigration enforcement has been driven by an "arbitrary arrest quota" and based on "broad stereotypes based on race or ethnicity." When detaining the three day laborers who are plaintiffs in the lawsuit, all immigration agents knew about them is that they were Latino and were dressed in construction work clothes, the filing in the lawsuit said. It goes on to describe raids at swap meets and Home Depots where witnesses say federal agents grabbed anyone who "looked Hispanic." ACLU attorney Mohammad Tajdar said Brian Gavidia, one of the U.S. citizens who was detained, was "physically assaulted ... for no other reason than he was Latino and working at a tow yard."

## Ex-Israeli PM Slams Netanyahu As Ceasefire Talks With Hamas Advance

**world. (Agency)**

Israel and Hamas resumed ceasefire and hostage-release negotiations on Sunday, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio saying talks are "closer" than they've been in some time. However, Rubio acknowledged that similar optimism has faded in previous rounds.

As part of the latest proposal, Hamas has agreed to release 10 hostages in exchange for a 60-day ceasefire window, during which efforts toward a permanent truce would continue. But deep divisions remain over what a final agreement would look like. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in an interview with NDTV, stated bluntly, "Hamas will not release all the hostages, which is the only asset they still hold" unless it is guaranteed that the war is finished. He emphasised that Israel would not stop fighting unless measures are in place to ensure Hamas no longer holds a dominant position in Gaza. "There is still a disagreement about the final terms," Mr Olmert explained, adding that Hamas demands a full end to the war and Israel withdrawal from Gaza, while Israel insists on the total elimination of Hamas as a power structure. He also raised the question of American influence, specifically former US President Donald Trump's ability to sway Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He said that there is a big question regarding to what extent Mr Trump can use his "enormous influence" on Mr Netanyahu to "force him" to end the war and bring an agreement that will guarantee no return of hostilities. He added, "Who can understand exactly what President Trump is up for?"

Nonetheless, Mr Olmert added, "Trump has the power and authority to force Netanyahu to abide by his demands, and he should have exercised his political capital over Netanyahu long ago."

Domestically, Mr Olmert described a growing demand within Israel for a resolution. "The majority of Israelis want the war to end today. They want the hostages to end today. So looking at it from the perspective of President Trump, I think he has got the most support of most of the Israelis to exercise his authority and force the Israeli Prime Minister to abide by his demands."

Highlighting the human toll, Mr Olmert did not hold back, "60,000 Palestinians were killed, and thousands of Palestinian children pay this terrible price for the war which started by Hamas."

He suggested a shift in priorities, "At this point now it is more important to bring back the hostages rather than to continue what appears to be a war without a specific objective that can be achieved."

According to Mr Olmert, Hamas no longer presents a meaningful military threat, "Israel has completely eradicated and destroyed the military capacity of Hamas... it does not pose any significant threat to the state of Israel."

on a sensor that provided faulty readings and pushed the plane noses down, leaving pilots unable to regain control. After the Ethiopia crash, Max jets were grounded worldwide until the company redesigned the system. This year, Boeing reached a deal with the U.S. Justice Department to avoid criminal prosecutions in both crashes.

Among those killed were Njoroge's wife, Carolyne, and three small children, Ryan, age 6, Kellie, 4, and Rubi, 9 months old, the youngest to die on the plane. Njoroge also lost his mother-in-law, whose family has a separate case. Njoroge, who met his wife in college in Nairobi, was living in Canada at the time of the crash. He had planned to join his family in Kenya later. He testified before Congress in 2019 about repeatedly imagining how his family suffered during the flight, which lasted only six minutes. He has pictured his wife struggling to hold their infant in her lap with two other children seated nearby.

**Hidden Stories: a Peshwa-era Pune temple that is looking to influencers for survival**



**Pune. (Agency)**

A sculpture of three British soldiers near a chained rhinoceros serves as a reminder of the grim days of India's colonisation, especially the Battle of Plassey in 1757 after which the British captured Bengal. Another sculpture points towards a little-known myth of Lingodbhava in which Shiva takes the form of a column of fire to resolve an argument between Vishnu and Brahma over who was superior. These stories, carved in stone, can be found in a surprising location—the Shri Trishunda Ganpati Mandir in Somwar Peth.

Multi-storeyed buildings tower over Shri Trishunda Ganpati Mandir on all sides, but like a timeless cave that it resembles, the temple effortlessly dominates the landscape. Made entirely of basalt rock and richly studded with sculptures, the temple was constructed between 1754 and 1770. Though Pune has undergone great changes over the centuries, the temple has stood the test of time.

Devotees flock here for darshan every day but the temple also attracts a crowd that is curious over the late Peshwa-era architecture, the blend of Rajasthani, Malwa and South Indian elements in the entrance design and the intriguing carvings that connect with 250 years of history.

A mahant's vision

The Shri Trishunda Ganpati Mandir was the vision of Bhimjigiri Gosavi, a mahant from Dhampur near Indore who had moved to Pune. The chief deity is Trishund Mayureshwar Ganapati, i.e. Lord Ganesh with three trunks—trishund—and six arms, sitting astride a peacock. "We believe the idol is from the Peshwa era, but there is no documentation for this or any information of when or how it arrived here," says Harshad Vijay Barlal, a sevak of the temple trust.

## Some Mandi areas still cut-off, drones deliver medicines, ration to the affected

**Chandigarh. (Agency)**

The State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), along with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), on Friday deployed drones to expedite the delivery of ration and other relief material to severely-affected areas in Mandi district, where the road connectivity is yet to be restored.

A 15-kg ration kit was delivered by a drone to Bayla village in the disaster-affected Janjehli region. A team led by team captain Nutan and comprising eight SDRF personnel, two Mandi police officers, and three members of a private drone-operating company played a key role in executing the operation.



Panchayati Raj Joint Director Surender Mohan said, "Drones are being used to deliver relief material and essential supplies to disaster-hit areas quickly. Today, ration kits were sent by a drone. In another operation, medicines were delivered to around 50 people in Odidhar, using a separate drone. Additionally, in Thunadi and Lambathach, essential household items and important documents are being safely retrieved from damaged homes."

Drones are also being used to search for persons missing following the flash-floods induced by the

## Varsha Deshpande from Satara wins 2025 UN Population award for championing gender equality in India

**Varsha Deshpande, a Satara-based advocate, is the secretary of Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal of India and has conducted sting operations to prevent sex-selective abortions.**

**Mumbai. (Agency)**

Varsha Deshpande, a Satara-based advocate whose commitment towards 'saving the girl child' led her to launch ambitious campaigns and conduct sting operations to prevent sex-selective abortions, has been awarded the 2025 UN Population Award for championing gender equality in India.

"I am deeply honoured to receive the prestigious UN Population Award in recognition of my efforts to address gender-biased sex selection and the declining sex ratio. This award is not a personal accolade, but a tribute to the collective work of countless individuals and institutions who engage with communities to drive meaningful change and empower them," Deshpande, who was felicitated on the occasion of World Population Day at an event in New York, told.

According to an official statement, the laureate of the fortieth edition of the United Nations

Population Award in the individual category is Varsha Deshpande, Secretary, Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal of India.

At the helm of Dalit Mahila Vikas Mandal that she set up in 1990, Deshpande has spearheaded numerous programmes, including ones addressing child marriage through the empowerment of adolescent girls and engagement with men and boys; safeguarding the rights of women in the informal sector; and promoting joint property registration to boost women's access to assets. She is a member of several statutory bodies constituted under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, the law to address gender-biased sex selection, and has played an instrumental role in strengthening its implementation.

"Deshpande tirelessly works to empower



grassroots women by building their vocational skills, connecting them to vital resources and services, and fostering their financial independence. She has also played a pivotal role in addressing gender-biased sex selection (GBSS), championing legal reforms and behaviour change through community engagement and advocacy," the statement added.

"I sincerely hope this recognition helps renew focus on the critical issue of gender-biased sex selection and reinforces the importance of investing in the value of women and girls. Being counted among those who have made significant global contributions is both humbling and inspiring. It deepens my sense of responsibility to live up to this honour and to uphold the trust placed in me," Deshpande said.

Andrea M Wojnar, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) India representative and Country Director Bhutan, pointed out that Deshpande's pioneering efforts to build a more equal society were truly commendable. "Her dedication to addressing all forms of discrimination—whether based on gender, caste, or religion—has contributed significantly to ensuring that people, especially women and girls,

**'Get out of the way, I am going to fire': Ex-serviceman shoots woman dead at Rohtak railway station**

**Chandigarh. (Agency)**

An ex-serviceman, who was allegedly in an inebriated state, shot a woman dead at the Rohtak railway station in Haryana in full public view on Friday night.

The police identified the accused as Vajir Singh and said he was caught at the spot and later arrested on charges of murder. The victim, Pinky, was rushed to the nearby Rohtak PGIMS by her son, Lakshya, but doctors declared her dead on arrival.

According to the police, Singh had to pay Rs 12 lakh to Pinky's husband, Rammehar. He had allegedly taken the money, saying he would get Lakshya a job, but Rammehar told the police that he did not deliver on his promise. The matter was allegedly raised in the village panchayat, where Singh had promised that he would return the money, but did not.

Pinky was a resident of Julana while Singh resides in the nearby Lijwana Khurd village. Both Pinky and Singh used to work in the same company located at Hisar bypass and used to commute daily from Rohtak to their native places by train, the police said.

"Last night, they finished work and reached the railway station. Pinky was accompanied by Lakshya. While people were waiting for their trains at the platform, Singh shouted, 'Aage se hat jao, main goli chala raha hoon (Get out of the way, I am going to shoot)'. Within moments, he opened fire, and the bullet hit Pinky in the back. Lakshya, who was also standing at the platform, reached the spot and sought people's help," a police official who is part of the investigating team said.

Singh tried to run away but was caught by a team of Government Railway Police and district police personnel. According to the police, after he shot Pinky, Singh kept standing on the platform and kept fiddling with his phone. As chaos broke out at the platform, he boarded a train to Kurukshestra, but before it could depart, the police arrived, and onlookers led them to Singh.



is yet to be accepted by the court. The report said the EOW found that no financial losses were caused to the bank and so far, Rs 1,343.41 crore have been recovered by the bank from the loans given.

The ED has previously filed chargesheets in the case, naming 14 persons including former Maharashtra minister Prajakt Tanpure, his father Prasad Tanpure, former Congress minister Ranjeet Deshmukh, Subhash Deshmukh, industrialist Sameer Mulay, Arjun Khotkar and construction businessman Jugal

Tapadia. The case relates to loans given to sugar factories allegedly without following procedure by officials of the MSCB even after they turned into Non-Performing Assets and their subsequent sale to kin of the accused below market value.

Under suspicion are the sale of the factories and the alleged irregularities in the process. The ED's probe was into the 2012 sale of Kannad SSK by Baramati Agro Pvt Ltd, a company headed by Rohit. The ED claims the sale of the sugar factory at Rs 50 crore showed significant undervaluing of the price, suspecting it to be the result of a manipulated auction.

The EOW had in its closure report said that an administrator was appointed by the government for functioning of the bank in 2011, after the bank's board was dissolved. The EOW had said that there is no evidence to show that the sale was linked to the relatives of the director of the bank.

## Jewellery worth over Rs 2 crore looted from showroom in Mohali: Police

**Mohali. (Agency)**

In a shocking daylight robbery, two bike-borne robbers reportedly looted gold and silver jewellery worth over Rs 2 crore from Govind Jewellers, located on the main road of Dhakoli near Hermitage Park Society in Mohali. The incident has sent shockwaves across the area.

Surinder Khatra, the owner of the shop, said two young men, one turbaned and the other clean-shaven arrived at around 11:15 am, asking to see a gold chain worth Rs 70,000. Pretending to be potential customers, they surveyed the ground floor and the first-floor

workshop, then left, saying they would return. Around 12:15 pm, they came back and requested to see the same chain again. Once on the first floor, the duo held Surinder hostage at gunpoint, looted nearly 2 kg of gold and 20 kg of silver jewellery, and escaped.

"They threatened to shoot if I raised an alarm," Surinder claimed, adding that the robbers also took the DVR of the CCTV system to erase evidence. Surinder's son, Govind Khatra, said his father struggled down the stairs after the robbers.

