

"They Should Invite Us, Right?" Peeved Siddaramaiah On BJP's Bridge 'Snub'

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- ▶ **The Kalasavalli-Ambargondlu bridge in Karnataka's Shivamogga is India's second-longest cable-stayed bridge**
- ▶ **Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he won't attend the inauguration claiming no invitation had been sent**
- ▶ **Siddaramaiah criticised the central government for protocol violations**

Bengaluru. (Agency)
The opening of a bridge in Karnataka Monday has created a divide between the ruling Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party that is in power at the centre, after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah objected to the lack of representatives from the state government at the inauguration ceremony. The government responded by sharing a July 11 letter - from three days before the opening - inviting the Chief Minister.

The Kalasavalli-Ambargondlu, or the Sigandur bridge - India's second-longest cable-stayed bridge, 2.44km long and built at a cost of Rs 473 crore - in Shivamogga district is to be inaugurated later today, but the Chief Minister, his Public Works Minister, and local Congress MLAs will stay away.

"They should invite us right? Who created this centre-state tussle? They created it ...



they should follow protocols. It's happening in our state," a peeved Siddaramaiah told reporters.

The Congress leader - also battling a power grab by his deputy, DK Shivakumar - said he spoke to Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, and asked him to postpone the programme. "He said he would... but now, bowing to the pressure from local BJP leaders, they are going ahead with

the event," Siddaramaiah complained. "I have not received any invitation. We always extend cooperation to railway projects... they invite us for those. But here, protocol has been violated. They are deliberately creating a rift between the central and state governments," he said, pointing also to scheduling conflicts.

On Sunday too the Chief Minister had said it would have been appropriate for Mr Gadkari's office to contact him and plan the event at a mutually convenient time, given he is expected to attend various programmes in Vijayapura district, which is over 400km from Shivamogga. It wasn't just the Chief Minister questioning the apparent lack of protocol from the federal government; the Congress' Shivamogga district-in-charge Madhu Bangarappa said he too had not been invited. Mr Bangarappa also criticised the Road Transport Ministry for "disrespecting" Siddaramaiah.

Society Needs People Who File Petitions Against Government: Nitin Gadkari

Nagpur. (Agency)

Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari has stressed the need for filing court cases against the government to ensure discipline in public administration. A court order can get work done in a way that even the government can't, said the senior BJP leader while speaking at the Late Prakash Deshpande Smriti Kushal Sangathak Puraskar ceremony in Nagpur.

"There should be some people in the society who file petitions against the government in the court. This disciplines the politicians. (This is) because even ministers in the government cannot do the work that a court order can do. Popular politics comes in the way of politicians and ministers," he said.



Mr Gadkari pointed out that those honoured as 'Kushal Sangathak', at the event, fought many such legal battles against the government. The 'Kushal Sangathaks' filed many court cases against "wrong" government decisions in the education sector and even forced the government to withdraw their decisions on many instances, said the BJP leader known for revolutionising road networks in the country.

Rekha Gupta inaugurates Yatharth Hospital

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi. 14 July 2025: Strengthening its commitment to accessible, high-quality healthcare in the heart of the national capital, Yatharth Super Speciality Hospitals has officially inaugurated its new super specialty hospital in Model Town, New Delhi yesterday.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by the esteemed presence of Smt. Rekha Gupta, Honourable Chief Minister of Delhi, as the Chief Guest. She was joined by Praveen Khandelwal, Member of Parliament, Chandni Chowk; Shri Ashok Goel Devraha, Member of Legislative Assembly, Model Town; Shri Raj Kumar Bhatia, Member of Legislative Assembly, Adarsh Nagar as Guests of Honour, along with other eminent dignitaries and luminaries.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Gupta emphasized the growing need for reliable healthcare infrastructure in Delhi and commended Yatharth Hospitals' contribution towards



bridging this critical gap. With a unique blend of compassion and clinical excellence, Yatharth Hospitals is setting new standards in quality healthcare delivery.

Expressing optimism over the launch of the new facility, Mr. Yatharth Tyagi, Director, Yatharth Group of Hospitals said "This is not just the inauguration of another hospital, but a reaffirmation of our purpose and philosophy. At Yatharth Hospitals, we believe that healthcare is not a privilege, but a fundamental right that every individual deserves,

irrespective of geography or background. With the launch of our new facility in Model Town, we are taking one more step towards bridging the gap between people and access to quality medical care."

The newly launched Yatharth Hospital in Model Town marks a significant expansion in the group's bed capacity, aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure in Delhi. Strategically built on approximately two acres of land, the facility houses 300 beds, including 70 critical care beds, to cater to patients requiring specialized and intensive treatment.

As part of the rapidly expanding Yatharth Group of Hospitals - which now operates 7 super-specialty hospitals with over 2,300 beds and 900+ specialist doctors across multiple cities. The Model Town facility reinforces the group's commitment to delivering advanced and world-class healthcare closer to the community, backed by cutting-edge medical technology and clinical expertise. [Continue front news](#)

The Opposition parties have moved the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission's move to update and revise the voter list in Bihar only months ahead of the polls. While the opposition parties are smelling a conspiracy behind the move, the Election Commission has now asked Chief Electoral Officers (CEOs) of all states to prepare for Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Reports indicate that poll officials have discovered Bangladeshi, Nepali, and Myanmar nationals in Bihar during the poll revision. Amid the ongoing tussle and SIR exercise, there has been a concern among the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal as well. While the Election officials say an investigation is underway in the incidents of the finding of foreign nationals in Bihar, the Trinamool Congress has alleged that the SIR move is aimed at disenfranchising lakhs of voters that will ultimately benefit the BJP, the saffron party leaders have claimed that intensive revision, as mandated under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, is necessary for weeding out illegal migrants. Trinamool Congress (TMC) leaders have voiced

concerns that the Election Commission's (EC) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is covertly targeting West Bengal. An Indian Express report notes that leaders from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) see this exercise as potentially pivotal for their party's success.



West Bengal's Chief Minister and TMC chairperson, Mamata Banerjee, has accused the EC of acting as a 'stooge of the BJP' by rushing the SIR in Bihar. She has questioned whether this is a clandestine way to implement the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

India's role key in multipolar world, says Singapore minister after meeting EAM Jaishankar



New Delhi. (Agency)

India will play an increasingly important role globally as the world "inexorably" transitions into multipolarity, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan said after holding talks with External Affairs minister S Jaishankar on Sunday.

Jaishankar also met President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Deputy PM Gan Kim Yong. Singapore is at the "heart" of India's Act East Policy, Jaishankar said after his meeting with Balakrishnan. From Singapore, he travels to China.

India-Singapore relations were elevated to a comprehensive strategic partnership during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the country in September last year. "As the world inexorably transitions into multipolarity, India will play an increasingly important role as one of these major poles of opportunity," Balakrishnan said in a social media post.

The two sides also decided to hold the third India-Singapore ministerial roundtable in New Delhi soon. The External Affairs Ministry said the two sides reviewed progress of the outcomes of Prime Minister Modi's visit as well as the second round of India-Singapore ministerial roundtable.

The focus of India-Singapore ties during Modi's visit as well as the ministerial roundtable was to boost cooperation in areas of investments, industrial parks, semiconductors, infrastructure, skill development and connectivity. The ministry said both sides also exchanged views on ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), Indo-Pacific and global developments.

"The external affairs minister also met Teo Chee Hean, former senior minister and coordinating minister for national security and chairman-designate of Temasek Holdings," it said.

BJP's Sanjay Jaiswal Hits Back At Tejashwi Yadav Over 'Sootra' Remark, Calls Him 'Uneducated', Seeks Apology

New Delhi. (Agency)

The controversy surrounding the presence of alleged foreign nationals in Bihar's electoral rolls has escalated into a bitter political clash, with BJP leader Sanjay Jaiswal launching a scathing attack on RJD's Tejashwi Yadav. The issue emerged amid the Election Commission's ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise, which has now become a flashpoint between the ruling and opposition parties in the state. Reacting strongly to Tejashwi Yadav's dismissal of reports about foreign nationals

being found on the voter list, Jaiswal accused the RJD leader of being "uneducated and irresponsible."

"Only Tejashwi Yadav can make such comments about media personnel or any human being in general," Jaiswal told ANI. "The problem with Tejashwi Yadav is that he is not educated, which is why the people at his home make him memorise whatever they want, and he just repeats it. But if someone asks him a question outside of that, he will create this kind of mess."

Demanding a public apology, Jaiswal further said, "Tejashwi Yadav should publicly apologise, express regret, and

take an oath that he will not say anything beyond what he is taught at home."

The verbal duel intensified after Tejashwi ridiculed reports that Bangladeshi, Nepali, and even Myanmar nationals were listed as voters in Bihar. "Who are these sources?" Tejashwi asked, mocking the authenticity of the claims. "These are the same sources that said Islamabad, Karachi, and Lahore have been captured." He further added sarcastically, "Ye sootra ko hum mootta samajhte hai."

Major Boost for 65+ Green Category Industries in Delhi": Minister Sirsa

The Sikh Times
Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi. July 14, 2025:

Delivering on yet another promise, the Delhi Government has announced a historic Ease of Doing Business reform that ends DPCC approval delays for Green Category industries. With effect from August, 2025, all applications for Consent to Operate (CTO) by eligible Green Category industries will be automatically deemed approved if no decision is made within 20 days - a sharp reduction from the earlier 120-day timeframe. Announcing the development, Environment and Industries Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said: "This was



a long-pending demand from the business community of Delhi. I thank

Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena and our Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt Rekha Gupta for their constant support and visionary leadership in making this reform a reality. The double engine government has delivered what could not be done in 50 years - this is not just a reform, it is a historic reset in how we support enterprise in the capital."

He further added: "This is a clear message to entrepreneurs and industry - Delhi is open for responsible business. We are ending the era of unnecessary licenses and approvals that stifled growth for decades. This is the Delhi Model under our Hon'ble CM Smt Rekha Gupta: pro-people,

pro-growth, and purpose-driven." This reform will directly benefit over 65 types of industries classified under the Green Category — typically non-polluting and low-risk sectors — which were earlier subjected to long and complex approval procedures. These include industries such as apparel manufacturing (without dyeing or bleaching), aluminium and PVC product units, ayurvedic medicine manufacturing (without boilers), cold storage facilities, wooden and steel furniture making, confectionery units (with electric ovens), optical goods, toys assembly, soap and detergent units, battery container units, cardboard and packaging manufacturers, and many more. [Continue front news](#)

Carats 2025: Surat diamond expo attracts total business of over Rs 100 crore

A total of 73 exhibitors, mainly from Surat and Mumbai, showcased their products

Surat (Agency)

Amid a global slowdown in the diamond industry, Carats 2025, an diamond exhibition held in Surat, attracted a total business of over Rs 100 crore, compared to last year's Rs 75 crore. The three-day exhibition culminated on Sunday in Surat city.

Carats 2025, featuring loose polished, natural and lab-grown diamonds (LGD), diamond-studded jewellery, and diamond industry tools, was organised by the Surat Diamond Association in Avadh Uthopia, Surat.

A total of 73 exhibitors, mainly from Surat and Mumbai, showcased their products. The main attraction of the exhibition was two lab-grown diamonds, which are sold in pairs and weigh 38 carats each. The buyers were from Jaipur, Jodhpur, Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Kerala, Chennai, and Cochin. Apart from this, over 30 buyers were from Dubai, Ukraine, Russia and the USA.

Sources said that at the exhibition, 12 stalls were of diamond tools, 10 of jewellery, and the remaining were of loose polished diamonds. Surat city Mayor Daxesh Mawani had inaugurated the three-day event in the presence of BJP MP Govind Dholakia. The Mayor also

appealed to businessmen and industrialists to organise an 8-10-day 'shopping festival', similar to one held in Dubai.

One of the exhibitors, Jagdish Ahir of Bansi Diamonds, Surat, said, "I have been attending the event since the last five years, and this event



was quite overwhelming as we have done more business than last year. It was quite unexpected. Amid an economic slowdown, such exhibitions should be conducted regularly, as exhibitors will make new contacts with whom they can do business throughout the year and continue to do so for years to come. The annual turnover of business from each contact is in crores. I

participate in exhibitions held in Surat, Mumbai, Chandigarh, Jaipur, and even international exhibitions in the USA, Hong Kong, and other locations. The motive behind attending such exhibitions is to increase my customers and raise the sales graph."

"I came to Surat at the age of 14 from Amreli and started working as a diamond polisher. I studied up to Class 5 class, but I worked hard and learnt the art of diamond cutting and polishing, and learned to identify diamonds based on their quality. Later, I began trading locally, purchasing diamonds from the domestic market and selling them to traders. Then I started my own diamond cutting and polishing factory. I was never satisfied with the diamond manufacturing unit, so I transitioned into a diamond-studded

jewellery business and continued to operate it. One of my friends advised me to participate in a diamond-studded jewellery exhibition, which is nationally and internationally recognised. So I did, and now I am running both my diamond cutting and polishing factory and a diamond-studded jewellery unit. I have multiple offices in India and abroad."

Broken toilets make life miserable for TNUHDB residents in Semmancheri

Chandigarh (Agency)

CHENNAI: For the last nine months, overflowing sewage has made life miserable for 30 families residing at the Tamil Nadu Urban Habitat Development Board (TNUHDB) tenements on 7th Avenue in Semmancheri. This has rendered toilets at the tenements unusable, forcing residents to use public toilets located 200m away.

When visited the area, the air was filled with the stench of foul odour and the buzz of mosquitoes. The toilets in the flats on the ground floor were clogged, with fecal matter visibly floating. The residents, in an attempt to control the smell, have placed buckets over the toilet seats to prevent the stench from spreading indoors. According to the residents, the issue began when the faulty pipelines started leaking, eventually spilling over to the narrow passages between the tenements. The stagnant water has turned green and the area is infested with mosquitoes, raising serious health concerns, particularly for children and elderly.

"This is a daily struggle. We can't even use our own toilets," said R Sanjay (48), a cancer patient living with his disabled wife and two young daughters. "We are forced to walk more than 200m to access public toilets for relieving ourselves and to take baths. With my wife earning only ₹3,000 per month, paying the ₹250

maintenance charges to TNUHDB is difficult. But that doesn't mean we should be made to live in filth."

Residents allege that despite repeated complaints, TNUHDB officials have redirected the responsibility to the resident welfare association (RWA), which currently oversees maintenance. The RWA, however, has ignored the issue, citing pending maintenance payments from several households.

N Prakash (42), another resident, said, "Earlier, when TNUHDB was directly responsible for maintenance, they used to respond to complaints about sewage overflow or broken pipelines, even if we pay or don't pay the maintenance fee. But, now the RWA refuses to act unless dues are paid, while we continue to live in unsanitary conditions," he said.

Rahman Basha H, a local activist, said, "We don't mind paying when there's accountability. But how can people be expected to pay when they're living in sewage and nothing is being done about it?" A TNUHDB official in-charge for the area stated that, "The maintenance work has now been handed over to the RWA under the 'Nam Kudiyiruppu Nam Poruppu' initiative. Since a few residents are not paying the maintenance charges, the work must have come to a halt. However, unhygienic conditions cannot be ignored."

Frant continue news

Rekha Gupta inaugurates Yatharth Hospital

The Model Town facility is equipped with state-of-the-art facility, which includes multiple centres of excellence, critical care units, modular operation theatres, advanced diagnostics, and specialized departments across cardiology, oncology, orthopaedics, neurology, nephrology, and more. The hospital is also fully equipped to offer emergency and trauma care services, making it a vital addition to Delhi's healthcare ecosystem.

This new facility represents Yatharth Hospital's vision to expand its legacy of trust and clinical excellence beyond Noida, Greater Noida, Noida Extension, Jhansi-Orrha, and Faridabad, where the group has already established a strong presence. The Model Town facility is expected to cater to a wide catchment area, offering patients expert-led, best-in-class healthcare without the need to travel far.

Major Boost for 65+ Green Category Industries in Delhi": Minister Sirsa

Under the new system, if an application for CTO is not processed within the prescribed timeline, it will be treated as approved automatically, with no need for further follow-ups or documentation. This landmark reform is expected to fast-track industrial activity in Delhi's MSME sector while maintaining environmental safeguards.

