

# Sikh Student Barred from Exam for Wearing Religious Symbols

**The Sikh Times**  
**SIMMI KAUR BABBAR**

A shocking incident unfolded at Purnima University in Jaipur, Rajasthan, where a Sikh student from Punjab was allegedly barred from appearing in the prestigious Judicial Services (PCS-J) Examination due to her religious identity.

The student, who had travelled to Jaipur to take part in the exam, was reportedly denied entry at the examination centre for wearing her Kakars—the five sacred symbols of Sikhism.

According to the student, security personnel at the gate instructed her to remove her religious articles, including her Kara (steel bracelet) and Kirpan (ceremonial sword), before entering. The student refused, citing her constitutional right to religious freedom and her spiritual duty as a practicing Sikh. As a result, she was not allowed to enter the examination hall, effectively costing her the chance to appear in the career-defining test.

Disturbed by the blatant act of discrimination, the student immediately recorded video evidence of the incident and sent it to the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) via email. In response, the SGPC strongly condemned the action and termed it a "gross violation of religious freedom." SGPC officials stated that forcing a Sikh to remove their Kakars is tantamount to an attack on the Sikh identity itself.

The incident has sent shockwaves throughout Punjab and the broader Sikh diaspora across India and abroad. All major political parties in Punjab have written to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, demanding immediate action against those responsible and safeguards to prevent the recurrence of such



## Anti-Corruption Branch to Probe Barapullah Elevated Road Project: CM Rekha Gupta

**The Sikh Times**  
 New Delhi, 28 July 2025

Chief Minister Mrs Rekha Gupta, while chairing a meeting of the Expenditure Finance Committee on Monday, reviewed the under-construction Barapullah Elevated Road, Phase-III, and directed that the irregularities in the project and the payment of Rs 175 crore to the contractor be investigated by the Anti-Corruption Branch.

During the meeting, concerns were raised over the Public Works Department's (PWD) negligence and the prolonged delays in the project. The Chief Minister instructed senior officials to ensure its timely completion,



## Karnataka records 981 farmer suicides in 16 months, BJP, Congress trade blame

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Manisha Kachhadiya shielded her eight-month-old son, Dhyaansh, with her body from the flames as Air India's IC171 crashed into BJ Medical College residential quarters in Ahmedabad on June 12, killing 260 people. Despite the searing heat and thick smoke, her only instinct was to protect her infant son, who had turned out to be the youngest survivor of the air crash. Manisha not only shielded Dhyaansh that day, but as both fought burn injuries, the mother gave her skin as a shield to the 8-month-old. In a heart-warming story of survival from the Boeing 787-8 crash in Ahmedabad, Manisha and Dhyaansh were discharged from the hospital last week.

Dhyaansh is the son of Manisha and Kapil Kachhadiya, a super-speciality MCh student in urology at BJ Medical College. Kapil was on duty at the hospital when the plane crashed into the hostel on June 12. Kapil told PTI that when the plane crashed, Manisha suffered injuries, but her priority was to save their son. "There was a blackout for a second and then our residence was filled with heat," Manisha told The Times of India. At that terrifying moment, she grabbed her son and ran. Thick smoke and flames made it nearly impossible to see, and the heat left both mother and child with serious burns. "There was a moment I thought we would not make it out. But I



had to, for my child. We have both been through pain I cannot put into words," Manish added. Manisha sustained 25% burns to her face and hands. Dhyaansh suffered 36% burns across his face, both arms, chest, and abdomen.

Both were rushed to KD Hospital, where Dhyaansh was immediately admitted to the paediatric intensive care unit (PICU). The infant required ventilator support to breathe, along with fluid resuscitation, blood transfusion, and highly specialised care for his injuries.

**AIR INDIA CRASH AND A MOTHER'S INSTINCTIVE COURAGE**

The child's recovery, doctors said, was medically complex due to his age. One of the most crucial parts of his treatment was that when skin grafts were required to help heal his wounds, his mother offered her own. Manisha donated her skin to her son, becoming, quite literally, his shield once again.

## Kerala nuns arrested in Chhattisgarh for alleged conversion, Rahul Gandhi slams BJP

**Kerala. (Agency)**

Two Catholic nuns from Kerala, Sisters Vandana Francis and Preeti, were taken into custody at Durg Railway Station in Chhattisgarh on Saturday. The duo, who had reportedly arrived to pick up women coming to work at a local convent, were arrested along with a third person based on a complaint by a Bajrang Dal functionary. The complaint alleged they were forcibly converting and trafficking three girls from Narayanpur.

The arrest has triggered a political storm, with Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleging that the nuns were targeted for their faith. "Two Catholic nuns jailed in Chhattisgarh after being targeted for

negligence under the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government." She highlighted that the project, scheduled for completion in October 2017, was repeatedly delayed and eventually went into arbitration. The ruling favoured the contractor with an award of Rs 120 crore.

When the payment was withheld, the company approached the High Court, which in May 2023 ordered the PWD to pay Rs 175 crore, including interest and GST. The sum was subsequently paid during the tenure of then-PWD Minister Mrs Atishi. [continue news page 2](#)



and fair proceedings in the case. Meanwhile, UDF MPs staged a protest in the Parliament complex on Monday. Congress general secretary K C Venugopal, along with RSP MP N K Premachandran and IUML MP E T

Mohammed Basheer, held placards reading "Stop attacks on minorities" in front of the Makar Dwar steps.

Venugopal said the nuns were harassed by a "violent mob" despite no wrongdoing. "This jugalbandi between Bajrang Dal goons and the police shows the BJP's real intent towards minorities," he wrote on X.

He also accused the ruling establishment of enabling hate crimes and wrote to Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai seeking justice and constitutional protection for minorities.

## Shashi Tharoor declined to speak on Op Sindoos, refused to toe party line: Sources

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor was approached by the Leader of the Opposition's office and the party's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha to speak on Operation Sindoos during the ongoing session of Parliament. However, he declined the request, stating that he could not align with the party's current line of criticism against the government over the operation, sources told India Today on Monday.

Tharoor conveyed that he has consistently maintained the view that Operation Sindoos was a success and he would continue to stand by that assessment, the sources added. Tharoor is believed to have told the leadership that he would speak in a manner consistent with his previous public statements on the matter.

When informed that he would be expected to follow the party's critical stance if he were to speak, Tharoor opted to refrain from participating in the debate.

After a week of disruptions, Parliament is all



set to begin discussion on the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoos today during the Monsoon Session. However, continued

**Shashi Tharoor declined to take part in the Operation Sindoos as he could not align with the party's current line of criticism against the government over the operation.**

Parliament disruptions prevented the start of Operation Sindoos discussions in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The ruling BJP-led NDA and opposition parties are set to field their top leaders for the discussions in both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

The full list of speakers for today includes some big names, like Rajnath Singh, Bajyant Panda, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Tejaswi Surya, Sanjay Jaiswal, Anurag Thakur, Kamaljeet Sehrawat, Lavu Srikrishna (TDP), Harish Balyogi (TDP), Ramashankar Rajbhar (SP), Chhotalal (SP), Kalyan Banerjee (AITC), Sayoni Ghosh (AITC), K. Francis George (KC), A. Raja (DMK), K. Kanimozi (DMK), Amar Kale (NCPSP) and Supriya Sule (NCPSP).

# Dengue drive pays off: +ve cases drop 75 per cent in Bengaluru

BENGALURU.(Agency)

Sustained efforts by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to combat dengue appears to have borne fruit with just 1,676 positive cases reported in the city from January 1 till July 23. In contrast, 7,280 dengue positive cases were reported in BBMP limits during the corresponding period last year. With health officials on alert to curb the number of dengue cases, the Palike has achieved more than 75 per cent drop in the positive cases, and, as per data from the health and family welfare department, no deaths were reported this year.

As per the data, there were 2,313 dengue cases and zero deaths in 2022. However, it witnessed nearly a fourfold jump with 8,609 dengue cases with four deaths in 2023. In 2024 (till December first week), the positive cases almost doubled, and there were a whopping 14,950 cases with three deaths.

Sharing details on the measures taken by BBMP that helped cut down the cases, BBMP Chief Commissioner Maheshwar Rao said, "The civic body took up multiple measures to check the dengue spike this year. Though we have dengue cases, the situation is far better than last year."

The drill against dengue is continuing and we



have put our health officials on alert. They are taking all the necessary precautionary measures, and are empowered to take suitable actions to curb the spread."

Along with the awareness campaigns, BBMP has taken efforts to identify all those areas where there is water accumulation. Special focus is on low-lying areas, which are fertile

ground for dengue breeding, he said, adding that in such areas the BBMP has intensified the spraying.

"Not only spraying, which controls the mosquito population, we are educating students and people on dengue larva source reduction by ensuring that they do not let water stagnate," Rao said.

# Woman, pregnant with twins, survives 18-hour heart surgery

Mumbai.(Agency)

A 31-year-old woman, eight months pregnant with twins, was rushed to KEM Hospital for intense chest pain radiating down her spine, and breathlessness. Doctors found a tear in the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the rest of the body. But delays in diagnosis and treatment cost nearly a day, and fearing the loss of all three lives, the family moved her to a private hospital. The mother, Tejaswini Hire, and her two preterm daughters remained at Jaslok Hospital for a month. The total expenses touched around Rs 30 lakh, covering an emergency caesarean, an open-heart surgery, and a month-long admission for all three. The twins turned two months old on Sunday.

"At KEM, I was told the costs could be Rs 4 lakh, but the risks seemed too high and we had lost trust," said Nishant Hire, the twins' father. The family lives in Ramabai Ambedkar Nagar in Ghatkopar. "We had to borrow from friends and family, all our savings are exhausted, but at least all three are alive and safe," Hire said.

A doctor from KEM Hospital said, "They took discharge against medical advice. It was a high-risk case with low survival chances, but we were prepared to operate. In the end, it was the patient's choice." Cardiothoracic surgeon Dr Hemant

Pathare, who performed the surgery, explained that in medical terms this was a case of an aortic dissection caused by a genetic disorder called Marfan syndrome. The syndrome can lead to serious heart problems. "The tear had extended to her coronary artery, and the aortic valve was leaking significantly. This caused severe fluid congestion in her lungs, and she had to be put on ventilator. Eventually, there were more complications impacting almost her entire body," he said. The open-heart surgery lasted 18 hours. By the time Tejaswini reached Jaslok, doctors were unable to detect the heartbeat of one of the babies, prompting an emergency C-section.

Marfan syndrome is risky even outside pregnancy, but during pregnancy, the risk to the mother's life is far more. The most dangerous part is that cardiac complications can strike at any time from the first day to just after delivery," said Dr Danny Laliwala, the gynaecologist who performed the delivery.

Hire said Tejaswini is still recovering, while the twins are healthy. "She will have to be on lifelong blood thinners. This is likely the first such survival case in the world, given that maternal mortality in such situations can be as high as 50%, and infant mortality even higher," said Dr Pathare.

# Kanakakunnu's dual life: Heritage palace by day, booze spot by night

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM.(Agency)

If the walls of Kanakakunnu Palace could talk, they might ask for a mop, a bottle ban, and perhaps a referee. For the historic palace's premises are slowly turning into an unexpected venue for some late-night 'sporting' action. It's not cricket or yoga. The real games here involve bottle flipping (empty liquor ones, that is), hide-and-seek in CCTV blind spots, and early-morning clean-up races by the sanitation team.

Though CCTV cameras cover the palace premises, people continue to sneak in with alcohol, turning the serene heritage spot into an unofficial booze zone after dark. Sanitation workers say they have come to expect the same routine every morning: pick up liquor bottles from behind the

toilets, near the entrance, and other corners that have now earned the title of 'well-known hiding spots.' "They know exactly where the cameras don't look," said a sanitation staffer, tired. "It's like they're on a treasure hunt – except the treasure is bad decisions and glass bottles."

