

PM Modi, Starmer sign historic free trade deal, UK's biggest since leaving EU

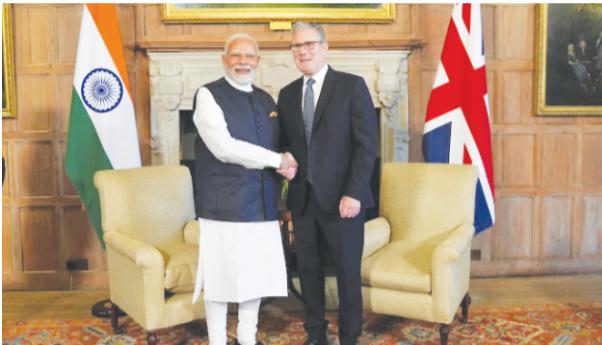
India and the UK signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the biggest agreement London has inked with a country since exiting the EU and gives a major boost to bilateral trade by USD 34 billion annually.

► **Deal expected to boost India-UK trade by \$34 billion annually**
 ► **Agreement was signed following talks between PM Modi and Keir Starmer**
 ► **This is the largest trade deal UK has signed since leaving EU in 2020**

New Delhi. (Agency)
India and the UK on Thursday signed a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is expected to boost bilateral trade by USD 34 billion annually. This is the largest agreement the UK has signed with a country since leaving the European Union in 2020. The deal was signed between Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal and the UK's Secretary of State for Business and Trade, Jonathan Reynolds. The signing of the agreement came following bilateral talks between PM Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer in London.

Addressing a joint press conference with Starmer by his side, PM Modi, who is on a two-day visit to the UK, said the FTA was a blueprint for India and the UK's shared prosperity. The deal is expected to boost bilateral

trade by USD 34 billion annually. "Today marks a historic day in our relations. I am delighted that after the hard work of several years, today our two nations have signed the Comprehensive



market access in the UK. New opportunities will emerge in the UK market for India's agricultural produce and processed food industry. This agreement will especially benefit Indian youngsters, farmers, fishermen and the MSME sector," he said.

PM Modi said the people and industries in India will be able to access UK-made products, such as medical devices and aerospace parts, at affordable and competitive prices. On his part, Starmer said the FTA will bring "huge benefits" to India and the UK.

"It is a deal that will bring huge benefits to both of our countries, boosting wages, raising living standards and putting more money in the pockets of working people. It is good for jobs, it is good for business, cutting tariffs and making trade cheaper, quicker and easier," he said.

Should we go against Constitution? Poll body defends Bihar voter list revision

Amid ongoing protests over the revision of Bihar's voters list, the Election Commission defended the move as essential for fair elections and questioned whether it should ignore constitutional duties.

New Delhi. (Agency)
The Election Commission, on Thursday, again defended the revision of voter rolls in election-bound Bihar and its timing even as protests continued both inside the Parliament and the Bihar Assembly and outside. The election body asserted that a purified voters' list undertaken as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) is the foundation of free and fair elections and strong democracy.

In its latest statement, the Commission raised two questions regarding the controversy: whether the poll body should go against the Constitution and clear the path first in Bihar and then across the country for fraudulent voting in the name of dead voters, permanently migrated voters, voters registered in two places, fake voters, or even foreign voters?," the statement read.

It asked further, "Isn't the purified voter list being prepared through a transparent process by the Election Commission the



some point, all of us -- all citizens of India -- must come together, rise above political ideologies, and deeply reflect on these crucial questions".

The ongoing Special Intensive

► **Protests continue over Bihar voters list revision in Parliament**
 ► **Election Commission defends revision as key to free and fair elections**
 ► **52 lakh names removed from list ahead of upcoming assembly polls**

foundation for fair elections and a strong democracy?", adding, "At

Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar has sparked a significant

controversy, primarily due to concerns about large-scale deletions and potential disenfranchisement ahead of the upcoming assembly elections. While the Election Commission says the process is aimed at weeding out ineligible persons, the Opposition calls it a "conspiracy" by the BJP to manipulate voter data and exclude a significant portion of their traditional voter base, especially from marginalised sections and minority communities. On Tuesday, the Commission said that 52 lakh names have been removed from the electoral rolls so far, including 18 lakh voters reported dead, 26 lakh who have moved to other constituencies and 7 lakh who are registered in more than one place.

She questioned why everything had to be started over. "Not even a single full-time Medical Superintendent (MS) was present in hospitals. One MS was made to manage four different hospitals. Why were there no full-time doctors? Why weren't nurses hired? Why weren't paramedical staff appointed in Delhi's hospitals? They were only focused on benefiting themselves. They had no concern for the health of Delhi's people. They couldn't even complete one hospital during their tenure. Their much-hyped Mohalla Clinics couldn't even provide basic services like first-aid or a tetanus injection," she remarked. CM Rekha Gupta further said that due to the failures of the

Still Searching for AAP's Health Model : CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times
Simmi Kaur Babbar

previous government, today Delhi doesn't even have one hospital bed for every 1,000 people. There are no trauma centres. ICU beds are almost unavailable. The former government didn't give a single person a permanent job in the health sector. They abandoned 24 hospitals midway, wasting crores of rupees. During COVID-19, they



announced the construction of seven ICU hospitals with massive investments, yet not one was completed.

Of the four ICU hospitals they started, only empty iron pillars and porta cabins can be seen. Now, her government is building seven new super-speciality hospitals from the ground up and will complete them on time.

[continue news page 2](#)

Jagdeep Dhankhar "Took Himself Very Seriously": Behind The Rift

New Delhi. (Agency)

When Jagdeep Dhankhar became Vice President in 2022, he was seen as a staunch supporter of the Modi government, as a loud, loyal, shrewd politician-cum-administrator who could take on the Opposition and the judiciary. He had already built that image as West Bengal Governor, regularly locking horns with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. His elevation to the Vice Presidency seemed like a reward for that assertiveness. But less than three years later, his sudden resignation has raised eyebrows. Officially, it's due to health concerns. Unofficially, it suggests a deeper unease, possibly even a breakdown of trust between him and the government he once so vocally defended.

What Went Wrong?

Sources told that the distance between Dhankhar and the government had widened significantly over the past year. The tipping point came when he refused to align with the government's stand on the impeachment of Justice Yashwant Varma. Just days before the Monsoon Session, ministers met Dhankhar multiple times, urging him not to go ahead with the Opposition-backed motion against Varma, informing him very clearly that Lok Sabha will initiate it and he must instead focus on putting the matter of the impeachment of Justice Shekhar Yadav of the Allahabad High Court to end.

"We wanted him to wait. We were readying signatures. Judicial accountability was something the BJP has pushed for. How can the Opposition take credit for it? But he (Dhankhar) seemed to have made up his mind - likely under the influence of a senior Congress leader he had committed to," a source said.

It was, as another source put it, "a rare combination of an attempt at judicial activism and ego that came from holding constitutional power". Dhankhar wanted privileges on par with the President - from the type of luxury car and aircraft he used to staff appointments - and insisted on having the final say. "He knew the workarounds, but he failed to realise that the autonomy of the office is tethered to the political power behind it," the source added. Tensions reached a peak on Monday morning in the Rajya Sabha. When Leader of Opposition Mallikarjun Kharge rose to question the government on the Pahalgam terror attack, Dhankhar allowed him to speak at length - cutting off BJP leader of the House and minister JP Nadda with a mere hand gesture.



To Fix India's Urban Crisis, DK Shivakumar Proposes Focus On Urban Planning Education

NEW DELHI. (Agency)

At a time when cities across India are grappling with haphazard growth, strained infrastructure, and recurring civic failures, Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar has proposed a long-term institutional fix: build better planners. In a letter to the Vice Chancellor of Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), Shivakumar has recommended the introduction of an undergraduate course in urban town planning at the Government Sri Krishnarajendra Silver

Jubilee Technological Institute, Bengaluru. The move, he says, is aimed at producing a generation of professionals equipped to design and manage India's fast-growing urban spaces.

"This step will help build a new generation of professionals who will play a vital role in planning, shaping, and building the cities of tomorrow," he wrote in a post sharing the letter on social media. The proposal signals a shift in how policymakers are beginning to think about urban crises,



not just as infrastructure deficits, but as a consequence of poor institutional capacity and lack of specialised training.

Shivakumar's push for formal planning education links India's urban future to the need for long-term human capital investment.

Urban planning remains one of the most underdeveloped fields in India's education system, even as cities face mounting challenges from density, climate change, and housing demand. Shivakumar's initiative suggests that cities cannot be made more livable through quick fixes alone but through professional planners who understand how to align design, policy, and people.

'Next Vice President From BJP': Party Sources Trash Nitish Kumar Buzz

► **The next Vice President will be a veteran BJP leader closely tied to party ideology**
 ► **BJP has ruled out considering key allies like JDU for the post**
 ► **A meeting between JDU's Ram Nath Thakur and BJP's JP Nadda was routine, not election-related**

New Delhi. (Agency)
The next Vice President will be a veteran leader from the BJP, top sources in the party have told, ruling out speculation that the BJP may consider key allies, such as JDU chief Nitish Kumar, for the top post vacated by the sudden exit of former Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar. "The Vice President will be someone closely associated with the party's ideology," a top BJP leader said. Earlier, a meeting between JDU leader and Union Minister Ram Nath Thakur and BJP chief JP Nadda had sparked a buzz. But BJP sources trashed such speculation, stressing that it was a routine interaction. The sources also said the BJP had not spoken to the JDU leadership about the Vice President post.

The Election Commission has started



preparing for the Vice Presidential election. The poll body has said in a press note that the poll schedule will be announced after the formalities. "Major pre-announcement activities which have already been started include: (i) Preparation of Electoral College which consists of elected as well as

nominated members of Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha; (ii) Finalisation of Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning Officer(s); and (iii) Preparation and dissemination of Background Material on all the previous Vice-Presidential Elections," the poll body has said.

The Opposition is yet to propose a name for the top post. In the past, only four out of 16 Vice Presidential elections were held without contest, so the Opposition may come out with a name later.

The election for the new Vice President follows the shock resignation of Mr Dhankhar. While the former Vice President, whose term was to end in August 2027, has cited health grounds, the corridors of power are echoing with multiple theories about what may have prompted him to make the decision.

Three accused get seven-year RI after pleading guilty

BENGALURU (Agency)

Marking the first conviction in the 2020 KG Halli-DJ Halli riots case, a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court on Wednesday sentenced three accused, who had pleaded guilty during the framing of charges, to seven years rigorous imprisonment with penalty.

Accused no. 14 Syed Ikrumuddin alias Syed Naveed (44), A-16 Syed Asif (46) and A-18 Mohammed Atif (26) were charged under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Karnataka Prevention of Destruction and Loss of Property Act (KPDLP) and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

On August 11, 2020, a mob attacked the KG Halli and DJ Halli police stations as well as the residence of Congress MLA Akhanda Srinivas Murthy. The violence was triggered by a provocative social media post allegedly made by the MLA's nephew, Naveen. The riots involved incidents of stone throwing, petrol bomb attacks and assaults on police personnel. Four people died when the police opened fire to bring the situation under control.



Of the 199 accused in the case, 187 have been arrested and chargesheets filed against 138. The

NIA took over the investigation on September 21, 2020, and filed its chargesheet on February 2, 2021. The NIA also established that the accused had links to the banned Popular Front of India (PFI).

"The police are charged with the duty of maintaining law and order as well as public order. When such custodians of law and order are attacked, public confidence in the efficiency of the police is likely to be shaken, thereby disturbing public order. We, the people, feel secure when we have a robust police force. The act of the accused in torching the KG Halli police station has shaken the confidence of the public and their sense of security," said special public prosecutor for NIA, Bengaluru, P Prasanna Kumar.

He added, "This judgment has not only restored public confidence in the police force, but has also vindicated the action of the Central government in declaring the Popular Front of India (PFI) as an unlawful association."

Mumbai (Agency)

The land acquisition for the proposed international airport in Purandar in the Pune district has entered a crucial phase, with a joint inspection of the land to be scheduled soon, according to Maharashtra government officials.

Speaking to The Indian Express, a senior government official said the work for land acquisition is progressing according to plan. "The government is now set to conduct a survey, which will involve both the landowner and the surveyor assessing the designated land together. Following this joint survey, the actual amount of land to be acquired will be determined," said the officer.

The officer also said the government has devised a special plan, under which farmers who willingly give their consent will be allotted developed plots equivalent to 10 per cent of their total surrendered land in the proposed Aerocity area, along with compensation.

"Developed plots will be given only for farmers who give their consent. Those who oppose the land acquisition will get only compensation. We hope this move will allow more and more farmers to give their consent," said the officer.



Among the protesters, Pargaon residents have been the most vociferous in their opposition to the project as it will see the highest land acquisition. Mahesh Memane, a villager from Pargaon, said, "At present, we have not seen any activity on the ground. We do not require any developed land; we will not allow the land acquisition."

Front continue news

Still Searching for AAP's Health Model : CM Rekha Gupta

CM Rekha Gupta further said that due to the failures of the previous government, today Delhi doesn't even have one hospital bed for every 1,000 people. There are no trauma centres. ICU beds are almost unavailable. The former government didn't give a single person a permanent job in the health sector. They abandoned 24 hospitals midway, wasting crores of rupees. During COVID-19, they announced the construction of seven ICU hospitals with massive investments, yet not one was completed. Of the four ICU hospitals they started, only empty iron pillars and porta cabins can be seen. Now, her government is building seven new super-speciality hospitals from the ground up and will complete them on time.

Taking a jibe at AAP leaders, CM Rekha Gupta commented on their criticism regarding waterlogging. She said, "To those who talk about waterlogging, I say thank you. You keep pointing out the issues, tell us where the problems lie, and we will fix them immediately." However, she clarified that these shortcomings were the result of AAP's 11-12 years of misgovernance. "They couldn't fix potholes in Delhi, they couldn't stop waterlogging. The people of Delhi had to suffer even for the most basic of facilities," she concluded.

Over 40,000 devotees offered bali at Thiruvananthapuram's temples and beaches for Karkidakka Vavubali, with heightened safety measures in place

ED freezes Rs 21 crore in bank accounts of Dr Amit Bansal, kin, de-addiction centres

Jalandhar. The Jalandhar Zonal Unit of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday attached multiple bank accounts worth Rs 21 crore belonging to Dr Amit Bansal, his family members, and the now-defunct drug de-addiction centres operated by him in connection with their ongoing investigation into a drug diversion and money laundering case connected to private de-addiction centres across Punjab, an ED official said.

The official said the probe involves the alleged misuse of prescription drugs and illegal financial transactions tied to 22 private drug de-addiction centres in Punjab.

In this connection, the ED had on July 18 conducted coordinated raids at four locations in Chandigarh, Ludhiana, Barnala and Mumbai, the official said.

According to ED sources, the agency is



examining "how drugs meant exclusively for registered addicts were diverted and sold illegally" and "how the proceeds from these sales were laundered". The ED took over the case from the Punjab Vigilance Bureau, which had initiated the investigation and arrested Dr Bansal around seven months ago. Dr Bansal, a Chandigarh-based physician, was accused of misusing Adnoc-N, a regulated combination of Buprenorphine and Naloxone, prescribed for opioid addiction treatment, by selling it to non-registered drug users, ED sources said.

Though Dr Bansal is currently out on bail, all 22 of the centres in Punjab and one in Chandigarh have been shut down, the ED official said, adding that his Chandigarh centre was also sealed during the ED raid on July 18.

The

event

was

postponed

for

it yet."

The civil terminal has been constructed near the Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Halwara of Raikot sub-division in Ludhiana district, following the long-pending demand of Ludhiana residents to have an "international airport" in the district.

Even though the project was approved by the Punjab cabinet in 2018 during the previous Congress government, it missed several deadlines, and the building was completed after an understandable delay of more than seven years.

While Industry Minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP)'s Ludhiana West MLA Sanjeev Arora had announced that PM Modi would inaugurate the terminal virtually on July 27, there was no confirmation on when flights would commence from the new facility.

Initially, the new terminal building is meant to cater just one domestic flight at a time, with a capacity to handle 150 passengers each for arrival and departure.

Currently, only one flight from Ludhiana to Hindon (Ghaziabad) and vice versa operates from Sahinewal domestic airport, an old facility in the Ludhiana district, which is expected to shut down once the Halwara terminal is operationalised.

An international airport in Ludhiana has been a long-pending demand of industrialists and business people who currently have to take flights from Delhi, Amritsar or Chandigarh, despite the city being an industrial hub.

GCC floats tenders to privatisate waste management in Anna Nagar, Tondiarpet amid workers' protest

With this, solid waste management in 14 zones in the city will be privatised while part of Ambattur zone (12 divisions) alone would remain with GCC.

CHENNAI (Agency)

Even as conservancy workers staged a human chain protest on Wednesday opposing the privatisation of solid waste management in the city, the GCC floated tenders to engage private players for garbage collection and transportation in Tondiarpet and Anna Nagar, the only two zones where waste management was directly handled by the civic body.

