

Rahul Gandhi claims he was gagged as Parliament session kicks off amid chaos

Both Houses of Parliament witnessed heated scenes, adjournments, and walkouts on the first day of the Monsoon Session, as the Opposition demanded a discussion on Operation Sindoos.

- **Parliament's Monsoon Session began with chaos, adjournments and walkout**
- **Opposition demands immediate discussion on Operation Sindoos in both Houses**
- **Rahul Gandhi claimed bias, denied chance to speak as Leader of Opposition**

New Delhi. (Agency) As the first day of Parliament's Monsoon Session descended into chaos, adjournments and walkout, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged bias, saying he was not allowed to speak in the Lok Sabha despite being the Leader of the Opposition. "Defence Minister and others from the government are allowed to speak, but Opposition leaders are not allowed to speak. I am the Leader of Opposition, it is my right to speak, but they don't let me speak," Gandhi told reporters outside Parliament after the house adjourned. Taking a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gandhi said he "ran out of the House in a second".

"The debate will happen if they allow it, but the issue is that the victim states that if the people from the government say something, we should also be given space. We wanted to say two words, but



the opposition was not allowed," he said. Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who also spoke to the media outside Parliament, slammed the move, saying Rahul Gandhi should be allowed to speak. "If they (the government) are ready for discussion, they should let the Leader of the Opposition speak. He has stood up to speak, so he should be allowed to speak," she said.

CHAOS, ADJOURNMENTS AND WALKOUT ON DAY 1

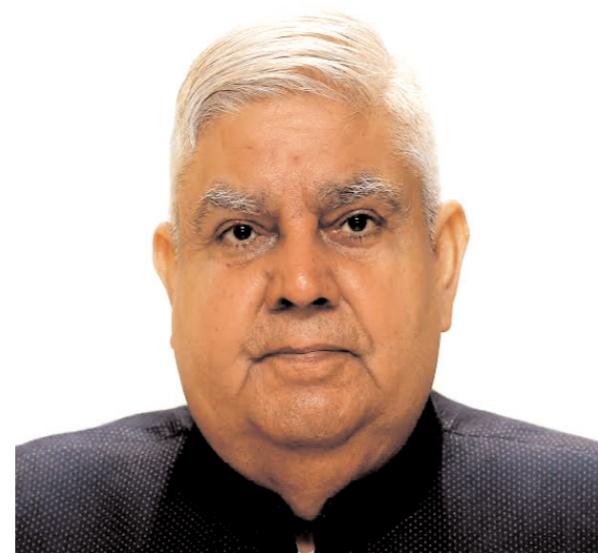
Uproar erupted in both Houses of Parliament soon after proceedings began, with the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha adjourned twice following the Opposition's demand for an immediate discussion on Operation Sindoos. In the Lok Sabha, Opposition leaders raised slogans and staged a protest in the Well of the House as proceedings began. The Speaker assured them that a discussion would be held after Question Hour, which led to chaos. When the House resumed after an adjournment, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju urged the Opposition members to raise their demands at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) scheduled for 2.30 pm on Monday. "The Government is ready to respond to all issues that the Speaker agrees to take up at the BAC meeting. But raising slogans and disrupting the House on the first day of the Monsoon Session is unacceptable," Rijiju said in the House.

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar resigns citing health concerns

The Sikh Times
SIMMI KAUR BABBAR

New Delhi, 21 July 2025: In a surprising development today, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, the 14th Vice President of India and ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, submitted his resignation to President Droupadi Murmu, effective immediately. The key reason cited: serious health concerns requiring focused medical care. "To prioritise health care and abide by medical advice..." began Dhankhar's official resignation, invoking Article 67(a) of the Constitution. He expressed "deepest gratitude" to President Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Council of Ministers, and Members of Parliament for their cooperation and support. Reflecting on his tenure, Dhankhar wrote he would always cherish the "warmth, trust, and affection" shown to him in Parliament and described serving during a period of "remarkable economic progress" as a great honour. Just over ten days ago, on 10 July 2025, Dhankhar had publicly stated he intended to complete his term until August 2027, "subject to divine intervention". Yet, this evening's announcement marks a premature and sudden departure—reflecting mounting health challenges serious

enough to override his earlier commitment. Interim Vacancy: The Vice President's office



will remain vacant until a new election is conducted. Election Timeline: Under constitutional mandate, the Election Commission of India must soon announce the Vice Presidential poll schedule—electoral college voting (Rajya

Sabha & Lok Sabha members) is inevitable. Political Ripples: Dhankhar's exit has stirred speculation around parliamentary dynamics, with all political camps now eyeing a potential realignment in the upper house. A seasoned constitutional lawyer and veteran politician; Governor of West Bengal (2019-2022); Vice President since August 2022. His tenure as Governor famously saw fiery clashes with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee—an abrasive style that carried into his vice presidency. A vocal critic of judiciary overreach, Dhankhar has courted controversy, including a no-confidence motion in December 2024 that was eventually dismissed. This is the second-ever mid-term resignation of an Indian Vice President (after V.V. Giri in 1969). The abrupt nature of the exit, amid earlier assurances of completing the full tenure, raises poignant questions:

1. How grave are the health issues?
2. Will Dhankhar seek any advisory role post-recovery?
3. How swiftly will a successor emerge—and from which political spectrum?

BJP doesn't cheat or get cheated: Annamalai clears air after skipping AIADMK event

Tamil Nadu. (Agency)

Former BJP Tamil Nadu chief K Annamalai on Monday asserted that the party remains committed to its alliance, dismissing allegations that he is working against the BJP-AIADMK partnership. Speaking to reporters, Annamalai said, "As far as BJP is concerned, we don't cheat others or get cheated. We don't grab from anyone or push a party down for our growth, but we don't get fooled as well." Addressing questions over his perceived indifference to the BJP-AIADMK alliance, he responded, "Please mention where I spoke against the alliance. When did I say power sharing? It was India's Home Minister who said that. Did I ever say I played a role in the alliance? Did I say I won't sit next to Amit Shah when EPS and he sat next to each other on stage? Haven't I remained silent for three months?"

On accusations that his absence from AIADMK's yatra signalled a rift, Annamalai defended his decision. "Why should I join? When I started my yatra, former AIADMK ministers joined. When they started their yatra, our State President and other leaders joined. I'm a karyakarta; important leaders went. I won't go

anywhere uninvited as an unwanted guest. I have self-respect," he said, adding, "Even if I don't like something, I'll quietly watch."

Annamalai also distanced himself from speculation about him being in line for the General Secretary's post, saying he was



never after positions. "Have you ever seen me going behind a post? I even called the State President post an onion, if you keep peeling, there won't be anything inside. Let us keep doing our job," he remarked. He reiterated that he played no part in forming the alliance and continues to stand by the decision he took in 2021 when he joined the BJP. "I did not play a part in forming this alliance, I remain in the same stance which I took in 2021," he said.

Religious Leaders, Supreme Court Bar Council President Join Delhi Govt's Mega Plantation Drive

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, July 21, 2025: As part of the ongoing Van Mahotsav 2025, Delhi yesterday witnessed a special plantation drive with participation from eminent religious leaders and members of the Supreme Court Bar Council under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign at PBG ground in Delhi Ridge.

The initiative—spearheaded by Hon'ble Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa—is currently underway at 70 locations



(Akshardham Mandir), Singh Sahib Giani (Bangla Sahib Gurudwara), Singh Sahib Harmam Singh Khalsa (Sheeshganj Sahib Gurudwara), along with Shri Vikas Singh ji (President, Supreme Court Bar Association), Pragy Baghel ji (Secretary, Bar Association), and Senior Advocate Alok Dhir ji, and other dignitaries participated in the drive and planted saplings in memory of their mothers. [continue news page 2](#)

Himachal on edge amid heavy rain, red alert in 4 districts, key roads cut off

Shimla. (Agency)

Several parts of Himachal Pradesh are expected to receive extremely heavy rainfall in the coming hours as the monsoon intensifies across the state. Four districts -- Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, and Mandi -- have been placed under a red alert for very heavy rain, while the rest of the state remains under an orange alert amid increasing rainfall. In Shimla, which is witnessing heavy to very heavy rainfall, schools have been closed as a precautionary measure. In Mandi district, continuous rain has triggered landslides, blocking

over 170 roads, including three National Highways. Ongoing downpours are hampering recovery efforts, making it difficult to restore normalcy. Chamba district is also grappling with the impact of heavy rain. A landslide in Bharmour destroyed a house, claiming the lives of two people, a man and a woman, who were buried under the debris. Additionally, a cloudburst in the Churah region swept away a small bridge on the Pangola-Thall road and blocked several key routes, further isolating



affected areas.

Flash floods have been reported in several locations, destroying agricultural fields and damaging standing maize crops due to overflowing streams. With roads

washed away, multiple regions remain cut off and are struggling without essential supplies, as transportation of goods and services has been severely disrupted.

Government authorities have advised residents across Himachal Pradesh to stay indoors unless absolutely necessary and to avoid travelling through hilly or landslide-prone areas. In neighbouring Uttarakhand, the meteorological department has also issued an orange alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall in six districts on Monday.

Delhi govt to provide increased support to the poor, elderly, and vulnerable sections: CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Sourabh Sharma

New Delhi, 21 July 2025: Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that her government is fully committed to helping the poor, the elderly, and those who receive financial support from the government. She announced that all current welfare schemes will be reviewed to make sure only the truly deserving people get help, and those who are not eligible will be removed. She also shared that the process of giving digital ID cards to persons with disabilities will start soon. The Chief Minister added that the previous government had cheated this section of society, but her government will not allow such misuse anymore. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta chaired a high-level meeting today at the Delhi Secretariat, attended by senior officials

from the Department of Social Welfare and the Department for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The meeting focused on reviewing ongoing schemes designed to uplift economically and socially marginalised communities.

The Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said that the government is not only providing financial assistance but also extending support in the form of rehabilitation, skill development, education, and other essential welfare services. Chief Minister Rekha Gupta reviewed several key welfare schemes aimed at supporting vulnerable sections of society. The Financial Assistance for Senior Citizens scheme provides monthly financial aid to individuals aged 60 and above, especially those from SC/ST communities or economically weaker backgrounds. Depending on their age, eligible beneficiaries receive between



Rs 2,000 and Rs 2,500 per month. Over four lakh senior citizens have already benefited from this initiative, which is designed to help them live with dignity. Another important initiative is the Assistance to Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), under which individuals with severe disabilities who are unable to support themselves

are granted Rs 2,500 per month. So far, around 1.34 lakh people have received this support, aimed at promoting their social and economic empowerment. The Delhi Family Benefit Scheme (DFBS) offers a one-time financial assistance of Rs 20,000 to families who have lost their primary breadwinner.

Approximately 1,100 dependants have been supported through this scheme to help them cope with sudden financial hardship. Additionally, the SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme focuses on rehabilitating individuals involved in begging. It provides essential services such as shelter, medical care, counselling, skill training, and livelihood opportunities to help them reintegrate into mainstream society with dignity and purpose.

[continue news page 2](#)

This is more than just rehabilitation; it is a national duty: CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Lucknow, July 21: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, in a high-level meeting held on Monday, directed officials to take decisive and time-bound action to grant legal land ownership rights to families displaced from East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh) who have been resettled across various districts of the state. Describing the issue as more than just a matter of land transfer, the Chief Minister said, "This is an opportunity to honour the decades-long struggle of thousands of families who took refuge in India and have waited for rightful rehabilitation. These families must be treated with both sensitivity and dignity; it is the moral responsibility of the government." Officials reported that between 1960 and 1975, following the Partition, thousands of displaced families from East Pakistan were resettled in



the districts of Pilibhit, Lakhimpur Kheri, Bijnor, and Rampur. Initially settled through transit

physical possession, have prevented many families from receiving formal land rights. In some

names are still missing from official land records. In contrast, some of the original allottees no longer reside in those areas. Additionally, in certain areas, individuals have taken possession of land without completing the necessary legal formalities, leading to further complications. Addressing these challenges, the Chief Minister emphasized the need to explore alternative legal mechanisms in light of the repeal of the Government Grant Act in 2018. He instructed officials to explore new provisions within the existing legal framework to resolve these long-standing issues. "This is not

just a policy decision; it is a sensitive and historic step toward delivering justice to those displaced families who have lived in uncertainty for decades," CM Yogi said. "This effort must be viewed through the lens of social justice, humanity, and national responsibility. It is a chance to restore dignity to lives long overlooked."

camps and provided agricultural land, most of these families have still not received legal ownership due to discrepancies in records and administrative delays. The Chief Minister was informed that although land has been allotted in several villages, various legal and administrative hurdles, including land being recorded under the Forest Department, incomplete transfer procedures, and a lack of

areas, families from other states have also been resettled but continue to remain without legal ownership. Current assessments reveal that in many villages, displaced families have been cultivating land for years and have even constructed permanent homes. Yet, their

NAME CHANGE
I, NO-14851628H Rank-HAV/CLK (SD) Name- AMOD KUMAR SINGH legal father of DIBYA KUMAR R/O PVO-LASARI, TEHSIL-ARA, DIST-BOJHPUR(ARA), BIHAR-802201 have changed my minor daughter's name from DIBYA KUMAR to DIVYA KUMARI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 21/07/2025 Before Notary Public, Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Rupesh Kumar is purchasing the Plot No D- 37 A Second Floor out of khasra no 54, village Nawada known as Colony Block D Mohan Garden, Utam Nagar, Delhi-110059 from Mrs. Meera Joshi who was the owner of the property vide General Power of Attorney/Agreement to Sell & Will dated 23.06.2008 and intend to mortgage the said property with Ananya Birdha Finance Limited if any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khatan & Khatan
A-38 Kalash Colony, New Delhi-110048, Ph. No: 011-49774545

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Shivani Mehaaveer S/o 2A, Main Chowk, Sunder Pur, Deoban, Pooth Khurd, North West Delhi, Delhi-110039 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Ranvir in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of my father is Mahaveer, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAJKUMAR RAI S/o RAJDEO RAI, R/o B-75 NPL Colony, New Rajender Nagar, New Delhi, Central Delhi, Delhi-110060, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as RAJ KUMAR in my Service Records. The actual name of mine is RAJKUMAR RAI, which may be amended accordingly.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform you that Mr. Nitin Goel intends to purchase Flat No. 3 on the Second Floor, built on Property Bearing No. 887-D, in Ward No. 6, measuring 300 Sq. Yds. out of Khasra No. 1151/3/m situated in the Abadi of Lal Dora of Village Mehrauli, Tehsil Mehrauli, New Delhi - 110030 from Mrs. Anu Gupta @ Anu Gupta, W/o Mr. Atul Gupta, Mrs. Sadhu Gupta and Mrs. Anu Gupta had jointly purchased the entire property from Mr. Vikas Gupta, Mr. Rajan Gupta, and Mr. Sanjiv Gupta through a Sale Deed dated 22/03/2014. Thereafter, Mrs. Sadhu Gupta released her 1/2 undivided share in the entire property in favor of Mrs. Anu Gupta @ Anu Gupta through a Release Deed dated 05/07/2021. Please note that the following original chain document has been lost: Original Sale Deed, Document No. 5710, Book No. 1, Volume No. 466, Pages 144-149, dated 31.10.2013, registered at Sub-Registrar, Hauz Khas, New Delhi. An online FIR (Lost Report LR No: 2965908/2025) has been registered on 01.07.2025 with the Crime Branch, Delhi, regarding the loss of the aforementioned document. The said property is being financed by Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd., Branch: Ghaziabad, U.P. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the same.

