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Email: sikhtimesindia@gmail.com

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You know he will become PM? Court berates petitioner over Rahul Gandhi plea

The petitioner, founder president of an organisation called Abhinav Bharat Congress, pointed out that Rahul Gandhi's 'immature and irresponsible' statements about Veer Savarkar were creating a lot of confusion.

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday refused to entertain a plea seeking directions to Congress MP Rahul Gandhi that he read up and enlighten himself about Hindutva leader Veer Savarkar.

The petitioner, Pankaj Kumudchandra Phadnis, who is founder president of an organisation called Abhinav Bharat Congress, pointed out that Gandhi's "immature and irresponsible" statements about Savarkar were creating a lot of confusion. Phadnis claimed to be a researcher on Savarkar. The bench of Chief Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Sandeep Marne asked, "In your petition, your prayer is to direct him to personally study and read your petition. How can the court compel him to read your petition?"

To this, the petitioner replied, "He is LOP (Leader of the Opposition) and he is

creating confusion. If he becomes Prime Minister, then he will create havoc."The court shot back, "We don't know. You



know he will become Prime Minister?"

However, the bench noted that the petitioner had the legal remedy to file a defamation case against Gandhi.

The bench also noted that Veer Savarkar's grandnephew had already approached a magistrate court in Pune with a

defamation complaint and a trial was already underway on the same issue. The bench also noted that the petitioner had approached the Supreme Court earlier this year, which had dismissed his petition.

In the Supreme Court, Phadnis sought the inclusion of Savarkar's name in the schedule of Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950 - a law intended to prevent the improper use of certain emblems and names for professional and commercial purposes.

In April, the Supreme Court came down heavily on Gandhi over his alleged objectionable remarks against Savarkar, saying that the court won't allow such comments against freedom fighters.

During his Bharat Jodo Yatra in 2022, Gandhi allegedly referred to Savarkar as a "British servant" who received a pension from the colonial government.

100 Atal Canteens To Open In Delhi, Launch Likely On PM Modi's Birthday

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Delhi government is planning to launch 100 Atal Canteens across the national capital, with the inauguration expected to take place on September 17 - to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday, government sources told. The Atal Canteens, which will offer full meals at Rs 5 per plate, were one of the key promises in BJP's 2025 election manifesto. The initiative aims to provide nutritious meals at highly subsidised rates near major construction sites and slum clusters, benefitting daily wage workers and the urban poor. While presenting the 2025-26 Budget earlier this year, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta allocated Rs 100 crore to set up 100 Atal Canteens across Delhi.

"This is a significant step toward ensuring food security for Delhi's most vulnerable populations," a senior official said, adding that preparations to set up the canteens are in advanced stages.

The project is being launched in the year marking the 100th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in whose memory the canteens are named. A similar initiative was launched by the BJP in Haryana four years ago, introducing Atal Kisan Mazdoor Canteens in agricultural mandis, which provided a simple meal of chapatis, rice, dal, and vegetables for Rs 10. Around 30 such canteens are currently running across Haryana.



Mallikarjun Kharge writes to Siddaramaiah over Karnataka SC/ST promotion lapses

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has urged Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to intervene in alleged violations of SC/ST promotion rules in government departments. BJP MP Bommai criticised Siddaramaiah, questioning his commitment to Dalit welfare.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Karnataka. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, has written to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging immediate intervention over reported lapses in the implementation of the roster point system for promotions of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) employees in government departments.

In his letter dated July 6, Kharge said the Karnataka State Government Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Employees' Association had approached him with a representation and copies of a letter sent earlier to the Chief Minister, as well as media reports highlighting the issue.

"Though the government has issued orders and there are strict instructions to follow the roster point system meticulously, it has

been reported that some departmental officials are not adhering to these directives," Kharge wrote. He requested Siddaramaiah to personally review the matter by examining the letter submitted by the Association and the newspaper clippings enclosed with it. "It would be appropriate to hold a detailed discussion with senior officials and issue clear and strict instructions to ensure proper implementation of the government's own orders and circulars," he stated. Kharge also warned that if the issue was not addressed promptly, it could lead to dissatisfaction among government employees and disrupt administrative functioning. "I urge you to immediately look into this matter



and take necessary action to resolve the obstacles being faced," he said.

Meanwhile, Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa said he was not aware of the letter written by Mallikarjun Kharge but assured that if such a matter came to his attention, he would take it up with the concerned departments including the Social Welfare department. He added, "These departments will reach out

to the relevant authorities and look into the matter. If they are already handling it, we will intervene if necessary. The government is committed to ensuring justice for all."

Home Minister G Parameshwara said, "The internal reservation for SC ST should happen. Hence, the cabinet to call to stop all recruitments for government employees." Reacting to Kharge's letter, former chief minister and BJP MP Basavaraj Bommai criticised Siddaramaiah for not acting on his own government's directives. "Siddaramaiah claims to be the champion of Dalits, but his actions speak otherwise, and it took Mallikarjun Kharge to remind him to stand by Dalits," Bommai said.

CM Rekha Gupta Holds High-Level Meeting to Overhaul Delhi's Transport System

The Sikh Times

Simmi Kaur Babbar

New Delhi. 15 July 2025 : The Delhi government has initiated a major overhaul of the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) to provide world-class public transport services to the citizens of the national capital. Under this initiative, smart travel cards will soon be introduced, bus routes are being restructured, interstate bus terminals (ISBTs) will be modernized, and bus queue shelters (BQS) will be redesigned to be more comfortable and high-tech.

CM Rekha Gupta, while addressing a high-level review meeting of the Transport Department yesterday, asserted that with the guidance and support of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the dream of equipping Delhi with world-class public transport will soon be realized.

The meeting was attended by Transport Minister Dr. Pankaj Singh, Chief Secretary Shri Dharmendra, Transport Commissioner Smt. Niharika Rai, and other senior officials. CM Rekha Gupta stated that DTC, which is currently running at a loss of ₹60,000 crore due to past mismanagement, will be revitalized and transformed into a robust transport

service.

She further added that the number of both small (DEVI) and large buses is being increased, and the new routes are being strategically planned to enhance accessibility for commuters. "Our



government envisions DTC as a symbol of excellent transport service in Delhi," the CM stated. Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta, while reviewing the city's transport systems, laid out key developments that will shape Delhi's public transport future.

continue frant news

14 New ICU Beds to Be Made Operational Soon: Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh

The Sikh Times

Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi. Delhi Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh chaired a meeting with the Medical Superintendent and senior officials of Guru Teg Bahadur (GTB) Hospital yesterday to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure and civic development works.

Emphasising the Delhi Government's commitment to strengthening public healthcare, the Hon'ble Minister directed officials to expedite all civic works within the hospital premises and ensure timely completion. He issued specific instructions to make the 14 new ICU beds operational so they can be dedicated to the service of patients at the earliest.

Addressing infrastructural issues, Dr. Singh directed that the hospital's old and defunct lift be replaced with a modern unit and made functional without delay to avoid inconvenience to patients and staff. He further directed that the Emergency Ward be further upgraded with a ventilator-based monitoring system and other modern life-support equipment.

To enhance safety, the Hon'ble Minister instructed the Medical Superintendent to cover all exposed electrical wires across patient areas. Recognising GTB Hospital's heavy footfall as a border-area facility, he also asked the Medical Superintendent to establish a crowd-management plan, including clear signage, orderly patient-flow lanes, so that patients do not face any harassment or inconvenience.

He asked the Medical Superintendent to personally inspect the progress of all ongoing works and submit a detailed status report to the Minister's office.

"Healthcare is a fundamental right, not a privilege. Under the visionary leadership of CM Rekha Gupta, we are working round-the-clock to transform every hospital into a modern, efficient and patient-friendly facility," said Dr. Singh.

The Delhi Government continues to take proactive steps to improve health infrastructure, modernise hospital facilities, and ensure affordable, quality care for all.



Could have sent a Dalit person this time: Congress leader on Shux space mission

New Delhi. (Ajency)

Congress leader Udit Raj reignited the 'merit versus reservation' debate by questioning why a Dalit candidate wasn't selected instead of Air Force pilot Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla for the Axiom-4 mission.

"I do wonder, though, when Rakesh Sharma was sent for the first time, there weren't many educated people from SC/ST/OBC communities," Raj said. "But this time, someone could have been sent from these communities. This time, I think it was the turn to send a Dalit."

Shubhanshu Shukla, the second Indian to travel to space and the first to visit the International Space Station (ISS), will return to Earth today after an 18-day stay aboard the ISS as part of the Axiom-4 mission. The four-member crew's SpaceX Dragon capsule is scheduled to splash down in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California after a 22.5-hour return journey. Raj, a Dalit leader who quit the BJP in 2019 and joined the Congress after being denied a ticket, said opportunities like space travel should be extended to members of



marginalised communities.

"It is not that Nasa conducted an exam, and then there was a selection," he said. "Any Dalit or OBC could have been sent in place of Shukla ji." In the same breath, Raj congratulated the

groundbreaking Indian astronaut on his successful mission, saying that the knowledge Shukla has gained from his space sojourn could benefit all of humanity. However, the Congress leader's remarks triggered an uproar on social media, with many accusing him of making a scientific achievement about caste politics. One X user wrote, "So according to Udit Raj, space missions are now a lucky draw — 'Sorry, Shukla ji, today was Dalit Day, please step aside.' Someone should remind him this isn't Bigg Boss, it's a space program."

"We Are Happy You Are Finally Here": Devendra Fadnavis On Tesla India Entry

Mumbai. (Ajency)

Welcoming Elon Musk-run Tesla's entry into India, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Tuesday said the country is now a robust market for electric mobility and the US-based electric car-maker is going to change the entire market.

Inaugurating Tesla's first showroom called 'Experience Centre' at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) here, the chief minister said that this is not just an inauguration of an Experience Centre but a statement that Tesla has arrived in the city of Mumbai which is the entrepreneurial capital of India -- not just financial, commercial and entertainment capital.

"Mumbai stands for innovation. Mumbai stands for sustainability. Tesla is not just a car or a car company but it is all



about design, innovation and sustainability," Chief Minister Fadnavis told the gathering at the launch event.

- ▶ Tesla inaugurated its first Experience Centre in Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex
- ▶ Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis welcomed Tesla's entry into the Indian market
- ▶ Tesla leased a 24,500 sq ft service centre near its BKC showroom in Mumbai

Mumbai: In a first, Campion School opens doors for girl students

Starting with Nursery and Junior Kindergarten (KG), the popular South Bombay school began the transition from an all-boys to a co-educational institution from this academic year, which commenced on Monday.

Mumbai .(Agency)

For the first time since it was founded in 1943, Campion School in Mumbai, which has been well-known as a premier all-boys institution opened its doors to girl students on Monday.

Starting with Nursery and Junior Kindergarten (KG), the popular South Bombay school began the transition from an all-boys to a co-educational institution from this academic year, which commenced on Monday.

A total of 38 girls have taken admission to Campion school in these two classes, as the school plans to follow a 50-50 ratio of boys and girls for admissions.

The day was marked by a joyful ceremonial welcome for young girls by school staff along with two reputed government officials as guests — Prashant Narnaware, secretary, Governor of Maharashtra and Ragasudha R, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mumbai.

Fr. John Rose, chairperson of the school management, said, “This is a historic beginning, one that reaffirms Campion’s commitment to progress, equality, and holistic learning.”

As per information shared by the school’s management, to ensure a smooth and sensitive transition to a co-educational environment, Campion has undertaken a comprehensive

and support staff; gender-neutral classroom design and mixed-seating arrangements.

The school has also modified its anthem and other prayers to replace words such as boys and sons with more inclusive words, to welcome girls.

As Campion school welcomed its first batch of girls, the school which is historically led by male principals, particularly Jesuit priests will now be headed by Sarah Justin Thomas, a woman principal.

“It is very exciting to be in this space at this moment, which marks a historical milestone with girls entering an all-boys school for the first time. I am looking forward to working with the Campion community which is extremely adaptive and committed to this transition along with preparing our students for the real world,” she said. Campion has also begun adoption of the Cambridge Early Years Curriculum, which will start with these two classes.



readiness plan that includes infrastructure enhancements such as secure, separate washrooms and privacy-conscious facilities; recruitment of female educators, counselors,

and support staff; gender-neutral classroom design and mixed-seating arrangements.

Bonalu: Oracle predicts fire, pandemic, seeks sincere devotion

Following the prophecy. Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar told reporters that the government would review the issue of sacrificial offerings, which had been banned earlier.

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

Devotees dancing to loud drum beats, the scents of marigold, vermilion and sacred ash, and chants of Jai Matha Di marked the second day of Bonalu festivities at Sri Ujjaini Mahankali Temple on Monday. As the stage was set for the most awaited programme of the festival, people queued up in front of the screens to hear the oracle’s message. Dressed in a yellow saree with turmeric on her face, Matangi Swarnalatha entered the temple, climbed onto a clay pot and began her prophecy. As the drums reached a crescendo, she went into a trance and warned that the state must remain cautious, predicting multiple fire-related accidents and a possible recurrence of a pandemic.

Swarnalatha, invoking the spirit of the goddess during the Rangam

programme, urged people to show greater sincerity and devotion. She delivered a stern message: “Within four weeks, show me blood in front of me. If not, I won’t stay silent.”

She declared that the responsibility of protecting the country this year had come to her. Speaking with divine intensity, she expressed anguish over the public’s growing indifference and lack of spiritual discipline. “I carry all my children in my womb and protect them. But their parents abandon them without mercy,” she said.

Criticising superficial rituals, she added, “Every year, you make promises. But never once do you



show true commitment.” However, she also prophesied that children would be happy, rains would be abundant, and crops would flourish. She instructed that Bonalu be observed for five weeks with

traditional offerings such as pulses, jaggery, vermilion, fruits and neem leaves.

Following the prophecy, Transport Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar told reporters that the government would review the issue of sacrificial offerings, which had been banned earlier. He said the wishes expressed by Goddess Amma through the oracle would be respected, and all required rituals

would be carried out by the Endowments department. Necessary arrangements would be made at the temple, which has existed since 1815.

10-acre pond to treat water flowing into Jakkur Lake

BENGALURU. (Agency)

BENGALURU: Under its Brand Bengaluru initiative, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has developed a 10-acre ‘constructed wetland’ (waste stabilisation pond) near the Jakkur lake in Byatrayanpura

As per officials, the site will treat about 7 million litres per day of waste water.

“The 163-acre lake, including the wetland, was in the Bangalore Development Authority’s custody. In 2015, the lake was transferred to the BBMP. However, 30 acres of lake area were encroached and coconut palms were planted. The 30 acres were later reclaimed and fenced.

As there was no wetland near the lake, a 10-acre artificial wetland was created and six months ago, work to remove

the slush and deepen the wetland was taken up. The wetland will arrest the solid particles and reduce the potassium and nitrogen levels and increase the dissolved oxygen in the lake. The total project was completed with a Rs 5 crore budget,” said an



official. The official also added that more plants will be added to the wetland in coming days to improve the water flowing into the main water body.

Pay more for auto ride in Bengaluru: Base rate Rs 36, Rs 18 for every km

BENGALURU. (Agency)

After nearly four years, auto rickshaw fares in namma Bengaluru were revised from Rs 30 for the first 2km to Rs 36. The fare for every subsequent kilometer has been revised to Rs 18 from the existing Rs 15. was the first to report the revised fare rates on June 11. Bengaluru Urban DC, who is the president of the District Transport Authority, passed the notification dated July 14, and the revised fares will be effective August 1 onwards.

As per the notification, waiting charge for the first five minutes is free, and Rs 10 for every 15 minutes thereafter. Luggage rates are also notified, with no charges for luggage weighing up to 20kg and Rs 10 for every 20kg thereafter. The

maximum luggage a passenger can carry is capped at 50kg.

Auto fares from 10pm till 5am will be one and half -- base fare plus 50 per cent of base fare. The notification also directs every auto to display the revised rates at



a prominent place inside the auto. It has granted 90 days (October 31, 2025) time to re-calibrate their meters to the revised fares, and get them certified from the Legal Metrology department.

“We welcome the auto fare hike,” said Nataraj Sharma, president of the Federation of Karnataka State Private Transport Associations. He said the fare revision for every subsequent kilometre should be rounded off to Rs 20, instead of Rs 18, as this may raise concerns of change and lead to quarrels with passengers.

“I request and advise drivers to follow the government fare and run on meter, instead of aggregator apps to teach them a lesson,” Sharma said. Some auto unions maintained that they

were unhappy with the hike as they were expecting the base fare to be Rs 40 and Rs 20 for every subsequent kilometre, and that they would be protesting this revision.

Woman travelling from Doha arrested at Mumbai airport with cocaine worth Rs 62.6 crore

Mumbai .(Agency)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Monday arrested a woman at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai with cocaine worth Rs 62.6 crore smuggled from Qatar, officials said. The woman had allegedly concealed the contraband in Oreo and chocolate boxes.

According to the DRI, they recently received specific intelligence that an Indian woman was travelling from Doha to Mumbai and smuggling narcotics. Acting on the said intelligence, the Mumbai officers of the agency intercepted the passenger upon her arrival at the Mumbai airport on Monday. When her bag was thoroughly examined, the DRI officials allegedly found six Oreo and three chocolate boxes with cocaine stuffed into 300 capsules,



the agency stated. The powdery substance recovered from the capsules was tested on the field drug test kit and showed a positive result for cocaine, officials said.

A total of 6,261 grams of cocaine, worth an estimated value of Rs 62.6 crore in the illicit market, was recovered and seized. The accused was subsequently arrested under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances

(NDPS) Act, 1985, the central agency stated.

The DRI officials are now investigating the source of the contraband, the woman’s handler, and other associates. Officers are also checking if she travelled abroad in the past for the same smuggling work, sources said.

The initial inquiry has indicated that the woman was offered a hefty commission for the work, officials

said. The woman allegedly claimed that she did not have any contact number for the receiver as she was instructed that she would get a call and asked to await further instructions, sources said.

With a commercial quantity of cocaine being found in the woman’s possession, she will now face stringent provision s of the N D P S Act. If convicted, she could face 20 years of imprisonment, another source said.

Frant continue news CM Rekha Gupta Holds High-Level Meeting to Overhaul Delhi’s Transport System

One of the major announcements was the introduction of a unified smart card system for all modes of public transport in Delhi. This card will enable seamless travel across DTC buses, Delhi Metro, and the upcoming Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS). The Chief Minister also announced a special Pink Card for women and transgender residents, which will allow them free travel in DTC buses. Discussions are currently underway with banks to ensure a smooth and foolproof rollout of these cards, aimed at making public transportation more accessible and hassle-free.

She also shared the current status of the DTC fleet, noting that Delhi operates 660 small electric buses, 1,800 large electric buses, and 1,800 CNG buses—with a total of 4,800 electric buses forming the city’s robust EV fleet. However, she acknowledged that many of these buses still operate on outdated routes, limiting their effectiveness in serving the city’s population.

To address this, the government has collaborated with IIT Delhi to design a comprehensive new route plan. This plan is intended to improve bus connectivity in underserved localities and ensure better integration with Metro services. A pilot project will be initiated in Yamuna Vihar, following which the model will be implemented citywide.

These 'lions' wail as apathy ruins Kerala capital's built heritage

Thiruvananthapuram . (Agency)

Mohan Nair is a proud Trivian whose passion for the city has led him to pen the book ‘Ente Mohana Nagaram’.

This affection for his hometown has been making him uneasy everytime he moves around the monumental Fort area of the city, where mindless urban spread threatens to strip the city of its prime identifying landmark.

