

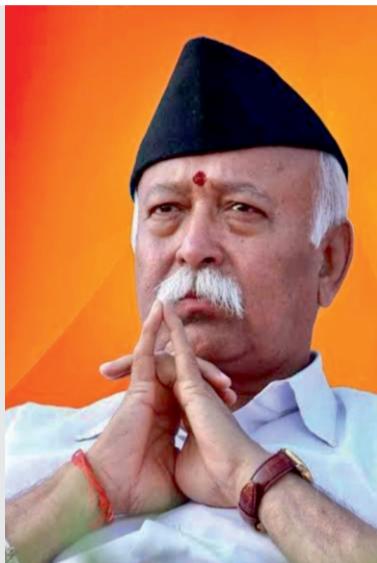
No Force Can Override the People's Mandate: PM Modi Is the Will of the Nation

The Sikh Times
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

In a deeply orchestrated political maneuver, the Congress Party has launched a calculated and aggressive campaign across social media platforms and public forums, seeking to raise questions over PM Narendra Modi's continuation in office as he approaches his 75th birthday on 17 September 2025. With its spokespersons actively speculating about the Prime Minister's resignation and misusing statements made by Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, the Congress is attempting to build a false narrative around age and political retirement. This campaign, however, undermines the very foundation of Indian democracy. It must be made absolutely clear: Narendra Modi was not installed by any organisation or pressure group. He was elected by the people of India through a democratic process. More than 1.4 billion citizens of this nation have vested their trust in his leadership by voting overwhelmingly in



his favor. He is a directly elected Member of Parliament from Varanasi and was chosen by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to lead the country. RSS may be a



guiding force in ideological matters, but in a democracy, only the people can make or unmake a Prime Minister. The Congress party's repeated reference to an

internal BJP tradition of leaders retiring at 75 is both misleading and unconstitutional. Traditions are not binding in a democracy; the Constitution is. And nowhere in the Indian Constitution does it say that age limits a leader from continuing in office if they are mentally, physically, and electorally strong.

In fact, PM Modi is at the peak of his leadership. He is known globally as one of the most influential leaders in the world. His governance model, foreign diplomacy, counter-terrorism efforts, and fight against corruption and anti-national elements have earned him tremendous respect at home and abroad. Any attempt to forcibly remove Narendra Modi from his democratically mandated position would amount to a murder of Indian democracy. If RSS or any other third force attempts to push him out under pressure, it will send a dangerously wrong message to the entire world — that India is no longer governed by its people, but by hidden powers pulling strings from behind the curtain. [continue news page 02](#)

Unite to give 'new direction' to state, Sanjay Raut urges Uddhav, Raj Thackeray

Mumbai. (Agency)

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut on Sunday said it is necessary that his party chief Uddhav Thackeray and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena head Raj Thackeray form an alliance, claiming it will give a "new direction to the state". In his weekly column Rok Thok in the Sena (UBT) mouthpiece Saamana, Raut also claimed the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has nothing to do with the fight for Maharashtra's unity and Marathi "asmita" (pride). "The BJP's policy is to first loot Mumbai, then make Mumbai

a union territory and play game for a separate Vidarbha and finish the existence of Maharashtra," he alleged. Raut said people have not forgotten

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the past carrying placards with the message: 'Vidarbha is my only state', during agitations in Nagpur.

If the unity of the Thackeray cousins and their leadership does not remain intact, then Mumbai will be swallowed by "Adani-Lodha" and one day it will not be part of Maharashtra, the Rajya Sabha member alleged.

In April, MNS leader Raj Thackeray sparked speculation about a potential political rapprochement with his cousin Uddhav Thackeray, noting their past differences were "trivial" and uniting for the greater good of "Marathi manoos" (Marathi people) is not a difficult task.

Yogi Adityanath Illuminates Guru Tegh Bahadur's Legacy in Lucknow



The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

In a deeply moving ceremony held



day before yesterday at his official Lucknow residence, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath orchestrated an event filled with reverence and

unity to commemorate Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji's 350th Shaheedi celebration. The occasion transcended mere formality, becoming a heartfelt

tribute to Sikh heritage and a powerful message of interfaith solidarity. Draped in saffron, CM Yogi welcomed the Guru Granth Sahib Ji with

solemn devotion. In a rare and striking gesture, he lifted the sacred scripture onto his head, carrying it into the sacred precincts of his home before placing it reverently on a cushion. Bowing low, he offered his respects with profound humility—a gesture that touched the hearts of those present.

During his address to the Sikh sangat, the Chief Minister spoke with heartfelt emotion about the sacrifices of the Sikh Gurus.

He lauded Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, whose martyrdom under Aurangzeb stood as a sacrifice for religious freedom and cultural identity.

He recounted how Guru Gobind Singh Ji's four Sahibzadas gave their lives as children, courageously facing tyranny, establishing the significance of Vee Bal Diwas on December 26. Yogi underscored the need to integrate these narratives into educational curricula: "The story of Sahibzadas must be told to all children and youth," he urged. He emphasized these stories as powerful tools of inspiration and moral guidance for future generations. [continue news page 02](#)

Different day, same rot: Trinamool slams BJP after Odisha student self-immolates

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the BJP government after a college student in Odisha's Balasore district set herself on fire following repeated sexual harassment by her Head of Department. The student, battling for her life with over 90 per cent burns, had accused her HOD of demanding sexual favours and threatening to ruin her future if she did not comply. "Different day, different victim — same rot under BJP's watch. In Balasore, Odisha, a student was forced to set herself ablaze after her HOD demanded sexual favours and threatened to ruin her future. She is battling with 95% burns. A fellow student who tried to save her has suffered 70% burns" Trinamool posted on its official X handle.

"The silence of Mohan Charan Manjhi is disgraceful, and the absence of any condemnation from PM Modi only reaffirms what we already know: 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' is a FARCE," it added. The horrific incident took place on Saturday afternoon at Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College when the young woman, a second-year Integrated B.Ed student, met Principal Dilip Kumar Ghose to press for action against Assistant Professor Samira Kumar Sahu — who was also her HOD — whom she had accused of sexual harassment, officials said. Moments later, she allegedly poured kerosene on herself and set herself ablaze on the campus.

Vijender Gupta Calls on Vice President of India

The Sikh Times
Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi, 13 July 2025

The Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Vijender Gupta, called on the Vice President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar, yesterday at the Vice President's House.

During the interaction, Gupta apprised the Vice President of several pioneering initiatives undertaken to modernise the functioning of the Delhi Legislative Assembly. Gupta also presented a special booklet titled "100 Days of the 8th Delhi Legislative Assembly – Marching Ahead with Legacy and Development." to Hon'ble Vice President. He elaborated on the Assembly's transition to a fully digital legislature under the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) framework. This ambitious move toward a paperless environment is designed to enhance legislative transparency, improve operational efficiency, and facilitate real-time communication among Members.

Gupta also highlighted the commissioning of a 500 kW Solar Power Project at the Assembly premises. With this initiative, the entire complex is poised to operate entirely on renewable energy—marking a significant move towards environmental sustainability. The project aligns with national goals of energy conservation and sets a commendable precedent for green public infrastructure.

Furthermore, the Speaker shared a visionary proposal to develop the Delhi Assembly as a heritage complex. This initiative seeks to preserve the architectural and historical legacy of the institution while integrating modern amenities. The goal is to transform the Assembly into a vibrant civic space that fosters public engagement and becomes a living Heritage of Delhi's democratic journey.

The Vice President appreciated the initiatives and conveyed his best wishes for the continued strengthening of democratic institutions at the state level.

Bihar Minister touts good governance as back-to-back shootings leave 3 dead

New Delhi. (Agency)

A string of shootings over 24 hours across Bihar has left three men dead, including a prominent businessman, a veterinary doctor, and a grocery store owner, raising concerns over law and order in the poll-bound state.

In the first incident on Saturday, businessman Putu Khan was shot in the head at point-blank range by unidentified assailants at Mehsa Chowk, the busiest market area in Bihar's Sitamarhi district. CCTV

footage of the attack has surfaced, showing Khan being targeted in broad daylight.

Khan succumbed to his injuries during treatment at a private hospital. Police arrived at the scene and began collecting CCTV footage from nearby shops to identify the attackers.

The killing led to tensions in the area. Family members, refusing to allow a post-mortem, staged a protest on the road with the body, demanding justice



and alleging that the murder was linked to a land dispute involving Khan's business. Media personnel were prevented from filming the scene, as

temper flared among locals. Hours later, in Patna district, veterinary doctor Surendra Kumar (50) was shot in Sheikhpura village. According to officials, Kumar was irrigating his field when bike-borne gunmen opened fire at him. He was found unconscious with bullet wounds and rushed to AIIMS Patna by villagers but died during treatment. Police are questioning locals and have sent the body for post-mortem.

Women are my greatest inspiration : CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Navdeep Singh Sahni

New Delhi, 13 July 2025 : Under the leadership of Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, the Delhi Government is set to organize a grand Teej Mela in the national capital with the aim of promoting women empowerment, cultural richness, and community harmony. The festival will take place from 25th to 27th July 2025 at Dilli Haat, Pitampura, and will be inaugurated by CM Rekha Gupta on the evening of 25th July. On 26th July, a grand celebrity night will be held, featuring performances by popular artists. Throughout the three days, the fair will be adorned with folk dances, folk music, magic shows, and cultural performances, enhancing its festive spirit.

The Chief Minister stated that the mela will be a celebration of India's cultural heritage, the strength of

women, and traditional arts — offering something special for every generation. To make the 2025 Teej Mahotsav truly exceptional, the venue will be decked out with theme-based decor. The entire space will reflect the traditional Teej theme, featuring 3D entry gates, colorful chandeliers, bunting, hanging lights, LED and spot lighting. Visitors will also enjoy a digital experience at the venue, with at least three themed selfie booths, including one with Augmented Reality (AR). Additionally, AI-assisted mehndi design selection and on-site application will be available.

The Chief Minister added that around 80 stalls will be set up to showcase traditional arts and crafts. These will feature handicrafts, ethnic wear, bangles, block printing, embroidery, mehndi, and traditional foods. Various competitions and stage performances will also be organized to encourage women's participation. Events such as mehndi, rangoli, bindi decoration, Teej Queen, Teej quiz, and slogan writing competitions will be held, with attractive prizes for winners. On 18th

July, a special "Women in Green" fashion walk will be hosted, culminating in the selection of Miss Teej 2025. For women, the fair will feature swings and fun activities throughout the day, along with workshops focused on women empowerment, health, and social issues. Every day will include storytelling sessions related to Teej, aimed at enriching cultural knowledge and passing down traditions. [continue news page 02](#)



'Serious incriminating circumstances': HC rejects bail to woman convicted in Kirti Vyas murder case

Vyas, who was 28 at the time, went missing on March 16, 2018, after leaving her South Mumbai home for work

Mumbai (Agency)

The Bombay High Court last week refused to release on bail the woman convicted for the murder of her colleague Kirti Vyas, a finance manager at BBlunt Salon, in Andheri in 2018.

The HC on July 7 dismissed an interim application by the woman, a colleague of Vyas, against the May 2024 order of the sessions court, which convicted her along with another person. The detailed order copy was made available on Saturday. A division bench of Justices Sarang V Kotwal and Shyam C Chandak held that there were sufficiently serious incriminating circumstances against the applicant, therefore she cannot be released on bail. Vyas, who was 28 at the time, went missing on March 16, 2018, after leaving her South Mumbai home for work. Almost two months later, police alleged that two of her co-workers were responsible for her death. As per the prosecution, the two colleagues, who were allegedly in an illicit relationship, killed Vyas, who was working as Chief Finance Officer at BBlunt Salon, in a moving car after picking her up from her residence that morning due to issues at work.

Front news continue

No Force Can Override the People's Mandate: PM Modi Is the Will of the Nation

This will shake global confidence in Indian democracy — a democracy which has long stood as a beacon of stability and strength in the developing world.

PM Modi is working day and night for the welfare of every Indian. His leadership is sharp, his health is robust, and his administrative abilities are unparalleled. No foreign power, political party, or ideological body has the right to remove an elected Prime Minister under pressure.

If such undemocratic forces succeed, it will create a perception that for the past decade, Shri Narendra Modi was merely a puppet of invisible powers. This will deeply insult the crores of voters who have chosen him time and again with overwhelming majorities. This perception will not only be a betrayal of democracy, but an insult to the spirit of Bharat.

India belongs to its people, and only the people have the right to choose their Prime Minister. The message is clear — Narendra Modi must be allowed to complete his full term.

His fight against terrorism, anti-national elements, criminal mafias, and corruption makes him a national asset not a leader to be retired, but one to be celebrated. Let us protect the sanctity of our democracy. Let no third force decide who governs us. Let the people's voice remain supreme.

Yogi Adityanath Illuminates Guru Tegh Bahadur's Legacy in Lucknow

He also warned against divisive forces that aim to fracture Hindu-Sikh unity, recalling how Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji stood up to religious oppression to defend the soul of India. He called for vigilance and unity to safeguard India's pluralistic spirit. In line with Sikh traditions, the event featured a soulful recitation of Gurbani, heart-felt Ardas, and the communal spirit of Langar. Sikh representatives across the state presented the CM with a Siropa—a traditional robe of honour—for his heart-felt homage.

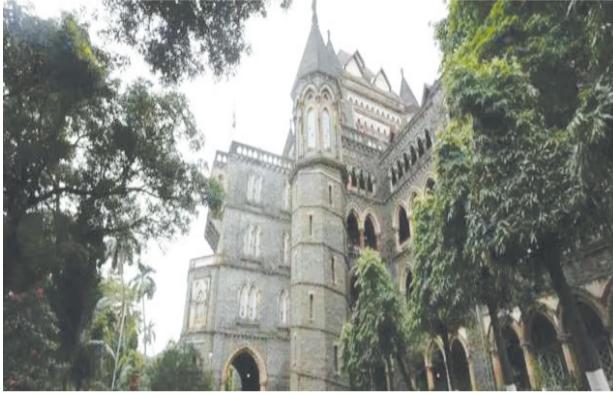
Tears glistened in many eyes as Yogi reflected: "Their selflessness wasn't just for religion—it was for the nation." He urged every Indian to carry these values forward especially in education and collective conscience.

This event wasn't just protocol—it was a deeply human moment, forging bonds, stirring souls, and creating a bridge between traditions. CM Yogi's humility and respect resonated in the corridors of power and in the hearts of the Sikh community—an act of unity that many will remember as history in motion.

Women are my greatest inspiration : CM Rekha Gupta

The festival will also highlight live demonstrations of traditional crafts, such as pottery on the wheel, bangle-making, weaving, block printing, and embroidery, giving visitors a close-up view of artisanal skills. Special attention is being given to entertainment for families and children, with a dedicated kids' zone featuring interactive and educational activities, storytelling, magic shows, and games.

The Chief Minister stated that this year's Teej Mahotsav will be celebrated across Delhi with traditional fervor, cultural dignity, and grandeur. She added that her greatest strength is the trust of the people, especially the women who see her as their representative and a medium through which they realize their dreams and rights. CM Rekha Gupta emphasized that she fully understands how each of her decisions and initiatives impacts women's self-confidence, dignity, and participation in society. It is this trust that she is determined to uphold with complete sincerity and dedication now and in the future.



The sessions court in May 2024 convicted main accused Siddhesh Shantaram Tamhankar and the woman Khushi Ajay Sahjwani for the murder and sentenced them to life imprisonment.

Sahjwani approached the HC. Earlier this year, Sahjwani filed an interim application, seeking release on bail and suspension of sentence pending final disposal of her appeal against conviction. Advocate Yug Mohit Chaudhry for the applicant argued that the prosecution's case was purely based on unsubstantiated and doubtful circumstantial evidence. He argued

that while the prosecution claimed that Tamhankar was given notice by the deceased about his performance, the same was only for improving his performance. He argued that the notice had nothing to do with his client and it was a far-fetched theory that due to their illicit relationship, she would take part in committing murder.

Chaudhry also claimed that the DNA report based on the stains on the mat in the car was planted and a weak piece of evidence as the deceased had another sister and the report merely showed that the blood

found on mats in the dicky of the car was of the offspring of the parents whose blood was collected for testing. He said the prosecution did not rule out the possibility that it could be the blood of the deceased's sister.

"However, in this aspect we are unable to agree with Chaudhry. The record shows that the car was in the custody of accused no. 2 i.e. the present applicant. The DNA analysis record shows that it was the blood of the offspring of the parents, whose blood was sent. It is not possible to accept the theory that it can be the blood of the sister of the deceased," the bench observed.

Over 1,000 pituitary adenoma surgeries performed endoscopically by one PGI neurosurgeon in 7 years

Chandigarh (Agency)

In a remarkable achievement, a senior neurosurgeon at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh has performed more than 1,000 pituitary adenoma surgeries endoscopically over the past seven years, a distinction that places this achievement among the largest single-surgeon series globally, the institute said in a statement. "Despite advances in medicine, we continue to see patients presenting with large or even giant pituitary tumours, often due to delayed diagnosis or limited awareness. This milestone reflects not only surgical success but also the importance of early detection and the collaborative strength of a dedicated multi-

disciplinary team," said Prof Rajesh Chhabra, who performed those surgeries.