Visitors and residents are calling for immediate action, though many have now resorted to humour to cope with the state of affairs. "I come here for a peaceful walk and end up spotting more brands than a bar menu," joked Thomas George, a walker. "Maybe it's time for a new event in the National Games – speed bottle chucking behind toilets!" Near the entrance, a tourism board lists the city's major attractions, proudly declaring Kerala as 'God's Own



Country.' Just a few feet away, empty liquor bottles lie scattered like fallen soldiers of last night's 'celebrations.' Adding to the irony, another board nearby sternly warns against defacing public artwork, though apparently, defiling public spaces with

## North Chennai thermal plant to get battery storage system

CHENNAI.(Agency)

The Tamil Nadu Power Generation Corporation Limited (TNPGL) will soon launch Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) with a capacity of 200 MW at the North Chennai Thermal Power Station on a pilot basis.

Battery storage systems were so far considered options for solar and wind energy. However, the TNPGL, for the first time, is looking to explore its use in thermal power stations to allow electricity storage during low demand. With the state's all-time maximum demand having touched 20,830 MW, there may not be immediate visible benefits through this pilot project. However, when scaled up in due course, it can ensure steady power supply, reduce the chances of power cuts, and avoid buying costly electricity from private companies, officials said. "This will also save money for the power utility over time," a senior TNPGL official said.

According to official sources, TNPGL

incurred a loss of around '2,991 crore in 2024-25 after the division of power utility into three separate entities. If proper steps are not taken, the losses



may compound this year. Installing BESS in thermal stations will help control the losses," another official said. Officials explained that restarting thermal units after shutting them down takes 10 to 12 hours. "But with BESS, we can avoid shutting down units frequently. The plants can keep running at full load even when demand is low, reducing operating cost," the official said.

## Meth worth Rs 49L seized from two near Bhakti Circle in A'bad

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The city's Special Operations Group (SOG) on Saturday seized 489.410 grams of suspected methamphetamine worth Rs 49 lakh and arrested two persons near Bhakti Circle on the Ring Road-Nikol stretch. The FIR was lodged by the SOG team after the operation was conducted based on a tip-off.

According to the FIR, the SOG received intelligence around 4.40pm that two individuals were seen near the HP petrol pump, close to Bhakti Circle, possibly carrying methamphetamine drugs. Both were described by their attire, one in a reddish-checked shirt and jeans, and the other in a green-checked shirt and jeans.



from Avkar Homes. One of them tried to flee but was caught near the society's gate. After informing seniors and calling for additional support, the suspects were detained, and an official search was initiated in the presence of two independent

witnesses.

According to the FIR, "From the bag they carried, two transparent plastic pouches containing brownish powder suspected to be meth were found." They also carried mobiles, PAN cards, Aadhaar cards, a driving licence and cash. The suspects were taken to the SOG office, where a forensic team was called. In their presence, the seized substance was tested, photographed and weighed. "The drug seized weighed exactly 489.410 grams, and it tested positive as methamphetamine," the FIR notes. The total market value of the meth and other seized items – including phones and cash – has been pegged at Rs 49.05 lakh. No other objectionable items were found in the rickshaw or nearby vehicle, the FIR states.

# Bombay HC quashes order holding consumer liable for high sim card bill and upholds right to fair hearing

MUMBAI.(Agency)

A decade after a Mumbai resident was saddled with a bill almost seven times the fixed-pan SIM card she purchased from a provider at the airport, the Bombay high court quashed a 2017 order of a quasi-judicial tribunal body that upheld the recovery.

The High Court set out that even when the law provides for a summary resolution of disputes, principles of natural justice cannot be sacrificed and questioned the lack of "fair play" by a Permanent Lok Adalat in denying the consumer, Bindu Narang, a chance to cross-examine a witness. The right of cross-examination is a part of fair play in action, the High Court said.

A division bench of Justices M S Sonak and Jitendra Jain on July 14 ruled that when there is a dispute, even if the law provides for a "summary" – swift – process to resolve disputes, the "Tribunal is still guided by the principles of natural justice, objectivity, fair play, equity, and other principles of justice. The right of cross-examination is part of fair play, and whether such a right is to be granted or not depends on the pleadings and evidence of each party with regard to facts in

issue." The Adalat, in December 2017, directed the woman to pay Matrix Cellular (International) Services Pvt Ltd almost Rs 30,000 over a prepaid SIM dispute. In 2014, when headed to Dubai from Mumbai, she purchased the SIM from Matrix at the airport for a plan of Rs 3,500. The duration of the SIM card was from 14 December 2014 to 21 December 2014. Her lawyer, Huzefa Khokhawala, informed the High Court that she was shocked to receive a bill of almost Rs 24,000 instead. When the bill was not paid, the company approached the PLA with its claim. The PLA has three members; only one rejected her plea to cross-examine a witness and directed her to pay the bill amount with interest. Through advocates Nankani Associates, she petitioned the High Court to challenge the PLA order. In March 2019, the High Court asked her to deposit the amount in an interim order, and in July 2019, the High Court allowed her to withdraw the amount on an undertaking to pay it back if she didn't succeed in the challenge. She never removed the amount, and when she succeeded and the High Court quashed the Adalat's order, she voluntarily decided to donate the amount

entirely to a rural school. The High Court said the Adalat gave no reasons for rejecting her plea to cross-examine a witness for the company.

The High Court explained that "when the facts are not seriously in dispute, the Adalat is not required to compulsorily give a party the opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses. It all depends upon the claims and counter-claims. If there is a serious dispute, parties shall be given the right to cross-examine the witness to test the veracity of a witness whose affidavit evidence is filed before the Tribunal

even though the Indian Evidence Act is inapplicable." In Narang's case, the High Court said she ought to have been given a chance to test the credibility of evidence against her and thus held the Adalat's order "unsustainable." The PLA is a specialised body established by law to swiftly adjudicate disputes related to public utility services like transport, postal, and telegraph services, both pre and post-litigation cases. The HC said Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides that the PLA shall be guided by the principles of natural justice, objectivity, fair play, equity, and other principles of justice and cited several judgements of the apex court on the issue.

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# Urban Local Bodies Minister Sh Vipul Goyal visits Bandhwari Waste Management Site

Chandigarh: Haryana Urban Local Bodies Minister, Sh Vipul Goyal, visited the Bandhwari waste management site on Gurugram-Faridabad road on Monday. During his visit, he inspected the beautification works, installation of view cutters, and other improvement works being carried out by the Municipal Corporation.

## Red Cross Volunteers Become Lifeline for PWD Candidates in Narnaul CET Exam Centers

Chandigarh: The Common Eligibility Test (CET-2025) in Narnaul and Mahendragarh witnessed a heartwarming example of compassion and service. As hundreds of candidates arrived at exam centres, a group of dedicated volunteers from the District Red Cross Society silently became a lifeline for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) candidates. Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Dr. Vivek Bharti, the volunteers had arranged special tricycles to ensure that no candidate faced any difficulty in reaching the exam halls. From early morning, the volunteers waited near the exam centres, helping students reach the entrance safely and comfortably. For two days, this initiative stood out as a rare example of inclusive thinking. Parents of the candidates and other citizens watched with admiration as volunteers cheerfully assisted students, making them feel confident and cared for. Many passers-by lauded the effort, saying that such sensitivity gives true meaning to public service. For the candidates, this effort was far more than simply providing transport to the exam centre as it created a welcoming environment that allowed them to focus on their exams without stress.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that, CHAITNYA JOURA S/o RAMESH KUMAR R/o HNo. 19-B, 2nd Phase, 21-Block, Tilak Nagar, West Delhi, Delhi-110018, declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as LT RAMESH KUMAR in my 10th class Educational Documents, and as LTRAMESH KUMAR in my 12th class Educational documents. The actual name of my father is RAMESH KUMAR, which may be amended accordingly.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAMESH CHANDER SHARMA/RAMESH SHARMA S/o RAMSWARUP SHARMA R/o PLOT NO-172, NEAR JAIN MANDIR, SECTOR-43, GALLERIA DLF-JIV, GURGAON, HARYANA-122009 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAMESH CHAND SHARMA FOR ALL PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, KANAN D/o YOGESH KUMAR DORA R/o G-149, SECOND FLOOR, SOUTH CITY-2 SECTOR-50, SOUTH CITY-II GURGAON HARYANA-122018 I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO KANAN DORA FOR ALL PURPOSE

### NAME CHANGE

I, Abhesh Kumar s/o Nej Nath R/o 7, Ground Floor, Gali No.9, Jagat Pur Extension, Delhi-110003 has changed my name to Avhesh Kumar for all future purposes

### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client R K FRAMING UPVC PRIVATE LIMITED & Mrs. Kamlesh and Mr. Raj Kapoor are the owners of the Freehold Residential Plot area admeasuring 100 sq. yards out of khasra No. Khasra No. 218m, 219m, 220m, 221m, 222m and 223m, situated at Village Salarpur Khadar, Pargana & Tehsil Dard, Dist. Gurdaspur, Jalandhar, U.P. vide 2Sale Deed dated 04.01.2019 which is registered as Document No.74, Book No.1, Volume No.626, on pages 79 to 100, on dated 04.01.2019, SR. Sector-III, Gurdaspur Bldg. & Sale Deed dated 21.12.2020, Document No. 4003, Book No. 1, Volume No. 8022, on pages 31-60, dated 21.12.2020, SR-Sector III, Gurdaspur Bldg. Bduh Nagar and Intend to mortgage the said property with Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property may please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

Khatian & Khatian

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

### NAME CHANGE

I, NIDHI BINDAL W/o ROHIT GUPTA residing at X/1165 GALI NO-2 RAJGARH COLONY JHEEL GANDHI NAGAR DELHI-110031 have changed my name to RAKHI GUPTA for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, KRISHAN GUPTA S/o RADHEY RAMAN residing at X/1165 GALI NO-2 RAJGARH COLONY JHEEL GANDHI NAGAR DELHI-110031 have changed my name to SHRI KRISHAN GUPTA for all future purposes

### DATE OF BIRTH CHANGE

I, No. 6947/12/21, HAV PAVAN KUMAR PRADEEP legal father of PRIYANSHU RAJ SHARMA, S/o VILL. MANGALPURI, PO-SAHJIPUR, DIST-SARAN, BIHAR-841122, in my service records my son's (PRIYANSHU RAJ) date of birth wrongly mentioned as 28/12/2009 instead of his correct date of birth as 28/12/2011, vide Affidavit dated 28/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that, I Pradeep Kumar Yadav S/o Ram Baksh Yadav, R/o T-5, T-Huts, Karampura, VTC, Karam Pura PO: Ramesh Nagar, Sub District: Rajouri Garden, District: West Delhi, State: Delhi, 110015, declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Pradeep Kumar in my son's name namely PALAK Yadav aged 17 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Pradeep Kumar Yadav, Respectively which may be amended accordingly.

Gurugram: The Minister issued detailed guidelines to officials and reviewed the progress of the ongoing works. The Urban Local Bodies Minister said that a large-scale plantation campaign will take place in the area between the main road and the view cutter at the site on Sunday, August 4. He directed officials to invite local dignitaries,

including public representatives, to participate in the campaign. Prior to the event, officials must ensure the completion of soil addition, bed construction, and land preparation, he added. Sh Vipul Goyal emphasized prioritizing the proper disposal of leachate generated at the waste management plant. He also urged officials to expedite the tender process for the disposal of legacy waste. Commissioner Municipal Corporation Gurugram Sh Pradeep Dahiya stated that beautification works at the plant are progressing at a fast pace. Improvements are being made not only from an environmental perspective but also to enhance the site's visual

### NAME CHANGE

I, Manohar Bajaj S/o Radhamola Bajaj R/o Skrind Greens Gofl Flat No 1219, 3D Tower, Panday Nagar, Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh 201002, have changed my name to Manohar Lal Bajaj for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that, I, PRAMOD Bajaj S/o Ram VEER Singh R/o A-104, Gali No. 4, Utam Nagar Madhu Vihar D.K. Mohan Garden S/o West, Delhi, Delhi-110059, declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as YASHIKA in my minor daughter namely YASHIKA SINGH aged 13 years in her School Records. The actual name of my minor daughter is YASHIKA, which may be amended accordingly.

It is for general information that, I, LAKHMI KUMAR S/o MAHENDER Singh R/o House No. 3689-3691, 4th Floor, Left Side, Gali Maman Jamadar, Pahar Dihari, Delhi G.P.O., North Delhi, Delhi-110006, declare that name of my minor son has been wrongly written as PARKSHIT in my minor son namely PARKSHIT aged 17 years in his Schedule Caste Certificate No. 9051003034597. The actual name of my minor son is PARKSHIT.