But on Monday, he was literally driven to the wall when he found the Simha Kotta, towards the southern side of the fort area, standing strangled and suffocated amidst a pile of waste at its base and haughty encroachments on either side of the wall defacing the wall of its historical relevance as a monuments that marked the valour of Travancore.

The structure, which was part of the fort even during the times of Anizham Thirunal Marthanda Varma, was refurbished in the 19th century to portray the valour of the kingdom, which takes pride in being militarily undefeatable on several counts.

“It was a heart-rending scene. I couldn’t help but click it and post it on my Facebook feed. A similar state of affairs can be seen across the fort area, in its other strategic parts too, like West Fort, Vettimurichakotta, and other main corridors and even along the western wall,” he says.

“Not only have people made the fort wall part of their homes or offices, but there are several places where waste dumping and waste burning are rampant.”

Mohan and a group of local residents, as well as heritage enthusiasts, organised a demonstration near the West Fort area about 10 days ago to flag the issue. “The official response to the issue, especially from the corporation’s side, has been cold and in fits and starts,” he says.

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Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob : 9654077232, 9971359517
Website : www.sikhiktimes.in
Email : sikhiktimesindia@gmail.com
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Skilled youth are the backbone of self-reliant India: CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Lucknow, July 15: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated a two-day Skill Fair and Exhibition at Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow on the occasion of World Youth Skills Day on Tuesday. The event showcased the talents of youth from all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh who are undergoing training at various skill development centers across the state. Addressing the gathering, CM Yogi extended his best wishes to the youth on World Youth Skills Day and emphasized the importance of equipping them with cutting-edge skills such as artificial intelligence (AI) and digital literacy. He noted, "Skilled youth are the backbone of a self-reliant India, and the double-engine government is committed to providing jobs and self-employment opportunities." The Chief Minister highlighted that

Uttar Pradesh, being the most populous state in the country with a working-age population comprising 56 to 60 percent of its 25 crore residents, holds immense potential. The state government, he said, is making continuous efforts to match youth talent with suitable employment opportunities. He lauded the participation of public representatives, industry leaders, and trainees who are shaping the future of a skilled Uttar Pradesh. CM Yogi noted that this year's theme — "Youth Empowerment through AI and Digital Skills" is particularly significant for the state, as it aligns with the government's broader vision of steering the youth toward a tech-driven future. He added, "In the last eight years, Uttar Pradesh has revived many traditional enterprises and has taken decisive steps to transform scale into skill. As part of this digital empowerment

mission, the state is distributing smartphones and

receive scholarships and various incentives." "Every



tablets to 2 crore youth, with 50 lakh beneficiaries already reached. Additionally, in partnership with Tata Technologies, 150 government-run Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have been upgraded with modern technologies to ensure industry-relevant training." He said, "Uttar Pradesh currently has around 400 government and 3,000 private ITIs, where skill development training is offered at minimal cost. Students enrolled in private ITIs also

young person deserves access to training and employment that reflects their talents and aspirations," the Chief Minister emphasized, reaffirming the government's core objective. Speaking about the state's investment-driven growth, CM Yogi highlighted that over the past eight years, enhanced law and order and investor-friendly policies have resulted in the implementation of investment proposals worth more than Rs 15 lakh crore. These invest-

NFR's Seamless Electric Traction upto Dibrugarh & Naharlagun makes ease in Railway Transportation system for NE

The Sikh Times

Maligaon, 15th July: In a significant milestone towards modernization and sustainability, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has successfully achieved seamless end-to-end electric traction upto Dibrugarh and Naharlagun — two of the most important stations in the Northeast. This transformative development marks a major achievement in NFR's electrification efforts across both the North and South banks of the Brahmaputra River. Prestigious trains such as the Dibrugarh Rajdhani Express and Arunachal AC Express have now started running entirely on electric traction via newly electrified routes, including the Rangiya-Rangapara North-North Lakhimpur section on the North Bank. Additionally, electric operations have commenced on the Sibsagar

route, thereby ensuring that all three major routes to Dibrugarh via Moranhat, via the North Bank and via the South Bank through Tinsukia which are now fully electrified. This remarkable progress has been made



possible through the dedicated efforts of NFR, which executed this complex electrification project across challenging routes. The seamless operation of modern WAP-7 electric locomotives in these sections highlights the operational readiness and coordination of teams across the Rangiya, Lumding and Tinsukia Divisions. The electrification of the Tinsukia section, especial-

ly along the South Bank, has led to significant improvements in train operations. There has been a noticeable enhancement in punctuality & speed, improved reliability in services and considerable savings in opera-

tional costs through the transition from diesel to electric traction. The shift also contributes to environmental sustainability by reducing dependence on fossil fuels and lowering carbon emissions. This development is a major step forward for the region and aligns with Indian Railways' larger vision of 100% electrification and achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

Martyr Lokendra Singh Sindhu will always remain in our memories

Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Sh Nayab Singh Saini said that martyr Squadron Leader Lokendra Singh Sindhu will always remain in our memories. Today, the Chief Minister visited the residence of Squadron Leader Martyr Lokendra Singh Sindhu in Dev Colony, Rohtak and paid him a floral tribute. He expressed deep condolences to the bereaved family members and offered them comfort. He said that Lokendra Singh Sindhu was a brave officer of the armed forces, who dedicatedly served the nation. The Chief Minister prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul and for strength and courage to the bereaved family to bear this profound loss.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, BASUDEB S/O BALAJI R/O E-146, JAIPUR EXTN. PART-1, BADAPUR, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110044 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as VASU DEV in my minor son ANKUR VERMA aged 15 years in his school records. The actual name of mine is BASUDEB, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, SANJAY BISHT S/O VIKRAM SINGH BISHT R/O RZ-35, PLOT NO. 16, KHASRA NO. 328, F/FLOOR, F/SIDE, GALI NO. 10, MADANPURI, WEST SAGARPUR, SOUTH WEST DELHI, DELHI-110048 declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as SANJAY BISHT and V BISHT in my Driving License No. P03112005474977. The actual name of mine and my father are SANJAY BISHT and VIKRAM SINGH BISHT, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Mamta Rani alias Mamta Dhiman D/O Gyan Chand W/O Sunil Kumar Dhiman R/O E-6A, SF, BS, Chanakya Palace Part-1, VTC Uttam Nagar, PO Kirti Nagar, Dist. West Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mamta Dhiman.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Ranjeet S/O Nand Kishor R/O E-750, Mangal Puri, New Delhi-110083 was adopted by Rajesh S/O Ramchander residing at E-649, Mangal Puri New Delhi-110083 vide Sub Registrar Deed No. 1288 in book No.3 Vol No 186 on page 182 to 186 on this Dated 17-4-2023. Rajesh S/O Ram Chander Residing At E-649, Mangal Puri New Delhi-110083 hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have adopted Yash as stated above with effect from 17-4-2023. It is certified that I have complied with all legal requirements in this connection.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAYASHRI wife of NO-2608160Y Rank-HAV name- GANGAPARA R/O VPO-NAVALAGUND, DIST-DHARWAD, KARNATAKA-582208 have changed my name from JAYASHRI to JAYASHRI GANGAPARA HULAJOGI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Babbi Devi W/O ANIL THAKUR, R/O HOUSE NO-B-231, G/F, BLOCK-B, Badapur, GALI NO-7 SINDHU FARM ROAD MEETHAPUR EXTN, Badapur, South Delhi, Delhi - 110044, have changed the name of my minor son namely Piyush aged 16 years and he shall hereafter be known as SUSHANTHAKUR.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Mary D/O Vedvel R/O T-224, MADSARI CAMP, DELHI VIHAR LAJPAT NAGAR NEW DELHI, LAJPAT NAGAR S/O, South Delhi, Delhi, 110024 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SAVITHA.

NAME CHANGE

I, No. 15684154Y Rank-HAV Name-VIGENDER KUMAR RANVA Presently residing at WARD NO-01, RANWA KI DHANI, BHORKI, JHUN-JHUNUN, RAJASTHAN-333032, have changed my mother's name from PAR-MASAVARY DEVI to PRAMESHWARI DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SUMAN wife of JC-773428F, Rank-SUB Name-RAMKUMAR residing at VPO-BILASPUR, TEHSIL-MUZAF-FARNAGAR, DIST-MUZAF-FARNAGAR, U.P.-251001, have changed my name from SUMAN to SUMAN DEVI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Information is given to general public at large that our client Ms. Minakshi D/o Mr. Sandeep is the owner of a Freighter boat measuring 0 Kanal, 6 Marla, 6 Sarsai (i.e. 200 Sq. Yds., out of Khewat/Khata No. 77/1782, Mu. No. 136, Killa No. 24(8-0), 25(8-0), Mu. No. 137, Killa No. 4(8-0), 5(8-0), 6(8-0), 7(8-0) & 14/7(2-1), Situated at Wasia Swana Maula, Farukhnagar, District- Gurugram, Haryana, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 18.02.2025 Vide Doc. No. 3709, Book No. 1, SR-Farukhnagar, in the CHN Document below mentioned documents, not available i.e. Original Sale Deed dated 05.11.2012 executed by Mr. Kawal Singh in favour of Mr. Sanjay Yadav as Doc no. 2966 SR- Farukhnagar & Original Sale Deed dated 16.03.2018 executed by Mr. Sanjay Yadav in favour of Mrs. Rajni Devi vide Doc no. 3867 SR- Farukhnagar, now our client is declaring that that any other Person does not have any right over the said property, and same has been finance by Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Gurugram, Haryana. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the Said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and if the same is not understood if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained. [NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA] Advocate F-211, Sector-3 Vaishali Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09958871432

NAME CHANGE

I SANJAY BEHL S/O KANWAR LAL BEHL R/O Q-53 1ST FLOOR BLOCK-Q MALKA GANJ NORTH DELHI 110007 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SANJAY BEHAL

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Sumita D/o Ramphool Singh W/O Sanjay R/o 32, Gali No-1, Harijan Basti Sadat Pur Village, Dayalpur, North East Delhi, Delhi-110094 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Ram Phool in 1991/36122. The actual name of mine is RAJIV KUMAR GUPTA, which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, RAJIV KUMAR GUPTA S/O SATYA PAL GUPTA, Residing at 22, Friends Colony West, Mathura Road, Delhi-110025, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJIV KUMAR in my Driving License No. P03051999136122. The actual name of mine is RAJIV KUMAR GUPTA, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit Singh S/O Shiv Charan Lal Pehment residing at 05, Station Road VTC: Milak, PO: Milak District Rampur, Uttar Pradesh-244701, Presently residing at: 604 Type IV, 6th floor, Tower 6, Radio Research Centre, Mayur Vihar Phase-1, New Delhi-110091, have changed the name of my minor daughter namely Bhuvika Singh aged 02 years and she shall hereafter be known as Ira Singh

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Radha D/o Kallu Ram W/O Rajan R/O B-481, Block-B, JJ Camp, Tigr, Tigr, South Delhi-110052, declare that name of mine and my father has been wrongly written as Suman and Raju in my Pan Card No. MAWPS9872C, the actual name of mine and my father are Radha and Kallu Ram

NAME CHANGE

I RAMCHANDRA NARAYAN KAMBLE S/O KAMBLE NARAYAN RAMCHANDRA holder Indian Passport No W4117539 issue at ABU DHABI on 25/04/2023 permanent resident of H NO E-TT 3RD FLOOR REREIRA RESIDENCY COMPLEX NEAR NEW CHOWGULE COLLEGE GOGAL SOUTH GOA PIN-403602 GOA INDIA and presently residing at Room no. 84 Building no. T3, Al Jimi Workers village, Musafah, ABU DHABI, U.A.E. Do hereby change my name FROM RAMCHANDRA NARAYAN KAMBLE TO RAMCHANDAR NARAYAN KAMBLI With immediate effect.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, BALRAJ SINGH S/O MAHENDRA SINGH R/O Flat No. 181, Pocket-6, DDA Flats, Sec B-4, Near Main Park, Narela, Delhi-110010, have changed the name of my minor daughter KUMARI BHAVNA aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as BHAVNA.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as RADHA W/O RAM LAL R/O G-169/1, J J Camp Tigr, Deoli, PO: Deoli, Dist: South Delhi, Delhi-110062, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as BHURI, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SUMAN YADAV S/O JAGDISH SINGH, R/O H.No. S-3/188, Third Floor, Old H.No. 29, Kh.No. 987, Gali No. 6, Swan Park, Munika, Dist. West Delhi, Delhi-110041, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as UPENDRA KUMAR, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SONI D/O KISHORI LAL, and W/O GAJENDER SINGH, R/O K-744/45, Gali No. 7, Khadda Colony Swarop Nagar, Badli, PO: Samai Pur, Dist. North West Delhi, Delhi-110042, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SOHNI, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I Deepali Malhotra D/o shri Jagdish Kumar, R/O 23/14 B Block Tiaj Nagar, Delhi-110018, I have changed my Name Deepali to Deepali Malhotra, for all Future Purpose, both are the same and one person.

NAME CHANGE

I, VISHNUMUKHI Mother of NO-15712141A Rank-HAV Name-AJAY KUMAR residing at VILL-SAKROULI, PO-BHARKHAN, TEHSIL-SAWAYA-JAPUR, DIST-HARDOI, UTTAR PRADESH-241123, have changed my name from VISHNUMUKHI to VISHN MUKHI for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I MAZID HUSSAIN S/O MOHD BAKSH resident of H NO-2795, Gali No-6, CHANDRAPURI, KAILASH NAGAR, GANDHI NAGAR, SHAHDARA, DELHI-110031 have changed my name to MAJID HUSAIN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, CHANDRAPAL S/O PORAN CHAND residing at N3-E-497, SHAHID SUKHOV NAGAR, WAZIRPUR INDUSTRIAL AREA, DELHI-110052, have changed my name to CHANDER PAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I SASI VELLORE W/O JEEVAN KUMAR RAMINENI PREMADRI R/O FLAT NO M-113 JAL VAYU TOWERS GURGAON SECTOR 56 HARYANA 122011 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO SASI VELLURU

NAME CHANGE

I, No-15331361L Rank-HAV Name-NAUBAHAR residing at VILL-TIRAPARI, PO-KHANDEWALA, TEHSIL-FARUKH-NAGAR, DISTT-GURGAON, HARYANA-122504, have changed my name from NAUBAHAR to NAUBAHAR SINGH for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from my client Ramesh Babu, S/o. Late Sh. Budhram R/O 38-F, 2nd Floor, Khanpur Extension, South Delhi, New Delhi-110062 1, Arabinda Nayak, Advocate, hereby inform the general public that my client has lost his original lease deed dated 04.07.2025 executed by Vijay Kumar S/o. Late Sh. Pool Singh against property Flat No.1,2 and 5 House No. F-38, Khem Chand Complex, Khanpur, New Delhi-110062 Despite diligent search, the said document/item could not be traced. A complaint has been lodged with the P.S. Crime Branch, Delhi, vide SR No. 430/2014, vide LO No. 2993892/2025 dated 10.07.2025 and necessary steps are being taken. If anyone finds the above-mentioned document/item, they may contact the undersigned at the address or phone number mentioned below. Any misuse of the said document by any person shall be at their own risk and legal consequences shall follow.

NAME CHANGE

Ch. No. 245-A, Lawyer's Chamber Block District Court Complex, Saket, New Delhi-17

NAME CHANGE

I, BALI RAM S/O KISHAN RAM, R/o Base Hospital No.3, Officers Mess Staff Qtrs., Delhi Cantt. South West Delhi, Delhi-110010, have changed the name of my minor daughter KUMARI BHAVNA aged 17 years and she shall hereafter be known as BHAVNA.

NAME CHANGE

I, NIMDIKI TAMANG is legally mother of No. 13768927M Rank-HAV, Name-WANGDUP TAMANG R/O VILL-MIM TEE LINE DHURA, PO-SUKHIA POKHARI, TEHSIL-JEEELING DIST-DARJEELING (WB)-734221 have changed my name from NIMDIKI TAMANG to NIMDIKI SHERPA TAMANG for all future purposes. Vide Affidavit dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, PRITY SINGH is legally wedded spouse of no. 15684876L Rank-HAV Name-KAUSHAL KUMAR, SBIH, R/O VILL SWARNIDHI, PO-TARAPUR TEH-TARAPUR, DIST-MUNGER (BIHAR)-813221 have change my name from PRITY SINGH to PRITI KUMARI for all future purposes. And in my husband service records my Date of Birth wrongly mentioned is 12/02/1990 instead of 12/02/1992. Vide affidavit Dated 15/07/2025 before Notary Public New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client SAPNA TRIVEDI W/O BHARAT BHUSHAN TRIVEDI R/O G-26/29, NEAR JIN WALA PARK, SECTOR-3, ROHINI, DELHI-85, do hereby severally with them will do act his/her, their own cost, risk and responsibility and my client shall not be responsible for any dealing/illegal acts.

ANUJ BHARDWAJ Advocate

BAR ROOM NO.16, ROHINI COURTS, DELHI-110085

NAME CHANGE

I, Shahina Foorqan w/o Mohd Furqan R/O 1844, Gali Wazir Beg, Near Chand Wali Masjid, Turkman Gate, Delhi-110006 have changed my name to Shahina Parveen for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Kaushal Kishore Rai, R/O E-212 Saraswati Kunj Plot No-25 I P Extension, Delhi-110092 have changed my Minor Son name from Janak Radomir to Janak Radomir Rai for all Purposes

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Saurabh Kumar S/O Uma Shankar Sharma R/O K-63, Pocket-3, Dwarka Metro Station, 16a, N.S.I.T Dwarka, South West Delhi, Delhi-110078 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Saurabh Sharma.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as Mitthan Lal Chauhan S/O Bahori Singh R/O B-46, Gali No-6, Ganesh Nagar Panty Nagar, Delhi-110092, East Delhi, Delhi-110092 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Mitthu Lal.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sikander S/O Jai Singh R/O L-499, JJ Colony, Wazirpur, Distt North West Delhi, Delhi-110052 have changed the name of my minor son Bansh aged 11 years and he shall hereafter be known as Vansh.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Amod Singh Rajput S/O Arun Singh R/O House No-K-8/8B, Badapur, Jaipur Extn., South Delhi, Delhi-110044 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Amod Kumar Singh.

S&T WORKS IN KATIHAIR DIVISION

Tender Notice No. : KIR-N-2025-K-31, Dated: 11-07-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of Work:** Signaling work for Yard improvement at Hatwar, Kanki, Surjakamal, Dalkhola, Telta, Sudhani, Barsoi, Mukuria, Azamgarh, Khurial, Kumedpur, Bhaluka road, Harischandrapur, Samsi, Kumarganj, Ekakhi, Adina, Old Malda. **Tender Value:** Rs. 03,40,48,822/-; **Earnest Money:** Rs. 31,00,700/-; **Date & time of closing of tender at 15:00 hrs. and opening at 15:30 hrs. on 04-08-2025.** For complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. on 04-08-2025 in website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (S&T), Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers With A Smile"

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as PRIYANSHI KUMARI D/O ATUL KUMAR R/O 2520/2522, NARAK NARAYAN CHURIWALAN, DELHI-6, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110008, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHRIYANSHI KUMARI.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I hitherto known as NEYASHA KUMARI alias PAYAL D/O SANJEEV PASWAN R/o KH, No-904/314, House no. D31, Sapera Basti, Ghazoli, East Delhi, Delhi-110096, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PAYAL

NAME CHANGE

I, Gurjit Kaur W/O Vikramjeet Singh Chillon R/O 9065-B, Behind Jesu Office, Makya Nagar, South Delhi, Delhi-110017 have changed my name to Gurjeet Kaur for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I DUSHI NEGI S/O KAMAL SINGH NEGI R/O H-24, GALI NO-12, B-BLOCK KAUSHIK ENCLAVE BURARI, NORTH DELHI, DELHI-110084, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as KAMAL NEGI in my 10th and 12th educational records. The actual name of my father is KAMAL SINGH NEGI which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Tarkeshwar Giri S/O Vivekanand Giri R/O D-3-32, Prem Nagar-2, Kirari Suleman Nagar, North West Delhi, Delhi-110086 have changed the name of my minor son Prince aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as Anubhav Giri.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I Sonu Kumar Choudhary S/O: Anil choudhary R/O 23 Diwan Singh Apartment, 2nd floor, Old Shiv Mandir Road, Rangpuri, VTC, Malik Pur Koli alias Rang Puri, PO: Mahipalpur, District: South West Delhi, Delhi-110037, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Binitu Kumar Choudhary in my Pan card no. BXTPO0156L The actual name of mine is SONU KUMAR CHOUDHARY, respectively which may be amended accordingly.