The pituitary gland, a pea-sized structure at the base of the brain, plays a crucial role in regulating many of the body's vital functions. Known as the master gland, it controls the production of essential hormones, including those responsible for growth, thyroid function, stress response, reproductive health, and fluid balance. Despite its small size, the pituitary gland holds the key to our body's hormonal harmony. Due to its strategic location near optic nerves (responsible for vision) and critical blood vessels (carotid arteries), abnormalities of the pituitary gland, especially pituitary



tumours (adenomas), can lead to serious health problems. These tumours account for nearly 15 per cent of all brain tumours, making them the third most common brain tumours after gliomas and meningiomas. Fortunately, the vast majority are non-cancerous, but if left untreated, they can cause vision loss, hormonal imbalances, life-threatening crises, and even coma," the doctor said.

Cells with windows for inmates of a tomorrow: UP's 'one jail, one product' trains prisoners in crafts for fresh start

LUCKNOW (Agency)

Inside the high-security walls of Varanasi Central Jail, Ashish Kumar, convicted of murder, carves a wooden chair with patient precision. Each movement of his chisel is quiet and focused, shaping not just the furniture but also his own future. Far away in Mainpuri Jail, another inmate Amod has found healing and meaning through Tarkashi—the intricate brass inlay work that once seemed like a fading craft. In prison since 2018 for murder, Amod once spiraled into depression. Today, he trains fellow inmates, supports his children's education with his earnings, and creates artworks that have found admirers even in the United States. They are part of a growing movement reshaping the very idea of incarceration in



Uttar Pradesh. Across 36 jails in the state, thousands of inmates are participating in the 'One Jail, One Product' (OJOP) initiative—a reform-focused scheme launched in 2022 under the broader One District One Product (ODOP) umbrella initiative of the state government. OJOP is not simply about production; it is about second chances, social reintegration, and the power of dignified work, said a senior prison official. "What was once merely a place of confinement is now becoming a hub of creativity,

reform, and economic empowerment," said former DG (prisons) PV Ramasastri, who retired recently. "UP's prisons are undergoing a quiet transformation—not through slogans or speeches, but through hands busy with threads, chisels, needles, and even sports gear."

"Jails across the state have embraced diverse trades and crafts that resonate with local heritage and market demands. In Agra, inmates make leather police boots and formal footwear. In Bhadohi and Mirzapur, prisoners weave carpets and durries. In Bareilly and Budaun, women inmates excel in traditional zarizordi embroidery. In Firozabad, they craft decorative glassware; in Etah and Bijnor, they prepare pickles and jute products."

Ahmedabad youth cracks CAT: Tailor's son climbs 'Mount English'; bags MBA seat at IIT-J

AHMEDABAD (Agency)

What happens when you are confident of cracking Common Admission Test (CAT), but not knowing English enough to get past the interview stage? Ankit Maurya, 22, a resident of Saraspur in the city, experienced the same challenge.

Son of a tailor, Maurya studied throughout in govt-run Gujarati medium school and then B.Com in a public college. But Maurya challenged himself to surmount the barrier - he succeeded in securing admission for MBA program at IIT-Jodhpur this year.

I applied for CAT for the first time last year and secured marks that put me in 77th percentile. But in that score, too, my verbal ability and reading comprehension (VARC) was much lower at 40th percentile. It was a wake-up call as I realised that even if I crack the exam, I would not be able to clear the interview stage," recounts Maurya. He worked with teachers to

focus on grasping the language in a race against time. "I did not start from scratch - the reading and comprehension for schools and that for the CAT are two different beasts. Vocabulary was a big challenge," he says.

Vocabulary was a major challenge for me. I thus focused on taking a book and reading it aloud and stopping at each word that I did not understand. It continued for over six months after which I gained some confidence," Ankit said. Come CAT 2025 and Maurya was prepared. He secured marks that put him in 95th percentile. What came as a huge relief for him was his score in the VART - it was above 90th percentile. His obvious choices were the IIMs but he candidly confesses that his score was not up to the mark to get into the hallowed passages of institutions such as Amritsar, Visakapatnam, and Mumbai where did clear the first round.

Pomegranate pioneer: How a Punjab farmer found success, big money in Maharashtra fruit

Chandigarh (Agency)

It all started as an experiment when Karamjeet Singh (50), of Chano village in Fatehgarh Sahib, planted a pomegranate tree on a piece of his farm land. As the plants bore fruit, and yielded him good money, the farmer increased the area under the fruit to 2 acres. He is currently working on a plan to double this area. Reason: He is now earning between Rs 5 lakh to Rs 11 lakh per acre annually, depending on the crop yield. A graduate who manages his family's agricultural and transport business, Karamjeet was inspired by pomegranate orchards in Maharashtra. "We frequently travel to Maharashtra as part of our transport business. I noticed that pomegranate is one of the major

crops there and farmers were making good money. It gave us the idea to experiment on our own land in 2020, starting with just one bigha (around five kanals)," he says.

Karamjeet says that now pomegranate is being promoted by the Punjab Agricultural University (PAU). He emphasizes that the success of a pomegranate orchard lies in proper initial planting. "Farmers must dig a pit

3.5-feet deep and 3 ft wide, fill it with a mix of soil, cow dung, and vermicompost, and carefully plant a 2-3 inch sapling. The roots are extremely sensitive, and improper planting can lead to fruit cracking after four years, which ruins the crop," he warns.

Sowing of pomegranate begins in January and continues through February. Once the plant turns a year old, flowering starts around February–March, leading to fruiting, and the harvest takes place in August, around 5–6 months later.

Though the plants start flowering in the first year, Karamjeet advises farmers not to allow fruiting during this period. "It is essential to let the plant mature so that the fruit quality improves in later

'To the people: we're with you; to criminals: you will be found': Haryana DGP, HSNCB, OP Singh

DGP O P Singh, who heads the Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau, said that though there is a steady drop in serious crimes, faster detection, and high arrest rates, the police force should make people feel that justice is real, fast, and visible.

Chandigarh (Agency)

On Thursday evening, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini chaired a meeting of the police's top brass that went on beyond midnight. Instructions were clear: "Enforce law and order, nail the offenders, and ensure a higher conviction rate." In the wake of the CM's post-midnight crime review meeting, senior IPS officer DGP O P Singh, who heads the Haryana State Narcotics Control Bureau in a conversation with The Indian Express, Singh unpacks the paradox of figures that show a falling crime rate, yet fragile trust, the state's aggressive push against drugs, and the behind-the-scenes work in forensics and housing reforms. DGP Singh is also the Director of the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the Managing Director of Haryana Police Housing Corporation.



Q: Is communication now part of the policing strategy?

DGP Singh: Absolutely. We must go beyond enforcement. People need to understand how the system works, from the stage of complaint to the last stage of conviction. The police are doing their part; prosecution and courts also need to move swiftly so justice becomes a deterrent. Trust builds when people see that the system works without delay.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-11009
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A-4/144, Tora City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

Uttar Pradesh: 11 more devotees test positive in Magh

The Sikh Times

New Delhi: The ATS in Uttar Pradesh has exposed a big conversion racket in which about Rs 100 crore was sent to 40 accounts through foreign funding. This gang, led by the main accused 'Chhangru Baba' alias Jamsheuddin, used to convert upper caste girls at the rate of Rs 15-16 lakh. This is not just a matter of faith, but a well-planned social conspiracy that attempts to break the unity of the nation on the basis of caste, religion and gender. This should be seen as organized crime, not religious freedom. Religion is the soul of any society, but when the use of religion turns into a 'business', then the question is not just of

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as GEETA RANI alias MISHRA KAUR D/o OM PRAKASH, and W/o JASPREET SINGH, R/o NW-107, Gali No. 9, Vishnu Garden, Tilak Nagar S.O. Dist. West Delhi, Delhi-110018, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as HARPREET KAUR.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SHIVANG SHARMA S/o SUNIL CHANDER SHARMA, R/o 12-Silver Oak, Westend Greens Farms, Rajkot, AF Rajkot, South West Delhi, Delhi-110036 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIVANG SHARMA.

NAME CHANGE

I, NISHANT RASTOGI S/o SATISH RASTOGI, R/o F-9/5, KRISHNA NAGAR, PO. KRISHNA NAGAR, DIST: EAST DELHI, DELHI-110051 have change the name of my minor son SHREYEE RASTOGI aged 14 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHREY RASTOGI.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I RAKESH KUMAR KANGRA S/o BANNI SINGH R/o WZ-72, HARIJAN COLONY, TILAK NAGAR, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018, declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as RAKESH KUMAR and ADITYA in my minor son namely ADITYA aged 15 years in his school record. The actual name of mine and minor son are RAKESH KUMAR KANGRA and ADITYA respectively which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Nilam devi alias Sunita Devi D/o Ram Ram Mishra W/o: Vishwanath Upadhyay, R/o E/263 SHIV PARK KAMARUDIN NAGAR, Nilothi, Nilothi, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NILAM DEVI.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Renu Kaushik D/o Krishan Singh R/o A-102, Tower 7, Kalyana court, Jaypee Wish town, Near Axis House, Sector 128, Gautam Buddha Nagar **, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201301 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU BALA KAUSHIK.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I NAMAN S/O MUKESH KUMAR R/O 268 Julta Muhalla Munirka Village J.N.U. South West Delhi Delhi-110067, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as NAMAN in my 10th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine and father has been changed to RAHUL SHARMA and MONTU SHARMA respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hitherto known as Renu Kaushik D/o Krishan Singh R/o A-102, Tower 7, Kalyana court, Jaypee Wish town, Near Axis House, Sector 128, Gautam Buddha Nagar **, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201301 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as RENU BALA KAUSHIK.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Meeta Chauhan W/o: Darmeet Chauhan, R/o X-27-B, Gali No-55, near shiv mandir, Bhamarpur, Garhi Mendu, North East Delhi, Delhi-110053, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Geeta Chauhan in my minor daughter namely Muskan Chauhan aged 16 years in her 10th class educational document. The actual name of mine and my minor son are MEETA CHAUHAN. Respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Lata W/o Sandeep Singh R/o H-No-73 Gali No-7, Near Ravidas Mandir, Govind Puri, All South Delhi, Delhi-110019 declare that name of mine and my minor son has been wrongly written as Lata Singh and Vedant Singh in my minor son Vedant Singh aged 13 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine and my minor son are Lata and Vedant Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY CLIENT SH. MD. RAPIOQUE S/o SH. ABDUL GAFOOR AND MRS. LAHANIA KHATOON W/o MOHD. RAFIQ R/o P-524 KABUL LINE SADAR BAZAR, DELHI CANTT DELHI-10 DO HEREBY SEVERED THEIR RELATION DISOWN/DEBAR THEIR SON MR. MOHAMMAD NIZAM FROM THEIR ALL MOVABLE AND IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES DUE TO OUT OF THEIR CONTROL NOT OBEDIING AND MISBEHAVING ANY BODY DEALING WITH HIM WILL DO AT HISHER/THEIR OWN COST, RISK AND RESPONSIBILITY AND MY CLIENT SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY DEALING/ILLEGALACTS.

Arun Kumar Advocate

CH No.T-7,TEHSIL SIDE, TIS HAZARI COURT DELHI-110054

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as JAI YADAV alias TUSHAR YADAV son of Shri JAGDISH PRASAD YADAV residing at E-6/12, Sangam Vihar, Hamdard Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as TUSHAR YADAV.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as BINA wife of SHRI RAM, residing at 22, Bharat Nagar, New Friends Colony, South Delhi, Delhi-110025, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BIRMA DEVI.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as MOHD ALIM son of Shri Ali HASAN residing at S-229, Jagdamda Camp, Khirki, Delhi-110017, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MUHAMMAD JABBAR.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAHAIBEEN DIO MD KHURSHID residing of H-NO-126, YADAV EXTN, NEAR DULAT RAM EXTN SCHOOL, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041, have changed my name to SAHAIBEEN KHATOON for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as AYESHA JUNAID Suriya alias Surya Ayesha Junaid D/o Junaid Ashraf Suriya R/o B-152, SAROJ APARTMENT, S-1, SHALIMAR GARDEN MAIN, NEAR SWATI CABALE SAHIBABAD, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh - 201006, have changed my name to AYESHA JHA-TOON for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD FAROOQ S/o MOHAMMAD ILYAS residing of H- NO-6869, GALI FATEH PURI Wali, BERI WALA BAGH, NEAR AZAD MARKET, DELHI-110006 / have changed my name to MOHAMMAD FAROOQ for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as CHANDRA SHEKHAR MANDAL son of Shri ATUL MANDAL residing at S-36/136, Gandhi Camp 1, Okhla Railway Station, Srinivaspuri, South Delhi, Delhi-110065, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHANDER SHEKHAR MANDAL.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as CHANDRA SHEKHAR MANDAL son of Shri ATUL MANDAL residing at S-36/136, Gandhi Camp 1, Okhla Railway Station, Srinivaspuri, South Delhi, Delhi-110065, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as CHANDER SHEKHAR MANDAL.

DELHI

Yogi govt to revive 11 heritage sites via PPP model, boost jobs & tourism

The Sikh Times

Lucknow, July 13: In a

significant step towards

preserving Uttar

Pradesh's rich historical

legacy, the Yogi govern-

ment has launched an ini-

tiative to breathe new life

into heritage structures

that are slowly falling into

ruin. The Tourism

Department is set to rejuvenate 11 ancient forts

and buildings under the

Public-Private

Partnership (PPP) model.

Under this framework,

private agencies will be

responsible for designing,

developing, investing in,

operating, and eventually

handing over the restored

sites to the government.

Acting on the directives of

Chief Minister Yogi

Adityanath, this initiative

aims not only to conserve

the architectural and cul-

tural history of the state,

but also to enhance

tourism and generate

both direct and indirect

employment opportuni-

ties for thousands. The 11

heritage sites identified

for transformation include

Talbehat Fort (Lalitpur),

and Senapati Mahal

(Mahoba), Tahruli Fort

(Jhansi), and Sitaram

Mahal/Kotwan Fort

(Mathura). Known for

their unique architecture

and historical significa-

nce, these sites will be

developed into heritage

hotels, cultural centers, or

museums, offering

immersive experiences

for tourists. This move is

Rangarh and Bhuragarh

Fort (Banda), Wazirganj

Baradari (Gonda),

Alambagh Bhawan,

Gulistan-e-Eram, and

Darshan Vilas (Lucknow),

Tikait Rai Baradari

(Kanpur), Mastani Mahal

particularly promising for

regions like

Bundelkhand, where heri-

itage-driven tourism can

provide a major boost to

the local economy. The

Yogi government's heri-

itage revival plan is part of

the successful development

of destinations such as

Ayodhya, Kashi, and

Mathura, and several

ancient temples and pil-

grimage centers, the state

has witnessed a tourism

boom. In 2024 alone, Uttar

Pradesh recorded an

impressive footfall of 65

crore tourists, underscor-

ing the growing success

of these visionary poli-

cies.

NAME CHANGE

I, ASIYANA KHATOON W/o MYA-MUDDIN SAH R/o H.NO. J-19, ADHYAKSH NAGAR NANGLOI, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110041 have change the name of my minor son ALTAMAS RAJA aged 10 years and he shall hereafter be known as SAMIR RAJA.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I AMIT KUMAR S/o AZAD KUMAR R/o KH. NO.- 653, STREET NO-4, IRADAT NAGAR ALIAS NAY BANS, PO: NAYA BANS, DIST: NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI

NEWS BOX

Iran says it would resume nuclear talks with US if guaranteed no further attacks

TEHRAN. (Agency)

Iran's foreign minister said Saturday that his country would accept a resumption of nuclear talks with the U.S. if there were assurances of no more attacks against it, state media reported.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in a speech to Tehran-based foreign diplomats that Iran has always been ready and will be ready in the future for talks about its nuclear program, but, "assurance should be provided that in case of a resumption of talks, the trend will not lead to war." Referring to the 12-day Israeli bombardment of Iran's nuclear and military sites, and the U.S. strike on June 22, Araghchi said that if the U.S. and others wish to resume talks with Iran, "first of all, there should be a firm guarantee that such actions will not be repeated. The attack on Iran's nuclear facilities has made it more difficult and complicated to achieve a solution based on negotiations." Following the strikes, Iran suspended cooperation with the U.N. nuclear watchdog, which led to the departure of inspectors. Araghchi said that under Iranian law, the country will answer the agency's request for cooperation "case by case," based on Iran's interests. He also said any inspection by the agency should be done based on Iran's "security" concerns as well as the safety of the inspectors. "The risk of proliferation of radioactive ingredients and an explosion of ammunition that remains from the war in the attacked nuclear sites is serious," he said. He also reiterated Iran's position on the need to continue enriching uranium on its soil. U.S. President Donald Trump has insisted that it cannot happen. Israel claims it acted because Tehran was within reach of a nuclear weapon. U.S. intelligence agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency had assessed Iran last had an organized nuclear weapons program in 2003, though Tehran had been enriching uranium up to 60% — a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%.