SP Jaswinder Singh Gill confirmed that investigations are underway. "We are scanning nearby

CCTV footage to trace the culprits. Only after thorough investigation can the exact value of the stolen goods be confirmed," he stated. "They fled and informed him of the incident.



## As potholes make life miserable for citizens, PCMC issues show cause notice to 24 'negligent' junior engineers

**Pune. (Agency)**

As potholes have surfaced on internal roads on the Pune-Mumbai highway stretch, the Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation on Thursday issued showcause notices to 24 junior engineers, questioning why action should not be taken against them for negligence.

"When the potholes started surfacing and complaints started pouring, the junior engineers should have acted quickly and filled up the potholes. However, they have not done so and remained negligent. And therefore we have issued show cause to notice 24 of them," PCMC City Engineer Makrand Nikam told.

The civic administration has given the junior engineers time to submit their reply within three days. "After we receive their reply, we will decide on action to be taken. The

action may involve imposing fines on them," said Nikam. The administration claimed there were around 300 potholes in the city. "We developed an app for the purpose. The app helps citizens register their complaints and get them redressed. Despite the app being in force, our junior engineers remain negligent," Nikam said.

Through the PCMC administration claims that there are 300 potholes in the city, citizens, activists and political workers differ. They argue that there are potholes of various sizes across the length and breadth of the city. When it rains, water logging becomes a regular



problem at junctions and subways. "In Akurdi and surrounding areas like Duttanagar, Krantinagar and Shrikrishna Nagar, internal roads have too many potholes. And in these areas, if it rains

heavily, water-logging is common. The rain and drainage water gets into the homes of citizens," said Iklas Sayeed, a political worker from Akurdi area.

Dr Anil Roy, former Medical Officer of Health, PCMC said "Right from Nigdi junction to Bajaj Auto, I counted around 70 potholes with motorists struggling to find a way through them. The life of two-wheeler riders especially is under threat on this stretch."

In Dapodi, Phugewadi, Kasarwadi, Bhosari, Sangvi area, internal roads have developed potholes. At Nashik Phata Chowk under the J R Tata flyover, water-logging is common whether it rains

heavily or not, said Rishikesh Marale, a local resident. "For years, water-logging has become a nightmare for vehicles heading to Bhosari, Chakan and Nashik from Nashik Phata Chowk. A mini swimming pool develops during every monsoon here. What is shocking is that PCMC administration is refusing to provide an outlet to the water-logged area. As a result, a mini pool maintains its status quo here," he said.

Nikam said the administration has undertaken the filling work of the potholes and soon they would be taken care of. "As for potholes on the highway in Nigdi, we have conveyed to the MahaMetro about it. Before the work was undertaken, we had told MahaMetro they should take care of the potholes on Nigdi-Chinchwad stretch," he said.

## Take pride in Operation Sindoor, but brace for the worst

Two months after India struck nine known terrorist base-camps and launchpads in Pakistani territory, an analysis of the military and operational dimensions of Operation Sindoor points to certain preliminary but clear conclusions.

First, India hit hard but hit smart—in carefully calculated strikes that took place at night to avoid collateral damage to civilians. Operation Sindoor, which targeted a broader geography and a wider set of targets than any previous counter-terrorist action, was a remarkable logistical and military achievement. Despite Pakistan being on the highest alert, India succeeded in breaching its defensive lines and striking its intended targets, including eliminating some known terrorists (whose funerals witnessed high-level attendance from Pakistani military and police officials, reconfirming their complicity in terror). India's initial strikes deliberately avoided Pakistani military and governmental targets, in order to signal that its action was purely in reprisal against terrorism and not intended to be the opening salvo in a protracted war. It left the burden of escalation to the Pakistani military, which duly obliged, inviting additional retribution. Second, the very terms of engagement with Pakistan have irrevocably shifted. India has shed its longstanding hesitations regarding military action, once held hostage by fears of "internationalising" the Kashmir issue. No longer will such concerns restrain the nation. India has moved beyond the familiar diplomatic process of presenting dossiers and evidence, petitioning a UN Security Council that has long allowed Pakistan to find shelter behind one of its permanent members. The time for such diplomacy is not over, but it is no longer enough. Instead, New Delhi's resolve to respond to terror with military force, and to manage counter-retaliatory actions, was clear and unwavering, with India signalling that it was prepared to inflict even more severe consequences if required.

Third, from swift cross-border surgical strikes in 2016 to an air strike in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in 2019, India has progressively expanded the scope of its strikes. India crossed not only the Line of Control (which the Modi Government had been careful not to breach till its 2016 surgical strike after the Uri terror attack) and the international border (which it had breached in its single strike after the Pulwama bombing), but it did so this time by hitting nine targets. In the process, Pakistan's nuclear blackmail and its incessant threats of an uncontrolled war were ignored and unmasked. For too long, Islamabad has held both India and the world hostage to the shadow of its nuclear arsenal. India demonstrated that terrorism can meet a calibrated military response without inviting a nuclear holocaust. India has clearly demonstrated that, in the event of conflict with Pakistan, any future sub-conventional provocations will now be met with a full-scale conventional response. The onus is now squarely on Pakistan to ensure that such provocations cease, if it wishes to avoid the consequences of India's conventional military power. Fourth, by placing the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, India has sent an unequivocal message: the costs of sponsoring terrorism can no longer be contained within the realm of symbolic reprisals. Pakistan must now face the real possibility that its actions could jeopardise the very lifeblood of its people—its water. While India has not yet shown any inclination to substantially divert these waters, the mere suggestion that the flow could be curtailed dramatically alters the dynamics between the two countries. Henceforth, the bargaining chip is no longer dialogue in exchange for peace; rather, it is Pakistan's cessation of terrorism in exchange for India's continued provision of water.

## Population growth: Neither too many, nor too few

On World Population Day, we should look at India's demographics with fresh eyes. Rather than worrying over population growth, we should question the failure of institutions and policies in ensuring justice for all. The focus should be on creating conditions where all can live with dignity

At a time when the world is grappling with climate breakdown, economic instability, widening wealth inequality and deepening gender divisions, perhaps only one truth stays constant: people must be at the centre of the future we imagine. The relation between population and development has never been more critical. Long before Thomas Robert Malthus and Adam Smith, thinkers across the world—from Kautilya in India to Confucius in China and Aristotle in Greece—grappled with a fundamental question: how does the size and composition of a population influence a society's prosperity, stability, and moral order? Between the 15th and 18th centuries, the thought shifted dramatically as resources came to be viewed as limited. Population growth, once considered a sign of strength, came to be seen as something that would inevitably lead to economic instability, wealth inequality, poverty and hunger. However, this narrative was challenged in the 20th century by the success of Norman Borlaug's Green Revolution. Advances in agricultural technology dramatically increased food production, seemingly resolving the long-feared crisis of feeding a growing population. Yet, despite this surplus, millions around the world still go hungry. This contradiction underscores the core issue is not absolute

scarcity or inadequate production, but rather inequality, flawed distribution systems, and poor governance. These enduring challenges—rooted in questions of justice and access—have echoed through history and must remain central to global development debates. They are more relevant than ever in the pursuit of a just and sustainable future. India's demographic story has always been complex. Once feared for its so-called population explosion, India now faces a fertility transition. According to the National Family Health Survey 5, India's total fertility rate (TFR) has fallen to 2.0—below the replacement level. There are two contradictory concerns at the centre of population debates today. On one hand, some commentators express concerns about India's "overpopulation" and the resultant strain on resources, jobs, and infrastructure. Then there are others who point to the declining fertility rates—particularly in

the southern and western states—and warn that we may be heading towards an ageing crisis and shrinking workforce.

This paradoxical anxiety about having both too many and too few people is symptomatic of a demographic discourse that is fundamentally flawed. It assumes fertility and population can be engineered or manipulated through policy interventions, incentives, or even coercion, without addressing the social norms, freedoms, and inequalities that actually drive demographic choices.

With rapid fertility decline, rising life expectancy,

planning to integrate this shifting female population into the economy? Will their potential be realised through formal employment, entrepreneurship, or leadership roles? And most importantly, how will the unpaid work they continue to shoulder be recognised, redistributed, and valued both socially and economically?

Fourth, the continued existence of widespread child labour in India highlights major gaps in our education and protection frameworks. Despite policies like the Sarva/Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the Right to Education Act, many children, especially from marginalised communities, remain excluded from meaningful education and are instead absorbed into exploitative labour forces. This not only undermines their rights, but also compromises India's long-term human capital development.

Fifth, while poverty levels have declined in recent years, a substantial portion of the population still struggles with deprivation. Meanwhile, the number of millionaires has grown sharply. Data from the World Inequality Database paints a stark picture: the bottom 50 percent of the population owns just 6.4 percent of the country's wealth, while the top 10 percent holds 65 percent, and the top 1 percent alone owns 40.1 percent. In terms of income, the bottom 50 percent population earns only 15 percent of the national income, compared to 57.7 percent claimed by the top 10 percent. This extreme imbalance between population, income, and wealth distribution

highlights the urgent need to reimagine India's development model not only through the lens of growth, but through equity, inclusion, and justice. Today, as we observe World Population Day, India must seize the opportunity to rethink its population discourse. The real issue is not the number of people, but the persistent failure of institutions, governance, and policies to ensure justice, equity, and opportunity for all. While youth empowerment is vital, so too is the imperative to focus on women, the elderly, children, and the marginalised in our demographic vision. Population is not the problem—inequality is. It is time to reject the false binaries of "too many" or "too few" and embrace a justice-driven discourse. Demographic measures should not be about control or reaching an "ideal" number. It should be about creating the conditions under which all people can live with dignity, exercise choice and autonomy, and realise their full potential.



improved healthcare, and other positive demographic and socio-economic trends, India has much reason to be optimistic about its development trajectory. Yet, critical questions remain. First, can India truly harness its demographic dividend by transforming its vast youth population into a skilled and productive workforce—especially at a time when youth unemployment remains alarmingly high? Second, with population ageing accelerating, particularly in southern states, how will India integrate its growing elderly population into productive roles, especially when employment opportunities are limited even for younger cohorts and safety nets remain weak?

Third and perhaps the most critical, India's demographic discourse continues to neglect the potential of the gender dividend. With fertility rates falling and women attaining higher levels of education, how are Indian policymakers

## Govt needs to address rare earth supply challenge with urgency

**The International Energy Agency predicts that despite worldwide efforts to break China's monopoly in the sector, decline in the country's share of global production is likely to be marginal over the next decade. This means India will be at the mercy of its recalcitrant neighbour for some time**

Rare earth elements are the new oil because of their increasing strategic importance in new-age industries. China, which has a virtual monopoly over their mining and refining, is using them as a geopolitical bargaining chip. Its main adversary is the US; however, as it tightens these minerals' exports, India and the rest of the world are suffering collateral damages. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently warned Beijing against "weaponising" their supplies. For itself, India has lately woken up to the challenge and set up frameworks to incentivise the mining of these minerals. But the task at hand is gigantic and progress has been slow. Therefore, like the rest of the world, India has to depend on China in the near and medium terms. Rare earth materials are considered rare not because of their availability, but because they are difficult to extract in pure form and refining them is expensive and polluting. Their strategic significance has risen as critical inputs for electric vehicles and consumer electronics. Some rare earths are also used in manufacturing military equipment—another reason China wants to 'deprive' the



US of them. For India, rare earth magnets are essential for its ambitious policy to manufacture electric vehicles and electronics at scale. While Donald Trump has announced an understanding with China for their uninterrupted supply in lieu of a relatively favourable tariff regime,

Delhi has largely stayed away from openly engaging with Beijing on the issue, although it has hinted at using both commercial and diplomatic routes to ensure supplies.

The International Energy Agency predicts that despite worldwide efforts to break China's monopoly in the sector, decline in the country's share of global production is likely to be marginal over the next decade. This means India will be at the mercy of its recalcitrant neighbour for some time. Cognisant of the challenge, the Geological Survey expanded its exploration of these critical minerals in 2024-25. But the auction of their mining blocks, whose fifth round was announced this March, has attracted tepid interest in the face of limited geological data and policy uncertainties. If it's serious about achieving its ambitious green transition targets by 2030, the government needs to address the issue on a war footing. The time for modest tinkering with policy is over.