SETTING UP QUICK WATERING ARRANGEMENT SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No: 09-QWS-JBN-25; Dated: 11-07-2025. Open E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Name of work:** At Jobgani - Setting up Quick Watering arrangement System (Total No. of Hydrant line-3). **Tender Value:** ₹2,10,90,601.79; **Bid Security:** ₹2,55,500.00. **E-Tender will be closed at 15:00 hrs.** on 04-08-2025 and **Opened at 15:30 hrs.** on 04-08-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available in website <http://www.ireps.gov.in>

Sr. DME/Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY "Serving Customers with a smile"

North Eastern Railway

Online E-Tender Notice

Dy. CME/Repair for Chief Workshop Manager, N.E. Railway, Mechanical Workshop, Gorakhpur for and on behalf of President of India invites tender through online E-Single Tender for the following work-

S.No. : 1, E-Tender Notice No. & Name of the work : Tender No. - "14-GKP-MWS-2025-26"

"M-4 Check of Greaves engine (Qty-20 Nos.) as per scope of work at GKPS". **Estimated Cost :** Rs. 73,47,870.60, **Earnest Money :** Rs. 1,47,000.00, **Last date of tender submission :** Upto 11.00, Date 04.08.2025, **Cost of the Tender Forms :** Zero, **Period of Contract :** 12 Months.

The details of above tenders are also available on Indian Railway website ["http://www.ireps.gov.in"](http://www.ireps.gov.in).

Dy. CME/Repair, Mechanical Workshop, CPRO/Mech-45 N.E. Railway, Gorakhpur Do not smoke Bidi/Cigarette in train

कार्यालय लौह पुरुष सरदार वल्लभ भाई पटेल सहकारी शक्कर कारखाना मर्यादित,

पण्डरिया, जिला-कबीरखाम (छ.ग.) Email: Lspsskm@gmail.com

// ई-निविदा सूचना // Contact No. 079787900070, 09907575796

ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक- 172001, 172002, 172003, 172004 दिनांक- 15.07.2025

2500 टीसी.डी. शक्कर कारखाना पण्डरिया में ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक - 172001 विभिन्न इंडीनिग्री सामग्री (नॉन एथोराईज्ड डीलर सामग्री) का हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक - 172004 इलेक्ट्रिकल/इंस्ट्रुमेंट सामग्री (नॉन एथोराईज्ड डीलर सामग्री) का हेतु ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक - 172002 इन्जी./इले./इंस्ट्रु सामग्री (नैचुरलफेब्रिक/ एथोराईज्ड डीलर सामग्री) का हेतु एच ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक - 172003 एम.सी. एच रिपेयरिंग/मैटेनेन्स (नैचुरलफेब्रिक/ एथोराईज्ड डीलर संबंधित कार्य) का हेतु ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। ई-निविदा हेतु इच्छुक फर्म/निविदाकार द्वारा भाग लेने के लिए ई-प्लेटफॉर्म के वेबसाइट में जाकर अलग-अलग ई-निविदा हेतु फॉर्म राशि 1311/- रु. (1000/- रु. + 311/- रु. लिफ्ट के द्वारा ली जाने वाली सर्विस चार्ज) ऑनलाइन माध्यम से जमा कर शासकी

NEWS BOX

14 million children did not receive a single vaccine in 2024: UN health officials

LONDON . (Agency)
More than 14 million children did not receive a single vaccine last year — about the same number as the year before — according to UN health officials. Nine countries accounted for more than half of those unprotected children.
In their annual estimate of global vaccine coverage, released Tuesday, the World Health Organization and UNICEF said about 89% of children under 1 year old got a first dose of the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine in 2024, the same as in 2023. About 85% completed the three-dose series, up from 84% in 2023. Officials acknowledged, however, that the collapse of international aid this year will make it more difficult to reduce the number of unprotected children. In January, US President Trump withdrew the country from the WHO, froze nearly all humanitarian aid and later moved to close the U.S. AID Agency. And last month, Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said it was pulling the billions of dollars the US had previously pledged to the vaccines alliance Gavi, saying the group had “ignored the science.” Kennedy, a longtime vaccine skeptic, has previously raised questions the diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough vaccine — which has proven to be safe and effective after years of study and real-world use. Vaccines prevent 3.5 million to 5 million deaths a year, according to UN estimates. “Drastic cuts in aid, coupled with misinformation about the safety of vaccines, threaten to unwind decades of progress,” said WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. UN experts said that access to vaccines remained “deeply unequal” and that conflict and humanitarian crises quickly unraveled progress; Sudan had the lowest reported coverage against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. The data showed that nine countries accounted for 52% of all children who missed out on immunizations entirely: Nigeria, India, Sudan, Congo, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Yemen, Afghanistan and Angola.

US Neurologist Warns Against 3 Foods That May Harm Your Brain

WORLD. (Agency)
A US neurologist has revealed three foods he refuses to eat, not because of fad diets or food trends, but because they may cause brain parasites and neurotoxins. Dr Baibing Chen, a neurologist and professor at the University of Michigan, said he completely avoids eating tropical reef fish, food from damaged tin cans, and undercooked pork, no matter how appetising they may seem, reported The New York Post. According to Dr Chen, these foods can cause serious neurological harm, including parasitic infections and exposure to harbour toxins and nasty bugs that can affect brain function.
He revealed that although he enjoys eating fish, he avoids consuming large tropical reef fish such as barracuda, grouper and amberjack, as they carry a neurotoxin called ciguatera. He explained that the toxin doesn't come from the fish but from coral reef algae, which build up in predatory fish over time. Despite cooking, the toxin remains.
The neurologist said he has seen cases of ciguatera poisoning, adding it can be hard to diagnose because of its unusual symptoms. People may feel cold objects as burning hot, and in some cases, they may experience hallucinations, dizziness and tingling, he added. Another item that Dr Chen avoids consuming is food from tin cans that are damaged, especially those with visible dents. He advised people to throw away damaged tin cans as they could be contaminated with botulinum, one of the most lethal toxins.
He explained, “The result is flaccid paralysis, blurred vision, respiratory failure and, without antitoxin, it can be deadly.” Botulinum toxin is odourless and tasteless, meaning you can't detect it by simply looking at, smelling, or tasting the food, making it even more dangerous, he added. Dr Chen avoids the undercooked pork, especially from unregulated sources, as it may contain a parasitic infection called neurocysticercosis. This is caused by ingesting tapeworm eggs, which can lodge themselves in the brain. It is one of the leading causes of acquired epilepsy worldwide, he said.

US Imposes 17% Duty On Mexican Fresh Tomatoes

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
The United States is imposing antidumping duties on most imports of fresh tomatoes from Mexico, the US Commerce Department said Monday as Washington alleged its neighbor engaged in unfair trade.
The duties, set at 17.09 percent, come after Washington moved to terminate a 2019 agreement that staved off such charges. “Mexico remains one of our greatest allies, but for far too long our farmers have been crushed by unfair trade practices that undercut pricing on produce like tomatoes. That ends today,” Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said in a statement. “This rule change is in line with President (Donald) Trump's trade policies and approach with Mexico,” he said. Mexico is a dominant supplier of US fresh tomato imports, and the US Commerce Department said that antidumping duties are calculated to measure the percentage by which Mexican tomatoes were sold in the country at “unfair prices.” The United States had announced it was withdrawing from the tomato agreement in April, arguing that the action was meant to help American tomato growers compete fairly. But observers have expressed concern that the duties could cause a spike in tomato prices. On Monday, the Mexican government said it was working with tomato producers to limit the effects of the 17 percent duty.
“We are working together to minimize the impact,” President Claudia Sheinbaum said at her regular morning press conference, without giving details.
Other Mexican government officials called the tomato tariff unfair and warned the move will ultimately harm Americans.

Flames tear through assisted-living facility in Massachusetts, killing nine and trapping residents

A firefighters union said inadequate staffing hindered the response to the blaze and contributed to the death toll.

FALL RIVER. (Agency)
Flames roared through an assisted-living facility in Massachusetts, killing nine people and trapping residents inside, including some who leaned out of windows and screamed for help, authorities said Monday. At least 30 people were hurt.
A firefighters union said inadequate staffing hindered the response to the blaze and contributed to the death toll, though the mayor criticized that characterization, and the fire chief suggested no number of first responders would have been enough. Meanwhile, several residents who praised firefighters and police for heroic rescue efforts said staff members did little to help. “They didn’t knock on one door,” Robert

Cabral said. “They just ran.”
Firefighters responded to the Gabriel House facility in Fall River, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Boston, at about 9:50 p.m. Sunday and were met with heavy smoke and flames at the front of the building. The Bristol County district attorney's office said in a statement that the fire's cause “does not appear to be suspicious at this time.” Its origin remains under investigation, authorities said.
Lorraine Ferrara, one of about 70 residents at the facility, awoke to a neighbor pounding on her door. She tried to make her way through the smoke in the hallway but retreated to her room as the sprinkler system shot hot water onto her back. As her room filled with smoke, Ferrara opened her window and yelled. A firefighter broke the window and carried her down the ladder, she said. “I really thought I was going to die,” she said. “I thought there was no way out.” That fear mixed with anger as she watched two employees run from the building. “They left us alone and ran out into the parking lot,” she said. “I was hanging out the window — ‘Help! Help!’ and they just kept running.” The dead

ranged in age from 61 to 86, authorities said. The Bristol County district attorney's office identified seven of the deceased as Rui Albernaz, 64; Ronald Codega, 61; Margaret Duddy, 69; Robert King, 78; Kim Mackin, 71; Richard Rochon, 78; and Eleanor Willett, 86. The office said a 70-year-old woman and 77-year-old man were still pending notification of family. Mackin's nephew, Austin Mackin, in an emailed statement from family members, described his aunt as “gifted beyond words.” “We will all miss Kimmy,” the statement read. “Beyond being exceptionally kind, few knew that she was a brilliant musician.” She received a full

ride scholarship to the Manhattan School of Music and after graduating, she toured around the world as first chair viola, the statement said.
During the latter part of her career as an instrumentalist, she played in the Boston Philharmonic. Gabriel House opened in 1999 and has 100 units, according to Massachusetts Executive Office of Aging and Independence. Its website promotes studio apartments “for those seniors who cannot afford the high end of assisted living” as well as group adult foster care within walking distance of shopping, restaurants and churches. “If an emergency occurs, no matter the time, there will be someone ready to help,” the website states. Dennis Etzkorn, the facility's owner, declined to comment Monday, but officials said he was cooperating with what Fire Chief Jeffrey Bacon called “a very extensive investigation.” District Attorney Tom Quinn called the fire a “terrible tragedy” in a statement that also commended first responders “bringing many of the residents to safety while being confronted with very difficult circumstances.”



Hong Kong leader John Lee backs same-sex couples' rights bill

HONG KONG. (Agency)
Hong Kong leader John Lee threw his weight behind a bill recognising limited rights for same-sex couples on Tuesday, despite fears that opposition from pro-Beijing parties could sink it. Lee's administration proposed legislation this month to recognise some rights for same-sex partners whose marriages are registered abroad. Despite LGBTQ activists arguing it does not go far enough, the proposal drew near-universal criticism from the pro-Beijing politicians that dominate Hong Kong's legislature. The clash pitted Lee against conservative lawmakers from his own camp and led some to fear the proposal might be pulled. The city's top court ordered Hong Kong's government to create an “alternative framework” for LGBTQ couples when it quashed a bid to recognise same-sex marriage in 2023. Artificial Intelligence

uses Artificial Intelligence uses Lee said on Tuesday the government “must not act in violation” of the Court of Final Appeal's judgement. “Otherwise, it will be against the rule of law...”



Violating the rule of law will mean serious consequences,” he told reporters. The government will respect the legislature's final decision, he added. In 2023, the court unanimously defined marriage as “confined to opposite-sex couples” -- a stance Lee

reiterated on Tuesday. LGBTQ activists say the bill -- which only covers “rights related to medical matters” and “right to handle after-death arrangements” -- fails to satisfy the court's framework requirements. China is not among the countries around the world that have legalised marriage equality since the Netherlands became the first to do so in 2001. Hong Kong is a special administrative region of China with its own legislature and a mini-constitution that guarantees a “high degree of autonomy.”
Pro-Beijing firebrand lawmaker Junius Ho earlier floated the idea of asking Beijing's top legislature to overrule Hong Kong's apex court to “protect traditional family values.” Support for same-sex marriage in Hong Kong has grown over the past decade and hit 60 percent, according to a 2023 survey.

Supreme Court allows Trump to lay off nearly 1,400 Education Department employees

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
The Supreme Court is allowing President Donald Trump to put his plan to dismantle the Education Department back on track, and to go through with laying off nearly 1,400 employees. With the three liberal justices in dissent, the court on Monday paused an order from U.S. District Judge Myong Joun in Boston, who issued a preliminary injunction reversing the layoffs and calling into question the broader plan.
The layoffs “will likely cripple the department,” Joun wrote. A federal appeals court refused to put the order on hold while the administration appealed. The high court action enables the administration to resume work on winding down the department, one of Trump's biggest campaign promises.
In a post Monday night on his social media platform, Trump said the high court “has handed a Major Victory to Parents and Students across the Country.” He said the decision will allow his administration to begin the “very important process” of returning

many of the department's functions “BACK TO THE STATES.” The court did not explain its decision in favor of Trump, as is customary in emergency appeals. But in dissent, Justice Sonia Sotomayor complained that her colleagues were enabling legally questionable action on the part of the administration. “When the Executive publicly announces its intent to break the law, and then executes on that promise, it is the Judiciary’s duty to check that lawlessness, not expedite it,” Sotomayor wrote for herself and Justices Ketanji Brown Jackson and Elena Kagan. The secretary of education lauds the decision
Education Secretary Linda McMahon said it's a “shame” it took the Supreme Court's intervention to let Trump's plan move ahead. “Today, the Supreme Court again confirmed the obvious: the President of the United States, as the head of the Executive Branch, has the ultimate authority to make decisions about staffing levels, administrative organization, and day-to-day operations of federal agencies,”

McMahon said in a statement.
A lawyer for the Massachusetts cities and education groups that sued over the plan said the lawsuit will continue, adding no court has yet ruled that what the administration wants to do is legal. “Without explaining to the American people its reasoning, a majority of justices on the U.S. Supreme Court have dealt a devastating blow to this nation's promise of public education for all children. On its shadow docket, the Court has yet again ruled to overturn the decision of two lower courts without argument,” Skye Perryman, president and CEO of Democracy Forward, said in a statement. The Supreme Court has handed Trump one victory after another in his effort to remake the federal government, after lower courts have found the administration's actions probably violate federal law. Last week, the justices cleared the way for Trump's plan to significantly reduce the size of the federal workforce. On the education front, the high court has previously .

MAGA faithful are angry about the Epstein case. Here's what to know

WORLD. (Agency)
A broken promise to release more information about the Jeffrey Epstein case has sparked outrage among some of President Donald Trump's loyal supporters.
The Justice Department last week said Epstein, who was facing charges of sex trafficking, did not leave behind a “client list.” Attorney General Pam Bondi suggested in February it was on her desk, though she later said she was referring to the overall case file.
Bondi also said officials were poring over a “truckload” of previously withheld evidence. The Justice Department concluded, however, that public disclosure would not be appropriate and that much of the material was placed under seal by a judge. That has angered right-wing influencers who were once bolstered by Trump's own claims on this case, but are now feeling their demands are being squelched by his administration. Figures like commentator Tucker Carlson, right-wing activist Laura Loomer, and former Trump adviser Steve Bannon claim the government's handling of the case shows a lack of transparency. Anger over the case threatens to divide the MAGA faithful. Here's a look at the Epstein sex trafficking case, how the Trump administration has handled it and how his supporters have reacted to recent developments. What is the Epstein case?
Epstein was a wealthy financier arrested in 2019 on federal sex trafficking charges. His former girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell, was charged with helping him abuse teenage girls. Epstein was found dead in his cell at a federal jail in New York City about a month after he was arrested. Investigators concluded he killed himself. Maxwell later was convicted at trial and sentenced to 20 years in prison. The case attracted attention because of Epstein and Maxwell's links to famous people, including royals, presidents and billionaires. It also led to some of the biggest conspiracy theories animating Trump's base. Conservatives, led by key figures in the MAGA movement, have pressed unsubstantiated claims that Epstein was murdered and that “deep state” actors in the government are hiding lists of his clients, videos of crimes being committed and other evidence. Trump himself suggested there was a cover-up.
What are the ‘Epstein Files’?
Trump lately has tried to change the subject, but the Epstein matter commands attention because of the words and actions from his administration. In February, far-right influencers were invited to the White House and provided with binders marked “The Epstein Files: Phase 1” and “Declassified.” The binders contained documents that had largely already been in the public domain. Bondi said in May there were “tens of thousands of videos of Epstein with children or child porn.” That fueled a belief that details about powerful figures had been suppressed. “It's a new administration and everything is going to come out to the public,” Bondi said at one point.

Dialogue' must be at heart of China- Australia ties, PM Albanese tells Xi

China is one of Australia's most important economic partners, accounting for nearly one-third of its total trade.

BEIJING. (Agency)
“Dialogue” must be at the heart of ties between Canberra and Beijing, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said on Tuesday as he met President Xi Jinping in the Chinese capital.
Albanese is on his second visit to China as prime minister, seeking to bolster recently stabilised trade ties even as geopolitical tensions remain high. Relations between Beijing and Canberra have charted a bumpy course over the past decade, a period marked by repeated disagreements over national security and competing interests across the vast Pacific region. Ties improved in December when China called off a ban on imported Australian rock lobster, removing the final obstacle to

ending a damaging trade war waged between the countries from 2017.
Albanese met Xi in the Great Hall of the People and said he welcomed “the opportunity to set out Australia's views and interests.” “Australia values our relationship with China and will continue to approach it in a calm and consistent manner, guided by our national interest,” Albanese, the leader of Australia's centre-left Labor government, said. “It's important we have these direct discussions on issues that matter to us and to the stability and prosperity of our region. As you and I have agreed previously, dialogue needs to be at the centre of our relationship,” he said. Xi, in turn, hailed the “benefits” of improved ties between China and Australia, saying the relationship had “risen from the setbacks and turned around.” “No matter how the international landscape may evolve we should uphold this overall direction unswervingly,” he said.
Key trading partner China is one of Australia's most important economic partners, accounting for nearly one-third of its total trade. Albanese is accompanied on



his visit by a delegation of key business leaders who will attend a CEO roundtable in Beijing. His trip will last until Friday and will also take him to the southwestern city of Chengdu. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses
He is also accompanied by a travelling media pack, members of which said they were briefly surrounded by security guards and told to hand footage to police.