US aid cuts halt HIV vaccine research in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG. (Agency)

Just a week had remained before scientists in South Africa were to begin clinical trials of an HIV vaccine, and hopes were high for another step toward limiting one of history's deadliest pandemics. Then the email arrived. Stop all work, it said. The United States under the Trump administration was withdrawing all its funding. The news devastated the researchers, who live and work in a region where more people live with HIV than anywhere else in the world. Their research project, called BRILLIANT, was meant to be the latest to draw on the region's genetic diversity and deep expertise in the hope of benefiting people everywhere. But the \$46 million from the U.S. for the project was disappearing, part of the dismantling of foreign aid by the world's biggest donor earlier this year as President Donald Trump announced a focus on priorities at home.

South Africa hit hard by aid cuts

South Africa has been hit especially hard because of Trump's baseless claims about the targeting of the country's white Afrikaner minority. The country had been receiving about \$400 million a year via USAID and the HIV-focused PEPFAR. Glenda Grey, who heads the Brilliant program, said the African continent has been vital to the development of HIV medication, and the U.S. cuts threaten its capability to do such work in the future. Significant advances have included clinical trials for lenacapavir, the world's only twice-a-year shot to prevent HIV, recently approved for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. One study to show its efficacy involved young South Africans. "We do the trials better, faster and cheaper than anywhere else in the world, and so without South Africa as part of these programs, the world, in my opinion, is much poorer," Gray said. She noted that during the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic, South Africa played a crucial role by testing the Johnson & Johnson and Novavax vaccines, and South African scientists' genomic surveillance led to the identification of an important variant.

Russia warns US, South Korea and Japan against forming security alliance targeting North Korea

SEOUL. (Agency)

Russia's foreign minister warned the U.S., South Korea and Japan against forming a security partnership targeting North Korea as he visited his country's ally for talks on further solidifying their booming military and other cooperation.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke Saturday at North Korea's eastern Wonsan city, where he met the country's leader, Kim Jong Un, and conveyed greetings from President Vladimir Putin.

Kim during the meeting reaffirmed his government's commitment to "unconditionally support and encourage all measures" taken by Russia in its conflict with Ukraine. He said Pyongyang and Moscow share identical views on "all strategic issues in conformity with the level of alliance," according to North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency.

Lavrov called for the two countries to further strengthen their "strategic and tactical cooperation and intensify concerted action" in international affairs, KCNA reported. Relations between Russia and North Korea have been flourishing in recent years, with North Korea supplying troops and ammunition to support Russia's war against Ukraine in return for military and economic assistance. That has raised concerns among South Korea, the U.S. and others that Russia might also transfer sensitive technologies to North Korea that can increase the danger of its nuclear and missile programs.

Shooting anniversary reminds of attack that nearly killed Trump**Friends say Trump more grateful, attentive after near-death****Trump and aides credit divine intervention for his survival****Washington D.C... (Agency)**

President Donald Trump was on stage at the Iowa State Fairgrounds earlier this month, kicking off the country's 250th anniversary celebration, when he heard what sounded like fireworks in the distance. "Did I hear what I think I heard?" Trump remarked as he spoke from behind a wall of thick, bulletproof glass. "Don't worry, it's only fireworks. I hope. Famous last words," he quipped, drawing laughs and cheers. The comments, just days before the first anniversary of Trump's near-assassination in Butler, Pennsylvania, served as a stark

reminder of the lingering impact of the day when a gunman opened fire at a campaign rally, grazing Trump's ear and killing one of his supporters in the crowd. The attack dramatically upended the 2016 campaign and launched a frenzied 10-day stretch that included Trump's triumphant arrival at the Republican National Convention with a bandaged ear, President Joe Biden's decision to abandon his reelection bid and the elevation of Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor.

One year after coming milliseconds from a very different outcome, Trump, according to friends and aides, is still the same Trump. But they see signs, beyond being on higher alert on stage, that his brush with death did change him in some ways: He is more attentive and more grateful, they say, and speaks openly about how he believes he was saved by God to save the country and serve a second term, making him even more dug in on achieving his far-reaching agenda. "I think it's always in the back of his mind," said Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a

longtime friend and ally who was in close touch with Trump after the shooting and joined him that night in New Jersey after he was treated at a Pennsylvania hospital. "He's still a rough and tumble guy, you



know. He hasn't become a Zen Buddhist. But I think he is, I'll say this, more appreciative. He's more attentive to his friends," he said, pointing to Trump sending him a message on his birthday earlier this week. Graham added: "It's just a miracle he's not dead. He definitely was a man who believed he had a second lease on life."

CONSTANT REMINDERS

Gaza ceasefire talks falter amid dispute over Israeli troop withdrawal terms

world. (Agency)

Ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas remain stalled, with negotiators deadlocked over the extent of Israeli troop withdrawals from the Palestinian territory, Reuters reported, citing Israeli and Palestinian sources familiar with the negotiations in Doha.

A Palestinian source familiar with the discussions also told AFP that Israel's proposal to maintain a military presence in parts of Gaza is delaying a potential 60-day truce. The indirect talks, backed by the United States and mediated in Qatar, centre around a proposed 60-day truce, the release of remaining hostages, and a phased Israeli military withdrawal.



Discussions continued through Saturday, an Israeli official told Reuters, as the two sides traded blame for the impasse. While both sides have expressed interest in a phased deal, sharp differences remain over territorial control, hostages, and the

future course of the war. Palestinian source said Hamas had rejected Israeli maps that would leave around 40% of Gaza under Israeli control, including all of Rafah in the south, and

refusal to guarantee an end to the war and full withdrawal as key obstacles. Mediators have reportedly paused until a U.S. envoy arrives in Doha to try to break the deadlock. Hamas has long insisted it will not release the remaining hostages, nearly 49 individuals, unless there is a binding agreement to end the war. Israel has maintained that it will only agree to a full ceasefire after all hostages are freed and Hamas is dismantled both militarily and politically.

The conflict, now in its 10th month, began when Hamas-led militants launched a surprise attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, killing about 1,200 people and taking 251 hostages. At least 20 of the remaining hostages are believed to be alive.

Since then, Israel's military campaign has killed more than 57,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza health officials, and displaced nearly the entire population of over 2 million.

Rewriting the past: Indonesia's new history books spook scholars

JAKARTA. (Agency)

The Indonesian government's plans to issue new history books have sparked fears that mention of deadly riots in 1998 targeting mostly ethnic Chinese in the country will be scrubbed from the text. The 10-volume account was ordered by the administration of President Prabowo Subianto, an ex-general accused of abducting activists in the unrest that preceded dictator Suharto's fall, claims he denies. Scholars fear his government could use the exercise to rewrite history and cover up past abuses. Draft volume summaries and a chapter outline seen by AFP do not include any specific section on the 1998 violence.

A summary of Suharto's rule in the volume dedicated to him only mentions how "student demonstrations... became a factor" in his resignation.

"The writing was flawed since the beginning," said Andi Achidian, historian at Jakarta's National

University, who has seen the outline. "It has a very strong tendency to whitewash history." Suharto ruled Indonesia with an iron fist for more than three decades after grabbing power in the wake of a 1965-6 massacre. The culture minister overseeing the government's history project, Fadli Zon, told lawmakers last week the account "does not discuss May '98... because it's small".

Neither does it promise to include most of the "gross human rights violations" acknowledged by former president Joko Widodo in 2023. Jajat Burhanudin, a project editor, contradicted Fadli and dismissed concerns.

Telling AFP the new volumes would include 1998 events, with the draft outline just a "trigger for discussion". Officials say the new historical account is needed to strengthen Indonesian identity, but warned that any omission about its darkest past will raise eyebrows over

objectivity. "What is feared is that... the cases that have been accepted by the previous government to be resolved will be ignored," said Marzuki Darusman, a former attorney general and head of a civil society coalition opposed to the volumes.

Updated history

While it remains unclear how the government plans to use the books, Jajat said the volumes could be used as "one of the main sources" for history books taught in schools. Neither historian Susanto Zuhdi, who is helming the project, nor the presidential palace responded to requests for comment. The revisionist history garnered renewed scrutiny after the culture minister questioned whether mass rape had occurred at the end of Suharto's rule. Ethnic Chinese Indonesians bore the brunt of the bloodshed during the riots, when rape squads -- purportedly led by army thugs -- roamed Jakarta's streets.

California farmworker who fell from greenhouse roof during chaotic ICE raid dies

SAN FRANCISCO. (Agency)

A farmworker who fell from a greenhouse roof during a chaotic ICE raid this week at a California cannabis facility died Saturday of his injuries. Jaime Alanis, 57, is the first known person to die during one of the Trump administration's ongoing immigration enforcement operations. Yesenia Duran, Alanis' niece, confirmed his death to The Associated Press. Duran posted on the fundraising site GoFundMe that her uncle was his family's only provider and he had been sending his earnings back to a wife and daughter in Mexico. Alanis worked at the farm for 10 years, his family said. The United Farm Workers reported Alanis' death prematurely late Friday. The Ventura County Medical Center later issued a statement authorized by the family saying he was still on life support.

"These violent and cruel federal actions terrorize American communities, disrupt the American food supply chain, threaten lives and separate families," the UFW said recently in a statement on the social platform X. The union does not represent workers at the raided farm. The Department of Homeland Security said it executed criminal search warrants Thursday at Glass



House Farms facilities in Camarillo and Carpinteria. Glass House is a licensed cannabis grower. The farm in Camarillo also grows tomatoes and cucumbers.

Garcia called family to say he was hiding and possibly was fleeing agents before he fell about 30 feet (9 meters) from the roof and broke his neck, according to information from family, hospital and government sources. Agents arrested some 200 people suspected of being in the country illegally and identified at least 10 immigrant children on the sites, DHS said in a statement. Alanis was not among them, the agency said.

"This man was not in and has not been in CBP or ICE custody," DHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Tricia McLaughlin said in a statement. "Although he was not being pursued by law enforcement, this individual climbed up to the roof of a greenhouse and fell 30 feet. CBP immediately called a medivac to the scene to get him care as quickly as possible."

At least 31 Palestinians in Gaza fatally shot on their way to aid distribution site; 28 killed in Israeli airstrikes

DEIR AL-BALAH. (Agency)

At least 31 Palestinians were fatally shot on their way to an aid distribution site in the Gaza Strip on Saturday, while Israeli airstrikes killed at least 28 Palestinians including four children, Palestinian hospital officials and witnesses said. The deaths came after no signs of a breakthrough in ceasefire talks following two days of meetings between U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Trump had said he was closing in on an agreement between Israel and Hamas that would potentially wind down the war. The 31 shot dead were on their way to a distribution site run by the Israeli-backed American organization Gaza Humanitarian Foundation near Rafah in southern Gaza, hospital officials and witnesses said. The Red Cross said its field hospital saw its largest influx of dead in more than a year of operation after the shootings, and that the overwhelming majority of the more than 100 people hurt had gunshot wounds. The airstrikes in central Gaza's Deir al-Balah

killed 13 including the four children, officials at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital said. Fifteen others were killed in Khan Younis in the south, according to Nasser Hospital. Israel's military did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Intense airstrikes continued Saturday evening in the area of Beit Hanoun in northern Gaza. Arifical Intelligence uses Arifical Intelligence uses

Teen's first attempt to pick up food ends in death. The 21-month war has left much of Gaza's population of over 2 million reliant on outside aid while food security experts warn of famine. Israel blocked and then restricted aid entry after ending the latest ceasefire in March. "All responsive individuals reported they were attempting to access food distribution sites," the Red Cross said after the shootings near Rafah, noting the "alarming frequency and scale" of such mass casualty incidents. Israel's military said it fired warning shots toward people it said were behaving suspiciously to prevent them from approaching. It said it was not aware of any casualties. The GHF

said no incident occurred near its sites. Abdullah al-Haddad said he was 200 meters (655 feet) from the aid distribution



site run by the GHF close to the Shakoush area when an Israeli tank started firing at crowds of Palestinians. "We were together, and they shot us at once," he said, writhing in pain from a leg wound at Nasser Hospital. Mohammed Jamal al-Sahloo, another witness, said Israel's military had ordered them to proceed to the site when the shooting started. Sumaya al-Sha'er's 17-year-old son, Nasir, was killed, hospital officials said. "He said to me, 'Mom, you

don't have flour and today I'll go and bring you flour, even if I die, I'll go and get it,'" she said. "But he never came back home." Until then, she said, she had prevented the teenager from going to GHF sites because she thought it was too dangerous. Witnesses, health officials and U.N. officials say hundreds have been killed by Israeli fire while heading toward GHF distribution points through military zones off limits to independent media. The military has acknowledged firing warning shots at Palestinians who it says approached its forces in a suspicious manner. The GHF denies there has been violence in or around its sites. But two of its contractors told The Associated Press that their colleagues have fired live ammunition and stun grenades as Palestinians scramble for food, allegations the foundation denied.

In a separate effort, the U.N. and aid groups say they struggle to distribute humanitarian aid because of Israeli military restrictions and a breakdown of law and order that has led to widespread looting.

From farm to retail: How Punjab's farmers process produce into brands –and profit—through direct sales



Jalandhar. (Agency)

Hardeep Singh Jatana owns 15 acres of farm land at Jatana Khurd village in Punjab's Mansa district. He has taken an additional 20 acres on lease. On this land, he grows mustard, sugarcane, millets, and wheat. Yet, this farmer has not set foot into a mandi — where farmers sell their produce — in years.

Instead, Jatana runs a store at his farm where he offers 225 processed items ranging from wood-pressed mustard oil to medicinal jaggery and millets. Most of these processed items come from produce that he has been growing in his own fields. "We don't believe in selling raw produce to mandis. Instead, we process it and sell directly to consumers," says Jatana.

In Gurdaspur's village Sallopur, Gurdyal Singh, who owns 18 acres of land, has taken turmeric farming to the next level. Starting with just one kanal (1/8th of an acre) in 2004, he now grows turmeric on 10 acres. Equipped with his own set of machines — including a boiler, elevator, grinder, and packing unit — he processes and packages amba haldi, kali haldi, and regular turmeric varieties.

"The results have been fantastic. We have an outlet at the Kisan Bazaar in Batala and also supply our products through a sales point set up at the government agricultural offices. The products are also available on Amazon," says Gurdyal, adding that he has several customers abroad.

In Ludhiana's Dalla village, Jagtar Singh (45) left his job as a driver in 2020 and took to selling fresh sugarcane juice. He harvests 350 to 400 quintals of sugarcane annually from his two bighas (about 1.25 acres) of land.

"If I supply this cane to sugar mills, I'll earn only around Rs 2 lakh, and after covering expenses, I'd be left with just about Rs 1.25 lakh a year. But by selling juice of the same sugarcane, I earn Rs 1,500 to 2,000 per day. It means this land is giving me an annual income of around Rs 5–6 lakh," he says Jagtar.

50,000 security personnel, anti-drone systems deployed for Kanwar Yatra in UP

Lucknow . (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh government has deployed more than 50,000 security personnel, advanced surveillance system and anti-drone and tethered-drone technologies to detect any threat along the Kanwar Yatra route, and set up a centralised control room for round-the-clock real-time monitoring of the pilgrimage, officials said.

Such an elaborate security bandoobast, made on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, was earlier put in place only during the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj earlier this year and the inauguration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya in January 2024. Also, nearly 29,500 CCTV cameras have been installed along the key routes and major congregation points to enhance vigilance, it is learnt.

The security personnel on the ground are drawn from the Pradeshk Armed Constabulary (PAC), Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Quick Response Team (QRT) among others. They include 39,965 male constables, 8,541 women constables, 1,424 home guards, 587 gazetted officers, 2,040 male inspectors, 1,486 women sub-inspectors and 13,520 sub-inspectors. CM Adityanath reviewed the preparations and issued instructions to ensure arrangements for security, healthcare, sanitation, drinking water and traffic management.

As many as 395 high-tech drones, including anti-drone systems and tethered drones, are

HC to BMC: Set up spl cell to spot, evict footpath squatters

Mumbai.(Agency)

Bombay high court has directed BMC to form a special cell to take eviction action against encroachers and squatters on footpaths. HC passed the order after a petition filed by two housing societies in Powai that complained about squatters hogging pavements their premises. HC stated that the civic chief needs to hold officials accountable and said that "brazen and open encroachment" in Powai cannot occur without the "facit consent" of ward officers.

On July 7, advocate Priti Shah showed the bench of Justices G S Kulkarni and Arif Doctor photographs of the Powai pavement, which showed the footpath had temporary tin and plastic sheds being used for residence, apart from cooking and selling food items and drying clothes.

Flagging it off as a major concern and highlighting that it was "not an isolated case of its kind reaching the court," the bench questioned whether the BMC would take responsibility to compensate those who lose their lives in accidents caused by pedestrians forced to walk on roads. "It is high time that there is an accountability for the damages to be paid," said the court. BMC has taken no action, or selective action against encroachments according to HC. The town planning rules worldwide require well-maintained clear pavements.

HC passed the order after a petition filed by two housing societies in Powai that complained

planning rules worldwide require well-maintained clear pavements.

It questioned whether BMC could simply turn a blind eye to what is staring at them and permit unauthorized use of the footpaths "when large public expenditure is incurred in creating such infrastructure of providing pavements, so that people do not walk on busy roads and become vulnerable to accidents."

HC orders the special cell should consist of an additional commissioner and two senior officers by grouping wards "to identify rank unauthorised/unlicensed persons occupying footpaths and to survey all footpaths in the city."