## Slapping around in the name of Marathi

### Non-Marathi-speaking shopkeepers and vendors of Mumbai are being targeted by Raj Thackeray's sainiks.

MAHARASHTRA Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray has deployed his men to give tight slaps to shopkeepers and vendors who are unable to converse in Marathi. This development has alarmed the majority of the city's merchants who hail from Gujarat or North Indian states where Hindi is spoken. Raj's father was the brother of Bal Thackeray, who founded the Shiv Sena. Raj's mother was the sister of Balasaheb's mother—two brothers married two sisters. Raj had studied his uncle closely and tried to copy his way of speaking and his style of leadership. He came close to succeeding on both counts. Raj was very upset when his uncle chose Uddhav, who was Balasaheb's son, to succeed him as the Sarsenapati of the Sena. He parted from his uncle and his cousin and formed his own 'Sena'. Most of Balasaheb's musclemen joined Raj since the latter, unlike Uddhav, was not averse to using violence to create fear and awe on the streets of the city. The lumpen elements that joined Raj were unemployed—in fact, largely unemployable. These elements were initially employed by Balasaheb to make the authorities and citizens conscious of his arrival on the political arena. They began with the 'lungi hatao' campaign against South Indian men. That spread the message that South Indians were not welcome in Mumbai since they cornered all white-collar jobs in the Railways and other Central Government establishments by outshining locals in English-language skills. To a large extent, the Sena, led by Balasaheb, succeeded in cajoling the management of banks, Air India and the Railways

to take in more Maharashtraans on their rolls. The Sena became more relevant in their lives, enabling Balasaheb to spread his wings in politics. The Congress government shut its eyes to the Sena's lawlessness as it was happy to see communists and socialists lose ground to the right-wing Sena. When the BJP entered Maharashtra's political sphere, it decided to ride on the back of the Shiv Sena. Besides, Balasaheb had set himself up as a 'Hindu Samrat' while pandering to the 'Marathi manoos' pride that had given him a head start in the city and later across the state. The BJP's calculations have paid off. It had hardly any presence in Maharashtra before its pact with the Shiv Sena. Now, it is the senior partner in the ruling alliance. Thanks to the split that was craftily managed by the BJP's Devendra Fadnavis, several Shiv Sena leaders were inducted into the Mahayuti government under Eknath Shinde, who broke ranks with Uddhav because of the lure of chief ministership, which was the promised carrot. The Uddhav-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government was replaced by the BJP-mentored Mahayuti dispensation in 2022. The 2024 Assembly elections saw the BJP emerging as the largest single party, forcing Shinde to accept the Deputy CM's post under CM Fadnavis. The undivided Shiv Sena ruled the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) for a decade. It was widely believed that the BMC, being a cash cow, provided the Sena with sufficient funds to finance its day-to-day and election expenses. If even 10 per cent of municipal contracts could be skimmed off for party needs, its longevity

was ensured. There have been no municipal elections in the state after Covid-19 was tamed. The BJP-led state government handles the affairs of the BMC. It has been doing so through the office of the Municipal Commissioner. Recently, there has been talk of elections in December. Uddhav and Raj have come together to try and restore the glory of



Balasaheb's Sena. If they fight the municipal elections together, with Raj supplying the muscle power, the chances of the Uddhav Sena gaining power in the BMC will improve substantially. Mumbai city has always been the Sena's happy hunting ground. It is in this background that non-Marathi-speaking shopkeepers of the city have been targeted by Raj's sainiks. The 'golden' opportunity to go on a slapping spree was presented by the BJP's obsession to make Hindi the one and only link language in the country. Out of the blue, it ordered the compulsory teaching of Hindi from classes I to V in schools under the state board in Maharashtra (later, it did a flip-flop on the issue). At

present, Marathi is compulsory in all schools under the two-language formula. So, if there is an English-medium school involved, it would be compelled to teach Hindi as the third language. The order was not well received by the parents of children, and it presented Uddhav and Raj with the handle they needed. Actually, Hindustani, as the Mumbai version of Hindi is called, is widely spoken and understood in the city by most citizens. I was born in Bombay 96 years ago. I never faced a problem of communicating with other citizens on the city's streets and bazaars. The language issue is being played up by the political class for its own interests. By bringing Hindi to the fore in order to serve a political end, the BJP is making a blunder it will regret. When job-seekers feel the need to learn Hindi, they will do so on their own. Presently, the Maharashtrian lower middle class in Mumbai is sending their children to English-medium schools as it feels that will make them more employable. But all kids in English-medium schools speak Hindi fluently. My two four-year-old great-grandchildren certainly do. Uddhav and Raj held a massive show of strength in the city on Saturday. The BMC elections to be held later this year will disclose where people's interests lie. My own estimate is that the Uddhav Sena and the MNS will eclipse the Shinde faction and emerge as the single largest alliance in the corporation. They will be closely followed by the BJP as Gujarati- and Hindi-speaking citizens are likely to vote for the saffron party. In the meantime, the CM has the ticklish job of dealing with Raj's slapping brigade.

# Mths after Dwarka Eway underpass repair, seepage found at another spot

## Gurgaon. (Agency)

Gurgaon: Three months after a water leak prompted NHAI to get a structural audit of an underpass on the Dwarka Expressway, seepage at an underpass near Elan Miracle Mall has raised questions about the quality of construction of the highway. On Friday, water was leaking from several spots at the underpass, including the construction joints and drill holes. There were streaks of water running down the concrete walls, along with exposed tie-rod holes and damp patches. A senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which manages the expressway, admitted there was a seepage problem at the underpass. "Minor leakage was observed in the movement joints and a few tie-rod holes. Our team is already working on sealing these points. The issue will be resolved within 6 to 8 days," the official said. He added that the leak occurred because water accumulated behind a wall after heavy rainfall this

week. "The agency is making an arrangement to ensure that accumulated water behind the wall gets channeled into the Badshahpur drain. Grouting work for newly identified leaks on construction joints and tie-rod holes are being plugged too," the official said. The approximately 600m underpass, where the latest leak was found, connects Central Peripheral Road with sectors 84, 85, 88, 89, and Manesar. Residents questioned why such incidents were recurring on a structure that was opened to traffic in March 2024. "Water ingress in underpasses, especially through construction joints, can slowly deteriorate the structure. This is supposed to be world-class infrastructure, but such repeated instances raise questions," said Vivek Dahiya, a resident of Sector 84.



In April this year, seepage was reported at the Sector 102-102A underpass on the expressway. NHAI, at the time, asked the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI) to carry out a structural audit, after which the agency carried out some repairs based on recommendations. TOI

had reported that the city section of Dwarka Expressway has undergone patch repairs several times since its inauguration last year. In July 2024, four months after it was opened, a 70m stretch of the expressway near Sector 102 developed uneven surfaces and minor cracks. In March this year, the elevated service road at Daulatabad Chowk was closed for 44 days to replace expansion joints. Asked about repair work, NHAI officials had earlier said the routine maintenance and improvements are necessary for road infrastructure. The 19km section of the expressway was built in two stretches — a 10.2km portion from the Delhi border to the Basai rail-over-bridge (ROB) and the remaining 8.7km from Basai ROB to Kherki Daula.

Woman shot in back: SHO

Pinky and her 21-year-old son Lakshay were standing on platform 2 on Friday evening when Wazir turned up with a gun, say police. "Wazir shouted for people to disperse and shot the woman in the back. While she collapsed on the ground, he entered the train. People raised the alarm and we arrested him from inside the train," said the SHO.

Pinky was rushed to the Post-Graduate Institute of medical sciences (PGIMS) here but couldn't be saved. Wazir is being interrogated by GRP. Lakshay told TOI over phone that his mother had given Wazir around Rs 10 lakh. "She was repeatedly asking him for the money, but he wouldn't repay. He carried out the murder because of this," he said.

## Truck carrying flammable items plunges 30ft off Delhi-Mumbai eway, catches fire

## Gurgaon. (Agency)

A truck veered off the Mumbai Expressway and fell nearly 25-30 feet near the Alipur village while attempting a turn towards the city. Both the driver and conductor escaped with minor injuries. According to officials, the truck carrying highly flammable items like perfume, cosmetics, and chemical materials quickly caught fire after the crash. Fire officer Devender Kumar said the truck was en route from Jaipur to Gurgaon. "On the way, the driver handed the wheels to the conductor, but he failed to handle it, and the truck plunged from the expressway," he added. "Upon receiving information about the fire, within 5 to 7 minutes, traffic and police officers reached the site. Police quickly coordinated with the traffic control room and summoned the fire brigade." Police spokesperson Sandeep Kumar said, "Three fire tenders were deployed and, with the help of traffic police and fire personnel, the blaze was brought under control in almost two hours. However, by the time the fire was extinguished, the truck and the goods inside were destroyed," the fire officer added.

"The truck contained highly flammable cosmetic and chemical materials, which made firefighting operations extremely challenging," he further said. Traffic was also diverted on the expressway to prevent any further mishaps.

## STF arrests 1.4k criminals in Haryana, deports 5 gangsters in 2 yrs

## Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Gurgaon: In the last two years, the special task force (STF) of Haryana arrested 1,438 criminals, including 232 gangsters and gang members, 429 wanted criminals, and 777 people accused of heinous crimes.

During the same period, the STF managed the deportation of five gangsters who were operating their criminal empires from abroad. Red corner notices were issued to 27 criminals, marking them as fugitives wanted by Interpol. Nine criminals were provisionally arrested abroad. Among some of the notorious criminals neutralised by the task force were Ashish, alias Lallu; Sunny Kharad; and Vicky Ridhana, all implicated in the Sundar murder case in Murtial and other violent incidents. Deepak, alias Furtala, involved in a triple murder at a liquor vend in Rohtak, and Sagar, responsible for the murder of BSP leader Haribilas in Narayangarh, were also among those killed in encounters. Romila Vohra, linked to multiple murders, met a similar fate. Between 2023 and 2025, a total of 33 criminals were held, and six were killed after encounters. These criminals were involved in several high-profile cases, including the Maturam Halwai extortion and firing case, the Sachin Lakanmajra murder case, the murder of JJP leader Ravinder Saini in Hansi, the Manjeet Dheegal murder in Rohtak, the firing at Goyal Sweets in Narayangarh, and the firing at Nagpal mobile shop in Karnal. The task force also managed to successfully extradite five gangsters, including Rakesh alias Kala Khairampur and Rohit Laura from Thailand, Jonginder Gyon from the Philippines, Naresh Narsi from Armenia, and Kunal June from Kazakhstan. "These extraditions underscore the state's commitment to bringing fugitives to justice, regardless of their location," said an officer of the Haryana police. The inspector general of STF stated that "The state has zero tolerance against criminals, and the agency is working to destroy the syndicate of organised crime."

"The work done in the past two years will continue, and more efforts will be made to curb the gang and gangster activities in Haryana," he added.

## News box

### Shouted for people to disperse shot woman in back': Retired soldier kills woman at Rohtak railway station; accused arrested

#### JIND. (Agency)

A woman, who was waiting with her son at Rohtak railway station, was shot dead at point-blank range by a former soldier in front of scores of horrified passengers on Friday evening. The suspect jumped into a train to escape but was yanked off it by police. A video shows the woman lying on the platform, bleeding profusely. Bystanders, perhaps shocked by what they saw, hesitate for a couple of minutes before moving to help her. The victim has been identified as 35-year-old Pinky, a native of Julana town in Jind district. The suspect, Wazir Singh, is from Lazwana Khurd village of Jind and is a retired soldier. Rohtak GRPSHO Joginder Singh the two knew each other and worked in separate factories in Rohtak.

Woman shot in back: SHO

Pinky and her 21-year-old son Lakshay were standing on platform 2 on Friday evening when Wazir turned up with a gun, say police. "Wazir shouted for people to disperse and shot the woman in the back. While she collapsed on the ground, he entered the train. People raised the alarm and we arrested him from inside the train," said the SHO.

Pinky was rushed to the Post-Graduate Institute of medical sciences (PGIMS) here but couldn't be saved. Wazir is being interrogated by GRP. Lakshay told TOI over phone that his mother had given Wazir around Rs 10 lakh. "She was repeatedly asking him for the money, but he wouldn't repay. He carried out the murder because of this," he said.