A small group of reporters were filming outside Beijing's Bell and Drum Towers when they were stopped by security guards. National broadcaster ABC's reporter Stephen Dziedzic said he was “quickly surrounded by a number of security guards, who said they were going to call the police and we didn't have permission to leave”.
“We had the necessary permissions, we had the right visas, but nonetheless perhaps that hadn't been passed all the way down the chain,” he told ABC. Australian broadcaster SBS, which also has a correspondent on the trip, reported that journalists were briefly surrounded and told to hand footage to police. The group was allowed to leave after Australian diplomats intervened, the ABC and SBS reported. Albanese's trip also comes as China's sweeping territorial claims ruffle feathers in the region, particularly pertaining to the South China Sea.
Another key point of contention is the fate of northern Australia's Darwin Port, whose Chinese-owned controller could be forced to sell it to a local buyer by Albanese's government.

Teacher faked abduction to stop merger of schools in Bulandshahr, suspended

Noida . (Agency)
The Uttar Pradesh government has suspended a teacher at the Shakarpur village primary school in Bulandshahr district, after investigation revealed he orchestrated his own kidnapping to block the merger of schools under the New Education Policy.
On July 7, the head of the school education department learned that Ankit Kumar had been “kidnapped” by villagers protesting plans to merge his school, home to just 30 students, with another, located 1.5 km at Chithera village. Education officials dispatched the block officer to verify the report and secure his release.
Basic Shiksha Adhikari (Bulandshahr) Laxmikant Pandey told The Indian Express that the fake kidnapping of the teacher came to light when an investigation began into the case. “There are 30 students at the primary school and we were planning to shift them to a primary school at Chithera village, which is 1.5km away from Shakarpur,” said Pandey. “He had convinced villagers to kidnap him. He had told them that once the two schools were merged their children would not be able to attend classes anymore as the distance would increase. The villagers then kidnapped him thinking that the news of his kidnapping will stop the merger,” said the official.
His fake kidnapping came to light when the team of education officials started questioning villagers. “We received information that Kumar was kidnapped by a group of villagers and was locked inside a classroom. Soon, I rushed the team of officials to rescue him. After convincing villagers for nearly half an hour, they released Kumar,” he said.
Pandey said that Kumar on Monday submitted an affidavit seeking forgiveness for his act. “It was a drama to stop the merger. We had prepared the list of 382 schools of which 184 have been merged. A similar process was going on at Shikarpur as well. I had suspended the teacher with immediate effect but on Monday, he submitted an affidavit seeking forgiveness for his act. We are looking into this matter,” he said.
The merging of schools began after the Uttar Pradesh government began an initiative to pair every primary school with low attendance to nearby educational facilities to make the education system more functional and viable, aligning with the goals of the New Education Policy, 2020.

Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway: NHAI exempts toll collection in Sanchor-Santalpur section temporarily

The Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway is part of the Centre’s Bharatmala project, aimed at improving road connectivity across India.
Ahmedabad. (Agency)
National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), on Tuesday, announced a temporary exemption in paying toll tax on a 28.71-km stretch of the Sanchore-Santalpur section of the Amritsar-Jamnagar Expressway due to ongoing repair work. The Expressway is part of the Centre’s Bharatmala project aimed at improving road connectivity across India. The temporary waiver in payment of toll tax came into effect from 8 am and will stay in force till the repair work is on. The 125-km stretch of the expressway between Sanchore of Rajasthan and Santalpur of Gujarat’s Patan district is a very important economic corridor.
On Sunday, NHAI member Venkatraman conducted an inspection of the highway near Santalpur in Gujarat’s Patan district after a 1.35-km stretch of it got damaged following spells of rain. Samples of the damaged road were collected, and Venkatraman had said that if any deficiency is found in it then legal actions will be taken against the contractor.

6 people fall into river as bridge slab collapses during demolition in Gujarat’s Junagadh; no injuries reported

Ahmedabad . (Agency)
At least six people, including a child, fell into the shallow Ajak River in Gujarat’s Junagadh district after a slab of a dilapidated causeway-like bridge collapsed as it was being demolished on Tuesday morning. No injuries were reported in the incident that took place less than a week after the Vadodara tragedy on July 9, when 20 people were killed after the Munjpur-Gambhira bridge partially collapsed.
The latest incident occurred in Mangrol taluka. Video footage accessed by The Indian Express shows the people who fell into the river, including some in the traditional ‘kediya’ attire of the Maldhari community, attempting to climb back by clambering on the collapsed slab. A bulldozer can also be seen perched on the slab, which is bent 45 degrees into the shallow river and surrounded by debris.

Mumbai’s lake levels likely to reach full capacity in record time this year

Mumbai.(Agency)
The overall stock in the seven lakes that supply potable water to Mumbai is likely to reach its full capacity in a record early time in the last 10 years. According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s (BMC) record, the overall water stock in the lakes stands at 78.3 per cent or 11.33 lakh million litres out of the total capacity of 14.47 lakh million litres on July 15, Tuesday.
Usually, it takes approximately 30-40 days for the overall stock to reach full capacity after surpassing the 70 per cent mark. The BMC’s record shows that in 2022 and 2023, the lake levels reached full capacity on September 5, which has been the earliest in the past 10 years.
The records show that in those two years, the water stock crossed the 70 per cent mark on July 28 and July 29. Similarly, in 2020, the lakes crossed 70 per cent mark on July 24 and reached their full capacity on September 12, while in 2019, the lakes crossed the 70-per cent mark on July 27 and reached full capacity on September 14. In 2016 and 2018, the lakes did not reach their full capacity due



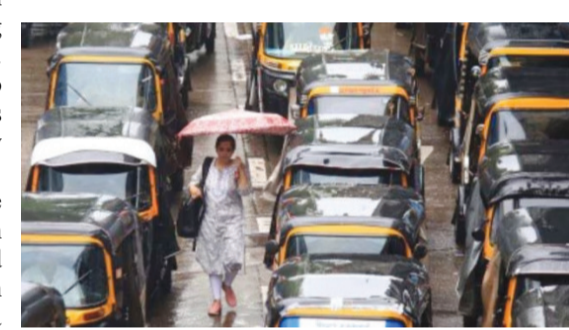
to inadequate rainfall, and in 2017, the 100 per cent mark was achieved on September 25. Last year, the overall water stock crossed the 70 per cent mark on July 24 while the full capacity was reached on September 29. The water stock reaching its full capacity will mean that the city will not undergo any water cuts in the next year.

gets filled during the monsoon, and the water is transported through tunnels to the BMC’s filtration plant.
“In the last 24 hours, we have recorded an increase in water stock by 3 percentage points. This year, there is a continuous forecast of good rainfall in the catchment areas of all seven lakes. So we are hopeful that the lakes will reach their full capacity by August itself,” said a civic body officer.
Out of the seven lakes, the Modak Sagar lake has reached full capacity at 100 per cent, followed by 94.16 per cent at middle Vaitarna, 84.41 per cent at Tansa, 77.5 per cent at Upper Vaitarna, 70 per cent at Bhatsa, 50.52 per cent at Vihar, and 52.01 per cent at Tulsi lake. In the last 24 hours, the catchment area of Bhatsa Lake saw the maximum rainfall of 69 mm, followed by 60 mm at Tansa, 57 mm at Middle Vaitarna, 50 mm at Vihar, 42 mm at Upper Vaitarna, 33 mm at Modak Sagar, and 24 mm at Tulsi Lake.
Furthermore, the BMC’s record shows that last year on July 15, the overall water stock stood at 35.11 per cent, while in 2023 the stock stood at 31.16 per cent on the same date.

Heavy rain lashes Mumbai, IMD issues orange alert

Mumbai .(Agency)
Amid intermittent spells of heavy rain lashing Mumbai, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday afternoon upgraded its forecast bulletin and sounded an orange alert in Mumbai and its neighbouring districts of Thane, Raigad and Ratnagiri. According to the weather bureau, heavy to very heavy rain coupled with gusty winds is likely to lash Mumbai until Wednesday morning.
For the second consecutive day, Mumbai woke up to overcast skies and moderate showers on Tuesday morning. Between Monday and Tuesday morning, the Santacruz station recorded 38 mm of rainfall while the Colaba coastal observatory logged 12 mm of rainfall. According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation’s (BMC’s) automatic weather station, in the past 24 hours ending at 8 am, the heaviest rainfall was recorded in the eastern suburbs at an average of 35 mm, followed by

33 mm average rainfall in the western suburbs. With the showers intensifying on Tuesday, the IMD revised its forecast bulletin in the



afternoon and placed Mumbai as well as Thane, Raigad and Ratnagiri districts under an orange alert for the next 24 hours. Earlier on Monday, even as the IMD had upgraded its initial forecast to a ‘yellow alert’ for the day,

the weather bureau had issued no warnings for the district after Tuesday. Shubhangi Bhute, director of IMD Mumbai, attributed the downpour to a low-pressure area situated over Madhya Pradesh. “Owing to the low pressure area over Madhya Pradesh, the intensity of winds over the ocean has gained strength. Furthermore, the winds in Konkan have also gathered strength. Due to this, there is likelihood of very heavy rainfall over the entire Konkan region and therefore, an orange alert has been issued in Mumbai, Thane and Ratnagiri over the next 24 hours. Meanwhile, a yellow alert has been issued in Palghar district,” added Bhute.
The weather bureau has issued no warnings for Mumbai and the neighbouring regions after Wednesday, stating the likelihood of only light to moderate rainfall with thunderstorms.

MEA writes to Canadian authorities on Rath Yatra egging

BHUBANESWAR .(Agency)
A day after a video went viral showing eggs being thrown at a Rath Yatra procession in Toronto, the Ministry of External Affairs on Monday said the matter has been strongly taken up with the Canadian authorities.
MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, in a statement, said the ministry has taken note of reports regarding disruption created by mischievous elements during Rath Yatra procession at Toronto. Such despicable acts are regrettable and against the spirit of the festival, which seeks to promote unity, inclusivity and social harmony, he said.
“We have taken up the matter with Canadian authorities to hold the perpetrators of the act accountable. We hope the Canadian government will take necessary action to protect the religious rights of people,” he wrote.
ISKCON Toronto had on Saturday and Sunday organised its 53rd annual Rath Yatra from Yonge Street to Centre Island. An

Instagram user Sangna Bajaj shared a video on Sunday showing eggs being thrown at the devotees and the chariot from a building during the Rath Yatra procession. Despite this, the procession continued. Earlier in the day, leader of Opposition Naveen Patnaik expressed anguish over the incident and



urged Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi to take the matter seriously and the Ministry of External Affairs to register a strong protest with the Canadian authorities.

Kochi woman injured in knife attack, friend arrested

KOCHI. (Agency)
A 21-year-old woman suffered serious injuries after she was attacked with a knife by a close friend at her rented residence near the NGO Quarters in Thrikkakara on Sunday. Police on Monday arrested Rashikesh, a native of Kakkanaad, on charges of attempted culpable homicide. According to the police, the victim, a native of Malappuram district, is a student at an educational institution in Kakkanaad.
However, trouble began after Rashikesh became agitated upon learning that a senior at the victim’s institution had recently visited her home. In a fit of rage, he went to her residence and a heated argument ensued. During the confrontation, he took out a knife and attempted to stab her.
Fortunately, the victim managed to block the attack with her hands, but sustained deep injuries to her arms in the process. Neighbours rushed to the house after hearing the commotion, prompting Rashikesh to flee the scene.
Based on her statement, the Thrikkakara police registered a case and arrested the accused. He was produced before the court and remanded to judicial custody.

NHRC asks Balasore SP to submit report

BHUBANESWAR: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Monday directed the Balasore SP to submit a report within 15 days in connection with the self-immolation of a second year integrated BEd student of Fakir Mohan (Autonomous) College who is battling for her life at AIIMS-Bhubaneswar here.
“District SP is directed to furnish a report along with all the materials before the Commission within a period of 15 days.” NHRC stated in its order. The Commission also directed the district collector and chief district medical officer (CDMO) to apprise it about the medical care provided to the victim.



come out that in fact this bridge has not broken but has been demolished. On the instructions of CM Bhupendrabhai Patel, the inspection of dilapidated bridges and

the repair of roads are going on in full swing across the state, as part of which some bridges in Junagadh district have also been closed after the inspection. The repair work has now been started by the relevant departments on these bridges.”
The statement added, “Regarding the incident of the bridge slab breaking near Mangrol, Junagadh District Road and Building Department Executive Engineer Abhishek Gohil said that as part of this work, the bridge between Antroli near Mangrol was found to be dilapidated after the inspection of the officials of the Road Building Department Panchayat. Its slab was found to be dilapidated, and the work of removing it had begun. While this work was going on, a large part of the bridge slab fell down. It is clarified that no one was injured or killed in this incident.”

The avertible influence of anti-U.S. bluster

It is true that Indian social media influencers have come of age. They probably have more views and clicks than mainstream media practitioners and influence millions more. However, here’s the danger. First of all, their titles and headlines are misleading. Mere clickbait. They include, often misleadingly, if not mischievously, the name of some important political bigwig or another. US President Donald J. Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in reverse order, are their favourites. They also claim, week after week, video after video, that some “big action” is being planned. Or some big crash, when it comes to finfluencers, is in the offing. “Modi checkmates Trump” or “Dedollarisation Underway” are examples of the kind of headlines I am talking about. Of course, few, if any, of their dire warnings or hopeful predictions pan out as promised. Instead, the viewer is taken for a ride through more dangerous drivel or speculative slosh. Worse, many content creators and handles are faking images and voices of famous personalities, such as Oprah Winfrey, Warren Buffett, or Jordan Peterson, to post content that has nothing to do with these worthies. Some of this material is disinformation, plain and simple, weaponised and deployed for not-so-innocent and outright sinister ends. However, a lot of it is only boasting and bluster, good for business and profits. For, I am told, many of these channels are raking in huge bucks, some in stratospheric numbers exceeding 750 lakh or even ?1 crore a month. With very little investment. Even among the best of these influencers—whom I won’t name, as some are friends—the content is variable and not always reliable. However, one clear trend among all the pro-government channels is a mocking of US President Trump and an exaltation of our own great leader. No harm in old-style patriotism, you say? But there is a downside to this, which I must spell out. Instead of speaking softly and carrying a big stick, we may end up talking, even shouting and screaming too loudly, while holding a little one. This doesn’t augur well for a rising power like India. Why? Self-delusion is sure to land us in a hole which we have dug for ourselves. I am going to stick my neck out here: India, to go on doing well, probably needs the US more than the US needs us. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses Strategic autonomy, another name for non-alignment and another one of India’s proven past failures, isn’t our best bet when it comes to global geopolitics. Strategic alignment, I can understand, but strategic autonomy means little. And an alignment with the US on several key and shared interests—economic, military, technological, political, and cultural—is, therefore, in India’s interests. I have said this earlier, and I will repeat—the arc of Democracy is the world’s best bet against chaos and disintegration, not to mention authoritarianism and totalitarianism. And both the US and India, as the world’s oldest and largest democracies, form a natural alliance. Instead of mocking Trump’s bid for a Nobel Prize, India could have backed it. What do we have to lose? In fact, we should have edged ahead of Pakistan in this game. In exchange for trade and tech benefits, of course.

Our anti-US bluster, often cloaked in nationalist fervour, risks alienating a key partner at a time when India’s global ambitions demand pragmatic alliances. The influencers’ obsession with sensationalism, whether it’s predicting the collapse of the US dollar or hyping up India’s supposed geopolitical victories, is misplaced. This barrage of boasting creates a distorted worldview. Much of the propaganda is not just misleading but dangerous. The US remains the world’s largest economy, with a GDP of nearly \$30 trillion, compared to India’s \$3.5 trillion, which is already being projected to exceed \$4 trillion by 2025.

Pakistan’s woes persist amid Asim Munir’s rise

Ex-PM Imran Khan’s party remains faction-ridden amid a growing clamour for his release.

EVEN as the euphoria over his elevation as Field Marshal and his Washington lunch with US President Donald Trump ebbs, Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir faces the challenge of tackling problems plaguing the country’s economy, polity and civil society. Eminent Punjabi police officer and author Tariq Khosa (The Faltering State, 2017) wrote in Dawn last week that there is a clear “breach of trust between the state and society”, power is being “harnessed through draconian laws, there is suppression of the media, political manoeuvres are effected through controversial constitutional benches” so that “democracy remains a mere façade”.

In June, the usual lacklustre Pakistan Budget was tabled, providing for an almost mandatory increase in defence expenditure by 20 per cent (2,550 billion Pakistani rupees or PKR), professedly only 1.97 per cent of the GDP, but shielding military pensions worth PKR 742 billion elsewhere. The total outlay was PKR 17.573 trillion, with debt servicing accounting for 8.207 trillion. Very little remained to invest in social sector spending. Though foreign exchange reserves are stated to be PKR 11.5 billion, the rollover of loans by friendly international donors account for \$16 billion. The Pakistan Supreme Court’s Constitution Bench headed by Justice Aminuddin Khan recently ruled that former PM Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was not entitled to reserved seats as only independent candidates contested the February 2024 elections. They later tried to join the Sunni Ittehad Council (SIC).

In effect, this judgment gives the ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) and People’s Party of Pakistan (PPP) two-thirds majority in the 336-member National Assembly. The PML(N) now has 126 seats, the PPP 74, MQM-Pakistan 22 and others 13, totalling 235. The Opposition has 98 seats—the SIC/PTI 80, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (F) 10 and others eight—with three seats still vacant. This has narrowed down the political battlefield to Imran versus Field Marshal Munir. Last week, Imran issued a call for a nationwide agitation after the 10th day of Muharram. His first wife, Jemima Khan, recently accused the Pakistani establishment of preventing Imran’s sons from meeting him in Adiala jail.