"Most of these sectors are driven by small and medium enterprises that will now be freed from regulatory gridlocks and empowered to operate under a trust-based, time-bound clearance system," the Minister stated.

The decision is aligned with the broader vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Viksit Bharat – Viksit Delhi and reflects the Delhi Government's proactive push toward trust-based, responsive governance.

This move is also part of Delhi's Single Window Clearance initiative, aimed at removing redundant approvals and integrating services across departments to enable faster, paperless, and transparent processes for industries and entrepreneurs.

Man falls to death from 18th floor in Wadala



Mumbai (Agency)

A 55-YEAR-OLD man who was suffering from dysentery fell from the 18th floor into the elevator in a Wadala-based building.

The deceased, identified as Prakash Shinde, had gone to answer nature's call when he fell to his death. An Accidental Death Report has been filed by the police in the case. An officer from RAK Marg police station said that Shinde had gone to stay at his sister's house a couple of days ago in Wadala. He was reportedly suffering from dysentery and wanted to go to the washroom. However, since it was already occupied, he came near the lift area where lift work was going on.

An official said that he defecated near the pit and while he was getting up, he lost his balance and fell into the pit. A fire brigade team was called that rescued him. He was rushed to the KEM hospital where he was declared dead on arrival. An officer said the family members did not suspect any foul play and they have filed an accidental death report in the matter.

Dragonflies from Libellulidae family studied in a research by Punjabi University; five new species added to the global list

Prof. Gurinder Kaur Walia told that the study added five new dragonfly species to the global list of 258 species studied for their chromosomes.

Gujarat: Over 99 % of complaints related to damaged roads resolved, says state govt

AHMEDABAD (Agency)

The Gujarat government has claimed that of the 3,632 complaints related to road damages, received on GujMARG, an application developed by the Roads and Buildings department, nearly 99.66% had been resolved.

The application, which accepts complaints on potholes, damage to bridges and structures and unpainted speed bumps, has seen over 10,000 registrations so far, a government statement said.

According to data from the Roads and Buildings department, just seven complaints currently remain under process.

The government has urged citizens to continue using the GujMARG app to report issues related to potholes,

Ludhiana (Agency)

Researchers at Punjabi University, Patiala, have studied dragonflies from the Libellulidae family, which are colorful insects often seen near lakes and ponds. The research work carried by Dr Hardeep Singh and supervised by Prof. Gurinder Kaur Walia, at the Department of Zoology and Environmental Science, looked at the dragonflies' chromosomes (structures that carry genetic information) and their DNA to understand how different species are related to each other. Dr. Hardeep Singh said that they collected dragonflies from various parts of North and South India and examined the chromosomes of these dragonflies to identify unique features and check for any changes

in their structure. He told that they also studied a specific gene (mitochondrial COI gene) in the dragonflies' DNA, which acts like a 'barcode' to tell species apart and show how they are related. By combining the chromosome and DNA data, they confirmed how these dragonfly species evolved and are connected, he told further. He told that the findings were published in 4 research papers in well-known international journals.

Prof. Gurinder Kaur Walia told that the study added five new dragonfly species to the global list of 258 species studied for their chromosomes. They submitted DNA data for 28 sequences from 21

species to a global database (NCBI). They analyzed 112 DNA sequences from 80 species to map out how



these dragonflies are related evolutionarily. She told that dragonflies are ancient insects, around for about 220 million years, and are related to some of the earliest winged insects. They are important

for studying freshwater environments (like lakes and rivers) because different species need different habitats, and they have complex life cycles (partly in water, partly on land). This makes them great for understanding ecology that how living things interact with their environment and evolution. Vice-Chancellor Dr Jagdeep Singh, said that such researches are a testament to the quality of research being done in the university which enhances the prestige of the institution. He said that it is only on the basis of such quality researches that institutions are able to establish their identity at the international level.

UP govt starts work on revival of one small river in every district

LUCKNOW (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh government has started work on reviving one small river in each district of the state by roping in three IITs and other technical institutes for assistance and conducting studies on "channelisation, course correction, uninterrupted flow of water", officials said.

This comes nearly a month after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath had directed the district magistrates of all 75 districts to work on the plan to rejuvenate at least one river in each district. According to the plan, the government will map the rivers from the point of their origin to the point of their "final confluence". The districts have been given the responsibility to prepare a "joint action plan" for the purpose. A divisional-level monitoring committee, headed by

the respective divisional commissioner, has been constituted to oversee the implementation and quality of the work. The revival effort is receiving technical expertise from premier institutes such as IIT Kanpur, IIT BHU, IIT

The campaign, originally initiated in 2018 under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme, has now evolved into a more structured and technologically empowered mission.

Activities under the programme include stream-cleaning, water channelling, rainwater harvesting, and extensive plantation drives.

To ensure smooth implementation, the government has brought together 10 departments: Irrigation, Minor Irrigation, Panchayati Raj, Forest,

Horticulture and Food Processing, Fisheries, Urban Development, Uttar Pradesh State Water Resources Agency, Rural Development, and Revenue, it said.

Roorkee, and BBAU Lucknow, which are preparing river-specific plans based on detailed studies of geographical, ecological, and social factors, the statement said.

UPSC to take up today Haryana plea to promote 27 HCS officers to IAS

Chandigarh (Agency)

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will on Monday consider a request from the Haryana government to promote 27 Haryana Civil Services (HCS) officers to the IAS cadre.

The HCS officers include one who got a breather recently with the Punjab and Haryana High Court staying vigilance bureau chargesheet against him.

With Haryana facing a shortage of IAS officers — against the sanctioned strength of 225, the state currently has only 169 such officers in service — it has urged the UPSC to consider promoting HCS officers to IAS. The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) of the UPSC will take up the matter in a meeting scheduled for July 14.

In 2023, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) had filed a chargesheet in a Hisar court, alleging irregularities in the recruitment of the 2002

of several officers in recent years. Eight of the 27 HCS officers — whose names have been forwarded to the UPSC for promotions — have been named in the chargesheet.

One of them, Jagdeep Dhanda, recently approached the high court alleging that he has been implicated in the impugned FIR and chargesheet has been filed against him for extraneous reasons and with mala fide intentions".

A few years back too, the Haryana government had sent a proposal to the UPSC to consider HCS officers for promotion to IAS. Dhanda's name figured in that list too. The selection committee meeting was fixed for December 6, 2022, but could not be held. It was claimed on the behalf of Dhanda that "to exclude certain officers from zone of consideration, the affected parties managed to influence the government to send a vigilance report concerning the FIR to the UPSC on December

22, 2022. It was also claimed that "he (Dhanda) was not even named in the said vigilance report, nor was any allegation of any kind levelled against him".

Meanwhile, after 18 years of registration of the FIR regarding alleged irregularities in the recruitment, the Vigilance Bureau filed a chargesheet in the Hisar court in January 2023.

Dhanda's counsel contended that "the entire sequence shows that it was only to exclude the petitioner from the process of selection to IAS cadre that he has been included as an accused in the challan/chargesheet, though none of the ingredients of the alleged offences are established against him".

The HCS officers

include one who got a breather recently with the Punjab and Haryana High Court staying vigilance bureau chargesheet against him.



THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009

Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A44, Tronica City
(Loni), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)

Corporate Office:

5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,

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RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

NFR Enhances Customer Interface and Logistics Efficiency in June 2025

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 14th July: Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has undertaken several proactive measures to enhance customer satisfaction and augment railway freight revenue during the month of June 2025. These initiatives are aimed at strengthening freight logistics, streamlining cargo movement and supporting regional agricultural and industrial supply chains. As part of this effort, the Bengdubi Project Military Siding (BPM) under Katihar Division has been opened for handling inward parcel traffic in VP rakes with effect from 4th June 2025. This strategic move will help cater to growing logistics demands in the region. Further strengthening the freight infrastructure, the Gati Shakti Multi-modal Cargo Terminal (GCT) at Balurghat, served by Balurghat station under the Katihar Division, has been operationalized for handling inward food grain traffic from 10th June 2025. This is expected to significantly improve the handling of agri-based commodities. Under the Business Development Unit (BDU) initiative, Northeast Frontier Railway achieved substantial freight movement during June 2025. A total of 1,332 wagons of stone chips were booked under Lumding Division from various locations- 294 wagons from Shokhui to Jirania, Ambassa, Belonia, Bairai; 681 wagons from Bihara to Jirania, Belonia; 315 wagons from Dikotcherra to Jirania and 21 wagons each from Sribar and Salchrapur to Jirania. This extensive operation generated a significant amount of freight revenue. Additionally, two rakes (84 wagons) of maize were loaded from Falakata and Tufanganj stations under Alipurduar Division and dispatched to Banapura and Muzaffarnagar stations. Additionally, 0.5 rake (105 wagons) of potatoes was loaded from Dhupguri station and dispatched to Jirania station. These targeted efforts under the BDU framework demonstrate NFR's commitment to expanding freight business by tapping new traffic, optimizing terminal usage, and offering customer-friendly solutions. Northeast Frontier Railway continues to focus on improving its freight services and customer interface while contributing meaningfully to the logistics and supply chain ecosystem of the region.

CM Yogi lays foundation stone for new & upgraded KGMU administrative building

The Sikh Times

Lucknow, July 14: The administrative building of King George's Medical University (KGMU) will soon be seen in a new and upgraded form. On Monday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath laid the foundation stone for KGMU's new administrative building, a state-of-the-art diagnostic lab, a patient accommodation facility block, and an expanded guest house. These three major projects will be completed at a total cost of Rs 99.10 crore. With this, KGMU is set to begin a new era in patient care and medical diagnostics. According to KGMU spokesperson KK Singh, the ultra-modern diagnostic lab will provide patients with 24x7 high-quality testing services. The newly constructed patient-relative accommodation block will offer suitable lodging facilities for caregivers. The five-storey block will house



modern facilities such as radiology, X-ray, CT scan, receive their test reports via SMS, ensuring timely command area, and proper lodging. The entire block

ultrasound, pathology, and microbiology labs—all under one roof. This will eliminate long waiting periods for tests. Once prescribed, all required diagnostics can be conducted immediately at the same location. Patients will also

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, NADIM AHMED S/o VASIM AHMED HANIF R/o H NO-250, KH NO-86, HARSUKH BLOCK, PREM NAGAR-1, SULTANPUR C BLOCK, PO-SULTANPUR, NORTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110086, have changed the name of my minor son MOHD. SAHIL alias MOHAMMAD ZAID KHAN aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as MOHAMMAD ZAID KHAN.

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GHMC to soon hand over 23 foot over bridges to private agencies for upkeep

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

In a bid to make Foot Over Bridges (FoBs) across the city more pedestrian-friendly and ensure their optimal use, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has decided to hand over the maintenance of 23 FoBs to private agencies under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. The selected private developer will operate on a Maintain, Operate, Advertise and Transfer (MOAT) basis for five years.

These 23 FoBs were constructed to enhance pedestrian safety in busy commercial areas and to ensure smooth vehicular movement. However, GHMC officials noted that only a tiny percentage of pedestrians currently use them, mainly due to poor maintenance and non-functional elevators, escalators and lighting.

To address these issues, GHMC will hand over the FoBs to private agencies on an "as-is" basis. The city's existing FoBs will be divided into individual packages, with each package comprising one FoB. Locations include Moosapet, Shapur Nagar, IDPL Colony, Banjara Hills Road No. 1, Punjagutta traffic signal, ESI Hospital, NMDC Masab Tank, Khairatabad, Malkam Cheruvu, St Anna School (Secunderabad), Neredmet X Road, Budvel Railway Station, Deepthi Srinagar, Airport Road beside AG College Gate, Kattadan, Baba Nagar, Hassan Nagar, National Police Academy, AS Rao Nagar, Rangareddy Court (Kothapet), Ramanthapur, NTR Gardens, Dilsukhnagar near Chandana Brothers, and J P Cinemas in Chanda Nagar. The MOAT proposal was approved by the GHMC Standing Committee on Thursday evening.

Under the agreement, the agency must provide essential amenities such as adequate lighting inside the FoB, at staircases, elevators, escalators and the areas beneath. A QR code-based complaint redressal system will be introduced to enable citizens to lodge complaints easily, with updates provided once the issue is resolved. Each FoB will also be equipped with a minimum of five CCTV cameras, including one inside each elevator. The live feed will be accessible to both the GHMC and the Traffic police control rooms. Lifts and escalators will remain operational from 6 am to midnight. The agency will also be responsible for maintaining all structural components and supporting infrastructure, such as staircases, lighting systems (preferably solar-powered), and elevators and escalators.

Microfinance employee found dead in Bengaluru, one held

BENGALURU. (Agency)

A 20-year-old microfinance employee died under mysterious circumstances at his office in Kanakapura Town, Bengaluru South district (formerly Ramanagara). Police have registered a case of murder and arrested the branch manager, while two other colleagues have been booked.

The deceased, R

Darshan, hailed from Kolatturu village in T Narasipura taluk of Mysuru district. He was earlier posted at the Halaguru branch in Mandya and was recently transferred to Kanakapura after a promotion. Darshan had reportedly complained to his father about harassment by three seniors.

Based on a complaint by Darshan's father, R Raju (58), the

Kanakapura Town police registered a case against Revanna, the manager, and two senior staffers, Renuka Sharma and Sachin. Darshan was found dead between 6.30 pm and 10.30 pm on July 9 at the company's office on Gundanna



Later that evening, Raju received a call saying his son had fallen unconscious, followed by another call claiming Darshan had died by suicide. When Raju reached the office at around 10.10 pm, it was locked. He was later informed that the body had been shifted to a hospital on Kanakapura Road.

"The complainant suspects the accused murdered his son and staged it as a suicide," a police officer said. A case has been registered under IPC Sections related to murder, criminal intimidation, and intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of peace.

Supporters of Kate and Gaikwad clashed with each other at the spot. Videos of the incident had surfaced on social media. Sub-Division Police Officer (Akkalkot) Vilas Yamavar said, "An FIR is being lodged as per the complaint filed by a Sambhaji Brigade office bearer. Further investigation is on. Police responded within two to three minutes after the incident was reported and controlled the situation."

Gaikwad blamed the state government for the attack and claimed that it was part of "big conspiracy" to kill him. Calling it an attack on his ideology, Gaikwad compared the attackers with the killers of rationalist Dr Narendra Dabholkar, communist leader Govind Pansare and journalist Gauri Lankesh. "I am alive because of Sambhaji Brigade activists," he said.

and also manhandled him.



were not deployed at the function for which he had come to Akkalkot. "There is a threat to the 'purogami' (progressive) people in the state," he said. Gaikwad told mediapersons that he had earlier held talks with Kate twice regarding

Gaikwad said he would not condemn the attack, but mentioning Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, who holds the Home portfolio, he raised suspicion on why police

the demand to change the "Sambhaji Brigade" should be changed. "There was a technical difficulty in changing the name because one Sachin Kamble of Mumbai

had already registered a separate group with the name Chhatrapati Sambhaji Brigade..." he said.

"To say that the name 'Sambhaji Brigade' causes an insult to Chhatrapati Sambhaji is false. Sambhaji Brigade believes in the Constitution, works for humanity, equality, fraternity and social justice and follows the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj, Dr B R Ambedkar," he said.

The Sambhaji Brigade, issued a press statement condemning the attack and outfit claimed that "BJP goon" Kate had been giving open threats for the last few months, but still the government did not act against

Hundreds of maps 'forged' for illegal bungalows: Bombay court rejects bail of four officials, says manipulation not possible without their participation

Mumbai. (Agency)

Over three months after the Mumbai Police made arrests in a case of alleged forgery of hundreds of maps for illegal construction of bungalows on Madh Island, the bail pleas of four officials were rejected by a magistrate court which said that such manipulation was not possible without their participation.

The Mumbai Police crime branch had arrested the officials in April, following the formation of a Special Investigation Team, on the orders of the Bombay High Court. The magistrate court last week rejected pleas of Anil Dabhole, who held the additional charge of record keeping of the maps; Kailas Dhomse and Shantaram Shinde, who worked as maintenance surveyors and Shambu Raja Wable, who headed the city surveyor office in Goregaon.

"There is manipulation in the government map. Constructions of houses and bungalows have been shown as having been constructed prior to 1964. Said manipulation was done during the period of the applicant/accused (Dabhole).... The manipulation in the original record of the government is not possible unless and until the participation of

the person in charge of the said office as well as the record keeper," the court said in its order on July 8, rejecting the bail plea of Dabhole.