## NCR trio in top 5 polluted cities

### Gurgaon. (Agency)

It took just 19 days this year for air pollution levels in Gurgaon to overshoot the limit considered safe by the World Health Organization (WHO). A study of air quality data by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) found that Jan 19, 2025, was Gurgaon's 'overshoot day'. By then, particulate matter 2.5 concentration was already so high that, even if levels were to drastically reduce to zero for the rest of the year, the city would still fail to meet WHO's annual limit. The analysis also ranked the city as the fifth most polluted Indian city in the first half of 2025, with an average concentration of PM2.5 at 75  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , 15 times higher than WHO's maximum permissible limit (5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ). Gurgaon's consistent ranking among the top 10 most polluted cities, even during non-winter months, highlights the persistence of poor air

quality. The upcoming NCAP revision must add Gurgaon as a priority city to tackle its pollution sources year-round," Manoj Kumar, an analyst at CREA, said on Friday. Kumar was referring to another CREA finding that Gurgaon was among the 10 most polluted cities in India in Feb, March, April and May this year. NCAP, or the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), is an initiative launched by the Union environment ministry in 2019 to tackle air pollution across India. 'Non-attainment' cities under NCAP are those that consistently fail to meet national air quality standards. Under the programme, these cities are given targets to reduce PM2.5 and PM10 concentrations by 40% (compared to 2017 levels) by 2026. The CREA report, released on Friday, draws on PM2.5 data from Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) across 293 Indian cities to give a mid-year

snapshot of air pollution trends. PM2.5 — particles that are 2.5 microns in diameter, one-thirtieth the width of a strand of human hair — can penetrate deep into the lungs and enter bloodstream if inhaled. Long exposure can worsen and trigger cardiac and respiratory ailments. Further, the report concluded that other Indian cities did not fare any better. By June 29 this year, 259 out of 293 cities — including Delhi (87  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) and Ghaziabad (78  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) — had reached their 'overshoot day'. Even if the less stringent limits in India were considered for annual PM2.5 levels, 122 out of the 293 cities, or 41%, breached National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) of 40  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$  by the end of June. The remaining 117 cities were compliant with India's norms, though none met WHO's standards. "This widespread exceedance of both national and global air quality standards.

## Discom launches intensive safety audit after electrocution deaths in Gurgaon

### Gurgaon. (Agency)

After three people died in separate incidents of electrocution on waterlogged streets in the city on Wednesday, DHBVN started a safety audit of its electrical infrastructure. Field officials of the discom, including SDOs, junior engineers, foremen, linemen and assistant line staffers, were instructed to conduct intensive safety checks, identify possible risks and fix them. Announcing the audit, DHBVN MD and Hisar divisional commissioner Ashok Kumar Garg said the safety of citizens was the authorities' priority. "As a power distribution company, it is our responsibility to maintain a safe and accident-free system," said Garg, adding that to ensure this, DHBVN had appointed executive engineers as safety officers. Additionally, the phone number of executive engineer (security) was released for citizens to reach out to, with photos and geolocation, in case they spotted sites that could potentially be electrical hazards. "Citizens can inform the authorities of such spots on the WhatsApp number 9050960500. The issues will be repaired immediately," said Garg. According to DHBVN, recent observations highlighted that electrical infrastructure at consumers' residences, such as power lines, transformers, feeder poles, meters, and meter boxes installed on poles, were in poor condition and posed a safety threat. To identify and fix the gap in the infrastructure, officials in charge will carry out regular patrolling and a log of maintenance work will be kept. All defects found in the system will be mentioned in this book, along with their GPS coordinates. Moreover, safety manuals available on DHBVN website ([www.dhbvn.org.in](http://www.dhbvn.org.in)) should be publicised. "Officials concerned have to ensure a careful compliance of the order," said Garg. On Wednesday, Akshat Jain, a graphic designer, came in contact with an electric pole near Ghasola village and died.



everything in this city. I will have to move back to my hometown. What will I do here alone," Sumanlata said on Friday. Just a few kilometres away, in another part of the city, a 25-year-old graphic designer was

electrocuted the same night. Akshat Jain was on his way back home in Sector 49 from a gym when he waded into a flooded road in Ghasola village. Trying to balance his bike, the graphic designer accidentally touched a live wire dangling into the water and died on the spot. A witness, another biker who was behind Jain, said

he felt a "strange tingling" on his feet. "I was close to the divider. Just as I felt the tingling, the rider in front of me collapsed and started shaking violently. I was barely an arm's distance from him. Instinctively, I moved my bike away. People started gathering, but no one could muster the courage to touch him. Even I froze," the biker said. In both incidents, the families registered complaints for death by negligence. Asked about progress in the investigation, a police officer told TOI that the concerned departments have been issued show-cause notices. "Further probe is underway," he added.

## Adani Ports among 3 cos vying for land to build logistics park



### Noida. (Agency)

Three companies, including Adani Ports, have submitted proposals to develop a 174-acre multimodal logistics park in Greater Noida's Kappa-2. The project, launched by GNIDA on May 23, aims to attract over Rs 1,200 crore in investment, create more than 5,000 jobs, and streamline freight movement for industries in the region. In addition to Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd, Super Handlers and Empezar Logistics have also applied for the project, officials said. The park is set to come up next to the Concor-operated dry port, which handles container storage and processing, and will feature an intermodal container terminal for cargo transport via road, rail, and air, leveraging its proximity to the upcoming Noida International Airport in

Jewar. The facility will include container terminals, cargo yards, cold storage warehouses, and mechanised systems for handling bulk and break-bulk cargo. According to officials, the park is positioned to connect the Eastern and Western Dedicated Freight Corridors, and will transform Noida into an integrated cargo hub with seamless air, rail, and road connectivity. Under the allotment scheme, developers were required to propose a minimum investment of Rs 1,200 crore, excluding the estimated Rs 800 crore land cost, and show at least 10 years of experience operating container depots or rail terminals. The project aligns with the state's Multi-Modal Logistics Park Policy, 2024, which offers incentives to eligible investors, officials said. On Thursday, UP chief secretary, and

### No constructions, tree plantations: Height restrictions put in place within 20 km radius of Noida airport - check full details

NOIDA. No constructions or tree plantations are permitted within a 20 km radius of the Noida International Airport without obtaining a 'Height Clearance' or 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) from the Airports Authority of India (AAI), officials said. Noida International Airport on Friday issued an advisory to builders, local authorities, and other stakeholders, urging strict compliance with height restrictions in the designated area. Securing this clearance is not just a regulatory formality but a critical

requirement to ensure the safety of flight operations and protect navigation infrastructure from possible obstructions, said the airport's chief operating officer (COO), Kiren Jain. "As Noida International Airport nears commissioning, it is imperative for the public, real estate developers, and local authorities to strictly adhere to the height restriction regulations laid down by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to ensure the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations," Jain said in a press statement.

The work done in the past two years will continue, and more efforts will be made to curb the gang and gangster activities in Haryana," he added.

# Seconds before Mayday, Air India fuel switches turned back from 'cutoff' to 'run'

**While the first engine's core deceleration stopped, reversed, and began to recover, the second engine could not arrest its deceleration, according to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau's report released today, a month after the June 12 crash.**

**Agency New Delhi.** Thirteen seconds before Air Traffic Control received the "MAYDAY" call from the Ahmedabad-London AI171 Dreamliner on the day of the crash, June 12, a preliminary probe by the Civil Aviation Ministry revealed that the fuel control switches were being transitioned back from "CUTOFF" (fuel stopped) to "RUN" (fuel flowing).

Within seconds of takeoff, both engine fuel control switches were moved from "RUN" to "CUTOFF," one after the other, with only a one-second gap. This prompted one pilot to ask, "Why did you cut off the fuel?" — to which the other replied, "I did not do so." The cockpit recording revealed the conversation between the two pilots following the unusual action. The fuel control switches are not designed to be moved accidentally, drawing attention to their role in the accident.

According to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), both engines of the ill-fated aircraft experienced a momentary recovery after



an initial loss of thrust, but ultimately failed to stabilise even after the switches were moved back to "RUN." The crash ultimately led to the deaths of 260 people.

While the first engine's core deceleration stopped, reversed, and began to recover, the second engine could not arrest its deceleration, according to the AAIB's report released today, a month after the crash.

According to the recording from the Enhanced Airborne Flight Recorder (EAFR) accessed by AAIB, the Civil Aviation Ministry's investigative arm revealed that the fuel cutoff switch of the first engine transitioned from "CUTOFF" to "RUN" at about 08:08:52 UTC.

Two seconds later, the Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) inlet door began to open during takeoff, which could disrupt airflow, according to several experts. The APU provides electrical and pneumatic power while the aircraft is on the ground, and occasionally in the air. After two seconds, the Engine 2 fuel cutoff switch also transitioned from "CUTOFF" to "RUN."

Engine 1's core deceleration stopped, reversed and started to progress to recovery, according to the preliminary probe report.

Engine 2 was able to relight but could not arrest core speed deceleration and re-introduced fuel repeatedly to increase core speed acceleration and recovery, the report further stated.

**You spent Rs 2.5 crore on me, have faith: Radhika Yadav tried to counsel father**

**Agency New Delhi.**

Police investigations have revealed that Radhika Yadav, a national-level tennis player, tried to counsel her father, who was allegedly distressed due to taunts from villagers for living off his daughter's income. Radhika was shot dead by her father, Deepak Yadav, at the family's home in Haryana's Gurugram on Thursday. Deepak has been sent to jail for 14 days.

Sources said Deepak told the police during interrogation that he was disturbed due to the taunts and had not slept for the past 15 days. He had become increasingly withdrawn, wandered restlessly in the house, and refused to speak even to his family members.

Since Radhika's childhood, Deepak had spent over Rs 2.5 crore on her tennis training. However, an injury suffered two years ago kept her away from furthering her career in competitive tennis.

Radhika then took to training aspirants by booking tennis courts at different places. She also aspired to become a social media influencer, and a music video featuring her was also released a year ago. She would also frequently create and upload reels on Instagram.

Deepak, however, was upset over her daughter's social media presence. Sources said due to Deepak's repeated pressure, Radhika had deleted all her social media accounts some time ago. Moreover, Deepak, who himself spent crores on Radhika's tennis, pressured her to stop giving training sessions. Sources said he had become extremely sensitive to the taunts and criticism of others in the community.

Deepak used to earn around Rs 15 lakh per year from his broker business. He used to tell his daughter to shut down the academy as he was earning enough for the family.

Despite this, Radhika remained committed to her dreams and urged her father to have faith in her, sources said. "You have spent Rs 2.5 crore on me. I will not let that money go to waste."

**India successfully test fires 'Astra' air-to-air missile with over 100 km range**

**Agency New Delhi.**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a flight-test of the indigenous Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) 'Astra', equipped with an indigenously developed Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker.

The test was conducted from a Su-30 Mk-I fighter aircraft off the coast of Odisha on July 11, 2025.

Two missile launches were carried out during the test against high-speed unmanned aerial targets under varying range, target angles, and platform conditions. In both cases, the Astra missiles destroyed their targets with high precision, validating their performance.

The test marks a significant milestone for indigenous defence capabilities, as the RF seeker - crucial for tracking and engaging enemy targets - was entirely designed and developed by DRDO.

The success of the Astra system was confirmed using data from Range Tracking instruments deployed by the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur. Astra BVRAAM, with a range of over 100 km, is equipped with advanced guidance and navigation systems. The weapon system is a result of collaboration between various DRDO laboratories and over 50 public and industries, including Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh lauded DRDO, IAF, and the industry partners for achieving this milestone in critical defence technology. DRDO Chairman Dr Samir V Kamat also congratulated the teams involved in the test.

## Student claims she was raped inside IIM-Calcutta campus, one arrested

**According to the student's complaint, she was called to the hostel on the pretext of a counselling session. She claimed that she lost consciousness after consuming a drink laced with drugs, given by the accused. Upon regaining consciousness, she said she had been raped.**

**Agency New Delhi.**

An Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta student has alleged that she was raped by a college mate inside the boys' hostel, police said on Saturday. After the woman filed an FIR at the Haredipur Police Station, the accused was taken into custody.