ASHWANI KUMAR Advocate
Chamber No. 122
Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform you that Mrs. Meena Sharma is the owner of the plot bearing No. 92, House MCF No. 661, measuring 112 sq. yards, out of Khasra No. 31, Killa No. 1, 2, 8/2, 9/10, 11, 12, 13/1, 18/2, 19, 20, 22/23, situated at Vakha Mauja Unchaganj (Adarsh Nagar), Tehsil Baghpat, District Faridabad, Haryana. She has purchased the aforesaid property from Mrs. Sheila Devi through a Sale Deed dated 30.09.2024. Please note that the following original chain document has been lost: The Original Sale Deed dated 22.07.1996 executed by Mr. Shiv Dutt Sharma, as attorney of Mr. Munna Lal, in favour of Mrs. Bimlesh in respect of the said property. An online FIR (Lost Report LR No: 304379/2025) has been registered on 21.07.2025 with the Crime Branch, Delhi, regarding the loss of the aforementioned document. The said property is being financed by Anand Rathi Global Finance Ltd., Branch: A-254, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110024. If any person(s) objection & regarding subject property, then kindly may submit her objection within 07 days from the date of the Notice in writing. The said objection may be kindly sent to the undersigned by way of the Registered Post on the address given below and by E-mail, failing which, the claim as per aforesaid shall be treated as null and void in respect of the subject property.

ASHWANI KUMAR Advocate
Chamber No. 122
Tehsil Compound, Ghaziabad, U.P.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Indeepet Singh S/o Nanku R/O 119, Sarjani Nagar, Police Colony, Noida, South West Delhi, Delhi-110001, declare that name of my father and my mother have been wrongly written as DHARAM PAL and PARAMJEET KAUR in my all educational documents. The actual name of my father and my mother are DHARAM PAL SINGH and PARAMJEET KAUR respectively which may be amended accordingly. It is certified that I have complied with other legal requirements in this connection.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Lokinder Singh S/o Subhash Chander R/O 119, Sarjani Nagar, Police Colony, Noida, South West Delhi, Delhi-110023 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Lokender Kumar in my SC Cast Certificate No SC/992/10500/3/2/2010/62100245. The actual name of mine is Lokinder which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Rehul S/o Vinod Kumar R/O 245, Harijan Basti, New Rohtak Road, Anand Pur, PO Karol Bagh, Dist Central Delhi-110005 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as Vinod in my SC Cast Certificate No SC/001/12/1371/2021/9021007083. The actual name of my father is Vinod Kumar which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Arvind Kumar Pandey, R/O Plot No. 283 Sarwari Enclave Gopal Nagar, Noida, South West Delhi, Delhi-110043, have changed the name of my minor son Saru Pandey aged 14 years and shall hereafter be known as Aditya Pandey.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Kabin S/o Shashi Chauhan, R/O H-93, Third Floor, Gali No. 5, Krishna Nagar, Sarita Enclave, South West Delhi, Delhi-110029, declare that name of my mother has been wrongly written as Shashi Wilson in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of my mother is Shashi Chauhan respectively which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Lalit Kumar S/o Daram Pal R/O WZ-11A, Gali No.8A, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Lalit Samuchival permanently

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Geeta Rani w/o Lalit Samuchival R/O WZ-11A, Gali No.8A, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Geeta Samuchival permanently

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NEWS BOX

US justice department asks court to unseal Epstein grand jury records

WASHINGTON .(Agency)

The Justice Department asked a federal court on Friday to unseal grand jury transcripts in Jeffrey Epstein's case amid a firestorm over the Trump administration's handling of records related to the wealthy financier. Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche filed motions urging the court to release the Epstein transcripts as well as those in the case against convicted British socialite Ghislaine Maxwell a day after President Donald Trump directed the Justice department to do so. The Trump administration has been embroiled in controversy since the Justice Department last week announced that it would not be releasing any more evidence in its possession from Epstein's investigation. Trump's demand to release the grand jury transcripts came after The Wall Street Journal reported on a sexually suggestive letter that the newspaper says bore Trump's name and was included in a 2003 album for Epstein's 50th birthday. Trump denied writing the letter, calling it "false, malicious, and defamatory." The Justice Department said it will work with prosecutors in New York to make appropriate redactions of victim-related information and other personally identifying information before transcripts are released.

Grand jury transcripts which could show the testimony of witnesses and other evidence presented by prosecutors are rarely released by courts, unless they need to be disclosed in connection with a judicial proceeding. Even with the Justice Department endorsement, it could take weeks or months of legal wrangling to decide what can be released and how to protect witnesses and other sensitive victim information.

At least 67 killed as Israeli tanks fire on crowd seeking food aid in Gaza

world . (Agency)

At least 67 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire as they waited for UN aid trucks in northern Gaza on Sunday, the Gaza health ministry said, as Israel issued new evacuation orders for areas packed with displaced people. The ministry said dozens of people were also wounded in the incident in northern Gaza. It was one of the highest reported death tolls among repeated recent cases in which aid seekers have been killed, including 36 on Saturday. Another six people were killed near another aid site in the south, it said. Israel's military said its troops had fired warning shots towards a crowd of thousands of people in northern Gaza on Sunday to remove what it said was "an immediate threat". It said initial findings suggested reported casualty figures were inflated, and it "certainly does not intentionally target humanitarian aid trucks". It did not immediately comment on the incident in the south.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said that shortly after entering Gaza, a WFP convoy of 25 trucks carrying food aid encountered "massive crowds of hungry civilians" who then came under gunfire. "WFP reiterates that any violence involving civilians seeking humanitarian aid is completely unacceptable," it said in a statement. A Hamas official told Reuters that the militant group was angered over the mounting deaths and the hunger crisis in the enclave, and that this could badly affect ceasefire talks underway in Qatar.

Illegal: Russia's biggest oil producer slams EU sanctions on India's refinery

world . (Agency)

Rosneft, Russia's biggest oil producer, condemned the European Union's sanctions on Nayara Energy, an Indian oil refinery partly owned by Rosneft. The company called the EU's move "unjustified" and "illegal," warning that these restrictions threaten India's energy security and could hurt its economy. The EU announced the sanctions on Friday as part of its 18th package of restrictions against Russia, targeting its oil trade to pressure Moscow over the Ukraine invasion. Nayara Energy, located in Gujarat, processes crude oil and is partly owned by Rosneft, which holds 49.13% of the refinery. The EU's goal is to cut Kremlin revenues by limiting Russia's crude exports to countries like India. Rosneft said in a statement that Nayara Energy is an "important asset" that ensures a steady supply of petroleum products to India's domestic market. Rosneft also clarified that it holds less than half of Nayara and does not control the company, which is run by an independent board. The company called the EU's reasons for the sanctions "far-fetched and false." It pointed out that Nayara is an Indian legal entity focused on developing its assets and reinvesting profits to grow the refinery and its petrochemical operations. Nayara Energy runs a large refinery with a capacity of 400,000 barrels per day and owns nearly 7,000 fuel outlets across India. It is also working on a new petrochemical plant near its refinery to expand its production capabilities.

INDIA REJECTS EU SANCTIONS

India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has also criticised the EU sanctions. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India "does not subscribe to any unilateral sanction measures" and reaffirmed that India only recognises sanctions decided within the United Nations framework. "We have noted the latest sanctions announced by the European Union. India does not subscribe to any unilateral sanction measures. We are a responsible actor and remain fully committed to our legal obligations," Jaiswal said in a statement posted on X.

Gaza civil defence says Israeli fire kills 93 aid seekers

GAZA CITY . (Agency)

Gaza's civil defence agency said Israeli forces opened fire on crowds of Palestinians trying to collect humanitarian aid in the war-torn Palestinian territory on Sunday, killing 93 people and wounding dozens more. Eighty were killed as truckloads of aid arrived in the north, while nine others were reported shot near an aid point close to Rafah in the south, where dozens of people lost their lives just 24 hours earlier. Four were killed near another aid site in Khan Yunis, also in the south, agency spokesman Mahmud Basal told AFP. The UN World Food Programme said its 25-truck convoy carrying food aid "encountered massive crowds of hungry civilians which came under gunfire" near Gaza City, soon after it crossed from Israel and cleared checkpoints. Israel's military disputed the death toll and said soldiers had fired warning shots "to remove an immediate threat posed to them" as thousands gathered near Gaza City.

Deaths of civilians seeking aid have become a regular occurrence in Gaza, with the authorities blaming Israeli fire as crowds

facing chronic shortages of food and other essentials flock in huge numbers to aid centres. The UN said earlier this month that nearly 800 aid-seekers had been killed since late May, including on the routes of aid convoys. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence to use

Like "hunting animals"

In Gaza City, Qasem Abu Khater, 36, told AFP he had rushed to try to get a bag of flour but instead found a desperate crowd of thousands and "deadly overcrowding and pushing". "The tanks were firing shells randomly at us and Israeli sniper soldiers were shooting as if they were hunting animals in a forest," he added.

"Dozens of people were martyred right before my eyes and no one could save anyone." The WFP condemned violence against civilians seeking aid as "completely unacceptable". Media restrictions in Gaza and difficulties accessing many areas mean AFP is unable to independently verify tolls and details provided by the agency and other parties. The army says it works to avoid harm to civilians, and that this month it issued new instructions to its troops on



the ground "following lessons learned" from a spate of similar incidents. Israel on Sunday withdrew the residency permit of head of the OCHA (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs) office in Israel, Jonathan Whittall, who has repeatedly condemned the humanitarian conditions in Gaza. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar, in a post to X, accused him of spreading lies about the war in Gaza. Papal call Israel's retaliatory campaign has killed 58,895 Palestinians, mostly civilians, according to the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza.

Separately, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday expressed his regret to Pope Leo XIV after what he

Talk show host Ellen DeGeneres says Trump's victory drove her out of US

world . (Agency)

TV host and comedian Ellen DeGeneres has said that she moved to the United Kingdom after Donald Trump was re-elected US President, saying the decision came the very next day. In her first public appearance since the move, she spoke in live event at the Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. According to the BBC, the 67-year-old American celebrity said she and her wife, actress Portia de Rossi, initially planned to split their time between the US and the UK. But after Trump's win, they decided to make England their permanent home.

"We got here the day before the election and woke up to lots of texts from our friends with crying emojis," she said. "And I was like, 'He got in.' And we're like, 'We're staying here.'" CONCERN ABOUT RIGHTS IN THE USE

Ellen also revealed serious concerns about the growing threats to

LGBTQ+ rights in the United States. She said the couple is considering getting married again in the UK after efforts by US groups and lawmakers to



reverse the right to same-sex marriage. "The Baptist Church in America is trying to reverse gay marriage," Ellen told BBC. "They're trying to literally stop it from happening in the future and possibly reverse it. Portia and I are already looking into it, and if they do that, we're going to get married

here." She shared that despite the progress, being openly gay in the entertainment industry is still difficult for many. "If it was (better), all these other people that are actors and actresses that I know they're gay, they'd be out, but they're not, because it's still a problem. People are still scared."

STARS STAND TOGETHER AGAINST POLITICAL RHETORIC

DeGeneres came out in support of fellow comedian Rosie O'Donnell after Donald Trump threatened to revoke O'Donnell's American citizenship.

O'Donnell, who recently relocated to Ireland following Trump's return to office, faced an attack from Trump. The US president called her a "threat to humanity" and questioned her loyalty to the United States. "I am giving serious consideration to taking away her Citizenship," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

TikTok's beloved D-Day veteran 'Papa Jake' Larson dies at 102

Larson survived Omaha Beach gunfire and fought in Battle of the Bulge

He advocated peace, called himself 'luckiest man' and a TikTok star

Tributes to him quickly filled his TikTok account from across the US

world . (Agency)

D-Day veteran Papa Jake Larson, who survived German gunfire on Normandy's bluffs in 1944 and then garnered 1.2 million followers on TikTok late in life by sharing stories to commemorate World War II and his fallen comrades, has died at 102. An animated speaker who charmed strangers young and old with his quick smile and generous hugs, the self-described country boy from Minnesota was "cracking jokes til the end," his granddaughter wrote in announcing his death. Tributes to him quickly filled his "Story Time with Papa Jake" TikTok account from across the United States, where he had been living in

Lafayette, California. Towns around Normandy, still grateful to Allied forces who helped defeat the occupying Nazis in World War II, paid



him homage too. Our beloved Papa Jake has passed away on July 17th at 102 years young," granddaughter McKaela Larson posted on his social media accounts. "He went peacefully." "As Papa would say, love you all the mostest," she wrote. Born Dec. 20, 1922, in Owatonna, Minnesota, Larson enlisted in the National Guard in 1938, lying about his age since he was only 15 at the time. In 1942, he was sent overseas and was stationed in Northern Ireland. He became operations sergeant and assembled the planning books for the invasion of

Normandy. He was among the nearly 160,000 Allied troops who stormed the Normandy shore on D-Day, June 6, 1944, surviving machine-gun fire when he landed on Omaha Beach. He made it unhurt to the bluffs that overlook the beach, then studded with German gun emplacements that mowed down American soldiers.

"We are the lucky ones," Larson told The Associated Press at the 81st anniversary of D-Day in June, speaking amid the immaculate rows of graves at the American cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach. "We are their family. We have the responsibility to honor these guys who gave us a chance to be alive." He went on to fight through the Battle of the Bulge, a grueling month-long fight in Belgium and Luxembourg that was one of the defining moments of the war and of Hitler's defeat. His service earned him a Bronze Star and a French Legion of Honor award. In recent years, Larson made repeated trips to Normandy for D-Day commemorations — and at every stop, "Papa Jake" was greeted by people asking for a selfie. In return, he offered up a big hug, to their greatest joy.

Putin meets Iran Supreme Leader's aide in Moscow, discusses nuclear programme

Moscow . (Agency)

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday received Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's senior aide in Moscow and discussed the aggravation of the situation in West Asia and issues of Iran's nuclear programme. The visit by Ali Larijani, senior adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader, comes almost a month after Putin met Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi.

"On behalf of the Iranian leadership, Ali Larijani shared the assessments of the current escalation in the Middle East and the situation around the Iranian nuclear programme," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters without elaborating. On June 23, President Putin, during his meeting with Araghchi, had assured Tehran of Moscow's support in de-escalating the Israel-Iran conflict hours after the US strikes at Iranian



nuclear sites at dawn on June 22. Moscow and Tehran have signed a strategic partnership treaty, but it does not provide for military assistance in case any side is attacked. However, Tehran and Moscow under the treaty have an obligation not to take the side of the aggressor and enter into urgent political consultations to mitigate the situation. Russia supports Tehran's right to pursue its civil nuclear research under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) oversight. Earlier reports said Larijani had played a key role as the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament in the negotiation and eventual approval of the now defunct Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal. He was instrumental in navigating domestic political complexities and securing parliamentary support for the agreement, which involved significant concessions from Iran in exchange for sanctions relief.

However, US President Donald Trump had walked out of the deal in his first term under pressure from Israel.

In his second term, Trump ordered the bombardment of Iranian nuclear sites and demanded the complete end to Tehran's enrichment activities under the civilian nuclear programme, allowed under the NPT to which Iran is a signatory.

Shigeru Ishiba's coalition loses majority in Japan's upper house election

Despite the loss, Ishiba expressed determination to stay on and not create a political vacuum to tackle challenges such as U.S. tariff threats.

TOKYO . (Agency)

Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's ruling coalition failed Monday to secure a majority in the 248-seat upper house in a crucial parliamentary election, NHK public television said. Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito needed to win 50 seats on top of the 75 seats they already have to retain their majority. With just one more seat to be decided, the coalition had 47 seats. The loss is another blow to Ishiba's

coalition, making it a minority in both houses following its October defeat in the lower house election, and worsening Japan's political instability. It was the first time the LDP has lost a majority in both houses of parliament since the party's foundation in 1955. Despite the loss, Ishiba expressed determination to stay on and not create a political vacuum to tackle challenges such as U.S. tariff threats, but he could face calls from within his party to step down or find another coalition partner.