The official had said that there was ongoing digitisation of records and hence the documents may not have been properly maintained. He also claimed that he was not the sole custodian of the map records as they were kept in a cupboard in the record room, which others also had the keys and access to. The accused also said that there was no proof that he was involved in the alleged forging of the maps or had been a beneficiary.

The case had come to light following documents sought by a local, Vaibhav Thakur, under the Right to Information Act, after he noticed encroachment on the coast, in violation of the Coastal Zone Regulations. The police claim that since construction on the land on the coast there was permitted before 1960s, the maps at the Goregaon City Survey Office were

forged to claim that the illegal constructions were already in existence.

The accused in their pleas also cited that others had been granted bail by the sessions court but the court said that those granted bail were



on different posts and were not the authority to maintain the records.

On the pleas of Dhomse and Shinde, the court said they have long retired and had nothing to

do with the offence. "The applicants being surveyors are experts in verification of map. It was their duty to verify the original map along with tracing cloth sheet while issuing copies. Therefore, the point raised on behalf of the applicants that they do not have any knowledge regarding the manipulation of original map is not proper," the court said. On Wable, it said that he was the head of the office and had ignored to take action despite receiving a complaint.

"His conduct itself is sufficient to infer that the manipulation has been done with the consent of the accused. Moreover, he avoided to give proper information to the investigating officer. It was legitimate expectation from the office incharge that after receipt of any complaint he should inquire properly and not to ignore," the court said.

How Haryana leads the way in implementing new criminal laws

Chandigarh. (Agency)

India has a long and proud tradition of justice delivery, with roots stretching back to ancient epics and empires. From the legal frameworks outlined in the Mahabharata to the administrative systems of the Mauryan period, the Indian ethos has long been built around fairness, order, and the protection of rights. Today, as India undertakes one of its most significant legal overhauls since independence, Haryana—land of the Mahabharata—has once again taken the lead in shaping the next chapter of Indian jurisprudence.

With the nationwide enforcement of three transformative criminal laws—the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)—from July 1, 2024, Haryana has emerged as the national frontrunner in comprehensive, on-ground implementation. These laws replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and Indian Evidence Act, ushering in a justice system that is not only modern and egalitarian but also steeped in Bharatiya values.

Leading from the front Under the decisive leadership of Chief Minister Naveen Singh Saini, Haryana began early and acted decisively. A full-fledged transition plan was developed across all districts, combining administrative foresight with technological readiness. The state's proactive approach included:

- Massive training programmes for police, prosecutors, and judicial officers
- Workshops at the district level in partnership with academic institutions
- Deployment of eSign tools, Aadhaar-authenticated workflows, and real-time crime documentation systems

This robust preparedness ensured that Haryana was not just compliant with the new laws but ready to operationalize them in spirit and substance.

Ludhiana Police arrests IT professional from West Bengal in Rs 86-lakh cyber fraud cas

Chandigarh/Ludhiana. (Agency)

SSa city-based textile unit owner was allegedly duped of Rs 86 lakh in a cyber fraud case, the Ludhiana Cyber Crime Police arrested the main suspect, a 40-year-old Information Technology (IT) professional from West Bengal, officers said on Sunday.

The accused, who runs his own technology company, allegedly masterminded the scam and funnelled stolen funds through multiple accounts.

Without disclosing the identity of the accused, police confirmed they have recovered Rs 21.5 lakh from his possession. Further investigation is underway to trace the remaining money, and identify his alleged accomplices involved in the fraud, police said.

Based on a complaint filed by 58-year-old Shrenik Jain from Dr Sham Singh Road in Civil Lines, who is the director of the textile company, an FIR was registered against the

accused under sections 318(4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 319(2) (cheating by personation) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the



Cyber Crime police station in December 2024, police said.

In the FIR, Jain mentioned that on December 17 last year, his accountant Amit Salaria allegedly received a WhatsApp message from an unknown number displaying Jain's photo

as the profile picture; Salaria saved the cellphone number without confirming its authenticity. The impersonator texted Salaria the next day, asking him to "check the company's bank account balance, and then transfer Rs 86 lakh to an ICICI bank account for a new business venture". Thinking the instructions were from Jain, Salaria made the transaction.

Later, Salaria discussed the transaction with Jain over a phone call, and realised he was duped by an imposter. Based on a complaint filed by 58-year-old Shrenik Jain from Dr Sham Singh Road in Civil Lines, who is the director of the textile company, an FIR was registered against the accused under sections 318(4) (cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property) and 319(2) (cheating by personation) under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) at the Cyber Crime police station in December 2024, police said.

Four pilgrims among 8 die in road accidents

Lucknow. (Agency)

Eight persons, including four pilgrims, were killed and four others were injured in multiple road accidents in Kushinagar, Bulandshahr, Etah and Gautam Buddha Nagar districts, police said.

In Kushinagar, four pilgrims returning after offering prayers at Thawee Durga Temple in Gopalganj, Bihar, were killed when the car they were in collided with a tractor-trolley in the Patehara area, officials said.

The deceased were identified as Manoj Kumar (village head, Phulpur), Sujit Jaiswal (village development officer, Mithal block), Ramkaran Gupta (kanungo, Shohratgarh) and Kailash Mani Tripathi (teacher, Nagar Palika Parishad Siddharthnagar), all residents of Siddharthnagar district.

Rajesh Sharma, the driver, and Sushant Sharma, sustained injuries.

In Bulandshahr, three people, including a child, were killed and another person was injured after a roadways bus collided with

an auto-rickshaw on Sunday, police said.

The injured was taken to a hospital while the bodies of Aasiya (59), Razia (22), and Naimat (4) were sent for post-mortem.

In Greater Noida West, a 55-year-old woman died and her husband was injured after a dumper truck hit their scooter, police said.



Police said the incident took place in Gaur City 2 after a stray bull crossed their path, causing the husband to swerve. The couple, identified as Raj Narayan and Sarita, lived in Raksha Della Society.

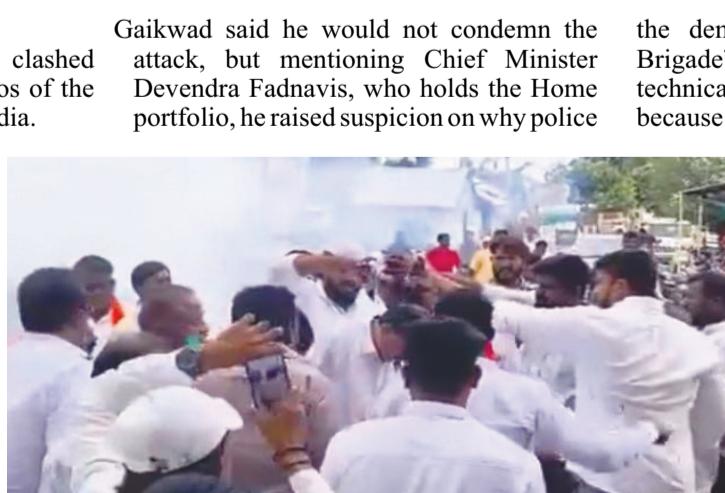
Maratha leader's face blackened over name of his organisation, cops to take action

Pune. (Agency)

Activists of the Pune-based Shivdharma Foundation blackened the face of Maratha leader Pravin Gaikwad, who is the state president of Sambhaji Brigade, in Akkalkot area of Solapur district on Sunday.

The Shivdharma Foundation had been protesting against the name of the organisation Sambhaji Brigade, claiming that it made an ekeri ullekh (singular reference) of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the legendary king known for his sacrifices. The Shivdharma Foundation demanded that Sambhaji Brigade be renamed "Dharmaveer Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj Brigade". The incident happened when Gaikwad reached Akkalkot for an award distribution function of Fattesingh Shikshan Sanstha and Sakal Maratha Samaj on Sunday.

He was suddenly mobbed by members of the Shivdharma Foundation led by BJP worker and Hindutva activist Deepak Sitaram Kate around 4 pm. They allegedly poured black oil on Gaikwad's head, blackened his face



and also manhandled him.

Supporters of Kate and Gaikwad clashed with each other at the spot. Videos of the incident had surfaced on social media.

Sub-Division Police Officer (Akkalkot) Vilas Yamavar said, "An FIR is being lodged as per the complaint filed by a Sambhaji Brigade office bearer. Further investigation is on. Police responded within two to three minutes after the incident was reported and controlled the situation."

Gaikwad blamed the state government for the attack and claimed that it was part of "big conspiracy" to kill him. Calling it an attack on his ideology, Gaikwad compared the attackers with the killers of rationalist Dr Narendra Dabholkar, communist leader Govind Pansare and journalist Gauri Lankesh. "I am alive because of Sambhaji Brigade activists," he said.

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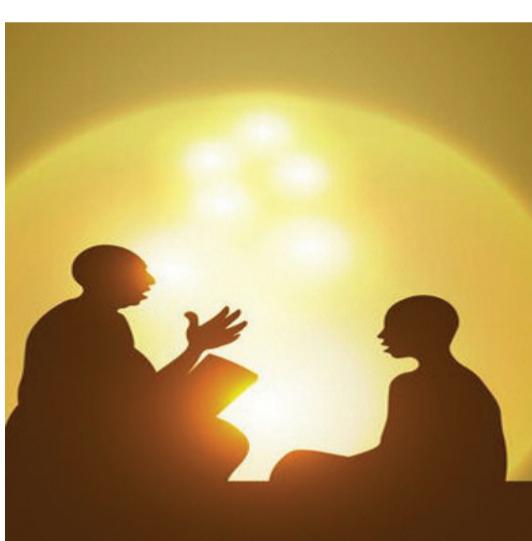
had already registered a separate group with the name Chhatrapati Sambhaji Brigade..." he said.

"To say that the name 'Sambhaji Brigade' causes an insult to Chhatrapati Sambhaji is false. Sambhaji Brigade believes in the Constitution, works for humanity, equality, fraternity and social justice and follows the ideals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, Mahatma Phule, Chhatrapati Shahaji Maharaj, Dr B R Ambedkar," he said.

him. "We believe in the law, does not mean we would tolerate injustice.... We would give a fit for tat reply...." it stated in the press release. In January this year, Deepak Kate was arrested by the Pune city police after bullets and magazines were seized from his bag at the Pune International Airport, while he was on his way to Hyderabad by a flight. Resident of Sarati village in Indapur taluka of Pune district, he was later released on bail by the court. Kate had claimed that someone had planted the bullets in his bag in a conspiracy to defame him. On his Facebook (FB) account, Deepak Kate says he is an office bearer of the Bharatiya Jana Yuva Morcha (BJYM), the BJP's youth wing and founder of Shivdharma Foundation Hindustan. Sources said Kate had campaigned for the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), during the Assembly elections last year. In the past, Kate had protested against a company manufacturing hand rolled cigarettes "Sambhaji Beedi", forcing it to rename it to "Sable Beedi".

Who is a true guru

In the Shantiparva, chapter 108, Yudhishtira asks Bhishma, "Which among the dharmas is the superior most?" Bhishma replies that the worship of the guru and absolute devotion to him has no parallel. While the parents are instrumental in giving birth to this body, Bhishma argues, the guru through his teachings makes us divine and immortal. Adyayataraka Upanishad 16 splits the term 'guru' into 'gu' and 'ru'. The Sanskrit syllable 'gu' means darkness, and 'ru' means the power to dispel darkness. So, guru is the one who dispels the darkness of material as well as spiritual ignorance. According to Bhaagvata 11.22.10.29, the guidance of a guru is essential because the intellect is clouded by ignorance, and covered by nescience from eternity. It cannot overcome its ignorance on its own. 'To remove eternal ignorance, it needs knowledge from a God-realised saint, a guru who is a brahmaganyi — knows the Absolute Truth.' In the Indian tradition, a guru is more than a teacher. He is a venerable figure who shares the knowledge and potentialities acquired by him with his disciples, and who in his role as a counsellor moulds their social, moral and ethical values. He is an exemplar for his students, and an inspiration for society. Katha Upanishad 1.2.8 regards the guru



'as indispensable to the acquisition of knowledge'. Guru Amar Das, the third Sikh Guru, says knowledge will have no foundation without a guru, and Guru Granth Sahib in Ang 751 asserts that without seeking guidance from a guru, one cannot attain true spiritual knowledge or loving devotion to the Almighty.

Shankaracharya emphasises that 'until you surrender to a guru, you cannot be liberated from the material energy'. He goes on to the extreme of saying: 'He who has an acharya — a guru, alone knows.' In the Guru-gita of Skanda Purana, Parvati asks Shiva, 'In what way does an embodied soul become Brahman?' Shiva answers: 'By having faith in the guru, by beckoning to his teachers, by meditating upon him, by worshipping him and surrendering oneself to him. The guru in the Guru-gita is the one who opens the ignorant man's eyes and makes him wise. He is always immersed in the ultimate bliss, he bestows supreme happiness, he is pure wisdom personified, he is free from duality and the three gunas, and he is one and eternal. He is to be found in one's own heart.'

A person who has become passionless (vitaraga) qualifies to be called a guru if he has attained Brahmanjana. According to Taittriya Upanishad 3, a guru is always in search of students who are keen to learn, and motivates them by 'pointing the way' and persuading them to 'struggle, discover and experience the Truth that describes the origin, sustenance and dissolution of the universe'. In his Upadesha Sahasri 1.4-1.5, Shankaracharya says the duty of a true guru is to remove 'the causes of non-comprehension in the students' and impresses on them the importance of following the Yamas, Niyamas, and humility in life.

I moved to Mumbai when I was nine. A Pahadi girl in hand-me-down sweaters with a Hindi-English tongue. I landed in the city fast asleep on a red-eye Air India flight, clutching my mother's sari like it was the last familiar thing I had. As the kaali-peeli curved past the streets at dawn, the first sight that stirred me awake was the Haji Ali Dargah — bathed in sunrise, floating on the Arabian Sea, shimmering like a promise. I didn't know the language. I didn't know the map. But in that moment, I knew: I was home. I was a Mumbaikar. We came here not by design, but by transfer. My parents were in government service, and we hopped from town to town, state to state, enough that I knew never to get too attached to a pincode or a school. Marathi wasn't taught in our home, wasn't part of my curriculum, and wasn't mandatory. And yet, after three decades of living here, I'm told by politicians, by Twitter eggs, by MNS banners that I'm not a "true" Mumbaikar because I don't speak Marathi.

Mumbai — or Bombay, depending on what the soul calls it — is a city of many migrations and many contradictions. It's the city of Shobha De's English, Amrita Fadnavis' Marathi, Haji Ali's Urdu, Lalbaug's Marathi-Portuguese dialect, Dharavi's Tamil, Malad's Gujarati, Bandra's Catholic Konkani, and Lokhandwala's version of what we'll generously call Punjabi. This city hears over 20 languages spoken every single day. It welcomes everyone and no one in equal measure.

The recent Marathi language controversy spearheaded by MNS isn't about preserving culture — it's about posturing. When the economy is faltering, governance is chaotic, and Mumbai is flooding yet again, linguistic nationalism becomes the perfect decoy. It allows leaders to manufacture offence, to invent a threat where none exists, and to position themselves as protectors of identity, without having to do the hard work of actual governance. I say this not as a political pundit, but as someone who's walked these streets for 30 years. I've stood on packed Virar locals with elbows in my ribs. I've wept in kaali-peelis stuck in three-hour jams, I've written books on the tetrapods of Marine Drive, I've marched in Azad Maidan, I've gotten lost in Bhuleshwar gullies, and I've learned to curse fluently in Bambaiya. If this isn't what it means to be a Mumbaikar, what is?

Let me be clear: I have enormous respect for Marathi. It is a rich, lyrical, historical language. I want my daughters to learn it, sing in it, and someday write love letters in it. But that's the difference — love. You nurture a language through inclusion, education, celebration, civic encouragement, and pride. You don't shove it down people's throats at petrol pumps and toll nakkas.

You cannot weaponise language and then call it culture. That is coercion, not preservation. And it's also a

It's Bombay, it's Mumbai, it's home

This city hears over 20 languages spoken every single day. It welcomes everyone and no one in equal measure



dangerous precedent. This growing pattern of linguistic majoritarianism across Indian states is troubling.