With this, solid waste management in 14 zones in the city will be privatised while part of Ambattur zone (12 divisions) alone would remain with GCC.

Last month GCC handed over solid waste collection and transportation operations in Royapuram and Thiru-Vi-Ka Nagar zones to Delhi MSW Solutions Limited. The sanitary workers from at least 10 zones, led by CITU, joined the protest which was held at multiple locations. "Contract workers

under private agencies receive only around Rs 570 per day, compared to Rs 753 paid to regular corporation workers," said P Srinivasulu, general secretary of CITU. "Private contractors also hesitate to hire anyone above 45 years of age unless with some conditions without PF and ESI benefits," he said, urging the ruling DMK to implement its promise to provide permanent jobs to sanitary workers. The two zones currently have 1,790 permanent and 3,390 temporary workers. While GCC usually redeploys its permanent staff to zones that still under its control when others were gradually privatised, it remains unclear where such large number of workers could be redeployed with only 12 divisions in Ambattur remaining with GCC.

Meanwhile, the corporation has initiated the bidding process to privatisate solid waste operations in Tondiarpet and Anna Nagar zones, which together span 50.85 sq km with an estimated population of 21.39 lakh people and 5.34 lakh households.

The scope of the work to be privatised, which would be done as per the design-build-finance-operate-transfer (DBFOT) model, included door-to-door waste collection, street sweeping, clearing of drains and canals, handling of domestic hazardous and horticultural waste, and maintenance of hotspots.



The contractors will also be responsible for cleaning TNUHDB tenements, covering 16,282 units across 36 sites. The contractors are required to prioritise night conservancy operations for over 50% of the activities to reduce daytime traffic disruptions.

In addition, a mobile application must be developed for project monitoring, and CCTV cameras must be installed and data should be fed to the GCC's ICC.

Purandar airport: Maharashtra govt to give land owners developed plot in Aerocity besides compensation

Mumbai (Agency)

Spread over 2,832 hectares, the proposed international airport in Purandar in the Pune district has entered a crucial phase, with a joint inspection of the land to be scheduled soon, according to Maharashtra government officials.

Speaking to The Indian Express, a senior government official said the work for land acquisition is progressing according to plan. "The government is now set to conduct a survey, which will involve both the landowner and the surveyor assessing the designated land together. Following this joint survey, the actual amount of land to be acquired will be determined," said the officer.

The officer also said the government has devised a special plan, under which farmers who willingly give their consent will be allotted developed plots equivalent to 10 per cent of their total surrendered land in the proposed Aerocity area, along with compensation.

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Despite experiencing rogue seas on Wednesday,



the waters remain relatively calm on the day of Vavubali. "Issues of sea wrath were there even yesterday, with two houses being severely damaged," said the Shankhumukham ward

councillor Seraphine Freddy, adding that necessary electric lines have been cut to avoid accidents at the site of bali offerings. However, this has not affected the number of devotees. The weather also remains supportive with occasional light showers.

Another important site of Bali Tharpanam, the Panapanas beach at Varkala, is also experiencing light rains and strong waves. "Wednesday evening was not as busy as the usual eve of Vavubali. However, close to 10,000 people have already performed the rituals," Panapanas ward councillor Ajayakumar C informed. Fire and rescue officials, police officers and lifeguards have been deployed at the beach to prevent any unfortunate events. Special services have been arranged by KSRTC as part of Karkidakka Vavu, with instructions being provided to do services as per demands.

Mumbai rain: BMC issues high tide alert for 4 days from today, city under orange alert

Mumbai (Agency)

While Mumbai is slated to witness torrential downpour amid an orange alert sounded in the city on Thursday, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has issued a four-day alert for high tides in the Arabian Sea, lasting till July 27. The civic body has urged the public to avoid the beaches and strictly follow the instructions by the authorities as the largest waves are expected on Saturday, July 26, reaching a height of up to 4.67 metres.

According to BMC, the wave heights are projected to peak at 4.57 metres at 11.57 am on Thursday, with a further rise to 4.66 metres expected at 12.40 pm on Friday. On Sunday, the BMC has warned of high tides up to 4.60 metres around 2 pm.

According to data from the automatic weather stations across Mumbai recorded at 8 am on

Thursday, the heaviest rainfall in the past 24 hours occurred in the eastern suburbs at an average of 48 mm. This was followed by 41 mm in the western suburbs and 33



mm in the island city division. Nearly 300 mm of rainfall was recorded over the past three days, between Monday and Wednesday.

and Palghar under an orange alert of 'heavy to very-heavy rainfall'. Meanwhile, a red alert has been sounded in Raigad and Ratnagiri districts over the next two days.

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Fast-track road projects proposed by public representatives: CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Gorakhpur, July 24: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath held a comprehensive review meeting on Thursday with MPs, MLAs, and senior officials to discuss upcoming road infrastructure projects across all assembly constituencies in the Gorakhpur and Basti divisions. The Chief Minister interacted with public representatives to understand the specific road development needs of their respective constituencies and urged them to submit proposals aligned with the region's aspirations. He assured that proposals submitted would be acted upon swiftly and on a priority basis. The meeting, held at the Anexe Bhawan Auditorium, began with a digital presentation on the upcoming road projects in the Gorakhpur-Basti region. Senior officials from the Public Works Department briefed the Chief Minister on the status of proposals under consideration. After reviewing the status of projects constituency-wise, CM Yogi held detailed discussions with public representatives to outline plans and directed PWD officials accordingly. The Chief Minister highlighted the significant strides made by the government in strengthening interstate and four-lane connectivity, noting that the Gorakhpur-Basti region is already witnessing its benefits. Stressing the need to bolster road infrastructure further, he said the PWD must treat all road-related proposals

als from public representatives with utmost seriousness. He directed that the priority for these projects be finalized in consultation

ects benefiting a larger population must be given precedence. He said, "Urban roads should be included under the CM Grid

quality standards and the pace of execution. Addressing concerns raised by public representatives about flood-damaged roads, the Chief Minister directed PWD officials to prepare a special action plan for strengthening road infrastructure in flood-prone areas. He also allowed the use of Disaster Relief Funds for this purpose, if necessary. Senior officials from the Tourism Department also shared updates on tourism development initiatives at various religious sites. In response, the Chief Minister directed the PWD to ensure seamless road connectivity to all temples and religious destinations where tourism development is ongoing or planned. He instructed that any proposal submitted by public representatives in this regard should be processed promptly and estimates prepared without delay to initiate work. CM Yogi noted that Gorakhpur and Basti divisions are emerging with a renewed identity of growth and development. He described public representatives as the true brand ambassadors of progress in their constituencies and urged them to remain connected with the public, understand their developmental aspirations, and convey appropriate proposals to the government. He reiterated that public convenience, safety, and prosperity are central to all government policies and emphasised the need for representatives to monitor and resolve any bottlenecks in ongoing development projects actively.

with the public representatives. He said, "Roads identified as high-priority should have their estimates prepared first, followed by a prompt start to construction. Other road projects should then be taken up in a phased manner." CM Yogi also emphasized that proj

Scheme for systematic development." He strictly instructed officials to ensure timely completion of all road projects without compromising on quality. Public representatives were encouraged to monitor the progress of works in their constituencies to maintain

Three Government colleges in Haryana to be named after Martyrs and a Freedom Fighter of the Azad Hind Fauj

Chandigarh: The Haryana Government has decided to honour martyrs and a freedom fighter from the Azad Hind Fauj by naming three government colleges after them. Chief Minister, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini has given administrative approval to the naming of three colleges. Haryana Education Minister, Sh. Mahipal Dhanda said that the Government Women's College in Bawali Khera will be named after the late Thakur Sh. Shambhu Singh, a freedom fighter from the Azad Hind Fauj and the Chief Minister has also approved naming the Government College, Kharak (Bhiwani) after Martyr Gajendra Singh. Notably, on March 7, 2018, Sh. Gajendra Singh, who served as an Assistant Commandant in the 134 Battalion of the Border Security Force, was martyred while valiantly fighting Naxals near the Maspur village in the Natale Reserved Forest area of Kanker District, Chhattisgarh. In recognition of his bravery, he was awarded the Gallantry Medal on January 26, 2021. Additionally, the Haryana Government has given administrative approval to name the Government College, Sampla (Rohtak) after Martyr Rai Singh, who laid down his life while protecting the nation on the India-Pakistan Line of Control in Rourkela, Jammu, on November 20, 2016. This initiative by the Haryana Government is a mark of deep respect and honour for the supreme sacrifice made by the martyrs and freedom fighters.

Preparations Complete for Upcoming Kharif Procurement Season 2025-26

Chandigarh, July 22: The Haryana Government has initiated preparations for the upcoming Kharif procurement season 2025-26. Minister of State for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Sh. Rajesh Nagar, shared that the Central Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Kharif crops such as paddy, jowar, bajra, maize, arhar (tur), moong, urad, groundnut, soybean, sesame, and niger seeds (black sesame) for the 2025-26 season. He said that the state government has already opened procurement centers and mandis for the purchase of these crops, 246 for paddy, 22 for jowar, 92 for bajra, 19 for maize, 22 for arhar, 38 for moong, 10 for urad, 7 for groundnut, 7 for soybean, 27 for sesame, and 2 for niger seeds/black sesame.

Visit of Additional Commissioner to Animal Birth Control Centre at Chheharta

Amritsar: Today, as per the directions of Commissioner Gupreet Singh Aulakh, Additional Commissioner Surinder Singh visited the Animal Birth Control Centre being run by the Municipal Corporation at Chheharta for the sterilization of stray dogs. During the visit, he reviewed the functioning of the center. Currently, the Municipal Corporation is operating this Animal Birth Control Centre at Narayan Garh, Chheharta, where stray dogs from different parts of the city are brought in daily for sterilization. The sterilization operations are being conducted under the supervision of the inspection, the Additional

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as SHASHOO BHAN alias ASHISH BHAN S/o ASHOK KUMAR BHAN, R/o 303C, Akrola More, Vipin Garden, Utam Nagar, Dist. West Delhi, Delhi-110059, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as ASHISH BHAN.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHALIJA VERMA W/O DEEPAK VERMA R/o A-602 MANOKAMINA APARTMENTS, PLOT NO. 16, SECTOR 18 A, NEAR VENKATESHWAR HOSPITAL, DWARKA PHASE 2, NEW DELHI-110075, have changed my name from SHALIJA VERMA to SHALIJA VERMA for all future purpose.

NAME CHANGE

I, Dheer Singh S/o Ram Pal Singh R/o R-13/18, Block-B Nihal Vihar, Nangli, Bakar Wala, West Delhi, Delhi-110041 have changed the name of my minor son Rishabh Singh Chhahda aged 15 years and he shall hereafter be known as Rishabh Singh.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, MOHIT AHLAWAT S/o MUKESH KUMAR AHLAWAT, R/o H.no. 120, Village Paprawat, south West Delhi-110043, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MUKESH KUMAR in my SC caste with No:SC/09/968/1793/23/5/2014/ 90519681172592. The actual name of my father is MUKESH KUMAR AHLAWAT, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arshad Ali s/o Noordeen R/o Faizulnagar, Baghpat, Muzaffarpur, Kanwara, Uttar Pradesh-250622, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHD FAIZULNAGAR aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents and name of my husband is MOHD SHADAB which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arshad Ali s/o Noordeen R/o Faizulnagar, Baghpat, Muzaffarpur, Kanwara, Uttar Pradesh-250622, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHD FAIZULNAGAR aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents and name of my husband is MOHD SHADAB which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arshad Ali s/o Noordeen R/o Faizulnagar, Baghpat, Muzaffarpur, Kanwara, Uttar Pradesh-250622, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHD FAIZULNAGAR aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents and name of my husband is MOHD SHADAB which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, KUNAL DUTT S/o BRAHM DUTT SHARMA R/o A-58 MANSA RAM PARK, UTTAM NAGAR, D. K. MOHAN GARDEN, WEST DELHI, DELHI-110059, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as BRAHM DUTT and SANTOSH DUTT in my Passport-X9161021. The actual name of my father and my mother are BRAHM DUTT SHARMA and SANTOSH KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arshad Ali s/o Noordeen R/o Faizulnagar, Baghpat, Muzaffarpur, Kanwara, Uttar Pradesh-250622, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as MOHD FAIZULNAGAR aged 17 years in his 10th class educational documents and name of my husband is MOHD SHADAB which may be amended accordingly.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, JAGVIR SINGH S/o BADHUR SINGH, R/o B-4/101, Sector-18 Rohini, Sector-15, North West Delhi, Delhi-110018, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as JAGVIR PAL SINGH in my 10th and 12th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is JAGVIR SINGH respectively, which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Rekha to Rekha Mahendra Akki residing at Village-Gudageri, A/P/Post-Gudageri, Teh-Kundgi, Dist-Dharwad, State-Karnataka-581107, have changed my name from Rekha to Rekha Mahendra Akki for all future purposes and also declare that my date of birth mentioned in service documents of my son, but my correct date of birth is 15-06-1965 vide affidavit dated 19-07-2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rakesh Kumar S/o Rekha to Rekha Mahendra Akki residing at Village-Gudageri, A/P/Post-Gudageri, Teh-Kundgi, Dist-Dharwad, State-Karnataka-581107, have changed my name from Rekha to Rekha Mahendra Akki for all future purposes and also declare that my date of birth mentioned in service documents of my son, but my correct date of birth is 15-06-1965 vide affidavit dated 19-07-2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ujwala Rajendra Dhadore W/o No. 45944089 Rank- SEP Name - Thorat Nilesh Bhimrao residing at Village Vawad, A/P/Post-Vawad, Teh-Nandurbar, Dist-Nandurbar, Maharashtra-425411, have changed my name from Ujwala Rajendra Dhadore to Thorat Ujwala Nilesh for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 17/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ujwala Rajendra Dhadore W/o No. 45944089 Rank- SEP Name - Thorat Nilesh Bhimrao residing at Village Vawad, A/P/Post-Vawad, Teh-Nandurbar, Dist-Nandurbar, Maharashtra-425411, have changed my name from Ujwala Rajendra Dhadore to Thorat Ujwala Nilesh for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 17/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

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NAME CHANGE

I, Ujwala Rajendra Dhadore W/o No. 45944089 Rank- SEP Name

NEWS BOX

Hindu Temple In Australia's Melbourne Defaced With Racist Graffiti

Canberra . (Agency)

A Hindu temple in Melbourne was defaced with hateful slurs demanding, "Go Home Brown C**t", in the latest incident of racism in Australia. The incident at the Swaminarayan Temple reportedly happened on July 21, with the same message also appearing on the walls of at least two nearby Asian-run restaurants in the Boronia suburb, according to a report by The Australia Today. Makrand Bhagwat, President of the Hindu Council of Australia, issued a statement expressing his shock over the incident and said, "Seeing it (temple) vandalised with hateful words was heartbreaking for volunteers and worshippers alike." He noted that the temple, which draws congregants from across Melbourne's Indian population, hosts daily prayers, cultural festivals, and community meals. "Our temple is meant to be a sanctuary of peace, devotion and unity...It's where we come together to celebrate our faith and heritage," Bhagwat said. Victoria's premier, Jacinta Allan, also condemned the incident and said that what happened was "hateful, racist and deeply disturbing."

"It wasn't just vandalism - it was a deliberate act of hate, designed to intimidate, isolate, and spread fear. It was an attack on your right to feel safe and to belong, and on the values that bind us together. There's no place for it anywhere in Victoria. And it must be called out for what it is," she said in a statement. Allan urged Victoria Police to take the matter seriously and said Australia's Minister for Multicultural Affairs will soon visit the Shree Swaminarayan Temple to offer the support of the government and to listen to the community directly. No community should ever have to endure something like this, but in speaking out, you've shown an enormous amount of strength and dignity. As Premier, I want you to know how much your contribution, your culture, and your faith mean to me, and to the future we're building together in this state," she added.

Russia Launches An App That Could Spy On Its Citizens, Likely To Ban WhatsApp

world . (Agency)

Russia is set to launch a new digital device equipped with a brand new messenger app that experts believe could allow the Kremlin to spy on the Russian public. According to The Independent, the app named Max will be installed on every new device sold in Russia from September this year. It will reportedly provide not only a space for messaging and video calls, but will be a broader information system with access to government services and mobile payments, the outlet reported.

However, experts believe that beneath the app's playful white-and-blue logo lies software that might work as a "spy programme", allowing Russia's FSB security service to establish a rigid surveillance programme, as per The Independent. Experts explained that the app's servers are based in Russia, meaning Max will be subject to Russian law, which grants the FSB to have access to certain materials. With the introduction of this new app, WhatsApp, a global messenger used by more than 70% of Russians, is "highly likely" to be banned in the country. Moscow will push its people towards using Max, Mark Galeotti, a veteran observer of Russian security and politics and director of Mayak Intelligence, told The Independent. Andrey Okun, a Russian opposition journalist, said Max would be central to the Kremlin's dream of constructing a "digital gulag". "This will be a sterile space in which the authorities have complete control over the leisure time, motives and thoughts of citizens," he said.