"I will fulfill my responsibility as head of the No. 1 party and work for the country," he said. Ishiba hoped for a simple majority but came up short. Ishiba had set the bar low, wanting a simple majority of 125 seats, which means his LDP and its Buddhist-backed junior coalition partner Komeito needed to win 50 seats. Exit poll results released seconds after the ballots closed Sunday night mostly showed a major setback for Ishiba's coalition. The LDP alone won 39 seats, better than most exit poll projections of 32, and still the No. 1 party in the parliament, known as the Diet.

But Ishiba said the coalition's poor showing was because his government's measures to combat price increases had yet to reach many people. "It's a tough situation. I take it humbly and sincerely," Ishiba told a live



interview with NHK. The poor performance in the election will not immediately trigger a change of government because the upper house lacks the power to file a no-confidence motion against a leader, but it will certainly deepen uncertainty over his fate and Japan's political stability. Ishiba could face calls from within the LDP party to step down or

find another coalition partner. Economic worries frustrate voters. Soaring prices, lagging incomes and burdensome social security payments are the top issues for frustrated, cash-strapped voters. Stricter measures targeting foreign residents and visitors also emerged as a key issue, with a surging right-wing populist party leading the campaign. Sunday's vote comes after Ishiba's coalition lost a majority in the October lower house election, stung by past corruption scandals, and his unpopular government has since been forced into making concessions to the opposition to get legislation through parliament. It has been unable to quickly deliver effective measures to mitigate rising prices, including Japan's traditional staple of rice, and dwindling wages.

Trade talks with Washington U.S. President Donald Trump has added to the pressure, complaining about a lack of progress in trade negotiations and the lack of sales of U.S. autos and American-grown rice to Japan despite a shortfall in domestic stocks of the grain.

Man held for murder bid in Bengaluru



BENGALURU. (Agency)

The HAL police have arrested a 26-year-old youth for harassing a married woman on social media and pressuring her to marry him. When the woman's relatives called him for a discussion, the accused, who was riding a pillion on the woman's brother-in-law's bike, allegedly slit his throat.

The accused, Selva Karthik, is an employee in a private two-wheeler manufacturing company in Hosur. He is a native of Tamil Nadu. The police said that Karthik had befriended a married woman from Kaggadasapura and began chatting with her. He later fell in love with her, but the woman stopped communication. In June, Karthik visited her house and threatened her with dire consequences if she did not speak to him. Her husband and other family members convinced him and sent him back. He allegedly threatened her over the phone, warning that he would kill her father and a relative if she didn't leave her husband.

On July 17, the woman's father, Shekar V, brother-in-law Prashanth, and son-in-law Shiva went to meet Karthik near Mallepalya to talk with him. Prashanth was riding a scooter with Karthik as a pillion. While they were on the way, Karthik allegedly slit Prashanth's neck from behind. Shekar and Shiva, who were on another scooter, stopped to rescue Prashanth, who was bleeding profusely. Karthik allegedly tried to attack them as well, but they escaped, the police said. The police added that Prashanth was rushed to the hospital. HAL police have registered a case.

HMWSSB to account for every drop with smart valve meter tech

HYDERABAD. The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) is set to automate around 1,000 valves on a pilot basis using the Smart Valve Meter Technology. Officials believe it's a step in the bid to modernise the city's water supply system and account for every drop supplied. The city's water network has nearly 15,000 small and large valves, but only about 35% are regularly operated by linemen. Manual operation, especially on main roads, poses safety risks due to traffic. There have been fatal incidents in the past.

Smart valves, integrated with sensors and communication systems, allow remote monitoring and control of water flow. This eliminates the need for manual operation, reduces dependency on linemen, improves efficiency and cuts operational costs, the officials mentioned.

Pilot in Sanathnagar successful
A pilot project in Sanathnagar Division has proven successful, and the Board plans to expand the initiative. A centralised control room will be set up at the HMWSSB head office to monitor, regulate and operate valves. The system will also be linked to smart meters, water quality monitors and billing data.

HMWSSB Managing Director K Ashok Reddy has directed officials to study the feasibility of scaling up automation. He also proposed installing smart meters at reservoir outlets and in bulk water supply zones to ensure precise measurement and accountability.

Gujarat government issues SOP for all civic bodies in state to ensure quality and time-bound road repair

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

As part of its major crackdown against "dilapidated" roads, the Gujarat government has issued an SOP for repairing potholes across the state, even as over 15,500 have already been repaired barely in a week, till July 18, in the eight major municipal corporations.

Daily survey of potholes by the engineers concerned, time-bound repair work within 48 hours that has to be documented with photographs, detailed methodology of patchwork and materials used — these are part of the SOP laid down by the government for all the 17 municipal corporations.

"To ensure uniformity, quality and time-bound repair work with accountability, SOPs have been laid for the municipal corporations," M Thennarasan, Principal Secretary, Urban Development department, told.

Following the collapse of the Gambhira bridge in Vadodara on July 9 and after the condition of roads and bridges in the state were put to question on social media platforms, the state government launched a statewide "damage control" campaign, directly reviewed by

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, under which all municipal corporations and municipalities were directed to complete road repair works within a week. Also, several contractors and civic body engineers were issued notices, penalised and directed to undertake repair works at their own cost.

As on July 18, nearly 15,500 potholes were repaired across eight older municipal corporations in barely within a week's time. Vadodara had the highest number of potholes, with more than 4,500 followed by Ahmedabad with nearly 4,300.

As per the SOP, for pothole repair, these along with other defects on the roads have to be surveyed on a daily basis by engineers concerned of the respective areas and the defects noticed by them have to be recorded. Residents can also file complaints through various modes, and those have to be recorded in a prescribed register and disposed of, as per the norms.

While minor potholes have to be repaired immediately, if possible, considering the severity of the potholes, repair work of



seriously damaged roads causing extreme inconvenience to the public will have to be completed within a maximum of 48 hours. "Further, the photographs of the work done regarding all such complaints will be uploaded within 72 hours by the concerned engineer. In addition, a record including photographs of the work done shall be kept and the details of the complaint disposal shall be entered in the prescribed register with signature," the SOPs stated.

On ways to repair potholes, the SOPs stated that before carrying out any repair work, the

area has to be barricaded for safety, irregular potholes should be marked and reshaped, horizontal and vertical surfaces of potholes and patchwork should be cleaned by scrubbing them with wire brushes, cold asphalt or emulsion must be sprayed on dust-free surfaces, hot mixes have to be uniformly spread, loose materials of hot mixes have to be applied in a layer of a maximum of 100 mm of thickness, spread along the road edge in a compact form. If there is a need for a layer with a thickness of over 100 mm, the patchwork should be done in two to three layers by applying a premix layer and compacting it layer wise.

While 'Cold Emulsion Injection Pothole Patching' and 'Infrared Recycling Pothole Technology' have been suggested as new technologies for pothole repair work, as per the standards laid down by the government, municipal corporations have to open the repaired area for traffic after two hours of sprinkling stone dust.

Boys hostel, mess yet to reopen at Hyderabad's Nizam College

Students said that despite repeated appeals, the college has failed to open the hostel and mess facilities.

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

Undergraduate students of Nizam College are once again protesting the delay in reopening the boys' hostel and mess, even 20 days after the new academic year began. The delay has left hostel boarders struggling for accommodation and daily meals.

Students said that despite repeated appeals, the college has failed to open the hostel and mess facilities. As a result, many are forced to stay in private hostels, spending heavily out of pocket. While the girls' hostel was opened following a recent protest, the boys' hostel and mess remain shut.

"Even after paying hostel and mess fees, we've been denied access to the facilities," said a student, alleging that authorities are demanding payment without offering services.

Renovation delays
College officials attributed the delay to ongoing renovation work, citing infrastructure damage and drainage issues in the boys' hostel.

Ravi, a final-year degree student, said, "We're tired of sending repeated representations. After our recent protest, only the girls' hostel was reopened. The boys' hostel and mess are still shut, and we are forced to eat outside every day." Another student, Nithin, added, "Every year, the hostel and mess open with the academic session. This year, they gave us excuses about broken infrastructure and drainage problems, but repairs are moving at a snail's pace. Some of us are managing to stay in nearby BC residential hostels, but seats are limited. Most have no choice but to live in expensive private hostels."

Students are demanding immediate action to reopen the boys' hostel and mess, warning of further protests if their concerns are not addressed.

PCB data reveals Telangana recycles fraction of e-waste capacity

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

Telangana has approved 21 e-waste recyclers and two refurbishers with a combined capacity of over 3.6 lakh tonnes per annum (TPA). Yet in 2023–24, only 64,635.56 tonnes were formally collected via the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) portal, data from the Telangana State Pollution Control Board (TSPCB) revealed.

Of this, 24,497.67 metric tonnes of recoverable metals like iron, copper, aluminium and gold were extracted, while another 24,433.03 MT was classified as miscellaneous waste. The wide gap between processing capacity and actual inflow reflects systemic issues: underreporting, poor enforcement and the dominance of informal recycling networks. "Our data doesn't match what's happening on the ground," said Asha Reddy, an environmental science researcher. "We need stringent audits, not just registrations."

National figures echo the pattern. In 2021–22, India's 567 authorised dismantlers across 22 states had a combined capacity of over 17 lakh tonnes TPA, but processed just 5.27 lakh tonnes.



Telangana led the formal collection effort, processing 42,297.68 tonnes, well ahead of Maharashtra (18,559 tonnes) and Delhi (2,130.79 tonnes). The state also ranks third in plastic e-waste generation, contributing

12.68% to the national total, behind Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

'Awareness is needed'

Yet, most e-waste still flows through informal routes. A senior TSPCB official admitted that despite existing infrastructure, collection remains poor. "Bulk generators like offices often don't know where to dispose of old electronics. We need visible, accessible collection drives and doorstep pickup." While both public and private awareness campaigns are underway, enforcement remains patchy. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022, mandate registration of all stakeholders on the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) portal and require environmental clearances. Telangana's own 2017 policy aimed to decentralise collection, offer performance-linked incentives and enforce safety norms via initiatives like Green Warriors.

FM college student had not lodged any complaint with police: CB DG

The agency will also probe whether the girl had purchased petrol from a fuel station or if anyone had provided it to her.

BHUBANESWAR. (Agency)

Even as investigation into the FM Autonomous College incident is underway, Crime Branch DG Vinayak Mishra on Sunday clarified that the victim had not lodged any police complaint against her head of the department (HoD) alleging harassment.

The victim, a second-year BEd student of the college, had set herself on fire on July 12 outside college principal Dillip Ghosh's chamber alleging her HoD Samira Kumar Sahoo was harassing her for not complying with his demand for 'favour'.

Addressing mediapersons during his visit to Balasore on the day to take stock of the investigation, he said the victim had not lodged any police complaint in this regard. "The girl had not visited the police station to lodge a complaint against the HoD," he clarified.

When pointed out that the victim had flagged the issue by posting a message on X, tagging the SP and the state/central ministers, the CB DG said investigation was underway to ascertain if there



was any negligence on part of any authority and accordingly, they will submit a separate report to the state government.

The agency will also probe whether the girl had purchased petrol from a fuel station or if anyone had provided it to her. It is a very sensitive case and the state government has taken it very seriously, Mishra said.

"It is a very complicated case and our responsibility is to identify all those responsible

for the incident. The girl had lodged a complaint against the HoD on June 30 but the college's internal complaints committee (ICC) did not find anything against him, following which she took the drastic step," the Crime Branch DG said.

He further added that as part of the investigation, CB will examine the opinions of the ICC members who inquired into the allegations against the HoD as well as the statements of the persons who appeared before the committee. "It will also record the statements of the victim's family members, friends, hostel roommates, students and teachers of the college to get to the bottom of the truth," Mishra said.

He informed that various physical and digital evidences were collected from the spot where the incident occurred. "CCTV footage has been sent to the State Forensic Science Laboratory (SFSL) for examination. A CAW&CW team is stationed in Balasore to carry out proper investigation and provide justice to the victim," Mishra said.

Bus lanes, Metro work in Bengaluru need urgent push: Experts

BENGALURU. (Agency)

Amid the political back-and-forth over which infrastructure project deserves priority, mobility experts have called on the state government to refocus on public transport, especially Metro expansion, bus services and pedestrian infrastructure to meaningfully address Bengaluru's traffic crisis.

Sanjeev Dyamannavar, mobility expert, highlighted the long delays in construction of underground Metro corridors to caution against overly ambitious tunnelling projects. He said, "Phase 2 of the Metro was sanctioned in 2014. Now we're in 2025 and the Kalena Agrahara to Nagawara stretch, mostly underground, still hasn't opened. You can imagine the challenges of tunnelling in Bengaluru."

He also stressed the unfulfilled promise of the Bengaluru Suburban Rail project. "One of its outcomes was meant to be the removal of all level crossings in the city to reduce congestion. That hasn't happened. Our elected representatives and administrators are not treating this project with urgency. There's no review, no pressure, no push."

Civic evangelist V Ravichandar joined Dyamannavar in flagging the poor state of road and drain infrastructure. "BBMP must take up proper maintenance of stormwater drains and ensure desilted mud is not left on the roadside. It just washes back in." He added that carpooling and cab sharing should be promoted to reduce the volume of vehicles on roads. "The most important projects we should prioritise are public transport and this includes Metro, suburban rail, bus,

walkability and cycling infrastructure. Given that the biggest challenge for Bengaluru is outer ring road and that the Blue Line Metro is still under construction, the single biggest intervention that can yield quick results is revival of the bus priority lane on ORR, which was suspended due to Metro construction," said Srinivas Alavilli, fellow at World Resources Institute India.

With the city's vehicle population nearing 1.3 crore, experts said without immediate and sustained investment in public transport infrastructure, the city's mobility crisis will deepen. Bridging the gap between rapid urban expansion and accessible, efficient transport systems is no longer optional, it is essential for the city's sustainability and quality of life.



Warcry of the wronged and repressed

Every single day, without fail, there is a violent, gender-based crime that forces us to sit up and take notice, jaded though we've become. In Tamil Nadu, 27-year-old Rithanya took her own life after she was harassed for dowry, though her parents had already spent a fortune. Inured as we are to dowry deaths, this case generated outrage over a voice note the victim had left, in which, she confided to her father: "There is only one man for one woman. In this birth, I got married once, and my life is not good. That's all. It is over."

The bereaved father mentioned this in public and while condemning those who had driven her to death added that he was proud of her for sticking to the "oruvanuku oruthi" concept. Roughly translated it refers to monogamy but naturally only a woman is expected to adhere to this stricture and swear fidelity to the first man who has seen/touched her naked body and deigned to marry her. Men, of course are not bound by such inconvenient and impractical balderdash and even if they choose to be lecherous, cheating, dowry-demanding deadbeats, they feel entitled to the unswerving love and loyalty of their wives. Arifical Intelligence uses Arifical Intelligence uses Further North, Radhika Yadav was shot dead by her father while she was preparing breakfast for him. Allegedly, the Dad from hell simply could not bear the fact that he had been repeatedly taunted



for living off his Tennis player daughter and further rebuked for "allowing" her to run around in shorts and athleisure wear as it was a moral affront and not at all in keeping with India's glorious culture and tradition as per which men get to drop their pants and pee in full view of the public while women who swim or play tennis in sports gear can fully expect to be shot for their indecent ways. Always happy contributors to overpowering ugliness, the trolls jumped in with slanderous accusations claiming that Radhika was seen in the company of unsuitable men. And some of them were love jihadis! What is a father to do?

Vociferous indignation or caustic condemnation is not enough, and we must scrutinise the underlying cause of such crimes. A vast majority of people still believe that a woman's virtue depends solely on the diameter of her vagina. Too many still hold the view that family honour is tied to a woman's body and therefore, she must remain pure and unsullied which translates to sexually repressed for life. Even more are inclined to see women as little more than meat to be consumed and discarded at will, objects that can be bought and sold as per the need. Worst of all, too few women know better. Women have rights. We do! We are allowed to live and love and even laugh. Really! That means we can wear what we like, play sports, marry or not and fart as we please. If those afflicted with performance anxiety, erectile dysfunction and dud personalities feel like diminutive dudes who can't do diddly-squat they have no business taking it out on women who can and will. Deal with it or be damned!