Civic officials have the power to take stringent action against encroachers and an enormous public duty as well, the HC said, adding that any neglect by them cannot be taken lightly. The officers must do their duty and not necessitate petitions before the court. According to the HC order, a city with neat and clean footpaths cannot remain a paper dream. Mumbai: Bombay high court has directed BMC to form a special cell to take eviction action against encroachers and squatters on footpaths.

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At least 30k to 50k kids vanish from state's nutrition surveys

Mumbai. (Agency)

Ever since Pratiksha Nagar resident Asha Lad gave birth to her daughter Anvi six years ago, an anganwadi worker was always by her side checking the child's weight, monitoring her growth and providing nutritional support either at home or at the nearest anganwadi centre.

This continued until last year when according to Asha her settlement was demolished by municipal officials, and she and her husband, a mechanic, moved to Ghansoli. Anvi lost access to all benefits under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme—and effectively became one of the many 'missing children'—those left out of crucial services, especially food benefits and monthly checks on weight and height to assess if a child is malnourished.

According to data from the Poshan Tracker, thousands of children are listed as missing during growth monitoring in both Mumbai city and the Mumbai suburban district. Across the state, the number of missing children ranges from 30,000 to 50,000, depending on the month and year selected.

Children between the ages of 0 to 3 are provided with take-home rations, including powdered supplements made of peanuts, soya and jaggery. Each child receives 3kg per month, divided into four packs. Those between 3 and 6 years are served daily cooked meals like khichdi and upma. Monthly measurements to detect malnutrition are uploaded to the Poshan Tracker in real time, and if a child is found to be malnourished, medical and additional nutritional intervention is arranged.

Anvi remained out of the system for nearly a year. "Initially, I was told at the new anganwadi that my child wasn't entitled to the benefits because she was still registered elsewhere.



reels. After checking out the shop and the birds, he and his two accomplices executed the theft. We have recovered 11 rare parrots and other stolen items. "The theft occurred around 3am on Tuesday at a pet store in Top N

Town Complex on Sarkhej Road. The complainant, shop owner Akif Shaikh, reported that the thieves stole 11 exotic birds, including three blue gold macaws, a green wing macaw, a Moluccan cockatoo white, a galerita cockatoo white, an umbrella cockatoo white, two African grey parrots, and two eclectus parrots, along with Rs 24,000 cash and other goods. Inspector R N Karmatiya, who led the investigation, said that Yadav is a habitual offender and was involved in the theft of goats in Nadiad, Petlad, and Bharuch. "Yadav visited the shop in June and found out the value of each bird. He then waited nearly three weeks for old CCTV footage to auto-delete before committing the crime. Yadav also mortgaged his house in Bihar to purchase the car used in the theft and promised his accomplices, Bittu and Bikha, Rs 15,000 each for their role."

Varanasi Municipal Corporation passes order to shut meat shops during month of Sawan

Lucknow . (Agency)

The Varanasi Municipal Corporation has passed a resolution to close all meat shops within the municipal limits during the holy Hindu month of Sawan, which began on Friday. The proposal was put forward by one of the 12 executive members during a meeting held on Friday. "Taking into account several factors, including the large influx of Kanwariyas in Varanasi during the month of Sawan, a resolution was passed to ban the sale of meat within the municipal limits, which span around 183 square miles," Varanasi Mayor Ashok Kumar Tiwari said.

It is estimated that around 1-1.5 lakh people visit Varanasi daily, but during the month of Sawan, the number of devotees increases to nearly four to five lakh per month, primarily due to the Kashi Vishwanath temple.

Teams were dispatched on Saturday morning to enforce the order to close all meat shops. Tiwari added that instructions have been issued to the authorities concerned to take necessary action, and strict legal measures will be taken against shopkeepers found violating the order. The municipal corporation's executive committee meeting was held on Friday. Several government

officials were also present. Tiwari said that during the meeting, executive member Hanuman Prasad proposed a ban on meat and fish shops within the municipal limits for the month of Sawan. The proposal was passed unanimously, keeping in mind that Varanasi, as a religious city, attracts visitors



with spiritual sentiments, and the aim is to ensure they leave with the same positive feelings. Tiwari said, "When contacted, Varanasi Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Santosh Pal, said that as per the directive, the process of closing all meat and fish shops in the district has begun. "Teams have been deployed to ensure complete closure of meat shops. This order does not apply to restaurants serving non-vegetarian food," he said.

Hemp-based innovations, products unlock Himachal's latent potential

Shimla. (Agency)

Dr Rashmi Punhani, a qualified paediatric dentist from Arki in Solan district, who co-owns start-up Pi Hemp Pvt Ltd with her husband Anil Kumar, in Shimla, showcased a range of hemp seed-based products, including toothpaste, bamboo toothbrushes, and hemp biochar, sold from Solan. Haneesh Katnawer, a production engineer and founder of Himalayan Hemp Industries Pvt Ltd in Kandarori, Kangra, participated in the event, accompanied by his team. His enterprise displayed reusable hemp sanitary pads, handbags, and nutritional products — all manufactured in Kangra. However, it was Rohit Chauhan from Kangra who stole the spotlight. Chauhan runs Him Care Lab, manufacturing medicinal products like pain relief oil, balm and sleeping pills — all made using hemp seeds sourced locally.

These entrepreneurs were among a dozen other participants from Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Delhi who displayed their hemp-based innovations

during the one-day event titled Seminar & Exhibition on Innovative Industrial & Medicinal Cannabis-Hemp Plant-Based Products. The event was inaugurated by Revenue and Horticulture Minister Jagat Singh Negi and concluded in the presence of Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu.

"I am a qualified paediatric dentist. My husband and I launched Pi Hemp Pvt Ltd in 2021 after obtaining necessary approvals from the Ministry of AYUSH," Dr Punhani told. "We use hemp seed extract to manufacture toothpaste under the brand Neti-Neti Oral Care. Our gum serum and toothbrushes, made from bamboo and coated with plant-based resin and neem oil, are designed to be eco-friendly. Initially, we wanted to use hemp oil for coating, but it was too expensive."

Dr Punhani added, "The packaging is done in Himachal, while formulation and manufacturing take place in Raipur, Haryana. We collaborate with Him Care Lab for hemp oil, though only hemp seeds

are FDA-approved; leaves and flowers are not permitted for use. Our research into hemp seed-based products, including biochar, was supported by IIT, Kanpur, and Pusa Krishi, Delhi."

The startup launched its toothpaste in December 2023 with a 100g pack priced at Rs 199 (Rs 169 on Amazon). "We've received a great response, particularly from Chandigarh, Delhi and Bengaluru, where I studied and spent over a decade before relocating to my hometown, Arki," she said.

Discussing their work with biochar, Dr Punhani said, "We are exploring four raw materials: Lantana camara, pine needles, bamboo and hemp. Though we have received permission to use wild hemp for biochar production, the work is yet to begin. Many young people are interested in entering this sector, but the lack of awareness is holding them back. If we

succeed, it will inspire others. We are currently operating out of Panchkula, but planning to shift our manufacturing to Himachal. We named our hemp seed-made toothpaste Neti-Neti, a term taken from Upnishadas to be taken to self-realisation."

Chauhan of Him Care Lab, a Government of India-funded venture launched in November 2021, said, "We manufacture hemp seed-based products in Himachal

Pradesh. For products made using extracts from hemp leaves and flowers, we rely on Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, where controlled cannabis cultivation is permitted under strict guidelines."

He added, "There are barely a dozen startups like ours in the state. The scope is currently limited due to regulatory challenges. We procure hemp seeds from Uttarakhand, which is the largest market in the country. Our products are marketed under the brand Cannarma." Chauhan, who recently launched hemp cultivation under a joint venture in Uganda, said, "Himachal is lagging behind because we lack a policy to regulate hemp cultivation."

For quality medicinal products, we need access to raw materials like seeds, leaves and flower extracts in a controlled manner. Ironically, the quality of wild hemp in Himachal is better than Uttarakhand, MP & J&K."



A simple way to look at Trump's complex agenda

Occam's razor, a problem-solving principle, suggests that given the choice between multiple explanations, the simpler, obvious one is to be preferred. Applying this approach, US President Donald Trump's agenda does not require complex economic or political theorising. They involve three simple objectives.

The first is power. The president wants to increase his own authority, forcing others to supplicate themselves. The reciprocal tariffs require countries to make "phenomenal offers" to buy favourable treatment. NATO chief Mark Rutte's craven flattery, including allegedly referring to Trump as "daddy", is the behaviour expected.

The second objective flows from the president's association of intelligence with wealth—the attitude summed up by the line, 'If you're so smart, how come you're not rich.' Many of his policies are designed to enrich the president and his funders. Examples include the first family's own investments and trading, BlackRock's pending acquisition of two Panamanian ports and the administration-aligned firms' interest in TikTok's US business. The parallel is 1990s' Russia, where a small group of oligarchs became wealthy by looting state assets as the Soviet empire disintegrated. The third involves Thomas Carlyle's 'great man of history' theory. Trump sees himself as an extraordinary leader, possessing superior intellect and heroic courage, whose manifest destiny is to change and rule over America and the world. This is allied to nostalgia and a worldview firmly rooted in the 1980s.

A reordering of the international trading and monetary system is central to this strategy. Prior to joining the administration as chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Stephen Miran published a proposal to lower the dollar's value and reduce current account and fiscal deficits. Popularly known as the 'Mar-a-Lago Accord'—a nod to the Plaza and Louvre accords of the 1980s—it includes a series of steps, including tariffs and currency adjustments to force economic concessions favourable to the US from other nations. One controversial component is a restructuring of US public debt entailing a forced exchange of some US treasures for long-dated (100-year or perpetual), low- or zero-interest securities to lengthen maturities and provide secure funding. Alternatively foreign holders of US government bonds can place them in escrow or pay an 'user fee'. Controls over capital movements into and out of the US are possible. Another element is extracting tributes and territories. The proposed minerals and energy agreement with Ukraine is a brazen attempt to extract payment for 'services provided'. A similar deal with the Congo has also been negotiated.

Allies can increase defence spending, benefitting US armament manufacturers who dominate supply, or pay for American protection. A demand for stakes in semiconductor makers in return for support for Taiwan is not fanciful.

Territorial claims (over Canada, Greenland, the Panama Canal and the Gaza Riviera) alongside threats or actual military actions, such as those in Iran, in the name of national and international security seek to expand the US dominion. After all, Alexander became great by conquering much of the then known world. President Trump, who identifies with the godfathers in Mafia movies, misunderstands the opposition from affected parties and geo-political rivals. Greek letters, equations and citations of misunderstood academic articles notwithstanding, the tariff plan looks like something an AI engine would produce. The latest threat to some trading partners is for tariffs of 25-40 percent unless their companies choose to manufacture in the US. Any reciprocal tariffs on American products or membership of the 'anti-American' BRICS, he warned, would trigger additional duties. The '90 trade deals in 90 days' has not eventuated.

ACROSS Punjab this weekend, a sigh of relief has swept farms and factories and homes where Bihari migrant labour is employed, over Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi's remarks to the Election Commission (EC) that it should also allow the use of the Aadhaar, ration and voter ID cards—so that all Biharis can breathe easy when they queue up to vote in the Bihar election later this November. To say that Punjab—and Haryana and Himachal Pradesh and the rest of the country—has a direct stake in the Bihar election is to state the obvious. Biharis—as well as those from Uttar Pradesh—are a common sight across North India. They till the fields that largely belong to ethnic Punjabis. They work in towns and cities and perform all the chores that Punjabis once did before they discovered Canada. Despite Sukhpal Khaira's untenable remarks about them, we cannot do without them. That's why we should have paid far greater attention to what Justices Dhulia and Bagchi said in the Supreme Court two days ago. Which is, that if India is to continue to be the mother of all democracies—which it has striven to be since the first electoral exercise in 1951, in the wake of a bloody Partition—then it must allow all Biharis above the age of 18 to vote, as they have all these decades. It boggles the mind why the EC would announce a special intensive revision of the Bihar poll rolls as late as June 24. Some say the EC was provoked into doing so by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's scathing piece in the Indian Express about how the "election was stolen" in Maharashtra. (Amongst other parameters, Gandhi said, the BJP won 89 per cent of the seats it contested, while it had only won 32 per cent of the seats in the Lok Sabha polls four months before.) Others believe the timing was purely coincidental. In any case, it came like a bolt from the blue. Perhaps the EC believed it was high time. That the last time a revision of the Bihar poll rolls had been done was back in 2003 and as many as five Lok Sabha polls had taken place since. Now was as good a time as any to update and fix all omissions and commissions. In which case, why slap such prohibitive conditions on the updatation process? First, to banish Aadhaar, the voter ID (which the EC had itself issued) as well as the ubiquitous ration card, didn't make sense. Second, to demand of Bihar's 7.89 crore electorate, elaborate information like "documentary evidence" of place of birth of father and mother, sounded suspiciously like the EC was demanding proof of citizenship. Third, the EC announced that it would publish the updated draft electoral rolls on August 1, which meant that Biharis had about five weeks to get their information together. How was that going to be possible if large numbers of Biharis were toiling away in Punjab's fields or on construction sites in Maharashtra? Were they going to drop their toil and rush to the nearest cyber café and check if their names were on the list?

Let no Bihari voter be left behind

THE GREAT GAME: The EC should not have slapped prohibitive conditions on the updatation of electoral rolls.



That's when a variety of upstanding folk, including organisations like the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) as well as politicians like Manoj Kumar Jha (full disclosure: he writes in The Tribune) and Mahua Moitra, decided to file a flurry of petitions in the Supreme Court. The SC, rightfully so, has not halted the exercise. Besides suggesting the addition of three more documents for validation, in addition to the 11 already cited by the EC, the SC has asked several more questions, including, 'Does the EC have the power to ask proof of citizenship of voters?' This question, as to who is an Indian and who isn't, has been around for several decades. Since the Foreigners Act was passed in 1946—which gave the state, in the run-up to the Partition, the power to detain and deport illegal immigrants—to the Citizenship Amendment Act in 2019, the state has attempted to define and classify the status of those living in India. (Assam, bordering Bangladesh, has borne the brunt of several exercises of citizenship over the decades, including the National Register of Citizenship, which was quietly buried in 2019 when 19 lakh people were found outside the register.) Of course, the EC special intensive revision is not asking any Bihari to prove whether she is Indian or not—what she is being asked to prove is whether she's

Bihari and can, therefore, vote in the Bihar election. Like Assam, Bihar also neighbours a foreign country, Nepal, but the 'roti-betti rishta' between the two and the open border ensures amity, rather than tension.

Still, Opposition parties are worried. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accused the EC of "acting like a stooge of the BJP." Trinamool Congress leaders say the "real target" is West Bengal and its large undocumented migrant population, when it goes to the polls less than a year from now. Bihar politicians fear something more insidious. Besides Punjab and Maharashtra's seasonal labour, who may not be able to prove their bona fides in time for the all-important election in November, millions of under-privileged Biharis living at home may also not be smart enough to do so. Asaduddin Owaisi, whose party won five seats in the Seemandh area last time, believes he could be squarely hit. As for Rahul Gandhi's criticism of the EC, the fact is that the Congress leader has won no general election under his leadership. But his determined wagging of a copy of the Constitution wherever he goes, nevertheless stirs the vague reminder that alongside our "secular and socialist" inheritance, we, the people, must exercise our due responsibility to stay in the driver's seat.

Boost math learning to buck tech skill shortage

Governments need to make mathematics learning an enjoyable experience in schools by using engaging ways to teach the basics and lay a strong foundation that would benefit the children as well as the country

A nationwide survey of mathematical and linguistic proficiency by the National Council of Educational Research and Training has found massive deficiencies in basic skills among mid-primary and middle-school students. The survey, conducted in 2024, assessed 21,15,022 students across 74,229 schools in 36 states and Union territories. It found that among class 3 students, 50 percent could not classify basic geometric shapes, 50 percent could not perform simple monetary transactions, 45 percent were unable to arrange numbers up to 99 in ascending or descending order, and 42 percent could not perform addition or subtraction of two-digit numbers. At least 46 percent of class 6 students failed to understand simple multiplication, repeat additions and divisions.

This is disturbing and threatens the future of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics or STEM streams in India. It needs urgent corrective measures across the board. The numbers indicate a lack of basic arithmetic skills that anyone would require for everyday life. They project a looming vacuum in skilled human resources that could hinder the country's progress at a time



science and technology are poised for era-defining advances and stress is laid on indigenous development in every sphere. There is an urgent need to act on the survey's recommendation of improving competencies in mathematics and science among school children, while emphasising the importance of gender-sensitive pedagogies, regional equity, and inclusive

education. Governments need to make mathematics learning an enjoyable experience in schools by using engaging ways to teach the basics and lay a strong foundation that would benefit the children as well as the country. Concurrently, the urban-rural divide should be bridged while identifying children with learning disabilities—especially dyscalculia (difficulty in understanding numbers, performing calculations, grasping mathematical concepts); dyslexia (problem with recognising alphabets, numbers, words and understanding text); and auditory processing disorder—and assisting them with specialised care. Last year, the Union minister for youth affairs, labour, employment and sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, admitted to India staring at a huge shortage of skilled manpower. The crucial role of basic mathematical skills among children in raising an adequate technological manpower for the future should not be lost on anyone. Parents, teachers and counsellors—alongside the government machinery—must get involved in a nationwide exercise now, rather than regret later.