"Shut Up": Fight Breaks Out On Air Asia Flight After Passenger Calls A Group Of Women "Stupid"

Washington . (Agency)

A chaotic scene unfolded on an Air Asia flight from Kuala Lumpur to China when a group of women were confronted for chatting loudly after the cabin lights were dimmed. The confrontation escalated into an all-out brawl, which was captured on camera. According to witnesses, a male passenger seated behind the women became visibly frustrated with their loud chatter and asked them to quieten down.

The situation took a turn for the worse when the man called the women "stupid" and told them to "shut up." This sparked a fierce reaction from one of the women, who climbed over her seat and punched the man. Another woman joined in, hitting him as he ducked behind his food tray. The brawl was intense and chaotic, with multiple passengers getting involved, TMZ reported. The cabin crew sprang into action, swiftly intervening to separate the parties involved in the altercation. A female attendant shouted at the passengers to return to their seats, as she struggled to regain control of the situation. Eventually, the flight crew successfully restored order, bringing the altercation to an end.

Fortunately, the situation didn't require an emergency landing, and once the plane touched down, no medical assistance was needed for those involved. Authorities also didn't make any arrests. "We were sitting behind the row of women and listened to the quarrel. They were chatting too loudly while the lights were turned off, and the frontman asked them to be silent because he wanted to sleep. The mother of one of the women then joined in. The friends then went up to attack the man. Two women were fighting the male passenger," the woman who recorded the altercation said. Officials at the Airport Public Security Bureau of the Sichuan Provincial Public Security Department have now launched an investigation, as per the Daily Mail.

AirAsia X stated that its cabin crew promptly and professionally handled the situation, adhering to standard safety protocols.

Columbia University agrees to pay more than \$220 million in deal with Trump to restore federal funding

"This agreement marks an important step forward after a period of sustained federal scrutiny and institutional uncertainty," acting University President Claire Shipman said.

NEW YORK . (Agency)

Columbia University announced Wednesday it has reached a deal with the Trump administration to pay more than \$220 million to the federal government to restore federal research money that was canceled in the name of combating antisemitism on campus. Under the agreement, the Ivy League school will pay a \$200 million settlement over three years, the university said. It will also pay \$21 million to resolve alleged civil rights violations against Jewish employees that occurred following the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on Israel,

the White House said.

"This agreement marks an important step forward after a period of sustained federal scrutiny and institutional uncertainty," acting University President Claire Shipman said. The school had been threatened with the potential loss of billions of dollars in government support, including more than \$400 million in grants canceled earlier this year. The administration pulled the funding because of what it described as the university's failure to squelch antisemitism on campus during the Israel-Hamas war. Columbia has since agreed to a series of demands laid out by the Republican administration, including overhauling the university's student disciplinary process and applying a contentious, federally endorsed definition of antisemitism not only to teaching but to a disciplinary committee that has been investigating students critical of Israel. Wednesday's agreement — which does not include an admission of wrongdoing — codifies those reforms while preserving the university's autonomy, Shipman said. Columbia's reforms are a

roadmap."Trump administration says Education Secretary Linda McMahon called the deal "a seismic shift in our nation's fight to hold institutions that accept American taxpayer dollars accountable for antisemitic discrimination and



harassment."Columbia's reforms are a roadmap for elite universities that wish to regain the confidence of the American public by renewing their commitment to truth-seeking, merit, and civil debate," McMahon said in a statement.

As part of the agreement, Columbia agreed to a series of changes previously announced in March, including reviewing its Middle East curriculum to make sure it was

"comprehensive and balanced" and appointing new faculty to its Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies. It also promised to end programs "that promote unlawful efforts to achieve race-based outcomes, quotes, diversity targets or similar efforts."

The university will also have to issue a report to a monitor assuring that its programs "do not promote unlawful DEI goals."

Crackdown follows Columbia protests

The pact comes after months of uncertainty and fraught negotiations at the more than 270-year-old university. It was among the first targets of President Donald Trump's crackdown on pro-Palestinian campus protests and on colleges that he asserts have allowed Jewish students be threatened and harassed. Columbia's own antisemitism task force found last summer that Jewish students had faced verbal abuse, ostracism and classroom humiliation during the 2024 demonstrations. Other Jewish students took part in the protests, however, and protest leaders maintain they aren't targeting Jews but rather criticizing the Israeli government and its war in Gaza.

Appeals court finds Trump's effort to end birthright citizenship unconstitutional, upholds block

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

A federal appeals court ruled Wednesday that President Donald Trump's order seeking to end birthright citizenship is unconstitutional, affirming a lower-court decision that blocked its enforcement nationwide. The ruling from a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals comes after Trump's plan was also blocked by a federal judge in New Hampshire. It brings the issue one step closer to coming back quickly before the Supreme Court. The 9th Circuit decision keeps a block on the Trump administration enforcing the order that would deny citizenship to children born to people who are in the United States illegally or temporarily.

"The district court correctly concluded that the Executive Order's proposed interpretation, denying citizenship to many persons born in the United States, is unconstitutional. We fully agree," the majority wrote. The 2-1 ruling keeps in place a decision from U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour in Seattle, who blocked Trump's effort to end birthright citizenship and declared



what he described as the administration's attempt to ignore the Constitution for political gain. The White House and Justice Department did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The Supreme Court has since restricted the power of lower court judges to issue orders that affect the whole country, known as nationwide injunctions. But the 9th Circuit majority found that the case fell under one of the exceptions left open by the justices. The case was filed by a group of states who argued that they need a nationwide order to prevent the problems that would be caused by birthright citizenship only being the

law in half of the country. "We conclude that the district court did not abuse its discretion in issuing a universal injunction in order to give the States complete relief," Judge Michael Hawkins and Ronald Gould, both appointed by President Bill Clinton, wrote. Judge Patrick Bumatay, who was appointed by Trump, dissented. He found that the states don't have the legal right, or standing, to sue. "We should approach any request for universal relief with good faith skepticism, mindful that the invocation of 'complete relief' isn't a backdoor to universal injunctions," he wrote. Bumatay did not weigh in on whether ending birthright citizenship would be constitutional. The Citizenship Clause of the 14th Amendment says that all people born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to U.S. jurisdiction, are citizens. Justice Department attorneys argue that the phrase "subject to United States jurisdiction" in the amendment means that citizenship isn't automatically conferred to children based on their birth location alone.

Multi-Millionaire CEO, 39, Trampled To Death By Elephant At South African Game Reserve

Washington . (Agency)

In a tragic incident, the multi-millionaire owner of one of South Africa's top game reserves was trampled to death by a charging elephant. According to The Daily Mail, the incident happened at 8 am on July 22 at Gondwana Private Game Reserve????, when FC Conradie was attempting to guide a group of elephants away from the tourist lodges. However, the task went wrong when the six-ton bull turned on him. The elephant reportedly gored Mr Conradie with its tusks and trampled him multiple times, leaving nearby rangers powerless to save him despite their best efforts. FC Conradie, who also owned the Caylix Group sports management company, was described by staff as having a deep passion for elephants and nature, often venturing out to photograph them. He had honours degrees in zoology, animal studies, commerce and marketing, and was known as an "ambitious entrepreneur and passionate about nature". A senior source at Gondwana

said, "Because he is the boss man, everybody has been warned to say absolutely nothing or they will be out the same day, it is a big clamp down. FC was a great guy to work for, and he loved his elephants, which were his favourite, and he felt he had a trust with them, but you have to never forget they may live in a reserve but are wild. He will be greatly missed by all here." Gondwana Game Reserve paid tribute to Mr Conradie, describing him as a cherished leader, devoted husband, and father of three. "FC was more than a leader — he was a mentor, a visionary, and a truly remarkable individual," the reserve stated, and requested privacy and space for the family during this challenging period. The team also appealed for the public to avoid speculation as the investigation into the incident continues. It is not yet known whether guests at the Big 5 reserve, home to lions, buffalo, rhinos, leopards, and Africa's southernmost elephant herd, witnessed the violent attack. Gondwana Private Game

Reserve, a luxurious five-star safari lodge near Mossel Bay along the renowned Garden Route, is a popular destination for celebrities and tourists seeking Big Five experiences. With rates of nearly 900 pounds per couple per night, the reserve was fully booked during the incident. Notably, this is the second fatal elephant attack at the reserve in just over a year. In March 2023, David Kandela, a 36-year-old married father and staff member, was killed while guiding a herd through the Eco Tent Lodge area. Mr Kandela was gored, dragged into the bush, and dismembered by elephants, including a former circus elephant named Bonnie. Mr Conradie's death ?????has sparked debate about safety protocols in game reserves, highlighting the risks that come with working around wild animals. Experts suggest that even seasoned professionals like Mr Conradie need to exercise extreme caution when interacting with elephants, which can be unpredictable despite their calm nature.

Gabbard's claims of an anti-Trump conspiracy are not supported by declassified documents

WASHINGTON . (Agency)

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard this month declassified material that she claimed proved a "treasonous conspiracy" by the Obama administration in 2016 to politicize U.S. intelligence in service of casting doubt on the legitimacy of Donald Trump's election victory.

As evidence, Gabbard cited newly declassified emails from Obama officials and a five-year-old classified House report in hopes of undermining the intelligence community's conclusion that Russian President Vladimir Putin wanted to boost Trump and denigrate his Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton.

Russia's activities during the 2016 election remain some of the most examined events in recent history. The Kremlin's campaign and the subsequent U.S. government response were the subject of at least five major investigations by the Republican-led House and Senate intelligence committee; two Justice Department special counsels; and the department's inspector general. Those investigations either concluded — or accepted the conclusion — that Russia

embarked on a campaign to interfere in the election through the use of social media and hacked material. The House-led probe, conducted by Trump allies, also concurred that Russia ran an election interference campaign but said the purpose was to sow chaos in the U.S. rather than boost Trump. Several of the reports criticize the actions of Obama administration officials, particularly at the FBI, but do not dispute the fundamental findings that Moscow sought to interfere in the election. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses The Associated Press has reviewed those reports to evaluate how Gabbard's claims stack up: Russian election interference CLAIM: "The intelligence community had one assessment: that Russia did not have the intent and capability to try to impact the outcome of the U.S. election leading up to Election Day. The same assessment was made after the election." — Gabbard to Fox News on Tuesday. The documents Gabbard released do not support her claim. She cites a handful of emails from 2016 in which officials conclude that Russia had no

intention of manipulating the U.S. vote count through cyberattacks on voting systems. President Barack Obama's administration never alleged that voting



led investigations in Congress have affirmed that conclusion, and the emails that Gabbard released do not contradict that finding.

Shift in assessment?

CLAIM: "There was a shift, a 180-degree shift, from the intelligence community's assessment leading up to the election to the one that President Obama directed be produced after Donald Trump won the election that completely contradicted those assessments that had come previously." — Gabbard to Fox News on Tuesday.

There was no shift.

The emails Gabbard released show that a Department of Homeland Security official in August 2016 told then-Director of National Intelligence James Clapper there was "no indication of a Russian threat to directly manipulate the actual vote count." The public assessment the Obama administration made public in January 2017 reached the same conclusion: "DHS assesses that the types of systems Russian actors targeted or compromised were not involved in vote tallying."

VGHSR & ASSOCIATES LLP
Chartered Accountants

6C, Gopala Tower, 25, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110008

Independent Auditor's Report

To,
The Members,
Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the accompanying Financial Statements of Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank Limited (the "Bank") as at 31 March 2025, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025, and the Profit and Loss Account, for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. The returns of four branches audited by us are incorporated in these financial statements.

In our opinion, and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information required by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder, and the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the generally accepted accounting principles and in the manner so required except for the effects of the matters described in the basis for qualified opinion in the basis for qualified opinion section of our report, the aforesaid financial statements give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles generally accepted in India of the state of affairs of the balance sheet of the Bank as at March 31, 2025 and its profit and loss for the financial year ended on that date.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing (SAs) issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Our responsibilities under those Standards are further described in the 'Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements' section of our report. We are independent of the Bank in accordance with the 'Code of Ethics' issued by the ICAI and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code of Ethics. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion on the financial statements.

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Rewari | Ghaziabad | Noida

Auditor's responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with SAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with SAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Bank's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Bank to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in



1. As stated in schedule 4 and 14 of the financial statements, during the audit it was found in loan accounts viz, Shri Balaji Enterprises (A/c No. 040700010301), Gurdeep Kaur (A/c No. 012602049901) and Manoj Kumar (A/c No. 013100001301) marked as NPA during the year, the amount of Rs 6,14,377.56/- was booked as Interest Income in Profit and loss account. Accordingly the same has been reduced from Interest Income in the profit and loss account and transferred to Overdue Interest Reserve Account as the software had not reversed the interest income automatically to Interest Memorandum Account.

2. As stated in Schedule 2 of the financial statements, during the audit of the FY 2023-24 it was found that under General Reserves Rs 8,84,548.22/- was being transferred from "Clearing Suspense Ledger", these were bank transfers from IDBI bank and same were unclaimed. These should not have been transferred to general reserve instead should be considered as income and transferred to Profit and Loss Account.

3. As stated in Schedule 9 of the financial statements, bank has shown "Advance under collection (As per contra)" of Rs 1,83,09,439/- under the head other assets in the balance sheet but the same is in the nature of Contingent Assets as there is no chance of recovery in these accounts as loans are already closed and the property mortgaged against these accounts by the borrower is already monetized by the bank.

4. As stated in schedule 17 of the financial statements, Depreciation of Rs 4,86,594/- charged during the year is computed automatically by the software and the same could not be verified as the software does not indicate at which rate the depreciation is charged.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for the preparation of the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Report of Board of Directors, including other



internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on Other Legal & Regulatory Requirements

1. The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of Section 29 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and The Delhi State Co-operative Societies Act, 2003 and the rules made thereunder.

2. As required by rule 80(6) of Delhi Cooperative Societies Rules, 2007, we report that:

- a) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit and have found to be satisfactory;
- b) In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as it appears from our examination of those books and proper returns adequate for the purposes of our audit have been received from the branches/offices;
- c) The transactions of the Bank which came to our notice have been within the powers of the Bank;
- d) The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account and the returns;
- e) The accounting standards adopted by the Bank are consistent with those laid down by accounting principles generally accepted in India so far as applicable to Banks;
- f) In our opinion and according to information and explanations given to us, we have not noticed any material impropriety or irregularity in the expenditure or in the realization of money due to the bank.
- g) The members have been enrolled as per the provisions of the Act and the rules made thereunder.

3. As per the information and explanations given to us and based on our examination of the books of account and other record, we report as under on certain matters specified in sub-rule (7) of rule 80 of the Delhi Co-operative Societies Rules, 2007:-

a. We have not come across any transactions which appear to be contrary to the provisions of the Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003, the rules or the bye-laws of the Bank.

b. We have not come across any material or significant transactions which appear to be contrary to the guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

explanatory information but does not include the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The report of the Board of Directors is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the standalone financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard. When we read the Annual Report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with Governance.

Responsibility of Management for the financial statements

The Bank's Board of Directors is responsible for preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and the financial performance of the Bank in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in India, including the Accounting Standards issued by ICAI, provisions of Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Rules made thereunder, provisions of Delhi Cooperative Societies Act, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder and circulars and guidelines issued by RBI from time to time. This responsibility also includes maintenance of adequate accounting records in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Acts for safeguarding the assets of the Bank and for preventing and detecting frauds and other irregularities; selection and application of appropriate accounting policies; making judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation and presentation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Bank's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Bank or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board of Directors is also responsible for overseeing Bank's Financial Reporting process.



c. Based on our examination of the books of account and other records and as per the information and explanations given to us, the money belonging to the Bank which appears to be bad or doubtful or recovery are detailed below:

Category	Principal outstanding as on March 31, 2025 (Rs. In Lakhs)
Doubtful Advances	1040.99
Loss Advances	820.46
Non-Performing Investments	233.10
Other Assets	Nil

d. The Bank has not given any loans to the members of the Board of Directors.

e. We have not observed any violation of guidelines, conditions etc., issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

f. The Registrar of Cooperative Societies in this regard has not specified any matters to the Bank.

We further report that:

- I. The Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account dealt with by this report, are in agreement with the books of account and the returns.
- II. In our opinion, proper books of account as required by law have been kept by the Bank so far as appears from our examination of those books.
- III. The reports on the accounts of the branches audited by us / branch auditors have been dealt with in preparing our report in the manner considered necessary by us.