How the Empire never left us

The colonial yoke was never just about conquest. It was about rewriting the imagination — training us to doubt ourselves and worship elsewhere.

My father, a decorated officer in the British Indian Army, served under General Slim in Burma. He was sharp, disciplined, and loyal to the idea of honour — a post-Macaulay man who wore his medals with pride. But his loyalties were never as simple as his uniform suggested. He grew up in Lahore, on Lodge Road. As a boy, he was taken to school on the back of a bicycle — not by a servant or a relative, but by Bhagat Singh. The boy on the bicycle and the freedom fighter were one and the same.

As a boy, he rode to school gripping the waist of Bhagat Singh. His fingers pressed into the ribs of a man who would soon walk smiling to the gallows. How could he have known? How could any of them? That the same hands steering the bicycle would later shake the foundations of Empire, and then vanish into legend — leaving only silence behind. That ride — between colonial schoolbooks and whispered rebellion — shaped him in ways I only began to understand much later.

In private, he spoke of Bhagat Singh with the intimacy of a friend, not the reverence of a martyr.

I was raised in that same paradox: loyalty to a system that promised justice, and the memory of a man who died proving it couldn't be trusted. One story captured that contradiction perfectly. In 1945 or early 1946, my father was assigned as ADC to Lady Edwina Mountbatten during one of her visits to India. At the time, her husband, Lord Louis Mountbatten, was based in Singapore, still awaiting his appointment as the last Viceroy of British India. Clad in full regimental finery, father accompanied her to the gates of an exclusive Calcutta club. The doorman took one look at him and said: "Kala aadmi mana." Black men not allowed. He'd fought in the jungle, stood beside Generals, protected a Viscountess — but one glance from a doorman undid it all. "Kala aadmi mana." No black men. Not here. Not ever. Edwina Mountbatten took his arm with fury. But she could not take the shame. He never spoke of that day again. But I saw it — lodged behind his eyes, like shrapnel. That was the Empire in action. It gave uniforms, titles, medals — but never equality. Not dignity. Those remained the preserve of white skin. My own education began in that shadow.

When I entered boarding school in Dehradun — India's imitation of Eton — I quickly learned that we weren't being educated. We were being trained.

The school was designed by pro-British Indians to create brown sahibs. Our headmasters were white men imported from England, a bit too fond of their Scotch, emissaries of the public school tradition. They taught us discipline, manners, and silence. English was everything. Hindi was shame. To speak it was to be called a dehati — a provincial. Or worse: "bloody kaalu".

We were beaten by older boys, bullied, molested, and told it was character-building. I still remember the slang.

'Toye time' meant homework. 'Keeda' meant worm. 'Whacking' meant beatings. 'Toe jam' was another slang word for congealed sweat. 'Lender' was the dirtiest word — a boy who submitted sexually in exchange for food or protection. We admired Biggles, Bertie Wooster, the Famous Five, and Churchill — the same Churchill who called Indians "a beastly people with a beastly religion" and let three million Bengalis starve.

We weren't just brainwashed. We were remade in the image of our masters — and taught to admire those who despised us. After Dehradun, I was sent to an English boarding school — not for merit, but because my father had joined the Indian Foreign Service and was posted to Kenya. His new salary came in sterling. It made me eligible. I arrived in Britain with illusions. But the drive from Gatwick airport through grey suburbs and rows of squat, semi-detached homes with peeling paint and drawn curtains stripped those away.



This wasn't the England we had admired. It was tired, wet, and worn down. The boys at school were pale, silent, and mostly indifferent. The food was awful. The dormitories were cold and the racism was unmistakable. One boy — the son of a senior British diplomat — would lead the others in singing 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas' when I walked by. I smiled when they sang it. I stood there in my blue shorts and stockings, my brown cheeks warm with foolish joy — I thought they were singing my favourite song. Later, I told my mother how moved I was. She stared at me — horrified — and said: "Don't be stupid. They're mocking you." And in that moment, my childhood ended. Not with war, not with loss, but with a Christmas carol. One teacher at that school in England told me flatly: "English isn't your language." He 'helped' me achieve a C-level grade in A-level English. But I had the last word by achieving a distinction in S-level (scholarship level) English — an exam you couldn't study for. It had to be written blind. No tricks. No bias. Just skill. Even my failures were foreign. In the pub,

celebrating the end of our exams, a group of us ordered one of every drink. We staggered out and vomited. The manager looked at us — most of us white — but muttered only one thing when he saw me: "Bloody foreigners." Fortunately, there were a few bright spots. My mother's old English teacher from Lahore once whisked me away to Norfolk for two weeks of calm, kindness, and Cambridge windmills. What I realised, slowly and painfully, was this: The Empire didn't end. It just rebranded. And there was worse to come. When I joined the staff of a leading British newspaper, I was quickly reminded of the unwritten rules. A colleague confided, not unkindly, that others sometimes referred to me as "just another WOG" — the colonial slur dressed up as a joke: Westernised Oriental Gentleman. Even gestures of hospitality came laced with condescension. A celebrated columnist once invited me to her home for dinner. I assumed it was generosity. Over the first course, she turned to me and asked: "How did a village boy like you end up on the staff of a newspaper like this?" But nothing compared to what happened in Belfast.

Assigned to cover the Orange Day marches, I found myself surrounded by a group of hostile marchers who noticed my face and shouted: "Grab the coon!"

A school travel grant took me by Greyhound across America, where strangers were open, generous, curious. It was in North Carolina, of all places, that I was offered a two-year college scholarship — the kind no one in Britain ever mentioned. I ran. I didn't walk or reason or explain. I ran for my life, bursting into a nearby corner shop and hiding under the till until the shouting died down.

My breath tore through my throat as I hurtled into a corner shop, dived behind the counter, and curled under the till like a kicked dog. I could hear their boots. I could hear their hate. And I remember thinking — not for the first time — that my body did not belong here. That even my face was a provocation. That I had inherited something I did not choose, and it might one day get me killed. That, too, was part of the legacy — the reflex to disappear in a land where your presence itself was the provocation.

It still lives in our textbooks, in the accents we covet, in the names of our schools, in the quiet shaming of those who speak Hindi with pride. It lives in the way liberal London sips tea under Picasso prints and talks of "balance" when confronted with colonial crimes. It lives in museums full of stolen gods. You can still visit them — our gods. They kneel in glass cages, far from home. Their eyes are chipped, their limbs broken, their names mispronounced. The incense is synthetic. The chants piped through hidden speakers. The gods look out at tourists, waiting to be worshipped by those who no longer know their names.

We were not just robbed of wealth. We were robbed of wonder. It lives in the clubs that still exclude — just more politely now.

Tesla rolls in, but bumps stay on EV growth path

The government is keen on attracting global automakers, but wants to ensure job creation and development of the domestic manufacturing ecosystem in return—which does not enthuse companies like Tesla

After years of lobbying for lower tariffs, Tesla has finally driven into India. More than anything else, the American electric carmaker's entry with two premium models has stumped everyone because of their superior price tags — more than in the US, China and Germany, thanks to high import duties. India imposes 100 percent duty if the car's cost, insurance and freight together exceeds \$40,000, and 70 percent on vehicles priced below. All eyes are on the proposed India-US trade deal and if it will entail lower duties on cars, much like the recent bilateral pact with the UK, where auto levies would reduce to 10 percent in phases. But even if the Indo-US deal includes lower auto levies, the question is whether they will apply to Tesla, whose American factories do not produce right-hand drive vehicles used in India and will have to import from China, which faces high tariffs.

Arifical Intelligence uses Arifical Intelligence uses The duty reduction in the India-UK deal focuses on nonelectric vehicles and does not encompass any out-of-quota cuts for EVs. That said, India's EV policy



announced last year does walk an extra mile, lowering import duties from 100 percent to 15 percent for cars priced over \$35,000, but with riders. To avail of these lower tariffs, companies must invest at least \$500 million in local production facilities over a three-year period,

besides achieving 50 percent domestic value addition within five years. In other words, the government is keen on attracting global automakers, but wants to ensure job creation and development of the domestic manufacturing ecosystem in return — which does not enthuse companies like Tesla. This is not surprising given the pace of EV adoption in India. In 2024, they accounted for 7.5 percent of India's total vehicle sales, but two-wheelers accounted for over 60 percent of all EV sales. Overall growth is also dismal compared to major markets like China, where about half the new cars sold last year were electric. One of the drags on growth is that there are too few charging stations — only one public charging station for every 235 EVs, according to one estimate. Then there is a lack of standardisation among charging stations and connectors. Above all, India imports over 90 percent of its lithium-ion batteries and needs local manufacturing to guard against supply chain disruptions. We need to pave the road before EVs can truly vroom.

Universe: Allow patience to complete its course

Patience is a natural and necessary precondition to be human, to get along with life itself

In our Internet-powered digital world, patience has outlived its utility — like money order. It's a word that seems to belong to another, bygone era. It still has some charm associated with it, but is largely superfluous in our day and age when digital transactions take less than two seconds to process, as our payment apps mandatorily testify to us.

Is patience still a virtue to be cultivated? Isn't this entire AI-driven technological revolution aimed at making information and groceries ever so readily available to us, and thus override the necessary human condition to be patient? And that's where the rub is. Patience is a natural and necessary precondition to be human. A man's — or a woman's — life doesn't consist in the abundance of things or information he may possess, but in his willingness to be patient with his fellow beings. One needs to activate his "patient mode" for only a fraction of a second to be able to avoid a road accident or an instance of road rage — the unfortunate events that tend to extract a huge human cost. Do this experiment next time you are behind the wheels, and see if you can drive past another vehicle without swearing at its driver, even in your heart. This experiment is necessary because the kind of patience we have with strangers is often a reflection of the measure of patience we have with our colleagues, friends and family.



We are often more patient with the outsiders than with the people in our own homes, or organisations; in fact, it is our own who bear the brunt of our impatience most severely. We want quick — and favourable — responses from our loved ones, without wanting to give them the

time to prepare for an appropriate one. We forget the simple truth that those close to us are not machines; they are humans and not our AI companions. Revolutions often fail not because of stronger adversaries, but because friends within the same camp fail to develop the virtue of

patience towards each other. Revolutionaries tend to become worse than what or whom they sought to replace because at the last and decisive step, they are shaped by impatience and distrust. Patience must be allowed to complete its course. Be more patient with a friend or a spouse than with a stranger.

Above all, the virtue of patience must be developed not merely because we want to get along with strangers, and friends, and our spouses, but primarily because we want to get along with life itself, which is often unrelentingly cruel and unjust.

'God Sees the Truth, But Waits' by Leo Tolstoy must now be considered a story most offensive to our postmodern sensibilities: how can a man suffer for decades for a crime he never committed, and then die without any apparent resolution? But it is, in fact, the seeming absurdity of the story that restores our faith in the human spirit. Patience perfected the character in isolation and suffering. We may have escaped the fate of Ivan Dmitrich, but all of us at some point in our lives would have found ourselves caught in an inscrutable and implacable bureaucratic maze, a kind that would force one to the depths of despair.

Patience, which can't be downloaded as an app, is the only thing that keeps you afloat. Patience, which is the divine outpouring of the conviction that God sees but waits.

News box

Soon, prepaid auto booths to enhance safety for women commuters near key metro stations in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

To make travel safer for women, police are planning to introduce prepaid autorickshaw booths near Millennium City Centre metro station and IFFCO Chowk.

All auto drivers who take bookings through these prepaid booths will be asked to register and submit key details, including their full name, contact number and vehicle number. This information will be stored online and made available to law enforcement officials in case of an incident. Cops said a police officer will be stationed at the booth to monitor activities and act as a visible deterrent for any misconduct. "Women's safety is a top priority for Gurgaon police. Based on concerns raised, the prepaid booth model will be launched in high footfall areas and expanded further," said Arpit Jain, DCP (headquarters). The initiative, police said, was proposed by a group of women who voiced the need for structured and secure public transport services in the city. The DCP said traffic police are in talks with auto unions to finalise the logistics of these prepaid booths. An agency will be hired subsequently to operate the booths. Police announcement about the initiative was met with cautious optimism from women, many of whom said they've lived with fears about safety for too long. "Gurgaon is a city of contrasts. On one end, you have secure, well-guarded apartments. On the other, there are areas that women avoid altogether. I always tell people — pay more and live in a gated community if you want to feel safe. I don't know a single woman who hasn't been harassed. It's so common that many just accept it," said Mahima Saini, a 34-year-old who has been living in the city for seven years. Data shows, that the city last year recorded 1,727 cases of crimes against women.

Others pointed out that previous safety initiatives have had a mixed track record. For instance, 'pink' autos, which promised exclusive transportation for women, failed to gain traction and largely vanished from NCR roads. Other services like live location sharing apps and helplines also depend heavily on user participation and haven't seen wide-scale adoption.

Minor's body found with stab wounds, kin allege neighbour's role in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

A day after he went missing, the body of a seven-year-old boy was found in the greenbelt near Kalwadi village, close to KMP Expressway. The body of Aashish, a resident of Fatehpur village and originally from Alwar in Rajasthan, was found on Sunday morning with multiple stab wounds inflicted by a sharp object. A knife, which was also found nearby, was sent for forensic examination. The family suspects a neighbour's role in the incident. The accused is currently absconding. We have found multiple stab wounds to the child, around 18-20," an officer said. The post-mortem results and forensic reports are expected to provide further clarity as the investigation continues, police said.

Additional Member EnHM Railway Board inspected Kamakhya Depot and BOOT Laundry

Contd....From page

Goel praised the integration of digital systems and inter-departmental coordination to enhance service quality and passenger satisfaction. At the BOOT Laundry facility in New Guwahati, modern machinery including a multi-stage tunnel washer, ironers, folders and high-capacity boilers — used for cleaning bedrolls and blankets were thoroughly inspected. The facility currently caters to a combined linen requirement of approximately 13,365 bedroll packets daily for Guwahati and Kamakhya based trains. Quality assurance practices using whiteness meters were also highlighted during the visit. The visit by Manu Goel signifies the Railway Board's strong commitment to advancing environmental sustainability, operational cleanliness and service quality across N. E. Railway. Looking ahead, the zone is gearing up for several key developments, including the introduction of Vande Bharat and Amrit Bharat trains, installation of a tandem wheel lathe, provision of Overhead Equipment (OHE) over pit lines, and the establishment of a new coaching complex at New Guwahati with enhanced maintenance and stabling capabilities.

In Gurgaon, executive engineer faces action for failing to implement orders at landfill

Gurgaon. (Agency)

MCG served a show cause notice to its executive engineer for failing to implement its orders at Bandhwari landfill site. The executive engineer did not carry out the directives issued by urban local bodies' commissioner and secretary Vikas Gupta at Bandhwari. MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya wrote to the ULB department, requesting them to withhold any promotion considerations for the executive engineer until they receive a satisfactory performance report from the commissioner. "It is brought to your notice that the commissioner & secretary, urban local bodies, Haryana, has issued instructions to the undersigned regarding the execution of necessary/emergency work at the Bandhwari Plant in the public interest. However, despite clear directions, no progress was made on the ground till July 13, 2025," read the notice sent to the executive engineer on Wednesday. "This demonstrates a serious lapse and disregard in complying with the directions issued by senior officers and amounts to dereliction of duty. Such conduct not only undermines administrative efficiency but also affects works of significant public interest," it said. The engineer has been asked to provide a written clarification within three days of receiving the notice. He has been asked to address why disciplinary proceedings should not be taken against them for disregarding official instructions and not implementing essential emergency tasks.