Imran’s party remains faction-ridden. Ali Amin Gandapur, Chief Minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, is no longer fully trusted, allegedly because of his deals with the army during earlier agitations. Rumours persist about him being eased out. Lawyer Gohar Ali Khan heads the party, but his authority is being undercut by Imran’s sister Aleema Khan, PTI’s parliamentary party leader Omar

Ayub Khan or other politicians who claim to have access to both the army and Imran for a possible deal leading to his release after over two years of custody. Lately, there have been signs of strain between the army leadership and President Asif Zardari over a leaked army engineers’ briefing about the potential of diverting the Indus waters for the Cholistan and Thar canals in south Punjab, overlapping northern Sindh. Many army officers were known to have landholdings in the Sukkur/Guddu barrage region. Sindhi politicians got a whiff of these discussions and launched a full-scale agitation against possible denial of waters to an already water-starved province. Rumour-mongering on social media about the



President’s imminent ouster was so intense that Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi, regarded as close to Munir, had to issue a denial. PM Shehbaz Sharif added his own disclaimer. And the suave Bilawal Bhutto Zardari tried to present a face of reasonableness on the issue of harbouring of designated terrorists before the international media, including Indian journalists. He hopes the military leadership may one day consider him as a viable alternative, provided the PPP wins some parliamentary seats from Punjab. Meanwhile, Munir’s position within the army has become unassailable after the four-day confrontation with India. Resentment among senior Generals about his prolonged tenure at the top will take time to fester, if at all. He has tried to give the impression that his elevation to the rank of Field Marshal was a decision taken by the PML(N)-PPP leadership that he demurely accepted. The post of Chairman, Joint Chiefs

of Staff Committee (CJCSC), will fall vacant on November 29, when Gen Sahir Shamshad Mirza (his term has not been extended) hangs his boots. Munir will have to decide whom to elevate to this four-star post. He will also need to bring in a new Director General (DG) of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). These changes will be keenly watched and even lobbied for among aspiring three-star officers. Munir’s most-trusted military officer, Lt Gen Asim Malik, DG, ISI, will complete four years as a three-star General in early October. He will have to retire then. Currently, he is also the National Security Adviser. He could take up this post in a civilian mantle. The Air Force Chief, Air Marshal Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, has also enjoyed adulation after the conflict with India. A controversial character already on extension, he has connections in the PML(N). Senior air force officers who accused him of corruption in recent purchases were court-martialled and are still languishing in jail. His recent visit to the US, close on the heels of Munir’s own, revives the possibility of the US restoring state-of-the-art military supplies, especially for the F-16s, if only to wean Pakistan away from overdependence on Chinese equipment. Any such arrangement would be kept under wraps. Sidhu’s ambitions for a longer tenure as the Air Chief, up to 2027, could well be accommodated, but military analysts in Pakistan are less sanguine about the possibility of his filling the CJCSC post in November, as this reversion to the past practice of rotational charge could rile aspiring three-star Generals. Quoting Khosa again, the dominant mood among people today is one of confusion and despair. “Truth is shut out, self-respect and dignity are repeatedly called into question... Academia, civil society organisations, human rights institutions lie scattered, rudderless and leaderless,” he has written. He talks of the need to forge a model that counters the authoritarian threat through non-violent agitations to restore liberal values and democracy. This is easier said than done when the ruling dispensation is bent on ascribing all of Pakistan’s woes to India! The Army Chief’s labelling of Baloch freedom fighters and the Tehrik-e-Taliban (TTP) as ‘Fitna (strife) al-Hindustan’ is now the official line in all Inter-Services Public Relations press releases. This raises questions about the Pakistani State as it grapples ineffectively against genuine Baloch aspirations for freedom and anti-Punjabi sentiment in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, coupled with doses of Islamic radicalism and Pashtun nationalist designs of the TTP.

Telangana quota politics: Congress stakes claim on backward class mandate

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

Increased reservations for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) have been a significant issue for the Congress, with its leader, Rahul Gandhi, frequently citing the Telangana government’s approach and vowing to challenge the Supreme Court’s 50 percent quota ceiling. The Telangana government passed bills in March to ensure 42 percent reservation for OBCs in education, employment, and local bodies. However, while awaiting the President’s nod, the State Cabinet last week also approved an amendment to the Telangana Panchayat Raj Act, providing 42 percent reservations for OBCs in local bodies. There are reasons for it. Obvious, of course, is the Congress policy. The other is the recent high court directive to the State government to complete local polls within three months. The question now is whether enforcing the quota, most likely through an ordinance, will get the Governor’s approval. Constitutional experts believe otherwise, given the apex court verdicts in the Krishna Murthy vs. Union of India and the Indra Sawhney & Others vs. Union of India cases.



The Cabinet’s likely push for an ordinance before the local elections signals urgency and a clear political play. At the same time, the state has demonstrated due diligence by establishing a commission to study political backwardness and conducting a survey.

Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses Still, legal viability may be secondary in the Congress’s calculations. If the Governor stalls or rejects the ordinance, the party could exploit it, likely portraying it as central interference in a state-led effort to empower the backward classes. The party would expect the campaign to resonate electorally, especially among Telangana’s numerically significant BC population, and sharpen the Congress’s positioning as a pro-OBC force. The BJP, meanwhile, is caught in a difficult bind. Despite its national OBC outreach, its recent choice of a Brahmin as state party chief—over expectations of a BC leader—may hurt its grassroots strategy. Inclusion of Muslims in the OBC category could be a tactical pivot, but it comes with political and legal risks. On the other hand, when the Bharat Rashtra Samithi was in power, it tried increasing the quota to 37 percent but ended up reducing it in local bodies. Although it is now batting for 42 percent and threatening agitation, the Congress appears prepared to take it head-on. Ultimately, persistent efforts to hike quotas will yield fruit only through a Constitutional amendment.

A courtesan’s awakening and Vyasa’s subtle genius

Retelling Pingala’s story, I realised it could belong to any kingdom, yet Vyasa set it in Videha, the ‘bodiless’ land of Vaidehi Sita, adding layered irony and depth. That realisation brought me close to Vyasa’s subversive brilliance. It was a Vyasa moment—one of many across the ages

Last Thursday was Guru Purnima. It has become a beautiful occasion to honour personal gurus. But its core reason remains paying tribute to Veda Vyasa, the vyasa (sorter) and compiler of the Vedas. He was also the author of the Mahabharata, the Srimad Bhagavatam and several Puranas. Guru Purnima thus honours the most prolific Indian author of all time, whose work continues to influence millions even after millennia. This master storyteller delights in suspenseful chiaroscuro, in ‘light-and-dark’ shades. Characters that he casually describes as ‘among the most learned’ experience catastrophic falls soon after. Utanga’s story from last Monday is but one example.

Vyasa’s mastery of irony is evident in other ways, too. Perhaps you would remember the story of Pingala that I retold in 2022? Let us briefly revisit it to savour Vyasa’s subtle sarcasms. The case of Pingala, the public woman, is mentioned in Vyasa’s Srimad Bhagavatam, Canto 11, Chapter 8. King Yadu, who is Sri Krishna’s ancestor, happens to meet a young ascetic whose face and manners shine with lustrous composure. Yadu is so impressed that he wants to know how the ascetic achieved it. The ascetic humbly replies that he had many teachers, including a serpent, and the five elements, and explains what he learned from them. He then shocks King Yadu by saying, “In the city of Mithila, there used to be a public woman called Pingala. Now hear, O king, what I learnt from her.” I can readily accept that the natural world holds many lessons. But really, a public woman...I don’t see

how,” says the startled king. The ascetic smiles serenely. “She told me herself one day at the temple,” he says: Pingala stood at her doorway as usual that evening in her hometown, Mithila city, displaying her beautiful form to attract customers. Mithila was the capital of Videha, renowned as a seat of learning. Above all, it had been Sita’s home. Sita was deeply loved across the Indic world. Nobody could think of her without feeling utterly wretched that she had been punished and sent away for no fault of hers. People took her fate very personally, and when a daughter was married, they would use Sita’s father’s words in the core rituals, “Iyam Sita, mama suta” (This is Sita, my daughter). To take Sita’s name in their own weddings was their way of trying to make it up to her forevermore.

Pingala often thought of Sita, whose good character had not saved her from heartbreak. She had been born into a respectable family and had been taught her prayers. But her parents had died of an illness, and there was no one left to care for her. She had been put to work as a maid in a merchant’s kitchen and was seduced by the son of the house. Thrown out on the street when discovered, Pingala had lost all reputation and had nowhere to go. Mithila’s richest bawd had picked her up and taught her the tricks of the trade. Pingala had done reasonably well for herself. She had a little house of her own and could employ a maid to cook and clean while she devoted herself to looking

her best. But Pingala was acutely lonely and longed for a secure life. She fantasised every day about a man who would fall in love with her and look after her for good with affection and respect. She prayed every day for this and worried about it constantly. She worried about it that evening in the soft purple



twilight of Mithila as she stood at her door, and went on worrying until midnight, when she suddenly had a startling revelation. “Just what am I doing making myself unhappy, selling myself to men who are lamentable themselves, and desperately hoping that someone will love me and look after me? “Am I so unintelligent that I can’t see how pointless this is? This body is but a cage of bones that will burn one day. Somehow, detachment has risen in my heart and set me free of

my body. “The best way to be happy is to be unafraid and live my life confidently with the faith that I’ll cope; that ‘someone’ is with me already,” she found herself thinking, amazed at her own clarity of thought. With that resolve, Pingala shut the door and sat down on her bed. No more would she look for affirmation outside when true happiness lay in self-possession and faith in God. Serene in her newfound realisation, she went to sleep happy. “And so, I learnt from Pingala that people can always remake their lives with independent reasoning,” says the young ascetic to the fascinated King Yadu. Retelling the story of Pingala, it struck me that it could have been set in any kingdom. But not only does Videha mean ‘bodiless’, but also, when set in the realm of Vaidehi Sita, Pingala’s story is textured with superb ironic depth. Realising the significance of that location made me feel close to the subversive mind of Vyasa. It was a ‘Vyasa moment’, as hundreds of thousands of people must have had before me, and always will. Moreover, what shines through poignantly is that Vyasa, whom we honour on Guru Purnima, himself did not claim that crown but instead tells us very clearly that we should learn from the whole world. The profound humility of Vyasa’s intent cannot but melt the stoniest of hearts. What a worthwhile person he is to celebrate. No wonder a stage of honour is called a ‘vyasapeeth’ or Vyasa’s seat even today.

Mazaar vandalised ahead of religious yatra in Haryana's Nuh; locals, police prevent communal flare-up, internet suspended

GURGAON. (Agency)

An attempt by miscreants to stoke unrest ahead of an annual religious yatra in Haryana's Nuh was thwarted by vigilant locals and swift police action in the early hours of Monday after a mazaar was vandalised in Tauru city of the district. Locals were quick to inform police, following which security measures were immediately ramped up for Braj Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra. Two years ago, it was around this yatra that communal tension spiked, triggering riots in Nuh, Gurgaon and other south Haryana districts. Vandals targeted a walled mazaar at Sainipura, a site revered by people across communities, according to locals. "No sooner did that happen than the caretaker of the mazaar informed locals. A large crowd gathered around the site to prevent any further disruption. Police and officials from the district administration were informed as well," a local resident said. Checks, close police watch on city's border with Nuh A team of cops and administration officials reached the site and prevented the situation from flaring

up. "We are trying to identify and trace the culprits who wanted to hamper peace in the area ahead of Brajmandal Jalabhishek Yatra in Nuh. Appropriate action will be taken against such miscreants," an official said. "An investigation has been initiated. We deployed additional security around the area after the incident," the official added. No untoward incident was reported during the yatra - scheduled for the first day of saawan every year - that went ahead as scheduled on Monday, but under close police watch. Internet was suspended in Nuh as a precautionary measure. By evening, officials said, the mazaar was restored as well. "Necessary action was taken by the administration after being informed about the mazaar incident. The subdivisional magistrate of Tauru, Jitendra Garg, and DSP Devendra Singh inspected the area and spoke to representatives from various communities. People were advised to trust information circulated by govt only and not fall for any provocative post on social media," said Vishram Kumar Meena, Nuh's deputy commissioner.

According to police spokesperson Krishna, an FIR was yet to be registered till late on Monday evening. Security had been intensified across Nuh ahead of the yatra during which severe communal violence and rioting had broken out two years ago, resulting in six deaths, including those of two home guards. The violence, which spread to neighbouring Gurgaon and Palwal, saw arson and property damage. That year, the yatra was preceded by inflammatory social media posts, which had led to a charged atmosphere. Violence broke out when the yatra entered Nuh. Taking no chances this time, govt had deployed more than 2,500 security personnel, including dog squads and mounted police, across the district. Besides suspension of mobile internet, the administration also enforced Section 163 of the Indian Civil Defence Code 2023, prohibiting firecrackers, drones, light aircraft, kite flying, and meat sales in the area. Security was strengthened at the Gurgaon border too, where 500 personnel were deployed. "Checkpoints were set up at various places by Sunday evening itself

to ensure no one crossed the border and reached Nuh with weapons. These checkpoints will be there till Tuesday morning," said DCP (south) Hitesh Yadav. The jalabhishek yatra has become an annual event over the past few years. It begins from the Nalheshwar Mahadev temple in Nalhar, crosses the Jhir temple in Ferozepur Jhirka before concluding at Shrangeshwar Mandir in Punahana. Cow vigilante Raj Kumar alias Bittu Bajrangi was placed under house arrest in Faridabad on Monday to prevent his participation in the yatra. Bajrangi, who was accused of inciting communal violence during the yatra in July 2023, has been denied permission by the Nuh police to attend this year's event. Before his house arrest, Bajrangi approached the Punjab and Haryana high court, seeking permission to join the procession. Meanwhile, Nuh DC Vishram Kumar Meena announced that internet and SMS services have been restored in the district, which were likely suspended as a precautionary measure in the lead-up to the yatra.

Shot fired in Gurgaon Sec 71 at rapper Rahul Yadav alias Fazilpuria's SUV Police start probe

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Police are probing an alleged gunshot attack by unidentified miscreants on Southern Peripheral Road (SPR) on Monday evening on a Thar. The vehicle, sources said, belongs to singer and rapper Rahul Yadav alias Fazilpuria. The bullet did not hit any vehicle and no one was hurt. The miscreants fled the spot. Fazilpuria could not be contacted despite repeated attempts. The singer's police cover was recently withdrawn, the sources said. According to the sources, two gunshots were fired at the singer's Thar by unknown occupants travelling in another car behind it, while the Thar was heading towards Fazilpur Road around 6pm. The bullet was allegedly fired near CSD apartments in Sector 71.

There was no official confirmation of the incident or whether Fazilpuria was in the car at the time. Police received the information around 6.10pm following which Badshapur cops reached the spot.

In a press statement, police spokesperson Sandeep (ASI) said police received information regarding a bullet being fired in Sector 71. "We are yet to ascertain if the bullet was fired at anyone as no one got hurt and we are yet to find bullet shells. The investigation is on," Sandeep said.

According to the sources, police are checking the CCTV footage at the spot to ascertain "if the firing happened or to identify the suspects". A police officer said all angles would be probed — after ensuring that a bullet was indeed fired — including the possibility of "old enmity". The singer is famous for songs such as 'Kar gayi Chull', 'Lalla Lohri' and 'Chori Maar Dalegi'. Fazilpuria had also worked with Punjabi singer Aditya Prateek Singh alias Badshah. Last year, an FIR was lodged against YouTuber Elvish Yadav and Fazilpuria for using snakes and hurling abuses in a music video, 32 Bore. The FIR was registered at Badshapur police station after additional chief judicial magistrate Manoj Kumar Rana asked police to lodge a case against Elvish on a complaint filed by a member of an NGO, People for Animals (PFA), which is backed by politician Maneka Gandhi.

One 'encounter' & arrest in Noida every 2 days since Jan 2023, say police

Noida. (Agency)

The district police have recorded the most encounters in the state since 2023. From Jan 2023 till June 30 this year, one miscreant was nabbed in an encounter every two days. During this period, more than 500 miscreants were injured in encounters, the most recorded in the Central Noida zone. Sharing this information with TOI on Monday, Gautam Budh Nagar police officials said the district ramped up efforts to curb street crime in the past two and a half years, based on orders from commissioner Laxmi Singh. "Preventing all types of crime along with street crime is a priority. Police have a zero-tolerance policy towards crime. Police will continue to break the back of criminals," the commissioner said. To that end, between Jan 1, 2023 and June 30, 2025, a total of 518 miscreants were injured and nabbed in encounters in all three zones. Central Noida zone accounted for 210 of these cases, followed by Noida at 187 and Greater Noida at 121. In terms of police station areas, Bisrakh recorded 84 criminals injured in encounters — or one per week — followed by Sector 58 at 52 and Knowledge Park at 28.

The injured and arrested suspects comprised 182 vehicle thieves, 109 robbers, 74 mobile snatchers, 70 house robbers, 27 murder accused and 55 criminals implicated in other kinds of cases. A large amount of stolen bikes, mobile phones and other goods, cash and weapons were seized from the possession of the suspects, officials said.

Noida looks for vertical scale-up of firefight tech as buildings get taller

Noida. (Agency)

The fire department is set to strengthen its firefighting capabilities by acquiring high-pressure foam extinguishers capable of dousing fires in buildings up to 100 storeys tall. The technology, showcased at the fire safety expo in Greater Noida last week, was recently tested by the fire department at the city's tallest building - the 74-storey Supertech Supernova tower in Sector 94.

The Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) technology uses a high-pressure foam delivery mechanism that can maintain pressure even at extreme heights. According to fire officials, highrise fires can be tricky as water pressure reduces drastically at higher altitudes, making firefighting very difficult. Last month, said officials, when the fire department tested the equipment in the trial run at the Supernova tower, they were able to reach the top floors of the building with ease. The results have convinced the fire department to move forward with its procurement, officials said. Chief fire officer (CFO) Pradeep Chaubey told TOI that the department is in the process of completing formalities to purchase the equipment along with a compatible fire tender, which together cost around Rs 3 crore. "Noida has the highest number of highrise residential societies in the state, and firefighting at such heights remains a major challenge. Even though our fire hoses can reach up to the 40th floor, the water pressure reduces drastically as the altitude increases. The motor is unable to maintain pressure, and by the time the water reaches the nozzle, it loses its force, making it difficult and time-consuming to put out a fire," the CFO said. Supernova's height is 307 metres, which is almost four times more than the maximum reach of a fire tender hose in the city (80 metres). If the standard height of a floor is taken as 3m, the hose will reach up to the 26th floor. The average height of towers in the city ranges between 50m and 100m. With reators in the city planning taller towers, both commercial and residential, the fire department needs to be quick to modernise.

According to an official of a company that makes CAFS, the system uses compressed air to generate and deliver foam along with high pressure.

CM Dhami meets Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda in Delhi

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, 15 July: Tuesday: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami met with Union Health & Family Welfare Minister Shri J.P. Nadda for a courtesy visit to discuss significant enhancements to the state's emergency healthcare services and ongoing medical education projects. During the meeting, Chief Minister Dhami requested an expansion of the AIIMS Rishikesh-operated air ambulance service, along with the provision of an additional helicopter dedicated to emergency operations in Uttarakhand's difficult and remote mountainous regions. He also urged the Centre to increase the per-family central contribution under the Ayushman Bharat scheme from ₹1,052 to ₹1,500 for SECC beneficiaries and expressed gratitude for AIIMS specialists' participation in the Char Dham Yatra, suggesting that travel duty be included in travel residences for post-

graduate medical residents. Chief Minister Dhami further highlighted the rapid construction of two new medical colleges - Jagjivan Ram Medical College



in Pithoragarh and Pandit Ram Sumer Shukla Medical College in Rudrapur and requested the Union to approve their academic launch for the 2026-27 academic session. He also sought expe-

ditioned permissions for the Tehri Medical College, being developed in collaboration with THDC. Additionally, he appealed for immediate central assistance to establish a modern trauma centre at Srinagar Medical College, emphasizing its vital role in serving local communities, pilgrims of the Char Dham Yatra, and tourists in the surrounding Himalayan area. Union Minister J.P. Nadda assured Chief Minister Dhami of the Union Government's full cooperation in all requested initiatives. This meeting underscores the collaborative efforts between the Centre and Uttarakhand to strengthen health infrastructure, enhance emergency care in remote and pilgrimage-heavy zones, and support the state's ongoing medical education expansion.

12 years & counting: New school building unused, open-air classes for Nuh students

Nuh. (Agency)

Thousands of students are forced to study in severely overcrowded classrooms at a school in Dudoli village or, in some cases, even under a tree, despite a new, spacious facility being readily available but unused. Not very far away, a fully constructed govt school building has been awaiting inauguration for 12 years. This prolonged delay is due to the illegal encroachment — and cultivation — of the access path leading to the school by influential local individuals. The new school building, despite being ready, has not been "handed over" to the education department. The consequences of this prolonged disuse are evident. "When it remains unused, miscreants open and break its windows

and doors, and now bricks are also being taken. Even the roof tiles are cracking," he said. All Girl Senior Secondary School, an imposing structure with 13 rooms and a large campus, was built over a decade ago specifically to provide a dedicated learning environment for students from Class VI to XII. However, the land designated as the crucial access route to this school has been seized by powerful locals who have planted various crops, including paddy, lentils and mustard, effectively blocking all entry. Despite repeated complaints filed by Gram Panchayat (village council) and the school administration with the sub-divisional officer (SDO), no action has been taken to clear the encroachment.