For VGHSR & Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants
FRN 007915N/N500393

CA. Harvinder Singh
Designated Partner
DPIN: 09477871
M. No. 405677
UDIN: 25405677BMJKIV6877
Place: New Delhi
Date: 27th June 2025

RAMGARHIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED
1/4, DESH BANDHU GUPTA ROAD, PAHARGANJ, NEW DELHI-110055

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST MARCH, 2025

Particulars	Schedule No	As At 31st March 2025	As At 31st March 2024
A. Capital & Liabilities			
1 CAPITAL	1	5,69,40,150	5,66,59,550
2 RESERVE & SURPLUS	2	1,49,33,917	1,27,75,646
3 PRINCIPAL / SUBSIDIARY STATE PARTNERSHIP FUND ACCOUNT			
4 DEPOSITS AND OTHER ACCOUNTS	3	90,56,34,303	89,19,93,530
5 BORROWINGS			
6 OTHER LIABILITY AND PROVISIONS	4	31,19,81,415	31,57,91,948
TOTAL		1,28,94,89,785	1,27,72,20,674
B. Assets			
1 CASH AND BALANCES WITH RESERVE BANK OF INDIA	5	1,09,12,259	1,57,49,824
2 BALANCES WITH BANKS AND MONEY AT CALL & SHORT NOTICE	6	17,30,30,992	15,77,24,614
3 INVESTMENTS	7	64,09,89,288	61,89,83,323
4 ADVANCES	8	23,31,39,994	24,78,20,033
5 OTHER ASSETS	9	12,96,62,812	13,47,71,544
6 FIXED ASSETS	10	10,17,55,343	10,21,71,336
TOTAL		1,28,94,89,785	1,27,72,20,674
C. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES	11	65,39,541	1,36,85,844
D. Significant Accounting Policies	12		
E. Notes on Accounts	13		
F. Bills for Collection			

Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts are integral & forming part of Financial Statements

As per our report of even date annexed
VGHSR and Associates LLP
Chartered Accountants

Firm Regn No. 007915N/N500393

CA Harvinder Singh
(Designated Partner)
DIN-09477871
M. No 405677

Place : NEW DELHI
Date : 27-06-2025

For Ramgarhia Co-operative Bank Limited

Baldev Singh
(Director)

Amarjit Singh
(Vice-Chairman)

Daljit Singh
(Chief Executive Officer)

Satpal Singh
(Director)

Harvinder Singh
(Professional Director)

Ranjeet Kaur
(Chairperson)

RAMGARHIA CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED
1/4, DESH BANDHU GUPTA ROAD, PAHARGANJ, NEW DELHI-110055

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 2025

Particulars	Schedule No	Amount Year Ended 31st March 2025	Amount Year Ended 31st March 2024
A. INCOME	14	6,30,66,823	6,10,47,910
1 Interest earned	15	6,00,461	6,04,310
2 Other Income			
3 Excess Provision written back			
(i) On Prov. For Other Assets			
(ii) On Standard Assets			
Total		6,40,79,784	6,16,52,220

Bihar SIR: Doing the right thing the wrong way

A correct and up-to-date electoral roll is sine qua non for a free and fair election in a democracy. However, given the size, diversity, and geographical dispersion of population in India, we must also accept that a perfect, 100 percent correct electoral roll is an impossibility. Nonetheless, this cannot and should not detract us from continually 'cleaning' the electoral roll. Viewed in this context, the Election Commission of India's special intensive revision (SIR) of the Bihar electoral roll, announced on June 24, cannot be faulted. However, life is hardly ever so simple. The three documents issued by the ECI that day raise a number of questions, creating confusion. Some of these questions are legal, and some procedural and practical. One of the major legal issues is the 'disenfranchisement' of all those citizens who were registered as voters by the ECI itself, following the laid down legal procedure, since January 1, 2003. There are two parts to this.

First, in their June 24 order, ECI says that for those on the electoral roll as on January 1, 2003, there is "probative evidence of eligibility, including presumption of citizenship". This implies that this "presumption of citizenship" is not there for those registered as voters after January 1, 2003. This is grossly unfair because it amounts to depriving these people of their rights as citizens. It is correct that Article 326 of the Constitution says that only citizens of India can vote in elections. But this Article is not the only stipulation on this matter. Section 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 titled 'Conditions for registration' states, "Every person who (a) is not less than 18 years of age on the qualifying date, and (b) is ordinarily resident in a constituency, shall be entitled to be registered in the electoral roll for that constituency." Form 6 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960 also requires only a self-certification by the applicant that s/he is a citizen of India for registration as a voter. The irony is that a person in any state other than Bihar can get registered as a voter with a self-certification about citizenship today, whereas a person in Bihar has to provide one of 11 documents! The second issue with this en masse disenfranchisement is that it violates the existing legal procedure for deletion of names from electoral rolls, specified in Section 22 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. This states, "...before taking any action... on the ground that the person concerned has ceased to be ordinarily resident in the constituency or that he is otherwise not entitled to be registered in the electoral roll of that constituency, the electoral registration officer shall give the person concerned a reasonable opportunity of being heard in respect of the action proposed to be taken in relation to him". This is valid as of today, but the irony is that the names of lakhs of registered voters in Bihar have been deleted by a simple administrative order in complete disregard of the existing law.

The procedural and practical issues are far too many for all of them to be listed, not to speak of discussing them. The timing of the exercise in terms of the proximity of the state assembly elections, during the rainy season when large areas of Bihar suffer annual floods, the non-availability of specified documents to a large proportion of the population, and the extremely short period provided for completing the mammoth exercise are just a few of them. The issue that seems to have been completely underestimated by the ECI is that of migrants. A very large proportion of people from Bihar—the estimates vary between 20 percent and 50 percent—migrate to other states in search of livelihood. The bulk of them work as daily-wage labourers in large cities in a variety of jobs including a major chunk in the construction industry. Another major section works as agricultural labourers in Punjab and Haryana, where entire families migrate. Most of these people are not educated (some are even illiterate) and are economically and socially deprived.

THE Congress-led INDIA bloc might just have found an issue to corner an overconfident BJP in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament. The subjects that the Opposition alliance has been preoccupied with—Operation Sindoora, the Pahalgam massacre and the revision of voters rolls in Bihar—are riddled with uncomfortable questions, but the government believes it can weather these storms. On Monday—the day Parliament opened—Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice-President and Rajya Sabha chairman, resigned, citing health concerns. As the West Bengal Governor, Dhankhar had face-offs with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee; later, he had run-ins with the Congress and the Opposition while presiding over the Rajya Sabha. His resignation at the end of the day's proceedings—he was present almost throughout in the Upper House and attended a meeting of the business advisory committee (BAC)—was nothing short of a bombshell. Dhankhar's entry into the BJP had been celebrated as a 'prize catch' and he was projected as a Jat 'import' from the Congress. Although PM Narendra Modi commiserated with him on Tuesday, the Opposition was quick to lend a shoulder to the same person against whom it brought a notice of 'removal' for his 'partisan' conduct as the Rajya Sabha Chairman, suggesting that political allegiances are no longer relevant in a state of flux. The Opposition pointed out that Dhankhar had convened a BAC

meeting on Tuesday and was expected to make "major announcements related to the judiciary". The judiciary was one of Dhankhar's pet peeves. A former Supreme Court lawyer, he termed the 2015 judgment striking down the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC) Act as a "glaring instance" of "severe compromise" of parliamentary sovereignty and disregard for the "mandate of the people". Dhankhar added that Parliament was duty-bound to raise the issue and expressed confidence that "it will do so". Was it one of his anticipated major announcements related to the NJAC Act that would have set the government at war with the judiciary?

Among his other contentious assertions was a call to "reflect and give quietus to public display of adversarial challenging stance/trading or exchange of advisories emanating from these platforms (constitutional institutions)". To contextualise why this

might have embarrassed the Centre, the Opposition was insistent on a discussion in the House on alleged government interference in the functioning of constitutional bodies. Dhankhar's assertions on upholding the sovereignty of Parliament and the legislature and emphasising that the legislative, the executive and the judiciary were "required to be within their limits" could have become disputatious. After the seizure of currency notes from the residence of a high court judge in New Delhi, Dhankhar had revived the

INDIA bloc was shaken up a second time when the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) quit the alliance last week, the first being when Nitish Kumar, the Janata Dal (United) leader and Bihar Chief Minister, left the front in January 2024 and rejoined the BJP-led NDA. While Nitish was not on the best terms with his erstwhile ally, the Rashtriya Janata Dal, and possibly viewed the BJP as more productive electorally, AAP never regarded the Congress as a friend with whom it could coexist with equanimity. Its equation with the Congress was damaged irretrievably during the 2025 Delhi Assembly polls. The BJP decimated AAP, but the Congress was left with nothing except savouring the defeat of Arvind Kejriwal, who had brought the grand old party to ruin in the Capital.

The AAP exit came a day before the Opposition convened a rare meeting—INDIA had not assembled even once after the 2024 Lok Sabha polls—to craft the floor strategy for the monsoon session of Parliament. The idea was to collectively confront the BJP; AAP's tactical explanation was that while being on the Opposition's side it was not part of a joint enterprise as it wanted to nurture its space in the states without getting into the tricky debate of aligning with the Congress or not. Obviously, AAP's recent win in the Gujarat assembly bypoll against the BJP, pushing the Congress to the third spot, boosted its aspirations. Saturday's INDIA meeting—it was a virtual one ostensibly because the constituents were preoccupied with internal confabulations—saw the Congress in full strength, with M Mallikarjun Kharge, Sonia and Rahul

Gandhi in attendance. Big leaguers like the DMK and Trinamool Congress (TMC) chiefs and chief ministers MK Stalin and Mamata Banerjee did not show up. Mamata deputed her nephew—TMC's national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee—and Stalin sent senior MP Tiruchi N Siva. Maintaining an equipoise between national issues and federal preoccupations is not the smoothest exercise even for master political craftsmen, unless one party foists its agenda on the smaller entities in a coalition. The fault lines inherent in the imbalanced INDIA surfaced in the reported discussions. The principal problem is that the Congress, which heads the bloc and is the only party with a pan-India presence, is a shadow of its former self. Regional parties think they have it in them to humble the BJP.

The Dhankhar issue will be a test of how far the Congress and INDIA can go in exploiting the situation—that's if they hang together.



debate on the NJAC, stating that had the Supreme Court not struck down the mechanism for judicial appointments, "things would have been different". However, the apex court was firm on maintaining the supremacy of the judiciary in the selection and appointment of SC and HC judges. The last twist in the tale came when Dhankhar announced in the Upper House that a motion was moved by the Opposition, signed by the required number of members, to constitute a statutory committee to look into the judge's removal. The announcement upset members of the treasury benches as they thought he had pre-empted a similar move by the ruling coalition against the judge. Government sources suggested that Dhankhar was "in a hurry" to bring in the motion to further "sharpen his attack" against the judiciary, but this was not entirely to the government's liking. The Centre apparently preferred a slower approach. The seeds of a controversy have doubtless been sown, but can the Opposition reap a rich harvest? The

Find the real 7/11 killers and reason for lapse in probe

The Bombay HC observed that some confessions were obtained through torture, forensic evidence was mishandled, and several eyewitnesses were unreliable or reused 'stock witnesses' from other cases.

In an unexpected turn of events, the Bombay High Court on Monday overturned the death sentences and life terms awarded to a dozen accused in the infamous 2006 Mumbai train blasts case. A special court set up under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crimes Act had tried them for coordinating a series of bombings on seven suburban trains during the evening rush hour on July 11, 2006. The closely-timed attacks across the city, designed to spread terror, had snuffed out 187 innocent lives. The BJP-led Maharashtra government has rushed to challenge the judgement in the Supreme Court. Mumbai has been a terrorist target for more than three decades.

As many as 713 persons were killed and over 2,000 injured in 14 incidents recorded between 1993 and 2011. Given the context, the state government was understandably looking to find closure on this cycle of violence.

Arifical Inteligence uses Arifical Inteligence uses However, the Bombay High Court has ruled that Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad had "utterly failed to establish the offences beyond reasonable doubt against the



accused". The judgement notes that some of the confessions were extracted through torture, the forensic evidence was mishandled, and some of the eyewitnesses were either not reliable or were 'stock witnesses' also used in other criminal proceedings. In one case, a witness who allegedly saw bombs being assembled remained silent for

100 days and was initially a suspect before changing his statement. There is no doubt that the 2006 blasts were an act of terror and those behind it must be punished for mass murder. However, as the court rightly pointed out, the rule of law would be undermined if those innocent of the crime are convicted merely to create a false appearance of having solved a case. This deceptive closure undermines public trust and falsely reassures society, while in reality, the true threat remains at large. The botched investigation itself should be looked at even as the hunt for the real killers begins afresh. A new investigation team should be constituted to collect watertight evidence—to the extent possible after all these years—and nail the culprits in a retrial.

Pursuing an appeal based on the current probe may be counter-productive. Action against terrorists responsible for so many deaths cannot be weakened by further administrative missteps.

India & China need to stay on the same side of the future

Given their civilisational links, the differences between India and China are relatively recent. In the emerging world order of Tropical and Arctic nations, India and China need to work together in the former bloc—for their own sake as well as others'

The recent meeting of the Indian foreign minister with his Chinese counterpart in Beijing is surely a good portent. The two nations must find an imaginative way to cooperate for their own future and that of the world. Chanakya was among India's foremost strategists, as Sun Tzu was for China. They were the original McKinsey or Bain for their societies. Can their successors come together? In 2000, I was a member of the Indian delegation to the World Trade Organization meeting in Seattle, where China was admitted into the group. I shared the hope of many delegates that the rules-based global system would strike deeper roots as China becomes more akin to other trading nations. Today, it is sobering to see that the WTO is virtually dysfunctional and the rules-based world order is breaking down. Above all, far from China becoming like others, many nations including the US are becoming like how China was. Something must give, as the West cannot continue to dominate the world. And there are good reasons for holding this view. One reason is that India and China have learnt selectively from the West, but not lost their civilisational underpinnings. The lessons they have learnt serve as an additional layer to their solid civilisational underframe—a 'sandwich' of strengths that is under-noticed. George Frost

Kennan, counsellor to the US state department in the 1940s, used to refer to a 'spiritual vitality' that America must rely upon to contain the Soviet Union. As subsequent events unfolded, America failed hopelessly in executing this task. India today can take heed of Kennan's view. Both India and China will claim and qualify as possessing great 'spiritual vitality', whatever their views of it.

Secondly, Xi Jinping and other Chinese leaders consider the 1800s as the nation's 'century of humiliation', when it lost its economic and civilisational primacy. India sees the era of Turkish, Afghan and Mughal rule as its centuries of humiliation, though it lost economic primacy only from the 1800s, like China, as a result of European colonisation. Nations come together and drift apart for many reasons. France and England have fought wars against each other, and together against others. The US and Russia fought the Second World War together and then drifted into decades of the Cold War. Indeed, China and the USSR were so close in the 1950s that there were thousands of Russian advisors in China. In the summer of 1960, when China and Russia fell apart, the Soviet advisors were asked to pack up and leave. In 1969, the two fought a war. Then, in February 1972, US President Richard Nixon visited China. By 1972, Mao

Zedong shifted the balance of power against the Soviets by seeking a rapprochement with the Americans. Such waves in relationships occur also because every nation wants to do what is in its own interest. Given this, a somewhat unique feature of India and China is that their differences



are of relatively recent origin. And both nations are marching towards restoring their past positions of economic strength. While doing so, China has become quite prolific and competent in new technologies and research. Maybe India can explore its own idiosyncratic approach by combining Indian manufacturing with Chinese technology. This should not be viewed as a matter of national ego. But it would hold promise only if Indian industry spends much more—three

to four times more than it does now—on research and new technology. China reportedly started in the new era by imitating, but almost simultaneously built its own global R&D competencies. Somehow, India Inc has failed to do this for decades. Here is a preliminary model of possible synergies and anomalies for a strategic shift between the two. Civilisational: The two today are the only ancient civilisations that have shown centuries-long resilience and survival instincts. Historical: Both are trying to clamber back to historical positions of heft after losing the plot to colonialism and foreign occupation for three centuries.

Pragmatism: China modernised using Western systems of finance and manufacturing, but was guided by a preference for disciplined leadership in which the State watches over entrepreneurs. India is modernising, but with a native preference for distributed leadership involving participation, diversity and inclusiveness.

Skills: China has an ancient record in exporting merchandise like gunpowder, compass and so on. India has a record of exporting ideas to do with philosophy, mathematics, astronomy and so on.

Has Bandhwari landfill overshot its area Forest dept to probe, demarcate

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The Bandhwari landfill site has seen an expansion over the past 18 months, extending well beyond its legally sanctioned boundaries, according to locals and activists. The landfill has purportedly encroached upon at least 20 acres, which residents claimed is part of the legally protected Aravali forest land, which is protected under Section 4 of the Punjab Land Preservation Act (PLPA), requiring the forest department's approval for non-forest activities. The expansion has raised alarms, particularly due to the spread of leachate—a toxic liquid byproduct of decomposing waste—into the adjacent forest zone. The Aravali ecosystem is crucial for maintaining regional air quality and groundwater recharge, and contamination poses health hazards. In response to this, a forest department team visited the site, instructing MCG to take immediate

corrective measures to prevent leachate contamination. "Leachate is spilling into the Aravali. We have told MCG to immediately take corrective steps," said Subhash Yadav, forest conservator (south Haryana). The landfill now covers more than 30 acres, intensifying pressure on the authorities to enforce compliance with legal and environmental standards. Despite warnings held earlier, including those issued in March 2023, no substantial corrective actions have been taken.