### NAME CHANGE

I, Chani Devi (Existing Name of Mother for PS Docus) is legally Mother of No. JC-332602 Sub Maj E/M Babu Lal Chaudhary presently residing at Vile Dhundhara, PO: Oisan, Tehsil: Oisan Dist: Jodhpur, Rajasthan-342303, have changed my name from Chani Devi to Chani and changed my date of birth from 01 Jul 1949 to 01 Jan 1935 for all future purposes.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAJU THAKUR S/o NATHAN RAJKHUR NO-1820, F BLOCK, POLE NO-13, PART-1, QUTUB VIHAR, GOYLA DAIRY, DELHI-110071, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJEEV KUMAR FOR ALL PURPOSE.

### NAME CHANGE

I, RAJU THAKUR S/o NATHAN RAJKHUR NO-1820, F BLOCK, POLE NO-13, PART-1, QUTUB VIHAR, GOYLA DAIRY, DELHI-110071, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO RAJEEV KUMAR FOR ALL PURPOSE.

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## NEWS BOX

## NISAR Satellite: Earth's Watchtower Jointly Built By India, US

### Pasadena, California . (Agency)

India and the US' \$1.3 billion satellite to decode Earth's secrets is ready for its lift-off from India's space port on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. Made in California's Pasadena and Bengaluru, the NISAR satellite is set to save lives across the world.

The NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, also referred to as the 'Nisarga satellite', is the world's single most expensive civilian Earth imaging satellite. It is being readied to fly aboard India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mark 2) rocket from Sriharikota on Wednesday. This is the first big Indo-US collaborative satellite mission. The very unique Earth imaging satellite jointly made by India and the US is a technological marvel and would be game changer in saving lives from impending natural disasters. That the world's oldest democracy, the US, and the world's largest democracy, India, are working together on this most expensive satellite is a testament to the growing Indo-US bonhomie and strategic ties. In an exclusive conversation with NDTV, Dr. Paul Rosen, a NASA Project Scientist for NISAR at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, shared the mission's scientific ambition and its life-saving potential. "This is a science mission and applications mission. We're studying the cryosphere, ecosystems, and solid earth hazards like earthquakes and landslides. It's very much a climate mission," Dr. Rosen said. The satellite's dual-band radar - L-band from NASA and S-band from ISRO - will allow scientists to monitor Earth's surface with unprecedented millimetre precision. This includes tectonic shifts, glacial movements, biomass changes, and even precursors to landslides and glacial lake outbursts. "We can make 3D movies of the motions of the Earth, all the land and ice. Nothing in conventional remote sensing can do that," Dr. Rosen explained. The use of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) in two bands is a deliberate choice to extend the dynamic range of measurements. The L-band penetrates deeper and captures larger structures, while the S-band is sensitive to finer details.

## Forests, Houses Burn As Wildfires Rage Across Bulgaria, Residents Evacuated

### Sofia. (Agency)

Firefighters battled wildfires at nearly 100 locations across Bulgaria on Sunday, with houses burned and residents evacuated, local media reported.

A fire at the foot of the Pirin mountain in southwestern Bulgaria was spreading across thousands of acres of forest, Bulgarian National Radio (BNR) reported.

Another fire in the town of Simitli destroyed several houses as it spread towards the Maleshevo Mountain. More than 200 firefighters sent to the area on Saturday were pulled out because high winds were putting their lives in danger, authorities said, adding they expected air support from other EU countries. In western Bulgaria, a fire which broke out on Saturday and quickly spread across the border into Serbia on Sunday along the Miloslavka mountain range, almost burned the village Rani Lug to the ground, Nova television reported. "It's a merciless tragedy," emergency volunteer Zvezdelin Vlaykov said as huge clouds of smoke rose over the hills. "In all my years of firefighting, I've never seen anything like it."

Authorities said three villages had been evacuated and the fire had caused significant damage. In a statement, the Interior Ministry described Bulgaria's wildfire situation as "dynamic and severe". On Sunday afternoon, a large fire broke out in the village of Kozarevo in the southeastern province of Yambol, burning several houses, BNR reported.

## The UN, Palestinians, Israel And A Hope For Two-State Solution

### world . (Agency)

Ever since the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states in 1947, the United Nations has been inextricably linked to the fate of Palestinians, with the organization meeting this week hoping to revive the two-state solution.

Here is a timeline on the issue:

Partition

In November 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181 dividing Palestine -- which was then under British mandate -- into Jewish and Arab states, with a special international zone for Jerusalem.

Zionist leaders accepted the resolution, but it was opposed by Arab states and the Palestinians.

Israel declared independence in May 1948, triggering the Arab-Israeli war which was won convincingly by Israel the following year. Around 760,000 Palestinians fled their homes or were expelled -- an event known as the "Nakba," Arabic for "catastrophe," which the United Nations only officially commemorated for the first time in May 2023.

Self-determination

In the aftermath of the Six-Day War of 1967, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 242, which called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied during the conflict, including the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem. But linguistic ambiguities between the English and French versions of the resolutions complicated matters, making the scope of the required withdrawal unclear. In November 1974, Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), gave his first speech to the UN General Assembly in New York, saying he carried both "an olive branch and a freedom fighter's gun."

## US-EU trade deal wards off further escalation but will raise costs for companies and consumers

### The headline figure is a 15% tariff rate on "the vast majority" of European goods brought into the U.S., including cars, computer chips and pharmaceuticals.

### FRANKFURT. (Agency)

President Donald Trump and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen have announced a sweeping trade deal that imposes 15% tariffs on most European goods, warding off Trump's threat of a 30% rate if no deal had been reached by Aug. 1. The tariffs, or import taxes, paid when Americans buy European products could raise prices for U.S. consumers and dent profits for European companies and their partners who bring goods into the country. Here are some things to know about the trade deal between the United States and the European Union: Many details remain to be decided.

von der Leyen's announcement, made during Trump's visit to one of his golf courses in Scotland, leaves many details to be filled in. The headline figure is a 15% tariff rate on "the vast majority" of European goods brought into the U.S., including cars, computer chips and pharmaceuticals. It's lower than the 20% Trump initially proposed, and lower than his threats of 50% and then 30%.

Von der Leyen said the two sides agreed on zero tariffs on both sides for a range of "strategic" goods: Aircraft and aircraft parts, certain chemicals, semiconductor equipment, certain agricultural products, and some natural resources and critical raw materials. Specifics were lacking. She said the two sides "would keep working" to add more products to the list. Additionally, the EU side would purchase what Trump said was \$750 billion (638 billion euros) worth of natural gas, oil and nuclear fuel to replace Russian energy supplies, and Europeans would invest an additional \$600 billion (511 billion euros) in the U.S. 50% U.S. tariff on steel stays and others might, too. Trump said the 50% U.S. tariff on imported steel would remain; von der Leyen said the two sides agreed to further

negotiations to fight a global steel glut, reduce tariffs and establish import quotas — that is, set amounts that can be imported, often at a lower rate. Trump said pharmaceuticals were not included in the



deal. Von der Leyen said the pharmaceuticals issue was "on a separate sheet of paper" from Sunday's deal. Where the \$600 billion for additional investment would come from was not specified. And von der Leyen said that when it came to farm products, the EU side made clear that "there were tariffs that could not be lowered," without specifying which products. The 15% rate is higher than in the past. The 15% rate removes Trump's threat of a 30% tariff. It's still much higher than

the average tariff before Trump came into office of around 1%, and higher than Trump's minimum 10% baseline tariff. Higher tariffs, or import taxes, on European goods mean sellers in the U.S. would have to either increase prices for consumers — risking loss of market share — or swallow the added cost in terms of lower profits. The higher tariffs are expected to hurt export earnings for European firms and slow the economy. The 10% baseline applied while the deal was negotiated was already sufficiently high to make the European Union's executive commission cut its growth forecast for this year from 1.3% to 0.9%. Von der Leyen said the 15% rate was "the best we could do" and credited the deal with maintaining access to the U.S. market and providing "stability and predictability for companies on both sides."

The reaction is tentative. German Chancellor Friedrich Merz welcomed the deal which avoided "an unnecessary escalation in transatlantic trade relations" and said that "we were able to preserve our core interests," while adding that "I would have very much wished for further relief in transatlantic trade."

## Israel begins daily pause in fighting in 3 Gaza areas to allow 'minimal' aid as hunger grows

### DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip . (Agency)

The Israeli military on Sunday began limited pauses in fighting in three populated areas of Gaza for 10 hours a day, part of measures including airdrops as concerns grow over surging hunger and as Israel faces criticism over its conduct in the 21-month war.

The military said the "tactical pause" in Gaza City, Deir al-Balah and Muwasi, all with large populations, would increase humanitarian aid entering the territory. The 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. pause is daily until further notice. "Whichever path we choose, we will have to continue to allow the entry of minimal humanitarian supplies," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. As the military had warned, combat operations continued otherwise. Health officials in Gaza said Israeli strikes killed at least 41 Palestinians from late Saturday into Sunday, including 26 seeking aid.

Images of emaciated children have fanned criticism of Israel, including by allies, who call for the war's end. Israel has restricted aid to Gaza's population of over 2 million because it says Hamas siphons it off to bolster its rule, without providing evidence. Much of the population, squeezed into ever-smaller patches of land, now relies on aid. "I came to get flour for my children because they have not tasted flour for more than a week, and thank God, God provided me with a kilo of rice with difficulty," said Sabreen Hassona, as other Palestinians trudged along a dusty road carrying sacks of food.

'Every delay is measured by another funeral' Israel's military said 28 aid packages containing food were airdropped Sunday, and said it would put in place secure routes for aid delivery. It said the steps were made in coordination with the United Nations and other humanitarian groups. The U.N. World Food Program said it had enough food in, or on its way, to feed all of Gaza for nearly three months. It has said a third of Gaza's population were not eating for days and nearly half a million people were enduring famine-like conditions. Antoine Renard, WFP's country director for the occupied Palestinian territories, said around 80 WFP trucks entered Gaza, while more than another 130 trucks arrived via Jordan, Ashdod and Egypt and other aid was moving through the Kerem Shalom and Zikim crossings. He stressed it was not enough to counter the "current starvation." Gaza saw 63 malnutrition-related deaths in July, including 24 children under 5, the World Health Organization said. Dr. Munir al-Boursh, Gaza's Health Ministry director-general, called for a flood of medical supplies to help treat child malnutrition. "This (humanitarian) truce will mean nothing if it doesn't turn into a real opportunity to save lives," he said. "Every delay is measured by another funeral."

## US and China to talk in Stockholm on trade with eye on Trump-Xi summit later this year

### TRAVERSE CITY. (Agency)

WASHINGTON: When top U.S. and Chinese officials meet in Stockholm, they are almost certain to agree to at least leaving tariffs at the current levels while working toward a meeting between their presidents later this year for a more lasting trade deal between the world's two largest economies, analysts say. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng are set to hold talks for the third time this year — this round in the Swedish capital, nearly four months after President Donald Trump upset global trade with his sweeping tariff proposal, including an import tax that shot up to 145% on Chinese goods.

"We have the confines of a deal with China," Trump said Friday before leaving for Scotland. Bessent told MSNBC on Wednesday that the two countries after talks in Geneva and London have reached a "status quo," with the U.S. taxing imported goods from China at 30% and China responding with a 10% tariff, on top of tariffs prior to the start of Trump's second term. "Now we can move on to discussing other matters in terms of

bringing the economic relationship into balance," Bessent said. He was referring to the U.S. running a \$295.5 billion trade deficit last year. The U.S. seeks an agreement that would enable it to export more to China and shift the Chinese economy more toward domestic consumer spending. The Chinese embassy in Washington said

Beijing hopes "there will be more consensus and cooperation and less misperception" coming out of the talks. With an eye on a possible leaders' summit, Stockholm could provide some answers as to the timeline and viability of that particular goal ahead of a possible meeting between Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping. "The meeting will be important in starting to set the stage for a fall

meeting between Trump and Xi," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator and now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "Beijing will likely insist on detailed preparations before they agree to a leaders' meeting." In Stockholm, the two sides are likely to focus on commercial announcements to be made at a leaders' summit as well as agreements to address "major irritants," such as China's industrial overcapacity and its lack of control over chemicals used to make fentanyl, also to be announced when Xi and Trump should meet, Cutler said. Sean Stein, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, said Stockholm could be the first real opportunity for the two governments to address structural reform issues including market access in China for U.S. companies. What businesses will be seeking coming out of Stockholm would largely be "the atmosphere" — how the two sides characterize the discussions. They will also look for clues about a possible leaders' summit because any real deal will hinge on the two presidents meeting each other, he said.