'Will you save me': Banter with husband turns fatal as woman falls from 4th-floor terrace in DLF-3

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Gurgaon: A 22-year-old woman died after falling from the terrace of her fourth-floor apartment in DLF-3 while sharing what was meant to be a light-hearted moment with her husband. Parvati and Duryodhan, who had moved to the NCR city from Odisha two years ago in search of better opportunities, were enjoying the pleasant weather on their terrace around 10.30pm on July 15. What began as innocent banter turned tragic when Parvati climbed onto the parapet and playfully asked her husband, "If I fall, will you save me?" As she attempted to step down, Parvati lost her footing and began to slip. Duryodhan (28) lunged forward and managed to grab her hand, holding on to her desperately as she dangled from the edge. For nearly two minutes, he called out for help, but with no one around, his grip eventually gave way. And Parvati fell to the ground below. Despite Duryodhan's frantic calls for help



and the swift arrival of a police team along with an ambulance, Parvati succumbed to her injuries within half an hour of being

wheeled into a private hospital. She had suffered severe internal damage. Cops at DLF-3 police station said they had initiated an inquiry into the "tragic incident". "No, there were no signs of foul play. Marks on the husband's hands and chest support his statement that he tried to save his wife. He broke down saying he lost everything when we questioned him about the sequence of events," an officer said. The couple, who had been married for around two and a half years, worked at a private firm in the city and had been building a new life together. It was around 10pm that they had gone to the terrace of their rented apartment to escape the heat when the incident occurred. After an autopsy, Parvati's body was handed over to her family. Devastated by the loss, Duryodhan posted a heartbreaking message on Instagram on Saturday, pleading for his wife to return. "You are my life, you are everything to me. Please come back. I'm waiting to hear your voice, feel your presence, your touch."

Trees axed without approval? NGT serves notice to agencies in Haryana

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Months after the sarpanch of Arua in Faridabad's Ballabhgarh tehsil allegedly cut down 150-200 trees "without obtaining requisite permissions" from the competent authorities or approval from the forest department, multiple notices were issued by National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Friday. While the tribunal has listed the matter for further consideration on Oct 16, the replies have been sought from the authorities as well as the sarpanch, Mukesh, a week before that. The petitioner — local resident Arun Kumar — had said that despite complaints filed with both the forest department and the Chhainsa police station on March 27, and an ensuing inspection by forest officials, "no action was reportedly taken to address the illegal activity".

Petitioner Arun Kumar, appearing in person via videoconference, submitted the forest department's inspection report, which confirmed illegal tree felling in the area. Photographs substantiating the claims were also placed on record. In the backdrop of this, the principal bench of NGT, led by chairperson Justice Prakash Srivastava and expert member Dr A Senthil Vel, directed that notices be issued to the member secretary of Haryana State Pollution Control Board, Faridabad district Magistrate, divisional forest officer of Faridabad and the sarpanch, asking them to file their replies by way of affidavit at least a week before the next hearing. Taking a serious view of the matter, the tribunal noted the application raises substantial questions regarding compliance with environmental norms. "Applicant appearing virtually submits that in the report of the forest department it has come to light illegal felling of trees took place but in spite of that no action has been taken by the authorities. In support of the plea, the applicant has placed on record certain photographs along with the letter petition.

How illegal factories in MP, UP fuel gun trade & culture in NCR

Gurgaon. (Agency)

During the last 18 months, police have seized over 370 weapons from gangsters or criminals, out of which 222 pistols were manufactured in Madhya Pradesh and 148 country-made pistols were produced in Uttar Pradesh. These recoveries were made from Jan 2024 till June 2025. In fact, pistol and country-made pistols (katta) — manufactured at several illegal firearms factories in MP and UP respectively — are being supplied to gangs in NCR. Pistols are priced between Rs 15,000 and Rs 1 lakh, while country-made pistols are available for Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000. According to police, gangsters, based abroad, supplied arms to their members in India. Many youngsters, attracted to gang culture, purchased these weapons through social media platforms and WhatsApp groups.

370 and counting
Gurgaon police — from Jan 2024 till June 2025 — seized 370 illegal firearms that were manufactured in MP and UP. Police arrested 235 accused and recovered approximately 250 weapons across 198

cases last year. From Jan to June this year, authorities recovered 120 weapons in 95 cases and apprehended 127 accused. Snatchers, robbers and those individuals who are involved in petty crimes possess these weapons, police said. Recently, a crime branch team from the city recently recovered illegal firearms from members of the gangster Lipin Nehra's group. Nehra, who is believed to be in the US, is a close associate of gangster Lawrence Bishnoi and faces over 20 criminal cases, including murder, says a senior police officer. The officer said Nehra had supplied pistols manufactured in Madhya Pradesh to his gang and directed them to eliminate a rival gang member. However,

Golf Course Road testing ground for state's 1st plastic-free urban stretch

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Starting with Golf Course Road, Haryana's pollution control board HSPCB will start handing out eco-friendly items to residents and businesses to help the city eliminate single-use plastics. HSPCB officials told TOI they will launch the initiative from the Golf Course Road and cover a radius of one kilometre in the first week of Aug. The drive will include commercial buildings, residential societies, schools and roadside vendors. The idea is simple, officials said, eliminate single-use plastic from one of the city's most prominent stretches and set a precedent for sustainable urban lifestyle. Instead of taking penal action for flouting the ban on single-use plastics, the board is opting for a transition phase that gives people time and tools to adapt. Over the next three months, HSPCB teams will provide paper, cloth and biodegradable alternatives of single-use plastics to residents and businesses. A buffer stock of

biodegradable materials is being built to support the change. "We want this to be real, not symbolic. It's not enough to ban plastic; we need to make sure people have substitutes before we ask them to stop using it," said Akanksha Tanwar, HSPCB regional officer, Gurgaon. This preparation period, officials believe, will reduce resistance and confusion when enforcement begins. HSPCB is also working with resident welfare associations (RWAs) to drive awareness campaigns. Engagement with vendors and shopkeepers, often the biggest users of disposable plastic, is part of the strategy too. "If this pilot on Golf Course Road works, the model will be gradually expanded to other parts of the district. The idea is to treat this stretch as a testing ground for how to go plastic-free in a real-world setting," Tanwar said. Around 14% of all plastic waste generated in the state ends up in landfills, according to an annual report

published by HSPCB last year. The state recycles approximately 78% of its plastic waste, the report said, but it also pointed out an alarming rise in plastic waste generation — a 38% increase from 129,866.7 tonnes in 2022-23 to 179,406.5 tonnes the next fiscal year. This is despite the ban on single-use plastics (SUPs) imposed nationwide from July 1, 2022. Single-use plastics include plastic bags, straws, cutlery, plates, food and beverage containers, coffee cups and lids, drink stirrers, cigarette butts, balloons and balloon sticks, wrappers, wet wipes, and most plastic packaging designed to be used once and discarded. According to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), plastic packaging that is not covered under the ban and is abundantly used to pack processed food items contributes to 60% of the waste generated. Data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Ganga water pipeline bursts, supply trickles from taps across Noida sectors

Noida. (Agency)

A damaged 1,400mm Ganga water line in Sector 64 has triggered supply disruptions across numerous sectors in the city since late Saturday night. Officials have implemented temporary solutions through tube wells and Ranney wells while undertaking repairs. Some of the affected sectors are 53, 31, 64, 119, and 28. "There was a water supply failure on Saturday, and today, there has been no supply of drinking water in the area. There is no official information available regarding this situation," said Praveen Singh, a resident of Sector 31.

Singh added that with prior information from the water department, residents could have filled their tanks in advance. Similarly, Pushpa Sah, RWA president of Kanchanjunga Apartments, Sector 53, and Kavita Jamil, vice chairperson of Arun Vihar Residents Welfare Association (AVRWA), comprising Sectors 28, 29, and 37, also shared that their areas faced an acute water crisis.

A similar situation was faced in 100x sectors as well as Sectors 71, 64, etc., where the latter faced flooding of the green belt area around the damaged pipeline. "The critical issue of the damaged Ganga water line in Sector 64 has worsened the severe water crisis in 100x sectors, which we have been experiencing for months. Despite



numerous assurances from the Jal Board, no substantial action has been taken yet," Nikhil Singhal, president of Noida Highrise Federation (NHRF) 100x Sectors, said. When contacted, Ashok Verma, senior manager, water

department, Noida Authority, told TOI that the 1400 mm Ganga water line has been damaged in Sector 64 and repairs are being undertaken from Saturday night. "We expect the repairs to be done by Sunday evening and supply to

Railway station feel': Must expand Hindon terminal, says Union minister

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Union civil aviation minister Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu on Sunday emphasised the urgent need to expand Hindon Civil Terminal, saying that rush at the airport was giving the "feel of a railway station". Kinjarapu, who was visiting the terminal to mark the launch of IndiGo's flight operations from Hindon, said the terminal's expansion needs at least 9 more acres. "Due to passenger rush, the terminal is giving the feel of a railway station, for which the expansion is necessary. At least 9 acres of land is required for the expansion, out of which expansion of the terminal building will be done over 770 sqm," the minister said. In addition, he said, four check-in counters and an apron area to park aircraft will be created.

"Talks are going on with the state govt and IAF and IAF since the airport being used is of Hindon IAF," Kinjarapu said. IndiGo, India's largest airline by market share, on Sunday launched commercial flight operations from the terminal on eight routes — Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Indore, Kolkata, Mumbai, Patna and Varanasi. It follows on the heels of Air India Express, which started operations from Hindon this March. Besides these two airlines, Star Air and FlyBig also run commercial flights from the terminal. According to officials, there are now flights on 22 routes from the civil terminal, which offers an alternative to Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport in Delhi, especially for those living to the east of the capital.

Fighting political battles, being misused: ED faces Supreme Court ire in 2 cases

The Supreme Court came down heavily on the ED and issued strong observations on two matters - one involving an appeal against relief granted to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife in the MUDA case, and the other a suo motu hearing on ED summons to lawyers for advice given to clients.

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday came down heavily on the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for what it described as attempts to "fight political battles" through legal proceedings, issuing strong observations in two separate matters - one involving an appeal against relief granted to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife in the MUDA case, and the other a suo motu hearing on ED summons to lawyers for advice given to clients. The Supreme Court was hearing the ED's appeal challenging a Karnataka High Court order that had quashed money laundering proceedings against BM Parvathi, wife of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Karnataka Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh.

The case pertained to the alleged illegal allotment of sites by the Mysuru Urban

Development Authority (MUDA). The High Court had on March 7 upheld the trial court's decision to set aside the ED proceedings.

Chief Justice BR Gavai questioned the agency's move to appeal despite concurrent findings by the lower court and the High Court. "You know very well that the single judge upheld the trial court order," Justice Gavai said, asking, "Let political battles be fought among the electorate. Why are you being used for it?" Justice Gavai added, "Unfortunately, I have some experience with ED in Maharashtra. Please do not force us to say something. Otherwise, we will have to say something very harsh about the Enforcement Directorate."

Additional Solicitor General SV Raju, appearing for the ED, offered to withdraw the appeal but requested that it not be



treated as a precedent.

The Chief Justice responded by saying, "We do not find any error in reasoning adopted in the approach of the single judge. In the peculiar facts and circumstances, we dismiss it. We should thank you, ASG, for saving some harsh comments."

ED SUMMONS TO SENIOR ADVOCATES

The Supreme Court also took up a suo motu matter concerning the ED's summons to

senior advocates for legal advice given to clients, with intervention applications filed by the Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association (SCAORA), Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), In-House Lawyers Association, and other legal bodies.

Senior Advocate Vikas Singh told the bench that the ED's actions had a "chilling effect" on the legal profession. Referring to international examples, he said, "We saw in Turkey that the entire bar association was disbanded. We also saw something like this in China. We should not go in this direction. Some guidelines must be laid down." The Chief Justice agreed, noting, "Even if the advice given by the lawyer is wrong, how can he be summoned? This is privileged communication. Some guidelines must be laid down."

Supreme Court orders CBI probe into 'custodial torture' of J&K constable



Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday ordered a CBI investigation into allegations of custodial torture of a Jammu and Kashmir police constable at the Joint Interrogation Centre in Kupwara. The top court also directed the J&K administration to pay a compensation of Rs 50 lakh to the constable.

The court has also sought a status report of the investigation by September. The petitioner has alleged that he was brutally tortured and mutilated while in custody at the Kupwara interrogation facility. The petition sought registration of an FIR against those responsible and had sought an investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT) or the CBI.

The petitioner also demanded the quashing of an FIR lodged at Kupwara police station under Section 309 of the IPC. Earlier this year, another alleged case of custodial torture rocked J&K. A Gujjar youth allegedly died by suicide after facing torture in police custody in Kathua's Billawar area in February. The youth was picked up for his alleged link to terrorists.

Border game changer: Strategic 'China-proof' road near LAC to be ready next year

Agency New Delhi.

In a boost to border infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), an alternate route to the strategic Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) sector in Ladakh, free of surveillance by Chinese soldiers, will be ready next year. India has fast-tracked the construction of the new road following the Galwan Valley clash in 2020 amid a border stand-off with China. The 130-km-long new route, via Sasoma-Saser La-Saser Brangsa-Gapsham-DBO, will be a secure and faster alternative to the existing Darbuk-Shyok-DBO (DSDBO) road, which is vulnerable to Chinese surveillance.

WILL CUT TRAVEL TIME FROM 2 DAYS TO 12 HOURS

The new road, being built by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), will reduce the distance from Leh to DBO by 79 km and cut down the travel time dramatically from two days to just 11-12 hours.

This will not only allow India to mobilise troops without being exposed to Chinese observation, but will smoothen logistics movement in the critical border area. Daulat Beg Oldie houses the world's highest airstrip at 16,614 feet, and holds immense strategic value due to its proximity to the Karakoram Pass and the contentious Depsang region, where China has frequently challenged Indian claims. Defence sources said the BRO has upgraded nine bridges on the new route from 40-tonne to 70-tonne load capacity to facilitate the movement of heavier vehicles and artillery. Trials with Bofors and other systems have already been conducted successfully.

The road originates from Sasoma in the Nubra Valley, close to the Siachen base camp. It will allow direct connectivity to DBO without needing to cross Leh. BRO's 'Project Vijayak' is undertaking the construction from Sasoma to Saser Brangsa, while 'Project Himank' is looking after the project to DBO. The total estimated budget is Rs 500 crore.

ENGINEERING CHALLENGES

The terrain and extreme weather conditions presented formidable engineering challenges. Located at an altitude of over 17,000 feet, the region is prone to heavy snowfall and oxygen scarcity, limiting the construction window to just 5-6 months annually.

To aid the construction workers, the BRO set up special "oxygen cafes" to ensure efficiency and safety. Several other strategic projects are going on in the region to enhance troop mobility.

Air India flight from Kochi veers off runway in Mumbai amid heavy rain

Despite skidding off Mumbai's main runway amid heavy rain, the Air India Airbus A320 taxied safely to the bay, leaving minor runway damage, officials said.

Agency New Delhi.

An Air India flight from Kochi veered off the runway while landing at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport early Monday morning, as heavy rains battered the city overnight.

Flight AI 2744, an Airbus A320 (VT-TYA), was arriving from Kochi when it experienced what officials described as a "runway excursion" shortly after touchdown. Visuals from the scene showed partial damage to one of the aircraft's engines.

According to an Air India spokesperson, the aircraft managed to taxi safely to the designated bay despite the incident, and all passengers and crew disembarked without any injuries.