It has been learned the village headman himself attempted to reclaim the path but was stopped by the encroachers. "We have filed a complaint with Punhana SDO," principal of the currently operational Middle School-cum-Senior Secondary School Kamar Ali said. An official said the SDO has directed the circle officer to investigate the complaint.

This school is currently burdened with 1,125 students from Class I to XII, all sharing just 12 classrooms. Ali said, "In this campus, we have at least 600-700 students from Class VI to XII. Two primary school branches — a Girls' Primary and a Model Sanskriti Boys' Primary — also operate here, bringing the total number of children to over 1100-plus."

Penalty burden eases on private university that built campus illegally in Aravalis

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The penalty on a private university for using over 13 hectares of protected forest land in Faridabad without full permission is likely to come down sharply after the Centre decided to apply its new, relaxed rules in the case. The Aravali land, located along the Badkhal-Surajkund Road, was protected under Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), 1900. The university — Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies (MRIIRS) — used this land for construction before getting prior clearance, as mandated, under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. But after the FCA was amended in 2023, the campus became among the first to get post facto approval. During a meeting on June 12, the Union environment ministry's advisory committee recommended applying the 2023 forest rules for calculating the fine, replacing the stricter 2019 guidelines. Under the 2019 guidelines, the penal Net Present Value (NPV) — a form of financial compensation — was calculated from the actual date the forest land was used, with an additional 12% simple interest for each year of violation until payment was made. This meant that if an agency began using the land without formal clearance

in 2019, it would incur a penalty for each subsequent year, significantly increasing the financial burden. However, under the revised 2023 guidelines, the Union environment ministry introduced a key change — penal interest would now be applied only from the date the penalty demand was officially raised, not from the date of the original violation. This adjustment substantially reduces the total payable amount in delayed cases.

After this change was implemented, the Haryana govt sought clarification from the Centre on which set of rules should apply to the Manav Rachna forest diversion case, where the land was used before final approvals were granted.

The state govt specifically enquired if the stricter 2019 rules or more lenient 2023 norms should govern the calculation of the penal NPV — a decision with financial implications. This query was a focal point in the June 2025 meeting of the forest advisory committee, where the ministry reaffirmed its Nov 2024 clarification in favour of applying the 2023 norms.

Approval & penalty reduction:

The Centre had granted in-principle approval for the land diversion on Dec 29, 2023, but also flagged that the

university violated forest norms by starting work prematurely. The main query was how much the varsity should pay as a penalty (NPV) for using forest land without permission. This recommendation was made because



construction of the university began in 1991, well before the 1996 cut-off date. Last year, Parliament revised the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), stating if construction occurred prior to Dec 12, 1996, the Act would not be applicable.

Under the 2019 rules, the penalty would have been calculated from the year the land was first used — potentially as early as 2019 or 2020 — and would include 12% annual interest, resulting in a total fine of approximately ₹20 crore. However, under the new 2023 rules, interest is counted only from the date the

St Stephen’s College, schools receive bomb threats in Delhi, search operations begin

The mail received by St Stephen's College stated that a bomb was planted in the library of the college, said the Delhi Police.

Agency New Delhi. St Stephen’s College in Delhi and Stephen’s School in Dwarka received bomb threat emails Tuesday morning, prompting a search operation at the Delhi University (DU) college in the North Campus and the school. According to an official of the Delhi Fire Service, they received a call regarding a bomb threat at St Stephen’s College at about 8.01 am and St Stephen’s School in Dwarka at 8.51 am. He said one fire tender each went to the college and the school. According to a police officer, the mail received by St Stephen’s College stated that a bomb was planted in the library of the college. Local police, along with the Bomb Detection Team (BDT) and Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS), conducted a search operation but did not find anything suspicious on the premises. A similar bomb threat was received at three schools in Delhi Monday morning, prompting the authorities to conduct searches, but later the



police declared the calls a hoax. These were the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) School in Rohini’s Sector 14, the Navy School in Chanakyapuri, and another CRPF School in Dwarka’s Sector 16. The officer stated that legal action is being taken, and the cyber units of the respective district police are conducting a proper inquiry into the bomb threats in their areas. Since May last year, several Delhi schools have been receiving similar bomb threats. More than

200 schools in the Capital received bomb threats on their official email IDs in May 2024. Soon after, similar threat emails were also sent to several hospitals, colleges, and the Delhi Airport. In May this year, the Udyog Bhawan office at the Central Secretariat received a bomb threat via email, triggering extensive checking that ultimately resulted in the building being declared safe. In June, a Delhi-bound Air India flight from Mumbai received a bomb threat after an airline crew member discovered a paper that had “Bomb in flight Air India 2948, Air India 171” written on it. However, checks by the DFS and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) revealed the threat to be a hoax. According to the police, most of the emails have been sent using virtual private networks (VPNs). Senior police officers have previously stated that VPNs leverage anonymity and work on the principle that the server would not disclose the location or details, making it harder to trace the sender.

To ensure gender-neutral practices, transparency, DoE set to bring common seniority list for teachers

Agency New Delhi. With an aim to bring greater consistency in promotion, inter-cadre movements, and policy implementation across all levels, the Directorate of Education (DoE) is undertaking a comprehensive review of the senior management framework of its teaching personnel, said officials. As per the existing norms, male and female employees of various cadres are listed separately under the Trained Graduate Teachers (TGTs) and Post Graduate Teachers (PGTs). The department, as per its recent official communication, has proposed to prepare a common seniority list after merging the bifurcated lists into a unified list across cadres. “This bifurcation, which has existed for several decades, is now being reconsidered in light of evolving service jurisprudence, the need to promote gender-neutral practices, and to ensure uniformity and transparency in service-related matters,” read a circular issued dated June 30. The circular added, “This initiative is intended to bring greater consistency in promotion, inter-cadre movements, and policy implementation across all levels of the education hierarchy.” The established promotional hierarchy within the department includes Assistant Teachers or Miscellaneous Teachers, followed by TGTs, PGTs, Vice-Principal, Principal, Deputy Director of Education, and Additional Director of Education. A common seniority list for a cadre would refer to the officers working on the same scale of pay, which is revised periodically. The DOE has sought the views on the merger proposal, the methodology to be adopted, the proposed effective implementation date, and any additional relevant issues from employee associations, unions, and individual employees.

Fake notes issued by ‘Manoranjan Bank of India’: Four of gang held, racket busted



Agency New Delhi. When a man looking to buy a property in South Delhi came out of an upscale CR Park flat on July 4, a bag of cash was given to him by a group of four persons to complete his purchase. He allegedly did not have immediate access to cash for the transaction, and he transferred Rs 40 lakh online to them from his bank account. As he opened the bag after reaching home, he found fake notes, not issued by the RBI but by “Manoranjan Bank of India”, he told police. He realised that he was duped and went back to the flat to confront the accused, but they had absconded. He filed the complaint on July 6 at the CR Park police station. Following an investigation into the case, the fake currency racket was busted on July 9, the Delhi Police said on Monday, adding that the four persons have been arrested. “The four men met him at the flat in CR Park, where several other people were also present. The accused showed him a large amount of cash, following which the complainant transferred a sum of Rs 40 lakh through online banking. In return, they handed over the bag, and counted a portion of the cash in front of him using a machine,” DCP (South) Ankith Chauhan said. After the complaint was filed, a team under Inspector Girish Chandra of the Special Staff assessed the details of the bank account in which the money was transferred. A tip-off was received on July 9 that the accused would be coming to another flat in the Saidulajab area to execute a similar fraud. “The team then laid a trap, and a raid was conducted at the flat. Three persons were held,” DCP Chauhan said. The three arrested accused were identified as Nikhil, Prince Pal, and Parvez. On their instance, the fourth member of the gang, Asgar Khan, was also arrested the next day.

Family of 9 threatens suicide at Delhi Police HQ as cops ‘refuse to file FIR’ over daughter’s ‘dowry death’

The deceased woman’s father said they had spent over Rs 19 lakh in expenses related to her wedding and as gifts for the groom and his family, but she was harassed for more.

Agency New Delhi. A family of nine threatened to kill themselves in front of the Delhi Police Headquarters on Monday after officers allegedly refused to register a First Information Report (FIR) over their daughter’s death, reportedly over dowry-related harassment. According to the deceased woman’s father, she had allegedly died by suicide at her in-laws’ house on April 5 after facing years of abuse and humiliation at the hands of her husband and his relatives. The police, meanwhile, said they are in the process of registering a case. Speaking to , Balveer, the woman’s father, said she got married in March 2017. “At the time, we spent Rs 15 lakh on her wedding and gave the groom’s family Rs 2 lakh cash, along with a motorcycle, gold and silver jewellery. We also gave Rs 1.75 lakh cash for the



groom to buy furniture, fridge and an air conditioner for their new house. We paid this huge sum on that family’s demands,” he said. In a letter addressed to the Commissioner of Police, he further alleged that soon after the wedding, the woman’s in-laws began harassing her routinely, seeking more dowry. “They took away the gold and silver jewellery given to her during the wedding, saying that it was for safekeeping,” Balveer said. “In the first week of January, her in-laws began pressuring her to ask us for

another car. When my daughter said that we could not afford such a purchase, they began abusing her and demanding that we pay them an additional Rs 5 lakh for the wedding,” he added. Unable to take the pressure and harassment, the woman allegedly died by suicide on April 5. The woman’s family alleged that despite their efforts, the police would not take their complaint, prompting them to threaten to take the drastic step in front of the police headquarters. Responding to the allegations, a senior police officer said they are registering a case under sections of cruelty and abetment of suicide. “The family has submitted a written statement and we shall register a case based on that. The inquest proceedings were taking time, which is why there was a delay in registering the case,” the officer added.

22-year-old Delhi man falls into Yamuna, family alleges suicide

Agency New Delhi. A 22-year-old man allegedly jumped from Signature Bridge in Delhi on Monday afternoon, the Delhi Police said, adding that divers and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel are still searching for his body in the Yamuna River. According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), they received a call from a passerby that he saw a person jumping from the bridge at 3.15 pm and drowning. DFS officer said that a businessman man identified as Vinod Pal, claimed that he saw his son Akash jumping from the bridge in a video given by his friends. Vinod told the officer that Akash, a resident of Karawal Nagar area of North East Delhi, has been missing since 11 am and that his friends told

him that he was on the bridge to make some video. The police who are yet to find any video which shows Akash Pal voluntarily



jumping in Yamuna, are now probing whether he committed suicide or fell by accident. Akash Pal was also involved in his family’s garment business, the police said. The police are now interrogating

Akash’s friends and family to ascertain the reason for him to go to the bridge. They said his family isn’t aware of any mental stress that Akash Pal was going through. On Sunday, the body of a 19-year-old Delhi University student, Sneha Debnath, was recovered from the Yamuna after she allegedly died by suicide over a week ago. She was last spotted on July 7, also near the Signature Bridge. Her body was recovered from the river stretch below the Geeta Colony Flyover, the police said. Officially inaugurated in November 2018 by the then chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, the part of the bridge where Pal and Debnath were last seen falls under the jurisdiction of Timarpur police station.

More Indian students choosing Europe for higher education

Agency New Delhi. While Indian students heading to foreign universities have declined across the top three destination countries – Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom – member states of the European Union are seeing a steady rise in the number of Indians travelling to pursue higher studies. Canada witnessed a 32% drop, with permits falling from 2.78 lakh to 1.89 lakh, the United States saw a 34% decrease, with F1 visas dropping from 1.31 lakh to 86,110 between fiscal years 2023 and 2024. The UK on the other hand recorded a 26% reduction with sponsored student visas issued to Indians decreasing from 1.20 lakh to 88,732 during the same time period. This reduction has come in the backdrop of tightening immigration measures including introduction of caps on student intake and restrictions on dependent visas. On the other hand, Indian students travelling to EU member states for higher education have risen by close to 80% in the last five years. From close to 50,000 students in 2018, the number has jumped to over 90,000 in 2023-24. While 56,255 students headed to foreign universities in the EU member states in 2018-19, this number jumped to over 90,000 by 2023-24. The figures for 2019-20 and 2022-23 were 66,385 and 84,736 respectively. According to data from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), as of January 1, 2024, over 11.6 lakh Indian students were studying in higher education institutions abroad. While the top three destinations accounted for 31% of Indian students collectively, EU member states accounted for 8% – a figure that has steadily been rising. “Europe is an attractive destination for Indian students because it offers diversity of programs and a richness of cultural experience. Already 90,000 Indian students are studying in Europe...this speaks for itself. With the EU India bilateral relations with India going full steam ahead, more opportunities for people to people contact will be created,” European Union Ambassador Herve Delphin told.

Coming soon at Delhi’s Garden of Five Senses: Ayurvedic spa, paintball, rock climbing

Agency New Delhi. The next time you go to the Garden of Five Senses near Saket, it could be for a visit to an ayurvedic wellness spa, to go rock climbing or play paintball. The Delhi government is planning to turn the space, which was designed to stimulate the five senses — sight, sound, touch, smell, and taste — into a recreational hub, which would include a library cafe, a craft cafe showcasing local artisanship, as well as adventure activities. The Delhi Tourism Department has invited an Expression of Interest (EOI) to engage a consultant to prepare a plan and guide the department for the job. “Activities like pre-wedding shoots take place in the park, but to promote tourism, the department is planning comprehensive redevelopment. We have invited tenders to appoint a consultant/landscape architect,” said a senior official. The consultant will have to come up with a plan to redesign the entire park, including open and covered spaces, signage, art elements, furniture, shelters, parking, boundary walls, entry/exit gates, tourist activities, rainwater harvesting etc, said officials. “The idea is to redevelop the park in a way that irrespective of whether you are a nature lover, fitness enthusiast, art admirer, someone looking for the perfect photo-op or someone who just wants to take a break and listen to the music from the singing trees from Bastar or the music pillars from Southern India, you can find it here...,” the official said. This is not the first time that redevelopment of the garden has been envisioned. When senior AAP leader Manish Sisodia was the tourism minister, he proposed activities such as bungee jumping and rock climbing, but the forest department did not grant clearance.

9-month nightmare: Sewage chokes road in Northeast Delhi, hits homes, shops - even police station

Drivers on two-wheelers are forced to lift their legs to dodge piles of floating garbage — sanitary napkins, diapers, vegetable waste, polythene bags, the occasional fallen branch — as they navigate the road.

Agency New Delhi. “We can’t step out on duty. If someone calls to lodge a complaint, how will we respond to it?” said a police officer at the Khajuri Khas police station in Northeast Delhi, pointing to the murky water that’s seeped into the premises. The scene outside is no better. Tyres of police vans parked along the road are half-submerged in the stagnant water. At the end of the road, one can spot a blue board that reads ‘Delhi Development Authority. Thank you for visiting facilitation centre, Khajoori Khas.’ From this point onward, drain water has flooded a 200-metre long stretch, extending from the DDA board to Shriram Colony and Sonia Vihar. This has been the situation for the past nine months owing to blocked drains, say residents of the area. The government has

hired workers to pump out the water and deployed an earthmover to remove slabs covering drains — but nothing has worked. The area has turned into a motorist’s nightmare. Drivers on two-wheelers are forced to lift their legs to dodge piles of floating garbage — sanitary napkins, diapers, vegetable waste, polythene bags, the occasional fallen branch — as they navigate the road. E-rickshaws fare even worse; their vehicles stall multiple times, forcing the drivers to halt. Deep Mala, a resident of Shriram Colony who runs a snacks shop nearby, says the situation has persisted since Diwali last year. “Due to the waterlogging, we have to take our kids to school through a different route, which is

very narrow and crowded. Many children have fallen trying to cross the stretch.” She adds that the water is pumped out, only to return by morning — and sometimes,



it’s knee-deep. “During the elections, the road was fine. But look at the situation now,” she adds. Deepak Gaur, an advocate who works at the Karkardooma Court, complains that

the elected representatives lack the political will to tackle the mess. “The people say many lakhs have been spent here... that this area is under a responsible minister of the government but people of this area are still facing trouble,” he claims. An official who is part of a private company hired by the government to pump out the water explains the reason behind the persistent problem. “While constructing the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) laid drainage pipes at a depth of 8 to 9 feet. However, the existing drainage pipes are positioned at just 6 feet. As a result, there is backflow of drain water, which spills onto the roads,” he says on condition of anonymity.

NEWS BOX

Real Madrid complete full-back Alvaro Carreras signing from SL Benfica

New Delhi. (Agency)

Real Madrid have officially brought Alvaro Carreras back to the Santiago Bernabeu, signing the Spanish left-back from SL Benfica on a six-year deal. The 22-year-old returns to the club where he once trained as a teenager, now a much more polished and battle-tested defender. Carreras came through Madrid’s academy between 2017 and 2020 before taking a leap to Manchester United in search of senior opportunities. While he never featured for United’s first team, loan stints at Preston North End and Granada offered him much-needed experience. His breakthrough came after a loan switch to Benfica in January 2024, which became a permanent move for around 5 million just a few months later."Real Madrid C. F. and Sport Lisboa e Benfica have reached an agreement for the transfer of the player lvaro Carreras, who is linked to our club for the next six seasons, until June 30, 2031," Los Blancos statement read.His rise in Portugal was quick and impressive. Last



season, Carreras played 68 games across all competitions, netted five goals, and was instrumental in helping Benfica finish second in the league. He also featured regularly in the Champions League and was part of their Club World Cup squad.Now, Madrid have paid 50 million euros (43 million pounds) to secure his return — a deal that will also benefit Manchester United, who are entitled to 20% of the profit made by Benfica on the transfer.Carreras arrives as part of a major defensive rebuild led by new manager Xabi Alonso. The Spanish coach, now at the helm following Carlo Ancelotti’s exit, has already brought in Dean Huijsen and Trent Alexander-Arnold to reshape the backline after a frustrating 2024–25 campaign. Madrid ended the season without a single trophy, missing out on LaLiga, the Copa del Rey, and the Champions League.

IND vs ENG: Ben Stokes, England's heart and soul, is beyond the stats

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ben Stokes was hobbling around, clutching his leg on a hot Thursday afternoon at Lord's. The signs were ominous for the English supporter, as Stokes had only returned from knee surgery just before the India series.It made sense, perhaps, that he was in some discomfort. The England captain had already bowled 61 overs in the



first two Tests of the series. Injury-prone in the recent past owing to a bung knee, Stokes could have opted to save himself from the bowling efforts in both innings at Lord's. But then again, if he did that, he wouldn't be Ben Stokes, would he?England cricket's miracle man, the hero of age-defying moments, took it upon himself to bowl a staggering 44 overs, his heaviest bowling workload in a single Test in nearly six years. The player of the match effort carried England over the line at Lord’s, by a narrow margin of 22 runs.Forty-four overs. Let that sink in. This was the third-highest bowling workload of his entire Test career. With that, Stokes has now delivered 105 overs in the series, with two more games still to play.Former England batter Jonathan Trott was left in awe. And who wouldn’t be? "It just shows he's the heart and soul of the side. He leads from the front, and that's exactly what you want from a captain. He's never going to ask someone to do something he wouldn't be willing to do himself," Trott said after the match.On Day 5 morning, when the match hung in balance, Stokes chose to bowl 10 overs in his opening spell. Then came another 10 after lunch. It was during these spells that he picked off KL Rahul and Jasprit Bumrah, two crucial breakthroughs that shifted the game in England’s favour.