According to her complaint, the woman was called to the hostel on the pretext of a counselling session. She claimed that she lost consciousness after consuming a drink laced with drugs, given by the accused. Upon regaining consciousness, she said she had been raped, according to news agency PTI. "The woman stated in the FIR that she

was called to the hostel for a counselling session. She then became unconscious after consuming a drink laced with drugs at the hostel. The

The student was detained before he was arrested last night, the Kolkata police said. The woman further alleged that the accused had threatened her with dire consequences if she talked about it to anyone. The development comes almost a fortnight after a 24-year-old student was allegedly gang-raped at a law college in Kolkata. Three men and the security guard of the college were arrested in connection with the case that drew sharp reactions and which also came nearly a year after a similar crime at the RG Kar Medical College and Hospital.

A medical examination

confirmed the survivor's allegations and there was evidence of forceful penetration, bite marks and nail scratches on her body.



## Court allows Sanjay Bhandari to challenge fugitive tag, halts ED's seizure plea

**Agency New Delhi.**

A Delhi court on Friday granted arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari time to challenge the order declaring him a fugitive, and consequently deferred the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) plea seeking confiscation of his properties. The Rouse Avenue Court adjourned the hearing to August 2 after Bhandari's counsel requested more time to approach a higher court.

Bhandari, who has been declared a fugitive in a black money case, is accused of amassing substantial assets in India and abroad. During the hearing, the ED informed the court that Bhandari holds multiple immovable and movable properties, including 10 Bryanston Square in London and properties in the UAE, Gurugram, and Noida.

The agency added that several bank accounts are also registered in his and his wife's names. He reportedly owns



equity in various companies and commercial properties in Delhi, including one in Shahpur Jat.

Opposing the ED's plea, Bhandari's lawyer argued that the accused must be given a fair opportunity to present his side and challenge the fugitive declaration. The counsel pointed out that, as per the law, there is a 90-day

window to appeal such an order, which, in this case, was issued on July 5, 2025. "We are well within our rights to seek remedy in higher court," the lawyer said, requesting the court to refrain from passing any order until then.

The ED, however, opposed the plea, asserting that any further delay would hamper proceedings in a case pending for over five years. The agency claimed that Bhandari had orchestrated a massive financial fraud, controlled various companies, and fled the country to evade trial. It noted that Bhandari was declared a fugitive by the court after repeatedly failing to appear in connection with an income tax case. Sanjay Bhandari, an arms dealer, fled to the UK after legal proceedings began over unpaid income tax dues. He is known to have provided consultancy services to defence manufacturers.

## Two dead as four-storey building collapses in Delhi's Seelampur

**Delhi building collapse news: A few more people are suspected to be trapped, according to Delhi Fire Services.**

**Agency New Delhi.**

At least two people were killed after a four-storey building collapsed at North East Delhi's Seelampur early Saturday morning. According to initial reports, eight people, including three women and a baby, were injured. Rescue operations are underway to rescue a few others who are feared trapped, an officer with the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), said.

According to DFS, seven fire tenders were dispatched to the site immediately after receiving an alert about the building collapse at 7:05 am in the narrow lanes of Janta Colony near Idgah Road.

The cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained, the officer said.

Three people were rescued from the rubble and taken to a nearby hospital, said the officer. He said that the narrow lanes affected the rescue operation as cranes could not be brought in, and the debris



was being cleared manually with the help of local people.

The local police said that residents were sleeping inside the building when three storeys of the building collapsed. A video

surfaced on social media showing some residents forming a human chain to remove stones and bricks from the rubble.

As per the latest reports, those rescued

include Parvez, 32, Naved, 19, Siza, 21, Deepa, 56, Govind, 60, Ravi Kashyap, 27, Jyoti, 27, and Ahmad, 14 months. Most of the injured are undergoing treatment at JPC Hospital, while the baby has been admitted to GTB Hospital, said the police.

On Friday, a 45-year-old man was killed as a two-storey building collapsed at Azad Market in North Delhi. The incident occurred around 2 am when the building, housing shops and godowns in three blocks, collapsed at Tokri Walan near Puli Mithai.

The building falls within the influence zone of the ongoing tunnelling works being carried out by the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for the Janakpuri West-RK Ashram Marg corridor of the Delhi Metro. In a statement, the DMRC had announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased.

## NEWS BOX

**Jofra Archer does things others can't: Root hails England's X-factor on Test return**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

England's Joe Root hailed Jofra Archer as the team's "X-factor" after the fast bowler made an immediate impact on his return to Test cricket in the third match against India at Lord's. Archer, playing his first Test in four years, struck in his third delivery to dismiss India's opener Yashasvi Jaiswal. Clocking speeds in the high 140s (kph), Archer delivered a sharp delivery on the leg-stump line that took the leading edge and carried to the slip cordon, marking a memorable comeback to red-ball cricket. Root, speaking at the end of Day 2, was full of praise for the 30-year-old pacer, who has endured a long battle with injuries since emerging as one of England's most promising all-format bowlers. "It was class, wasn't it? Just the genuine joy of seeing him back playing Test cricket. Taking that wicket, making things happen — the impact he adds to the group is huge in the dressing room and also out on the field," said Root.

Highlighting Archer's ability to turn games



with short bursts of brilliance, Root labelled him a rare match-winner. "He is an X-factor player, and he's shown that in white-ball cricket for England and in the IPL. In big games, he turns up and does things that other players can't. He showed that again today," he added. Archer's wicket of Jaiswal was a key moment for England. Root believes Archer's presence strengthens the overall bowling unit and provides the team with a vital edge. "One thing you will say about it is that he complements the rest of the attack. At different points throughout the game, they're going to have to work together to take 20 wickets if we are to win this game," said Root. "It's a nice start for him — great to see him smiling, enjoying his cricket, and making a huge impact right at the start of the innings."

**Jasprit Bumrah refrains from commenting on Dukes ball: My match fee will get deducted**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah refrained from commenting on the condition of the Dukes ball following the end of the second day's play of the third Test at Lord's. India once again had issues with the Dukes ball in the first session as captain Shubman Gill got involved in a heated argument with the on-field umpires after they didn't get an ideal replacement ball. Following the incident, India even had a loss of momentum as Jamie Smith and Brydon Carse got involved in an 84-run stand and took England's score past 350. Bumrah was also asked the reason behind India's displeasure with the Dukes ball but the speedster remained tight-lipped and hilariously replied that he doesn't want



his match fees to be deducted since he works extremely hard as a bowler. "And the ball changes, I don't really control that. Obviously, I don't want to lose out on money because I work very hard and bowl a lot of overs, so I don't want to say any controversial statements and get my match fees deducted. But we, we were bowling with the ball that we were given, and that's how it is that we can't change it, we can't fight it. Sometimes it goes your way, sometimes you get a bad ball. That's how it is," said Bumrah in the post-match press conference. More than the pitch, I feel the ball is a bit different because, on our previous tours here the ball was never changed it used to remain hard for a long time. Now, obviously, it's dry, it's summer — the wicket is also hard — so maybe that's why the ball is getting softer. But there's quite a bit of change in that. Like, I don't even remember in the last couple of tours if we ever got the Dukes ball changed. So that's a bit of a difference here. And this is a hard-ball game — when the ball is hard, there is some movement here, but as soon as it gets soft, it becomes a bit more beneficial for batting."

# Return to old Dukes, end saliva ban: Kumble on ball-controversy at Lord's

**Kumble asked for Dukes to go back to their old production standards**

**→ Kumble wants the saliva ban to be removed**

**→ The ball used in the Lord's Test has been criticised for going soft too quickly**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Former India captain Anil Kumble has called for changes in cricket regulations, including lifting the ban on the use of saliva to shine the ball and restoring the quality of the Duke's ball. His remarks come amid mounting criticism in the ongoing third Test between England and India at Lord's, where issues with the Dukes ball have raised eyebrows. During India's bowling innings on Day 2, the visitors were forced to change the ball twice within a 10-over span due to excessive wear and loss of shape — a rare and concerning development in Test cricket. The repeated



ball changes prompted players and experts to question the manufacturing quality of the current batch of Duke's balls. Speaking to ESPNcricinfo, Kumble said, "Yes, it is only fair that the ball is getting soft or needs to be changed because it's getting out of shape consistently and too frequently. Something needs to be done for sure. If it doesn't last 10 overs, repeatedly changing the ball is not a good thing — not just for cricket, but the ball as well." The legendary leg-spinner added that a possible solution could be returning to

the manufacturing standards from previous years. "I guess it is fair that you bring back what is available from five years ago," he said, backing calls for restoring the earlier version of the Dukes ball, which was renowned for its durability and consistent swing. Kumble's views echoed those of former England seamer Stuart Broad, who had earlier criticised the ball's performance, suggesting that Dukes should revisit their production standards to bring the ball back to its swinging best. REMOVE SALIVA BAN

## Joe Burns journey: From MS Dhoni's farewell to leading Italy to T20 World Cup

**→ Sabina Park hosts its inaugural day-night Test match**

**→ Australia has limited experience with the pink Dukes ball**

**→ Starc nears 400 Test wickets milestone in Jamaica**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The 2014 Melbourne Test against Australia is largely remembered as MS Dhoni's farewell from Test cricket — a poignant moment etched in Indian cricket folklore. It was a match that signalled the end of an era. In the shadows of that emotional goodbye, a young KL Rahul took his first confident steps in international cricket, beginning a journey that would see him grow into one of India's most adaptable stars across formats. But quietly, away from the spotlight, another debutant took guard — Joe Burns. His name didn't ring across stadiums, nor did headlines scream of a prodigy unveiled. Yet, in that moment, Burns too was chasing a dream. While

Dhoni bowed out with grace and Rahul rose steadily through the ranks, Burns' story took a different turn — one marked by promise, but marred by inconsistency. He flickered in and out of the Australian team, unable to lock down a spot. His ODI career ended the very year it began, and by 2020, his time in the

Italy defy the odds

In November last year, he took over the reins from Gareth Berg ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Europe Regional Final. Italy weren't favourites — far from it. In a field that included heavyweights like Scotland and the Netherlands, few gave them a chance.

But Burns believed — and made believers out of his team. Italy didn't need to top the table; they just needed to hang in the fight. And they did. In their final league match, the equation was razor-thin. Netherlands had to chase 135 inside 15 overs to qualify. Italy's task was simpler, yet nerve-wracking — don't let them. And they didn't. Netherlands won, but not quickly enough. As the 16th over began, Italy knew they had done it. Against all odds, they had booked their place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup — their first ever — to be held in India and Sri Lanka. Burns may not have had the fairy-tale Australian career, but now, he stands at the heart of a different kind of legacy — one built not on applause or records, but on resilience, reinvention, and quiet triumph.

Baggy Green had faded away — not with a tribute, but with silence. But cricket, like life, rarely sticks to one script. And sometimes, glory finds you far from where you first sought it. Nearly five years after his last outing for Australia, Burns re-emerged — not under the Southern Cross, but under a different flag, with a different purpose. This time, he wasn't just playing — he was leading. As captain of the Italian national team, Burns helped script one of the most remarkable underdog stories in recent cricket history. Burns has shouldered Italy to their maiden Men's T20 World Cup!

## Wimbledon: Once time-proof, Novak Djokovic finally looked mortal

**London. (Agency)**

Jannik Sinner served it out wide on match point. Novak Djokovic lunged-stretched so far to his right that, by the time the Italian finished him with a gentle forehand down the middle, Djokovic was no longer on the court. Physically or symbolically. The on-air commentator captured it with theatrical finality: "Djokovic leaves the court empty, leaves the stage for Sinner. It's time for the new dawn to take over." For an hour and 55 minutes on Centre Court, Djokovic, the man who once bent time to his will, looked less like the indomitable warrior and more like a legend out of place in a game that's beginning to move on. He lost 3-6, 3-6, 4-6. Sinner was doing to Djokovic what a 30-year-old Djokovic once did to everyone else.