## How Former Prisoners In Russia Are Rebuilding Lives in Ukraine

### Kyiv. (Agency)

Since his release from a Russian prison in April, Stanislav Tarnavskyi has been in a hurry to build the life in Ukraine he dreamed about during three years of captivity. The 25-year-old has proposed to his girlfriend, bought an apartment and adopted a golden retriever. And that was just what he accomplished one week in July. But as busy as he is rekindling old relationships and creating new ones, Tarnavskyi cannot shake the trauma he and thousands of other Ukrainian soldiers experienced as prisoners of war. The UN says many endured beatings, starvation and humiliation at the hands of their captors — experiences that will leave lifelong scars. Tarnavskyi, who was captured during

the battle for Mariupol in April of 2022, regularly has nightmares about the prisons where he was held.

"I see the officers who watched over us. I dream they want to harm me, catch me," he said. When he wakes up, his heart pounds, anxiety surges — until he realizes he is in the outskirts of Kyiv, where he was forced to move because Russia occupied his hometown of Berdiansk. As the three-year war drags on, Tarnavskyi is one of more than 5,000 former POWs back in Ukraine rehabilitating with the help of regular counseling. Regardless of any physical injuries that may require attention, psychologists say it is vital to monitor former POWs for years after their release; the cost of war, they say, echoes for generations. In a

photography studio high above Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, sunlight floods the white walls. After a shoot that lasted several hours, Tarnavskyi said the brightness was hurting his eyes, which are still sensitive from years spent in a dark cell. But his mood couldn't be dimmed. The girlfriend who waited for his return had just consented to his surprise proposal. "I love you very much, I am very glad that you waited for me," Tarnavskyi said, holding a thick bouquet of pink roses and a ring. "You have always been my support, and I hope you will remain so for the rest of my life. Will you marry me?" Tarnavskyi said it was the thought of Tetiana Baieva — whom he met in 2021 — that helped stop him from committing suicide three times during captivity.

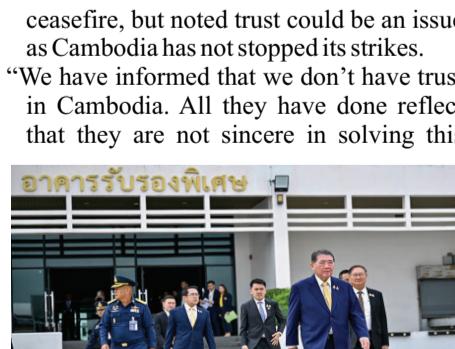
## Cambodian, Thai leaders hold ceasefire talks in Malaysia as border violence enters fifth day

### KUALA LUMPUR. (Agency)

Ceasefire talks have started between Thai and Cambodian leaders in Malaysia in an urgent effort to resolve deadly border clashes that entered a fifth day despite mounting international calls for peace. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet and Thai Acting Prime Minister Phumtham Wechayachai gathered Monday for the meeting at the official residence of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim who is hosting the negotiations as chair of the regional bloc, Association of Southeast Asian Nations. The fighting flared last Thursday after a land mine explosion along the border wounded five Thai soldiers. Both sides blamed each other for starting the clashes, that have killed at least 35 people and displaced more than 260,000 people on both sides. Both countries recalled their ambassadors and Thailand shut all border crossings with Cambodia, with an exception for migrant Cambodian workers returning home. Troops from both sides reported ongoing fighting Monday

along border areas. Gunfire could be heard as dawn broke in Samrong in Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey province, Associated Press reporters covering the conflict said. Maly Socheata, a Cambodian defense ministry spokesperson, said the Thai assault was "ongoing and strong" on Monday. Anwar said late Sunday that both sides would present their conditions for peace but "what is important is immediate ceasefire." "I hope this can work," Anwar was quoted as saying by Malaysian national news agency Bernama. "Although it's not as bad as many other countries, we have to put a stop to the violence." The meeting followed direct pressure from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has warned that the United States may not proceed with trade deals with either country if hostilities continue. Before departing for Kuala Lumpur, Phumtham told reporters in Bangkok that representatives from China and the U.S. will also attend as observers. He said the key focus would be on an immediate

ceasefire, but noted trust could be an issue as Cambodia has not stopped its strikes. "We have informed that we don't have trust in Cambodia. All they have done reflect that they are not sincere in solving this



problem. So they have to show the detail how they will do to prove their sincerity," he said. Officials later said that the Chinese and American ambassadors to Malaysia are attending the meeting. The violence marks a rare instance of open military confrontation between ASEAN member states, a 10-nation regional bloc that has prided itself on non-aggression,

peaceful dialogue and economic cooperation.

In a statement Monday, ASEAN foreign ministers reiterated concern over the rising death toll, destruction of public properties and displacement of a large number of people along the disputed border areas. They urged the two countries to resolve their disputes through negotiations and expressed support for efforts to find a middle ground during Monday's talks. The conflict also drew the attention of Pope Leo XIV. At the Vatican on Sunday, the pontiff said he was praying for all those affected by war in the world, including "for those affected by the clashes on the border between Thailand and Cambodia, especially the children and displaced families." At an evacuation shelter in Cambodia's Siem Reap province far away from the border, Ron Mao, 56, prays for a ceasefire deal during the leaders' meeting Monday. She and her family fled their home a kilometer (0.6 mile) away from the front line when fighting broke out Thursday.

## Fake e-commerce websites target online shoppers in Bengaluru



### BENGALURU. (Agency)

With the rise in online shopping, especially during festive seasons, cybercriminals are exploiting unsuspecting customers through fake e-commerce websites that closely imitate legitimate portals. These fraudulent platforms lure users with flashy deals and deep discounts, aiming to steal money and sensitive personal information. A senior officer from a CEN (Cybercrime, Economic Offences and Narcotics) police station in Bengaluru told that two main types of scams are currently being reported. In one, fraudsters create counterfeit versions of popular brand websites. In another, they launch entirely new but fake e-commerce platforms. Both are heavily promoted on social media and messaging apps to attract buyers.

"In most of the cases, customers are tricked into paying in advance but never receive the products. The fraudsters either collect money without delivering goods or steal users' data through malicious links," the officer said.

He warned that such fake sites often contain subtle spelling errors in brand names, which go unnoticed. Clicking unknown links or trusting deals that seem too good to be true increases the risk. "Always verify the URL, look out for misspellings in the domain, and double-check offers through official brand websites," he said. Another senior officer from the North division added that some companies have filed police complaints after receiving disputes over orders they never processed. "Victims who lose small amounts, between Rs 1,000 and Rs 2,000, often don't report it, which allows these scams to continue unchecked," he said.

## Court shocked by 'deliberate delay' in probing FIR

### Mumbai. (Agency)

The Bombay High Court recently gave a housing society in Santa Cruz three weeks to file a reply to an interim application filed by Mahindra Lifespace Developers Ltd, which sought to restrain it from appointing another builder for a redevelopment project. The redevelopment involves two societies, one of which, through its counsel Jehangir Jeejeebhoy, informed the HC that it was in favour of entering into the redevelopment agreement with Mahindra Lifespace.

On July 24, Justice Riyaz Chagla also recorded the other society's statement that it would, until the next date, not terminate a February 2023 West View letter of intent or appoint any other developer for the redevelopment. Mahindra Lifespace, through senior counsel Sharan Jagtiani and advocate Rahul Dwarkadas of RJD & Partners, said the letter contained a negative covenant. The covenant barred the society from directly or indirectly initiating or negotiating with any other developer until the registration of the development agreement.

Jagtiani also contended that the reason for seeking urgent relief from the HC was the "radio silence," particularly after the meeting of the Special General Body of the Respondent No. 1 Society (Santa Cruz West View Co-operative Housing Society Ltd) on 15 December 2024, where the draft redevelopment agreement was discussed and pursuant to which the plaintiff (Mahindra Lifespace) agreed to most of the terms to be incorporated in the redevelopment agreement as suggested by the society.

## After student's suicide, govt set to launch special psychological campaign in 1,800 Ahmedabad schools

### Ahmedabad. (Agency)

In the wake of a recent case wherein a Class 10 student of a private school in Ahmedabad died by suicide, the district education authorities have decided to launch a special counselling campaign covering over five lakh students of all the 1,800 private schools in the city starting next Saturday. Ahmedabad City District Education Officer (DEO) Rohit Chaudhary told The Indian Express, "The incident came as a shock to everyone and was an eye-opener. It has been decided that 1,800 schools will be covered under Project Sarthi starting this (next) Saturday. To commence with, we will train two teachers as counsellors in each school through an online session, who will in turn provide counselling services to the students."

Project Sarthi was launched in Ahmedabad school last year which covers around 200 schools at present.

The campaign, run by non-profit organisation Namaste Life Health Care Foundation covers five issues — nutritional and healthy diet, coping with stress and exam anxiety,

emotional resilience and self-confidence, awareness against mobile, social media addiction and other addictions, awareness and prevention of harassment.

A Class 12 student, who studied in Som Lalit School in Navrangpura also died by suicide by jumping from the fourth floor of the school building this week. School authorities stated that the student was allegedly suffering from depression owing to which, she had also remained on leave for a month. Sharing more information about the campaign, the DEO said, "As part of the intensive exercise for the 1,800 schools, online monthly sessions will start from August 2 where principals, teachers, and parents associated with the schools will be covered. Once a week, through an online guidance

programme, physical and mental health will be reviewed through different psychologists, sociologists, dieticians, paediatricians, and

The authorities are also targeting to address issues, including stress caused by suppressed emotions, peer pressure on the students related to addictions of drugs, alcohol, mobiles in the circle of friends.

Teachers of these schools will be trained so that they can identify students (who need help) and will be made aware about their roles. The DEO office also aims to have one expert-led, guided wellness session every month in all the 1,800 schools in the city, with parents and community leaders also being active participants of the same.

At present, nearly 500 principals and teachers have been trained under the programme. Other initiatives include keeping a 'box' in some schools where students can drop psychological or other issues with the school counsellors.



yoga experts, and efforts will be made to make them strong. Also, students will be encouraged to share any kind of problems or issues they are facing, but will be assured that their identities would not be disclosed."

## Human rights notice to state over poor living conditions at Panvel ashramshala

### Mumbai. (Agency)

Taking serious note of the poor living conditions at a residential tribal school in Panvel where children studied, ate and slept in the same rooms which were bereft of basic furniture and amenities, Maharashtra State Human Rights Commission (MSHRC) chairperson Justice A M Badar observed that it amounted to violation of human rights and issued a notice to state govt seeking its response. Justice Badar's observation was based on a report submitted by an MSHRC team, including its member Sanjay Kumar who is retired IPS officer, that visited Shashiya Madhyamik Ashramshala, which operates from two adjoining structures for accommodating 400 students on a residential basis and 100 non-residential. The team found that only half the number of students were present in school during their June 18 visit, and they were sitting on the classroom floor.

The team, in its report, stated that there were only two toilet blocks for the 135 girls in the ashramshala, forcing some of them to defecate in the open across the road, this "compromising their dignity".

The team also noted that the school is located in an "unsafe, inappropriate, dilapidated, and unhygienic building", which also housed commercial establishments, and there was hardly any security for students as there was no boundary wall.

"Surprisingly, there is no designated residential area either for girls and boys in the ashramshala. The same rooms are used for residential purposes (sleeping at night), classrooms, an entertainment room, and dining purposes. No cot or bed was provided...students were given one synthetic blanket each," the report stated, adding that 23 of the 28 sanctioned posts at the ashramshala were filled.



Sellers, however, pointed out that they have old stocks which they have invested upon and need to be cleared. "These idols were made during the previous years and I have paid for each of them. They are to be used in community/public spaces. The government should give us at least one-year time to ensure that they are disposed. Nobody wants second-hand idols for festivities, which the government has been promoting," said Mallappa, a trader on Mysuru Road. BBMP's construction and debris waste management officials said there

are incinerator plants to scientifically dispose PoP idols, but no idols come to them due to religious sentiments.