Environmental activists said the problems transcend waste management, highlighting encroachments on protected forest land by a govt agency. "This is not just about waste management anymore. It's a clear case of forest land being gradually eaten up by a govt agency itself," said Vaishali Rana, an environmentalist. Residents, like Harbir Harsana, express frustration over the encroachment and its impact on their



communities. "Landfill has been encroaching on land which is not earmarked for it. Leachate is intentionally pushed towards our village. We have been suffering. We understand that MCG needs space to process waste, but they need to follow the norms. They have enough land, and they should stick to it. MCG is encroaching on land which doesn't belong to it," Harsana added. The landfill, originally spread over 28.9 acres and reaching a height of 38m, lacks a proper

waste treatment facility. Despite this, approximately 2,200 metric tonnes of waste are added daily, exacerbating environmental concerns and threatening the surrounding ecosystem.

In response to encroachment allegations, the forest department plans to conduct an official demarcation of the area to assess the extent of illegal expansion and determine if protected land has been compromised. The assessment will likely inform further actions or penalties if violations are confirmed. "We will carry out demarcation of the area and we will get it clear," said Raj Kumar, divisional forest officer (DFO). In September 2022, National Green Tribunal (NGT) had imposed an environmental compensation of Rs 100 crore on the Haryana govt for environmental damage caused by waste dumping in the Bandhwari forest area.

Assam man with two brothers in detention pleads with police, 'We're the same family'

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Standing in pouring rain outside the Sector 40 community centre, one of the four sites turned into 'holding centres' to check citizenship of suspected illegal immigrants, Shariful Ali pleaded with cops to release his two brothers, both of whom have been detained there since Saturday.

"We're the same family," Shariful pleaded. The 26-year-old said his family belongs to Assam's Dhubri. He and his younger brothers – Sheikh Forid (20) and Mohammed Majidur Rahman (18) – were at their home in Baliawas basti in the city when police knocked on their door last week. "They came and said we had to be verified. Around 26 people from the basti were first taken to a police station. Randomly, half of us were told we can leave as our verification will be done later. Thirteen, including my brothers, were taken to the centre," Shariful said on Wednesday. The sanitation worker's brothers are among around 250 people detained and kept in four 'holding centres' in the city – Sector 40, Sector 10A, Badshapur and Manesar – for verification of documents, part of the drive to identify Bangladeshis and Rohingyas illegally living in India.

On May 2, the Union home ministry released a notice, listing a set of guidelines for all states and Union territories to follow as they identify, detain and deport illegal immigrants.

Shariful said he has provided his brothers' identity documents, including Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, PAN cards, and even the National Register of Citizenship (NRC) status, to police. But he hasn't received any update, nor has he been able to speak to them. "They are not allowing us to talk on the phone. My brothers' phones are with the cops," Shariful said. At the Badshapur holding centre, which is more heavily guarded, only silhouettes of detainees can be seen.

Handicapped CA stripped, filmed in police lockup, rights panel imposes Rs 50k fine on cops

Gurgaon. (Agency)

A chartered accountant (CA) was stripped inside Saran police station lockup, and a video of the incident, filmed by his brother-in-law with the help of police, was shared on social media. Taking cognisance of the incident, Haryana Human Rights Commission (HHRC) imposed a fine of Rs 50K on a sub-inspector and a constable, ordering that the amount be deducted from their salary. CA Anil Thakur, who is also a person with physical disability, was going through a dispute with his wife. On April 6, 2021, his wife filed a complaint against him under sections 354D (stalking) and 506 (criminal intimidation) of IPC at Saran police station, following which he was arrested from his residence in Faridabad on May 24, 2021, and taken to Saran police station. In his complaint, he alleged that while in custody, he was stripped, photographed, and filmed, and that these videos were later circulated on social media. The incident, which was a grave violation of his human rights, caused him extreme mental trauma and public humiliation, he said. The CA approached HHRC in June 2021, following which the commission sought a report on the incident from Faridabad police commissioner. The report, submitted in



committee, in its report, said that while the man was kept naked in the lock-up, it was a voluntary act and done due to the heat. The CCTV footage could not be retrieved, it added. After the commission went through the report and gave the police directions to review it, a fresh report was submitted by the police. In this it was

mentioned that ASI Jagwati and constable Rakesh Kumar detained the man and instructed him to remove his clothes, leaving him with only his underwear on. The report admitted the negligence of the officials in performance of their duties. The full bench of the commission, comprising chairperson Justice Lalit Batra and members Kuldip Jain and Deep Bhatia, observed that the conduct of police amounted to a serious violation of the human rights of the man. "The conduct of police officials constitutes a blatant abuse of authority and breach of the minimum standard of human treatment," said the commission. "Reducing a detainee to a semi-nude condition, without cause and in a custodial setting, constitutes humiliation and psychological abuse," it said, adding that it was "shocking" that the police even permitted his relative to record his videos during his detention. Puneet Arora, protocol, information & public relations officer of the commission, said that HHRC ordered the payment of Rs 50,000 as compensation to the victim and the amount was to be recovered equally from the guilty police officials – ASI Jagwati and Constable Rakesh Kumar. "Police custody must not turn into a site of torture and shame."

Garbage left to rot as sanitation workers don't turn up for duty fearing crackdown in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

As police began detaining suspected illegal immigrants, especially those from the Bengali-speaking minority community, several neighbourhoods in the city are struggling with mounting garbage and deteriorating sanitation conditions. Residents say that garbage collection has come to a near halt in many sectors and colonies, with sanitation workers failing to turn up for duty since the crackdown began. With nowhere else to dispose of it, some are resorting to dumping garbage in open spaces, further adding to the civic mess. Rajkumar Yadav,

RWA president of Sector 46, said, "This has become a full sanitation crisis. Garbage wasn't picked up from our households for over a week. It's rotting in the heat, and the stench is spreading to nearby homes. Some are even dumping waste in open plots. MCG has not provided any backup plan." Across several parts of the city – including Sectors 9A, 10, 37D, 46, and arterial stretches like Southern Peripheral Road – mounds of garbage now lie swarming with flies, stray dogs, and cattle. Suraj Bholi, general secretary of the Sector 9A RWA, echoed the concern, saying the situation was spiralling out of control. are

fed up with the MCG functioning. They give contracts to firms that don't even have sufficient vehicles or manpower to collect the waste regularly. Even the private vendor has now suddenly disappeared. Many of the workers haven't shown up since the police started detaining people," he said.

Meanwhile, MCG officials confirmed that waste collection has slowed down in several zones and attributed the disruption to crunch in manpower. "We are aware of the shortfall and have asked the agencies to engage backup staff and hire locals where possible."

The Sikh Times 7

News box

Gurgaon now pollution blind as sole reading station goes offline

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The city, one of India's most-polluted urban areas, has been without real-time air quality monitoring for the past 10 days. The lone functional Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Station (CAQMS) in the city, located at Gwalpahari and operated by IMD, last recorded readings on July 13. Since then, even this station went offline. What this means is that for over a week now, no government-run air quality monitor in Gurgaon is providing AQI data to the public, state pollution control board and national dashboards like CPCB. This didn't happen overnight. The Sector 51's station stopped working in April, while Teri's monitor went quiet in March and Vikas Sadan's in Jan.

What happens when data disappears?

First, regulatory agencies lose visibility. Without live PM2.5 and PM10 data, there's no way to evaluate day-to-day pollution readings or activate emergency measures like GRAP. Public health advisories can't be issued, and residents with respiratory or cardiac conditions have no information to base their day's planning on. This isn't a minor glitch. It's a complete data blackout in a city where the air is often dangerously dirty. "Monitoring and availability of air quality data is the first step to improve air, and it is even more critical for a city like Gurgaon, which sits in one of the most polluted airsheds globally," said Sunil Dahiya, founder and lead analyst at Envirocatalysts. "HSPCB, CPCB and IITM must urgently coordinate to resolve tendering delays and restore the system. Pollution control efforts need to be data-driven," he added. Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) analyst Manoj Kumar said the situation needed urgent attention. "With the peak pollution season just a few months away, transparency and timely warnings for the public are non-negotiable."

Fake diplomat at work: Flags and high-end cars

Noida. (Agency)

Special superintendent of police (STF) Sushil Ghule said central agencies were on the lookout for Jain, but it was an anonymous tipoff that took the STF to bungalow number KB-45 in Kavi Nagar at 10pm on Tuesday. Over the next seven hours — the raid continued till 3pm on Wednesday — the team scanned and seized volumes of documents, allegedly linked to an elaborate job scam and the hawala money network. Jain had morphed photos to show him in the company of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former President APJ Abdul Kalam. He had padded the house with flags of foreign nations. The cars parked in front embellished the appearance of the house as an important compound.

SP (Noida STF) Raj Kumar Mishra told TOI that during interrogation, Jain claimed that he was appointed an adviser to the 'principal of Seborga', which is a self-proclaimed principality in the Italian riviera, in 2012. He also claimed that in 2016, the Grand Duchy of Westarctica — another micronation in western Antarctica — appointed him honorary ambassador. Jain made similar claims for Ladonia, a micronation in Sweden, and Paulovia, which seems to be a name cooked up by him. Micronations, to be clear, are not sovereign countries and aren't recognised entities. Micronations are distinct from microstates, such as Liechtenstein or Vatican City, whose sovereignty over extremely small territories and populations is internationally recognised.

According to investigators, Jain started to operate his 'embassy' from his parents' property — bungalow number KB-35 — in the same colony in 2016. "For nine years, he operated out of this house before shifting to KB-45, which is owned by a person called Sushil Kumar," Mishra said, adding cops were yet to ascertain how many people Jain may have cheated during this period and what his exact modus operandi was.

Rain floods Shimla market, damages goods worth lakhs, shopkeepers fume

Noida. (Agency)

Hit by repeated waterlogging and crumbling infrastructure during monsoon season, traders at Shimla Market in Sector 12 have urged the Noida Authority to carry out urgent repairs and give the decades-old commercial hub a facelift on par with renovated markets in Sector 29.

On Tuesday, following heavy rainfall, 5-6 inches of water accumulated inside the market premises, flooding over 20 shops and damaging goods worth lakhs, shopkeepers said. "The drains haven't been cleaned for months. As a result, rainwater enters shops, forcing many of us to shut down completely," said a trader, requesting anonymity.

The market, located in Block F of Sector 12 and developed by the Noida Authority over three decades ago, houses dry fruit wholesalers, bookstores, boutiques, fruit sellers, and gift shops. Traders said the lack of maintenance and infrastructure upgrades has made business increasingly difficult, especially during monsoons.

On Tuesday, Sanjeev Kumar, senior vice president of the District Development Residents Welfare Association (DDRWA) submitted a memorandum to Noida Authority CEO Lokesh M, demanding immediate redressal. "This market has been neglected for years. We want the same kind of redevelopment that Brahmaputra Market and Ganga Shopping Complex in Sector 29 have received, which includes covered drains, proper lighting, uniform signboards, and sitting spaces," said Kumar.

Traders said persistent flooding and dampness have not only affected their inventories but also raised structural safety concerns. "The roofs are leaking, and some are on the verge of collapse. It's a danger to life," Kumar added. Despite several complaints, traders allege that the Noida authority has turned a blind eye. "Our goods are perishable, moisture ruins everything. How are we supposed to run businesses like this?" said another trader.

Many migrants leave Gurgaon amid police drive to identify 'illegals'

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Making a living washing cars in the city for the last six years, Karimul Islam was among several Palra residents packing their bags and leaving on Wednesday.

A backpack slung over his shoulder and a one-way flight ticket in hand – paid for by his worried family back in West Bengal – 24-year-old Karimul boarded an auto, saying this was perhaps the last time he would see Gurgaon. In this slum settlement, and in several such colonies in the city, hundreds of migrant families have either left or are preparing to leave, afraid of "being targeted" in the ongoing drive to identify Bangladeshis and Rohingyas living illegally in the Millennium City. "I have documents like Aadhaar, voter ID, but they're not listening to anyone. They are rounding up people randomly and detaining them. I had to ask my family for money to buy a flight ticket because trains are not available at such a short notice," said Karimul. Over the last six days, around 400 people have been rounded up in the city, according to sources, for verification of documents. "Afraid as we don't know what's next?"

Around 250 are still inside the four community centres in Sector 10A, Badshapur, Sector 40 and Manesar that are doubling as detention centres.

Friday night was a nightmare. "They took away five people from our house. If my husband had been home, he would have been taken too," she said. "They are targeting the men first. My husband and children are leaving the city. I haven't gone to work because of constant fear,"



she said.

Sukhi Bibi added, "Agar hum Bengal se hain, aur Bengal bolte hain, kya hum Bangladeshi ho gaye? West Bengal is desh ka hissa hai (if we are from Bengal and speak Bengali, does that make us Bangladeshi?) West Bengal is part of this country." Asiman Bibi (20) said her husband was taken six days ago and the family has not been allowed to meet him since. "We don't know where he is. He

used to clean cars. We have all his documents, but they are not even telling us which centre he's in," she said. Shabnam Bibi, who claimed that her husband was picked up despite having valid identity documents, sat outside her locked room in Sector 58 holding her two children. "We have lived here for 12 years, worked hard, paid school fees. Now we are suddenly criminals? My husband was rounded up and I don't know where to go now," she said.

With no communication from the authorities, legal aid or clarification on the verification process, there is a vacuum in which all kinds of rumours, like talk of mass detentions and deportations, have begun to swirl, amplifying the sense of panic. "We have been working in Gurgaon for the last six years but there is no one to stand with us now. So people are just leaving with just a bag, even without tickets," said Asadul Sayeed, a scrap dealer in Palra. Taramiya said he was among those who were rounded up in Baliawas and taken to a police station for verification four days ago. "They wrote our names in the register. When we were being taken to the police station, the cops claimed that we would be released after verification.

Mumbai blasts: Top court halts acquittal order, but accused won't be re-arrested

The Supreme Court said the Bombay High Court judgment, acquitting all the accused in the 7/11 Mumbai blasts case, shall not be treated as a precedent.

Agency New Delhi.

The Supreme Court on Thursday paused the Bombay High Court verdict in the 2006 Mumbai train bomb blasts case, but said the 12 acquitted won't be re-arrested. The top court said the High Court's acquittal should not be treated as a precedent and issued a notice to the accused on the Maharashtra government's petition challenging the High Court order. "All respondents were released and thus no question to bring them back to prison. However, on the question of law, we will say that impugned judgment is not treated as precedent in any other cases. Therefore, to that extent, let there be a stay on the impugned judgment," the Supreme Court said.

On Wednesday, the top court said granting a stay on an acquittal would be a "rarest of rare" incident. The Supreme Court order



came after Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Maharashtra, said that the High Court judgment could affect other trials under the Maharashtra Control

MUMBAI TRAIN BLASTS: A BRIEF BACKGROUND

On July 11, 2006, a series of bomb blasts

ripped through seven Mumbai local train coaches, killing 189 people and injuring 824.

In 2015, a special court awarded death sentences to five of the 13 convicts. Seven others were given life imprisonment, while one was acquitted. One of the convicts sentenced to death died of Covid in 2021.

On Monday, a bench of Justices Anil Kilar and Shyam Chandak set aside the special court verdict and acquitted all the accused, saying the prosecution "utterly failed to establish offences beyond reasonable doubt" against the accused.

Punching holes in the probe of the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the High Court said it found the statements of nearly all witnesses unreliable. It also said the prosecution failed to identify the type of bomb used for the blasts.

Even Tech Giants Can Be Non-State Actors: RSS's Ram Madhav On New World Order

Agency New Delhi.

The world in 21st Century will be multipolar instead of bipolar and would come with a new set of global institutions, non-state actors and challengers, said Ram Madhav - ideologue of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, the BJP's ideological mentor, in his new book - "The New World: 21st Century Global Order and India".

"The world we are entering into will be very different from what we have lived in for last seven decades," Ram Madhav told NDTV in an exclusive interview, pointing out that while many are saying so, no one has yet defined it.

"I proposed in this book that we must understand that the world in 21st century will not be bipolar. It will be multipolar and it will be heteropolar. Heteropolar in the sense that while countries will rise as important poles -- we have risen as an important pole. World recognizes that. So is Russia today. So is Turkey today," he said.

The first very important change, he said, will be the rise of China "and at the same time, a decline in the influence of the western powers especially America".

"When I say decline, I am not at all saying that probably America will disappear or it will no longer be there as a power," he added.

There are other nations that are rising as well, including India, and as long as they do not come into their own, there could be a cold war between these two power centres. What would eventually emerge is a multipolar world, where nations would play a key role in their immediate and extended neighbourhood, he said.