Substandard drugs: A bitter pill to swallow

A study has revealed that cancer drugs exported to sub-Saharan Africa by several Indian manufacturers failed quality tests. This follows the scandal of Indian syrups that led to the death of children in western Africa and central Asia. Such cases puncture claims to be the 'world's pharmacy'

Late last month, a paper in The Lancet Global by a team of researchers led by Maximilian J Wilfinger of the University of Notre Dame, US, reported that several chemotherapy drugs administered in sub-Saharan Africa had failed quality tests. About 20 percent of the drugs were either ineffective or had dangerous side effects. The products of 17 manufacturers failed tests. All but one are Indian firms. The Bureau of Investigative Journalism enlarged the story. Like earlier episodes in which paediatric syrups exported from India killed children overseas, this episode reminds us that merely having a volume lead in generics does not guarantee that India can be the "world's pharmacy", as the government likes to advertise it.

These were the big picture stories, but the incident also has a personal, human angle. Personal stories are of course anecdotal, but that does not automatically devalue them, because we are not doing statistics here. So, to get personal, a couple of years ago, someone close to me was diagnosed with an aggressive paediatric cancer. We mostly hear of research successes, and the general impression is that cancers are becoming curable, or at least manageable. Indeed, they are, but for many cancers, treatment has not improved in 30 years. For perspective, it means that the treatment of the cancer we're talking about has not changed since VP Singh was prime minister. A paediatric oncologist in Delhi told me a fundamental truth: "Cancer doesn't affect only the patient, but the whole family." That's especially true with difficult

variants of the disease. The patient and family are suddenly cut off from normal life. It is as if an invisible wall stands between them and the majority who, thank heavens, have no experience of the disease. What divides these worlds is the idea that life is uncertain. Families with cancer know this; the rest of the world has gratefully forgotten it. Our legal wills still begin with the words, "Since life is uncertain," but we are fortunate. We take a course of pills to brush off diseases which were fearsome killers just two generations ago, like pleurisy and typhoid. After penicillin, we are no longer wired to think of untimely death as an everyday reality. Most of us feel it is unnatural to live with uncertainty.

Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses But cancer families know only uncertainty, and questions about some cancer drugs from India amplify it. Indeed, they may have seen the effects reported in the Lancet paper in their own patients. One round of chemo does not produce the expected side effects, while another round is bio-horror. Apparently, this is because the drugs delivered contain too little or too much of the active ingredient. Are manufacturers to blame? Some of the companies whose products failed have denied responsibility and questioned the potency of supply chains instead. A friend in a US company which makes systems for tracking drugs through supply chains says Indian manufacturers are interested in stringent assurances only for export to first world markets. For the rest of the world, and for the

domestic market, it's not a priority. Now, another personal anecdote - a friend in a small town in West Bengal, who has struggled with cancer for decades, has just crowdsourced for his treatment. The drug he needs costs about 20 lakh to import from the US, but 24 lakh from Germany. If it was manufactured in India, it would have cost a



fraction of the German rate. Variations in drug prices across borders are a scandalous uncertainty. That is why poorer countries, like the markets examined in the Lancet report, source drugs from India. But if the price for the rebate is quality, then the poor of the world are paying it disproportionately. Families have to marshal all their resources to finance cancer treatment. Middle class families sometimes have to sell assets and even their homes. If they later find that the medication was deficient, they cannot afford to change course or start over again. The sheer human cost, at a time when the incidence of cancer is

steadily increasing, calls for more oversight, whether quality deficits owe to production facilities or supply chains. There is also a mercantile cost. India wants to become a significant provider of the world's medications, particularly generics. But the health sector is built on reputation, and India's prospects are damaged by chronic problems like counterfeit drugs and poor quality control, and a shortage of skilled professionals. The skills shortage is the result of failing to invest in education like China has done after Mao's time.

The effect of the skill shortage will be sharpened as pharma pivots to hi-tech, and frontline disciplines like personalised medicine and AI-powered drug discovery become industry standards. While the government and the industry have been reforming for regulatory compliance and quality assurance, significant gaps remain and commercial pressures have eroded public trust in the health sector. But affordability doesn't have to be at the expense of quality. Decades ago, Cipla did provide the quality HIV generics to African nations at \$1 a day, as its chairman Yusuf Hamied had promised.

Indian pharma had barely recovered from the scandal of supplying toxic syrups to children in the Gambia, Cameroon and Uzbekistan, which had killed over 100, and now cancer drugs are under suspicion. Lack of international trust in product quality would hamper India's pharma sector, which is a notable exception to the failure of the Make in India project.

Cracks to craters: Roads come undone in monsoon's first downpour in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Gurgaon: A single spell of heavy rain was enough to lay bare the brittle condition of roads in several parts of the city, including Sector 23, 23A, and the stretch between Rezang La Chowk and Krishna Chowk. Cracked surfaces, exposed gravel, and water-filled potholes resurfaced, despite GMDA's earlier claim that it undertook repairs on 95km of road network across the city before monsoon. The stretch from Rezang La Chowk to Krishna Chowk was dotted with potholes. Sector 23 and 23A, too, saw their roads give way after just one downpour. At the receiving end of the civic apathy were the commuters, who slammed GMDA for poor planning and shoddy quality of road work. In Dec 2024, GMDA sanctioned Rs 24.7 crore for special repairs of the master road dividing Sector 23 and 23A, but within less than two weeks of being resurfaced, the road had potholes and the stretch turned into a traffic bottleneck. The road was partially

Pumps didn't start on time due to snag: What caused flooding in Gurgaon's underpasses

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Days after waterlogging at Atul Kataria Chowk underpass, it was revealed that a damaged electrical jumper caused pumps to fail. The 642-metre underpass flooded due to a delay in switching to the backup diesel generator. The PWD-installed system includes two 22-horsepower motors powered by DHBVN. "The electrical jumper got damaged during Wednesday night's rain, causing the main power supply to fail. Initially, efforts were made to restore the connection, but when that didn't work, the on-ground staff switched to power backup," the senior official of PWD said. Officials also noted that the absence of a protective canopy allowed water from Maharama Pratap Chowk and Sheetla Mata Mandir to flow directly into the underpass. The PWD has now planned corrective measures to avoid recurrence. A Rs 3.5 crore project has been awarded for installing a canopy on the ramp areas of the underpass to prevent direct rainwater inflow. "The provision of a canopy was not originally made. However, we have received the direction from the govt to install the canopy at the underpass. GMDA has deposited the amount, and work will start soon. The canopy will help prevent the underpass from surface runoff during future rains," the official added.

Every year, GMDA, along with other civic agencies including PWD and NHAI, conducts pre-monsoon checks to assess the readiness of dewatering systems, drainage networks, and backup power systems across the city. In May this year, GMDA flagged the issue of non-functional pumping machinery at the underpass near Medanta Hospital, Rajiv Chowk, and sector 84-36B and asked the NHAI to rectify it. Yet, the on-ground situation shows little improvement. Even on Saturday, the underpass near Medanta "However, water re-entered the underpass through the expansion joints from the side drain during the night. Currently, there is no waterlogging at the Medanta underpass."

repaired a fortnight ago, but it's already crumbling. Asphalt is coming off in chunks. The repairs were nothing but an eyewash," said Bhawani Shankar Tripathy, vice president of Sector 23A RWA. "We expected GMDA to do a better job than MCG, but what we are witnessing on Sushil Aima Marg is disappointing. GMDA contractors' workmanship is as bad as MCG's," said another resident. "Authorities just do cosmetic repairs. The roads look fine for a few days, but one heavy rain washes everything away. The stretch near Manipal Hospital has numerous potholes, no one will believe that it was resurfaced recently," said Rajeev Malik, a resident of Palam Vihar, who commutes daily through Krishna Chowk. The condition is similar in Sector 9 and 9A, where the freshly laid bitumen is coming off. "The



road was resurfaced last month after two years. It is sad to see it damaged already. GMDA spent so much on road carpeting but did not include provisions for adequate drainage, resulting in damage and consequent congestion on the road. This is not repair; it's a cover-up," said Lalit Suraj Bhola, general secretary of

Sector 9A. Moreover, the master road dividing Sectors 69 and 70, which was resurfaced three months ago, is also damaged. "The potholes have reappeared exactly where they always do — near the junction of the road with SPR. If a road can't last even one monsoon, what kind of durability are we talking about?" said Ajay Sharma, a resident of Tulip Ivory.

According to a senior GMDA official, the contractors concerned were directed to carry out repair works on damaged stretches. Meanwhile, GMDA has also issued a notice to its executing agency, noting that it started work on roads connecting sectors 23 and 23A and 9 and 9A much later than the scheduled date and has made "extremely slow" progress. The work that was completed is "wearing out" and potholes are appearing, the notice read.

Tennis player Radhika Yadav murder: Fragile male ego couldn't stand her freedom, she felt suffocated at home, says 'bestie'; chilling revelations

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Radhika Yadav felt suffocated at home and her father made her life miserable, a woman who identified herself as the murdered tennis player's best friend said in an Instagram video she posted on Saturday. Radhika (25) was murder on July 10 morning by her father Deepak, who pumped four bullets into her. The post by Himanshika Singh shone a light on the difficult equations in the household between Radhika and her parents, particularly her father Deepak. In Himanshika's narration, Deepak comes across as an ultra-conservative control freak who cared more about what people said than what his daughter wanted. Radhika, according to Himashika, was also shamed for wearing shorts, even though she was a tennis player. "She was killed not for love or fame, but because fragile male ego couldn't stand her freedom. Let her story remind us: no woman should die for wanting to live on her own terms," Himanshika, also a fellow tennis player, wrote on her video post, adding Radhika was not seeing anyone and was devoted to her tennis

academy, but paid with her life for growing up in an orthodox family. "We started playing together in 2013 and travelled together for tournaments. We also played against each other, but I never saw her talking much with anyone. Her



parents were always around her. She was my best friend and we were very close for the last eight years. I saw her body yesterday. My sole purpose behind this video is to tell people who exactly Radhika was. She was an international-level player, a kind soul, sweet and innocent, who was playing tennis for 18 years," Himanshika said. Radhika, she added, "loved to get clicked and make

videos." She said her friend felt stifled at home as she was constantly under the parents' vigil. "Radhika always had to tell her parents who she was talking to on the phone. Even when I video called her, the parents would come and inquire and she would have to show them the screen. I also used to visit her house. Her academy was just 50 metres away but she had a deadline to return home," Himanshika said. She also posted a video of her and Radhika together, playing tennis, watching things on the phone together and driving. In the post accompanying the video, Himanshika wrote, "Radhika was murdered by her own father... He had made her life miserable for years with his controlling, constant criticism. In the end, he listened to so-called friends who were jealous of her success. She worked so hard in her tennis career and even built her own academy. She was doing so well for herself. But they couldn't stand to see her independent. They shamed her for wearing shorts, for talking to boys, for living on her own terms. She was rushed to the hospital, but she didn't make it. Rest in peace."

Cleaning slow, sludge threatens more muck streams on Ghaziabad roads if it rains

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Monsoon is here, kanwar yatra has begun, and the city is bracing for a month of diversions and congestions. The corporation, however, is not making things any easier. Sludge lifted from drains continues to be a public hygiene nightmare across localities, even main roads. Over the past few days, with drain cleaning not keeping pace with the arrival of monsoon, silt dredged from drains but dumped along roadsides has mixed with rainwater and flowed across roads like copious slime. But with sludge still largely parked where it was, a fresh spell of rain will compound the mess manifold. While civic officials TOI spoke to on Saturday said clearing of roads is on, visits to different places by our

reporters and photographers showed streets are far from free from sludge. On Kala Pathar Road, some of the sludge was cleared but much of it lay there still, right in the middle of a densely populated neighbourhood with a bevy of condominiums on one side and Makanpur village on the other. The road under Sahibabad rapid rail station was in a mess, with sludge and rainwater creating a filthy swamp under the sleek transit corridor, which is days away from a full inauguration. Pedestrian space at a number of places on Meerut Road has been converted to swamps by deposits of sludge. This is the main kanwar route that lakhs of devotees will take over the next 15 days. Municipal commissioner Vikramaditya

Singh Malik said, "The sludge extracted from drains cannot be removed when it is in semi-liquid state as it carries a lot of weight and payment to contractors or agencies is made basis the weight. So it is left to dry, and removed after two-three days. Unfortunately, it rained, which led to the situation we are in. But we have removed it from many places." Asked about the delay in drain cleaning, Malik said, "By June 15, we had completed the first round. This is the second round. Work is ongoing and a visible improvement in the situation will be seen in a week or so." In industrial belts, whose maintenance was taken over by Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA).

Truck-mounted boomboxes, DJs are here, spark concern on noise

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Trucks and vans loaded with boomboxes that accompanied groups of kanwar pilgrims as the yatra began on Friday triggered early concerns about noise. Previous years have seen unchecked use of loudspeakers during the yatra, with boomboxes shattering decibel limits and playing day and night on roads as groups pass through NCR for the annual pilgrimage. On Friday, from Modinagar to Shalimar Garden and Ambedkar Road to Meerut Road, groups of kanwar pilgrims were seen moving with truck-mounted DJs playing remixed bhajans and popular film tracks. "It's not about devotion anymore for some groups—it feels more like a roadshow," said Vikas Tyagi, a shopkeeper on Ambedkar Road. "The noise, the dancing in the middle of the road and the traffic congestion cause inconvenience for everyone." Allahabad high court, which in 2019 put a blanket ban on disc jockeys (DJs) in UP, had said, "Even if they are operated at the minimum level of the sound, it is beyond permissible limits under the Schedule of the Rules, 2000. A DJ is made up of several amplifiers, and the joint sound emitted by them is more than a thousand dB (A)." The Supreme Court later stayed the order. On Friday,

police and the administration told TOI loud DJ music will not be allowed, but it remains to be seen how this is enforced. "All teams have been directed to ensure that noise does not exceed the permissible level," DM Deepak Meena said. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) caps the noise level at 90 decibels. In silent zones, which include schools and hospitals, the limit is 50 decibels. But kanwar groups, trying to outdo each other, blast DJ music at volumes often exceeding 100 decibels. Ghaziabad pollution control board officials said DJs are usually used by kanwar groups on their journey back to their villages from Haridwar. "We are monitoring the situation and will issue an advisory to DJ operators and kanwar groups on the noise limits. This (the yatra) is a spiritual journey and should not disturb the larger public," UPPCB regional officer (Ghaziabad) Ankit Singh told TOI. DJ operators, meanwhile, claimed many of them join the yatra as devotees and work on a "non-profit" basis. Some admitted that "DJ competitions" and "volume rivalry" are common. Ritesh Ahuja, who runs Ahuja Light & Sound, a DJ service provider based out of Ghaziabad, said, "If the police ask us to lower the volume, we do,

But if another group keeps playing loud music, we turn it up again. Our speakers can go up to 200 decibels." Residents say unchecked use of DJs was becoming more common each year. "What used to be a peaceful pilgrimage has turned into a noisy, chaotic affair in many areas," said Nishi Bansal, a resident of Shalimar Garden. "Faith is important, but it should not come at the cost of public discipline and peace." Vivek Tyagi from the Ghaziabad Parents' Association expressed concern over the impact of loud DJ music on children's health and routines. "Many children have online classes, tuitions, or early school hours. How are they supposed to study or sleep with DJs blaring outside till late in the night?" he said. "We respect religious

sentiments, but this is affecting our kids' well-being and mental peace. Authorities must step in before it becomes unbearable."

Additional commissioner of police (crime) Alok Priyadarshi told TOI that they met DJ operators earlier this week to inform them about the norms. "During the meeting, DJ operators were informed about the recommended decibel range of 75-80dB. The height of DJ systems has been capped at 10 feet. Directives have been issued to all personnel to keep a check on DJs. Legal action will be taken against those found flouting the norms," he said. Beyond the loudspeakers lies a well-organised setup that makes the DJ culture hard to regulate. Vidyasagar Pandey, who runs Jyoti Light and Sound in Patel Nagar, said DJ systems are mostly booked 10-15 days in advance. "There are small boomboxes for walking groups, and then mobile DJ units for trucks or trolleys," he said. "If the sound system is large, a diesel generator is also required. If there's no space on the vehicle, the genset is pulled separately. The diesel cost is usually paid by the kanwar group, about Rs 2,500 to Rs 3,000 per day."