The KSPCB banned the use of PoP idols in 2016. The National Green Tribunal issued orders banning sale, manufacture and usage of PoP idols in 2023 and the Karnataka government issued orders banning them in August 2024. The chief secretary also issued orders for the formation of committees under the district administrations to ensure sale, manufacture and usage of eco-friendly idols and green crackers.

KSPCB senior environmental officer G Yateesh said, "The board has written to the district administrations to seize all those manufacturing and selling PoP idols. But the police and district administration is not cooperating.

People should also understand and stop purchasing. We are aware of the idols and seizures are being done. People must also come forward and give details of where they see such idols."

## ACB flags major lapses at NTR Hospital; 22 medical staff face action

### VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

Health Minister Satya Kumar Yadav has ordered a swift inquiry into serious irregularities at NTR Hospital in Anakapalle, following an Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) report indicting 22 medical personnel.

The report, based on a surprise inspection in February 2020 and submitted in June this year, recommended major penalties against the then District Coordinator of Health Services (DCHS), nine doctors, and 12 nurses. Citing lapses such as unauthorised canteen operations, failure to disclose patient meal details, irregular civil works, poor food quality monitoring, and mismanagement of hospital duties, the report painted a grim picture of hospital administration.

The DCHS was specifically accused of failing to enforce staff attendance and neglecting key

supervisory responsibilities. Disciplinary action has also been recommended against nine doctors for negligence, and 12 nurses for patient overexposure, poor hygiene, lack of diet charts,



and improper medicine documentation. The Minister also ordered action against a driver for fuel misappropriation worth Rs 74,000 and a sanitation worker for unauthorised medical dressing duties.

Reaffirming his commitment to reform public healthcare, Minister Yadav said the move underscores the government's zero-tolerance approach to corruption and inefficiency. Since assuming office, he has prioritised staff accountability, regular inspections, and performance-based transfers.

In recent months, the government has reassigned hospital superintendents, medical college principals, office superintendents, and clerical staff to plug loopholes in governance. Non-performers were removed and replacements appointed on merit.

Field-level officers, including District Medical and Health Officers (DMHOs), were instructed to ensure strict implementation of health schemes and maintain discipline in operations.

Calling the ACB report a reminder of past administrative failures, the Minister assured continued reforms to restore public confidence in government hospitals and ensure better service delivery.

## AP to launch statewide survey of farm machinery for digital upgrade

### VIJAYAWADA. (Agency)

The Department of Agriculture, under the directives of the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, is set to launch a comprehensive village-level survey of agricultural machinery across the State.

The survey, to be completed by August 31, aims to assess the availability and utilisation of farming equipment to support tailored budget planning and resource allocation.

It will be conducted by agricultural assistants at Rythu Seva Kendras (RSKs) and will cover machinery owned by individual farmers, institutions, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS), and private entities, regardless of whether the equipment was purchased with subsidies or independently.

Speaking to the mediapersons, Agriculture Department Director S Dilli Rao said, "This survey will evaluate the availability

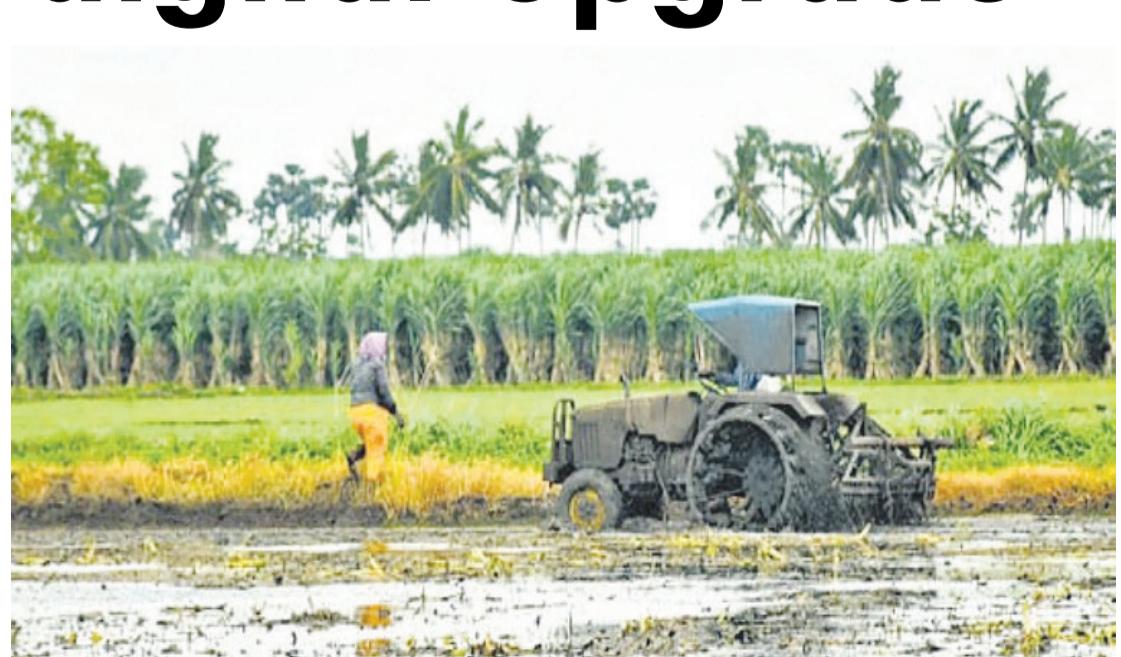
of agricultural machinery at the village level, based on crop patterns and seasonal requirements. Moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach, it will enable us to design budget plans aligned with specific village needs."

Key data points, including ownership, usage, and the condition of machinery, will be collected and integrated into the Farm Machinery Information System (FMIS) under the APAIMS 2.0 platform, developed by Wasserlabs. This digital integration will enhance planning, monitoring, and budget allocation processes.

Key objectives of the survey include creating a digital inventory of machinery at individual, institutional, and RSK levels; identifying equipment needs based on crop seasons and agro-climatic conditions; linking data with Custom Hiring Centres (CHCs) for better utilisation; identifying idle machinery for

redistribution; supporting policies like subsidised machinery distribution; integrating with central schemes such as SMAM and PM-Kisan; and collecting data on machinery used for land prep, water management, spraying, harvesting, and post-harvest activities.

The Director emphasised that the survey aligns with the Chief Minister's vision to integrate data with the e-CHC platform, enabling farmers to book machinery through a user-friendly, Uber-like system. The future plans include integrating FMIS survey data with AI-based crop advisory systems, establishing real-time booking and payment tracking for CHC services, and promoting the expansion of drone-based spraying equipment. Describing the initiative as a "futuristic digital agricultural plan," Dilli Rao highlighted its role in optimising resource use and improving access to modern machinery for farmers.



## The writer's curse, and blessing

It's a tough time to be a writer or wannabe author in India these days. If you write against the government, you are likely to be stripped of your citizenship, and if you support it, you'll be in Arnab Goswami's B team, or sharing a room with Sambit Patra in Gujarat Bhavan. Or, even worse, you could end up like Tavleen Singh, whose sacerdotal efforts at the altar of the presiding deity of Indian politics didn't pay off — her son lost his citizenship anyway. So, what is one to do? The safest course, I feel, is to do a Chetan Bhagat and write only about 'The Girl in Room 105' or pen motivational stuff with misleading titillating titles, like that other bestseller: 'The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F\*ck'.

The other problem I've encountered is this: what does one write about? History is a prohibited zone, because the RSS and the late Dinanath Batra started re-writing it, with novel inputs provided by the Supreme Court, no less, in some of its judgments. Mythology is no longer available as Amish Tripathi has already mined it till there is nothing left to explore there but the question: was the live feed of the battle of Kurukshetra conveyed to Dhrirashtra via Netflix or Amazon Prime or Hulu? Sardar jokes are a no-go area, like the area around Parliament Bhavan, as those poor chaps from JNU found out a couple of years back; the mountains have been denuded of all their tales by Ruskin Bond; the British era has been subjected to repeated biopsies by Shashi Tharoor and William Dalrymple; nobody reads about sports these days because everyone is hooked to biopics; romance is confined to Twitter and Instagram and has to be compressed into 140 words: who has time for a novel? War books are unlikely because even though Messrs Modi and Munir both threaten it, nobody is actually pressing that blue button anytime soon. Moreover, no two Indian Generals can ever agree on whether we won or lost a war, including Haldighati.

One potentially promising area is memoirs by bureaucrats, and quite a few are rushing to the printers, having suddenly remembered their stellar contribution in pushing us onto a 8 per cent growth path. But they are bogged down with their training, confusing 'penal' with 'penile' (as in the Indian Penile Code), concluding each chapter with 'submitted for approval, please' out of sheer habit. Their tomes do seem to bear out the unkind observation of Christopher Hitchens that everybody does have a book in them, but in most cases that's where it should stay!

Why do chaps persist with writing, given the hardships involved? You just have to attend every literary festival to be noticed, which is pretty tough considering that they have now started organising them even in Jhumri Tilaiya and Kotkapura.

You'll never make it to any bestseller list because of Amish Tripathi: he's the BJP of the Indian literary universe with an almost two-thirds stranglehold. What is the Competition Commission doing, and why is he not being hauled up for monopolistic practices, or at least for forming a cartel with Chetan Bhagat? Both should be banned from writing for at least three years so the rest of us can keep the wolves, if not the cows, from our doors.

Ruskin Bond once said that India has more writers than readers, which explains how publishers act. Influenced by TV channels, they insist on the seamier stuff. One guy in Daryaganj I submitted a proposal to did to my manuscript what dogs down the ages have been doing to lamp posts, and then advised me instead to write a kiss-and-tell book about politicians I have worked with, replete (he suggested with a wink) with awards of dubious contracts, girls in rooms other than just 105, booth-capturing techniques (this was before the age of the EVM, which has rendered all previous practices obsolete) and other such staples of governance. It would, he assured, sell like 'hot Kates' — I presume he meant hot cakes.

## Dhankhar's resignation and the political aftershocks

Safety concerns of women, more lessons from Op Sindoor, and Nepal's India-China balancing act were discussed threadbare in the Edit and Op-ed pages this past week

The resignation of Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on the first day of the monsoon session created quite an uproar, with everyone looking for the reasons behind his sudden exit. A possible trigger was his acceptance of the Opposition's impeachment motion against Justice Varma. Senior journalist Radhika Ramaseshan writes in her Edit piece The Opposition and the Dhankhar bombshell that the seeds of a controversy have doubtlessly been sown, but the onus is on the Opposition to reap a rich harvest. With the Opposition demanding a debate on the Pahalgam terror attack, discussions on the gains and losses of Op Sindoor have started again. During Op Sindoor, we saw the use of drones becoming central to modern conflict. Beyond this victory, we need to prepare for the future, writes former Northern Army commander Lt Gen DS Hooda (retd) in his Op-ed piece The real drone war is yet to come. India must also indigenously develop medium and long-range strike drones and an effective counter-drone system, he writes. Supporting his arguments are two more articles. In the Op-ed piece Will India's future wars be contact-less?, Lt Gen Harbhajan Singh (retd) writes that both India and Pakistan cannot sustain contactless warfare because drones of varying capacities are required in huge numbers to sustain the war for long. No wonder, Op Sindoor lasted only 88 hours, he writes. In the Op-ed Questions on Op Sindoor that need answers, Lt Gen Raj Kadian (retd) asks the government to come clean on the losses of Op Sindoor.