The chants of "Nole, Nole" rang out defiantly when he conjured up rare flashes of brilliance. His son Stefan, watching from the stands, mimicked the shots, as if rehearsing the next generation's answers to the problems his father once solved in real time. But on this Friday, none of it worked. It felt like watching a once-

perfect tribute. Back in May, Burns made the deeply personal decision to switch allegiance from Australia to Italy. Baggy Green had faded away — not with a tribute, but with silence. But cricket, like life, rarely sticks to one script. And sometimes, glory finds you far from where you first sought it. Nearly five years after his last outing for Australia, Burns re-emerged — not under the Southern Cross, but under a different flag, with a different purpose. This time, he wasn't just playing — he was leading. As captain of the Italian national team, Burns helped script one of the most remarkable underdog stories in recent

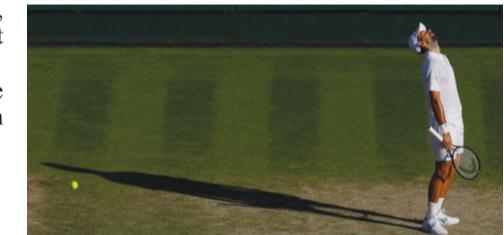
Wimbledon: Once time-proof, Novak Djokovic finally looked mortal

edge over Sinner). What Jannik has is because he learned from everything, like the huge champion he is. From the losses. From the matches he's playing. He just gets better



after every match and every day. I'm pretty sure he's gonna take a lot of things from the French Open final. He's gonna be better physically and mentally. He's gonna be prepared on Sunday to give his 100%. I'm not thinking I have an advantage mentally

because of that match," Alcaraz said. In many ways, Alcaraz vs Sinner is quickly becoming the defining showdown of the post-Big Three era. The epic 5-hour-29-minute battle they produced at Roland Garros is already considered one of the great Grand Slam finals of all time, with Alcaraz rallying from two sets down to defend his French Open crown. But as both players prepare to meet again at the All England Club, past glory is firmly in the rear-view mirror. Alcaraz booked his place in the final with a 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 6-1 win over American Taylor Fritz in the semi-finals, a match where he found his rhythm after a slight second-set hiccup. The Spaniard is now just one win away from joining elite company — Bjorn Borg, Pete Sampras, Roger Federer, and Novak Djokovic — as the only men to have won three consecutive Wimbledon titles in the Open Era.



great cinematic titan, the box-office king of another era, stranded under the harsh glare of a modern set. The voice still commands, the presence still looms — but the tempo has shifted. The spotlight has moved. The script now belongs to younger stars. Sinner and Alcaraz: they're not just challenging him anymore. They're passing him. A man whose career was forged on defiance, whose strength was never just in his legs but in the stubborn refusal to lose, seemed, at last, to surrender. His body gave up. His mind gave up. He gave up. The semi-final slipped from his grip. And in the quiet that followed, the sound of time arriving was deafening. When Novak Djokovic lost to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon finals over the past two years, he went down fighting. But on Friday, in the semi-final, there was no fight left. For two decades, Djokovic found answers where none existed — solving match with the tank half empty. It's not possible to win the match like that," Djokovic said after the limp loss.

# Football federation confirms ISL on hold, awaits top court order to decide fate

## Indian Super League

**2025–26 paused**

**amid legal**

**uncertainty**

**→ FSDL, AIFF working**

**together to secure**

**ISL's future**

**→ Supreme Court**

**decision will**

**determine ISL's next**

**chapter**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has officially confirmed that the 2025–26 Indian Super League (ISL) season is on hold — at least for now. In a statement released on July 12, the AIFF said that the current situation is under legal review, and a final decision on whether the ISL will go ahead this season will depend on the Supreme Court's ruling.

While fans had already seen reports of uncertainty around the ISL, the latest update now confirms that planning for the next season is on pause — and the root of the issue lies in the long-standing Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between AIFF and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which runs the ISL. "The AIFF has taken note of the communication issued pertaining to the Indian Super League (ISL), by our partners Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), stating their inability to proceed with the forthcoming season of the ISL in the absence of clarity on FSDL's continuing



rights under a renewed contractual framework," AIFF wrote in their statement. Consequently, based on legal advice, discussions between the AIFF and FSDL have been put on hold... The AIFF recognises the importance of the ISL to clubs, players, officials, and fans... While the disruption is challenging, AIFF respects the law and the Supreme Court's direction... All efforts will be made to ensure ISL's continuity in the best interest of Indian football," the statement added. FSDL, the AIFF's commercial partner

since 2010, has been handling everything from managing and broadcasting to marketing Indian football under a 15-year deal that wraps up in December 2025. As part of the agreement, FSDL pays AIFF Rs. 50 crore annually to oversee properties like the national team and the Indian Super League. But with the deal nearing its end and no new contract in place, FSDL informed ISL clubs that it wouldn't be possible to properly plan or execute the 2025–26 season without clarity on what happens next. In other words — they can't move forward without a clear roadmap. To find a way out, FSDL has reportedly suggested a new structure: a holding company to run the ISL. Under this model, the clubs would hold a 60% stake, FSDL would retain 26%, and the remaining 14% would go to AIFF. It's a big shift — but for now, it's still just a proposal, with talks ongoing. While things remain uncertain, AIFF has reassured fans that all parties are working together behind the scenes to find a solution.

## Delhi, Mumbai flyers may face higher charges as GMR, Adani win tariff case

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

GMR Airports Ltd and Adani Airport Holdings Ltd could see a rise in their revenues after a tribunal allowed a fresh calculation of the revenue limits for Delhi and Mumbai airports, Mint reported. This means both airport operators can now include non-aeronautical income — such as parking fees, advertising, and retail — in the revenue model used to determine airport charges. However, this change could make flying in and out of India's two busiest airports more expensive for both airlines and passengers.

Airfares likely to rise

The news report, citing analysts at Kotak Institutional Equities, said that airport charges at Delhi and Mumbai airports could increase by about 6 per cent over the next ten years. For airlines like IndiGo, this could mean a cost impact equal to 3.4 per cent of their annual revenue. In FY25, IndiGo posted revenues of 780,803 crore. The heart of the issue lies in the method used to calculate the Hypothetical Regulatory Asset Base (HRAB), which determines how much airports can earn. In India, airports often operate as monopolies in their cities. To ensure fair pricing, the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) sets a cap on earnings. Until now, AERA excluded non-aeronautical income — such as revenue from shops, ads, and parking — when calculating HRAB. Only aeronautical charges like landing fees and passenger service fees were considered.

Along-standing dispute

Delhi and Mumbai airports, privatised in 2006, challenged this method in 2012-13. They argued that both types of revenues should be counted, in line with the original single-till revenue model used before privatisation. After more than a decade of legal battle, the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has now ruled in their favour, the news report said.

## Living Well In Metros On 70,000 A Month: A Realistic Look At Middle-Class Urban Life

**New Delhi (Agency)**

There's a persistent myth in India's metros that a comfortable life demands an astronomical income—sometimes as high as 77 lakh a month. But reddit post from Delhi's middle class show that with thoughtful choices, you can live well on much less.

Let's break down how one freelance couple in South Delhi manages a fulfilling lifestyle on a monthly budget of around 770,000, challenging the high-cost-of-living narrative. Rented Furniture: Rs 5,000 House Help, Cook, Groceries: Rs 20,000 Utilities, Streaming, Electricity, Water: Rs 5,000 Eating Out, Shopping, Miscellaneous: Rs 10,000 Pet Care (including occasional medical expenses): Varies Total: Approximately Rs 64,000 per month, with some months slightly higher due to pet care or freelance income fluctuations.

What They Skip

No EMIs or outstanding loans

No credit cards

No car or luxury gadgets

No club memberships

What They Prioritize

A spacious, well-located home

Reliable help and healthy meals

Occasional dining out and shopping

Peace of mind from being debt-free

Future Goals

While they don't currently have a dedicated holiday budget, travel is a priority for the future. The couple plans to set aside funds to explore India and nearby Asian countries, demonstrating that aspirations can fit into a mindful budget.

The Takeaway

This household's experience highlights an important truth: a comfortable, happy life in Delhi doesn't require a sky-high income. With careful planning, clear priorities, and a focus on living within their means, they enjoy stability, security, and the freedom to dream.

## Massive Layoffs Hit THIS Company: 15,000 Jobs Gone, AI Now Must For.... — Not Amazon, TCS Or Infosys

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Tech layoffs are picking up pace once again and Microsoft is the latest to make headlines. The company has reportedly cut over 15,000 jobs across various divisions in several rounds of layoffs. At the same time, it is urging its remaining employees to focus on upskilling in artificial intelligence (AI), with internal messages encouraging them to "invest in your own AI skilling," according to The Information. Microsoft has cut over 15,000 jobs in 2025 through at least four major rounds of layoffs, according to the report. In the most recent round around 9,000 positions were slashed. This has mainly affected the Xbox gaming division and sales teams. Before this, the company had laid off 6,000 employees in May with additional job cuts taking place in June. Microsoft is making AI a key part of how it evaluates its employees. According to internal emails seen by The Information and Business Insider, the company has started linking performance reviews with how well employees use AI tools like Copilot. Julia Liu, President of Microsoft's Developer Division, emphasised that AI is now essential to every role—not optional. Managers have been asked to factor in AI usage when reviewing employee contributions. Microsoft is planning to introduce formal AI usage metrics in employee reviews starting next fiscal year. This move highlights the company's push toward automation and deeper use of technology across all departments.

# RBI issues revised rules for agriculture, small business loans against gold, silver

**The new pledging norms will be applicable to all commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks and all state and district cooperative banks, RBI said on Friday**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The Reserve Bank has allowed voluntary pledge of gold and silver jewellery as collateral for agriculture and small business loans. "It is clarified that loans against voluntary pledge of gold and silver as collateral by borrowers, sanctioned by the banks up to the collateral free-limit, as covered under the extant circular/master direction, will not

be construed as a violation of the above-mentioned guidelines as regards such collateral," RBI said in a circular Friday updating the extant directions. The new pledging norms will be applicable to all commercial banks, regional rural banks, small finance banks and all state and district cooperative banks, the central bank said on Friday in the directions issued to the heads of these lenders.

The revised norms are an update on the circular issued on December 6, 2024 on credit flow to agriculture — collateral free agricultural loans, and also of the master direction dated July 24, 2017 on lending to micro, small & medium enterprises, the RBI said. On June 10, 2025, the RBI had introduced a comprehensive regulatory framework for lending against gold and silver collateral, harmonising the treatment of loans secured by gold and silver collateral across all types of regulated entities, thus ensuring greater prudence, borrower protection, and



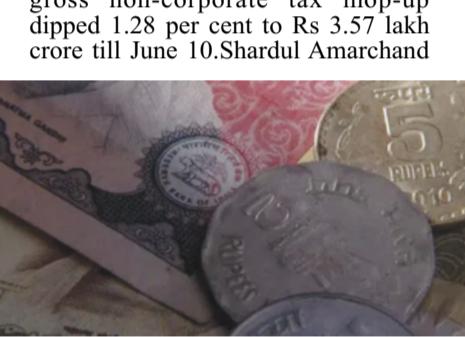
operational transparency. The most important change is the capping of the loan-to-value ratio (LTV) at 75% for all lenders. This means that if you put gold jewellery with a collateral value of Rs 100, then the lender can only give a maximum loan amount of Rs 75. But there is also some flexibility on this based on the size of the loan. For gold loans up to 2.5 lakh, the LTV is 85%, this means

## Higher refunds drive down net direct tax mop-up 1.34% in FY26 till July 10

**Net refunds issued so far in FY26 jumped 38 per cent to Rs 1.02 lakh crore. Non-corporate tax (which includes individuals, HUFs and firms) mop-up stood flat at Rs 3.45 lakh crore between April 1 and June 10, 2025.**

**New Delhi (Agency)**

Net direct tax collection fell 1.34 per cent to about Rs 5.63 lakh crore till July 10 of the current financial year, mainly on account of higher refunds, according to government data released on Friday. Net corporate tax collection dropped 3.67 per cent to around Rs 2 lakh crore, from Rs 2.07 lakh crore in the year-ago period. Non-corporate tax (which includes individuals, HUFs and firms) mop-up stood flat at Rs 3.45 lakh crore between April 1 and June 10, 2025. Securities transaction tax (STT) collection was Rs 17,874 crore till July 10. Total net collections stood at Rs 5.63 lakh crore, registering a decline of 1.34 per cent over Rs 5.70 lakh crore collected in the year-ago period. Net refunds issued so far this fiscal year jumped 38 per cent to Rs 1.02 lakh crore. Gross collections (before refunds) stood at Rs 6.65 lakh crore from April 1-July 10, posting a 3.17 per cent growth over Rs 6.44 lakh crore in the year-ago period. Gross



corporate tax collection grew 9.42 per cent to about Rs 2.90 lakh crore, while gross non-corporate tax mop-up dipped 1.28 per cent to Rs 3.57 lakh crore till June 10. Shardul Amarchand

in net direct tax collection is largely driven by an increase in refunds issued this year, the overall fall in direct taxes can be explained by two major factors. On the personal tax front, the revised slab structure continues to offer relief to a large base of taxpayers, resulting in reduced tax liability. On the corporate side, higher capital expenditure has led to increased depreciation claims, thereby impacting immediate tax outflows. These measures, from expedited refunds to tax relief and capex incentives are aligned with the broader objective of stimulating economic activity and supporting long-term growth," Kanabar added. In the current fiscal year, the government has projected its direct tax collections at Rs 25.20 lakh crore, up 12.7 per cent year-on-year. The government has collected 22.34 per cent of its direct tax target till July 10. The government aims to collect Rs 78,000 crore from STT in FY26.