Because if you start mandating that Marathi must be spoken in Mumbai, or Kannada in Bengaluru, then what happens when Bihar insists on Bhojpuri? When Tamil Nadu penalises Hindi? Our states appear to be veering from pride into parochialism, using language not as expressions of pride, but as instruments of exclusion. This is not how federations function. It's how they fracture. Linguistic authoritarianism is dangerous. Are we ready to pay the price of turning citizens into outsiders in their own country based on the language they speak? Language should be a bridge, not a tool of dominance. The more we weaponise it, the more we chip away at the idea of India. Language is not a test of belonging. Humanity is. India's future depends on language as a celebration, not a checkpoint. We've survived because our diversity didn't divide us. But the way forward is through preventative action, not punitive measures.

We forget that language is also a reflection of history, migration, trauma, and identity. And for many of us, that identity is fluid. As a Pahadi girl with no roots in this soil, I made Mumbai mine not through language but through life. I became a Mumbaikar not because I learnt to roll my R's but because I learnt to keep going when the city tried to eat me alive. I know the best pau bhaji is not on Zomato but behind CST station. I've learnt that Ganpati visarjan

is as much about spirituality as it is about music. I've seen enough buildings fall, and friendships collapse, and dreams flail on film sets to know that Mumbai is not a language — it's a spirit.

And yet, here we are, in 2025, arguing over whether someone who says Bombay instead of Mumbai is anti-Maharashtra. As if that's the metric for loyalty. Never mind that the Constitution allows states to choose their official language. Never mind that Hindi is spoken by over 44 per cent of Indians. Never mind that we are a polyglot nation of 121 languages spoken by over 10,000 people each. Instead, we're being told what to say, how to say it, and when to say it — or face the wrath of those who've mistaken fear for leadership.

Let's be smarter than that. Let's remember that the greatness of Mumbai lies in its ability to absorb — not impose. It has room for everyone. The bhel-puri seller who speaks Tamil. The Gujarati stockbroker who slips into Hindi. The migrant who calls it Bombay because that's how she first heard the name whispered on a crowded train from Gorakhpur. This city does not need a language test to decide who belongs. If your heart beats in rhythm with this city's chaos, then you belong. Because Mumbai isn't a word. It's a heartbeat that doesn't check your accent before it lets you stay. So yes, I don't speak Marathi fluently. But as a Pahadi who speaks as a Mumbaikar, that should be enough. I don't need anyone's permission to belong.

Train citizens to react to disaster alarm system

We know such extreme weather events are the new normal; but the inability of science to predict them accurately adds to the anxiety

If you have recently felt anxious that the sky is falling and the ground is shaking, you would not be dismissed as delusional. The national capital territory was jolted by a 4.4-magnitude earthquake in the early hours of Thursday. Up north in Himachal Pradesh, calamities triggered by rain—landslides, flash floods and cloudbursts—have left a trail of devastation in a few quick weeks. The hill state's disaster management authority has admitted the loss of at least 91 lives in such incidents between June 20 and July 10. The scenes emerging from Mandi district show the scale of damages to property and nature. Last weekend, the Guadalupe river at Comfort town in faraway Texas rose from hip-height to three stories tall in about two hours, sending water weighing as much as the Empire State building downstream every minute and killing at least 120 people. The world over, July has become the cruellest month as far as natural disasters go.

Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses

We know such extreme weather events are the new normal;



but the inability of science to predict them accurately adds to the anxiety. Even with this backdrop, the Donald Trump administration is slashing the budget of the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—on which not just the American, but other national weather services also depend for research and alerts—by a quarter from this October. India, meanwhile, has increased the capital outlay for its ministry of earth sciences several folds over three years to 879 crore in 2025-26. Yet, despite all the investments over time—including deploying some of the most powerful supercomputers to study weather patterns—we are not yet much wiser in predicting sudden extreme events.

The Texas tragedy is instructive in what not to do—investigations reveal the state repeatedly rejected pleas to fund a flood alarm system. India must be lauded for setting up the Cell Broadcast Alert System, which the department of telecom and the National Disaster Management Authority tested nationwide for efficiency last month. However, an alert system is only as efficient as the alacrity and clarity with which citizens react. Regular drills on reacting to different kinds of disaster should be mandatory at schools and offices. The only thing worse than deadly disasters would be a failure to learn from them and prepare better for the next time.

Excessive Reliance on 'Muscularity' is Likely to Cramp National Power

Israeli actions against enemies have long had a dramatic impact, perhaps unmatched by any other nation.

India, particularly under the present regime, has fetishized 'muscularity', and in this it has often focused on Israel as a model to emulate. Indeed, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's statement in the wake of the Baisaran massacre, echoed past Israeli proclamations, as he declared, "India will identify, track, and punish every terrorist and their backers. We will pursue them to the ends of the earth." Operation Sindoor, we are told moreover, is now the "new normal", and every act of terrorism traced back to Pakistan will provoke comparable reaction. Actual Indian responses, of course, suggest that this is substantially rhetoric, unlikely to be backed with corresponding action. Nevertheless, there have been, in the relatively recent past, clumsy attempts at imitation that have borne dubious fruit.

Of course, Israeli actions against enemies have long had a dramatic impact, perhaps unmatched by any other nation. Most recently, the assassination of high-profile military, political and intellectual leaders in Iran, the earlier and coordinated 'poker and walkie-talkie explosions' targeting the leadership as well as the rank and file of the Hezbollah in Lebanon, as well as an unending series of targeted assassinations and theatrical operations over 75 years of Mossad's extravagant history, are undeniable evidence of tactical brilliance and success. These successes do, however, obscure a significant history of botched operations and of strategic failure. In his book, *Rise and Kill First*, Ronen Bergman argues that Israel's campaign of assassinations constitutes "a long string of impressive tactical successes, but also

disastrous strategic failures," and further, that Israel paid a "high moral price for the use of such power." Within the context of a rising global Right, questions of morality are seen as increasingly irrelevant to the choice of violence to secure desired ends. But questions of morality are often intertwined with issues of efficacy. Crucially, 75 years of Mossad operations, as well as successive—and, in the past, immensely successful—wars, have failed to bring Palestinian terrorism to an end. Crucially, more than 21 months of relentless devastation visited on the tiny 365 sq km Gaza Strip—originally intended to 'eliminate' Hamas—still sees Israeli Defence Force (IDF) personnel falling to Hamas bullets and bombs. In the interim, according to a United Nations' Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs report of June 2025, 70 per cent of all structures in Gaza have been destroyed; 88 per cent of all entities in the commercial and industrial sector have been destroyed; 81 per cent of classified road networks have been destroyed, and a colossal humanitarian crisis has been engineered. With 92 per cent of all housing units destroyed or damaged, virtually the entire population of over two million Palestinians has been displaced.

In the initial phases of the Israeli response to the

massacre of October 7, 2023, in Southern Israel, there was certain justification of Israeli targeting of 'civilian' locations, since Hamas located its 'military' assets and units in densely populated, often sensitive, locations, including schools and hospitals, using civilians as 'human shields'. Any



such justification has long lost legitimacy, with Israeli objectives now going well beyond the neutralisation of Hamas, to comprehend a complete expulsion of the Palestinian population and the transformation of the Gaza Strip into a joint US-Israeli fantasy of a "Riviera of the Middle East". Hubris and overreach, moreover, inspired the joint Israeli-US misadventure into Iran, which ended up exposing Israel's own vulnerabilities. For those tempted to imitate these models of the 'use of

force', it is useful to recall that Israel is uniquely positioned to act unilaterally and without limits, without attracting the collective penalties that the international system would inflict on most other states adopting comparable tactics. Unqualified and evidently limitless US support underpins

Israeli impunity. Crucially, there are limits even to Israeli impunity, and these appear to have been reached in the present conflagration. Western rhetoric of the 'rules-based order' notwithstanding, Israel and the US have openly sought to re-establish the law of the jungle over the past years. But the world is changing, and US primacy is now, everywhere, being challenged. For decades, despite divergent assessments, Israel enjoyed widespread legitimacy in the fight against 'Arab-Palestinian' terrorism. That moral high-ground has now been lost, with Israeli excesses in Gaza. At the very height of its displays of military 'muscularity', Israel is now at its weakest, with massive opposition

to the Gaza campaign and Benjamin Netanyahu's military adventurism, both within Israel and internationally.

War and the use of military force are uncertain instrumentalities—as the US, pitted unsuccessfully against vastly 'inferior' powers in country after country, should have taught us. An excessive reliance on 'muscularity' is likely to cramp national power.

3 years gone, but bus station revamp project yet to start

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

A plan to modernise three of Ghaziabad's busiest bus terminals — Kaushambi, Sahibabad, and Old Bus Adda — has been hit by repeated delays and will now be completed by 2028, four years past the original target. Proposed in 2021 by Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (UPSRRTC), the project was meant to give depots an airport-like upgrade, including automated ticketing, digital information systems, AC lounges and enhanced security measures to offer passengers a modernised, comfortable experience. Together, the three depots operate around 800 buses daily, half of which run on long-distance routes to cities like Lucknow, Prayagraj, Gorakhpur, and destinations in Bihar and Uttarakhand. Yet, progress on the Rs 4.84-crore revamp remains minimal. "Except for Old Bus Adda, where groundwork began a few months ago, work at Kaushambi and Sahibabad hasn't started," a senior UPSRTC official

told TOI. "The entire process, from procedural delays to environmental clearances, has pushed timelines significantly." Kaushambi depot, spread across 24,284 sq metres, is to be redeveloped at an estimated cost of Rs 261 crore. Sahibabad depot, covering 15,000 sq metres, is projected to cost Rs 161 crore, while the 10,000 sq metre Old Bus Adda depot will be revamped for Rs 62 crore. The revamped Kaushambi terminal is to be linked with Sahibabad and Old Bus Adda with Ghaziabad rapid rail stations to streamline multimodal transport. These three terminals are among 23 across the state selected for overhaul. The terminals are being developed under a PPP model. Tenders were floated in Dec 2022, and one firm was selected for all three projects. But delays in environmental approvals, clearance from the forest department required to cut down 25 trees at Kaushambi depot, has held up execution.

Thunderstorm, rain & lightning likely in Gurgaon, IMD sounds alert

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) issued a "yellow alert" for the city, Faridabad, Rewari, and surrounding districts on Monday, forecasting thunderstorms, lightning, and moderate rain over the next 24 hours. Meanwhile, the city recorded a minimum temperature of 26.8 degrees Celsius, 0.4 notches above Saturday's 26.4 degrees Celsius. The maximum temperature was 32.6 degrees Celsius, while it was 33.4 degrees Celsius on Saturday. The alert follows an intense spell of thunderstorm activity across the state on Saturday, after the IMD issued an orange alert for the weekend.

Shortly after the alert was issued, several districts in southern, western, and northern Haryana witnessed thunderstorms, lightning, strong winds, and moderate rainfall. Affected areas included Firozpur Jhirka, Punahana, Hodal, Hathin, Nuh, Palwal, Taoru, Ballabgarh, Sohna, Gurgaon, Narnaul, Ateli, Mahendragarh, Kanina, Charkhi Dadri, Bawali, Rewari, Pataudi, Kosli, Matanhale, Jhajjar, Bahadurgarh, Berikhas, Sampal, Rohtak, Faridabad, Kharkhoda, Sonipat, Gohana, Kaithal, Nihokheri, Thanesar, Gugla, Pehowa, Shahabad, and Ambala.

The IMD has advised the public to remain cautious, particularly in areas vulnerable to waterlogging, tree falls, and localised flooding. Civic authorities in Gurgaon and Faridabad said their disaster response units are on alert, with a focus on managing high-traffic corridors and low-lying neighbourhoods. "We are monitoring hotspots where water accumulation is a concern. Teams are ready with pumps and tree cutters in case of emergencies," a district official in Gurgaon said.

The IMD has linked the current activity to an active monsoon phase spreading across north India. Light to moderate showers are likely to continue across parts of Haryana, Delhi NCR, and western UP over the next 48 hours, with the possibility of intense spells in isolated locations. While rain is expected to bring temporary relief from heat and humidity.

Five months on, road dug up for work on sewer network still not repaired in Sector 9A

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Delays in road restoration work has turned a 1km stretch in Sector 9A a mud-ridden and accident-prone nightmare for residents and commuters alike. The stretch of road between the main pumping station and ESIC Hospital was originally dug up in Feb when the MCG began laying sewer lines along this road. However, instead of laying the new sewer line in the service utility area, the agency installed it in the middle of the road, residents claimed. More than five months later, the road remains in a state of disrepair. While earth filling was done after the pipeline work, no effort was made to properly resurface the road. As a result, residents have been forced to travel on the unpaved stretch, which has worsened with the onset of the monsoon. "Since the past month, this road has been completely unmotorable. It's just a stretch of loose soil now. With rains, the surface has become dangerously slippery.



but do we have to wait for a tragedy before authorities act?" Bholu added. The RWA has raised the issue with the MCG repeatedly, but they have only received verbal reassurances so far, and no definite timeline for when the road will be repaired

Children and the elderly are especially at risk," said Lalit Suraj Bholu, general secretary of Sector 9A RWA. A few days ago, a rickshaw carrying children lost balance and toppled on the uneven stretch. "Thankfully, there were no major injuries,

has been provided. With the monsoon already here, the surface deteriorates further the more it rains. Motorists, especially those commuting on two-wheelers, and pedestrians alike are finding the stretch increasingly unsafe to navigate. The situation has become especially concerning as this stretch is not only used by residents but also by daily visitors to the ESIC Hospital. "What's the point of laying new sewer lines if you can't restore basic road connectivity for months afterward? Because of the apathy of MCG and its contractor, we are suffering," said Ram Avatar Singla, a resident. Meanwhile, an MCG official that TOI spoke to acknowledged the issue and said that the road will be repaved soon. "We have already started the process for the construction of the internal road in Sector 9A. The work will start soon," the official said.

Key SPR link riddled with craters, no repairs yet, travel a nightmare

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

A 650-metre stretch connecting Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) with Darbarpur Road in Sector 70 has developed potholes, with no civic agency ready to take ownership for the repairs. Despite serving as the main access road to several densely populated housing societies, including Tulip Ivory, Tulip Orange, Victoria, and GPL Eden Heights, the road has not seen proper repairs in nearly a decade, residents said, adding that it puts commuters, especially two-wheeler riders, schoolchildren and the elderly, at risk. "This road hasn't seen proper repair in nearly a decade. There are so many elderly people and schoolchildren commuting on it daily, but authorities have turned a blind eye to the issue. I have a spinal issue, and even a short ride on this stretch leaves me in



pain," said Naved Khan, a resident of GPL Eden Heights. Residents say the 24m road was laid by the developer, but since the completion of the project, no formal handover was done. The stretch was last re-carpeted in 2016 after the intervention of then PWD minister Rao Narbir Singh, they said, adding that there has been no maintenance work despite repeated requests to the civic authorities. Moreover, monsoon has raised fears of further

deterioration of the stretch, caused by waterlogging, which could cause even deeper cavities and increase the risk of accidents. Authorities concerned should repair the road at the earliest, residents said in their fresh appeal. "This is the main connecting road for our society, but it is lying in disrepair. We have knocked on each and every door to get this road repaired but to no avail. We are left with no option but to protest," said Preeti Purohit, RWA president of GPL Eden Heights. Meanwhile, Renuka Singh, senior town planner, said, "As per policy, developers are mandated to construct internal roads, including 24m wide sector roads, in their licensed area at their own cost and transfer them to the govt. However, I will get the matter investigated."

Plots with overgrown shrubs also den of snakes & insects, say locals

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Noida: Residents across several residential sectors, including 122, 36, and 40, have raised concerns over vacant plots that have become breeding grounds for poisonous insects and a security risk due to overgrown vegetation and lack of maintenance. RWAs said the plots, many of which received completion certificates years ago, remain untouched, posing serious health and safety risks. Over the years, these sites have become hubs for mosquito breeding and a den for snakes, scorpions, and other dangerous insects. They are also frequented by anti-social elements, adding to residents' worries.