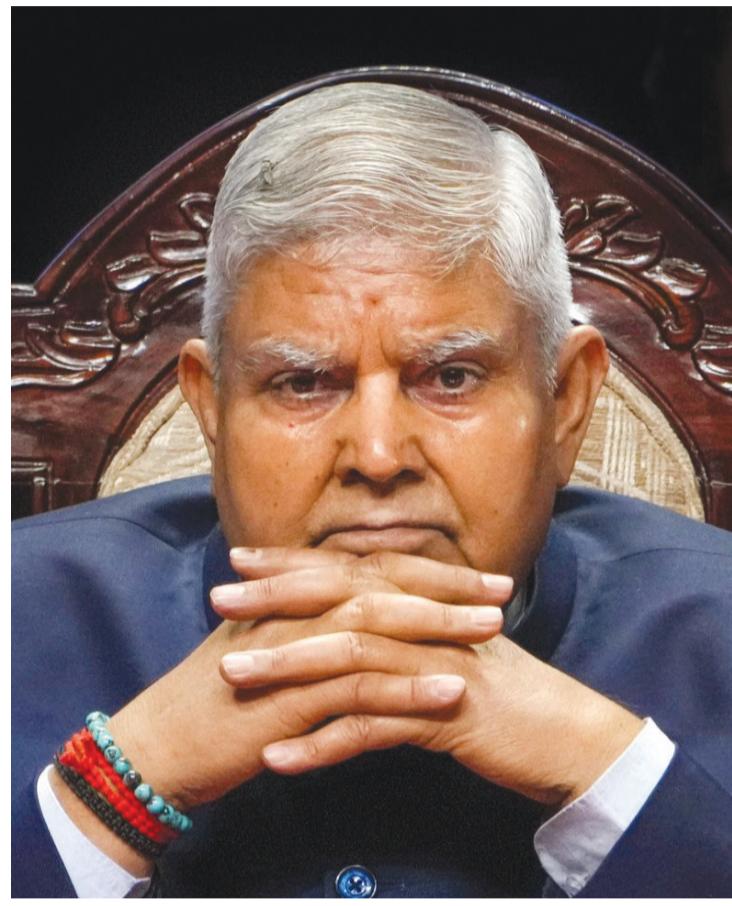
A growing concern for women's safety has arisen after the suicide of a 20-year-old girl at Balasore in Odisha, where the system failed to act at every step on her complaint of sexual harassment by her professor. Helpless, she burnt herself to death. Now, comes the politically ignominious act of announcing Vikas Barala as Assistant Advocate General of Haryana. The son of Rajya Sabha MP Subhash Barala, Vikas is the same person who is accused of stalking and attempting to abduct a young girl, Varnika Kundu, in Chandigarh eight years ago. Here, as in other cases like that of wrestlers Sakshi Malik and Vinesh Phogat raising the fight against another BJP MP Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the young women know it's going to be a long haul and that log kya kahenge is yesterday's mantra, writes The Tribune Editor-in-Chief

Jyoti Malhotra in her Edit piece Smashing the fear-shame barricades. Giving an interesting turn to PM Modi's visit to the UK, where eye-catching trade deals were signed, The Tribune's London Correspondent Shyam Bhatia talks of something different but important in his Op-ed piece, What Modi's visit reveals and what it quietly ignores. The UK government has made sure he doesn't visit some important destinations which carry India's deeper histories — Pentonville prison where Indian revolutionary Shaheed Udham

central body in charge of regulating medical education. In his incisive article The rot in medical education runs deep, science commentator Dinesh C Sharma writes that the quality of medical education and public safety are being jeopardised. The CBI recently took the lid off a massive scandal where private medical colleges, health ministry officials and the NMC colluded to subvert norms. Such acts make running a medical college an extraordinarily lucrative business where anything from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 1 crore is charged at the time of admission. A witness to most of contemporary India's political history pre- and post-Independence, communist leader VS Achuthanandan passed away at the age of 101. Where does the Left move from here with its tallest leaders no longer around to guide? The Left must shed its proclivity for class alliances and look for social ones by tying up with progressive forces like feminists, environmentalists, human rights activists, etc, suggests Professor Emeritus, Panjab University Bhupinder Brar in his Op-ed piece How will Left fill Achuthanandan void. Another stalwart, but in the field of theatre, who left us was the famous playwright and theatre director Ratan Thiyam, a revolutionary force who decolonised Indian theatre and rooted it in indigenous traditions. By bringing the narratives of the Northeast, the region that he belonged to, into the national mainstream, he created a legacy of deep connection to land, culture and community, writes theatre director Neelam Mansingh Chowdhry in the Op-ed piece Ratan Thiyam, a true alchemist of theatre.

Talking more about the North-east, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman was on a four-day visit to Meghalaya where she underlined the improvements made in the state's health sector over the years. But there is a key sector where the government needs to engage robustly, and that is the education sector, especially at the school level, says independent columnist Sanjoy Hazarika in his Edit piece Hope takes root in Meghalaya.

On the list of visits of important dignitaries to India is Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli's visit, which is being seen in the context of the neighbouring country's strategic importance in the wake of another of our neighbour Bhutan's assiduous wooing of China. However, what will be high on the agenda will be the Pancheshwar-Mahakali treaty pending since 1996, writes former founding member, Defence Planning Staff Maj Gen Ashok Mehta (retd) in his Op-ed piece Nepal PM's India visit & his penchant for the China card.



Singh was hanged; Brighton's Royal Pavilion where Indian soldiers wounded in the first world war were segregated from White patients, Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum which displayed human skulls from India till about as recent as 2020. A very important issue that was highlighted in the Edit-oped pages was corruption in some medical colleges that is undermining the integrity of the National Medical Commission (NMC), the

## State action not enough to curb superstitions

The eateries view their actions as strategic and lucrative opportunities to generate more revenue in the yatra season, appeal to devotees, or circumvent administrative restrictions.

A spate of bizarre spectacles emerging from the tribal regions of Odisha hit the headlines in the last few weeks. In two separate incidents, couples were yoked to ploughs to till land in the full view of villagers. A third incident preceding these two involved about 40 members of two families shaving their heads at a community event. The shocking visuals of what are presumed to be acts of purification as well as punishment went viral on social media platforms. A common thread running through the incidents reported from Rayagada and Koraput districts was of marriages that had defied social norms. A probe by a divisional commissioner-ranked officer has been initiated, while the police are investigating the circumstances under which the couples were forced to haul ploughs. These episodes are likely to be forgotten soon, but the dehumanising acts are a serious violation of the right to live with dignity guaranteed by the Constitution and must be viewed so.

Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses

Such corporal punishments have rarely been reported in the past. One can only attribute these incidents' wider airing to



the increased use of mobile phones in the tribal hinterlands. However, they must not be ignored as isolated incidents. They speak of the kangaroo courts steeped in a primitive legal system that dish out quick justice in these areas. Tribal groups constitute about 23 percent of Odisha's population, and across the vast swathes of their habitations, ancient customs and practices continue to rule

the roost. The widespread prevalence of superstition, quackery, sorcery and witchcraft has been perpetuated by decades of backwardness, low levels of literacy and absence of governance. Many of the tribal groups continue to remain unexposed to the modern rights-based legal system, however imperfect it is. While it is important to protect the cultural integrity of tribal communities from urban invasion, the state government must ensure that the fundamental rights of individuals enshrined in the Constitution are safeguarded, irrespective of where they live. The experience with laws to tackle sorcery and witchcraft in tribal-dominated states reveals that administrations have struggled to effectively implement them. State and police actions can only instil a sense of fear. The long-term solution should be through focused initiatives based on nuanced understanding of the cultural complexities of the communities and the socio-political dynamics of the region.

## For all of human race's venality, it is not over yet Passing the buck and blame is also very human



almost screamed: "Don't, you are sitting on a piece of unique heritage and a potential goldmine. All you need is a modern bathroom and kitchen."

As happens in places like these, one became quite friendly with Lal Singh, the rest house chowkidar. As I was the only resident in the place, he had time on his hands and offered to be my guide. We drove up to the village of Bulah. And there in a sunless corner, the snow had still not melted. We put gravel over it and scattered

branches in the hope of achieving some traction. We hit our heels on the hard cake. The car took on the role of a sledge, slid back and seemed to be quite happy to remain where it was. There was no choice but to start walking. Straight up the hill. Six hours and 1,000 metres higher, we were atop the rise of Shikari Devi. En route, we had not seen or heard another human. In the distance, something from the deer family had gone racing past an open meadow. Lal Singh gave a wriggle

that belied his bulk and said: "Now tell me where is Janjheli?" Gasping for breath, my wave could have included that little village where we had started from — or all of Tibet that lay past the Himalaya.

He nodded approvingly. "Now where is Karsog?" Again the wave seemed adequate.

The road that now connects Karsog valley to Janjheli over the Shikari Devi slopes had still not been made. We were on our way back and Lal Singh took the opportunity of the long walk downhill to talk. He stopped near a dip in the woods and turned to me: "Do you know who I am married to?" I shook my head. He pointed to the bushes in the dip. "The man my wife was supposed to marry was a schoolteacher. He started walking from Karsog through this forest and it started snowing. It got dark perhaps. He lost his footing and fell down in those bushes. When the snow melted, the remains were found. The animals had got to him before us." This was a very rural Himachal story. Roads have become the lifeline for these far-flung villages. Sitting outside, it is easy to say that these are unnecessary. Tell that to someone who needs medical treatment or has to get his crop out to sell.

Everyone is entitled to a better life. But what we lost in this process is common sense and balance. Like so many other places in Himachal, the Janjheli that I've written about has been damaged, and Thunag severely impacted during this monsoon. It is not over yet. No, I'm not a prophet (or loss) of doom. Nor am I a minor acolyte. For all its stupidity and venality, one still has hope for the human race. Even though passing the buck and blame is also very human.

# 8 years of neglect: Vaishali locals protest over this cratered road

## Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Residents of Vaishali's Sector 1 have protested the hazardous condition of the road near UP Gate, behind Max hospital.

The road, which has remained unprepared for eight years, is riddled with potholes that have become the cause of frequent accidents, putting both lives and property at risk. The situation becomes particularly treacherous during the monsoon. While Sunil Vaid, a resident of the area, said the condition of the road has severely deteriorated over the years. "Each year, the govt and the Ghaziabad administration announce that broken roads will be fixed. Sadly, this road has been overlooked, as the local administration and municipal corporation have shown little interest in repairing it," Vaid stated. Harminder Singh, another resident from Vaishali

**Health ATM offers free diagnosis, remote consultation at Civil Hospital in Gurgaon**

## Gurgaon.(Agency)

Gurgaon: In a quiet corner of Sector 10 Civil Hospital, a small machine — no bigger than a photo booth — is silently reshaping access to healthcare. At this health ATM, described as a "digital clinic packed with potential", patients can consult a doctor live via video, get an instant e-prescription and receive their reports directly on WhatsApp, email or SMS: all within 45 to 50 minutes. From blood pressure and blood sugar to ECG, BMI and psychological screening — this health ATM offers more than 20 medical tests free of cost. Patients have started calling the health ATM "easy and fast" even as the machine speaks multiple languages, includes voice instructions and supports both Aadhaar cards and phone numbers. Health officials are watching the experiment closely. Principal medical officer Dr Lokveer Singh said, "We have one health ATM in the city and others in Sohna, Rewari and Narnaul. The govt may set up more. These kiosks are getting a lot of attention." For Rekha Devi, a 52-year-old domestic worker from Manesar, it made a real difference. "My blood sugar was acting up and I didn't have time to wait in long queues," she said. I got tested, talked to a doctor and my report came straight to my phone. It was easy and fast." For those unfamiliar with tech, ASHA workers like Sushma step in to guide them through the process. "People who never went for regular check-ups are now using it weekly," Sushma said, adding, "And they are coming back for follow-ups because their records are easy to access." That's the real game-changer: continuity of care. In a system where medical history is often lost in paper files — or never recorded at all — the health ATM creates a digital trail. "It's not just about one test," Sushma continued, "It's about staying connected to your health."

The kiosk provides a basic yet meaningful screening package that can flag early signs of illness and track overall well-being.



Sector 1, said the broken and pothole-ridden road has consistently troubled

commuters for the last eight years. "The state govt has frequently announced plans

to make all state roads pothole-free. However, after eight years, there has been no substantial progress in addressing the road conditions in our area," Singh said. Singh further said that despite informing the local administration and the municipal corporation several times about the problem, no action has been taken. "It seems that the problems affecting our area are being overlooked," he said. Singh has written letters to Ghaziabad DM and the municipal commissioner, urging them to take the matter seriously and to instruct the relevant department to start immediate road repairs and reconstruction. "This would bring relief to them and help prevent potential accidents," he added. A response from GMC and the administration is awaited on the matter and more accessible.