Cricket at LA Olympics to begin on July 12, medal matches on July 20 and 29

Cricket returns to the Olympics after a 128-year break

- LA28 Games will feature men's and women's T20 competitions
- Matches scheduled from July 12 to 29 at Fairgrounds Stadium

New Delhi. ((Agency)

Cricket will make its much-anticipated return to the Olympics after a 128-year hiatus, taking center stage at the LA28 Games from July 12 to 29, 2028. The matches will be held at the Fairgrounds Stadium in the city of Pomena, roughly 50 kilometers from Los Angeles, and mark a historic moment for the sport, which last featured in the Olympics in 1900.The 2028 Olympic cricket competition will feature six teams each in the men's and women's categories, totaling 180 players competing in the T20 format - a fast-paced, globally popular version of the game.



According to the schedule released by the LA28 organizing committee, most matchdays will feature double headers, though no matches are set for July 14 and 21. The medal matches are scheduled for July 20 (women's) and July 29 (men's).Each team will consist of a 15-member squad, making full use of the 90 athlete quotas allocated per gender. This format allows for competitive depth while keeping the event compact and viewer-friendly, aligning with the Olympic

movement's goal to attract new audiences.Cricket's Olympic history is notably brief - the sport was played only once, during the 1900 Paris Olympics, where just two teams, Great Britain and France, faced off in a two-day match. Great Britain claimed the gold in what became a footnote in Olympic lore - until now.The resurgence of cricket on the Olympic stage coincides with the sport's expanding global footprint. The recent 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup,

WI vs AUS: Mitchell Starc cherishes special week after historic spell in his 100th Test

Starc took six wickets for nine runs in the third Test against West Indies

- Starc's 100th Test featured the fastest five-wicket haul in Test history

- He now holds 81 wickets in day-night Tests, the most in the format

New Delhi. (Agency)

Mitchell Starc described the Jamaica Test as one he will "cherish" after delivering the fastest five-wicket haul in Test history on Monday, as Australia thrashed the West Indies by 176 runs in the third Test in Kingston to complete a 3-0 series sweep. Starc has long been known for his ability to produce match-turning spells, but his milestone 100th Test will stand as one of the most memorable moments in a distinguished career. In a week filled with personal milestones and team success, Starc's stunning 6 for 9 restricted the West Indies to 27 and sealed the series in

emphatic fashion, further cementing his place among the greats of Australian cricket.What made the performance truly historic was the sheer dominance of his spell. Starc tore through the West Indies top order in a blistering opening burst that



featured a triple-wicket over, with his 400th Test wicket among the haul. It was the kind of spell that defined the match - and his milestone Test."Probably a win against the conditions," Starc reflected modestly,noting how Australia closed out the match with minimal need for the advantage of the night session under lights. "It wasn't a plan to drag it out. If things weren't happening straight away, we knew they would under lights. Didn't need to.""It's certainly been uncomfortable throughout the week," he

said. "I was happy just to have a win and sing the song. It's certainly been a special week to play, to wear the baggy green. It's been one I'll cherish for a long time."His 6 for 9 was not only a personal best but came in a red-hot stretch of form - 20 wickets at 16.45 across the last four Tests, dating back to the World Test Championship final. It brought back memories of his 6 for 48 against India with the pink ball in Adelaide, another performance that defied both conditions and expectations."I felt like my rhythm has been pretty good for a while now," Starc said. "Today, again, just felt like everything was in sync and I got some late swing. I think perhaps the breeze might have helped, especially as I wasn't bowling under lights."With support from Scott Boland - who claimed a hat-trick - Australia didn't even need to call on skipper Pat Cummins with the ball. It was only the second time in a significant innings, while fit, that Cummins has gone unused."My favourite part," Cummins joked after the match, before offering glowing praise of his fellow quick. "I think a lot of the chat this week was about how resilient and professional you have to be to make it to 100 Tests. But that's just Starcy. He can tear a game open in a couple of overs.

Rishabh Pant's run-out the biggest turning point of Lord's Test: Sunil Gavaskar

New Delhi. (Agency)

India’s narrow 22-run loss to England in the Lord’s Test left fans heartbroken, and according to cricketing legend Sunil Gavaskar, one moment in particular tilted the game decisively in England’s favour — the run-out of India’s vice-captain Rishabh Pant.Speaking exclusively to India Today, the former India skipper reflected on the turning point of the match, highlighting how Pant’s dismissal on Day 3 shifted the momentum at a crucial juncture. Pant was looking in sublime touch, batting through pain from a finger injury and counterattacking the English bowlers with controlled aggression. His 141-run partnership with KL Rahul had lifted India from a precarious position to a place of dominance, and Gavaskar noted how the duo's contrasting styles — Rahul’s calm



composure and Pant's explosive flair — were perfectly complementing each other."That was the biggest turning point of the match. Both batters were going so well—splendid batting from them. It was like a fire-and-ice combination. Rahul was all calm precision, playing calculated strokes, while Rishabh Pant brought power

and punch, really putting pressure on the England bowling attack," Gavaskar said. "It was a rollicking partnership, and then, just in that last hour before lunch, the run-out changed everything. Yes, we did manage to get to the 100-run mark after lunch, but a run-out like that can linger in the mind. Maybe that's why, after the hundred, there was just a slight lapse—a shot that got Rahul out. So in a short span, India lost two well-set batters. Suddenly, two new batters had to come in and build a partnership from scratch—and that’s never easy," he added.India, after bowling England out for 387 in their first innings, had seen their top order crumble despite good form in the series up to that point. Rahul and Pant stepped in to steady the ship. Rahul went on to notch up a patient century

Heartbreaking, embarrassing: Roston Chase after WI fold for 27 in shocking collapse

- West Indies were bowled out for just 27 runs in their second innings
- Australia completed a 3-0 series whitewash against West Indies
- Mitchell Starc took five wickets in 15 balls, fastest in Test history

New Delhi. (Agency)

JWest Indies captain Roston Chase has described his side's shocking collapse against Australia in Jamaica as both "heartbreaking" and "embarrassing", following one of the lowest totals ever recorded in Test cricket.In a crushing defeat at Sabina Park, the West Indies were bowled

out for just 27 runs in their second innings, handing Australia a 3-0 series whitewash. It was the second-lowest total in Test history and the lowest ever by a West Indies team, surpassing their previous mark of 47. It also marked the first time any team has recorded seven ducks in a single Test innings.Chasing a modest target of 204 on the third day of the final Test, the home side lasted just 14.3 overs. Australian fast bowler Mitchell Starc tore through the batting order, taking five wickets in only 15 balls - the fastest five-wicket haul in Test history.Speaking after the match, Chase was visibly downcast. "It's disappointing," he said. "We've been putting ourselves in positions to win games, and then we just lay down and don't put up a fight in the last batting innings. It's quite heartbreaking, because I think we did it in all three Tests, and we're not really learning from our mistakes."Chase, who recently



took on the captaincy, didn't shy away from the team's poor display. "Obviously, being bowled out for less than 30 is quite embarrassing," he admitted. Despite the historic low score, Chase believed the target of 204 was within reach and refused to blame pitch conditions. "I thought it was realistic," he said. "The wicket was still a good batting wicket. I didn't think there were too many

co-hosted by the USA and the West Indies, featured matches at U.S. venues such as Grand Prairie (Texas), Lauderhill (Florida), and New York, offering a clear glimpse into cricket's growing American presence.

Cricket is one of five new sports approved by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for LA28, alongside baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse (sixes), and squash - all selected for their broad appeal and youth engagement.Commenting on the Games' vision, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said, "When the world comes here for these Games, we will highlight every neighbourhood as we host a Games for all and work to ensure it leaves a monumental legacy.We are already delivering that legacy as we announce there have been more than one million enrollments in PlayLA. I want to thank LA28 and the International Olympic Committee for making these programs possible and for their continued work to host the greatest Games yet."Cricket's Olympic return is not just a nod to tradition but a bold step toward the future - showcasing a sport that blends heritage with modern flair, now poised to capture the imagination of a global audience once again.

Jofra Archer silences keyboard warriors with heroic Test return for England

London. (Agency)

Star pacer Jofra Archer hit back at the “keyboard warriors” who doubted him during his long road back to Test cricket, after helping England to a thrilling 22-run victory over India in third Test at Lord’s.Making his first Test appearance in more than four years, Archer returned with trademark pace and precision, taking five wickets and regularly exceeding 90mph. It was a remarkable comeback for the 30-year-old, who has spent the better part of the past few years battling serious injuries and undergoing extensive rehabilitation.Speaking to Sky Sports after the match, Archer admitted just how much the moment meant to him."I guess I was a little bit emotional. It was a long journey. I can't tell you the amount of keyboard warriors there have been over the last three or four years," he said.Archer's return has been defined by patience and perseverance. Since last playing Test cricket in early 2021, he has suffered multiple setbacks, including stress fractures in his elbow and lower back. While he made a gradual return to England's white-ball



squads, his path back to the red-ball game was carefully managed to reduce the risk of further injury."It was a long time coming - a lot of rehab, a lot of training," Archer added. "But it's moments like this that make it all worth it. The whole crowd gave me a huge lift."He wasted no time making an impact. With just the third ball of his comeback, Archer removed India's Yashasvi Jaiswal - a moment that set the tone for an energetic and relentless spell. By the close of the match, he had bowled 39 overs - far more than even he had anticipated.

"It was very hectic for a first Test back. I bowled more overs than I thought I would! I think I still have overs marked out until December, so I'm not totally out of the woods. But this is a good start."Though keen to return earlier, Archer acknowledged that England's measured approach was ultimately the right one. "The hardest part has been playing cricket for the last year and a half and still having the training wheels on. Sometimes you think you're ready, but you never know until you do it. The safer way is the best way, so I'm not too fussed.

devils in the pitch like the last two games. We thought 204 was gettable. But then, obviously, with the start we had - 11 for 6 or something like that - it's very difficult to get those runs from there."It was a miserable series overall for the West Indies' new-look batting line-up. Across six innings in three Tests, they managed scores of 190, 141, 253, 143, 143, and 27. Only Brandon King passed fifty, scoring 75 in Grenada, and he was the only West Indies batter to average over 20 across the series.Chase noted that the pitches had been challenging for both sides. "I think the pitches were very tough. I don't want to say they were too in favour of the bowlers, but they were very tough. This is probably the first series I've played where no batter got a hundred for either side. That just shows how dominant the bowlers were."

Sensex opens 119 points higher, Nifty above 25,100; Tata Motors up 1%

New Delhi. (Agency)
Benchmark stock market indices opened higher on Tuesday, breaking the negative run, as auto and energy sector stocks rallied in early trade, pushing Sensex, Nifty up.The S&P BSE Sensex was up 176.33 points to 82,429.79, while the NSE Nifty50 gained 63.50 points to 25,145.80 as of 9:29 am.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the market is in a state of drift with no clear indications of a sharp change of course."FIIs who have been net buyers in April, May and June have turned net sellers in July as per the latest data. This has put pressure on largecaps. Absence of institutional selling in the broader market is keeping this segment resilient despite the elevated valuations," he added.Among the top gainers, Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) rose 0.87%, followed by Bharti Airtel with a 0.70% gain. Kotak Mahindra Bank went up 0.59%, Sun Pharma gained 0.56%, and Tata Motors increased 0.44%.HCLTech dropped 2.83%, while Eternal fell 0.77%. Power Grid Corporation declined 0.07%, Axis Bank went down 0.11%, and Tata Steel lost 0.47%.The Nifty Midcap100 gained 0.51% while Nifty Smallcap100 rose 0.76%, but India VIX fell 0.77%.

Among the sectoral indices, several showed positive momentum with Nifty Media leading at 0.97%, followed by Nifty Auto at 0.72%, Nifty Oil & Gas at 0.73%, and Nifty Consumer Durables at 0.55%. Other gainers included Nifty Realty at 0.47%, Nifty Pharma at 0.41%, Nifty Healthcare at 0.38%, Nifty FMCG at 0.21%, Nifty PSU Bank at 0.21%, Nifty Private Bank at 0.19%, Nifty Financial Services at 0.17%, Nifty Metal at 0.11%, and Nifty IT at 0.06%.

TOKYO.(Agency).
Struggling auto giant Nissan said Tuesday it will stop production at its plant at Oppama in Japan at the end of its 2027 fiscal year.Nissan posted a net loss of 671 billion yen (\$4.5 billion) last year and it has said it will cut 15 percent of its global workforce."The company will cease vehicle production at the Oppama plant at the end of fiscal year 2027," Nissan said in a statement.Production of the plant outside of Yokahama will be shifted to another existing factory on the southern Japanese island of Kyushu, it said.

One of Nissan's six domestic plants, Oppama employed around 3,900 people as of October 2024 and began operations in 1961, according to the company's website.It was a "pioneer in the production of advanced vehicles, such as the Nissan LEAF, the world's first mass-market electric vehicle," it said.The heavily indebted carmaker, whose mooted merger with Japanese rival Honda collapsed this year, is slashing production as part of its expensive business turnaround plan.

Nissan said in May it would "consolidate its vehicle production plants from 17 to 10 by fiscal year 2027". Like many peers, Nissan is finding it difficult to compete against Chinese electric vehicle brands.

The merger with Honda had been seen as a potential lifeline but talks collapsed in February when the latter proposed making Nissan a subsidiary.

Nissan has faced numerous speed bumps in recent years -- including the 2018 arrest of former boss Carlos Ghosn, who later fled Japan concealed in an audio equipment box.Ratings agencies have downgraded the firm to junk, with Moody's citing its "weak profitability" and "ageing model portfolio".

This year Nissan shelved plans, only recently agreed, to build a \$1-billion battery plant in southern Japan owing to the tough "business environment".

Of Japan's major automakers, Nissan is seen as the most exposed to US President Donald Trump's 25-percent tariff imposed on imported Japanese vehicles earlier this year.This is because its clientele has historically been more price-sensitive than that of its rivals, according to experts.

WASHINGTON. (Agency)
Inflation likely accelerated in June as sweeping tariffs on nearly all imports may have pushed up prices for electronics, appliances, and other goods, economists forecast.Consumer prices probably rose 2.6% last month from a year ago, up from an annual increase of 2.4% in May, according to data provider FactSet.

The Labor Department will issue its inflation report at 8:30 a.m. eastern. On a monthly basis, prices likely rose 0.3% from May to June, the largest increase since January, economists project.Worsening inflation could pose a political challenge for President Donald Trump, who promised during last year's presidential campaign to immediately lower costs. The sharp inflation spike of 2022-2023 was the worst in four decades and soured most Americans on former president Joe Biden's handling of the economy.Faster price increases would also likely underscore the Federal Reserve's reluctance to cut its short-term interest rate, as Trump is loudly demanding.Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, inflation is forecast to have risen 3% in June from a year earlier, up from a 2.8% rise in May. On a monthly basis, it is also expected to have picked up 0.3% from May to June, according to FactSet. Economists closely watch core prices because they typically provide a better sense of where inflation is headed.Trump has imposed sweeping duties of 10% on all imports, plus 50% levies on steel and aluminum, 30% on goods from China, and 25% on imported cars. Just last week the president threatened to hit the European Union with a new 30% tariff starting Aug. 1.So far, the tariffs haven't noticeably pushed up inflation, which has been mild for the past four months. Core inflation has fallen from 3.3% in January to 2.8% in May, though that is still above the Fed's 2% target.

Theobroma to be sold, Rs 2,410-crore sweet deal baked by ChrysCapital: Report

ChrysCapital to acquire 90% stake in Theobroma Foods for Rs 2,410 crore
Founding family retains 10% stake; ICICI Venture sells 42% stake
Deal valued lower than initial Rs 3,000 crore but signals sector reviv


New Delhi. (Agency)
Private equity firm ChrysCapital has agreed to acquire a 90% stake in Theobroma Foods, the popular pan-India bakery chain, for Rs 2,410 crore, reported The Economic Times (ET).As per the

agreement, ChrysCapital will buy the majority stake from Theobroma's promoters and its existing investor ICICI Venture. The founding family will retain around 10% stake in the company, people familiar with the matter told ET.

ICICI Venture currently owns 42% in Theobroma. It had invested \$20 million in 2017, which was around Rs 130 crore at the time.

DEAL STRUCTURE AND VALUATION
Talks between ChrysCapital and Theobroma resumed earlier this year after being paused for nearly six weeks due to weak financial performance. Initially, the promoters and investors had sought a valuation of Rs 3,000 crore, but the final deal was signed at Rs 2,410 crore.While the final price is lower than what was first expected, the transaction is being seen as a positive sign for the restaurant and cafes sector, where several deals had been on hold due to market uncertainty."Even though the Theobroma deal has been signed at a lower valuation compared to

what was brought on the table first, it's being seen as a precedent for revival of high-value transactions in the dining and cafes sector," a person directly involved



in the discussions told ET.Arwood Capital advised the promoters on the deal. ChrysCapital, ICICI Venture, and Theobroma declined to comment, according to ET.Theobroma had attracted interest from several other big names. Global investment firms like Bain Capital and Carlyle, and Switz Group, the owner of the Monginis bakery chain, had also shown interest earlier in the process, but

ChrysCapital eventually emerged as the buyer.ChrysCapital is reportedly looking to build a quick-service restaurant (QSR) platform. As reported by ET earlier, it is planning to acquire popular food brands such as Theobroma and The Belgian Waffle Co. to expand its footprint in the sector.This deal with Theobroma is expected to be a key part of that strategy.

Founded in 2004 by sisters Kainaz Messman Harchandrai and Tina Messman Wykes, Theobroma began with a single outlet at Cusrow Baug on Mumbai's Colaba Causeway. Over the last 20 years, the brand has expanded to more than 200 stores across over 30 cities.

Theobroma is known for its popular brownies, cakes, desserts, breads, snacks, and chocolates.According to people quoted by ET, Theobroma is projected to post a revenue of Rs 525-550 crore in FY25 with an EBITDA of Rs 80-100 crore. In FY24, it reported revenue of Rs 400 crore and adjusted EBITDA of Rs 60 crore.

Claiming fake ITR refunds Here's what could happen

To give honest taxpayers a chance to fix their mistakes, the department had earlier asked people to revise their returns if they had claimed any wrong deductions.

New Delhi(Agency).
The Income Tax Department has started a big check across the country to catch people and groups making fake claims in their tax returns. This fresh move is aimed at stopping taxpayers from wrongly claiming deductions and exemptions without having any real proof.

WHAT'S UNDER THE SCANNER?
This new drive will not just look at donations made to little-known political parties or charities but will also check claims related to health insurance, medical expenses, house rent allowance (HRA), and even interest paid on education or home loans. Deductions claimed for buying vehicles are also under the scanner.The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said that people working for multinational companies, public sector firms, government offices, colleges and universities, and some business owners are all being checked if they claimed these tax benefits without

valid reasons.

HOW ARE THEY FINDING OFFENDERS?
The department has used different databases to spot those who might be making fake claims.



Officials said they have now started surprise checks and searches at around 150 places in states like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Gujarat, Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. These searches are expected to bring out digital records and other evidence showing how such fake claims are being made.

FAKE CLAIMS RACKETS BUSTED

Officials said that detailed checks found that some tax return preparers and middlemen were running well-organised rackets. These people were helping taxpayers file returns with made-up deductions and exemptions.

CHANCE TO FIX MISTAKES
To give honest taxpayers a chance to fix their mistakes, the department had earlier asked people to revise their returns if they had claimed any wrong deductions.

In the past four months, about 40,000 people have come forward and corrected their tax returns, giving up fake claims worth about Rs 1,045 crore. But many taxpayers did not update their returns, possibly due to the involvement of agents behind these frauds.

STRICT ACTION AHEAD

The Income Tax Department has warned that strict action will be taken against those who continue to make fake claims. This includes fines and even court action if needed.