"There are more than 50 completion plots in the sector, which have been lying vacant for about 20 years. To date, no construction has been done on them. These plots have received the completion certificate from the authority only by doing the formalities, but they are neither maintained nor cleaned as their condition is pathetic," said Umesh Sharma, RWA president of Sector 122. Sharma added that dirt continues to accumulate in these plots, attracting snakes and other poisonous insects. "The RWA itself is bearing the cost of cleaning these plots, whereas it is the responsibility of the plot owners and the authority," he said.



plot owners to make them habitable within a limited time frame of two years. Failing that, their allotments should be cancelled, and the plots auctioned," he said.

Echoing similar concerns, Anita Singh, RWA president of Sector 40, said the vacant plots in her sector were turning

into security risks and a nightmare for residents. "After taking the completion certificate, these plots have been lying vacant for many years," she said. Officials from the Noida Authority maintained that notices are routinely issued to such plot owners and penalties imposed.

Occupancy certificates without STPs High Court seeks report on Lotus Boulevard

NOIDA: Noida: Allahabad High Court has asked Noida Authority to submit a detailed affidavit explaining how occupancy certificates (OCs) were granted to Lotus Boulevard project despite allegations of incomplete sewage treatment infrastructure.

The order, issued on July 7, came in response to a petition filed by the society's apartment owners' association, which claimed that the mandatory sewage treatment plants (STPs) were not fully functional when the certificates were issued. The bench of Justices Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Vinod Diwakar has asked the Authority CEO to file the affidavit by the next date of hearing on July 16. The report must clarify several issues, such as the

number of STPs that were required to be built at the time occupancy certificates were issued in 2012 and 2016. It should also provide details of each of these STPs constructed by the builder, including the dates when they were handed over and the stages of completion before the certificates were granted. This would ascertain if the developer — Granite Gate Properties — had adhered to the building bylaws and environmental guidelines. The HC also demanded a thorough account of the current condition of all STPs in the society, specifying both their number and capacity. The affidavit must name the officials responsible for verifying the infrastructure before granting occupancy certificates for each tower.

This open drain in Ghaziabad not just raises a stink, it's also a threat to stray animals

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

An exposed drain in front of a 5-star hotel in Kaushambi has become a major concern for residents. Apart from people using the drain as a dumping ground, residents said stray animals often fall into the open drain. Virendra Pratap Singh, a resident of A-137 Sector 14, Kaushambi, said, "A lot of times, stray animals, especially cows and dogs, fall into this open drain, and there is no one to rescue them. We call GNN for their rescue, but they blatantly refuse to rescue and do not even cover the drain with iron mesh. A cow fell into this open drain on June 24 this year, after which a PCR call was made to rescue the animal," said Singh. The drain, frequently used as a dumping ground by rag pickers, has become a mosquito breeding site and poses risks of vector-borne diseases. Singh said the drain is located on the main service road under Ward 21 of the GMC, near Bhowapur Gaon, which serves as the entry point to Ghaziabad city from Delhi and is just 300 metres from the Delhi-Ghaziabad border. Yet the area is marred by open drains and shabby roads. "Despite complaints to



GMC at its Vasundhara office, no one seems to be bothered, and the open drain right in front of our building has become a source of pollution as scrap and rag pickers dump all the filth and garbage in the open drain. This garbage-ridden drain has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes.

News box

Reconstitute school mgmt panels, says govt amid complaints of irregularities

Gurgaon. (Agency)

In a major administrative shake-up, the Directorate of School Education has ordered dissolution and reconstitution of all school management committees (SMCs) across government schools in the district. The directive, issued on July 9, nullifies even those committees formed as recently as April following several complaints regarding their improper formation. Officials said the move is aimed at aligning SMC structures with the Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009. Revised guidelines have been circulated to district education officers and school heads, introducing stricter eligibility norms and oversight measures to enhance governance, ensure parental representation and strengthen school-level accountability. Among the key reforms is a rule that schools operating on the same campus must now form a single SMC. Parent representatives must be drawn from each class and teachers who engage in private tuition are barred from being members. The restructured SMCs will operate through two tiers — a General Body and an Executive Committee — both with a two-year term. The Executive Committee, which will serve as the key decision-making body, must have at least 14 members. Of these, 75 percent must be parents or guardians and at least 50 percent must be women. The committee will also include two teachers, one member from the local municipal body or panchayat, a social worker and a block resource coordinator. "The SMCs comprise locals who have the best interest of children and can support school development," said an official.

CM urges Union Minister for air connectivity expansion and regular flights to Shimla and Dharamshala

The Sikh Times

New Delhi 14 Jul: Chief Minister Thakur Singh Sukhdev called on Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinnarapu Rammohan Naidu at New Delhi on Monday and held detailed discussions about strengthening air connectivity in the state. The Chief Minister urged the Union Minister to operate Delhi-Shimla-Dharamshala and Dharamshala-Shimla-Delhi flights on a daily basis, highlighting that at present, these flights were operational only three days a week, causing inconvenience to the tourists. He also requested the commencement of night landing facilities at Dharamshala airport. Shri Sukhdev apprised the Union Minister about the status of the Kangra airport expansion and sought special assis-



tance for the land acquisition process, citing its high cost. He mentioned that the issue had also been raised with the Prime Minister during a previous meeting and sought the continued support of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, emphasizing that this would accelerate the region's development. The Chief Minister also requested the construction of four new helipads to further strengthen air connectivity and boost tourism in the state. Discussions were also held regarding the expansion of Shimla airport. The Chief Minister urged the Union Minister to extend the operational watch hours beyond 1 p.m. at Shimla airport and also proposed the operation of Dornier-type aircraft at Shimla, following the example of the northeastern states. He emphasized the need to encourage additional operators to start flight services to Shimla. Chief Secretary Prabodh Saxena, Principal Advisor to the Chief Minister Ram Subhag Singh, Principal Resident Commissioner Sushil Kumar Singh and senior officers of the Ministry of Civil Aviation were also present during the meeting.

Noida sees 16% learning gap in government and private schools

Noida (Agency)

Govt school students' performance fell far behind that of their peers in private ones in Noida, making it the only district in UP with a wide learning gap last year. The findings, part of the PARAKH survey that assesses learning outcomes at three key stages — foundational (Class 3), preparatory (Class 6), and middle (Class 9) — show that govt school students in Noida scored an average of 60%, while private school students achieved 76%, marking the widest gap in the state.

The data was released by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) on Wednesday. At the foundational level (Class 3), Noida's performance was also below the state average, trailing by 3% points in language and 4% points in mathematics. In contrast, neighbouring Ghaziabad fared better, with govt schools scoring above the state average in both language (71%) and mathematics (65%). Girls outperformed boys in early grades across both districts. The trend continued in Class 6, with Noida again trailing in both language and numeracy. However, in Class 9, Noida showed modest improvement, scoring two points above the state average, while Ghaziabad led with a six-point advantage. Districts were categorised into four performance groups: UDIT (excelling), UDAY (rising), UNNAT (developing), and UDBHAV (emerging). Noida was placed in the lowest 'UDBHAV' category for Classes 3 and 6, indicating early signs of growth and 'UNNAT' for Class 9, denoting developing status. Ghaziabad was ranked higher across all levels.

Exclusive: Aviation security body facing acute staff crunch, RTI reveals

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security is facing a severe staffing shortage with over 30 per cent vacancies for four consecutive years. This chronic understaffing raises serious concerns about the agency's ability to safeguard the country's aviation space.

Agency New Delhi. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is grappling with a severe staffing crisis, with vacancy rates exceeding 30 per cent for four consecutive years, according to a Right to Information (RTI) response accessed by India Today. An independent department under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the BCAS sets and enforces aviation security standards at domestic airports. Its duties include monitoring security measures, training personnel, conducting surprise checks, and coordinating aviation security efforts among airport operators, airlines, and agencies. Despite a sanctioned strength of 598 as of June 30, 2025, only 371 positions have been filled while 227 posts remain vacant. At a time when India's air travel market is experiencing robust growth, this chronic shortfall at an agency tasked with aviation security is a major cause for concern.



Vacancy figures have shown little improvement over the past three years, and the current shortfall marks the highest in four years. In fact, the number of vacancies has increased since just six months ago. While the sanctioned strength has marginally increased from 595 to 598, recruitment has not kept pace, revealing a troubling gap between capacity and rising security demands. The vacancy rate has consistently been above 30 per cent since 2022, meaning that for every ten

sanctioned posts, at least three remain unfilled. In practical terms, this suggests that nearly two out of every five roles are vacant, placing a considerable burden on existing staff. Such understaffing could hamper a range of critical functions, from emergency response to routine inspections.

These figures suggest a systemic issue rather than a minor bureaucratic lapse. With increasing air traffic and evolving threats, BCAS's ability to respond effectively is under growing strain. The persistent vacancies raise a pressing question: Can India's aviation security infrastructure afford to operate with such a substantial portion of its workforce missing? While the June 12 Air India crash in Ahmedabad has renewed public focus on aviation safety, the RTI findings reveal a deeper, ongoing challenge. India's principal aviation security agency is not only under-resourced, it is structurally understaffed at a time when its smooth functioning is imperative.

Still no maturity in him: Top court directs cartoonist to apologise for PM posts



Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to grant interim protection from arrest to cartoonist Hemant Malviya, who is facing criminal charges over allegedly objectionable caricatures of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) shared on social media. A bench of Justices Sandeep Mehta and Sudhanshu Dhulia came down heavily on Malviya while hearing his plea challenging the denial of anticipatory bail. The court termed his conduct "inflammatory" and "immature".

"Still no maturity in him. It is indeed inflammatory," remarked Justice Dhulia, expressing displeasure over the nature of Malviya's posts. Appearing for Malviya, senior advocate Vrinda Grover argued that the post in question had already been deleted. "He is over 50. The post did not amount to an offence and it is about personal liberty," she submitted, urging the court to protect him from arrest.

The top court, however, declined to grant interim relief. It gave Malviya time till Tuesday to tender an apology for the cartoon.

"If The Marriage...": Top Court Allows Spouse's Recorded Calls As Evidence



Agency New Delhi.

The secretly recorded telephonic conversation of a spouse is admissible evidence in a matrimonial dispute case, the Supreme Court ruled today. The top court set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court ruling that secretly recording a spouse's telephone conversation amounted to a breach of privacy and cannot be admitted as evidence in a family court.

Dictating the order, Justice BV Nagarathna said some arguments have contended that allowing such conversations as evidence would jeopardise domestic harmony and matrimonial relationships and encourage snooping on spouses. "We don't think such an argument is tenable. If the marriage has reached a stage where spouses are actively snooping on each other, that is in itself a symptom of a broken relationship and denotes a lack of trust between them," Justice Nagarathna said while pronouncing the judgment. The bench also comprised Justice Satish Chandra Sharma.

What Is The Case

The matter, which first came up in a Bhatinda family court, involves divorce proceedings under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955. The husband accused his wife of cruelty and cited recorded phone conversations to prove his allegation. The family court allowed a CD with these recordings as evidence. The wife challenged this in the High Court, arguing that the calls were recorded without her consent and accepting them as evidence would breach her fundamental right to privacy.

The high court agreed and set aside the family court's order. The bench said the responses over the call and the circumstances in which they were made could not be ascertained. The high court reiterated that spouses talk openly without considering that their words could be scrutinised in a courtroom. The husband challenged this ruling in the top court, which has now ruled in his favour.

No mechanical faults found in crashed plane: Air India CEO on probe report

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson also pointed out that both pilots had cleared mandatory pre-flight breath analyser tests, and that the AAIB report made no observations related to their medical status.

Agency New Delhi.

Air India CEO Campbell Wilson on Monday said that the initial investigation into last month's deadly crash of a Boeing Dreamliner found no mechanical or maintenance issues with the aircraft or its engines, citing the preliminary report released by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB).

The June 12 crash of Flight AI 171, en route from Ahmedabad to London Gatwick, resulted in the deaths of 260 people when the aircraft plummeted into a building shortly after takeoff. The AAIB released its preliminary findings on Saturday. In a communication marked to select Air India employees, Wilson said, "All mandatory maintenance tasks had been completed. There was no issue with the



quality of fuel and no abnormality with the take-off roll."

Wilson also pointed out that both pilots had cleared mandatory pre-flight breath analyser tests, and that the AAIB report made no observations related to their medical status. As the AAIB identified no cause nor made any recommendations in its initial report, the Air India CEO urged against "drawing premature conclusions as the investigation is far from over".

Out of an abundance of caution, Wilson said the airline had inspected its entire 787 Dreamliner fleet within days of the crash and found all aircraft fit for service. "We continue to perform necessary checks on all planes, as we will any new ones that authorities may suggest," he added. A five-member team appointed by the AAIB is probing the Air India flight AI 171 crash. In their preliminary report, investigators said the fuel switches to the engines were cut off within a gap of 1 second immediately after takeoff and caused confusion in the cockpit. The 15-page probe report, however, did not say how this happened or who did it. Citing cockpit voice recording, the report said one pilot asked why the switch was cut off and the other pilot responded that he did not do so.

Chhangur Baba campaigned for gangster Atiq Ahmed, claims former BJP MP

Agency New Delhi. Uttar Pradesh's self-styled godman Jalaluddin, alias Chhangur Baba, who was arrested for running a conversion racket, was a close aide of the late gangster-turned-politician Atiq Ahmed and campaigned for him in the Shravasti Lok Sabha constituency and even shared stage with him during the 2014 general elections, former BJP MP from the seat, Daddan Mishra, told Mishra said that Chhangur Baba made repeated visits to Shravasti and recalled warning people about his activities back then, adding that those warnings went unheeded.

Mishra further accused Chhangur Baba of using religion as a means to mislead people. He said that such political



tactics harm societal cohesion and pose a threat to law and order. Mishra has called for a thorough investigation into Baba's links with politicians and

large-scale religious conversion racket. The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has revealed that he financed over 1,000 Muslim men to trap Hindu girls under the guise of 'Love Jihad' and subsequently converted them. The investigation has uncovered potential foreign funding sources, adding complexity to the case. Meanwhile, several girls who managed to escape from Chhangur Baba's influence have returned to their families in Lucknow, with some reporting threats from abroad, including Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

National President of the Vishwa Hindu Raksha Parishad Gopal Rai took several of these girls to a press conference, allowing them to share their experiences publicly.

No breach of privacy: Supreme Court allows secret call recordings in divorce cases

A bench comprising Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma held that such secretly recorded conversations are, in fact, admissible evidence in matrimonial disputes.

Supreme Court overturned High Court ruling on secret phone recordings
High Court had deemed recording wife's calls without consent breach of privacy
Top court ruled such recordings admissible in divorce cases under Evidence Act

Agency New Delhi. The Supreme Court on Monday overturned the Punjab and Haryana High Court's ruling that had barred a husband from using secretly recorded phone calls of his wife as evidence in divorce proceedings, according to a report by Live Law. The

High Court had earlier held that recording a wife's telephonic conversations without her knowledge amounted to a "clear breach" of her fundamental right to privacy. "If the marriage has reached a stage where spouses are actively snooping on each other, that is in itself a symptom of a broken relationship and denotes a lack of trust between them," a bench comprising Justice BV Nagarathna and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma ruled.

The top court held that such secretly recorded conversations are, in fact, admissible evidence in matrimonial disputes. It also reasoned that the spousal privilege granted under Section 122 of the Indian Evidence Act cannot be absolute when

read alongside the exception built into the same provision. "We do not think there is any breach of

between spouses and therefore cannot be applied horizontally at all," the Supreme Court said.

The case stems from a Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed against Justice Lisa Gill's judgment in the Punjab and Haryana High Court.

The High Court had ruled in favour of a woman who argued that her husband's use of a Compact Disc containing her recorded phone calls amounted to an invasion of her fundamental right to privacy. The recordings had been admitted as evidence by the Family Court in Bathinda to support the husband's allegations of cruelty under Section 13 of the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955.

India battles monsoon: 14 Dead in UP, several states under flood impact

Agency New Delhi.

India's monsoon season has unleashed its fury across several states, resulting in widespread destruction and a rising death toll. The heaviest impact has been felt in Uttar Pradesh, where at least 14 people lost their lives in rain-related incidents within 24 hours between Saturday and Sunday. The casualties were primarily attributed to lightning strikes, drowning, and snakebites. Districts such as Gorakhpur, Jaunpur, Raebareli, Chandauli, Kushinagar, and Kanpur Dehat were particularly hard-hit. The intensity of the rainfall has forced many schools in Uttar Pradesh to temporarily close. Significant waterlogging and flash floods in low-lying areas, exacerbated by overflowing drains, have disrupted routines. The Gautam Buddha Nagar district government has closed schools up to class 12th in Noida and Greater Noida for two days last week due to the severity of the situation.