The airline confirmed that the aircraft has been grounded for detailed



checks. "Flight AI2744, operating from Kochi to Mumbai on 21 July 2025, experienced heavy rain during landing, resulting in a runway excursion after touchdown. The aircraft taxied safely to the gate, and all passengers and crew members have since disembarked. The aircraft has been grounded for checks," the spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, a Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport (CSMIA) spokesperson said that

there was minor damage reported to the airport's primary runway, 09/27, where the flight landed. "All passengers and crew are safe. There was minor damage reported to the airport's primary runway, 09/27. In order to ensure continuity of operations, Secondary Runway 14/32 has been activated," the spokesperson said.

The incident came as Mumbai recorded intense overnight showers after days of relatively clear skies. The sudden spell caused waterlogging in several low-lying areas and led to traffic snarls across parts of the city on Monday morning, civic officials said. While no flight operations were reported to be significantly impacted apart from minor delays, authorities have advised travellers to check for updates amid forecasts of more rain in the coming days.

More goons than Shiv devotees in Kanwar Yatra: Samajwadi MLA amid assault cases

Agency New Delhi.

Amid several incidents of vandalism and harassment involving kanwariyas, a Samajwadi Party MLA said there were more goons than Shiva devotees in the Kanwar Yatra. Sambhal MLA Iqbal Mehmood urged the Uttar Pradesh government to take action against the miscreants and send them to jail. Pointing to the incident in Meerut where kanwariyas vandalised a school bus, Mehmood asserted that the number of genuine Shiva devotees was low, while that of troublemakers is high. "There are more goons than Shiva devotees in the Kanwar Yatra. These individuals are indulging in vandalism and hooliganism, and their place is in jail," Mehmood said. He said their actions would have consequences in the afterlife.



STRING OF VANDALISM INCIDENTS

The Samajwadi MLA's strong remarks come amid a string of vandalism and assault cases on Kanwar Yatra routes in Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Incidents of targeting of roadside dhabas and stalls over disputes on nameplates have also been reported.

Last week, kanwariyas vandalised a school bus in Meerut after the vehicle allegedly brushed past some of them. In videos that have gone viral, the

enraged pilgrims are seen boarding the bus and beating the driver and smashing the windshields.

In another incident, kanwariyas were seen punching a Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawan at Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur railway station during an argument over train tickets. Seven kanwariyas were arrested.

Amid several complaints, Uttar Pradesh has banned kanwariyas from carrying sticks, tridents (trishuls), hockey sticks, and similar items during the yatra, which will end on July 23. The administration has also prohibited the use of motorbikes without silencers to curb noise pollution and public nuisance. However, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has come out strongly in support of the pilgrims, accusing sections of the media of unfairly labelling.

Terror accused arrested via facial recognition system in J&K



Agency New Delhi.

Anantnag Police on Sunday arrested a suspect through the recently installed facial recognition system, a spokesperson said, adding that the man was involved in a UAPA (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act) case. In a significant breakthrough, police in Anantnag successfully apprehended a suspicious individual identified as Muneeb Mushtaq Sheikh, a resident of Malik Mohalla, Drangbal Pampore, he said. The arrest was made after the suspect was detected through the Facial Recognition System installed by the Jammu and Kashmir Police at the X-Ray Point in Ganishbal.

Upon detection, the individual was immediately taken into custody and shifted to Pahalgam police station for further verification, the spokesperson said.

Subsequent inquiries revealed that Sheikh was involved in a case registered under various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, and the Explosive Substances Act, he said further. The swift identification and apprehension of the suspect highlights the effectiveness of advanced surveillance technologies in enhancing security and maintaining law and order, the police spokesperson added.

Is he your friend? Chief Justice pulls up lawyer for calling cash row judge 'Varma'

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Monday pulled up lawyer Mathews Nedumpara for referring to Justice Yashwant Varma of the Allahabad High Court by name, without the honorific 'Justice', while seeking an urgent hearing for a plea to register an FIR in a cash recovery case linked to the judge.

A bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran expressed strong disapproval as Nedumpara repeatedly referred to the high court judge as 'Varma'.

"Is he your friend? He is still Justice Varma. How do you address him? Have some decorum. You are referring to a learned judge. He is still a judge of the court," the Chief Justice said.

Do you want it to be dismissed right now?" Justice BR Gavai asked, when the lawyer pressed for an urgent listing. Nedumpara insisted that the matter could not be dismissed, saying, "An FIR has to be registered. Now Varma seems to be asking for that only. There has to be an FIR, an investigation."

The Chief Justice responded firmly, "Please don't dictate to the court." Nedumpara described the plea as a qui tam proceeding against Justice Varma, seeking immediate court intervention.

Justice Varma has been in the spotlight since March 14, when firefighters and police rushed to his official residence following reports of a fire. The incident led to the discovery of a massive stash of half-burnt cash stored at the location. At the time, Justice Varma was serving in the Delhi High Court and was later transferred to the Allahabad High Court.

A Supreme Court-appointed inquiry panel, headed by Chief Justice Sheel Nagu of the Punjab and Haryana High Court, investigated the incident over 10 days. The panel examined 55 witnesses and inspected the scene of the fire, which reportedly started at around 11.35 pm on March 14. Its report concluded that Justice Varma and his family had covert or active control over the store room where the cash was found, establishing misconduct serious enough to warrant his removal.

Odisha Congress student leader arrested for lacing woman's drink, raping her

The survivor said that the accused lavished her drink with sedatives, raped her at a hotel and later threatened her with dire consequences.

Agency New Delhi.

The Mancheswar police in Bhubaneswar have arrested Udit Pradhan, the president of the Odisha unit of the Congress party's student wing, on charges of allegedly raping a 19-year-old engineering student after lacing her drink. Pradhan was taken into custody late on Sunday night from his residence and is expected to be produced in court on Monday. According to the complaint lodged by the survivor, the incident took place on March 18 this year. The complainant stated that she, along with two friends, met Pradhan near the Master Canteen area of Bhubaneswar. The group later proceeded to a hotel in Nayapalli in Pradhan's vehicle.

At the hotel, while others in the group reportedly consumed liquor, the complainant declined alcohol and was offered a soft drink by Pradhan. She



alleged that the drink had been spiked with an intoxicating substance. Soon after consuming it, she began to feel dizzy and asked to be taken home. However, the FIR states that Pradhan and

the others prevented her from leaving. She eventually lost consciousness and later realised she had been sexually assaulted. She also alleged that Pradhan threatened her with serious consequences if she spoke about the incident. The survivor filed a police complaint months later, stating that she had been afraid to come forward earlier. Following the registration of the FIR, the police acted and arrested Pradhan the same night.

After news of the arrest spread, a group of around 50 people, including Pradhan's family members and student Congress supporters, gathered outside the Mancheswar police station. Police deployed at the location restricted access to the premises.

Following the allegations, the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) suspended Udit Pradhan from the organisation. In a statement, NSUI said, "NSUI maintains a zero-tolerance policy towards gender-based injustice and is unwavering in its commitment to accountability and justice."

NEWS BOX

Not Rohit or Kohli, Sunil Gavaskar finds ideal comparison of Shubman Gill's captaincy

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India cricketer-turned commentator Sunil Gavaskar has compared Shubman Gill with India's three victorious captains in England. Gill was recently appointed as India's Test skipper after Rohit Sharma's retirement, and the ongoing series against England is his first assignment.

The 25-year-old has had a tough beginning to his captaincy tenure as India are trailing by 1-2 in the five-match series. Recently, Gavaskar compared Gill with the three former India captains who've won a Test series in England. India have emerged victorious in England under the leadership of Ajit Wadekar, Kapil Dev and Rahul Dravid. "It might be pertinent to note that India have won a Test series in England only thrice. In 1971 under Ajit Wadekar, in 1986 under Kapil Dev and in 2007 under Rahul Dravid. All three were the coolest skippers one could ever hope for. The laconic style of Wadekar, the rip-roaring yet controlled style of Kapil and the



intense and thoughtful method of Dravid," Gavaskar wrote in his column for Mid-day. Furthermore, Gavaskar mentioned how Gill exuded calmness in the second Test in Birmingham and looked like an amalgam of Ajit Wadekar, Kapil Dev and Rahul Dravid. "Not once did these three ever get excited, whatever the situation and that calm certainty was infectious. Shubman Gill in Birmingham looked like an amalgam of these three. Intense and iconic while scoring a double century and a century."

I love India: Brett Lee reacts to India-Pakistan champions clash cancellation

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former Australian fast bowler Brett Lee has weighed in on the cancellation of the much-anticipated India vs Pakistan fixture at the ongoing World Championship of Legends (WCL), calling the situation "tough" while emphasising the importance of mutual respect and inclusivity in global sport.

The India vs Pakistan WCL clash, scheduled to take place at Edgbaston in Birmingham, was called off after several former Indian cricketers reportedly refused to take part. Their decision came in the wake of the heinous terror attack on tourists in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on 22 April—an incident that further strained already delicate ties between India and Pakistan. Speaking at a press conference while representing the Australia Champions side, Lee acknowledged the complexity of the situation but maintained a neutral and respectful tone. "That is a tough question. But the thing I'll say right is, I love India, I love Pakistan. So I hope that they can get to a discretion where they can appreciate themselves. But most importantly, we are



here on a tournament. So Australia versus India versus South Africa. We are all inclusive. So what happened last night is what happened. We pushed for it," Lee, who is representing Australia Champions, told reporters in a press conference.

The WCL, in its official statement, revealed that the India-Pakistan fixture was planned with the intention of fostering goodwill-drawing inspiration from a recent volleyball match between the two nations. However, the move drew backlash, particularly from the Indian contingent, prompting the organisers to cancel the match. The WCL also issued an apology for any distress or discomfort the announcement may have caused, admitting it may have misjudged the emotional climate.

Mikel Arteta backs Arsenal's approach on Thomas Partey amid sexual assault charges

Thomas Partey was charged with multiple counts of rape and sexual assault

His contract with Arsenal expired earlier this year

Arteta backed the club to have followed all the right processes

London. (Agency)

Mikel Arteta has stated that Arsenal '100 per cent' followed the correct procedures regarding Thomas Partey, who has been charged with multiple counts of rape and sexual assault earlier this month. The Arsenal manager made the comments during the club's pre-season tour of Singapore, breaking his silence on a situation that has drawn significant public and media attention. The scrutiny intensified after Partey's contract with Arsenal expired on June 30, just four days before the charges



against him were made public. Despite the sensitive nature of the legal proceedings, Arteta reiterated the club's position, referencing Arsenal's earlier statement on the matter. "The club was very clear in its statement. There are a lot of legal matters that are very complicated, so I cannot comment on any of that," he said, according to Sky

Sports. When asked if the club had followed the proper processes, Arteta responded: "100 per cent."

According to a statement by the Metropolitan Police, the charges stem from an investigation that began in February 2022 following the initial report of rape. The 31-year-old Ghanaian midfielder is facing two

ENG vs IND: Nitish Reddy out of remaining Tests, Anshul Kamboj added to India squad

Nitish Kumar Reddy ruled out of last two Tests due to left knee injury

Arshdeep Singh was out of fourth Test with left thumb injury

Anshul Kamboj was added to squad for Manchester Test

New Delhi. (Agency)

India have suffered yet another injury setback in their ongoing Test series against England, with all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy ruled out of the final two matches of the five-Test series due to a left knee injury. The 21-year-old will return home for rehabilitation, the BCCI confirmed on Monday. Reddy, who made his Test debut on the Australian tour last year, had a mixed outing across two matches. While he went



wicketless and made little impact in Birmingham, he produced a crucial spell at Lord's, removing both English openers - Ben Duckett and Zak Crawley - in the same over during the first innings, and dismissing Crawley again in the second. He also

injury to his left thumb during a training session in Beckenham. "The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress," the board said in its release. In light of the twin setbacks, the Men's Selection Committee has drafted Haryana pacer Anshul Kamboj into the squad. Kamboj has joined the team in Manchester ahead of the fourth Test, which begins on Wednesday, July 23 at Old Trafford.

India, trailing 1-2 in the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy, are already grappling with workload-management concerns around pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has played just two of the three Tests so far. The team management is optimistic about his availability in Manchester after an eight-day break following the third Test. With Reddy ruled out, Shardul Thakur - who featured in the series opener in Leeds - could return to the playing XI if India opt to persist with a seam-bowling all-rounder.



What was supposed to be a structured long-term plan has once again been left scrambling in the short term. But hey, if the plan is to become a top Asian football nation in 22 years, maybe we should start with getting through 22 months without chaos. Meanwhile, there's a growing vibe shift. Fans are no longer just frustrated-they're checked out. The system's confusing,

club football is in a limbo, and the national team's only headlines lately are about losses and coaching exits. With the ISL currently on pause and the roadmap uncertain, there's a growing feeling that Indian football is stuck in a holding pattern, waiting for clarity that never quite arrives. But even in this beautiful mess, one big decision looms: Who's next in charge? Whether it's a seasoned name from Indian football or an outside tactician with fresh ideas, this call could well define Vision 2047. That's why this next head coach appointment matters. Whether it's a seasoned ISL tactician or a complete curveball from overseas, this decision isn't just about the survival of Indian football, and here are some of our picks for the role: Khalid Jamil: The people's choice?

There's something poetic about Khalid Jamil being back in the reckoning.

Who can rescue Indian football Top contenders to take over as head coach

New Delhi. (Agency)

In 2025, following Indian football sometimes feels like watching a glitchy game-one moment of promise, three of confusion, and an eternal wait for a patch update that never comes. The men's national team has slipped to 132 in the FIFA rankings, the head coach has walked out mid-cycle, and the Indian Super League has been abruptly put on hold. It's a storyline straight out of a sports drama-but with none of the triumphant comebacks. Manolo Marquez was supposed to be "the guy." He was brought in with the idea of leading the next big rebuild, with AIFF's "Vision 2047" as the backdrop. Instead, six games and one win later, he departed without a word to his players, leaving behind more questions than answers.

What was supposed to be a structured long-term plan has once again been left scrambling in the short term. But hey, if the plan is to become a top Asian football nation in 22 years, maybe we should start with getting through 22 months without chaos. Meanwhile, there's a growing vibe shift. Fans are no longer just frustrated-they're checked out. The system's confusing,

Sai Sudharsan was my no. 3, didn't agree with Karun Nair's backing: Sanjay Manjrekar

Sai Sudharsan registered scores of 0 and 30 on his debut

Karun Nair has scored 131 runs in six innings in the series

India are trailing by 1-2 in the five-match series

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former India cricketer turned commentator Sanjay Manjrekar has backed Sai Sudharsan to bat at number three in the upcoming fourth Test against England at Old Trafford in Manchester. Sudharsan was dropped from the playing XI after the first Test as he registered scores of 0 and 30 on his debut. In his place, the team management promoted Karun Nair to number three, who was making his return to international cricket after five years. However, the move



didn't pay dividends as Nair failed to register a single fifty-plus score in the four innings despite getting good starts. Hence, Manjrekar has suggested giving another chance to Sudharsan in the upcoming fourth Test as the youngster showed promise in the second innings in Leeds. "Sai Sudharsan was always my no.3 after the first test match, there was promise shown with 30 runs. And when you have flat pitches and one of England's weakest bowling attack, you want to play a young player so Karun Nair at no.3 I didn't agree with maybe the team management might just want to

prove a point that we were backing the right horse and give him one more match that's something happen with team management but I would like to see Sai Sudharsan at no.3," Manjrekar said on ESPNcricinfo.

Nair has scored just 131 runs in six innings in the series so far at an average of 21.83 and a best score of 40. Hence, the team management might be tempted to make a change

in the batting line-up after India failed to chase down 193 in the fourth innings and are trailing by 1-2 in the five-match series. Meanwhile, India's injury woes have continued ahead of the 4th Test as all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy and seamer Arshdeep Singh have been ruled out of the upcoming fixture. Nitish Kumar Reddy has suffered a knee injury, while Arshdeep Singh has been ruled out due to a hand injury. Additionally, seamer Akash Deep is also doubtful for the game as he's dealing with a groin niggle.