## FPIs Infuse Rs 5260 Cr In Indian Equities This Week: NSDL

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

New Delhi: Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) remained net buyers in the Indian equity markets this week, making a total net investment of Rs 5,260 crore during the period from July 7 to July 11, according to data released by the National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL). The data highlighted that FPIs were net buyers on all trading days of the week, signalling positive investor sentiment towards Indian markets. The highest net investment was recorded on Tuesday, with FPIs investing Rs 2,771 crore in equities on that single day. With this week's inflows, the total net investment by foreign investors in the equity segment for the month of July has reached Rs 3,839 crore. This marks a recovery

from the previous week, which had seen some selling activity by FPIs. Siddhartha Khemka, Head of Research at Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, told ANI that FII activity is expected to remain subdued in the upcoming week as the market may see increased volatility due to ongoing uncertainty around US trade negotiations. "President Donald Trump's plan to impose blanket tariffs of 15 per cent or 20 per cent on most trade partners adds to the cautiousness," he said. Khemka added that investors will be closely watching key domestic macroeconomic indicators, including Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation data. Additionally, market participants will monitor the

first quarter earnings and any updates related to the India-US trade deal. Despite global uncertainties, India continues to attract foreign investments owing to a combination of supportive domestic policies and strong macroeconomic fundamentals. In the previous month of June, FPIs had made a net investment of Rs 14,590 crore in the Indian equity segment. In May, foreign investors poured in Rs 19,860 crore, making it the best-performing month of the year so far in terms of FPI inflows. However, earlier this year, FPIs had pulled out significant amounts from Indian equities. They sold stocks worth Rs 3,973 crore in March, while in January and February, they offloaded equities worth Rs 78,027 crore and Rs 34,574 crore, respectively.

## Getting Aadhaar Just Got Tougher For Adults; UIDAI to Verify Via PAN, Passport, Ration Card

**New Delhi (Agency)**

Getting an Aadhaar card just got stricter. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which initially allowed easy enrolment since Aadhaar was meant only as a proof of identity not citizenship has now tightened the rules. Going forward, only verified adults will be allowed to enrol for the unique ID.

UIDAI is planning to tighten Aadhaar verification by cross-checking details using government records like passports, ration cards, and birth or school certificates. The goal is to make the system more accurate and secure. While Aadhaar is not proof of citizenship or address, the new process aims to ensure that only Indian citizens receive Aadhaar going forward. Extra Verification Step for New Aadhaar Enrolments

UIDAI has introduced a new tool that adds another layer of security during Aadhaar enrolments and updates, according to a TOI report. This tool will



verify your details by matching them with online records like PAN cards, driving licences, MGNREGS data, and even electricity bills. These checks align with central KYC norms and aim to ensure more accurate and trustworthy identity verification. Over 140 Crore Aadhaar Numbers Issued So Far In The last 15 years, more than 140 crore Aadhaar numbers have been generated including for many who have since passed away. Today, almost every adult in India has an Aadhaar, and even newborns are being enrolled soon after birth. With such widespread coverage, the government is now focusing on stricter rules for new adult enrolments. Stricter Checks to Keep Aadhaar Safe from Misuse To prevent illegal immigrants from getting Aadhaar using fake documents, the government has made document verification stricter.

## Will India be hit with a 500% tariff? Here's what we know

**India remains one of the few countries still in talks with the US at a time when the Trump administration is preparing to enforce steep new tariffs on imports from several nations starting August 1.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India has not yet been able to finalise a trade deal with the United States, even as the deadline for a new wave of tariffs set by President Donald Trump draws closer. According to a government official quoted by Reuters, a delegation from India is expected to visit Washington soon in a fresh attempt to break the deadlock over duties on auto components, steel, and farm products. These items have emerged as key sticking points in what has become a long and complex trade negotiation. India remains one of the few countries still in talks with the US at a time when the Trump administration is preparing to enforce steep new tariffs on imports from several nations starting August 1. Earlier this year, a team of

Indian officials travelled to the US for trade talks, but the visit ended without a breakthrough. Disagreements remained on sensitive areas like market access for American agricultural products and tariff reductions on high-value industrial goods.

### SEVERAL COUNTRIES RECEIVE TARIFF LETTERS, INDIA STILL WAITING

Meanwhile, at least 14 other countries have already received formal letters from the US, notifying them of upcoming tariffs ranging from 25% to 40%. India has not received such a letter yet, an indication that negotiations are still alive, but time is running out. Adding to the pressure is a bill that could bring even more drastic consequences for Indian exports. The Sanctioning Russia Act of 2025, a bipartisan bill introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham and Richard Blumenthal, aims to punish countries that continue to buy Russian oil and other energy products. The bill targets major importers like India and China and includes provisions for tariffs as high as 500%. While no such tariff has been imposed yet, the threat has created fresh concerns in New Delhi.

"I'm looking. It's totally my option. They pass it totally at my option, and to terminate totally at my option. And I'm looking at it very strongly," Trump told

reporters during a Cabinet meeting. Sankhanath Bandyopadhyay, economist at Infometrics Valuation and Ratings, said the impact could be severe if such measures are put into effect. "The 500% tariff is an extreme step and its imposition



will depend on the outcome of diplomatic discussions and trade talks. India's stance has been clear, our oil purchases are based on national energy security. These are long-term decisions made in the interest of the economy," Bandyopadhyay said. He added that India should strongly highlight these concerns during negotiations. "The US itself continues to rely on Russian uranium for its nuclear plants. India must bring such facts to the table to argue for a more balanced approach."

**EXPORT SECTORS AT RISK IF TALKS**

**FAIL** Beyond the Russia-related concerns, Bandyopadhyay pointed out that failure to reach a broader trade agreement could put several key Indian sectors at risk. "Exports of gems and jewellery, marine products, pharmaceuticals, electronics, and steel, all heavily dependent on the US market, could suffer significant losses," he warned. "If tariffs are reinstated or raised, Indian exporters could face losses of \$7-10 billion."

Despite the challenges, there may still be a path forward. According to a Bloomberg report, the US is reportedly nearing an interim trade deal with India.

If finalised, this deal could result in proposed tariffs being capped below 20%, a huge improvement compared to the sweeping hikes other countries are facing. If the deal goes through, India would become one of the few countries to receive trade concessions from the United States, even as Trump increases tariff pressure on many nations. For countries in Asia, the new tariffs already declared range between 20% for Vietnam and the Philippines and up to 40% for Laos and Myanmar. Bandyopadhyay said that India has already made a generous offer in its talks with Washington. "India has proposed reducing the tariff gap with the US from 13% to below 4%.



# Esha Gupta

**Flaunts Curves In A Very Racy White Cutout Gown**

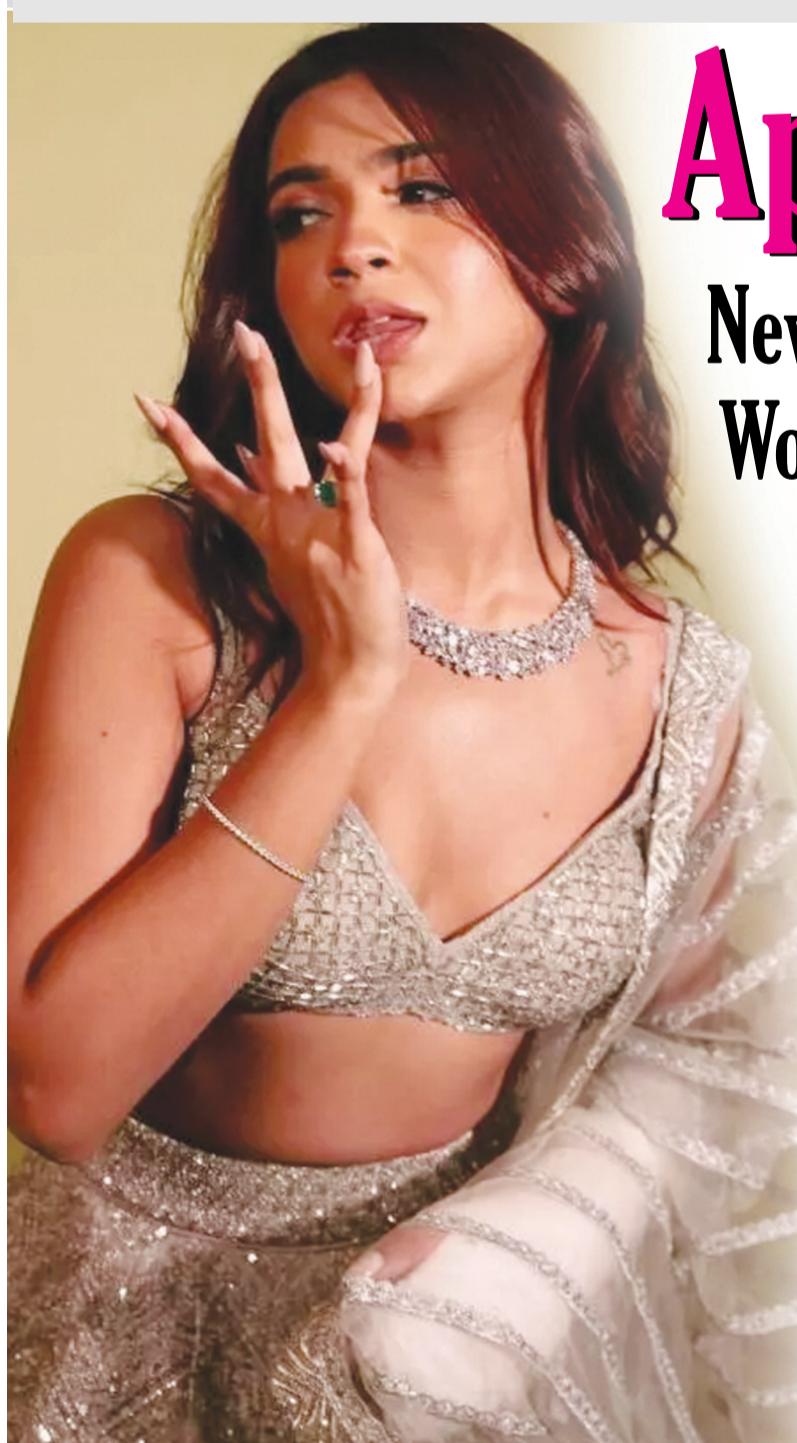


Esha Gupta has left fans gasping for breath. The sultry diva slipped into a racy white gown featuring audacious cutouts and shared a video that's now taking the internet by storm. With her signature confidence and commanding presence, Esha turned up the heat on Instagram and had hearts racing within seconds. In the clip, Esha strikes seductive poses with effortless grace. The gown, sculpted to perfection, hugs her curves in all the right places. The plunging neckline and sharply structured cutouts at the torso showcased her toned body.

Adding to the allure, she wrapped herself in a delicate sheer cape embellished with feathers and embroidery, teasing her shoulders and collarbones. With her soft waves curled into a vintage-inspired bob, and bronzed glam makeup, Esha oozes old-Hollywood sex appeal. She maintains a slow, confident gaze toward the camera and, at times, lowers her eyelids in sultry shyness.

Fans flooded the comments section with fire and heart emojis, with many calling her the "queen of hotness." Some even claimed this is her "best look yet." The sizzling outfit choice comes not long after Esha addressed the long-standing "sex symbol" label attached to her in the industry. Speaking to Siddharth Kannan recently, Esha clarified, "In the beginning, I did not stereotype myself; people did it. 'Sex Symbol', 'Hot', what does that even mean? Kamasutra is a symbol of sex, it's not Esha."