West Bengal's Paschim Medinipur district, particularly Ghatal, has also experienced severe flooding. Two deaths, including that of a seven-year-old girl, were confirmed, and search operations are still ongoing for those missing. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasts renewed heavy rainfall in the state.

Rajasthan too faced the brunt of the monsoon with flash floods and tragic drowning incidents. Two 12-year-old cousins tragically drowned in a rain-fed stream while herding goats in Bhilwara. Heavy rainfall led to severe waterlogging in Kota, Jhalawar, Tonk, and Bhilwara, turning streets into rivers. Jhalawar, for instance, witnessed an astounding 271 mm of rainfall within 24 hours. The IMD attributes this heavy rainfall to a low-pressure system originating from the Bay of Bengal, coupled with a stationary trough line.

Finally, Delhi was placed under a red alert after experiencing short but intense spells of rain accompanied by gusty winds of over 50 km/h. The IMD continues to issue forecasts and alerts across affected regions as the monsoon season progresses.

What Is Cloud Seeding And Why Delhi Plans To Do It In September

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi, infamous for its air pollution, will witness the first-ever cloud seeding flights between August 30 and September 10, a delay from its initial plan of conducting artificial rain between July 4 and 11. The dates have been revised following expert recommendations from the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

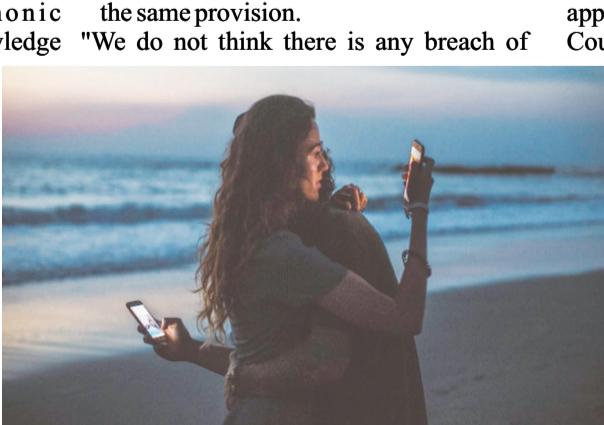
Announced by Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, the Rs 3.21 crore project titled 'Technology Demonstration and Evaluation of Cloud Seeding as an Alternative for Delhi NCR Pollution Mitigation', will deploy five modified Cessna aircraft for cloud seeding, triggering rainfall and reducing air pollutants. To begin with, the project will cover low-security air zones in northwest and outer Delhi. Each sortie, lasting around 90 minutes, will cover around 100 square kilometres.

What Is Cloud Seeding

Cloud seeding is the process of adding special substances like silver iodide and dry ice to clouds to make it rain or snow in areas experiencing water scarcity, less snowfall, or to reduce hail and clear fog. It can be done using airplanes, rockets, or machines on the ground. The formulation, developed by IIT Kanpur, includes silver iodide nanoparticles, iodised salt, and rock salt.

Why Delhi Is Pushing For Artificial Rain

The national capital, Delhi, is infamous for its air pollution problem. Barring a few months, the city experiences high levels of pollution throughout the year. In a bid to provide clean air to its citizens, the Delhi government has been considering cloud seeding or artificial rain for months.



privacy in this case. In fact, Section 122 of Evidence Act does not recognise any such right. On the other hand, it carves out an exception to right to privacy

NEWS BOX

Jannik Sinner, Iga Swiatek share awkward dance at Wimbledon Champions' ball**London. (Agency)**

The singles champions of Wimbledon 2025 turned heads not only with their performances on court but also with their style, as they suited up for the traditional Champions' Dinner on Monday, July 14. Italy's Jannik Sinner and Poland's Iga Swiatek, fresh off their respective title wins, shared the spotlight and a dance at the black-tie event, adding a touch of elegance to their on-court triumphs rather than adding pressure, she chose to simply enjoy the moment, especially on Centre Court. Held on the final Sunday of the tournament after the men's singles final, the Champions' Dinner is a formal celebration that honours the tournament's winners. Despite Wimbledon's long and storied history, the dinner itself is a relatively new tradition, having been introduced in 1977. Over the years, it has become a cherished postscript to the Grand Slam fortnight, offering players and guests a chance to unwind and celebrate in style. The official Wimbledon



account on X shared photos of Sinner and Swiatek sharing a dance—a longstanding tradition where the two singles champions take to the floor together. Sinner kept it classic in a tailored black suit and tie, while Swiatek looked graceful in a flowing purple gown, her look understated yet striking. For both players, the evening was a well-deserved celebration after two brilliant runs through the draw. Sinner began the tournament with confidence and benefited from a fourth-round walkover due to Grigor Dimitrov's injury. From there, he stepped up impressively, defeating Novak Djokovic in the semifinals and Carlos Alcaraz in a gripping final to lift his maiden Wimbledon trophy. Swiatek, meanwhile, answered her critics in the best possible fashion. After a patchy season and some tricky moments earlier in the tournament, she saved her best for last, delivering a ruthless performance in the final to beat Amanda Anisimova in straight sets without conceding a single game point.

KL Rahul will be the main man if India are to win Lord's Test, says Anil Kumble**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Anil Kumble believes that KL Rahul will be key to India's hopes of clinching victory on the final day of the third Test against England at Lord's. The Indian opener remained unbeaten at stumps on Day 4, showing composure even as wickets tumbled at the other end. With India requiring 135 more runs and six wickets in hand, Rahul's role is shaping up to be crucial in deciding the outcome of the match. After bowling England out for just 192 in their second innings, India looked to be in control. However, late wickets in the evening session gave the hosts a burst of momentum heading into the final day. With the pitch showing signs of variable bounce and some swing under cloudy skies, the chase is anything but straightforward.

Speaking on JioHotstar, Kumble stressed that Rahul must anchor the innings and carry his bat through if India are to take a 2-1 lead in the series. "KL Rahul is going to be the main man. If India is to go past this total tomorrow, he needs to be there till the end, not just give India a good start," Kumble



said. The former Indian captain observed that Rahul had a scratchy start and was lucky to survive an early chance when Chris Woakes put down a catch. But after the reprieve, Rahul looked far more assured at the crease. "Early on, I thought he looked a bit like Joe Root, reaching out to the ball, and that's when there was a chance offered to Chris Woakes. He was lucky to be dropped. But from that moment on, he started waiting for the ball to come onto him, and once he did that, he looked the part, just like he did in the first innings," Kumble explained. Rahul, who scored a hundred in the first innings, remains India's best hope of navigating the tricky fifth-day conditions. His calm presence at the crease will be vital as the visitors look to avoid another batting collapse.

Rampant England, France reach Women's Euro 2025 quarter-finals**England will face Sweden in Zurich on Thursday, a repeat of the semi-final at the last Euros three years ago which the Lionesses won 4-0.****ST. GALLEN. (Agency)**

Holders England reached the quarter-finals of Women's Euro 2025 on Sunday after thrashing Wales 6-1 and taking second place in Group D behind France, who won 5-2 in a thrilling match with the Netherlands. Georgia Stanway started England on their way from the penalty spot in the 13th minute and further goals from Ella Toone, Lauren Hemp, Alessia Russo, Beth Mead and Aggie Beever-Jones made sure of passage to the last eight. England will face Sweden in Zurich on Thursday, a repeat of the semi-final at the last Euros three years ago which the Lionesses won 4-0. But the Swedes look a tough proposition after topping Group C with a perfect nine points and swatting aside Germany on Saturday.

"We just wanted to be confident and enjoy it and I think we obviously play better football when we do that. I think there was more flow to the game tonight, there was better connections," said midfielder Keira Walsh.

"(Sweden are) going to be a really tough opposition but we're just going to keep trying to focus on what we're doing, keep being confident, playing good football."

France meanwhile will take on Germany in Basel in the last quarter-final on Saturday, and are on the same side of the knockout draw as world champions Spain who face hosts Switzerland on Friday. The French finished the group stage three points ahead of England after making it three wins from three thanks to Delphine Cascarino's decisive double. San Diego Wave forward Cascarino has been excellent in Switzerland, and she made sure that France would top the group with the key goals in a superb comeback from a goal down. France, who opened the scoring through Sandie Toletti in the 22nd minute, trailed at the break to a Victoria Pelova strike and Selma Bacha's clumsy own goal.

Cascarino stars

But Marie-Antoinette Katoto levelled for France just after the hour and the match was done six minutes later thanks to Cascarino's fine finishes. First Cascarino lashed France

way," Cascarino told reporters.

In St Gallen, England knew a win would be enough to seal a spot in the next round regardless of what happened in Basel, and once Stanway slotted home her penalty after being brought down by Carrie Jones there was no way back for Wales. Eight minutes later Toone doubled England's lead after Wales failed to clear and the Manchester United forward tapped home after her initial effort was blocked on the line by Lily Woodham. Toone then turned provider on the half-hour with a perfect searching cross for Hemp, before Russo rolled home from close range just before half-time to get off the mark for the tournament.

Mead drilled home England's fifth in the 72nd minute, but Hannah Cain gave Wales fans something to cheer about by lashing a fine consolation goal past Hannah Hampton.

And Beever-Jones completed the rout one minute from the end to send England through on a high.



back ahead with a sumptuous, dipping long-range strike, before rolling in the fourth after Sandy Baltimore watched her shot ricochet off both posts. Sakina Karchaoui completed the scoring from the penalty spot in stoppage time. "I'm having a good Euros, and it's a real pleasure to play in a major tournament. I'm pleased and I hope that we can go a long

Club World Cup may be more important than Champions League in future: Maresca**Chelsea defeated PSG 3-0 to win the 2025 Club World Cup****→ Cole Palmer scored two quick goals within eight minutes****→ Maresca believes the Club World Cup has growing global importance****New Delhi. (Agency)**

Chelsea head coach Enzo Maresca stirred debate in the football world on Sunday night after boldly stating that the FIFA Club World Cup may soon eclipse the UEFA Champions League in importance. His comments came following Chelsea's emphatic 3-0 victory over Paris Saint-Germain in the 2025 Club World Cup final at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey. "This competition features the best clubs in the world. That's why we value it as much as the Champions League, or perhaps even more," Maresca said in his post-match press

conference. "I feel that this competition [the Club World Cup] will be as important as or even more important than the Champions League." Chelsea dominated the final from the opening whistle. Rising star Cole Palmer stunned PSG with two quick goals inside the first eight minutes, setting the tone for what

rhythm. "The idea was to go man-to-man because if you leave spaces to PSG they will kill you," Maresca explained. "That intensity was crucial in the first 10 minutes, especially given the scorching heat. It was really difficult conditions to play as the game progressed."

Club World Cup Final: As it Happened

Chelsea's tactical approach exploited PSG's defensive weaknesses, particularly down the left flank. "We had a lot of success exploring the left side of their defence. Things worked perfectly for us due to the effort the players put in," said the Italian coach. The match ended on a sour note for PSG when Joao Neves was sent off in the 84th minute for pulling Marc Cucurella's hair, adding to their frustration. Chelsea nearly extended their lead through Liam Delap, who had two close chances late in the game. Maresca, who was part of Manchester City's coaching staff when they won the Champions League three years ago, used his experience to underscore the growing stature of the Club World Cup.



would become a one-sided affair. Joao Pedro added a third just before halftime, effectively ending PSG's hopes. The French champions struggled to create meaningful chances, while Chelsea's high-pressing, man-to-man strategy suffocated their

MLC 2025: MI New York clinch thriller vs Washington Freedom to secure second title**New Delhi. (Agency)**

In a thrilling conclusion to the 2025 Major League Cricket (MLC) season, MI New York (MINY) clinched their second title in three years, edging past Washington Freedom by just five runs in a tense final at Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas on Monday, 14 July 2025. The victory cemented MI New York's status as the most successful franchise in the tournament's short history. Put in to bat first, MI New York posted a competitive total of 180 for 7 from their 20 overs. The backbone of the innings was Quinton de Kock, who played a superb knock of 77 from 46 deliveries, including six fours and four sixes. His innings laid the foundation, aided by a steady start from Monank Patel, who contributed 28 off 22 balls at the top of the order.

Washington Freedom's bowlers pulled things back well in the middle overs, with Lockie Ferguson proving the standout. The New Zealander claimed 3 wickets for 21 runs, including the key scalps of de Kock and

Kieron Pollard in the same over - a moment that temporarily halted MI New York's momentum. However, a vital late cameo from Kunwarjeet Singh, who remained unbeaten on 22 from just 13 balls, pushed



the total to a challenging score. In reply, Washington Freedom had a disastrous start, losing Mitchell Owen and Andries Gous to Trent Boult in the opening over without scoring - leaving them reeling at 0 for 2. Rachin Ravindra and Jack Edwards,

however, mounted a strong fightback with a composed 84-run stand. Ravindra was particularly impressive, scoring 70 off 41 balls with eight boundaries and two sixes, while Edwards chipped in with a useful 33

from 22. The turning point came in the 16th over when Ravindra fell to Rushil Ugarkar, slicing a slower delivery to extra cover. His dismissal sparked a wobble in the run chase. Glenn Phillips (48* off 30 balls) and captain Glenn Maxwell kept Washington in the contest, but the equation came down to 12 runs required from the final over. Named Player of the Match, 22-year-old Ugarkar was handed the ball for the final over - and rose to the occasion. He conceded just six runs from the first four deliveries, effectively sealing the match when Maxwell, attempting a big shot, was caught at long-on by Michael Bracewell. With 10 needed off the final ball, Washington's hopes faded, and MI New York sealed a dramatic five-run victory.

period, having previously received one during the second Test against Australia in Adelaide last year. Players who accumulate four or more demerit points in two years face suspension. On the field, India was put in a strong position to win the Lord's Test thanks to a four-wicket haul by Washington Sundar, whose off-spin came into play after the pacers had done the early damage. Sundar's timely wickets helped India bowl England out for 192 in the final session. Mohammed Siraj had made a significant impact during the morning session, while Jasprit Bumrah returned to polish off the tail. At stumps on day four, India's chase of 193 was faltering on a rapidly deteriorating pitch, with the visitors struggling at 58 for four. They had lost key batters Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, captain Shubman Gill, and night watchman Akash Deep, leaving the contest finely poised heading into day five.

Sinner eyes golden era after Wimbledon glory**Sinner admitted it was vital to finally beat the world number two for the first time since 2023.****London. (Agency)**

Jannik Sinner has warned Carlos Alcaraz that he will get even stronger after beating his arch-rival to win his first Wimbledon title on Sunday. Sinner avenged an agonising French Open final loss against Alcaraz as he battered the Spaniard into submission with a dynamic display of power hitting on Centre Court. The Italian's 4-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 victory ended Alcaraz's two-year reign as Wimbledon champion and gave Sinner his fourth Grand Slam crown. Sinner has reached the last four Grand Slam finals, winning three of them, and the world number one has no intention of resting on his laurels. "I don't think I'm at my best because at 23 I don't think you can be in your best shape ever. So hopefully I can keep

improving," he said. "I keep looking up to Carlos because even today I felt like he was doing couple of things better than I did. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses"

"That's something we will work on and prepare ourselves because he's going to come for us again. "We have a big target on us, so we have to be prepared." It was a cathartic triumph for Sinner after he squandered a two-set lead and blew three championship points against Alcaraz at Roland Garros in June. Alcaraz had won five successive encounters against the 23-year-old, including finals in Paris, Rome and Beijing, prior to their showdown at the All England Club.

Sinner admitted it was vital to finally beat the world number two for the first time since 2023. "It is important, for sure, because you know, when you lose several times against someone, it's not easy. But in the same time in the past I felt that I was very close," he said. "I never pushed myself down. I felt like I did something great

because it has been not easy. Coming here and winning Wimbledon, it has been amazing."

"The rivalry is real!"