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The Sikh Times

News box

Delhi link flyover set for facelift, brace for traffic curbs near Chilla

Noida. (Agency)

One lane of the busy three-lane Sector 14-A flyover, a key connector between Delhi and Noida near Chilla border, has been closed for resurfacing work — a move that is expected to trigger tailbacks and longer commutes during peak hours. The flyover, which sees heavy daily traffic from Sector 15 metro station towards Delhi, is undergoing mastic asphalt resurfacing to repair rough patches and craters. Last week, traffic police cordoned off the leftmost lane to facilitate the work. The repairs, undertaken by Noida Authority, are to be completed by Oct. The flyover, built in 2010 near the DCP Traffic Office, has seen only minor repairs over the years. However, the surface has deteriorated significantly over the years. Vijay Rawal, Deputy General Manager (Civil) at Noida Authority, confirmed that mastic resurfacing began recently but was delayed by monsoon rains. "We hope to complete the project over the next three months," he said. The 400-metre-long Sector 14-A flyover over Udyog Marg is not only a crucial link for daily commuters heading from Noida's Sector 15 metro station to Delhi through Chilla border but also serves traffic from Film City Road to the Sector 16 and 15 metro stations. The traffic restrictions are expected to intensify congestion on city roads, already under pressure due to planned curbs for kanwar yatra. Kanwar pilgrims enter Noida from Mayur Vihar via the Chilla Border, pass Shani Temple and Okhla Bird Sanctuary, and exit at Kalindi Kunj, covering a stretch of about four kilometres within the city before heading toward Delhi and Faridabad. To manage the increasing influx of pilgrims, officials will restrict two of the four lanes on the stretch between Okhla Barrage and Okhla Bird Sanctuary starting Monday. Additionally, the Sector 14-A flyover sees intermittent halts in regular traffic to allow safe passage for pilgrims. "This flyover is essential for people like me who commute to Delhi every day," said Alok Kumar, a local resident. "But the pace of work is painfully slow. Authorities should speed it up to reduce the chaos." Gaurav Kumar of Sector 15 said, "It's good that maintenance is finally happening, but prolonged disruption will only worsen traffic. With rain already impacting timelines, the Noida Authority must deploy more teams and fast-track the job."

2 machines to sweep 100km roads daily

Noida. (Agency)

Greater Noida Authority will hire an agency and use two truck-mounted mechanical sweeping machines to clean over 100 kilometres of key city roads every day. The Authority has issued a request for proposal (RFP) in this regard. Mechanical sweepers reduce road dust and fine particulate matter — PM10/PM2.5, which are among the major contributors to air pollution. The Authority already has four such machines, which cover nearly 200 km per day.

Greater Noida is spread over 380 square kilometres and has 95 sectors and 124 villages, divided into eight administrative zones known as work circles. According to the 2011 census, the population was one lakh, which has now grown to an estimated 10 lakh. The authority aims to carry out full-scale operation and maintenance of the two mechanical sweepers, each covering 57 kilometres daily, thereby ensuring that over 114 kilometres of city roads are cleaned every day. Some of these roads are from Wipro rotary to P3 rotary, 130-metre-wide road near Aicher T-Point, Sector 36/37 to Sigma 4/5, Wipro rotary to AVJ T-Point, LG rotary to AVJ Cut, Amritpuram rotary to ATS rotary, Vishwa Bharti School to Kakipur, Nawada rotary to Sai Mandir, etc. "The agency hired for this task shall ensure that each main road is swept at least once daily. The agency must also ensure that all markets within the designated road zones are swept at night, with cleanliness completed before 6:00 AM, including during weekly markets. The mechanised sweeping will be conducted between 9:00 PM and 6:00 AM," the RFP document said.

An authority official said that the agency will be required to provide a skilled operator with a valid heavy commercial vehicle driving licence and at least one helper trained in operating the machine.

"The agency will arrange for weekly washing of all vehicles and equipment during non-operational hours. To avoid traffic disruption, all collected waste must be transported directly to the sanitary landfill facility in Astauli or any other site specified by GNIDA. Mid-route dumping is strictly prohibited," he said.

Doctors remove 16 gallstones from Bihar teen with rare organ disorder

Noida (Agency)

A 15-year-old girl from Bihar with a congenital anomaly that affects 1 in 22,000 births underwent a complex surgery at a private hospital in the city, after doctors discovered 16 gallstones in her gallbladder, located on the opposite side of her body. When Riya (name changed) was brought to the hospital, she was grappling with severe abdominal pain. Doctors advised an ultrasound test; however, the results left them surprised. The teen has a rare condition called 'situs inversus with levocardia', which involves the complete inversion of all the internal abdominal organs except the heart. The girl's gallbladder, liver, and other abdominal organs are thus not in their normal positions. The diagnosis did not stop there. On further imaging, doctors discovered that she had 16 gallstones. Unlike situs inversus totalis, in which all the internal organs, including the heart, are placed in mirror conditions with the heart on the right side, this teen's condition puzzled doctors. "We had to reverse every step of the laparoscopic surgery mentally. Situs inversus totalis is as rare as 0.01%; however, cases with levocardia are more uncommon, with chances being 1 in 20,000 cases. This is a challenge for medical precision," said Dr. Vijay Anand, consultant, minimally invasive and general surgery at Sharda Hospital.

'Drunk' driver in Audi runs over family sleeping on Delhi footpath

According to the Delhi Police, Shekhar was intoxicated and driving toward his home in Dwarka when the crash occurred near a petrol pump in front of Shiva Camp around 1.45 am.

Agency New Delhi. In the early hours of July 9, a white Audi, allegedly driven by a property dealer, ran over five people sleeping on a footpath in South West Delhi's Vasant Vihar, critically injuring all of them, including an eight-year-old girl. The driver, Utsav Shekhar, 40, was arrested shortly after the incident. According to the Delhi Police, Shekhar was intoxicated and driving toward his home in Dwarka when the crash occurred near a petrol pump in front of Shiva Camp around 1.45 am. "Statements of eyewitnesses were recorded, wherein they stated that a white colour Audi car ran over them while they were sleeping on the footpath," Deputy Commissioner of Police (South West) Amit Goel. The victims — Ladhi (40), Bimla (8), Sabami (45), Narayani (35), and Ram Chander (45) — are all residents of Rajasthan. Police said they had recently arrived in Delhi and are currently unemployed. All five are receiving treatment. Following the incident, Shekhar reportedly drove about 200 meters before



crashing into a truck. He was apprehended soon afterward.

In a separate incident three days later, on Najafgarh Road near Uttam Nagar West Metro Station, a 30-year-old man, Vaideshwaran, suffered a brain injury in a hit-and-run crash. He was found unconscious beside his burnt scooter at around 1 am. A broken number plate, believed to belong to the vehicle involved, was recovered at the scene. "The crime team inspected the spot. Two people were found near the spot, but they refused to give any statement, stating they did not want to involve themselves in a police case," police said.

A case under Sections 281 (rash or negligent driving) and 125(A) (acts endangering human life or personal safety) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been registered at the Bindapur police station. Vaideshwaran remains on life support after being shifted to B L K Super Speciality Hospital.

No construction in 20-km radius of Noida airport without NOC

Agency New Delhi. No constructions or tree planting is allowed within a 20-km radius of the Noida International Airport (NIA) without a Height Clearance No Objection Certificate (NOC) received from the Airport Authority of India (AAI), the NIA has informed builders and local authorities on Friday. In a statement, the Noida airport said that the directives have been issued based on rules laid down by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in 2015 and enforced under the Aircraft (Demolition of Obstructions caused by Buildings and Trees) Rules, 2023.

"It requires all stakeholders, including builders, landowners, and government bodies, to obtain a Height No Objection Certificate from the AAI before initiating any vertical development within the prescribed limit," read the statement.

"No construction activity, erection of structures, or tree plantation is permitted without a valid Height Clearance NOC from AAI," Noida airport's chief operating officer (COO) Kiran Jain said in the statement. "This is not merely a procedural requirement but a critical safeguard for aircraft operations and navigation systems," she added. She further said that any kind of unauthorised construction or vegetation growth within the restricted airspace could breach Obstacle Limitation Surfaces (OLS), posing threat to flight safety and air traffic control systems. "The enforcement framework includes legal provisions for demolition and penalties." Jain said that all concerned parties must approach local bodies before initiating any vertical development within the 20-km perimeter. These bodies will consult the Colour-Coded Zoning Map (CCZM) issued by AAI to assess permissible height limits. Based on the proposed construction height, the applicant may be directed to apply for a Height NOC via AAI's NOCAS portal.

Officials said the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations take precedence as NIA prepares to become a major aviation hub for the National Capital Region. "Stakeholders are strongly advised to halt any unapproved development activities in the safeguarded zone immediately... Timely compliance is essential to avoid legal consequences and ensure smooth commissioning of the airport," Jain said.

Delhi owes Rs 1.42 lakh crore in water bills. Check out the top defaulters

Agency New Delhi. The residents of Delhi owe the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Rs 1.42 lakh crore in pending water bills, officials have said. Of this, domestic consumers only owe the board Rs 15,000 crore, or 10.5% of the total amount. Officials said that consumers in the commercial category owe the DJB Rs 66,000 crore, followed by government departments, whose unpaid bills stand at Rs 61,000 crore, while domestic consumers owe the board Rs 15,000 crore.

In the government category, officials said, Delhi Police tops the list of defaulters, followed by Delhi and Central government departments. At present, there are around 26.5 lakh consumers in 41 zones of DJB, said officials. The government is already working on a one-time scheme to waive the late payment surcharge (LPSC) of water bills of consumers falling under domestic and government categories.

"Work on the plan is currently going on. The plan will be ready in the next one-and-a-half months... by September. The government will waive LPSC charges. People will only have to pay the principal amount... the modalities for the same are being prepared," Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh said.

According to officials, the pending bills have been adding up over the last 10 years. "There are about 29 lakh water connections in Delhi, which is very less as compared to the city's population. The problem is that 70%-80% of the consumers claim that they have received inflated bills. Many also complain about irregular readings... To at least get the basic principal amount from domestic consumers, which stands at Rs 5,600 crore to Rs 6,000 crore, the government is planning to bring the waiver scheme," said an official. Also, to avoid metering issues in the future, the government is planning to revamp the billing system and implement smart meters to collect water bills in Delhi, officials said. Officials further said that the government plans to do away with the scheme to provide 20,000 liters of free water per month to every household with a functional water meter. "The scheme was brought by the previous AAP government. The BJP government is planning to make this scheme exclusive to people from the economically weaker sections, who genuinely require free water," the official said.

Amid objections, DU approves academic changes; V-C says ready for fourth year

Agency New Delhi.

The Executive Council of Delhi University approved several key academic and infrastructural proposals, including some controversial curriculum changes, at a meeting held on Saturday.

Among the most debated revisions was the removal of papers on Pakistan, Islam and China from the postgraduate Political Science syllabus — the changes were previously cleared by the Academic Council on June 5 amid internal opposition. The EC also unanimously approved the appointment of Rajni Abbi as Director of the South Campus, with Vice Chancellor Prof. Yogesh Singh placing the proposal before the Council. The announcement came as DU outlined major preparations for rolling out the fourth year of undergraduate study under NEP 2020.

"Delhi University is fully prepared for the fourth year of undergraduate education under NEP 2020. About 60% of the students are likely to upgrade to the fourth year," Prof. Singh told the Council. For colleges with faculty shortages, he said, provisions will be made to engage guest faculty and allow regular teachers to take additional classes. "Only regular faculty will teach the fourth-year students while guest faculty will teach only junior classes," he added. The Vice-Chancellor also clarified that "provision will be made for proper payment for teachers as well as non-teaching staff."

The EC also cleared the construction of a hostel for girl students and working women in DU's Dhaka Campus, with the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) asked to prepare the plan based on a PAR of Rs 200 crore. "CPWD has been advised to prepare the building plan in such a way that no tree is harmed," a statement from the varsity underlined.

Plans were also approved for a new academic building, executive hostel, and two hostel expansions in the South Campus, totalling over Rs 66 crore. Additionally, a Cultural Activity Centre will be built near Shankar Lal Hall, with CPWD submitting the concept drawing.

Northeast Delhi building collapse kills 6: Lane only 3-ft wide, rescuers form human chain to clear rubble

Agency New Delhi.

A pile of rubble haphazardly dumped into an alleyway as if it were a construction site — this was the first glimpse for a passerby on Saturday after a four-storey building fell to pieces in North East Delhi's Welcome area, killing six members of a family.

For the rescue workers, one of the biggest challenges was navigating the alley, barely three feet wide, to reach the site of the incident. Another challenge was the use of heavy machinery, which could pose a risk to the closely packed buildings. The rescuers then had no option but to get down to the basics — clearing the rubble using bare hands.

Along with the rescuers from the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), police officers, MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi) workers, and locals formed a long human chain. The pieces of rubble were then passed from one person to another before being deposited into a lone wooden cart, parked outside the alley. At the same time, another team tried to remove an electricity pole, which had toppled due to the collapse, as it rested against a building.

Fuzail Ansari, one of the residents, was jolted awake by a loud thud on Saturday morning. "I came out and saw nothing but dust everywhere. I could see where the dust was coming from. I saw some people running out, but I knew there would be people stuck inside. So I took Allah's name and ran in," he recalled.

Why fewer women have been getting into Delhi University since CUET brought in

Women applying for CUET-UG, however, have been rising -- from 4.29 lakh out of total 9.68 lakh in 2022 to 6.47 lakh out of 13.54 lakh this year

Agency New Delhi.

The number of women joining Delhi University (DU) for undergraduate courses has dipped since the introduction of the Central University Entrance Test (CUET) in 2022, data shows. In 2021, a year before the centralised test was introduced, 54,818 women took admission in the various undergraduate courses that DU offers. This dipped to 34,120 in 2022.

Over the next two years, the numbers rose slightly to 36,039 in 2023 and 38,096 in 2024, but are well short of the pre-CUET figures.

Before the centralised test was introduced, DU admitted students on the basis of Class XII Board exam results, through cut-off lists. All students who met the cut-off had to be admitted irrespective of the number of seats on offer. After CUET, the shift in the gender ratio has been stark (see

box) — with women in the undergraduate cohort comprising 61.44% of the strength in 2021 to 54.09% in 2024. The university also saw a drop in overall undergraduate

admissions, often surpassing or closely matching male applicants. In 2019, 1.29 lakh women applied to the university against 1.28 lakh men. In 2020, within the unreserved category alone, 1.16 lakh women candidates applied, outnumbering the 1.05 lakh male applicants. This pattern strengthened further in 2021 — the last admission cycle before CUET was introduced — when DU received 1.49 lakh applications from women versus 1.37 lakh from men, signalling a clear gender skew in favour of women at the application stage. Even in 2022, the first year of CUET, registration numbers remained nearly equal — 87,622 female candidates and 87,523 male candidates. Women applying for CUET-UG, however, have been rising — from 4.29 lakh out of total 9.68 lakh in 2022 to 6.47 lakh out of 13.54 lakh this year.

admissions in the first year of CUET — from over 75,000 in 2018 to over 64,000 students in 2022 — before increasing slightly to over 68,000 in 2023 and over 70,000 in 2024. Between 2019 and 2021, data from DU shows a consistent trend of high female participation in undergraduate

temperature of around 35 degrees Celsius.

On average, the temperature difference between these shaded and unshaded zones was found to be 10 degrees

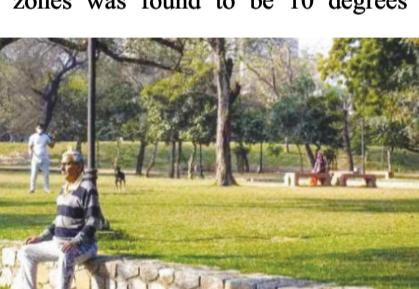
ecological infrastructure.

It found that a majority of the parks were not equipped to serve as reliable zones where people can come to beat the heat. More than three-quarters of the

surveyed parks lacked drinking water points for the public.

Also, none had officially installed shelters for urban birdlife. While 73% of the parks featured water bowls for animals and birds, nearly all had been set up by residents or informal caretakers rather than municipal authorities. Only 28% of the parks had any form of water body, and several of these were found to be either drying up or poorly maintained. Access restrictions were another concern — 74% of the parks were closed during some part of the day, and 64% were shut at night, even in densely populated and heat-prone areas.

Celsius. The study was carried out in the midst of Delhi's 2025 summer, one of the city's hottest in recorded history. The audit evaluated parks not only on the basis of temperature but also on the availability of basic amenities and



Delhi's parks fail to offer relief during summers. Here's what a study shows

Agency New Delhi.

A recent audit of 50 public parks across Delhi has revealed alarming disparities in how the city's green spaces function during periods of extreme heat. While thermal images showed that shaded areas in parks were up to 20 degrees Celsius cooler than those in the open, the survey also documented shortcomings in accessibility, infrastructure, and biodiversity support — raising questions about the Capital's preparedness in dealing with intensifying climate conditions.

The study, launched on Saturday by Greenpeace India in collaboration with COHAS and Youth for Climate Justice South Asia, recorded a peak surface temperature of 53.3 degrees Celsius in exposed concrete areas in parks. In contrast, tree-covered areas in the same parks measured a highest surface

temperature of around 35 degrees Celsius. The study was carried out in the midst of Delhi's 2025 summer, one of the city's hottest in recorded history. The audit evaluated parks not only on the basis of temperature but also on the availability of basic amenities and

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While most categories saw year-on-year decreases, murder cases rose marginally from 241 in 2024 to 250 in 2025.

Agency New Delhi.

The number of heinous crimes reported in the national capital dropped notably in the first half of 2025, according to data released by the Delhi Police.