India, China Review LAC Situation, Plan 'Special Representatives' Talks

Agency New Delhi.

India and China on Wednesday reviewed the overall situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and prepared the ground for the next edition of the Special Representatives' dialogue on the boundary question. The two sides discussed the issues at a meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) that took place in Delhi.

They expressed "satisfaction with the "general prevalence of peace and tranquillity in the border areas, leading to gradual normalisation of bilateral relations", the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. It said India and China also prepared for the next round of the Special Representatives' (SR) talks to be held in India later this year.

While India's Special Representative for the dialogue is National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, the Chinese side is headed by Foreign Minister Wang Yi. Wang is expected to visit India for the upcoming SR talks. The last episode of the SR dialogue was held in Beijing in December last year.

On the WMCC talks, the MEA said the two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas.

They "agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts on issues related to the boundary affairs at the diplomatic and military levels through established mechanisms", it said in a statement.

"With a view to advancing effective border management and sustaining peace and tranquillity, the two sides deliberated on various measures as explored during the previous 23rd round of SR talks," the MEA said.

The Indian delegation at the WMCC talks was led by Gourangalal Das, the joint secretary (East Asia division) in the MEA. The Chinese side was headed by Hong Liang, the director general of the boundary and oceanic affairs department of the Chinese foreign ministry. Hong also called on Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri.

Dogs Mistake Leopard For Cat, Chase It Into Alley. Then This Happens

In the 15-second video clip, a leopard is seen running across a road. A gang of nine dogs, appearing to mistake it for a large cat, begins to chase it.

Agency New Delhi.

A group of stray dogs chased an animal across a street, thinking it was a cat. Moments later, they realised it was a leopard. The incident, captured on CCTV, occurred on July 3, around 11:00 pm. The footage has since gone viral on social media.

In the 15-second video clip, a leopard is seen running across a road. A gang of nine dogs, appearing to mistake it for a large cat, begins to chase it. As they get closer and recognise the animal, they immediately stop and turn back, running away in fear in all directions.

The video was posted on X with the caption, "They thought it's just a cat." A user on X wrote, "Look at the way

they all ran away after going in like 'I think one dog didn't come back,' a comment read.

Last year, a leopard entered a house garden in Rajasthan and attacked a pet dog. CCTV footage shows the leopard pouncing on the dog and biting its neck. The attack stopped when the owner rushed out on hearing the dog's cries. The leopard fled, and the dog escaped inside. Earlier, in Maharashtra's Nashik, two street dogs chased away a leopard that tried to attack them outside a house. The incident, caught on CCTV, shows the leopard sneaking into the lawn and attempting to attack a sleeping dog.

Another dog intervened, barked, and together they scared the leopard away. The leopard later returned but was again chased off.



themselves and were trying to act like bosses here too, but once they started running, they couldn't even find a way to escape."

Railways Sanctions Rs 1.9 Lakh Crore Projects In 4 Years: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Agency New Delhi.

A total of 237 projects (40 new lines, 17 gauge conversion, and 180 doubling) of a total length of 9,703 kms -- costing about Rs 1,90,333 crore -- have been sanctioned across Indian Railways during the last three fiscals and the current financial year (FY26) to date, the Parliament was informed on Wednesday.

Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told the Lok Sabha, in a written reply, that during the last three years (2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25) and the current FY26, 892 surveys (267 new line, 11 gauge conversion, and 614 doubling) of total length 61,462 km have been sanctioned across Indian Railways. While from 2009-2014, the total tracks commissioned were for 7,599 km (4.2 km per day), a total of



34,428 km tracks were sanctioned (8.57 km per day) from 2014-2025.

"As a result of comprehensive planning of Railway projects under PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan and better coordination among various stakeholders, the sanction of service, sanction of projects and the pace of laying/commissioning of new tracks have also increased," the minister said.

The PM Gati Shakti Institutional mechanism is being extensively used for ground surveys, land records, alignment of route and has led to enhancement in the quality of preparation of the Detailed Project Report and reduction in project cost.

The Indian Railway launched the Amrit Bharat Station scheme aimed at providing world-class amenities to passengers and improving efficiency in train operations at railway stations. So far, 1,337 stations have been taken up for redevelopment in the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, according to the minister. To enhance passenger experience and provide a comfortable journey, the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat trains, Amrit Bharat Trains and Namo Bharat Rapid Rail with modern features have been introduced on Indian Railways.

'We are from West Bengal, why do police think we're Bangladeshis?': Verification drive in Gurgaon sparks panic among migrant community

Agency New Delhi.

"Hum log bangali bolte hain toh Bangladeshi ban gaye kya (If we speak Bengali, does that make us Bangladeshi?)" said Chavi Bibi (39) as she stared at the 'holding centre' where her husband has been kept for at least the last three days. "Two days ago, I managed to get a glimpse of him but then they closed the gates/windows," she added.

Like Bibi's husband, several people — mostly men — have been rounded up by the police as part of a 'routine verification' drive to identify Bangladeshis and Rohingya living illegally in the city. The move has sparked fear among the migrant community from Bengal, many of whom work as labourers, cooks or domestic help. Several have left the city or are preparing to leave.

The 'holding centre' is inside a community centre in Sector 40. The rain has turned the path to the gate muddy. Along the boundary walls are a few policemen — some sit on chairs, others are making

rounds. Asked why people are being rounded up, one of the police officers said, "It is a routine check. All the facilities are there inside — food, water and shelter. They will be let go once the checks are complete."

Bibi recounted how her husband was picked up. "They came around 2 pm a week ago when we were eating. They did not even let him change into proper clothes. They did not tell us where he was for three days. Then I got a call from him saying he was in Badshahpur, then Sohna, then Subhash Chowk, then here. He was picked up because he had two Aadhaar cards, one with an updated address as he had to link it to a bank account here."

The family said they are from Malda in West Bengal. Bibi works as a cook in homes while her husband does odd jobs including dog walking. The couple has two kids, daughters aged 17 and 9. Bibi alleged they were asked by the police if they got married in Bangladesh. "Our

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least three years.

"Pura darr ka mahaul hain (There is fear in the air). 150 of us have already left for home (West Bengal). I have also booked train tickets for my family and I; we will leave today. Though no one was detained from here, but still..." The police came once at 2 pm Tuesday, he added.

Videos doing the rounds of some of those detained being allegedly beaten up have added to the fear. "Have we come here to get beaten? We came here looking for work, not to fight over our documentary proof. We stay awake all night now, alert. My brother-in-law has been detained for nine days," Farukh Sarkar, 26, said.

The slum's male residents are masons and labourers, while women are domestic help. "What kind of law and order is this?" Sarkar added, slamming the wooden pole keeping the roof steady in frustration. Another resident said the raids have affected their children too.



that eight Bangladeshis have been detected in the exercise so far, who will be deported.

An emptying slum

At the slum in the Gada market area, behind Nirvana Country and DPS International School, in Sector 50, things are more grim. Mehta Ali, 50, originally from Dakshin Dinajpur district, said migrant workers like him have lived here for at

NEWS BOX

Manchester Test: Stuart Broad backs Rishabh Pant to bat with 'bruised foot'**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Stuart Broad has backed Rishabh Pant to bat despite a bruised foot in the fourth Test between India and England at Old Trafford, Manchester. On Day 1, India faced a major setback when Pant was forced off the field after receiving a painful blow to his right foot. The injury happened late in the final session when Chris Woakes bowled a sharp yorker that beat Pant's attempted no-look sweep and struck him just below the toe. Pant was visibly in pain immediately after the impact. Physios rushed in, and after a brief on-field assessment, he was taken off via ambulance for further treatment. Broad expressed that he enjoyed commenting with Pant at the crease and hoped for his speedy recovery following medical care. "I can't remember too many cricketers come to England and have the reception he has had every time he has walked out to bat. I



think cricket fans are just excited to pay the money to get your seat in the stadium and then he comes out and away he goes," Broad said while speaking on Sky Sports. "He's been wonderful to commentate on and wonderful to watch. Less wonderful to bowl at, to be honest because you go length and you don't know whether it's going to the forward defense or he's going to charge to hit you out of the ground. But yeah, he's wonderful for world cricket," Broad said.

"So, we hope he recovers quickly. But looking at that, his foot swelled up real quickly. But the medical staff will be icing that every hour for the whole night to get rid of that swelling. Hopefully, there's no major damage and he can come out to bat again with a bruised foot," Broad added.

China Open: Satwik-Chirag reach quarterfinals, HS Prannoy crashes out**New Delhi. (Agency)**

India's top men's doubles pair Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty marched into the quarterfinals of the China Open Super 1000 tournament with a hard-fought straight-game win over Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Bagas Maulana on Thursday. However, it was curtains for HS Prannoy in the men's singles after a gruelling three-game loss. Satwik and Chirag, the former world No. 1 duo, showcased their trademark resilience and tactical acumen to edge past the eighth-seeded Indonesian pair 21-19, 21-19 in a tightly-contested second-round encounter in Changzhou. The victory came after 46 minutes of intense action and marked yet



another solid performance by the Commonwealth Games champions, who are looking to rediscover their rhythm ahead of the Paris Olympics. The match was a test of patience and precision as both pairs refused to give an inch. In the opening game, Leo and Bagas enjoyed early leads at 8-6 and 14-12, but Satwik and Chirag stayed in the hunt. A crucial five-point burst from 14-16 to 19-16 turned the tide in the Indians' favour, and they closed out the game with sharp net play and swift court coverage. The second game followed a similar trajectory, with the Indonesians pulling ahead 14-10. But once again, the Indian pair clawed their way back, levelling the scores at 18-18 before holding their nerve in the final exchanges to seal a confidence-boosting win.

In contrast, it was a disappointing outing for world No. 9 HS Prannoy, who went down fighting against Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien Chen. After taking the first game 21-18, Prannoy struggled with the pace and consistency of the sixth seed, eventually losing 21-15, 21-8 in the next two games. The match lasted 65 minutes, with Chou dominating the decider as Prannoy's challenge fizzled out.

Aitana Bonmatí leads Spain past Germany 1-0, sets up Euro 2025 final against England

Spain moved within one victory of adding the European Championship trophy to its collection after winning the World Cup and Nations League in the past two years.**ZURICH. (Agency)**

Aitana Bonmatí scored in extra time to send Spain to its first Women's European Championship final with a 1-0 win over Germany on Wednesday, setting up a repeat of the 2023 World Cup title match.

A stubborn Germany performance had seen it take the world champions to extra time and Spain needed a superb strike from the two-time Ballon d'Or winner to secure a first win in nine attempts against Germany.

"I feel so proud. We deserved this," Bonmatí said. "We have played a great tournament throughout. We had a hard fight tonight, of course, because we were playing Germany. First to beat Germany and then to advance to

the final of the Euros, who could ask for more?" In the 113th minute, Athenea del Castillo threaded the ball through to Bonmatí, who got past Rebecca Knaak with a clever dummy and turn before squeezing home an audacious attempt from the tightest of angles. "We had analyzed her and knew that she would leave the near post unprotected, and that is what happened. I just slotted it home," Bonmatí said. Spain moved within one victory of adding the European Championship trophy to its collection after winning the World Cup and Nations League in the past two years. Montse Tomé's team will face defending champion England on Sunday in a repeat of the World Cup final that Spain won 1-0 two years ago.

England also needed extra time for a 2-1 win over Italy on Tuesday. It was a tough end to a stellar tournament for Berger, who had been the star of Germany's dramatic quarterfinal against France. "I take the blame for that. The near post must be shut, absolutely," Berger said. "That's why I'm even more



disappointed in myself. "I can make as many saves as I want, but that one should have been mine, and that's why I'm incredibly sorry. For the team, not for me, but for those who gave their all." Germany coach Christian Wück absolved Berger of any blame, and instead acknowledged her "saves that got us to where we are." "We imagined it differently and to concede just before the end because of such a stroke of genius, that makes it incredibly bitter," he added. Germany was

bidding for a record-extending ninth European title but it was up against the world champion and pre-tournament favorite. It almost surprised Spain early on when Klara Bühl ran onto a long ball from goalkeeper Berger, but her angled drive went narrowly past the right post. Germany managed to stifle Spain's attack, which didn't have a real sight of goal until the 21st minute when Berger made a fantastic save to tip a shot over the bar from the tournament's top goalscorer Esther González. Giovanna Hoffmann should have given Germany the lead in the 29th but she missed the ball right in front of goal, with a fresh air shot, after excellent play by Jule Brand. Spain ended the half strongly, however, and went closest to breaking the deadlock shortly before the interval when Irene Paredes headed a corner off the post and González's overhead kick was blocked.

Berger also had to make two smart saves in stoppage time, to deny first Gotham FC teammate González and then Cláudia Pina.

Not everything goes as you thought: Marcus Rashford on Man United amid Barcelona move

Rashford moves to FC Barcelona on a season-long loan**He accepts that Manchester United are going through a period of change****Rashford will wear the No.14 jersey for Barcelona****Barcelona. (Agency)**

Marcus Rashford chose to take the high road when asked about his former club, Manchester United, during his unveiling as a Barcelona player. The England international was officially presented by the Spanish giants earlier this week and spoke at length about his move, his ambitions at the club, and the situation he left behind in Manchester. During the press conference, a reporter asked Rashford about Gary Lineker's recent comments on his transfer,

in which the former England striker allegedly said that "it was United that was the problem, not Rashford." In response,



Rashford avoided controversy and instead showed understanding of the changes taking place at Old Trafford. Rashford has officially made the switch to FC Barcelona for a season-long loan for the 2025-26 season. The situation with United is that the club is in a period of change, and they have been for a while," Rashford said. "I don't have anything bad to say about Manchester United. It's been an important part of not only my career but just my life." Rashford added that he remains grateful for

everything the club did for him, having spent his entire career at United since making his debut in 2016. "I am grateful for the opportunities to play for them. But football is the same as life, and not everything goes as simply as you may have thought. This is my next step, my next chapter, and I'm fully focused on this, trying to improve myself and help the team bring trophies."

FULLY FOCUSED ON BARCELONA

The 26-year-old forward is keen to start a new chapter in Spain, choosing the No. 14 shirt at Barcelona — once worn by his idol Thierry Henry. He also expressed a desire to follow in the footsteps of Gary Linker, who played for Barca in the late 1980s. "That's where I'm focused right now. I don't have anything to say about Manchester United and hope that they're successful in the future," he said. Back in Manchester, United have started their summer rebuild with the signings of Matheus Cunha and Bryan Mbeumo. More changes are expected at Old Trafford in the coming weeks as they look to reshape the squad for the new season.

Zahaan Hemrajani achieves top 10 finish at U17 Open Skiff World Championships in Japan

Mumbai's Zahaan Hemrajani secured a top 10 overall finish at the prestigious U17 Open Skiff World Championships, held from July 17 to 23 in Nishinomiya, Japan. His result marks one of the highest-ever finishes by an Indian sailor at this global youth event.**New Delhi. (Agency)**

In a landmark moment for Indian sailing, Mumbai's Zahaan Hemrajani secured a top 10 overall finish at the prestigious U17 Open Skiff World Championships, held from July 17 to 23 in Nishinomiya, Japan. His result marks one of the highest-ever finishes by an Indian sailor at this global youth event. The championship was organised by the International Open Skiff

Association, a recognised youth class under World Sailing - the global governing body for the sport. Zahaan's campaign was nothing short of extraordinary. After competing in the first three races with faulty equipment - a setback that left him at



a clear disadvantage - he staged a remarkable comeback. Demonstrating exceptional resilience and tactical skill, he went on to win two races and secured top-10 finishes in nearly half of his heats - a feat no Indian sailor has achieved in this class before. "This means the world to me,"

Zahaan said after the event. "I'm incredibly grateful to my coach Umesh Naiksatam and the entire 24Seven Sailing Team for pushing me every step of the way, and to my mentor Amish Ved for his constant belief and guidance."

He also extended heartfelt thanks to his parents, Nilima and Ashish Hemrajani (founder of BookMyShow), for their unwavering support. In addition, he acknowledged Captain Abhimanyu Patankar of the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre (INWTC) and the Royal Bombay Yacht Club (RBYC) for their vital roles in his development as a sailor. Zahaan further credited the Government of Maharashtra, whose timely intervention ensured access to Parna Lake during the monsoon - a crucial factor in maintaining uninterrupted training during the off-season. His world-class performance not only shines a spotlight on India's emerging sailing talent but also sets a strong precedent for the nation's future in international junior sailing.

The batter spoke on the pitch and said there was variable bounce in it which needed to be negotiated in the beginning. "There's a bit of variable bounce. It was a two-paced wicket as well and overcast was also there. So, throughout the day there were cloud covers and the ball was moving and doing something or the other from the wicket. I want to negotiate that really well and I thought I played a bit tighter and took some time on the wicket."