While Sinner had spent the last five weeks publicly insisting he would not let his French Open collapse affect him, he revealed he had to work hard to move on from the loss before launching his Wimbledon challenge. "This is the part where I'm the proudest

because it really has not been easy. I always tried to be honest with myself and had the self-talk. You know, what if, what if? I tried to accept it, in a way," said Sinner, who returned from a three-month doping ban in May. "Even if I don't cry, it feels emotional because only me and the people who are close to me know exactly what we have been through on and off the court, and it has been everything except easy." "We've tried to push, you know, every practice session, even I was struggling at times mentally." "That's why I also said after Roland Garros that it's not the time to put me down, no, because another Grand Slam is coming up, and I did great here." Sinner and Alcaraz have won the past seven majors between them, establishing themselves in a class of their own.

Sinner's coach Darren Cahill expects the pair to battle for supremacy for years to come, but he stopped short of comparing it to the dynastic era of Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Why your tax refund may be delayed this year

New Delhi. (Agency)

There is rising worry among taxpayers, both those who have filed and are waiting for refunds, and those yet to file, about delays in income tax refunds for the assessment year 2025-26. Current trends and expert views suggest that ITR checks are tighter this year, not just for current returns but also for old ones.

LATE START TO ITR FILING

One big reason for the delay is that the tax filing season began late this year. Normally, people can file their returns from April onwards. But this time, the Income Tax Department released the ITR utilities quite late. The forms for ITR-1 and ITR-4 came out only at the end of May. Forms for ITR-2 and ITR-3 were released even later, in July.

NEW RULES ADDED TO THE CONFUSION

Another reason is the many changes to tax rules this year. The government has made the new tax regime the default and added extra details to the ITR forms. Now, the tax department asks for more information, which means it takes longer to check and approve returns. On top of this, each return is matched with the Annual Information Statement (AIS) and Form 26AS. If there's a mismatch or a large refund claim, the system flags it and holds the refund until everything is verified again.

OLD CASES HOLDING UP NEW REFUNDS

If you have any old tax demands or pending assessments, your new refund can be held back too.

The tax department is allowed to adjust your refund against any old dues. So, if your previous year's case is still open, this year's refund may take longer to reach you.

SOME FORMS STILL NOT AVAILABLE

Another issue is that not all ITR forms are available yet. Forms for ITR-5, 6 and 7 have not been released so far. This has forced the government to extend the ITR filing deadline from July 31 to September 15, 2025.

India wants air conditioners to be made with milder temperature settings to save energy

BENGALURU, India. (Agency)

India's government is seeking to limit temperature settings on new air conditioners to save electricity in the country that considered the fastest-growing market for them. The power minister proposed a rule in June requiring air conditioners sold in the country to have thermostats that can be set no lower than 20 Celsius (68 Fahrenheit).

Officials hope the small change will create massive energy savings in the country of more than 1.4 billion people. About 10 million to 15 million air conditioners are sold annually as incomes and urbanization increase along with the temperatures.

The current lowest setting is 17 C (62 F). Officials say each degree an air conditioner is turned up saves about 6% on energy.

Reaction to the change is mixed.

Energy experts said the proposal is a positive step, but that requiring units to be more energy efficient would help more. Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said the proposed rule would take effect soon but wasn't specific about timing. The proposal has gotten mixed reviews from people living in India's sweltering cities. "Overall, I think it's good to try and save energy, but at the same time I hope the government makes sure people are not too inconvenienced," said Vikram Kannan, a 37-year-old teacher who lives in the humid southern city of Chennai with his wife and 4-year-old daughter. "Sometimes there is no choice but to set a low air conditioner temperature in cities like Chennai because it's just way too hot and humid. My daughter gets heat rashes at times if we don't do this." Air conditioners are fast becoming some of the biggest energy guzzlers in India. Room air conditioners accounted for as much as one quarter of the electricity needed in India during times of the highest usage in 2024, a measure known as peak demand, according to estimates by researchers at the University of California, Berkeley.

WPI inflation drops to -0.13 per cent in June on food, fuel prices



New Delhi. (Agency)

NEW DELHI: Wholesale price inflation (WPI) declined to (-) 0.13 per cent in June as prices of food articles and fuel saw deflation, along with easing in manufactured product costs, government data showed on Monday. WPI-based inflation was 0.39 per cent in May. It was 3.43 per cent in June last year.

"Negative rate of inflation in June, 2025 is primarily due to decrease in prices of food articles, mineral oils, manufacture of basic metals, crude petroleum & natural gas etc," the industry ministry said in a statement. As per WPI data, food articles saw a deflation of 3.75 per cent in June, as against a deflation of 1.56 per cent in May, with vegetables seeing a sharp drop. Deflation in vegetables was 22.65 per cent in June, compared to 21.62 per cent in May. In the case of manufactured products, inflation was at 1.97 per cent, compared to 2.04 per cent in May. Fuel and power saw a negative inflation or deflation of 2.65 pc in June, compared to a deflation of 2.27 pc in May. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) mainly takes into account retail inflation while formulating the monetary policy. Retail inflation data for June is scheduled to be released later in the day. The RBI last month cut benchmark policy interest rates by a sharp 0.50 per cent to 5.50 per cent amid easing inflation.

Only 6.7% filed ITRs: CoinSwitch co-founder on why Indians delay tax filing

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)

Only 6.7% of Indians filed their income tax returns (ITRs) last year. This surprising figure was shared by Ashish Singhal, co-founder, CoinSwitch, who highlighted a significant gap in digital tax participation.

LAST MINUTE FILING STILL COMMON

Singhal wrote on LinkedIn, "Only 6.7% of Indians filed ITRs last year. Salaried

folks. Startup employees. People who want to comply, but still treat filing like a last-minute emergency." He pointed out that most of those who did file were salaried people, startup workers or those who simply wanted to stay on the right side of the law, but even they treated filing like an emergency.

DIGITAL PROGRESS BUT HABITS LAG

India has made big progress in digital tax filing over the years. There are new portals, better forms and more ways to pay taxes online. Yet, millions still wait till the last few days to get their documents in order. Deadlines shift. Habits don't," he said.

He added, "Low digital tax participation is a blind spot. The system's getting smarter, but not easier." This is the heart of the problem. Many people still find tax filing confusing, even if they want to follow the rules.

NEW REGIME, OLD HABITS

The new tax regime leaves more money in people's pockets, but does that mean they plan it wisely? He raised an important question, "As users get more liquidity under the new tax regime, are we helping

throughout the year." We don't need more 'file now' reminders. We need infra that builds tax planning into everyday finance," Singhal added.

Simple steps can help, like apps that remind people to collect documents, pre-fill details and check for mistakes. He further said, "We need tools that auto-remind, pre-fill, and validate. Nudges that turn filing from a chore into a habit. Products that treat tax compliance as a core loop, not a checkbox." After all, tax season comes just once a year. But money planning is a daily job. If India wants better compliance, it must make filing as normal as paying a phone bill, routine, quick and stress-free, Singhal noted.

Simply put, by simplifying the process and encouraging habitual compliance, the goal of wider participation could be achieved, benefiting both individuals and the broader economic framework.



Sensex, Nifty start week in red as IT stocks drag markets lower again

The S&P BSE Sensex lost 266.34 points to 82,234.13, while the NSE Nifty50 was down by 67.95 points to 25,081.90 as of 9:22 am.

New Delhi(Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened lower on Monday, starting the week on a subdued note as IT stocks quickly erased gains to trade lower, dragging the markets down.

The S&P BSE Sensex lost 266.34 points to 82,234.13, while the NSE Nifty50 was down by 67.95 points to 25,081.90 as of 9:22 am. Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that Nifty has been exhibiting weak trend weighed mainly by the weakness in the IT stocks. "This weakness may persist particularly since the FIIs were big sellers in the cash market last Friday. It is important to note that banking and financials are outperforming even in this weak market. This trend may persist. The market has already discounted the NIM compression for banking stocks expected in Q1 results. Therefore, dips in banking stocks will

provide opportunities to buy," he added. The top five gainers in early trade were Eternal up 0.95%, State

VIX gaining 2.53%. Among the sectoral indices, the gainers were Nifty Auto up 0.35%, Nifty Financial Services rising 0.01%, Nifty Media up 1.31%, Nifty Metal gaining 0.80%, Nifty Pharma up 0.39%, Nifty PSU Bank rising 1.30%, Nifty Private Bank up 0.11%, Nifty Realty gaining 0.82%, Nifty Healthcare up 0.59%, Nifty Consumer Durables rising 0.21%, and Nifty Oil & Gas up 0.28%. The losing sectors included only Nifty IT down 0.82%, while Nifty FMCG remained flat at 0.00%.

Market is expecting a US- India trade deal soon with a tariff rate of around 20% for India. If this happens the market will get a sentimental boost. Any disappointment on this front can drag the market further down," said Vijayakumar.

Jane Street deposits Rs 4,843.5 crore, set to return to Dalal Street: Report

In its interim order, Sebi had accused Jane Street of using manipulative strategies in Indian stock markets. The regulator directed the firm to deposit alleged unlawful gains in an escrow account with a scheduled commercial bank in India.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Global trading firm Jane Street Group has taken a key step towards resuming its operations in India after depositing Rs 4,843.5 crore in an escrow account, as directed by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi),

reported Moneycontrol.

This move means the firm has complied with the main conditions laid out in Sebi's interim order issued on July 3, 2025. A person quoted in the report told Moneycontrol, "Jane Street Group deposited Rs 4,843.5 crore on Friday in compliance with the Sebi order." Another source added, "With the deposit made in an escrow account and the order's terms met, Jane Street can now resume its trading operations on the exchanges."

BAN LIFTED AFTER DEPOSIT?

In its interim order, Sebi had accused Jane Street of using manipulative strategies in Indian stock markets.

The regulator directed the firm to deposit alleged unlawful gains in an escrow account with a scheduled commercial bank in India. A lien was also placed in favour of Sebi, ensuring the funds could not be moved without its permission. Clause 62.2 of the order

opened positively with Nifty Midcap100 up 0.65%, Nifty Smallcap100 rising 0.92%, and India VIX gaining 2.53%. Among the sectoral indices, the gainers were Nifty Auto up 0.35%, Nifty Financial Services rising 0.01%, Nifty Media up 1.31%, Nifty Metal gaining 0.80%, Nifty Pharma up 0.39%, Nifty PSU Bank rising 1.30%, Nifty Private Bank up 0.11%, Nifty Realty gaining 0.82%, Nifty Healthcare up 0.59%, Nifty Consumer Durables rising 0.21%, and Nifty Oil & Gas up 0.28%. The losing sectors included only Nifty IT down 0.82%, while Nifty FMCG remained flat at 0.00%.

Market is expecting a US- India trade deal soon with a tariff rate of around 20% for India. If this happens the market will get a sentimental boost. Any disappointment on this front can drag the market further down," said Vijayakumar.

CONDITIONS STILL APPLY

However, Sebi's order also said that Jane Street must avoid using any of the trading strategies that led to the interim action.

The firm has been asked to "cease and desist" from carrying out any activity that could be seen as manipulative or unfair under Indian market regulations. This means that although the ban is lifted.

Edelweiss' Radhika Gupta on why your portfolio should be yours, not someone else's

New Delhi(Agency)

When it comes to money, everyone has an opinion. Your uncle may swear by small-cap shares. Your friend may say crypto is the future. Your neighbour might stick only to fixed deposits. But should you copy them? Not really, says Radhika Gupta, MD and CEO of Edelweiss Mutual Fund.

LISTEN, BUT DON'T COPY

Gupta wrote on X, "Your uncle buys smallcaps. Your friend loves crypto. Your neighbour can't think beyond FD. Your portfolio? Should be about you, not them." Her simple message? Listen to everyone but make your own plan. Too much free advice can confuse you and push you into choices that do not suit your needs. Gupta believes that building your investment portfolio should match your own risk comfort, time frame and goals. What works for your friend may not work for you.

YOUR GOALS YOUR MIX

Many would agree. A good investment plan depends on what you need, how much risk you can handle and when you want the money back. What works for your friend may not suit you at all.



You may be saving for your child's education, planning a holiday, or building a safety fund. For that, your mix of shares, bonds, FDs or even crypto should fit your goals and comfort level, not someone else's. She concluded her post by saying, "Suno sabki, portfolio apni," which simply means, listen to everyone but decide what's right for you. Simply put, good investing is not about copying your uncle or friend. It's about knowing your own plans and picking what helps you reach them. So, take advice if you like, but build a portfolio that's truly yours.

Bitcoin zooms past \$120,000 to reach all-time high. Here's why

Bitcoin goes past \$120,000, a new all-time high

Ether rises to \$3,048, driven by ETF demand and DeFi growth

US House debates crypto regulatory bills, boosting sentiment

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bitcoin crossed the \$120,000 mark for the first time on Monday, hitting a fresh all-time high and continuing its strong rally this year. The world's largest cryptocurrency was last seen trading at \$120,700.54, up 1.32%, as investor confidence remained strong ahead of important regulatory discussions in the United States. The surge in Bitcoin comes amid rising expectations of a more favourable environment for cryptocurrencies in the U.S. On Monday, the U.S. House of Representatives began

discussions on a series of bills aimed at setting up a regulatory framework for the digital asset industry. These long-awaited policies have been pushed by industry players for years. Market analysts say that this move by U.S. lawmakers is one of the key reasons behind Bitcoin's recent rally. Ryan Lee, Chief Analyst at Bitget Research, said the rise above \$120,000 marks an important moment for Bitcoin. He said this breakout is being driven by strong inflows into exchange-traded funds (ETFs), a shift in corporate treasury holdings towards Bitcoin, and positive sentiment from the Trump campaign. Lee expects Bitcoin to stay strong in the coming months, averaging around \$125,000 in Q3, with key levels at \$108,500 and \$130,000 being watched closely. Ether, the second-biggest cryptocurrency by market value, also saw gains. It reached a five-month high of \$3,048.23 and was last trading at \$3,036.70, up 1.4%. Lee added that Ethereum's rise is being supported by ongoing ETF demand, growing



BuyUcoin, pointed out that market sentiment is currently high, with the crypto fear and greed index at 70, which suggests the market may be overheated. However, he added that net inflows into crypto funds reached \$1.23 billion on July 11, with Bitcoin ETFs alone contributing Rs 1.03 billion. He said the excitement around the U.S. 'Crypto Week' and institutional interest are major drivers behind the rally. Bitcoin's strong performance is also notable because it comes despite uncertainty in global markets. The announcement by former U.S. President Donald Trump, who has called himself the "crypto president", has also boosted investor morale. Trump has been vocal about supporting the crypto industry and has urged policymakers to update regulations to support its growth. While Bitcoin's rise is exciting for investors, experts warn that prices could remain volatile in the short term. Traders are advised to watch global economic indicators and regulatory updates closely.

Urvashi Rautela

Carries 4 Labubus To Wimbledon 2025; Internet Says, 'First Indian Woman To...'

Urvashi Rautela has done it again—she has stunned the internet with her fashion moment. Just like many other celebs, Rautela too flew to London to attend the ongoing Wimbledon Championship and dropped series of pictures from her visit. While the actress stunned in a beautiful white gown, it was her purse that stole the attention. Urvashi carried four Labubus dolls with her as she reached the stadium. Her fit-and-flare lace dress blended classic English wedding charm with couture flair. With dainty bow straps, a corseted bodice, and flowing lace, she looked royally elegant. The actress' pictures had netizens dropping hilarious comments. One wrote, "1st Indian woman to carry 4 Labubus..." Another comment read, "That guy in a blue T-shirt, in the background, ruined all photos, so Urvashi has become the first actress from India again, in this category." A third user wrote, "Labubus on Birkin in Wimbledon only Urvashi can do it!" Another user sarcastically questioned, "Labubus on sale in Wimbledon?"

Several other celebs have been joining the Labubu trend, and the winner of



the trend was Khushi Kapoor and Orry. He recently dropped a hilarious new video on Instagram where he's seen dressed as the wildly popular Labubu doll. The real surprise, however, comes when Boney Kapoor makes an unexpected cameo, leaving fans in splits.

Meanwhile, apart from Urvashi Rautela, the much-in-love rumoured couple Janhvi Kapoor and Shikhar Pahariya were also seen at the Wimbledon 2025 semi-final match in London on July 11. They were spotted at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, soaking in the high-octane tennis action alongside other celebrities and sports enthusiasts. While neither of the two has officially confirmed the romance, their frequent public outings continue to grab headlines.