Tesla's Model Y to debut in India at Rs 60 lakh

In comparison, the Model Y starts at \$44,990 in the United States, 263,500 yuan in China, and 45,970 euros in Germany. This makes the Indian version one of the most expensive, mainly due to import duties and logistics costs.

New Delhi. (Agency)
Tesla has announced the pricing of its first electric car for the Indian market. The Model Y SUV, which will be the company's first offering in India, will be sold at a starting price of \$69,766, according to the price list published on Tesla's website on Tuesday, reported news agency Reuters. The base version of the Model Y, the rear-wheel drive is priced at Rs 60 lakh for a full cash

purchase. The Model Y long-range rear-wheel drive variant is priced higher at Rs 68 lakh. These prices are for completely built units (CBUs) that will be imported into the



country.In comparison, the Model Y starts at \$44,990 in the United States, 263,500 yuan in China, and 45,970 euros in Germany. This makes the Indian version one of the most expensive, mainly due to import duties and logistics costs.

India entry begins with Mumbai experience centreTesla has finalised its first physical location in India, an experience centre in the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC) in Mumbai. This area is one of the city's most premium

business hubs and will be the starting point for Tesla's India journey.The entry into India is part of Tesla's broader push into growing electric vehicle (EV) markets. While India has been a late entrant into the EV space compared to China and the U.S., rising demand, expanding infrastructure, and government incentives are attracting global players.Tesla is expected to import the Model Y units from its Gigafactory in Shanghai, which is the company's main export hub for Asia and Europe. So far, six units of the Model Y SUV have been imported to India as test or display vehicles.According to import data, Tesla has already brought in goods worth nearly \$1 million to India in preparation for its launch. These include not only vehicles but also Supercharger equipment and car accessories. Most of these items have been sourced from Tesla's facilities in China and the United States.Since the Model Y will be sold as a fully imported vehicle.

Drought-hit Serbian raspberry farmers fear 'catastrophic' future

Data published by the World Bank show Serbia was the top global exporter of several frozen berries, including raspberries, in 2023.

ARILJE .(Agency)
Facing drought and record heat, raspberry farmers in western Serbia are warning of the worst season in decades for one of the world's largest exporters of the fruit.Under the scorching sun, pickers move through parched raspberry fields in search of the few fruits that have not shrivelled to a pea.The dry spell started six weeks early in the region of Arilje, around 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of Belgrade, hitting a harvest already weakened by a late frost which struck while the berries were in bloom.

"I used to be the best picker here, getting 100, even 120 kilos a day. Now I can barely manage 20 or 25," Ivan Mitic told

AFP, as he plucked berries from the occasional healthy branch.

Even after he has sorted through several rows in the intense summer heat, the richest raspberries are in short supply, and his fluorescent green tray is left half-filled."You just can't pick enough. From five or six rows, you can't even fill one crate," the 27-year-old picker said.Data published by the World Bank show Serbia was the top global exporter of several frozen berries, including raspberries, in 2023.In 2024 it shipped around 80,000 tonnes of raspberries, mostly frozen, to major markets including France and Germany last year, according to the Serbian Chamber of Commerce.But it has not rained for almost two months, and with no irrigation systems, Ivan's employer, Mileta Pilcevic, said farmers are experiencing the worst season in 50 years."We expected a state of natural disaster to be declared. The heat has been extreme. We thought someone would reach out, but no one has," Pilcevic said.

The third-generation raspberry farmer said his fruits had withered to a fraction of

even a poor harvest, where he could expect at least 22 tonnes."This year, after all this drought, I'll be lucky to get five."Across his three hectares, dead fruit and pale green, unripe berries hang from leaves.June was Serbia's driest month on



record, according to meteorologists, with no rain in what is usually the Balkan nation's wettest weeks."Due to climate change, climate variability has increased," University of Belgrade meteorologist Ana Vukovic Vimic said.

"The warm, dry season is getting longer, while peak rainfall has moved from June to May, with the trend continuing toward

earlier months," Vukovic Vimic said.Alongside declining rainfall, the region has warmed dramatically in the last 10 to 20 years -- now two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) warmer on average, she said.This summer is predicted to be record-breaking, with its average temperature already 2.5C (4.5F) hotter, the professor said.Serbia's "red gold" is one of the country's most important export products and is among the many crops stricken by the drier, hotter climate, agricultural economist Milan Prostran said.The berry makes up a third of all fruit exported from the country and was worth around \$290 million in 2024, according to the chamber of commerce.

This year, drought is likely to drag those figures down."Reports from the field suggest this will be one of the worst seasons we have seen, both in yield and fruit quality," the chamber warned.Prostran said investment in irrigation had been "completely neglected" in a country with abundant rivers."I hope it will receive more attention in the coming years," he said.

Jacqueline Fernandez

Slays In White Pantsuit At Wimbledon 2025



It's Wimbledon season in the West, and the who's who are buzzing about the iconic matches that have made headlines across the globe. While the players were indeed in the spotlight, the attendees were no less talked about. Stars from around the world made their way to the stands, and their pictures quickly went viral. Joining the list of celebrity attendees was Jacqueline Fernandez, who recently shared a series of pictures and videos from her visit to Wimbledon.

Jacqueline Fernandez's radiant presence lit up the Women's Final. Attending her first-ever Wimbledon, the actress made heads turn with her classic yet contemporary look—dressed in a stunning white pantsuit paired with a sleeveless jacket. Her outfit exuded elegance, aligning perfectly with the grandeur of the occasion and the heritage of

Centre Court.

Jacqueline took to Instagram to share a photo from her visit, captioning it, "When in London!! My first ever Wimbledon is definitely not my last! @wimbledon #wimbledonwomensfinal #congratsiga." Her joy and excitement were unmistakable, reflecting the celebratory energy that defined the finals.

Meanwhile, Jacqueline wasn't the only famous face at Wimbledon 2025. Many celebrities were spotted at the event. Just yesterday, Urvashi Rautela made headlines after flaunting four Labubu dolls tied to her bag at Wimbledon. Other attendees included Preity Zinta with her husband Gene Goodenough, and Priyanka Chopra with Nick Jonas. Janhvi Kapoor was seen with Shikhar Pahariya, while Neena Gupta and her daughter Masaba Gupta were also spotted enjoying the matches. Actresses Sonam Kapoor, Avneet Kaur, Milind Soman, Ankita Konwar, Farhan Akhtar, Javed Akhtar, Shibani Dandekar, and Shabana Azmi were all part of the celebrity crowd. Jacqueline Fernandez is a Sri Lankan actress who has built a successful career in the Indian entertainment industry. She has also featured in music videos and appeared on various reality shows. Raised in Bahrain, Jacqueline pursued a degree in mass communication at the University of Sydney. She began her career as a television reporter in Sri Lanka before transitioning into modelling. In 2006, she won the title of Miss Universe Sri Lanka and went on to represent her country at the Miss Universe pageant the same year.

Janhvi Kapoor

Looks Sexy, Flaunts Natural Curves In Gold Saree And Blouse



Actress Jahnvi Kapoor's first look as Tulsi Kumari, from the upcoming film, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari, has left fans impressed. The actress looks sultry in a golden saree with a matching gold blouse. Janhvi Kapoor has set the internet on fire with her latest look. Varun Dhawan and Janhvi Kapoor have teamed up for Shashank Khaitan's upcoming film. This marks the actors' second on-screen collaboration after Bawaal. Janhvi Kapoor's first look was shared with the caption, "Dikhne mein bholi

release on September 12, will now hit the screens on October 2, 2025! With its new release date, Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari is set to clash at the box office with Kantara: A Legend – Chapter 1 and the Harshvardhan Rane starrer Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat.

Meanwhile, Janhvi Kapoor has taken social media by storm today. Eagle-eyed fans spotted that Janhvi had 'liked' a post which stated that as one grows up, one realises that half their family is 'mentally ill'. The post read, "Adulthood is realising that half your family is mentally ill." Meanwhile, the caption of the post read, "DEALING WITH TOXIC FAMILY MEMBERS..? There's no such thing as a perfect family. Why? Because there are too many personalities involved for everything to go right. And that leaves us with the only other option left.. For things to go wrong!"

The caption urged Instagrammers to ask their family members for their views on topics like politics, finance, pop culture, health, etc. It read, "If they seem sensitive around one or more of these topics—or they have ridiculous opinions about them, then they're the ones with the problem. Not you. So, before you wander off while thinking that you're the one with the issues, pray first because it is more than likely that your family has mental problems. And you're the one who's actually a regular person!" While celebrities grabbing attention by 'liking' certain posts isn't uncommon, Janhvi's 'like' is particularly going viral due to her family's star status.



NachDi Song Out: Mrunal Thakur's Grace Steals The Show In New Son Of Sardaar 2 Track



The highly anticipated trailer for Son of Sardaar 2 sparked a laughter riot among fans as they saw Ajay Devgn reprise their beloved character, Jassi. Filled with madness and Punjabi flair, the trailer offers a glimpse of the grand celebration ahead. The songs have already resonated with audiences, from the catchy title track to the viral Pehla Tu Duja Tu hook step. Adding to the fun, the creators released NachDi on July 14, the ultimate bridal anthem, featuring Mrunal Thakur exuding grace and glamour.

Brides now have their own anthem, a catchy, foot-tapping song that promises to get everyone grooving. Sung Neha Kakkar, with music and lyrics by Jaani, NachDi is set to dominate dance floors this season. The groovy number also features delightful dance moments with Ajay Devgn and Mrunal Thakur, joined by Kubbra Sait, Roshni Walia, and Deepak Dobriyal, bringing all the fun to the floor. Watch the video here:

Celebs and fans alike showered love on Mrunal's grace. Nushratt Bharuccha wrote "M" with a heart emoji. Ashish Chanchlani commented, "@mrunalthakur superstar you are." Heli Daruwala wrote, "Uff". The trailer of Son of Sardaar 2 released last week. It began with a reference to its prequel, Son Of Sardaar, that released in 2012. Shortly into the trailer, Ajay takes a dig at Pakistan, calling them out for dropping bombs in our country. There is also a major Sunny Deol reference from Border 2. Also featuring Mrunal, one can also see a little more into her chemistry with Ajay, after their hook step from Pehla Tu Duja Tu went viral. Mukul Dev also appears on screen for the last time, accompanied by Vindu Dara Singh, Ravi Kishan and Kubbra Sait.

Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, the film boasts a power-packed cast including Ravi Kishan, Sanjay Mishra, Mrunal Thakur, Neeru Bajwa, Chunky Panday, Kubbra Sait, Deepak Dobriyal, Vindu Dara Singh, Roshni Walia, Sharat Saxena, Sahil Mehta, and the late Mukul Dev. Presented by Jio Studios and Devgn Films, and produced by Ajay Devgn and Jyoti Deshpande, Son of Sardaar 2 is a Devgn Films and SOS 2 Limited production. It is produced by N R Pachisia and Pravin Talreja, with co-production by Kumar Mangat Pathak.

Sara Ali Khan Posts Rare BTS Pic With Aditya Roy Kapur From Metro In Dino



Sara Ali Khan, who is receiving rave reviews for playing Chumki in Anurag Basu's Metro In Dino, wrote a note expressing gratitude to fans for their love. The actor was paired opposite Aditya Roy Kapur in the film. She also posted numerous behind-the-scenes (BTS) moments from important scenes in the film.

Sara's collection of BTS photos showcased her journey as Chumki. The pictures offered a delightful glimpse into her candid moments and playful snapshots. In the first photo that Sara Ali Khan posted, she was seen flashing the brightest smile while in her character. The following picture was a hilarious glimpse of Anurag Basu seen wearing a wig. The next photo was from a dinner scene with Aditya Roy Kapur, followed by two others which appeared to be from the toy train sequence towards the climax.

Expressing her heartfelt gratitude, Sara wrote, "Grateful, blessed and so so happy. Thank you for all the love you've given our film and for accepting and loving Chumki too. P.S clearly there was no middle ground with our moods." Take a look:

Showsha, in its review for Metro... In Dino, rated the film with four out of five stars. An excerpt from our review talking about Sara and Aditya's performances read: "Kudos to Anurag Basu for also playing on Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan's strengths.

It wouldn't be wrong to state that the Sara we knew from Kedarnath is finally back! She understands the assignment and portrays the grit and emotional fog of her character remarkably. Aditya too puts his comic timing on display and he's charming, often reminding you of his Akash from Ludo or maybe even Bunny from Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani, but we aren't complaining at all."

Metro... In Dino, as the name suggests, deals with the challenges of modern-day relationships. At the film's trailer launch, Aditya and Sara spoke about 'situationship'. To this, Aditya replied, "I didn't even understand term ki meaning kya hai. So, I guess am an old school in that". Sara chipped in, stating, "I also believe the same way. I don't really believe in situationship."

Apart from Sara and Aditya, Metro... In Dino also stars Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sensharma, Ali Fazal, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and others. The film released on July 4.





How to

Look pretty

in

Glasses



Glasses are a great way to look smart, sassy and sophisticated. Here are ways to look pretty in glasses.

1. Keep your brows well-groomed
- Keeping your eyebrows neat and in a good shape will highlight your eyes despite wearing glasses. Use a brow powder to fill in the gaps and a brow liner to define your brows.
2. Use concealer
- Glasses tend to highlight dark circles, wrinkles or imperfections under your eyes. In order to avoid this, lightly dot concealer on dark circles and blemishes. Blend in with make-up sponge

3. Use the right eye shadow
- Wear colour that complements the colour of your frame. If you wish to highlight your eyes and glasses both, pick a shade that's opposite to the colour of your frame in the colour wheel. For a natural look, stick to neutral shades.
4. Apply eye liner
- To make your eyes pop, apply an eye liner. Make sure you just line the rim of your eyes and do not end up creating a smokey effect. You should look stunning and not downright scary.
5. Use a bold lip colour

- Don't let your glasses take away all the attention. So if you have a brown or a black frame, opt for a bold lip colour like a deep red or a hot pink. If you have coloured frame, opt for nudes like rosy pink.
6. Do the right hair-do
- Keep in mind that a half up and half down hair do isn't that great for girls wearing spectacles to stick to just one of them. Either leave your hair loose with face-framing bangs or tie them up in a lose bun or a ponytail and you'll look great.



Eyelashes frame our eyes, yet we rarely pay much attention to them. However, a new trend is emerging where women are increasingly concerned about the strength, length and thickness of their lashes. Dermatologist Dr Kiran Lohia, MD, also a Healthmeup expert tells us how we can get those lovely Sleeping Beauty lashes.

Always wash off your eye make up

While it may be tempting to leave our eye make up on after a long night, this habit can damage your lashes and the sensitive skin around your eyes. This is because the eyelashes become brittle and more prone to damage, as well as irritate the surrounding area. So, use a gentle make up remover to get rid of the gunk and make sure you don't aggressively rub, pull or abrade your eyelashes in the process.

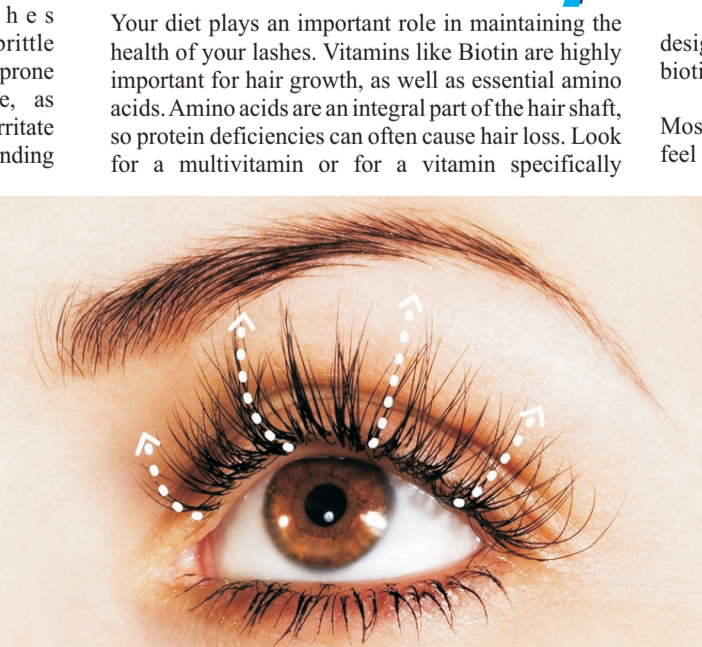
Give your lashes a breather

Eyelash curlers, lash extensions and excessive products can be very taxing to your eyelashes. They cause undue damage and stress, resulting in breakage and hair loss. So, give your lashes a break by avoiding these toxic practices when you can. Remember, your eyelashes need to recover; so letting them breathe naturally can benefit your eyes in the long run.

Eat healthy

5 ways to thicken

Your eyelashes



Your diet plays an important role in maintaining the health of your lashes. Vitamins like Biotin are highly important for hair growth, as well as essential amino acids. Amino acids are an integral part of the hair shaft, so protein deficiencies can often cause hair loss. Look for a multivitamin or for a vitamin specifically

designed for hair growth. Make sure it contains biotin, and take it daily.

Stop rubbing your eyes

Most people rub their eyes, particularly when they feel sleepy, stressed, or their eyes feel itchy. While it may feel good at the time, this is a particularly nasty habit that can cause a multitude of problems, least of which is the loss of your eyelashes. The more you rub your eyes, the more your lashes will break and fall off, leaving you with stubby and thin eyelashes. So, always remember to keep your hands away from your eyes.

Look for prostaglandins

Recently, prostaglandins have been proven to be effective in increasing the length of your lashes. They take some time to work, but they are highly effective and have even been US FDA approved for the purpose of eyelash lengthening. So, ask your dermatologist about this prescription treatment to get your lashes looking naturally thick and luscious.

4 ways to

whiter

Teeth

So, you have always been complimented for your dazzling smile. We hope you have a perfect set of pearlys to give you that radiant smile.

We hope you have a perfect set of pearlys to give you that radiant smile.

Yellowing of teeth are a thorough let-down. Dark lipsticks, especially shades of red and even neons, bring out the yellowness of your teeth. Thus, it is imperative to have a clean set of white teeth for you to flaunt that neon pout. However, whitening or brightening your teeth need not be an expensive affair. You don't always have to splurge on products and treatments that will leave a dent in your pocket. Here are some natural ways to whiten your teeth.

Mix baking soda

This is by far the cheapest and most effective way to whiten your pearlys. Baking soda is easily available in most general stores. Squeeze out a little toothpaste in a bowl. Add a pinch of baking soda to it. Mix it up and then brush your teeth with it. Indian food tends to stain teeth a lot, because of the use of turmeric. Try this mixture before bedtime. Ensure that you rinse your mouth thoroughly afterwards, as baking soda doesn't taste good if left in your teeth.

Gorge on strawberries

Strawberries are tasty and make for a great scrub for your teeth. The tiny seeds in the fruit scrub away the tartar off the teeth. Works well on days when you are feeling too lazy to do much else in the way of oral hygiene.

Use a straw

We all love our daily cuppa. However, caffeine addiction wreaks havoc on your teeth. Sad but true. Having too many cups of coffee or tea stains teeth like nothing else. The same goes for soda. You simply must give it up completely or restrict your intake to as little as possible. If you can't give it up, at least try using a straw to sip coffee or soda to avoid direct contact with teeth.

Floss

Most people don't think much about it. However, flossing is one habit that you must inculcate. It is one of the best ways to dislodge the food that you have eaten all day long — even if you rinse thoroughly, food particles get stuck between your teeth. It helps in cleaning the stains in the creases of your gums while preventing gum disease. Grab some floss and make it your nightly routine.