Day 1 was statement to those who think Indian line-up scores only on flat tracks: Manjrekar

Meanwhile, former England batter Jonathan Trott felt the new ball on Day 2 could determine the course of the match.**MANCHESTER. (Agency)**

India's young batting line-up made a strong statement on the opening day of the fourth Test in typical English conditions, proving they don't just score runs on flat pitches or against depleted attacks, feels former cricketer Sanjay Manjrekar. Openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (58) and KL Rahul (46) gave India a solid start, before Sai Sudharsan (61) and Rishabh Pant, who retired hurt on 37, stitched together a 72-run stand to take

the visitors to 264 for 4 at stumps. "For those skeptics who believe this young Indian batting line-up only gets runs on flat pitches or against weakened attacks, today was a statement," Manjrekar said on Jio Hotstar. "These were typical English conditions with a much-improved bowling attack. Stokes bowled more overs, Liam Dawson was an upgrade over Shoaib Bashir, and Archer added edge to the line-up."

"For India to finish at 264/4 under those conditions -- that's another solid batting display. Thankfully, Rishabh Pant managed to get some bat on the ball before retiring hurt. Hopefully, he'll return to bat on Day 2," he added. Sudharsan, playing only his second Test, struck a maiden half-century after returning to the XI, having missed the second and third matches of the series.

He looked nervous at the start, which is natural after being dropped post the first Test.

That kind of omission can affect confidence. But he grew into his innings," Manjrekar said. "He looked nervous to begin with, which was expected after being dropped post the first Test. That kind of omission dents your confidence. But as the innings progressed, his composure returned." He has an organised game, and even though he's made his mark in T20s, the way he scores reflects the fundamentals you need in Tests. These were tough conditions to bat at No. 3

after being asked to bat first. "He got some hard-earned runs, and more importantly, he seems like someone who won't get carried away by one good outing. A grounded, academic type who prepares diligently. That's the kind of player who builds a long Test career." Earlier, Jaiswal and Rahul had taken India to 93 without loss, laying a firm foundation. "The morning session clearly went in India's favour. They carried their form with excellent defensive technique and strong minds. India have always struggled to find a consistent opening pair in overseas conditions, but they now seem to have one."

"A left-right combination that scores hundreds and looks dependable -- that's rare. You can expect consistency from this pair, and that's significant." Meanwhile, former England batter Jonathan Trott felt the new ball on Day 2 could determine the course of the match.



EPFO now on DigiLocker: See how it helps you

New Delhi. (Agency)

Good news for over six crore EPFO members, checking your provident fund details has become much simpler. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has now made its services available on DigiLocker. This means you can now view and download key documents like your UAN card, Pension Payment Order (PPO), and Scheme Certificate anytime, anywhere — straight from your smartphone. The government has been making several digital changes for EPFO members in the last few months. This new feature on DigiLocker is another step to make your provident fund details more accessible. If you use an Android phone, you can now check your PF account balance and passbook directly from the DigiLocker app, without any hassle. EPFO announced this update on X, "EPFO Services Now on DigiLocker! Access your important EPFO documents anytime, anywhere: UAN Card, Pension Payment Order (PPO), Scheme Certificate. Seamless. Secure. Smart. Empowering citizens through digital convenience!" EVERYTHING IN ONE PLACE

Earlier, people could download their PF passbook through the UMANG app. Now, with DigiLocker, you can keep all your important EPFO documents in one app along with other documents like Aadhaar or driving licence. For now, this new option is only for Android users. iPhone users will have to wait a bit longer, but they can still check their passbook using the UMANG app in the meantime.

UAN ACTIVATION MADE EASIER

EPFO has also made it easier to activate your UAN (Universal Account Number). Members can now activate it using Face Authentication on the UMANG app. Having an active UAN is very important. Without it, you cannot check your PF balance, update your bank or Aadhaar details, or withdraw your money online. It is also needed for new schemes like the ELI (Employment Linked Incentive) scheme, which aims to help four crore young people get jobs and skills training, with a budget of Rs 2 lakh crore.

Infosys shares down 1% despite good Q1 results. Should you buy, hold, or sell

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shares of Infosys were down nearly 1% in early trade on Thursday, even after the IT company reported better-than-expected results for the first quarter of FY26. The stock was trading at Rs 1,560.60 as of 9:55 am, marking a 0.88% fall for the day. In the last five days, Infosys shares have dropped 1.82%, and over the past six months, they are down by nearly 16.8%. Infosys posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 6,921 crore for the June quarter, up 8.7% compared to the same period last year. The revenue grew by 7.5% year-on-year to Rs 42,279 crore. Operating profit rose by 6.2% to Rs 8,803 crore, with an operating margin of 20.8%, slightly lower than 21.1% a year ago. Earnings per share stood at Rs 16.70, up 8.6% year-on-year. While free cash flow declined by 17.7% to Rs 7,533 crore, it still accounted for 108.8% of the net profit. The company maintained its full-year operating margin guidance of 20–22%, and slightly raised its revenue growth forecast from 0–3% to 1–3% in constant currency terms.

BROKERAGES REACT: BUY OR HOLD?

Despite the cautious outlook on spending from clients, several brokerages remain optimistic about Infosys's long-term prospects. Choice Broking has upgraded its rating to 'Buy', setting a target price of Rs 1,810. The brokerage said, "Infosys has revised up its lower end of revenue guidance from 0–3% to 1–3% for FY26E. However, the upper end was left unchanged due to continued demand uncertainty caused by tariffs and geopolitical issues."

Alphabet Q2 results: Google-parent earnings shine, beat estimates; AI drives growth across business

New Delhi. (Agency)

Google-parent Alphabet reported stronger-than-expected second-quarter earnings on Wednesday, saying that artificial intelligence "is positively impacting every part of the business." The company posted a profit of \$28.2 billion on revenue of \$96.4 billion and announced it would boost capital spending by \$10 billion this year to support rising demand for cloud services. "We had a standout quarter, with robust growth across the company," Alphabet chief executive Sundar Pichai said, according to AFP. "AI is positively impacting every part of the business, driving strong momentum," Pichai added. Search revenue experienced significant growth during the quarter, with new features including AI Overviews and the recently introduced AI mode showing positive results, according to Pichai. YouTube's advertising revenue continues its upward trajectory, alongside growth in its subscription services, as reported by Alphabet.

The company's cloud computing division is projected to generate \$50 billion in annual revenue, according to corporate forecasts. "With this strong and growing demand for our cloud products and services, we are increasing our investment in capital expenditures in 2025 to approximately \$85 billion and are excited by the opportunity ahead," Pichai noted. Following the earnings announcement, Alphabet's shares increased by nearly 2 percent in after-hours trading. Analysts have been monitoring whether the organisation's substantial AI investments are excessive and if AI-generated search summaries might reduce advertising opportunities.

Loan, lies and bribery Why Anil Ambani is facing ED heat

Multiple agencies, including the National Housing Bank, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), and Bank of Baroda shared findings and inputs that contributed to the investigation.

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has launched search operations at over 35 premises linked to companies and executives associated with Anil Ambani's Reliance Group in connection with a suspected Rs 3,000 crore loan fraud and money laundering case. The operation, which is being carried out under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), follows two

FIRs registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) — R C 2 2 4 2 0 2 2 A 0 0 0 2 and RC2242022A0003. These complaints relate to allegations of loan diversion, bribery, and cheating of public institutions by RAAGA companies, a reference to entities within the Reliance Anil Ambani Group. According to sources, multiple agencies, including the National Housing Bank, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), and Bank of Baroda shared findings and inputs that contributed to the investigation.]

ED'S FINDINGS: LOAN DIVERSION AND SHELL COMPANIES

A preliminary probe by the ED suggests that companies linked to Anil Ambani engaged in a carefully designed scheme to divert public funds and mislead financial institutions. This reportedly involved illegal diversion of loans worth around Rs 3,000 crore from Yes Bank between 2017 and 2019. Officials say that just before the loan disbursements, money was received by concerns linked to the promoters of Yes Bank. This has raised questions of



possible bribery and quid-pro-quo arrangements between bank officials and borrower firms. The ED is now investigating the alleged nexus between Yes Bank promoters and Anil Ambani-linked companies. Gross violations in Yes Bank's loan approvals were flagged. Sources in the ED said that back-dated Credit Approval Memorandums (CAMs), investments made without due diligence or credit analysis, and decisions taken in violation of the bank's own credit policy are among the irregularities found.

In several cases, loans were disbursed even before formal sanction, and amounts were passed on the same day as applications were made. Some firms that received funds reportedly had weak financial

profiles, shared common addresses and directors, and lacked proper documentation, raising red flags around shell companies and round-tripping.

RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED UNDER THE LENS

One of the key entities under ED's scanner is Reliance Home Finance Ltd (RHFL). Sebi is learnt to have shared its findings with ED after observing a dramatic jump in corporate loans disbursed by RHFL, from Rs 3,742.60 crore in FY 2017–18 to Rs 8,670.80 crore in FY 2018–19. The ED is examining whether this spike was connected to the larger loan diversion scheme. Irregular and expedited approvals, process violations, and onward lending to related parties have also been highlighted as part of the investigation into RHFL.

ACTION FOLLOWS SBI'S FRAUD DECLARATION

The ED's search operation comes just days after State Bank of India (SBI) formally declared Reliance Communications (RCom) and its promoter Anil D Ambani as 'fraud' under Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines.

India-UK FTA: What's on the table in landmark \$34 billion deal

For Indian businesses, the FTA opens up wider access to British markets by slashing tariffs and easing compliance.

New Delhi (Agency)

India and the United Kingdom are set to sign a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA) that's expected to boost bilateral trade by \$34 billion annually, dramatically reshaping the economic relationship between the two countries. Billed as the UK's most economically significant bilateral trade deal since Brexit, the FTA will be signed in London in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his British counterpart Keir Starmer, who has called it a landmark deal. Alongside it, the two countries will also unveil a long-term strategic roadmap — UK-India Vision 2035 — to deepen ties across trade, defence, climate, and education. So what's actually on the table? For Indian businesses, the FTA opens up wider access to British markets by slashing



tariffs and easing compliance. For British exporters, the deal promises a major breakthrough: average tariffs on products like soft drinks, cosmetics, medical devices and automobiles will drop from 15% to just 3%, making them significantly cheaper for Indian consumers. The UK, which already imports 11 billion worth of goods from India annually, expects the FTA to create thousands of jobs and unlock

new opportunities for British businesses. "It will drive growth in every corner of the country," Starmer said. The FTA is also expected to enhance India's export competitiveness by lowering trade barriers and simplifying procedures. Officials called the deal India's most comprehensive trade pact to date, and a crucial step in its strategy to build deeper partnerships beyond traditional blocs. Beyond trade, the Vision 2035 roadmap will focus on joint defence manufacturing, secure border technologies, climate solutions, and new education linkages. A Defence Industrial Roadmap is part of the plan, signalling a shift toward strategic co-development. The deal comes at a time when both countries are seeking reliable, diversified trade ties in a rapidly shifting global order.

No penalty for missed income tax deadlines Panel suggests in New Tax Bill

New Delhi. (Agency)

A Parliamentary panel examining the new Income Tax Bill has advised the Finance Ministry to allow individuals to file returns and claim TDS refunds even after the deadline, without facing penalties, reported by The Times of India. It has also backed tax relief on anonymous donations made to trusts that work for both religious and charitable purposes. The suggestions come from the Select Committee, which has studied the new Income Tax Bill, 2025. This new Bill is meant to replace the old Income Tax Act of 1961. According to Preeti Sharma, Partner, Tax and Regulatory Services, BDO India, "The Select Committee conducted comprehensive review of Income-tax Bill. After considering the inputs provided by various stakeholders such as domain experts, tax practitioners, industry representatives, tax officers and Non-profit organisations, the Committee presented its comprehensive report in Parliament.

NO PENALTY FOR LATE REFUND CLAIMS

At present, if you have paid tax through

TDS but your total income is not taxable, you still have to file an income tax return on time to get your money back. If you miss the deadline, you may not get the refund and could even face legal action. The committee feels this is unfair, especially for small taxpayers who do not otherwise need to file returns. So, they have asked the government to scrap the rule that forces people to file returns just for claiming refunds. This means taxpayers who missed the deadline could still get their TDS refunds without worry.

ANONYMOUS DONATIONS TO STAY TAX-FREE

The committee has also flagged a new tax rule in the Bill that says all registered non-profit organisations (NPOs) would pay 30% tax on anonymous donations. The only ones spared would be purely religious bodies. But many trusts in India do both religious and charitable work together. The panel says taxing such donations goes against the idea of taxing only real income. Many trusts receive cash donations where donor names cannot be recorded, such as

during temple visits or community events. The committee feels these funds should stay tax-free, just like they are under the current law.

At present, the 1961 Act allows religious-cum-charitable trusts to get anonymous donations without tax, except in cases where the money is meant for schools, colleges, hospitals or similar places run by the trust. The committee wants this clarity added back into the new Bill to protect such trusts. It believes the new Bill missed this point while trying to make the tax law simpler, which could hurt many genuine non-profits. It has urged the government to bring back the same rule in the new law so that these organisations do not lose out.

"Now the Lok Sabha has to debate the recommendations and identify the changes that are required in the current Bill to make it futuristic and relevant for common tax-payers. It is highly desirable to defunct the old law and bring a new law which is transparent, easy to comprehend, in line with current business requirements and help to reduce tax disputes," said Sharma.

US trade deals with Japan, Indonesia hold lessons for India

Experts believe US tariff rate on Indian exports may range between 15-20%, and India might have to give better market access to US farm goods

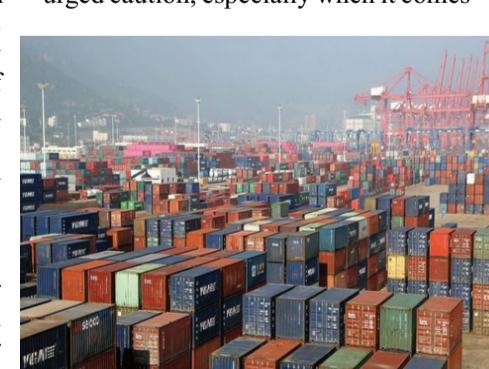
New Delhi. (Agency)

As India continues to negotiate a potential trade agreement with the United States, Washington's latest deals with Japan and Indonesia offer both valuable lessons and cautionary signals. On Tuesday, the US announced separate trade pacts with the two Asian economies. Under the agreement with Japan, the US will impose a 15% tariff on Japanese imports, lower than the initially proposed 25%. In return, Japan has agreed to grant tariff-free access to US farm products and commit a

significant investment of \$550 billion in the US economy.

Indonesia has secured a reduction in US tariffs to 19% from a proposed 40%. In exchange, Jakarta will eliminate tariffs on 99% of US exports, effectively opening its market to a wide range of American industrial, tech, and agricultural goods. Experts believe India could see a similar framework in its own trade deal. The expected US tariff rate on Indian exports may range between 15-20%. While India may be required to significantly reduce or eliminate tariffs on US imports, it could still enjoy a relative advantage over countries like Vietnam and Indonesia. The US has imposed a 20% tariff on Vietnamese exports. "Even if the US settles for a 15-20% tariff on Indian goods, that would put India in a relatively better position compared to many ASEAN countries," says trade economist Ritesh Kumar Singh. Former commerce secretary Anup Wadhawan noted that unless the global community

retaliates, the US is likely to continue imposing such tariffs unchallenged. However, experts have urged caution, especially when it comes



to American demands concerning India's farm sector. Ajay Srivastava, founder of the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), says India is under pressure to allow remanufactured goods, open up its agriculture and dairy sectors, accept genetically modified (GM) feed, and adopt US rules on

digital trade and product standards. "These are fundamental shifts that could affect India's long-term ability to manage its economy, protect public health, and support local industries," Srivastava warned. Highlighting the stakes, he added: "For a country like India, where agriculture underpins livelihoods, food security for 700 million people, and political stability, agreeing to greater market access for US farm goods could have serious long-term consequences." Nevertheless, Wadhawan believes that India will eventually need to open its farm sector, albeit through a quota-based mechanism. Currently, India imposes an average 38% tariff on US farm exports, whereas Indian agricultural products face a much lower average levy of 5.3% in the US. Like Japan, India is facing mounting pressure from Washington to open its markets to heavily subsidized US farm goods, including GM feed and dairy products.



Pragya Jaiswal

Slays Monsoon Style In Backless Dress



Pragya Jaiswal just turned up the monsoon heat and how! In a fresh set of photos that's taking social media by storm, the actress, who was last seen in *Daaku Maharaj*, flaunts a stunning, sexy backless dress with tropical leaf prints — and it's nothing short of sensational. The look is breezy, bold and oozes effortless charm — perfect for that one magical hour when the rain pauses and everything feels like a movie scene.

The strappy dress fits her perfectly, and the open back adds a touch of boldness. Sitting by a green rooftop garden, Pragya looks effortlessly beautiful — flashing a big smile and showing that all you need is nature, nice weather, and a great outfit to win over the internet!