On the work front, Urvashi Rautela was last seen in Nandamuri Balakrishna's Daaku Maharaj, and her interviews after the release of the film went quite viral, inviting major trolling for her. The film also stars Bobby Deol, Pragya Jaiswal, Shraddha Srinath, Rishi, Chandini Chowdary, Urvashi Rautela, and Pradeep Rawat in key roles.

Wamiqa Gabbi

Looks Effortlessly Sexy In Off-Shoulder Lace Dress

Bollywood actress Wamiqa Gabbi is quite active on social media, and she frequently treats fans with stunning pictures of herself. The Bhool Chuk Maaf actress has now shared a behind-the-scenes video from a recent photoshoot, leaving fans gushing over her. The actress, who never disappoints with her sartorial choices, looked absolutely stunning in a white off-shoulder lace dress as she struck a few poses for the photoshoot. Tamannaah Bhatia was also in awe of Wamiqa's look, and she reacted to the post with heart eyed emojis.

On Sunday, Wamiqa Gabbi took to her Instagram to share a video from her photoshoot, giving fans a sneak peek at what went on behind the scenes. She looked breathtaking in the off-shoulder lace dress, exuding elegance and sensuality. The outfit, with its delicate lace and corset-style detailing, looked extremely flattering on her. Her hair was tied up in a messy bun, and she had a no-makeup look on. Sharing the video, she wrote, "Kitne daffe dil ne kahaaaa... Check out the video below!"

"Such an aesthetic woman!" wrote one fan, while another one commented, "Why so pretty?????" A third comment read, "Wow so hot!"

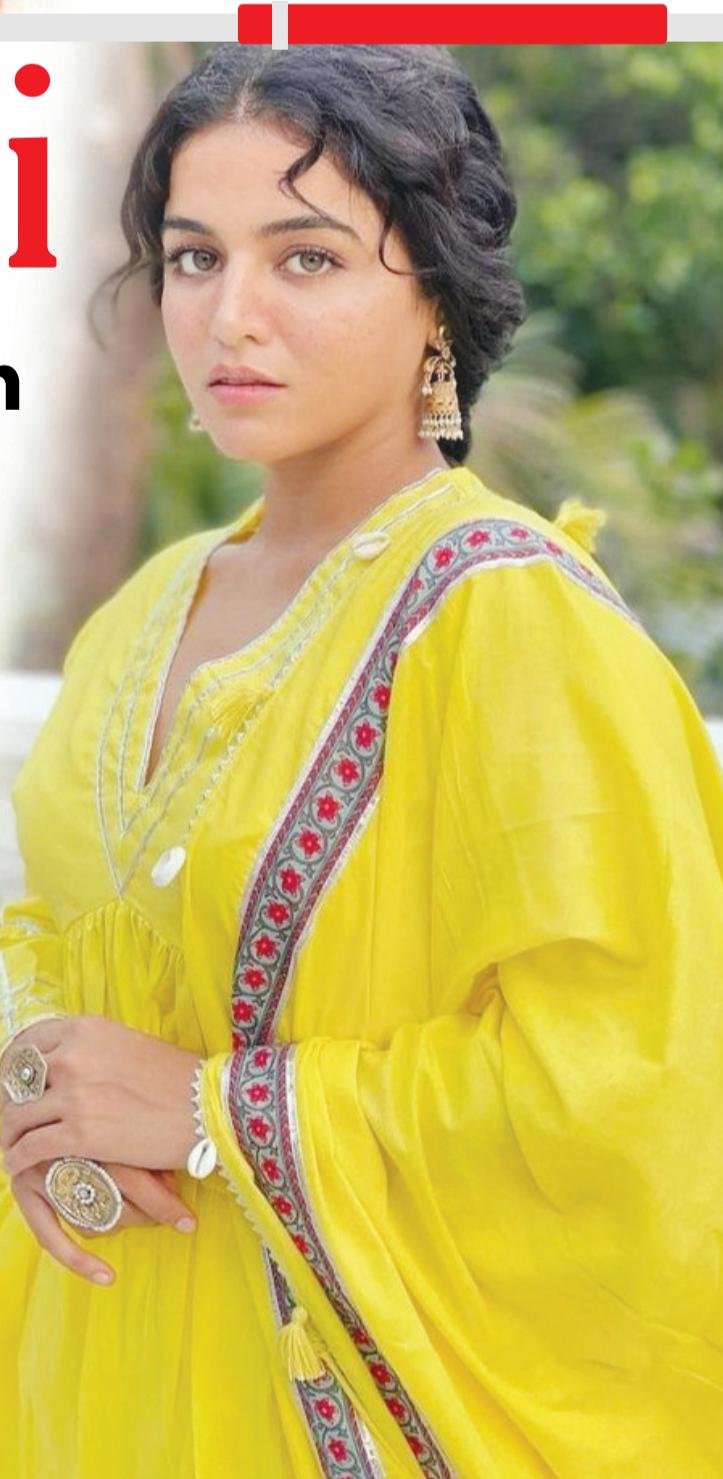
Meanwhile, a few days ago, Wamiqa Gabbi shared another video from a photoshoot. She was seen in a soft lavender cut-out dress with tie-up details. The outfit showed off her figure while keeping things elegant and relaxed. In some shots, she's leaning on a wooden table, lost in thought or

smiling to herself. In others, she's standing by a plain white wall, giving calm but confident looks. Wamiqa's journey in Bollywood began with a blink-and-you-miss-it role in Jab We Met, where she played one of Geet's cousins. She is currently basking in appreciation for her performance in the recently released comedy-drama Bhool Chuk



Maaf, where she stars opposite RajKummar Rao. The film, produced by Maddock Films, marks another step in her upward trajectory.

Up next, she has a packed slate with exciting projects. She will soon be seen sharing screen space with Akshay Kumar in the upcoming horror-comedy Bhooth Bangla, directed by Priyadarshan. The film also stars Tabu and Paresh Rawal and is scheduled for a theatrical release in April 2026. Additionally, Wamiqa is part of Dil Ka Darwaza Khol Na Darling, a romantic drama featuring Siddhant Chaturvedi and veteran actor Jaya Bachchan.



Sonakshi Sinha Gets Cosy With Husband Zaheer Iqbal In Romantic Pic From Vacay



Sonakshi Sinha is currently on a holiday with her husband, Zaheer Iqbal, in Switzerland and is having a blast. The Dahaad actor has been posting numerous glimpses from her vacation, leaving fans gushing. On Sunday, she is en route to a new activity with her husband and posted a romantic picture. Sonakshi Sinha was seen 'almost kissing' Zaheer Iqbal in the new picture that she posted on her Instagram stories. This was followed by a video, where the actor is seen adorably placing her hand on her husband's hand on the gear while on a drive together. The catch? They vibed to retro Bollywood tracks such as Ae Mere Humsafar while on a foreign land. Take a look:

Recently, Sonakshi Sinha exposed Zaheer by sharing a photo of their private chat on their Instagram Story. It featured a screenshot of their conversation where Zaheer asked his wife if she was hungry. "Not at all, stop feeding me", she replied in two separate chats. "I thought holiday had started", he wrote as he expressed his disappointment over the fact that his wife has refused to eat. Sonakshi responded, writing that she had dinner right in front of him. The conversation ended with adorable "love you" and "love you more" notes. However, what was more fun was Sonakshi taking a 'not-so-subtle' jibe at her pregnancy rumours. She wrote separately while sharing the screenshot: "The reason why everyone thinks I'm preggo. Stop it @iamzahero."

Earlier this year, Sonakshi lashed out at a troll, claiming that her divorce from Zaheer Iqbal isn't far. She penned a strong response, rebuking the social media user. "Pehle teri mummy papa karenge, phir hum. Promise." (First, your parents will get a divorce. Then we will — promise), she said.

Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal's love story

Sonakshi Sinha and Zaheer Iqbal appeared together in 2022 film, Double XL. The couple dated for about seven years before tying the knot on June 23, 2024, in a civil wedding. They registered their wedding at their home, followed by a party for their industry friends in the evening.

The Traitors' Elnaaz Norouzi Backs Apoorva Mukhija: 'Never Heard Her Being Rude'



During a recent AMA session, Elnaaz Norouzi responded to a fan's question about the backlash Apoorva Mukhija has been facing after The Traitors.

Karan Johar hosted reality show 'The Traitors' ended a few days ago. While Apoorva Mukhija aka The Rebel Kid emerged as one of the most entertaining contestants on the show, she also faced backlash and criticism. Fellow contestant Sudhanshu Pandey slammed her for being disrespectful. Meanwhile, winner Uorfi Javed had a fallout with Apoorva — a feud that quickly became a major talking point among fans. During a recent Reddit AMA (Ask Me Anything) session, Elnaaz Norouzi was asked about the backlash Apoorva has been receiving and whether anything had happened off-camera to cause it. Elnaaz backed Apoorva, saying that people usually do not like outspoken women. During the AMA session, a fan asked Elnaaz, "Why is everyone hating on Apoorva.. does something happen off camera. She said you guys have made a watsapp group but have not added any traitors and her in the group." Elnaaz defended Apoorva and replied, "I guess people usually don't like outspoken women who are smart and strong... I personally never heard her being rude or seeing things some other players didn't say." Meanwhile, another Reddit user asked, "Top 3 people you really liked / adored in the show," to which she replied, "Anshula Apoorva Maheep."

Another netizen questioned, "What's your view on everyone who was seemingly inactive or was not doing much in the show suddenly giving interviews against Apoorva when all the other contestants have cursed, disrespected others too?" Elnaaz replied, "Weird... I don't know why you have to talk about other people in your interviews... speak about yourself and about your own work! If you are asked, give a small comment and move on... that's what I would do!" Sudhanshu Pandey and Apoorva Mukhija have made several statements against each other ever since they were eliminated from the reality show, The Traitors. While the former Anupamaa actor has often accused Apoorva of being arrogant and disrespectful, the latter has also alleged that Pandey is seeking fame by using her name. Sudhanshu issued a long statement, slamming Apoorva. He wrote, "What shocks me more is how hard she's flipped! The tone in which she had sent me a message post the show, apologising for her conduct, was so nice, and I even forgave her with a lot of love and thought it was all done and dusted! But cut to a camera and suddenly there's arrogance, attitude, and a whole new personality of her back to square one."

Light, open and airy, complete with a high ceiling, Seasonal Tastes, the 24-hour dining facility at The Westin Chennai, gives you a sense of well-being every time you enter.

Recipe: Masala baked

Eggs



A yummy egg and spinach baked dish.

Preparation time: 15 mins

Cooking time: 5-6 mins

Serves: 01

Recipe Ingredients:

1 tbsp butter

4 tbsp cooked chopped spinach, that's been squeezed to extract excess liquid

2 eggs

½ tomato

2 tbsp heavy cream

2 tbsp grated parmesan

½ tsp oregano

¼ tsp grated nutmeg

Salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Recipe Method:

Heat oven to broil. Grease two 8-oz. gratin dishes with butter. To each dish, add 2 tbsp. spinach. Using your fingers, make 2 wells in each pile of spinach and crack 2 eggs in each well. Cut tomato into 4 wedges and nestle 2 wedges on opposite sides of each dish.



Pour 1 tbsp. heavy cream into each dish. Sprinkle each dish with 1 tbsp. parmesan, ¼ tsp. oregano, 1/8 tsp. nutmeg, and salt and pepper to taste. Transfer to oven rack and broil until the cheese is golden brown, the whites of the eggs are set, and the yolks are still slightly soft, about 5 minutes.

Restaurant Review

Seasonal Tastes

Decor

It is soothingly done up in subtle colours: white, lilac, blue, green etc, offset by light wood. I, of course, choose the window table, and look out at the greenery and the gurgling water bodies through the tall glass wall.

Food

Here's my chance to go completely healthy, I thought, as I went through the menu and its many interesting options. Several are vegetarian, I noted. Dishes containing pork can be spotted, thanks to a tiny pink

sign. My taste buds craved Bubbalicious, Westin's Sunday brunch. Those live counters looked so inviting with their global food — Indian, Thai,

Chinese,

Japanese,

Grills,

Continental,

Moroccan

and lots

more.

Our start

ers came to our

table, and

we had a

wide

variety,

includin

g paneer

tikka,

tandoor

ri fish, chicken along with a choice of chutneys. And some crisp-around-the-edges with stringy cheese, thin crust pizza. Succulent meat, I must say. It was moist and tender, yet perfectly charred, to give that smoky charcoal-y taste one expects from the tandoor.

The salads were bursting with life, begging to be eaten, while the limited sushi was nice. What I did enjoy, though, was the pasta. Getting it right is an art. You've got to know when to stop. The chef has mastered the technique of not going overboard. Each Sunday sees the chef bringing out new, innovative food, a feast for the eyes and the taste buds.

They have a separate section for kids on the menu too — their food is placed in their play area, on low counters. Someone watches over them so they can eat and get their fun in peace while their parents are kept out of the way. Desserts could spoil you for choice. The cold stone ice cream had me experimenting with flavours and toppings. Liquid Nitrogen-dipped chocolate could have me addicted to their cold crispness encasing soft gooeyness on the inside.



Restro review: ICHIN@BARLEYZ (Indian/Chinese)

Decor

White leather furniture, LED pin lights in the ceiling, a glass-walled display kitchen and a huge buffet counter form the decor elements here. A PDR (private dining room) and a dedicated area for kids make it unique and family-friendly. You can watch the dim sum experts at work while you wait to be served.

Service

As you can imagine, the name stands for Indian+Chinese — arguably the two most popular cuisines in India, at least when dining out. Start with a hearty sliced Chicken with Pak Choy and Noodles in a Star Anise-flavoured Broth, it's quite substantial. Some of the starters we liked were the



Carrot, Shitake Mushrooms and Beansprouts; Steamed Popiah with Sweet Soya and Sesame Seeds; and Chicken with Shredded Ginger. Sliced Lamb and Bell Capsicum in Crushed Black Pepper Sauce should appeal to those with a penchant for 'teekha'. From the Indian section of the menu, we liked the three-style Tikki made with anjeer, potato and beetroot with mango chutney, Paneer 'Khurchan' — the term may be debatable, but IChin's version is good and made with assorted peppers, onions, tomatoes and dry kasoori methi. Other mains like Dum ki Raan, Nalli Boti Qorma and Gosht ki Nihari with aromatic 'potli' spices were simply outstanding. Order a Saffron Lassi to go with the desi khana.

The Barleyz Brewery complex is a labyrinth of F&B outlets and IChin is one of them. An added advantage is that you can sample their brews before you start your dining experience.

Malpua Yaquti — rice and lentil pudding, layered between Malpua, was unusual and delicious.

Plus and minus

A great location helps, but balancing two cuisines in a single menu can be a procedural nightmare. Lunch buffets, especially during weekends, can get quite noisy.

Venue: IChin @Barleyz, Barleyz, 2/3, 3rd Floor, 80 Feet Road, Koramangala, Bangalore — 560034

Meal for two: ₹1,200

Timings: 12 pm to 3.30 pm (lunch), 7 pm to 11 pm (dinner); Call: 67169610

Rating

Food: 3.5

Service: 3.5

Decor: 3.5

Must try: Tikkis, Nihari and Saffron Lassi

Importance of eating oatmeal every morning

Oatmeal is ground oats that can be used in several ways to prepare a healthy breakfast. Consuming oatmeal has several health benefits due to its nutritional value and high fibre content. So, if you want to get fit, healthy and energised, try eating oatmeal for breakfast. You can add fruits, cinnamon, nutmeg and nuts to your oatmeal for added flavour and nutrition. You can also prepare a smoothie with oatmeal for a healthy and nourishing breakfast. Oatmeal can also be used to prepare pancakes, upma, cookies, muffins and pies. Health Benefits of Oatmeal in the

Morning:

- Keeps you satiated for a long time, so is likely to induce weight loss.
- Since it is rich in fibre, oatmeal helps reduce bad or LDL cholesterol levels.
- Reduces the risk of high blood pressure.
- Reduces risk of diabetes.
- Prevents heart diseases.
- Oatmeal is also a good source of vitamin B, iron, protein and magnesium.
- Improves digestion.
- Low in calories.
- Oatmeal can fight risk of cancer.
- Boosts immunity.