From January 1 to June 30, a total of 2,209 heinous crimes were registered in the city — a decline from 2,543 during the same period in 2024. Senior officials said this drop extended across key categories, including murder, attempted murder, robbery, kidnapping for ransom, rape, and crimes under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Murder was the only exception. While most categories saw year-on-year decreases, murder cases rose marginally from 241 in 2024 to 250 in 2025. Police said the majority of these incidents stemmed from sudden fits of rage, personal enmity, and disputes over petty issues. Cases of molestation also fell,

dropping by 10.85 per cent from 2024 to reach 863 cases in 2025. The decrease was even more significant when compared with 2023 — a 29.03 percent drop. The trend extended to non-heinous crimes as well. In 2025, 1,16,613 such

crimes were recorded in the first six months, down from 1,27,150 during the same period in 2024 and 1,60,931 in 2023 — marking a 27.54 per cent decline over two years, and 8.29 per cent year-on-year.



Motor vehicle thefts continued to top the list of non-heinous crimes, with over 17,512 cases recorded in 2025. Kidnapping cases fell slightly to 2,716, from 2,738 in 2024 and 2,752 in 2023. Fatal road accidents saw a mixed trend — rising to 667 in 2025 from 653 in 2023, but still below 2024's figure of 673. Explaining the overall decline, Devesh Chandra Srivastava, Special Commissioner of Police (Crime), said, "The decline in crime can be attributed to seamless coordination and cooperation in all units and districts of Delhi Police in apprehension of criminals, fugitives and repeat offenders and stern legal action against them, so that a stern message is sent to one and all. Extensive use of technology, AI, Big Data analytics and capacity building further gave impetus to our concerted efforts. Proactive citizen centric policing and public support was icing on the cake."

NEWS BOX

Iga Swiatek blasts Polish media after historic Wimbledon triumph: Let me do my job**London. (Agency)**

Iga Swiatek now hopes that the Polish media will let her be after their recent criticisms, as she delivered one of the most ruthless performances to lay her hands on the Wimbledon 2025 women's singles title by beating Amanda Anisimova without losing a single game point. She has been under severe scrutiny by the media after her year-long drought, where the Pole was far from her dominating levels. Many had been overly critical of her playing style, coaching and other elements, which clearly frustrated the newly crowned champion.

Swiatek was ruthless in the women's singles final as she clobbered her opponent, showed no mercy as the American was left shattered after the historic clash, which saw the Polo take the win. In her post-match press conference, Swiatek didn't hold back. "We as athletes can't really react to everything. But for the past months, how the media described



me, especially the Polish media, and how they treated my team... it wasn't really pleasant," she said. "I hope they will just leave me alone and let me do my job. Obviously, we know what we are doing. I have the best people around me. I've already proved a lot. People want more and more, but this is my own life, my own process. Let me do my job the way I want it." Swiatek, who now has six Grand Slam titles, said her Wimbledon run was about finding clarity, both mentally and physically. She credited her win to a combination of sharp focus, fitness, and tactical execution, but most importantly, to a renewed sense of enjoyment on the court. "Tennis is a mental sport," she said. "But you need everything to win tournaments—good tennis, good physicality, great focus." She added that rather than adding pressure, she chose to simply enjoy the moment, especially on Centre Court.

Wimbledon: Can Jannik Sinner crack the Carlos Alcaraz code in grand finale**New Delhi. (Agency)**

As Novak Djokovic slowly recedes as the final torchbearer of the Big 3, a fiery new rivalry is taking center stage - Jannik Sinner vs. Carlos Alcaraz. And while both are elite, it's Sinner who's often seen as the underdog - not because he lacks the skill, but because Alcaraz has taken his game to staggering new heights over the past three years. Since pulling off his stunning 2022 US Open triumph and becoming the youngest-ever world No.1, the Spaniard has only grown more dominant, with many predicting he'll smash a slew of records. Sinner, by contrast, has quietly built his empire - and now holds the No.1 ranking himself, having done so for over a year. This Sunday, expect Centre Court to ignite as the two face off in the



Wimbledon men's singles final. Just last month, they lit up Roland Garros with a historic five-hour, 53-minute battle - the longest French Open final ever, and the second-longest Grand Slam final of all time, behind only the 2012 Australian Open classic.

Sinner searching for answers

In their head-to-head battles, Carlos Alcaraz holds a commanding 8-4 lead over Jannik Sinner. And if you narrow the lens to just the past two years, the numbers tilt even more heavily in Alcaraz's favour - he's won five straight against the Italian. The last time Sinner triumphed was at the 2023 Beijing Open semifinals. Sinner did glimpse victory in their epic French Open final last month, surging to a two-set lead. But Alcaraz, true to his warrior spirit, rose like a phoenix and turned the match on its head - winning 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 7-6, 7-6 at Philippe-Chatrier. The defining moment? Alcaraz saved three match points while staring down a 3-5, 0-40 deficit in the fourth set.

How he clawed back from there is something only he knows. It's not that Sinner hasn't challenged him - he's pushed Alcaraz to the limit time and again. But more often than not, the Spaniard has found answers.

ENG-W vs IND-W: England win Birmingham thriller, but India seal series 3-2

- India wins T20I series 3-2 despite Birmingham defeat
- Shafali Verma smashed 75 in India's highest-scoring innings
- Wyatt-Hodge shined with 52 in her 300th match.

Birmingham. (Agency)

India may have lost the final T20I by the narrowest of margins, but the bigger prize was already in the bag. With a 3-2 series win over England, Harmanpreet Kaur's side walked away with the honours after a hard-fought campaign that ended with yet another last-ball finish - this time in Birmingham.

Set a target of 168, England rode on a milestone knock from Danni Wyatt-Hodge - playing her 300th international match - and a blazing 41 from Sophia Dunkley to set up the chase. Their 101-run opening partnership had India under pressure early



on. But the visitors, who had defended totals and fought back all series, weren't going to make it easy. With the game heading into the final over and six needed to win, pacer Arundhati Reddy nearly turned hero, picking up two wickets in her first three balls. But

Sophie Ecclestone kept her calm under pressure and, with one needed off the last ball, edged England home - just about. Still, the night belonged to India - and more specifically, Shafali Verma. Returning to the T20I setup with a point to prove, she

Rafael Nadal's special message to Anisimova after Wimbledon final loss: Be proud**Anisimova suffered historic 6-0, 6-0 Wimbledon final defeat**

- Nadal offered heartfelt support after Anisimova's tough loss
- Anisimova upset World No.1 Sabalenka in Wimbledon semi-final

New Delhi. (Agency)

Amanda Anisimova may have endured one of the toughest finals in Grand Slam history, but she's walking away with encouragement from none other than Rafael Nadal. The American's dream run at Wimbledon 2025 ended in heartbreak after she was comprehensively beaten 6-0, 6-0 by Iga Swiatek in the women's singles final on Centre Court. The one-sided result made headlines as it marked the first double bagel in a Wimbledon singles final - men's or women's - in the Open Era. The match lasted just 57 minutes. Swiatek, now a six-time Grand Slam champion, was in ruthless

form and gave Anisimova no breathing space. The Pole delivered 25 flawless minutes in the first set, breaking serve three times and winning 14 of the last 15 points to wrap up the second set just as clinically. But while the scoreboard was brutal, Anisimova's composure was widely



appreciated - and it didn't go unnoticed by legends of the game. Rafael Nadal, who knows a thing or two about bouncing back from tough losses, reached out with a personal message on social media. The Spanish icon urged Anisimova to be proud of her run and reminded her of what it meant

to reach a Grand Slam final - an achievement few in tennis ever experience. "Be proud, Anisimova! Amanda! Grand Slam finalist!" Nadal wrote on his post. Anisimova, 23, had come into the final high on confidence after knocking out World No.1 Aryna Sabalenka in the semis. Her defeat on Saturday made her the first woman since 1911 to be shut out in a Wimbledon final - a tough pill to swallow for a player making her first appearance in a Grand Slam final. It was a touching gesture from one of the sport's greatest, whose own career has been defined not only by titles but also resilience through setbacks. Despite the disappointment, Anisimova's performance over the fortnight at the All England Club has ensured her place in the spotlight. She is set to break into the WTA top 10 for the first time in her career when the new rankings are released, and her future remains bright. Swiatek, meanwhile, finally adds a Wimbledon crown to her collection, becoming one of the rare active players to win a major on all three surfaces.

WI vs AUS: Shamar Joseph leads West Indies' fight as Australia fold under lights**Jamaica. (Agency)**

West Indies seized the momentum on Day 1 of the first pink-ball Test at Sabina Park, bundling out Australia for just 225 thanks to a fiery bowling display led by Shamar Joseph. The pace sensation returned figures of 4/33, while Jayden Seales and Justin Greaves chipped in with three wickets each to leave the hosts in a strong position. Batting first, Australia's innings never quite got going. Sam Konstas, who continues to struggle at the international level, was dismissed off the very first ball he faced by Seales. A classic nipbacker trapped him LBW and set the tone for what was to follow. Usman Khawaja and Cameron Green tried to stabilise the innings, but the runs came at a crawl. Australia limped to just 50/1 at lunch after 25 overs, thanks to some disciplined bowling by the West Indian bowlers, who exploited the helpful conditions to perfection. The post-tea session saw Shamar Joseph return to the attack and remove Khawaja with a superb delivery that drew an edge, brilliantly caught by Shai Hope diving to his left. Green, who had looked composed, was undone just before dinner by a peach from Seales that clipped the off-stump. With the lights taking full effect, the pink ball began to move considerably. Though Steve Smith counterattacked briefly with a trio of

**Shubman Gill-Zak Crawley's last-over drama: Vaughan says no team should complain****New Delhi. (Agency)**

Following a fiery end to Day 3 of the third Test at Lord's, Michael Vaughan has weighed in on the drama surrounding England's time-wasting tactics on Day 3 of the Lord's Test. He suggested that neither team has the right to complain, given both sides have used similar methods in the match.

Tensions escalated in the final stretch as England came out to bat just before stumps. With only time for one or two overs to be bowled, the hosts appeared to deliberately slow down proceedings to ensure minimal play before close. Their tactics like adjusting the sight-screens, stopping Jasprit Bumrah midway and even getting medical treatment after being hit on the gloves, meant only one over was bowled before the umpires called stumps. The move didn't sit well with Indian opener Shubman Gill, who was seen exchanging heated words with Zak Crawley as frustrations boiled over. The flashback sparked widespread reactions from fans and

pundits alike.

However, Vaughan, speaking on BBC's Test Match Special, called the tactic a clever use of the clock - and not something India



could protest about. "It's as good a piece of time-wasting I've ever seen," Vaughan said. "India can't complain because yesterday Gill was down with the hamstring strain, KL Rahul was off the field and wouldn't have been able to open the

batting," he added. The former England captain argued that both teams had manipulated the game clock at various points during the match and thus, there was no room for moral high ground from either camp. Neither team can complain, but what great drama and what a great day," he added.

"We're in for a fourth and fifth day that will be fantastic." The Test has remained delicately poised, with momentum shifting frequently across the first three days. England will resume their second innings under pressure to set a competitive target, while India's bowling attack, bolstered by Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravindra Jadeja, will look to tighten the screws early on Day 4. With tensions running high and both teams eyeing a series lead, the final two days at Lord's are set for an explosive finish - and possibly more gamesmanship.

boundaries, the momentum quickly shifted as wickets continued to fall. Alex Carey tried to break free with an aggressive approach but perished to Joseph after a brisk cameo. The rest of the Australian middle and lower order failed to offer much resistance. Joseph's pace and Greaves' support meant that the visitors lost their final six wickets for under 80 runs. The pitch offered consistent assistance to seamers, but the lack of partnerships from the Australians was equally to blame. In a historic Test for Mitchell Starc, who became just the 2nd Australian quick to play 100 Tests, the left-arm quick provided a late breakthrough to remove one of the West Indies openers just before stumps.

KL Rahul immortalised at the Lord's museum with his special signed jersey**London. (Agency)**

India's opening batter KL Rahul made his mark once again at Lord's, scoring a sublime century in the first innings of the third Test against England. His composed knock provided India with the ideal platform to match England's total, keeping the contest finely balanced. But after the day's play, Rahul gave his signed jersey to the Lord's museum. This century marks Rahul's second on the hallowed turf of Lord's, etching his name onto the prestigious honours board once again. He joins an exclusive list of Indian batters with multiple tons at the venue, highlighting his ability to step up on the biggest stages. Speaking in a video posted on the BCCI's official social media, Rahul played down the significance of personal milestones, choosing instead to focus on his responsibility to the team. "I don't build it up in my head that much. I try and focus on my job, and it was to get the team off to a good start and see how I can put runs on the board," said Rahul. He added, "Very good knock,



important in the context of the game. Happy with the performance. Everything about Lord's makes it that much more special. The history and legacy, every time you walk into Lord's, you're

reminded of it." Rahul's assured start at the top allowed India to settle into their innings after early pressure. His knock was backed up by vital contributions from Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja, who both scored fifties to help India equal England's first-innings total before being bowled out. Despite the joy of his ton, Rahul will be slightly disappointed by the timing of his dismissal - he fell in the over immediately after reaching three figures. He was drawn into a drive by spinner Shoaib Bashir, edging the ball to the slip cordon to end his knock. Now, with the game evenly poised, India will turn their attention to England's second innings. The bowling unit, led by Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, will look to make inroads quickly and give the batters a chaseable target. Rahul, with confidence behind him, will be key once again. If India are to take the series lead, they'll need their senior opener to anchor another innings at the top of the order.

Stock Market forecast: Q1 Results, US-India trade talks, FII to drive market

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Delhi: The stock market investors will keep a close eye on the first quarter results of several bluechip companies, likely outcome of ongoing India-US trade talks, and June inflation data for market cues. The analysts are also of the view that the global market trends and trading activity of foreign investors would also impact the market sentiments. "While global cues will continue to dictate trends in domestic equities, investors' focus will be on the likely outcome of India's ongoing trade negotiations with the US. Overall sentiments continue in a dilemma as the wait for a trade deal with the US continues. Traders are not confident about taking any major positive bets in this uncertain environment. "In contrast, first-quarter corporate earnings will be keenly watched over the next few weeks..." Simranjeet Singh Bhatia, Senior Equity Research Analyst at financial services provider Almondz Global, was quoted by PTI as saying. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 932.42 points or 1.11 per cent, and the NSE Nifty tacked 311.15 points or 1.22 per cent.

"Looking ahead, the earnings season will be in full focus. A packed calendar includes results from HCL Tech, Tech Mahindra, Axis Bank, Wipro, JSW Steel, among others. On the macroeconomic front, participants will closely track the WPI and CPI inflation data scheduled for July 14 for further cues on the economy," Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said. Mishra was of the view that selling/buying activities of FII and crude oil prices will also be closely watched by the traders. He also pointed out some other factors like economic data releases such as US inflation and China's GDP numbers that could affect the market movement.

Sooner or later...': Paytm founder sees impact of AI on jobs as 'inevitable'; says artificial intelligence will also create new roles

New Delhi(Agency)

The impact of artificial intelligence (AI) on jobs is "inevitable", according to Paytm founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, who said AI will become part of routine business processes sooner rather than later. "Sooner or later we will have to start using AI as an employee or even as a CFO," Sharma said at an AI-focused event in New Delhi.

He said AI will eventually perform most tasks currently done by humans, and stressed the need to build core products instead. Sharma also outlined a broader vision for the company — to move beyond its fintech roots and become an AI-first firm, according to an ET report. Although AI will automate several human functions, Sharma said it will also create fresh roles in the workforce. The remarks come at a time when Paytm's parent, One97 Communications, is undergoing job cuts. ET reported last month that the company had laid off an unspecified number of employees. The overall sales team headcount dropped by about 3,500 in the March 2024 quarter, taking the total to 36,521. This decline was largely linked to the Reserve Bank of India's restrictions on Paytm Payments Bank operations. In the March quarter, Paytm posted a consolidated net loss of Rs 540 crore, compared with Rs 550 crore in the year-ago period. In June, Paytm stood third in the UPI rankings with 1.27 billion transactions worth Rs 1.34 lakh crore — accounting for 6.9% of total volume and 5.6% of value. PhonePe remained in the lead with 8.55 billion transactions valued at Rs 11.99 lakh crore. As part of its AI initiatives, Sharma announced a new passbook feature that would use Paytm's data to generate a rap song summarising monthly expenses. Though no launch date has been shared, Sharma said it would be made available to users soon.

NLC India in advanced talks with Russian firm; to source lithium from African mines - check details

New Delhi. (Agency)

NLC India, a state-owned enterprise, is in advanced negotiations with a Russian government-backed entity to secure lithium supplies from its mine in Africa, marking a key step in securing critical minerals for India's energy transition.

This initiative is crucial as India implements strategies to secure consistent lithium supplies to support its clean energy objectives. According to PTI, quoting sources, NLC India is negotiating with a Russian public sector firm regarding equity participation in a lithium mining block situated in Mali, Africa.

India's focus extends to both domestic and



international lithium block exploration and development, driven by increasing demand from electric vehicle battery producers.

NLC India's primary operations encompass coal and lignite mining alongside power generation. The public sector undertaking has expanded its portfolio to include renewable energy and coal mining ventures both within India and internationally.

The company successfully secured two strategic mineral blocks during the fifth auction round, acquiring phosphorite and limestone blocks in Chhattisgarh.

Get Paid Without Working! Best Govt Schemes You're Missing

These schemes are designed to help people grow their savings steadily, receive regular income, or save on taxes, all while enjoying the safety of government backing.