Her post, captioned "That one hour when Baarish stops" is set to the soothing strains of *Sahiba* by Aditya Rikhari, perfectly matching the vibe. Fans are loving the no-filter freshness. Many took to the comments section and dropped fire emojis and called her beautiful. With over 14K likes and counting, the internet has crowned this look as one of her hottest yet. Not long back, Pragya spent some dreamy days in Bali, Indonesia, and her vacation looked nothing short of magical. From beachy mornings to fun evenings, she seemed to be soaking in every bit of the island's vibe. Her post on Instagram showed just how exciting and beautiful her trip turned out to be.

On the work front, Pragya was last seen in the action drama *Daaku Maharaj*, directed by Bobby Kolli. She appeared in the film alongside Nandamuri Balakrishna, Bobby Deol, Shradha Srinath, Sachin Khedekar, Makarand Deshpande, Urvashi Rautela, Aadukalam Naren, Nithin Mehta, Ravi Kishan, VTV Ganesh, Rishi and Chandini Chowdary.

Before *Daaku Maharaj*, Pragya made her Bollywood debut with *Khel Khel Mein*, directed by Mudassar Aziz. The film featured an ensemble including Akshay Kumar, Vaani Kapoor, Fardeen Khan, Aditya Seal, Ammy Virk and Taapsee Pannu.

Shehnaaz Gill

Says 'This Isn't Fair' As Paparazzi Click Her In Messy Hairdo

Shehnaaz Gill rose to fame after *Bigg Boss 13*, where she won hearts with her natural beauty, fun personality and charm. She keeps fans entertained by sharing moments from her daily life on social media. Recently, the Punjabi singer and actress shared a funny video where she got scared when her real hair was caught on camera by the paparazzi. In the clip, Shehnaaz looked upset and said that she takes a bath every day. Even though her hair was clean, she said, "This isn't fair to me." In the clip shared on Shehnaaz's Instagram stories, one of her team members asks why

Honsla Rakh actress then repeats the same line in a funny and dramatic tone.

After her appearance in *Bigg Boss 13*, Shehnaaz Gill became a household name. But a year after the show, she surprised everyone with her major weight loss transformation. Fans were amazed by her new look and wanted to know her secret. During that time, Shehnaaz, in an interview with *ETimes*, spoke about how she managed to lose weight.

She said, "Look, lockdown chal raha hai. A large amount of work has come to a standstill all around, so I thought,

why not just go for weight loss? Some people made fun of my weight during *Bigg Boss 13*. Many people lose weight, so I thought, let me show everyone that I can be slim too. It's not difficult to lose weight if you really want to."

Shehnaaz Gill added, "Trust me, I went in for a simple reduction in my eating habits. You can say that I cut off on my non-vegetarian food, chocolates and ice cream and nothing else. But besides that, let me explain how I ate because therein lies the catch. Every day, I ate just one or two things. I wouldn't stuff too much variety in my daily consumption of food. For example, if I ate dal and moong for

lunch, I would eat the same for dinner. And I reduced the portions. If I was hungry for two rotis, I ate only one."

Mann maarke khati thi. And it started working. I was 67 kg around the time lockdown began in March, I am 55 kg now. Lost 12 kg in less than 6 months, but without doing any exercise. Just my restricted food consumption did the trick."

In the video, the woman recording Shehnaaz Gill tries to cheer her up by saying, "You're natural beauty." The



Shahid Kapoor's Film With Vishal Bhardwaj Is Not Titled Arjun Ustara or Evil; Here's The Real Name



Shahid Kapoor, who was last seen in *Deva*, is currently busy with the production of his upcoming film with Vishal Bhardwaj. While the makers haven't revealed a confirmed title for the movie yet, names like *Arjun Ustara* and *Evil* have been circulating on social media as the film's official title. However, contrary to these claims, a new name has emerged. As per a report in *Pinkvilla*, the makers have finally decided on a name. While several titles have been flooding social media, the makers have chosen *Romeo* as the final title of the movie. It is said that Shahid Kapoor will be seen in a never-seen-before avatar of a gangster with a colourful life.

Meanwhile, yesterday it was reported that a high-voltage box office clash is loading for this December, with *Raja Saab*, *Dhurandhar*, and the *Vishal Bhardwaj* directorial starring Shahid all set to clash.

Yesterday, on July 22, a Bollywood *Hungama* report mentioned that there is no change in the release date of Shahid Kapoor's next. The portal reported a source close to the development as saying, "It was the makers of Shahid Kapoor's next that took the December 5 slot first. The filming is going on at a steady pace, and the film has shaped up well. Producer Sajid Nadiadwala is confident of the product and doesn't feel the need to move from the date that he was the first one to reserve." However, an official confirmation is still awaited.

On Ranveer Singh's birthday, the makers dropped the first look of *Dhurandhar*. Apart from Ranveer, the makers also revealed the first looks of the film's other leading cast members, including Sanjay Dutt, R Madhavan, and Akshaye Khanna. The release date of *Dhurandhar* was also unveiled — December 5, 2025.

Coming to Prabhas's horror comedy, *The Raja Saab*, the film's teaser was recently released. *The Raja Saab* is produced by People Media Factory and *Visva Prasad*. The film is set to release on December 5, 2025, in five languages — Telugu, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, and Malayalam. Directed by Maruthi, the film's music is composed by Thaman S.

It Is Not Every Day You Get To See Sanya Malhotra Peel Onions



Garammm Masala started after Faisal participated in *Celebrity Masterchef*, developing culinary talents that now play an important role in the show.

Faisal Shaikh, also known as Mr. Faisu, has launched a new YouTube discussion program called *Garammm Masala* with Faisu. The format blends cooking with candid chats with celebrity guests. The show comes after Faisal participated in *Celebrity Masterchef*, where he developed his culinary talents that now play an important role in the show. For the second episode, Sanya Malhotra appeared on Faisal's show and while they cooked together, they discussed their careers as well.

Faisal Shaikh shared a short clip from the new episode on his Instagram handle. In the clip, Sanya and Faisal were seen cutting onions while discussing her career. Recalling her parents' reaction to her work, Sanya said, "Maine kuch ads kare, to papa ne woh download kare aur pendrive mein dala tha. Ab ghar mein jo bhi aata tha, he used to make them sit at home and watch all my ads." Sanya added, "Mein bachpan mein jo cheeze imagine kari thi ki main ye ye karungi apne life mein kahi na kahi kiya hai."

Faisal's show is a unique blend of a talk show combined with his culinary talents. Each episode features him preparing delectable dishes while conversing casually with guests from the entertainment and digital fields. Talking about the show, Faisal told *BuzzInContent*, "After *MasterChef*, cooking became something I loved and we wanted to make a show that let me share that. But it had to be fun, real, and something you would want to watch on YouTube. *Garammm Masala* with Faisu is exactly that, with great food, great guests, and no filters."

Sanya Malhotra was last seen as the lead in *Mrs.*, which received positive reviews. The film is a remake of the 2021 Malayalam film *The Great Indian Kitchen*, which follows a lady who marries into a patriarchal family. Moving ahead, Sanya is set to step into a brand-new role as she is all in an action-comedy. The announcement was made earlier this month. The film is being produced by *Aagaz Entertainment*.

How to overcome

Stress effectively



A leading wellness centre in the city organised an open house to make sense of what has become an urban epidemic and suggested ways to overcome it.

Last Thursday, three experts at The Health Awareness Centre in Worli, Navina Venkat, Shilpa Chawla and Anju Venkat organised a rather pertinent seminar. They addressed the subject of stress -its cause and effect, and offered possible solutions. The talk was attended by a myriad set of people. They learnt what happens to the body when we are 'stressed'. While some of us are motivated by it, some experience butterflies in the stomach. Some lose sleep, get anxious, jittery, experience a sensation in the gut, feel insecure, get cranky or get so demotivated that they almost give up. "However," Navina said, "to all these responses, there is one thing common. We have all been given a capacity to take action when required and that is known as the stress response. It's called eustress, distress or stress."

UNDERSTANDING STRESS

They defined the word 'Stress' as 'Stimulus Triggered Response, which is Excitatory, Systemic and Short Lived'. The rest of the open house was precisely about understanding this acronym.

"Activity and rest," Navina explained, "is a fundamental device that has been carried along for millions of years, and stays, and plays out in our system through two basic networks - our biological pathways and our nervous systems."

In the biological pathways, this response is expressed through catabolic action (when we use energy and when are tissues break down)

and anabolic action (when our energy is stored, tissues are built and repaired). "For the anabolic and catabolic action to take place, the stimulus of a nervous system is required. This is handled by the autonomic nervous system. This autonomic nervous system is nothing but involuntary actions that is triggered again by the sympathetic and the parasympathetic nervous system," Navina said.

"The point where the sympathetic nervous system gets aroused the most is in typical situations where it has to choose between pleasure or pain, a threat or an opportunity, preventing or promoting, what is called fleeing or fighting. Any perceived or real threat will always trigger the same sympathetic nervous system and the same catabolic response that is the fight-or-flight response. If this system wasn't there, we wouldn't be able to survive."

THREE STATES OF THE BODY

It is learnt that the body moves between three states: rest-activity-rest. Though being in the 'resting state' is what our body is constantly striving to do. "Every cell, tissue, organ, at any given point is working hard to create a stable environment inside, so that cells can function to their optimum. This is called homeostasis (stability or balance) in the body," said Navina.

"But in reality, at every given point, the body has to respond to physiological symptoms at the micro-cellular level. It has to keep adjusting our behaviour at the macro level. And along with making the physiological and behavioural adjustments at the micro and macro level, it has to keep a balance with the dance that is happening in our environment."

In the activity state, the body is thrown out of

balance because of an external stimulus - physical, physiological, environmental, social and economic in nature. For instance, bad traffic, lack of sleep, loss of a loved one, pressure at work, junk food, and disagreements. "And we think we have no control in what way our body is responding to these external stimulus. But the point is, the physiological response is always the same. Both at the micro and macro level, our body is producing the same fight-or-flight chemicals, hormones and behaviour each time we feel stressed or our stressor is out there," Navina pointed out.

IS STRESS BAD?

Stress is nothing but our body's response to the brain perceiving a threat. So, it is useful. "The reason it has become such a killer disease today is because most of us lay suspended in the second stage," she asserted. "And the stress doesn't finish inside there. It has to move to the third stage which is resting stage." So between a situation that is causing anxiety and your system dealing with it, your body comes back to a period of rest, which is a period of balance.

HOW DOES THE BODY RESPOND?

In order to understand how stress affects us, we have to understand what happens within our body when we feel an emotion. "So when we experience an emotion whether it is sight, sound, smell, taste or touch, it produces a chemical inside which moves all over the body, goes cell to cell and says, 'listen, this is what is happening and this is what we need to respond to,'" shared Shilpa. Each time we experience an emotion, we

have a chemical that is released in the body. When we are in love, we release oxytocin, when we are happy, we release endorphins. So, what happens to the body when we are stressed?

INTERNALLY

- Our body recognises a stressor
- A rapid relay of messages across the nervous system, alerts the body of the stressor
- The first message goes to the adrenal (the little cap like organs sitting on top of the kidneys). The adrenal releases adrenaline and cortisol. These are chemicals that diffuse into our blood, gearing the rest of the body in a stress response
- Adrenaline and cortisol tag the lung, heart and liver, which means oxygen, triglycerides and glucose get pumped into the blood
- Muscles contract to action
- The second message moves to the gut. It alerts the microflora of possible danger. The gut microbes move into the blood to support the immune system, slowing down the process of digestion.

EXTERNALLY

Our muscles tense and contract, pupils dilate, heart beats faster, blood pressure rises, sweat glands get activated all over the body, mouth runs dry, breathing becomes rapid and shallow, brain gets hyper alert, senses get sharpened, cholesterol and blood sugar appear elevated.

APPRaising THE SITUATION

According to Anju, the second stage is nothing but appraisal -How will I response to a situation or event? "Every response creates a feeling, which is different, and therefore,

the chemical or hormone created in them is different. The situation is the same. The action is the same. What changes it is perception. And one needs to understand this perception because that is our appraisal," she said.

She gave the example of a chair, which is stationary in a room, but if seen from out of space it is moving 1000 miles per hour. "The perception," she insisted, "is not a chemical, neither it is automatic. It is taught and learnt."

For instance, a snake to a layperson might create fear, but to a snake charmer, it is something that it works with every day. "The moment I experience fear, which is an intangible feeling, I am immediately creating something extremely real that is a real molecule called adrenaline because where thought goes, hormone goes. Your mind and body are one," said Anju. Your feeling changes according to what you have learnt and experienced and how many times you have experienced it. This is termed as the appraisal of a situation. If stress is there, action of the body is there. What is in-between is how your body is perceiving it.

WHAT CREATES STRESS?

LACK OF PREDICTABILITY:

For instance, bad traffic, a sudden tough conversation with your spouse or the maid not showing up are unpredictable situations. This unpredictable process will make your body move into excitation because your response is being triggered by that appraisal of the experience.

LACK OF CONTROL:

Lack of control in a process means your body is in continuous excitation.

LACK OF OUTLET:

The lack of feeling that when I am in a stressful situation, I have something to release it causes stress.

COPING WITH STRESS

Anju laid great emphasis on the food we consume. When we eat foods that are cheesy, for instance, we are blocking our gut. "So in that case, you are not allowing serotonin (happy hormone) to be activated. Therefore, the serotonin cannot go to the cell and say do not degenerate me," she explained. "If it is a blocker, your body has already produced C Reactive protein to make your blood thicker to cope with that onslaught. Instead, what you are putting is more thickening agents. Are you then not going to move into an embolism or blood clot? Of course, you will."

The moment you intake aerated drinks and caffeine, you are stimulating the adrenaline further. And what needs to be short lived becomes long-term. "So it will take that body much longer to move back to an inhibitory state/resting state," she said.

POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Know your signals/triggers whether it is palpitation, sweaty palms, or the need to pick up coffee
- Use your triggers (mental, emotional, physical, financial) because what you have at that time is more energy, more muscle power, oxygen and functioning capabilities. If used, from distress it will become eustress. This changes your memory, your perception on what you see as stress.
- All your senses are taking in and leaving an imprint on your cells. As human beings, we hold on to our imprints and emotions. Your body communicates stress through your individual mechanism (hair fall, eyes dilating, sleeplessness, irritability), understand it.

Viral infections more dangerous during morning: Study

Our body clock accelerates the ability of viruses to replicate and spread between cells ten times faster during the morning than by the end of the day, placing people at a higher risk of catching infection, a study involving an Indian-origin scientist has revealed.

Disruptions in body clock lead to increased virus replication and dissemination, indicating that severity of acute infections is influenced by circadian time-keeping.

"The time of day of infection can have a major influence on how susceptible we are to the disease, or at least on the viral replication, meaning that infection at the wrong time of day could cause a much more severe acute infection," said Akhilesh Reddy, Professor at University of Cambridge.

For the study, the team compared normal 'wild type' mice infected with herpes virus and influenza A virus at different times of the day, measuring levels of virus infection and spread. The mice lived in a controlled environment where 12 hours were in the daylight and the other 12 hours were dark.

The results showed that virus replication in those mice infected at the very start of the day, when these nocturnal animals start their resting



phase, the risk of infection was shown to be ten times greater than those infected by the end of the day while they were transitioning to their active phase.

Abolishing cellular circadian rhythms increased both herpes and influenza A virus infection in the mice, the researchers said. "Our results suggest that the clock in every cell determines how successfully a virus replicates. When we disrupted the body clock in either cells or mice, we found that the timing of infection no longer mattered -- viral replication was always



while it increases activity in summer, thus explaining the reason why diseases, such as influenza, are more likely to spread throughout populations during winter, said the paper published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).

Beneficial bacteria in nose can suppress pathogenic bacteria

When two bacteria interact, they inhibit the virulence of *Staphylococcus aureus*, claims a study.

According to the study conducted by senior author Dr. Katherine P. Lemon, first-author Dr. Matthew M. Ramsey and Dr. Marcelo Freire at the Forsyth Institute, besides Rebecca Gabrilska and Dr. Kendra Rumbaugh of the Texas Tech University, a further understanding of this interaction will help researchers to develop new treatments for preventing *Staphylococcus aureus* infections.

They also believe that their research on interactions between benign members of the human microbiome and bacteria that exhibit similar dual characteristics, could lead to the development of novel treatments for other diseases.

"Our research helps set the stage for the development of small molecules and, potentially, probiotic therapies for promoting health by actively managing nasal microbiome composition," said Dr. Lemon.

"This research identifies a role for *Corynebacterium* species in suppressing *Staphylococcus aureus* virulence, and is an exciting early stage in our exploration of the molecular mechanisms that sculpt the composition of the nasal microbiome and influence colonization by pathogens," she said.

"We look forward to an increase in research on commensal-pathobiont interactions within the human microbiome and an ever-increasing understanding of the significance of our beneficial bacteria partners," she added.

The full paper, titled "Staphylococcus aureus shifts towards commensalism in response to *Corynebacterium* species" is available in the *Frontiers in Microbiology* website.