With Asia Cup uncertain, Pakistan Cricket Board's revenue could take massive hit

Pakistan Cricket Board expects revenue of 8.8 billion rupees this fiscal year Asia Cup scheduling and venue remain uncertain due to board disagreements PCB Chairperson Mohsin Naqvi did not attend the ICC meeting in person

New Delhi. (Agency)

With the future of this year's Asia Cup T20 tournament mired in uncertainty, the Pakistan Cricket Board is bracing for a severe hit to its revenue. The Pakistan Cricket Board is expecting to earn an estimated 8.8 billion rupees this year from its share of the

revenue from the International Cricket Council (ICC) and the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). According to details coming from a reliable Board source, the PCB has outlined an amount of USD 25.9 million (approximately 7.7 billion rupees) during this fiscal year as its share from the ICC. The Board is hoping to earn another 1.16 billion rupees from the Asia Cup and 7.77 million rupees through other international cricket events. "The revenues from these two major sources (ICC and Asia Cup) is very important for the financial health of Pakistan cricket," one well-informed insider said.

He said the uncertainty over the schedule and venue for the Asia Cup has increased as PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi did not travel to Singapore for the ICC meetings last weekend. Naqvi, who is also the federal interior minister, instead took part in the AGM virtually. According to the insider,



PCB CEO Sumair Ahmed, who had gone for the ICC meeting, "didn't get positive responses" from either the BCCI or the boards of Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan over attending the ACC meeting called on July 24 in Dhaka to finalise the Asia Cup arrangements. The PCB met with plenty of resistance to the ACC scheduling the

meeting in Dhaka. India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Oman and few other associate member boards were adamant about not travelling to Dhaka," one insider added.

He said the discussions on the sidelines of the ICC meeting don't augur well for the Asia Cup being held on schedule in September as the BCCI is not willing to send its representative to Dhaka.

The ACC is currently headed by Naqvi.

Originally India was scheduled to host the Asia Cup in September but due to the existing stand-off with Pakistan after the Pahalgam terror attack, the chances of the regional event being moved to UAE are high. Sumair was also sent to Dubai earlier this year to attend the Champions Trophy final ceremony but due to some "miscommunication", he was not a part of the officials who were on stage for the presentations.

Shares of Mastek surges over 9% on strong Q1 earnings, net profit up nearly 29%

CHENNAI . (Agency)

The shares of information technology firm Mastek surged over 9% in intraday trading on NSE on the back of strong quarterly results for the first quarter of the financial year 2025-2026. The IT company's profit for Apr-Jun surged by 28.7% on year to Rs. 92.1 crore. The company which is a global provider of enterprise AI, digital, and cloud services, announced its financial results for Apr-Jun on Friday.

The company's net revenue from operations for the reporting quarter rose 12.5% on year to Rs. 914.7 driven by growth in healthcare and secured government services and strong performance in the UK and Europe, Umang Nahata, Chief Executive Officer, Mastek, said in a press release on Friday.

Mastek's operational profit grew by 10.8 percent year-on-year to Rs 137.3 crore. Operating margin stood at 15%, declined marginally by 31 basis points due to investments in talent and capabilities, the company said. At 1.02 pm, shares of the company was 9.0% up at Rs. 2,718.80. The company, which has a presence in over 40 countries, added 12 new clients in the first quarter. The firm serves public sector clients in the areas of healthcare, retail, manufacturing, higher Education, and financial services. In FY24-25, the company's net profit grew 20.9% YoY to Rs. 375.9 crore while its revenue from operations increased by 13.1% to Rs. 3,455.2 crore. The operational profit was up by 7.4% to Rs. 546.5.

Asian shares are mixed after Wall Street logs a 3rd straight winning week

BANGKOK . (Agency)

Asian shares are mixed and US futures have edged higher after US stocks logged their third straight winning week.

Markets were closed for a holiday in Japan, where the ruling Liberal Democrats have lost their coalition majorities in both houses of parliament for the first time since 1955 following Sunday's election and the loss of their lower house majority in October. A grim Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba has vowed to stay on, but the outcome of the upper house election reflects voters' frustration with rising prices and political instability. Analysts said they expect his weakened government to crank up spending, adding to Japan's huge debt burden.

Japan is also facing the imposition of 25% tariffs across the board on its exports to the US as talks with the Trump administration appear to have made little headway. "We expect short-term political instability to intensify due to the difficulties of forming a majority coalition, a likely



change in leadership, and a potential deadlock in trade negotiations," Peter Hoflich of BMI, a part of the Fitch Group, said in a commentary. "Without a structural reset through snap elections, Japan is likely to face prolonged policy drift throughout 2026," he said. Chinese shares advanced after the central bank kept its key 1-year and 5-year loan prime interest rates unchanged. Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 0.3% to 24,895.20, while the Shanghai Composite index gained 0.4% to 3,549.89. Recent stronger economic data have eased pressure on the Chinese leadership to soften credit.

Campa Cola corners 14% market share in key cities, claims Reliance Retail

New Delhi . (Agency)

Campa Cola, the soft drink brand owned by Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL), a subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd, is reportedly gaining market share from established competing brands such as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo in India. "Campa has now 14% market share in key markets," said Dinesh Taluja, chief financial officer of Reliance Retail, without naming these markets.

"We did a high decibel campaign during IPL for Campa, which has a very high recall. And we now have double digit market share in key markets. We are also pretty quickly expanding our supply chain and building robust manufacturing capabilities across the length and breadth of the country," Taluja said during a recent analysts call. The New Indian Express could not independently verify the said market share of Campa Cola in the local soft drinks space. While these numbers are small in comparison to Coca-Cola's 60% market share and PepsiCo's 30% market share in the carbonated drinks market in India, Taluja believes 'these numbers are building up very fast.' The company says it is using 'world-class' manufacturing and R&D facilities with a lot of automation and backward integration, which would give it superiority on product as well as the lowest cost and help it win in the market.

Campa is currently available in five flavours/ranges – Campa Cola, orange, lemon, Campa Powerup, and Campa Cricket (an energy drink). This soft drink brand was acquired by Reliance in August 2022 for Rs 22 crore. It was relaunched in March 2024.

Reliance Retail's FMCG business raked in Rs 4,400 crore revenue in the first quarter (FY26), registering over 100% growth year-on-year. Ll.

Karnataka vegetable vendor hit with Rs 29 lakh GST notice. Here's why

Vegetable seller in Haveri gets Rs 29 lakh GST notice unexpectedly

Fresh vegetables are GST exempt when sold directly from farmers

Many small vendors have switched from UPI to cash

New Delhi . (Agency)

A small vegetable seller from Haveri, Karnataka, has been left shocked after getting a huge tax notice. Shankargouda Hadimani, who runs a tiny vegetable shop near the Municipal High School grounds, has been asked to pay Rs 29 lakh under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) rules.

Shankargouda has been selling vegetables for the last four years. Most of his customers pay through UPI or other digital wallets. The trouble started when GST officials sent him a notice claiming he had made transactions worth Rs 1.63 crore in four years and now owes Rs 29 lakh as GST. Shankargouda explains that he buys fresh vegetables directly from farmers and sells them in his small shop. He says most customers prefer UPI as they rarely carry cash these days. He also mentions that he files his income tax returns every year and keeps proper records. Now, he wonders how he can pay Rs 29 lakh, a sum he says is impossible for him to arrange.

FRESH VEGETABLES ARE TAX-FREE UNDER GST According to ClearTax, fresh and chilled vegetables are not taxed under GST. If a vendor buys vegetables directly from farmers and sells them fresh and unprocessed, there is no GST on that.



DIGITAL PAYMENTS UNDER THE SCANNER

However, recently, the Karnataka GST department said they are keeping a close eye on traders who accept digital payments. On July 12, 2025, the department announced that traders whose total turnover crosses the limit for GST registration will get notices if they don't register and pay tax, reported The Economic Times. After the notices were sent, many small traders like

Shankargouda stopped accepting UPI and now take only cash.

DEPARTMENT WARNS TRADERS AGAINST CASH-ONLY SALES

In a statement on July 17, 2025, the Karnataka GST department said they know traders are avoiding UPI and shifting to cash. But the department warned that tax applies on the total money received, whether by UPI or cash. Officials said they will take action to recover tax if traders try to hide their real income, the report mentioned.

SMALL VENDORS WORRIED

Stories like Shankargouda's highlight how recent GST checks and notices are leaving small traders worried and confused. Many feel caught in a tough spot, forced to choose between accepting digital payments and facing huge tax demands they cannot afford.

Sensex opens flat, Nifty below 25,000; RIL falls 2%

New Delhi . (Agency)

Benchmark stock market indices opened flat on Monday as IT sector and PSU banking stocks fell in early trade. RIL shares also fell nearly 2%, dragging the markets down.

The S&P BSE Sensex was down by 130.29 points to 81,627.44, while the NSE Nifty50 lost 48.95 points to 24,919.45 as of 9:22 am.

Dr. VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said that the single most important factor which the market will be focusing on in the coming days will be the outcome of the trade talks between the US and India. "If an interim trade deal between the two countries is reached with a tariff rate of less than 20% on India, that would be a positive from the market perspective," he added.

The stock market started weak on Monday, with many top companies falling just after the opening bell. The biggest losers in early trade were Reliance Industries, which dropped by 1.95%, followed by Axis Bank, down 1.72%. Mahindra & Mahindra slipped 1.17%, Infosys fell 1.04%, and HCL Technologies declined by



subscribing 192.80 times. Before the listing, market watchers were expecting a higher debut based on the grey market premium (GMP). As of

July 20, the GMP stood at Rs 177 per share. Based on this, the expected listing price was around Rs 747, which would have meant a 31% gain from the issue price of Rs 570.

However, the stock opened slightly below this expected level, with a gain of nearly 27%. Market experts often track GMP to get an idea of investor mood and future expectations from the company, although it is not always accurate. Anthem Biosciences is a Bengaluru-based company involved in contract research and manufacturing. With its successful market debut, it has added itself to the list of companies that have seen good interest from investors in 2025 so far.

Anthem Biosciences IPO listing: Shares to make strong market debut Check GMP

New Delhi . (Agency)

Shares of Anthem Biosciences listed on the stock market on Monday, July 21, making a strong market debut. The company's shares opened at Rs 723.05 on the NSE and Rs 723.10 on the BSE. This was about 27% higher than its issue price of Rs 570.

The company launched its initial public offering (IPO) from July 14 to July 16. The total size of the IPO was Rs 3,395.79 crore.

It received a strong response from all kinds of investors and was subscribed 67.42 times in total. Investors showed keen interest in the IPO. It got bids for 281.49 crore shares, while only 4.17 crore shares were available for sale.

The retail portion was subscribed 5.98 times. Non-institutional investors

subscribed 44.70 times, and the qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) category was the most active, subscribing 192.80 times. Before the listing, market watchers were expecting a higher debut based on the grey market premium (GMP). As of

COMPANY BACKGROUND AND GROWTH

As of July 20, the last reported GMP stood at Rs 177 per share. With the issue price fixed at Rs 570, the expected listing price is around Rs 747, translating into a potential listing gain of approximately 31%. According to market observers, a consistent rise in GMP usually reflects strong investor interest and high expectations from the company's future performance.

ANTHEM BIOSCIENCES is a Bengaluru-based contract research, development and manufacturing organisation (CRDMO). It works with global pharmaceutical and biotech companies, offering services across the drug development value chain. The company's operations cover both small and large molecule platforms, making it one of the few players in India with such a wide range of offerings. The company has completed over 8,000 projects and is currently

working on 242 active assignments. It serves more than 675 clients worldwide, and has been expanding its capabilities in newer areas like antibody-drug conjugates (ADC), RNA interference (RNAi), and flow chemistry.

WHAT ANALYSTS SAY

Rajan Shinde, Research Analyst at Mehta Equities Ltd, said the company is well placed in the high-growth CRDMO space with unique, integrated capabilities. "Anthem Biosciences stands out with a strong innovation focus and leadership in green chemistry. Its client base includes many small and emerging biotechs, which have later been acquired by large pharma companies. This shows the long-term value it provides," he said. In terms of financials, the company reported a 34.3% revenue growth in FY24 and 30% in FY25. After a dip of 4.6% in net profit in FY24, profits bounced back with a 22.9% rise in FY25.



0.97%. However, a few stocks opened in green. Tata Steel led the gainers with a rise of 1.60%. HDFC Bank was next, gaining 1.34%, followed by Eternal at 1.11%. ICICI Bank added 0.80%, and UltraTech Cement rose by 0.53%. The Nifty Midcap100 fell 0.37% while Nifty Smallcap100 declined 0.52%, but India VIX jumped 2.17%. Among the sectoral indices, only a few showed positive momentum with Nifty Pharma leading at 0.59%, followed by Nifty Metal at 0.47% and Nifty Financial Services at 0.14%. Nifty Private Bank remained flat with no change. Nifty Oil & Gas faced the biggest decline at 1.14%, followed by Nifty PSU Bank which dropped 0.88% and Nifty IT at 0.86%. Other losers included Nifty Auto at 0.62%, Nifty Healthcare at 0.58%, Nifty Media at 0.56%, Nifty FMCG at 0.51%, Nifty Consumer Durables at 0.38%, and Nifty Realty at 0.19%.

CoinDCX loses \$44 million in cyberattack: Here's what the crypto platform said

New Delhi . (Agency)

CoinDCX, one of India's leading cryptocurrency exchanges, has confirmed a major cyberattack that led to the loss of around \$44 million from one of its internal accounts. The breach occurred on July 19 and was publicly acknowledged by co-founder Neeraj Khandelwal the next day.

NO IMPACT ON USER FUNDS, SAYS COINDCX

In a detailed post on X (formerly Twitter), Neeraj Khandelwal said, "The total amount lost was ~\$44Mn out of our treasury assets. CoinDCX Treasury will be bearing these losses. Our first and foremost objective throughout the day has been to first secure assets."

CoinDCX also issued a press note stating that the incident involved only one internal operational account used for liquidity provisioning on a partner exchange. "No customer funds or wallets were affected," the company said. Sumit Gupta, co-founder of CoinDCX, also addressed the situation. "I want to thank everyone who reached out with support and sought clarity in



the spirit of trust and transparency. At CoinDCX, our first responsibility is to our users and the security of their assets." "While this breach was limited to one internal operational account—and no customer funds were impacted—we take this incident with the utmost seriousness," he added. Calling it a wake-up call for the industry, Gupta said, "This is more than an internal matter; it's a stark reminder

of the evolving threats facing the crypto ecosystem, not just in India but globally. As the country's largest exchange, we are committed to set new benchmarks in security and resilience." He added, "Our commitment is clear: to protect our customers, strengthen industry-wide defences, and help build a safe and trusted foundation for India's digital asset economy." **DETAILS OF THE ATTACK** According to the company,

the attack resulted in exposure of approximately \$44 million from one operational account. The stolen funds were transferred through Solana-Ethereum blockchain bridges and broken down into 4,443 ETH worth around \$15.7 million and 155,830 SOL worth around \$27.6 million (currently dominant).

CoinDCX said wallet activity is being monitored closely with the help of global blockchain analytics partners.

SECOND MAJOR INDIAN CRYPTO HACK IN A YEAR

This is the second large-scale hack involving an Indian crypto exchange in the past year. In July 2024, WazirX lost \$234 million when one of its wallets hosted on Liminal was compromised.

That breach forced WazirX to suspend trading and withdrawals temporarily, leading to panic among its 4.4 million Indian users. The company filed an FIR and even announced a white-hat bounty programme with a reward of up to \$23 million for information leading to the recovery of funds.

Gauahar Khan

Opens Up About Dealing With Miscarriage: 'No One Had Expected...'