New Delhi. (Agency)

For Indians who want to earn money not by working, but by investing, the government offers a range of schemes that are both secure and accessible. These schemes are designed to help people grow their savings steadily, receive regular income, or save on taxes, all while enjoying the safety of government backing. In 2025, these options remain

some of the most trusted ways for ordinary citizens to put their money to work. One of the most popular choices is the Public Provident Fund (PPF). This long-term savings scheme offers a fixed interest rate—currently 7.1 percent—and comes with a lock-in period of 15 years. Investors can start with as little as Rs 500 per year and invest up to Rs 1.5 lakh annually. The returns are tax-free, making it a favorite for those planning for retirement or long-term goals.

National Savings Certificate

Another widely used scheme is the National Savings Certificate (NSC). With a five-year lock-in and an interest rate of 7.7%, NSC is ideal for those looking for medium-term, guaranteed returns. The minimum investment is Rs 1,000, and there's no upper limit. The interest earned is taxable, but investments up to 7.5 lakh qualify for tax deduction under Section 80C.

Kisan Vikas Patra

For people who want their investment to



double over time, the Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) is a simple and effective choice. Currently, it offers a 7.5 percent interest rate and doubles your money in about nine years and seven months. There is no maximum investment limit, and it is open to all Indian citizens.

Post Office Monthly Income Scheme

If regular monthly income is your priority, the Post Office Monthly Income Scheme (POMIS) is worth considering. It offers 7.4 percent interest, paid out every month, and has a five-year tenure. The minimum

investment is Rs 1,000, and the maximum varies depending on whether the account is single or joint. This scheme is especially popular among retirees and those seeking steady returns without market risks.

Senior Citizens Savings Scheme

Senior citizens have a dedicated option in the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS). With an attractive 8.2 percent interest rate paid quarterly, this scheme is available to those aged 60 and above. The tenure is five years, extendable by three more years, and the maximum investment allowed is Rs 15 lakh. It also provides tax benefits under Section 80C.

Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)

For those planning for their daughter's future, the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY) offers a high interest rate of 8.2 percent. Parents or guardians can open an account for a girl child, invest up to Rs 1.5 lakh per year, and enjoy tax-free returns until the girl turns 21 or gets married after 18.

Mcap of eight of top 10 companies erodes by Rs 2.07 lakh crore; TCS biggest laggard

Reliance Industries was the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever in that order.

New Delhi(Agency)

The combined market valuation of eight of the top 10 valued firms eroded by Rs 2.07 lakh crore (Rs 2,07,501.58 crore) last week, with Tata Consultancy Services and Bharti Airtel emerging as the worst hit. Last week, the benchmark BSE Sensex dropped 932.42 points or 1.11 per cent. From the top 10 pack, only Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever closed the week with gains in their valuation. Among major losers, the market valuation of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) tumbled Rs 56,279.35 crore to Rs 11,81,450.30 crore. Shares of TCS dropped nearly 3.50 per cent on Friday after its June quarter earnings failed to enthuse investors. Bharti Airtel's valuation eroded by Rs 54,483.62 crore to Rs 10,95,887.62 crore. The market valuation of



(mcap) of ICICI Bank tanked Rs 14,556.84 crore to Rs 10,4913.73 crore. The valuation of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) diminished by Rs 11,954.25 crore to Rs

5,83,322.91 crore. The mcap of HDFC Bank declined by Rs 4,370.71 crore to Rs 15,20,969.01 crore and that of State Bank of India went lower by Rs 2,989.75 crore to Rs 7,21,555.53 crore. However, the valuation of Hindustan Unilever Ltd jumped Rs 42,363.13 crore to Rs 5,92,120.49 crore. Shares of Hindustan Unilever Ltd (HUL) on Friday surged nearly 5 per cent after the company announced that Priya Nair will become its first woman CEO and MD.

The mcap of Bajaj Finance climbed Rs 5,033.57 crore to Rs 5,80,010.68 crore. Reliance Industries was the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever in that order.

GST Council Meeting Soon, Tax Slab Rates And Compensation Cess Key Review Points

For over a year, discussions have been going on to simplify the GST, but no progress has been made. Meanwhile, in June this year, India collected Rs 1.85 lakh crore in Goods and Services Tax (GST), a 6.2 per cent increase over the same month the previous year.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council is expected to meet soon to review the tax regime. This could be

the most significant review since the scheme was announced on July 1, 2017, eight years ago. According to reports, a sweeping reassessment of tax rates on consumer goods, which are currently taxed at the highest slab,



and compensation cess might be among the top agenda items of the forthcoming meeting. Moving pure term insurance policies from the current 18 per cent rate to a zero-tax bracket can also be a top proposal on the council's table. The life insurance sector has been demanding a 12 per cent basket, but the Centre seems

willing to go further to help middle-class consumers, according to reports. The council may consider moving the life insurance to a zero-tax bracket from the current rate, the reports stated. Health insurance buyers may anticipate some relief as well. Scrapping the 12 per cent GST slab entirely could be under discussion. The development could lower taxes on a variety of items. For over a year, discussions have been going on to simplify the GST, but no progress has been made. Meanwhile, in June this year, India collected Rs 1.85 lakh crore in Goods and Services Tax (GST), a 6.2 per cent increase over the same month the previous year. Despite a strong increase to stay above Rs 1.8 lakh crore, collections fell short of the record highs of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April and Rs 2.01 lakh crore in May. The government said that the collections have doubled over the last five years to reach a record Rs 22.



balanced monthly EMIs for purchasers. The company reports that 80% of their new vehicles are purchased through financing options.

"So, when you look at the EMIs, we have tried to keep the same, though the price of the car has gone up. So, that helps us to mitigate the impact of price increase to a large extent," Iyer said.

He expressed confidence in continued market demand, citing economic growth as a driver for luxury car purchases. He noted that customers understand price adjustments are necessary due to currency fluctuations. Addressing supply chain concerns, particularly regarding rare earth magnets, Iyer stated: "If you look at the supply chain, as far as we are concerned, we are not affected yet by any of these topics, because we are managing it well. We also have sufficient stocks with us, so we are able to navigate and manage it".

"I think our colleagues back in Stuttgart (Germany) have managed it well, so we don't have any issues there," he added. Iyer acknowledged that the company's growth may remain flat this year due to ongoing geopolitical tensions and other challenges.

Why claiming your PF money seems so difficult

Small errors like name or date of birth mismatch delay PF claims
Incomplete or outdated KYC verification freezes the claim process
Employers must update exit dates and respond promptly to EPFO

New Delhi. (Agency)

For millions of salaried people, the provident fund (PF) is supposed to be a safety net for the future, money you can count on when you leave a job or retire. But when it's time to claim it, many people run into unexpected hurdles that slow things down or even stop the money from reaching their bank account.

So, what makes claiming your own PF so complicated? IndiaToday.in spoke to Siddharth Maurya, Founder and Managing Director, Vibhavangal Anukulakara Private Ltd., to find out where things go wrong and what employees can do to avoid common traps.

SMALL ERRORS, BIG DELAYS

It all starts with tiny mistakes. A spelling

error in your name, a mismatch in your date of birth, or an old bank account number can be enough to freeze your claim. "Incomplete documentation, incorrect name, date of birth, ID number or bank account number mismatch, employer verification, outdated KYC, these small discrepancies trigger outright rejection and delays," Maurya explained.

The EPFO system checks your details against Aadhaar, PAN, and other records. Even a small mismatch can cause the process to get stuck.

WHY INCOMPLETE KYC STOPS EVERYTHING

Many people don't realise how important proper KYC (Know Your Customer) is. If your KYC isn't verified, your claim can get stuck for months. Without KYC and full identity verification, all processes stop. Your claim stays frozen in limbo until KYC issues are resolved," says Maurya. Even if your paperwork is fine, if your bank details do not match the EPFO records, your claim might be rejected automatically.

ARE EMPLOYERS ALSO RESPONSIBLE?

It's not always just the paperwork that causes trouble. Employers can also delay



claims, knowingly or unknowingly. According to Maurya, "Employers are active participants. If they don't update your exit date or don't respond properly to EPFO, your claim may get stuck."

Sometimes, pending dues or errors in monthly submissions can add to the mess, leaving employees helpless until things are fixed.

HOW CAN YOU AVOID THESE PROBLEMS?

There are simple steps you can take to make sure your PF claim does not get stuck. First, keep your personal details like Aadhaar, PAN, and bank account updated and matched everywhere. Always verify your KYC on the EPFO



portal. "Keeping personal details like Aadhaar, PAN, and bank account updated across all systems is a must. After leaving a job, make sure your employer updates your exit date. Prefer online filing, check your claim status often, and don't wait too long to raise a grievance if there's an unexplained delay," Maurya advised.

DOES THE ONLINE SYSTEM HELP OR HURT?

The EPFO's online system has made claims faster and more transparent, but it can confuse people who are not used to filing things online. "The online system has definitely made things faster and more transparent, but for those not comfortable with technology, it is puzzling. Verified KYC and matching documents greatly impact a person's claim, which many people seem unaware of," Maurya said. So, keep your documents clear and verified. Always double-check your details. If you do this, your hard-earned money will reach you without unnecessary stress. Your PF money is yours, make sure small mistakes don't keep you away from it.

'Chinki Minki'

Surabhi Samriddhi

Roped In For Chhoriyan Chali Gaon

Popular twin entertainers Surabhi and Samriddhi Mehra, aka Chinki Minki, are known for their comic timing, playful banter and twin-themed content on Instagram and YouTube. But now, the duo is gearing up for an exciting new chapter—both professionally and on television. The duo will be seen stepping into the world of reality TV with Zee TV's much-awaited upcoming show Chhoriyan Chali Gaon.

But here's the twist: The two will be competing not as a team, but as individual contestants for the first time. The audience will get to see a never-before-seen version of the iconic duo as they tackle the game separately. Their participation is expected to add a fresh layer of fun and confusion to the show's format.

Ahead of the show's premiere, the two expressed their excitement, saying, "This is something new for us, and we're super excited and a little nervous to see how we survive without being on the same team. But one thing's for sure, it's going to be double the masti for the audience."

The announcement comes shortly after the sisters announced their decision to part ways professionally. In an emotional note shared via their joint Instagram handle, Chinki and Minki said, "With a heavy heart, we are now parting our ways as Jodi. We've decided to explore life on our individual journeys from here on."

Thanking fans for their unwavering support, they added in the caption, "Grateful for everything we've shared and excited for what lies ahead. Keep cheering for both of us with your love and blessings." Chinki and Minki shot to fame in 2019 with their breakout performance on The Kapil Sharma Show. They played the quirky, fun-loving neighbours of the host. But it was their impromptu dance to Piya Piya O Piya that quickly became viral, cementing their place in the industry. Coming to Chhoriyan Chali Gaon, the show is set in a rustic village backdrop in Madhya Pradesh. The reality series is expected to premiere later this year on Zee TV and will be hosted by Roadies fame Rannvijay Singha. With a compelling cast and a unique rural format, Chhoriyan Chali Gaon promises an entertaining blend of challenges, light-hearted drama and unexpected twists.

Besides Chinki and Minki, the show will also feature a power-packed ensemble including Sana Makbul, Isha Malviya, Aamna Sharif, Nyra Banerjee, Chahat Pandey, Naera Mishra, Aishwarya Khare, Anita Hassanandani, Anjum Fakih and Dolly Javed (sister of internet sensation Uorfi Javed).



Pooja Hegde's Dance Number Monica From Rajinikanth's Coolie Crosses 5 Million Views In A Day

Coolie, Rajinikanth's highly anticipated film, is generating a lot of enthusiasm among fans. The film's second song, Monica, which stars Pooja Hegde in a gorgeous avatar, has now been released. Coolie, directed by Lokesh Kanagaraj, features an all-star cast that includes a cameo by Bollywood actor Aamir Khan. It will be released in theatres on August 14, and promises a mix of action, drama and entertainment. Within a day of its release, the music video had clocked in

5 million views and the makers shared the happy news on their official Instagram handle. Sharing a snippet from the music video, they wrote, "Thalaiyae suthavaikkum, sooravali ponnachi! 5M+ love for our sensational #Monica. Watch the second single #Monica from #Coolie starring Pooja Hegde."

Pooja Hegde as Monica looks lovely in her red sparkly gown with a high slit. Her movement, combined with Soubin Shahir's rare dance skills to Anirudh Ravichander's sounds, makes it the ideal party song. The song is sung by Subrahmanyam, Anirudh Ravichander, Rap by Asal Kolaar and lyrics by Vishnu Edavan.

Reportedly, Coolie is expected to reach audiences in more than 100 countries when it opens on August 14. Apart from Rajinikanth, the film stars Nagarjuna, Sathyaraj, Aamir Khan, Upendra, Soubin Shahir and Shruti Haasan. Anirudh composed the music for the film, his

fourth consecutive collaboration with director Lokesh Kanagaraj. Girish Gangadharan is the film's cinematographer, and Philomin Raj is the editor.

The film is highly anticipated because it will reunite actors Sathyaraj and Rajinikanth after nearly 38 years. The two last appeared together in the 1986 Tamil film 'Mr Bharath', in which Sathyaraj played Rajinikanth's father. Interestingly, Sathyaraj turned down chances to appear in some of Rajinikanth's other films, including



Enthiran and Sivaji. Coolie is Rajinikanth's 171st film, which is about gold smuggling. Interestingly, filmmaker Lokesh Kanagaraj has stated that Coolie will be a standalone film, not part of his Lokesh Cinematic Universe. War 2, directed by Ayan Mukerji and starring Hrithik Roshan and Jr NTR, is also slated to compete with Rajinikanth's film at the box office, and fans are excited to watch both blockbusters in theatres.

**'He Is Like A Brother':
Barkha Singh Ends Romance
Rumours With Ayush Mehra**



For years, fans have speculated about the nature of Barkha Singh and Ayush Mehra's relationship, thanks to the undeniable chemistry they've consistently shared on screen. Their natural ease and compatibility in various roles, especially in romantic dramas, have led many to believe their bond might extend beyond the camera. But now, Barkha is setting the record straight. In a recent interview with Filmygyan, Barkha addressed the speculation head-on. When asked about her dynamics with Ayush, she candidly responded, "Ayush is a very good friend of mine, he's like a brother to me. I'm sorry to break this." She further clarified, "Our romantic lives are completely separate, but he continues to be a close and trusted friend." With this statement, she gently laid to rest the ongoing rumours of a romantic connection, affirming instead the depth and strength of their platonic bond.

Both Barkha and Ayush are among the most recognised faces in the Indian digital content space. Over the years, they've become fan favourites, not just for their individual talent but also for the strong screen presence they share when cast together. Their most notable collaboration to date remains the hit web series Please Find Attached, streamed on Amazon miniTV.

The series, which follows the lives of two co-workers-turned-partners—Shaurya (played by Ayush) and Sanya (portrayed by Barkha)—delves into the complexities of balancing personal and professional lives. Their believable portrayal of a blossoming relationship captured viewers' hearts and cemented their status as one of the most loved fictional couples in the Indian web space.

Their collaborative efforts, however, are not limited to this one show. They've appeared together in several digital sketches and short series on platforms like FilterCopy, where their camaraderie and comic timing have consistently earned praise. These appearances have further contributed to their strong public image as an ideal on-screen pair, despite there being no romantic involvement off-screen.

Ankit Gupta Turns Vegetarian After Health Scare, Says Bigg Boss Wasn't His Choice



TV actor Ankit Gupta revealed turning vegetarian after a gastric and panic attack. During a vlog with Farah Khan, he explained the reason behind it.

TV actor Ankit Gupta, who rose to fame with shows like Udaariyaan and Junooniyatt, and gained popularity through Bigg Boss 16, has revealed how a serious health scare led him to turn vegetarian. The actor opened up about this lifestyle shift during a candid chat with Farah Khan, who recently visited him for her YouTube vlog. In the video, Farah had planned to cook her signature Tawa Chicken, only to find out that Ankit had changed his diet. Taken aback, she asked him about it, to which the actor responded, "I've turned vegetarian, but will eat chicken since you're making it."

Ankit clarified that the decision wasn't rooted in religion but stemmed from a medical emergency. "I didn't turn vegetarian for any religious reasons. I had a gastric and panic attack for which I was hospitalised," he shared. "You feel breathlessness, BP shoots up and you just feel you cannot breathe."

Since then, he has been consciously monitoring his diet and overall health. "I am on a programme and show what I am eating throughout the day. I also show what I am drinking," he added, explaining how the incident forced him to be more mindful about his routine.

Beyond food and fitness, the actor also reflected on his unexpected entry into Bigg Boss. According to Ankit, the decision wasn't entirely his. "I didn't choose to be on Bigg Boss. I was sent to the show," he revealed. At the time, he was wrapping up Udaariyaan, and the producers had promised him another show, Junooniyatt, which needed a few months to go on floors.

With limited options in hand, the actor was told about three ongoing projects. "Khatron Ke Khiladi had already started, Jhalak Dikhhla Jaa was on but not meant for me, and the last option was Bigg Boss," he said. What followed was a long stretch of discussions and negotiations. "Three to four weeks went into just discussions." From surviving inside the Bigg Boss house to navigating real-life health scares, Ankit's journey is a reminder of how unexpected turns, whether in career or health, can push one to realign priorities and adapt for the better.