Esha made her Bollywood debut with Jannat 2 and was last seen in Bobby Deol's Aashram. She's now gearing up for Dhamaal 4, set to hit theatres in Eid 2026, alongside Ajay Devgn and Riteish Deshmukh.



## Apoorva Mukhija's New Controversial Comment: 'Proud Of Women Who Monetise Their Sexuality'

YouTuber and content creator Apoorva Mukhija often makes headlines for her controversial remarks. Once again, she has grabbed everyone's attention for all the wrong reasons. In a recent interview, The Rebel Kid talked about women who "monetise their sexuality" and stated that she is proud of them. "I think women who can monetise their sexuality are insane. Good for you, girlypops, I am proud of y'all," Apoorva told Zoom and then added, "If men are stupid enough to see it, pay for it, then do it. I love it! They are the views."

However, soon after Apoorva's video went viral, netizens reacted to it and slammed the content creator. "Basically, she's okay with her being sexualised for money," one of the users wrote. "Just a pure example of being characterless," added another. "Biggest hypocrites in our country are the so-called social media influencers. Har baat par pe bakwas karva lo bas," a third comment read. This comes months after Apoorva Mukhija also faced legal troubles and immense backlash for Ranveer Allahbadia's comments on India's Got Latent. Allahbadia, also known as BeerBiceps, during an episode of the show, allegedly asked a contestant an inappropriate question involving body parts and proposed an indecent act in exchange for Rs 2 crore. The outrage peaked when he posed a controversial question: "Would you watch your parents have sex every day for the rest of your life or join once to stop it forever?"

Following the incident, several complaints were filed against Apoorva and other members of the panel. Apoorva, who enjoys a following of 3 million on Instagram, had also deleted all her posts from the platform. The Rebel Kid made her comeback on Instagram later when she revealed that she even faced sleep paralysis after the controversy because she was being threatened.



**Kabir Khan Broke Down After 83 Flopped, Recalls Mini: 'In 27 Years, I've Never Seen Him Like That'**



Filmmaker Kabir Khan may be known for blockbusters like Bajrangi Bhaijaan and Ek Tha Tiger, but it was 83, his ambitious cricket drama, that he poured his soul into. Now, his wife and television personality Mini Mathur has revealed how the underperformance of 83 at the box office deeply impacted the director, leaving him emotionally shattered. In a conversation with Vickie Lalwani on his YouTube channel, Mini opened up about the toll the film's failure took on Kabir. "If there is a film that came the closest to his craft and the film in which he poured his entire heart, it was 83. According to him, 83 was perfection," she said.

Starring Ranveer Singh as Kapil Dev, 83 was based on India's historic 1983 Cricket World Cup win. Though the film received critical acclaim, its release coincided with a surge in COVID-19 cases, resulting in theater shutdowns just a day after its release.

Mini shared, "The film releases and the theatres shut exactly a day out. No box office. I haven't... in our 27 years of marriage, if there's been one thing where I've seen Kabir dip out of his positivity, it was this. It broke his heart. I don't recall a darker week or 10 days for us."

She described Kabir as someone who's usually the optimist in their relationship. "He was not like himself. It was like he was trapped physically in a room and mentally unable to break free. This was his magnum opus, his love child, and it didn't get the light of day it deserved," she added. Despite its commercial struggle, 83 garnered immense love from the industry. "From Mr. Bachchan to Mr. Kamal Haasan, the greats called him personally. I've never seen him receive so much love from within the industry," she noted.

Mini also mentioned how the film continues to resonate with audiences. "Till today, I get messages saying toddlers watch 83 repeatedly. People appreciate the detailing — from costumes to props. That was the darkest chapter of his filmmaking life."

### Anurag Kashyap Lauds Ananya's Growth After Siddhant's 'Struggle' Remark: 'She Took It Personally'



**Anurag Kashyap feels Ananya Panday changed after Siddhant Chaturvedi's viral 'struggle' remark. He says she's now taking bold risks as an actor.**

Filmmaker Anurag Kashyap has praised Ananya Panday's professional growth in the years following Siddhant Chaturvedi's now-famous "struggle" remark. In a recent interview with The Juggernaut, Kashyap reflected on how Ananya has seemingly evolved, especially after that moment during a group interview when Siddhant had said, "Our struggle begins where your privilege ends." Calling her one of his favourite star kids, along with Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor and Ayan Mukerji, Anurag Kashyap said Ananya took the moment seriously and something visibly changed in her.

"I think she has figured out. That one thing that happened long back in an interview when Siddhant Chaturvedi had said, 'Our struggle begins when yours ends,' I think she took it very personally. I think something happened, altered inside her, because something about her changed after that," he said.

He went on to add that her performances in CTRL and Kho Gaye Hum Kahan reflected that shift. "Something flipped inside her, and she found herself or she is on the path to find herself. Whatever it is, she is doing great stuff. She took a risk, she is taking risks and she is quite mature. She experiments and is not playing safe unlike others," Anurag added.

Kashyap also commented on the role of parents in shaping their children's careers in Bollywood, saying, "More than the kids, I think the parents are not letting the kids be or make their choices. For the sake of safety, the parental thing kicks in — that 'I know better and I will protect my children and give them a very successful career.' That's where the problem is." He concluded by saying that parents should let their children carve their own journeys. "Kids actually are much smarter... let them go out and do things on their own," he said.

# Make your kitchen Look bigger



The size of kitchens in the city are shrinking with time. What used to be the most important area in the house has now been limited to only utilitarian purposes. However, when it comes to doing up your kitchen, you can work wonders with limited space at hand. Small kitchens can be difficult to work in, especially for individuals who want everything to be accessible and neat. They can be made to look big with a few adjustments.

"There is no fixed dimension for a kitchen. When it comes to individual houses we can do anything and everything according to the customer's need. But apartments have limited space. Putting an accessory in a small kitchen will not help save space. Open shelves make better sense because of the ease of access. It helps in utilising 100 per cent of the space in the kitchen. Modifying a kitchen with open shelves increases the space. You not only have more storage space, the room looks a lot bigger," says S Selvapathy, chief executive, Master Design Kraft Modular Kitchen. Woodwork plays a significant role in kitchen fittings. The right kind of wood for your kitchen depends mostly on weather and climate. P Aravindan, designer, Amphaa Projects, talks about three types of wood. He says, "Rubber wood, a light-coloured tropical hardwood is obtained from the rubber tree. It is commonly known as an environmentally friendly wood.



**Kitchen design can be tricky but some smart adjustments can make your kitchen appear bigger and spacious.**

Plywood, is a sheet material manufactured from thin layers of wood and membrane wood is manufactured using optimum quality wood. Moisture resistant plywood is widely used in Chennai kitchens."

You have to choose your colours wisely if you wish to give a spacious look to a small kitchen. "Choosing light colours like white, cream or soft beige for your kitchen will reflect light and make the space feel bigger. The wall colour should be in contrast with the cabinets and the floor colour. You can also go for pop-colours. Just choose a color that is equally light, like pale yellow, sky blue, or blush. This will make the space to open and airy, not dark and congested," he adds.

Good lighting helps by allowing you to make the best use of the space you have. "My husband and I wanted to make our kitchen space look big and bright. We painted the walls in light blue colour and opted for open shelves instead of upper cabinets which makes our kitchen look spacious. We also installed cabinet lights which makes it bright," says Swetha Reddy, a housewife from the city.



## Decor trends: Pad it up

### Living alone has its perks and when it comes to decor, sky is the limit.

A bachelor's life has its own perks and privileges. One can be free in his or her way without making compromises or any responsibility. When you think of a bachelor's home, there are some striking features that come instantly to your mind. An unkempt living room, a messy bedroom and a completely unorganised kitchen. However, these are mostly movie and sitcom clichés which mould our perception of

bachelor pads. It will be surprising to some to know what can be done with minimum effort when it comes to designing a perfect bachelor pad.



Nancy Satisch, of Designworks, says bachelors are for two types of people, the ones who are waiting to get married and others who live in cities on a temporary basis for work or other engagements. "The necessities of these bachelors will vary. The centre of any

bachelor pad is the entertainment centre. Be it the television, music system, Playstation or Xbox, all the other decor elements complement these accessories," she says. "The kitchen elements are minimal and utilitarian. Even the living room has furniture like bean bags, lounge chairs and La-Z-boys."

The living room is the sanctum sanctorum for a bachelor pad. They have get-togethers at their place quite often and they ensure that they have necessary pieces of furniture to have a blast. Gautam Dhirman, an advertising professional, handpicked all his living room furniture. He says, "I want my friends to relax and feel free when they come over. Each and every piece of my living room furniture is directed towards my entertainment unit. Brightly coloured, no-fuss chairs are my first choice to adorn the living space instead of bulky couches. I have made a small dining space with four chairs and a small glass table and hung a bulb over it. Bean bags are a must for any bachelor pad and today you have a lot of options at hand."

Designer Harish Mehta believes that simplicity is what defines a bachelor's home. He says, "You don't see huge pieces of furniture in a bachelor's abode. It is all about utility and space saving. Today, one has many options in light-weight and trendy furniture. I personally suggest bachelors to opt for cane furniture for their living room. It not only provides a classic look but is also sturdy enough to survive the weekend parties. Even a well-placed mattress with lots of brightly coloured cushions can do the trick. For bachelors, it is important that they keep the maintenance part in mind before going in for any kind of decor element." He maintains that there is no definition for a bachelor's pad design. He adds, "This is the most important aspect of doing up a bachelor's space. The ideas are unique and completely out-of-the box with no limitations of elements and designs."



## Go eclectic for unique décor

You can bring an exotic feel to your home with an eclectic style of interior decor.

Give your home an exotic feel by combining various styles, time periods, colours, textures and patterns. This decor style, called eclectic, is for people who love something about different decor styles. It is a combination of both old and new styles and allows for a great deal of flexibility. An eclectic home has many elements but they all share a commonality, whether it's tonality, line, shape or pattern. Eclectic style grants you the freedom of mixing and matching different decor styles and creating your own unique decor. There is only one major rule for this style the decor should look consistent and harmonious.

### DESIGN PRINCIPLES

This style undeniably requires skill, basic knowledge of design principles and a vision. Contrast is an important characteristic of an eclectic style. Accessories could also be a point of contrast. Follow the concept of closeness in seating pieces.

To tie together a variety of decorative styles, it is important to give parts of the interior a timeless treatment. For windows, however, choose treatments that defy time, such as straight-hanging drapery. Roman shades are easy to live with. It's not always important to match the knick-knacks you pick up with the theme of your home, as long as you introduce just a few pieces. But if possible, match them with the decor.

### COLOUR AND CHARACTER

Colour is a crucial point for this design theme. Add character to your eclectic decor by mixing the wood finishes or fabric patterns. Otherwise, create a unique feature by purchasing readymade drapes and adding a band of custom fabric to the top or bottom.

Spaces decorated in an eclectic style can easily change according to mood, inspiration and

budget. Blend a mix of styles. Don't overwhelm small rooms with an abundance of upholstery. Select furnishings with slender lines. Remember, pale and neutral colours have a low impact on the decor. An eclectic style can combine smooth shiny tiles with deep rich wood. Go for uniquely-designed items, customised range of furniture or display accessories.

Don't be hesitant to mix patterns, textures and colours. Experiment with silks, wood, glass and different textures to highlight design elements unique lighting is a must. Opt for LEDs for concealed lighting.

### CONTRASTS

Contrast is key to an eclectic style. Sometimes the lesser pieces have in common, the more they set each other off. However, it is important to pick your contrasts carefully as too many contrasts create chaos.

Though you are provided with the freedom to dare with this style, the principles concerning form, scale, composition and proportion are to be kept in mind while designing under this style. Contrasts in textures offer interesting visuals. Green plants add a fascinating backdrop to smooth ceramic pots, figurines or sculptures. Bamboo blinds will add a soothing texture to a multifaceted room with an eclectic ensemble of furniture and accessories.

### DISTINCT STYLE

The house you stay in is an extension of you and should echo your taste while keeping the rules of the decor style in which it is done up. Most handicraft stores have an interesting array of things that will fit right into your home. When you buy an object, think of all the ways in which you can use it besides its original purpose. You will be surprised to discover the possibilities. Let your style reflect in everything you bring into your home. It's a sure-shot way to make your decor unique.