Gauahar Khan is currently awaiting the birth of her second child with husband Zaid Darbar. Gauahar, who is a mother to a two-year-old son, Zehaan, recently opened up about going through a difficult phase after experiencing a miscarriage during her first pregnancy and revealed that it took a toll on her. During a conversation with Debina Bonnerjee, the actress shared that since she got married at the age of 36, the couple decided to start a family within a year. However, she faced a miscarriage during her first pregnancy and revealed, "At that point, you assume that everything is going to be fine, and no one had expected me to lose my child. It was extremely difficult, and it took me some time to get over it. So by the time I gave birth to Zehaan, I was already 39, and if I wanted another child, it was now or never."

Gauahar revealed that she didn't take a break from work during her pregnancy. She shared that she was shooting Shiksha Mandal when she was pregnant with her first child and did all the action scenes, only to lose her baby just a month later.

In April this year, Gauahar Khan and husband Zaid Darbar announced their second pregnancy. The couple shared the news with an adorable Instagram reel, and love soon poured in from their industry peers. Earlier, while speaking to News18 Showsha, she revealed that though she has been through this experience once before, the second pregnancy has brought with it a fresh set of challenges.

"I can't say that I'm more chill this time around. My second pregnancy is more difficult. Each pregnancy is very different, and what you feel each time is different. There are too many myths surrounding pregnancy, but the whole experience is very personal, and it differs from one woman to another. You can't say that yeh hi hota hai toh yeh hi hoga," she told us.

While emotional pangs are part and parcel of every pregnancy, Gauahar drew attention to how her second pregnancy is also physically more laborious. "This time, I think there's a little more effort, unlike the first time when I was doing things a little more effortlessly," she added. For the unversed, Gauahar and Zaid tied the knot in December 2020.



Kiara Advani

And Sidharth Malhotra Plan Grand Welcome For Their Baby Girl?



Earlier reports circulated online that Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra took their baby girl to the actress' maternal home. Now, a new set of pictures has circulated online, claiming that the couple is planning to host an intimate bash and prepare a beautiful welcome for their baby girl at their Mumbai residence. A paparazzo account has taken to Instagram to share a picture from an unknown account with a message written on it. The picture shows a beautiful pink unicorn balloon along with some toys and teddy bears. The note on the picture reads, "Welcome to this world our beautiful tiny princess, you have made us fall in love with life all over again! Thank you, my sweethearts @sidmalhotra and @kiaraalialadvani for this precious gift. Love you both!"

Another note reads, "There are moments that give your life a completely different meaning altogether. The joy, the happiness, the enrichment of your soul—it's bliss! All set to see you, newborn niece, for the very first time."

Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra became parents to a baby girl on July 15.

The couple welcomed their daughter at the Reliance Hospital in Mumbai and announced her birth a day later on Instagram. Kiara was recently discharged from the hospital and maintained her privacy as she took her daughter home. The couple shared the happy news on Instagram with a heartwarming pink announcement card that read, "Our

hearts are full and our world forever changed. We are blessed with a baby girl." Kiara and Sidharth are yet to announce their baby girl's name. Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra have urged fans and media to respect their privacy after their daughter's birth. On Friday, the couple issued a joint statement and requested everyone not to click pictures of their newborn in the coming months. "We are so grateful for all the love and wishes; our hearts are truly full," the statement read, and then



mentioned, "As we take our first steps into this new journey of parenthood, we hope to enjoy it intimately as a family. It would mean a lot to us if this special time could stay private." Kiara and Sidharth also sent out pastel pink boxes of sweets to the paparazzi and requested them to respect their privacy.

Alia Bhatt As Sita, Suriya As Lord Ram: Vishnu Manchu Reveals His Dream Ramayana Cast



Ranbir Kapoor and Yash-led Ramayana is one of the most anticipated films of 2026. The film, which will be released in two parts, is helmed by Nitesh Tiwari and bankrolled by Namit Malhotra. Amid buzz around the film, Kannappa actor Vishnu Manchu spoke about his unrealised version of Ramayana, which he now wants to make starring Alia Bhatt as Sita and Suriya as Lord Ram. Vishnu Manchu revealed that he has a fully developed script for Ramayana, which chronicles Ravana's journey from birth to death. When asked about his dream cast for the ambitious project, Vishnu told Nayandeep Rakshit on his YouTube channel, "The only person who immediately appears in my mind for the role of Lord Rama is actor Suriya," while naming Alia Bhatt as his ideal Sita.

Vishnu also shared that he first conceptualised the idea back in 2009 and had even approached Suriya at the time. "But, because the budgets were not working out for me, it didn't work out. The director of the film was supposed to be the legendary filmmaker Raghavendra Rao. My father was supposed to play the role of Ravana. I have the script and dialogues ready for it, but I don't know if I will ever be able to make it," he added.

The Kannappa actor also expressed his excitement about playing Lord Hanuman himself, but revealed that Raghavendra Rao disagreed, envisioning Vishnu as Indrajit instead. Vishnu, however, suggested casting Suriya's brother, actor Karthi, in the role of Indrajit. He further proposed Kalyan Ram (brother of Jr NTR) as Lakshman and veteran actor Sathyaraj as Jatayu. Meanwhile, the Hindi version of Ramayana features a stellar cast comprising the best of bests from the world of Hindi cinema and South. It features: Supporting them, is an extraordinary cast and crew. Other actors who are a part of the film, reportedly comprises Arun Govil as King Dasharath, Indira Krishnan as Queen Kaushalya, Lara Dutta as Queen Kaikeyi, Anil Kapoor as King Janak, Amitabh Bachchan as Jatayu, Adinath Kothare as Bharat, Sheeba Chaddha as Manthara, Bobby Deol as Kumbhkaran, Vijay Sethupathi as Vibhishan, Vikrant Massey as Meghnad, Rakul Preet Singh as Shurpanakha, Kajal Aggarwal as Queen Mandodari, Mohit Raina as Lord Shiva, Kunal Kapoor as Lord Indra, and Vivek Oberoi as Viduyutjiwa. The makers have yet to confirm the supporting cast of the Ramayana.

Ananya Panday Wipes Away Tears After Watching Ahaan Panday's Saiyaara: 'I Never Cry'



Ahaan Panday is currently basking in the success of his Bollywood debut film 'Saiyaara' which hit the big screens on July 18. A special screening of the film was held recently, which was attended by several celebs such as Bobby Deol, Ananya Panday, Alizeh Agnihotri, Chunky Panday, and many others. Ahaan's sister Alanna has now finally shared a video, giving a sneak-peek into the star-studded evening. Ananya Panday was seen tearing up after watching her cousin's debut film, while Bhavana Pandey and Chunky Panday also showered love on Ahaan.

The video shared by Alanna Panday shows celebrities exiting the theatre after watching Saiyaara. Ananya Panday was seen wiping her tears, much to Alanna's surprise. "I never cry," said Ananya, while Alanna agreed saying that she hasn't seen the actress every cry. The 'Kho Gaye Hum Kahan' actress then told Alanna, "At your wedding, I tried to poke my eye to cry." The latter replied, "Even if she gives birth to her own child, she won't cry. But she cried for this (Saiyaara)." Meanwhile, Bhavana Panday gushed over Ahaan's debut film, and said, "My one word is 'Ahaan'. I love you, Krish." Chunky Panday said, "I am too excited!"

Alanna Panday was also seen getting emotional and tearing up during the premiere of Saiyaara. Check out the video below!

Earlier, Ananya Panday shared her review of Saiyaara, and wrote, "No one does heartbreak and love like you @mohitsuri cried and smiled and then cried some more. My brother you are MAGIC. You know how I feel. Dadi would be proud @ahaanpanday and @aneetpadda you are so so lovely and magnetic and I'm obsessed with your voice." Mohit Suri's Saiyaara, starring debut actors Ahaan Panday and Aneet Padda, showed solid momentum on its second day in theatres. After opening with an estimated Rs 21 crore net in India on Friday, the film saw a jump in collections on Saturday, bringing in around Rs 24 crore (as per early estimates on industry tracker Sacnilk). With this, the film's total two-day collection now stands at Rs 45 crore net in India.

Delicious Coconut Rice recipe



The combination of Chanal dal, grated coconut and rice make for a delectable serve

Coconut rice is made with many variations. One version is when chana dal and rice are steam cooked along with grated coconut.

Here is how to cook coconut rice:

Ingredients:

Chana dal: 200 gms
Rice: 350 gms
Coconut: One half of a whole coconut (can use the whole coconut if the size is small)
Mustard seeds: 1/2 tsp
Cumin seeds: 1/2 tsp
Urad dal: 1/2 tsp
Red chilli (Whole): 2
Curry leaves: 4-5
Salt to taste

Method:

- Soak the chanal dal for one hour before cooking. Rinse the rice before cooking.
- Take oil in a pan and heat it. Add mustard seeds, cumin seeds, urad dal, red chilli and curry leaves to it. Once the mustard seeds start to crackle, add soaked chana dal and rice and mix the ingredients well. Add adequate water, but see to it that you add only as much water the whole mixture needs to cook.
- Add salt and grated coconut. Put the lid on the vessel and allow it to cook for 10 minutes. - After 10 minutes, mix the ingredients well and see how well cooked the chana and rice are. If you feel it will get ready by another five to 10 minutes, then allow the entire thing to cook in a low flame. Add another two spoons of oil at the same time. Let it settle for a while.
- If you want to cook it in a pressure cooker, it will taste equally better. But add less water than what you would have if you were cooking in a vessel.
- Serve the hot coconut rice with appadam and piping hot rasam. It is indeed a yum treat for taste buds.

Have you ever wondered how a cheese burger would look on a plate without the mandatory French fries bundled up right adjacent to it?

The burger may have been priority on the menu but the case of the missing fries surely leaves us feeling a little incomplete after the meal. Side dish it may be called but only after dipping the crisp slender fried potatoes in sauce and crunching it in our mouths do we proceed with the main dish on the plate. Isn't it?

French fries have evolved over the years in many forms and have become an inseparable dish for diners at restaurants.

Executive Chef Girish T.V, Courtyard Marriott says, "French fries provide a sense of completeness and determines the level of satisfaction of the entire meal. It is a given fact that people enjoy and savour a burger more if the fries are perfect as an accompaniment. Otherwise, the taste of the main dish becomes too dry and the meal satisfaction below average", adds Girish.

You too can try slicing and frying

the potatoes in different ways and experiment with your own cooking skills.

We share some simple and easy-to-make French fries recipes:

Recipe: Baked Cajun French Fries

Ingredients

Potatoes 3 Nos
Olive oil 80 ml
Paprika 20 gm
Ground cumin 5 gm
Dried oregano 3 gm



Dried thyme 3 gm

Sea salt to taste

Method

- Wash and cut the potatoes length wise in to 1/4 inch batons
- Preheat oven to 450 degrees F.
- In a mixing bowl toss the potatoes with olive oil to coat.
- Mix the spices and salt together and toss with the potatoes to coat

-Arrange the potatoes in a single layer on an oiled baking sheet

-Bake for 20 minutes. Flip the potatoes, bake for another 12-15 minutes.

-The fries should be golden brown. Serve immediately.

Recipe: Truffle scented home fries with parmesan cheese

Ingredients

Potatoes 500 gm
Truffle oil 5 ml
Parmesan cheese 100 gm
Sea salt to taste
Cracked black pepper to taste

Oil to fry

Method

- Wash the whole potatoes thoroughly and cut it in to wedges with the skin on
- Boil the potatoes until half done and refresh.
- Deep fry the potatoes wedges in medium hot oil until crisp and golden brown.
- Remove from the oil and toss it with sea salt, grated parmesan and truffle oil.
- Serve hot

A grand maharaja meal at Southindies

Indulge in mouthwatering South Indian cuisine with a grand festival at Southindies, Shivajinagar. Choose from the exotic dishes from all the four southern states of India.

The personalised meal experience at the Grand Maharaja Banquet in Southindies is on till September 1 and will make us feel pampered like a king. To start with, choose from an array of unique flavoured rasams to go along with puris. It is followed by some of the mouthwatering starters like grilled pineapple, pazham-pineapple, the spicy Andhra chilly mushroom, podi tossed idli or the cocktail idlis tossed with gunpowder. Don't forget to try out the Madras bhel.

The best part is the maincourse, which is served to you with a choice of appams, iddiappams and

parathas, along with kaistew, spicy kozhambu or a kurma. The buttermilk sorbet, served between the maincourse, is an absolute must try. One can savour some authentic curd rice with an array of interesting pickles as well.

For those who have a sweet tooth, the desserts like the tender coconut payasam — a signature dish of Southindies and an array of other desserts to choose from the dessert buffet spread, are a must-try.

So indulge in the Grand Maharaja Buffet at Southindies, Shivajinagar, Ganeshkond Road from 7 pm onwards. It is priced at ₹500 plus taxes per person.

Get ready for some steamy, tasty and delicious fish curry recipes. We bring you twin fish dishes on your platter...

Recipe 1

Fish in curry leaf paste

Curry leaves are aromatic and flavourful leaves of plant scientifically called *Murraya koenigii*. They are known to have many health benefits.

Ingredients

400g cat fish or small fish 2 cups fresh curry leaves 2 level tsp turmeric powder, 5 cloves garlic -chopped 1 tsp garlic paste 1/2 tsp black pepper paste 1 potato-boiled and mashed 2 Dry red chilly or green chili 2 tbs mustard oil plus extra for frying Salt to taste Water

Method:

- Marinate the fish in salt and 1 tsp turmeric powder for 15 mins. Shallow fry the marinated fish. Remove and keep them aside. - Clean, wash and grind the curry leaves to a smooth paste with a little water. - Heat 2 tbs oil. Add the red chillies

Exotic fish recipes



and chopped garlic followed by the garlic and pepper paste. -Fry slightly and then add the the curry leaves paste and 1 tsp turmeric powder. Add some water and bring it to a boil. -Add the mashed potato. Mix well to a smooth paste. Add the fish and 1/2 cup water and cook for 10 minutes -Remove and serve with plain rice. Recipe 2

Fish Roe fritters

Roe is the egg masses of fish. Roe is prepared in different ways in different parts of the world. Roe from the Hilsa and Rohu fish is considered a delicacy.

- Remove eggs from membrane or sack. -Break up the fish eggs into chunks. -Add chopped onion, green chili, salt. -Stir until well mixed. Add enough gram flour and mix until mixture stays

Restaurant review: BBQ Chicken

Whenever anybody says BBQ, I quickly say, 'Barbeque' in my food writer tone. But BBQ Chicken is most definitely not the conventional barbecued chicken restaurant.

Decor
Well, it's nice in an ordinary, comfortable way. They have one wall with framed pictures and the location is pretty central - not technically on KNK Road, but close enough. And, if you have a window seat, you can look out onto the busy road through large glass windows and watch vehicles whiz past from your comfortable perch. Nicely planned, though, BBQ Chicken has party space, complete with a special menu. In all, this rather large restaurant can comfortably seat 150 people at a time.

Food

All the global cuisine offered at BBQ Chicken is cooked in olive oil - including the fried stuff, making us feel virtuous and going for the fried col pop. It's got chicken or vegetarian popcorn style, served with iced tea or cola in convenient containers with the pops on top and the cola below so you can easily take a bite and sip at the same time. I must say, the chicken col pop that we tried

is nicely crisp on the outside and succulently fresh on the inside, and we polish it all off before it gets cold. Our chicken in mushroom sauce and grilled fish in black pepper sauce arrives in individual platters. Both turn out to be delicious and I'm particularly kicked with my boneless bassa fish fillet. It is delicious with the pepper sauce, and the steamed veggies that come with it are on a bed of mashed potato, adding healthy colour, vitamins and minerals to the meal.



French Fries recipes:

Baked Cajun, Truffle scented



together when formed into a small ball (should not feel soggy but stiff). -Let it stand for half an hour. Add little water if required -Fry until brown in enough oil. Serve hot