## Gurgaon.(Agency)

The Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) conducted the Common Eligibility Test (CET) 2025 over the weekend. Held in four sessions across 145 examination centres in the city on Saturday and Sunday, a total of 1,32,209 candidates appeared for the exam.

According to official data, 33,040 candidates appeared in the first session on Saturday, followed by 32,963 in the second. On Sunday, 33,108 candidates took the morning session, and 33,098 appeared in the afternoon session. To facilitate the transportation of Faridabad-based candidates to centres in Gurgaon, 135 buses were arranged in both sessions over two days. Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar visited examination centres on Sunday and kept a close watch on arrangements throughout the day. Following the peaceful and successful conclusion of the examination, he extended congratulations to the police department, transport officials, GMCBL, and the entire district team for their efforts. Teams from administration, police, and civil defence also played a crucial role in helping candidates reach their respective centres efficiently.

The district control room assisted more than 1,500 candidates, reflecting the administration's commitment to a smooth examination process.

## A rainy end to month? After humid spell, intense showers set to lash Gurgaon

### Gurgaon. (Agency)

After a dry spell, most parts of Haryana, including the city, are likely to see moderate to heavy showers on July 28 and 29, with the monsoon expected to shift south of Delhi and intensify over neighbouring regions.

According to IMD, rainfall activity is expected to be widespread across Gurgaon, Faridabad, and south Haryana areas, especially in the late evening and early morning hours. "Weather models show that a low-pressure system currently active over north India will move towards northeast Rajasthan. This will likely trigger heavy to very heavy rainfall in parts of Rajasthan and northern Madhya Pradesh. Delhi, which lies just north of this system, could also see spillover rain," an IMD official said. Gurgaon's minimum temperature on Sunday was 26.7 degrees Celsius, nearly two degrees higher than Saturday's 24.8°C. The maximum temperature remained steady at 34.1°C, while it was 34.7°C on Saturday. IMD's forecast suggests the upcoming shift in the monsoon axis will pull in more moisture-laden winds into Delhi-NCR. Isolated heavy spells are expected on both July 28 and 29.

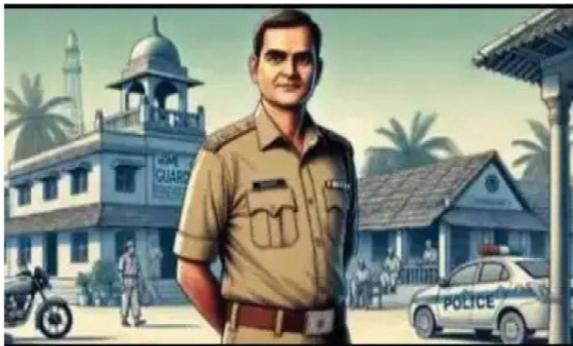
Meanwhile in Delhi, the maximum temperature was recorded at 37.5 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature, however, stood at 28.8 degrees Celsius. On Monday, the maximum temperature is likely to go up to 35 degrees Celsius, while the minimum is expected to be around 26-28 degrees Celsius.

## 3 of family die as man spikes kids' drink, poisons self in Faridabad

### Ghaziabad.(Agency)

Gurgaon: Three members of a family died after a 34-year-old man allegedly spiked his two children's drink before consuming the same in Roshan Nagar area of Faridabad on Saturday night. All three died during treatment on Sunday even as an eerie silence prevails in the area. Auto-rickshaw driver Mohammad Niyaz, from Samastipur in Bihar, lived at a rented house with 12-year-old son Dilshad and 11-year-old daughter Shaina Parveen.

The incident took place at 8.30pm in their room. Locals quickly transported the three to a nearby private hospital where they died during treatment. Niyaz had "mixed poison in their drink", but the exact substance will be determined after the



post-mortem, police said, adding, "the reason hasn't been ascertained".

A police officer said Niyaz, who had been having frequent fights with his wife, had banished her three months ago. The two children had stayed behind with their father and were studying in a nearby

private school. "She had been living at her sister's house in Lakkarpur, Faridabad. She received a phone call from a neighbour alerting her about the incident. The neighbour said the kids had complained that they were having irritation in their stomach after their father gave them a drink," the officer said. Niyaz had been struggling with alcoholism, said police, who are investigating if he had been under mental stress or under financial difficulties. Another officer said the deceased had been under mental stress following his wife leaving him three months ago. Police spokesperson Yashpal said the wife of the deceased filed a complaint based on which a case was registered under BNS sections 103 (murder) and 123 (causing hurt by poison).

## Walkways to lights, Noida's Transport Nagar Chowk set for a facelift

### Gurgaon .(Agency)

Noida: The Authority has sanctioned a Rs 4-crore beautification project for Transport Nagar Chowk in Sector 67, following the success of its first model road from Shashi Chowk to Noida City Centre. The space has been designed by Orionn Architects.

The project will transform a 500-metre stretch along DS Road into a safe, accessible, and visually appealing public space. It will feature tree-lined pedestrian walkways, landscaped greenery, decorative lighting, sculptures, benches, bollards, and ramps for differently-abled access. A proper drainage system will be installed within the green belt, and kiosks will be set up near the roundabout. Rainwater harvesting will also be incorporated to divert water toward the ground rather than into sewage drains.

Neelima Rana, a partner at Orionn Architects, said the vision behind the project is to



create a "complete road" that is inclusive, sustainable, and safe for all users — motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists. She added that the design focuses on universal accessibility, featuring ramps, tactile flooring for the visually impaired, and smart road infrastructure such as energy-efficient lights and safe pedestrian crossings. This initiative follows the Authority's pilot project, also designed by Orionn, where a 1.2km stretch from Shashi

Chowk near Golf Course metro station to Noida City Centre was revamped into a model road. That project, costing Rs 4 crore, included walkways, sculptures, benches, smart poles with panic buttons, mobile charging points, bus bays, and WiFi zones. It drew inspiration from global cities like Singapore, London, and New York. Building on the positive response to the model road, the Authority decided to replicate the concept in other parts of the city, starting with Sector 67. "A tender was floated, and many companies have submitted their bids. The Authority is now in the process of finalising the agency that will be engaged in the project," said DGM (civil) Vijay Kumar Rawal, adding that this is the latest step in Noida Authority's ongoing efforts to make its public spaces greener, safer, and more accessible.

## 11 deaths in 3 years: Why Pachgaon Chowk is one of Gurgaon's most dangerous spots

### Noida.(Agency)

Traffic cops have identified 23 conflict points at Pachgaon Chowk, one of the city's most notorious blackspots that has witnessed 11 fatalities and 12 injuries in 19 accidents between 2021 and 2024.

The traffic engineering centre has highlighted how the junction's complex layout, combining high-speed highway traffic with slow-moving local vehicles, creates a deadly mix. The most recent tragedy occurred on June 21, when a Delhi Police head constable died and five others were injured after a Rajasthan Roadways bus overturned while trying to avoid crashing into a car.

The report, prepared under CP (traffic) Rajesh Mohan's supervision, identifies the junction as particularly hazardous because of its location at the median gap of NH-8 and its intersection with the Western Peripheral Expressway. The area's mixed land use, with Pachgaon village on one side and undeveloped land on the other, further complicates traffic movement.

The study reveals 11 crossing conflicts, seven diverging conflicts, and five merging conflicts at the junction. Trucks, the report says, are a major cause of collisions at this location, involved in six of 9 fatal accidents in these three years. They often make U-turns towards Delhi and Ajmer to avoid a cloverleaf, using the median gap to save 1.2km and increasing the risk of collision with straight-moving traffic. Buses also lack an alternative entry to the village, frequently using the median gap.

Bus stopping to pick up and drop passengers on the main carriageway also pose considerable risks, who are forced to cross the road against high-speed traffic. Another major concern is wrong-side movement of two-wheelers, accounting for 37% of traffic violations. Traffic from Pachgaon village and the Delhi side often moves against the flow, particularly towards Pukharpur.

An underutilised underpass for pedestrians and two-wheelers, located 200 metres from the median gap, is often avoided because of its poor maintenance and difficult access. The report notes that 82% of Delhi-bound traffic moves straight, while 11% attempts U-turns, creating dangerous situations. The report proposes limiting the U-turns of trucks at the median gap by installing a 4-metre height barrier. It also advises extending the median on the service road by about 20 metres to minimise complicated manoeuvres. The report calls for shifting bus stops on both sides of the road about 70 metres towards Delhi, reducing pedestrians' walking distance to the underpass. To improve connectivity, the report recommends building a new road linking Pukharpur Road with a service lane near the underpass and constructing footpaths for pedestrians.

## Motor fails, water woes hit 1,500 families in Greater Noida's Mu 2 for 2 days



were not aware of the chronic situation on the ground. Taking cognisance of the situation, GNIDA assistant manager of

Sewerage and STP, Prabhat Shankar, directed staff to fix the problem immediately.

## 68k small wetlands revived in a year: Haryana at Ramsar COP15

### Gurgaon.(Agency)

Haryana revived 68,827 small wetlands in a year as part of the Amrit Sarovar Mission and Mission Sahbhagita, state govt officials announced at Ramsar COP15 being held at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe.

Officials said the state's model to revive these small-scale wetlands, most of them less than 1-hectare area, drew international attention for the projects' speed and replicability. Key to this initiative, officials said, was the govt's 'all of society' approach, which involved gram panchayats, local communities, schoolchildren and NGOs. They were asked to identify, restore and maintain these water bodies. Instead of prioritising only large lakes or Ramsar sites, the state targeted small wetlands — ponds, johads and other traditional water bodies that had either dried up, vanished, or became waste-dumping sites, they said.

"We focused on the wetlands closest to people because that's where the fastest ecological and social turnaround can happen," said Dr Vivek Saxena, Haryana's principal chief conservator of forests (wildlife), who also holds charge as the chief wildlife warden. Saxena presented the govt's achievement at the Zimbabwe event on Saturday. He also represented India at another event — National Wetland Inventories: Tools, Challenges and Opportunities Across the Globe — held on the sidelines of COP15. Reviving these small water bodies largely involves interventions such as desilting, garbage removal, fencing, planting vegetation along the banks and putting up signboards.

## News box

### 1.3 lakh appear for CET in Gurgaon, buses deployed to take them to centres

#### Gurgaon.(Agency)

The Haryana Staff Selection Commission (HSSC) conducted the Common Eligibility Test (CET) 2025 over the weekend. Held in four sessions across 145 examination centres in the city on Saturday and Sunday, a total of 1,32,209 candidates appeared for the exam.

According to official data, 33,040 candidates appeared in the first session on Saturday, followed by 32,963 in the second. On Sunday, 33,108 candidates took the morning session, and 33,098 appeared in the afternoon session. To facilitate the transportation of Faridabad-based candidates to centres in Gurgaon, 135 buses were arranged in both sessions over two days. Deputy commissioner Ajay Kumar visited examination centres on Sunday and kept a close watch on arrangements throughout the day. Following the peaceful and successful conclusion of the examination, he extended congratulations to the police department, transport officials, GMCBL, and the entire district team for their efforts. Teams from administration, police, and civil defence also played a crucial role in helping candidates reach their respective centres efficiently.

The district control room assisted more than 1,500 candidates, reflecting the administration's commitment to a smooth examination process.

# Former Delhi BJP mayor Jai Prakash refutes AAP's allegation of land grab

Ankush Narang has demanded a probe into the matter, stating that the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board property was falsely taken from the earlier licensed tenants.

#### Agency New Delhi.

BJP leader Jai Prakash Monday, refuted allegations of land grabbing made by the Leader of Opposition in Municipal Corporation of Delhi, Ankush Narang, calling them a political stunt, and said the Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board (DUSIB) property located on Bahadurgarh Road and Sadar Bazaar had been transferred legally. While speaking to The Indian Express, Prakash, a former North Delhi mayor, said the property was currently under his son's name following due process. "How can the AAP party wake up one day and question this, when the process was carried out legally when the party itself was in power five years back?" asked Prakash.

He added that the DUSIB property was given to refugees who did not wish to stay any longer, and hence, using the power of

attorney, they transferred this property. As a result, the post-mutation is now under his son's name. "We are simply tenants of the DUSIB, just in place of those who were earlier."

There is proper documentation of the rent we have paid for this property," he told The . Prakash questioned the allegations, stating that the entire process was carried out when the AAP was in power, and when DUSIB was also under the Delhi Government's control.

The Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board is primarily responsible for improving the quality of life of slum and jhuggi-jhopri dwellers in



the Capital.

Narang recently demanded a probe into the matter, saying the property was taken from the earlier licensed tenants in error, as

there is no provision for transferring such government property. "While Prakash was carrying out construction, police slapped several chalans, and DUSIB also sent notices, but the mayor didn't stop," Narang said. "No individual can purchase government land, so Jai Prakash falsely showed that he had purchased it from the individuals who held the property on license. The Lokayukta's report has

levelled serious allegations against him. This is a clear case of abuse of power to acquire a property illegally," he added.

## 2019 rioting case: Delhi HC seeks police response in activist Asif Iqbal Tanha's plea challenging charges against him

#### Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court Monday sought a response from the city police in a plea by student activist Asif Iqbal Tanha challenging the framing of charges against him in a 2019 FIR lodged over violence that allegedly erupted over protests against the Citizenship Amendment Bill at the time. Justice Sanjeev Narula, issuing notice, posted the matter for consideration next on October 13.

Two other accused in the case — activist Sharjeel Imam and Jamia student Chandan Kumar — have also challenged the framing of charges against them by a trial court, with their petitions also pending before the Delhi High Court. The high court is due to consider all these pleas on October 13.

While framing charges against the accused, the trial court, in an order on May 7, observed, "Accused Sharjeel Imam was not only an instigator, he was also one of the kingpins of a larger conspiracy to incite violence."

Imam and Tanha were charged under sections related to abetment, criminal conspiracy, being part of an unlawful assembly, and rioting with a deadly weapon of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and sections of the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act, among others. According to the chargesheet filed in this case, 41 vehicles, including government vehicles, were damaged and set ablaze by a mob of hundreds in New Friends Colony. It also stated that 10 police officers were injured, including a station house officer (SHO) who sustained grievous injuries. Fourteen people have been discharged in the case, while charges have been framed against nine others.

## 'Udaipur Files': Delhi HC to hear on Wednesday pleas challenging film's release, says 'no urgency'

#### Agency New Delhi.

Noting that there is no immediate urgency to hear petitions challenging the release of the film Udaipur Files as it does not have a Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certification as yet, the Delhi High Court on Monday posted the pleas for hearing on Wednesday.

The release of the film, based on the murder case of tailor Kanhaiya Lal by alleged Islamic fundamentalists in 2022, is under challenge in two petitions before the Delhi High Court — one by Maulana Arshad Madani, principal of the Darul Uloom Deoband, and another by Mohammed Javed, an accused undertrial in the murder case. Last week, the Supreme Court refused to interfere in the matter and sent it back to the high court for consideration. On July 10, the high court had temporarily stayed the film's release while granting those aggrieved by the purported portrayal in the film, vilifying Muslims, to represent the matter before the Central government and seek a review of the CBFC's decision to greenlight the film's release.

Taken up before a bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela, Madani's counsel told the court that senior advocate Kapil Sibal, who will be arguing the matter, was unavailable on Monday and sought an adjournment.

Meanwhile, Javed, represented by senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, told the court that with the producer's admission that the film is based on the chargesheet in the case and given that Javed is an undertrial, his right to fair trial will be prejudiced.

Upon a query from the court on whether the film has been recertified by the CBFC subsequent to the Centre's review of it, the court was informed that while the movie was approved with six cuts and a disclaimer, which has been incorporated by the producers, CBFC certification remains to be issued.

Taking note that a film cannot be exhibited till CBFC certification is issued, the court observed, "as on date no urgency", and acceding to the request for adjournment, posted the matter to Wednesday.

## With Rs 3,875 crore, Gurgaon leads Haryana liquor vend auctions that raked in over Rs 14,300 crore

Other top contributors include Faridabad with a revenue collection of Rs 1,696 crore, followed by Sonipat (Rs 1,066 crore). This time, liquor vend licences in Haryana were issued for a term of 22 months.

**Agency New Delhi.** Gurgaon district led Haryana excise department's revenue collection with Rs 3,875 crore, contributing 27 per cent to the state's total of Rs 14,342 crore in liquor vend auctions that concluded in July under the 2025-27 policy, officials said.

The figure marks a proportionate rise of 13.25 per cent from the Rs 7,025 crore collected in last year's auctions. The department successfully auctioned all 1,194 retail liquor zones, issuing licenses for 2,388 vends, with each zone allowing two vends per licensee. In the 2024-25 fiscal, liquor vend licences were issued for a one-year term, unlike 22 months this time. "The auctions concluded in July, a month earlier than last year's August timeline, due to the attractive provisions of the 2025-27 Excise

Policy," said Vinay Pratap Singh, Commissioner, Excise and Taxation. A transparent web portal facilitated high participation, he added.

The other top contributors include



Faridabad with Rs 1,696 crore or 12 per cent of the total revenue collected, followed by Sonipat (Rs 1,066 crore), Rewari (Rs 654 crore), Hisar (Rs 615 crore), Karnal (Rs 612 crore), and Panipat (Rs 605 crore). Yamuna Nagar's revenue rose to Rs 439.88 crore from Rs 237.81 crore last year,

despite low initial participation. Significant year-on-year revenue increases were seen in Bhiwani (23.5%), Fatehabad (21%), Hisar (21%), Kurukshetra (20.5%), Karnal (19%), and Panipat (18%).

The Haryana Government has set a revenue target of Rs 14,064 crore under the new excise policy. In 2024-25, the government had collected Rs 12,700 crore against a target of Rs 12,650 crore.

"Prompt and strong action by state law enforcement against criminal elements, under the directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, ensured faster auctions and substantially higher revenue," the commissioner stated. He highlighted that these measures underscored the state's commitment to the safety and security of its residents, contributing to the auction's success.

## 'My Babua is no more... she was to start school next week': Mother of 5-year-old killed by BMW in Noida

**Agency New Delhi.** In her one-room rented house at Noida's Sadarpur Khajoor colony — a maze of tightly packed lanes and shared washrooms — Tanjeela sits silently on a thin mattress, eyes fixed on the door. "My Babua is no more," she whispers. "We were supposed to get her enrolled at a school next week... Her father had been saying that he would take leave and get her enrolled."

Her five-year-old daughter, Ayat, had died late Saturday, flung off a scooter as it was hit by a speeding BMW allegedly coming from the wrong in Sector 30. The two men accompanying her, her father Gul Mohammad, and maternal uncle Raja, were rushed to hospitals in critical condition. Raja, doctors say, is in a coma. The body of Ayat, meanwhile, is still in

the mortuary. Around 11 pm on Saturday, when the family was ready to sleep, Ayat began crying in pain — a tiny insect had



crawled into her ear. Her father, an electrician, and her uncle, a tailor who stayed with them, rushed her to the nearby Post Graduate Institute of Child Health. They left on a scooter. The hospital was only a few kilometres away. "She got her ears cleaned... But when they did not return, I called to

check... No one picked up the calls," says Tanjeela. Around 1 am, her phone rang — the police were calling to inform that her daughter was no more and that her husband and brother are being rushed to a hospital in critical condition.

On Sunday, the extended family split into three groups — one at each hospital, and one at the mortuary.

While Gul is awake in the ICU of Kailash Hospital in Sector 27, Raja is yet to gain consciousness at Ghaziabad's SMART Hospital. At the mortuary, relatives await the body to be released after postmortem examination.

"We are trying to be everywhere at once," said Shamad Ali, a cousin. "Gul bhai is stable now, but Raja's condition is still very serious."

## Woman sub-inspector, 2 other cops among 5 arrested for taking Rs 20 lakh bribe in Delhi

#### Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi Police Sunday arrested a woman sub-inspector, two of her subordinates, and two civilians for allegedly taking a bribe of Rs 20 lakh from a complainant, an officer said.

According to the police, Sub-Inspector Neetu Bhist, posted at Paschim Vihar East police station, was caught red-handed on the station's premises after the Outer District police laid a trap on the request of the complainant. The two other police personnel arrested include a head constable and a constable. A senior police officer said the process to suspend the accused officers will be initiated as soon as the preliminary inquiry is complete.

Officers said the complainant, who runs an educational consulting firm, told them that he was in his office on Saturday when a police officer from Paschim Vihar East station arrived and accused him of running his business illegally. The complainant was then forced to board an SUV and taken to a police booth in Peera Garhi.

The complainant alleged that the police personnel asked him for Rs 50 lakh, and the sub-inspector called him and threatened dire consequences if he lodged a complaint. Officers added that the two civilians arrested were known to the complainant, and they had forced him to sign two cheques to "settle" the matter with the police. After negotiations, the complainant allegedly agreed to pay Rs 20 lakh as the first instalment.

Investigators are now probing the role of the Station House Officer (SHO) of Paschim Vihar East police station in the incident as one of accused civilians, Ajay Kashyap, is often seen frequenting the station. In June this year, the Vigilance Department of the Delhi Police caught a head constable taking a bribe of Rs 25,000 at Burari police station. The accused subsequently suffered chest pain and was rushed to a hospital nearby.

## Another 'BKI associate' held for April grenade attack in Punjab police station

#### Agency New Delhi.

A 22-year-old man was arrested by Delhi Police Special Cell on Saturday for allegedly harbouring terrorists attached to the banned terror organisation Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and being involved in a grenade attack on Quila Lal Singh police station in April.

Karanbir alias Karan, hailing from Chanana village in Amritsar, was apprehended on July 26 from Gurdaspur under the Arms Act registered at the Special Cell police station. Police said he is a key accused in the April 7 grenade attack at Quila Lal Singh police station in Batala.

"He received money from his handler for executing the grenade attack. He also facilitated the stay of two persons at his home before the attack, who had executed the task of launching the grenade at Quila Lal Singh police station. His brother Gursewak, who was also involved in the attack, has already been arrested in the case," D C P (Special

Cell) Amit Kaushik said. Karanbir is the second alleged BKI terrorist arrested this week. Akash Deep — wanted in an illegal arms trafficking case in the Capital and the grenade attack on Lal Singh Quila police station — was arrested on Wednesday. "Following leads based on Akash Deep's questioning, Karanbir alias Karan was arrested from Gurdaspur," the DCP said. Karanbir, who has cleared Class 12, allegedly told the police that he was in contact with a BKI handler from Punjab, based abroad, through social media and was receiving instructions to carry out terror activities. "He was instructed on encrypted apps in code language to act on behalf of BKI. He also visited an Asian country in 2024, to meet BKI operatives," an officer said.

S Jaipal Reddy laid the foundation for the four-lane road project. However, the project has remained in limbo. In a post on X, Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari in April said, "This national highway section connects Gurugram, Sohna, and Nuh industrial areas. Due to the movement of heavy vehicles from Rajasthan to northern states, there is heavy traffic on this route. Making this section four-lane will reduce heavy traffic and provide better connectivity, which will promote economic development in this area."

Nuh Congress MLA Aftab Ahmed had earlier claimed it was the Manmohan Singh government that initiated works to convert the route into a national highway in 2014. "But the BJP governments at the Centre and the state dropped this four-lane project in 2018, saying that the upcoming Delhi-Mumbai Expressway will take care of the needs of the people," he had said.

## Tender issued for widening of accident-prone Nuh-Alwar highway to 4 lanes



MoRTH in Jaipur, invites bids from qualified contractors. The completion period is 24 months, followed by a five-year maintenance period after the construction is complete. Bids can be submitted online via the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPP) and Bill Information and Management System

(BIMS) from July 24 to September 8, with the bid opening scheduled for September 9.

The development comes after the Union government in April approved the project to convert the single-lane stretch into a four-lane road.

On November 3, 2008, then Union minister

## NEWS BOX

**You expect him to take 10 wickets Kapil Dev defends Anshul Kamboj after debut**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

VKapil Dev has defended Anshul Kamboj after his lacklustre start to life in India colours during the Manchester Test. Kamboj was roped in as a cover for the Indian team as Arshdeep Singh and Akash Deep were ruled out of the 4th Test due to injuries.

Kamboj was expected to make a big impact after his exploits during India A's tour of England, but the pacer wasn't impressive and conceded 89 runs in 18 overs and got just a wicket. The Haryana pacer's selection was questioned by many, but Kapil Dev jumped to his defence. The former India captain asked if everyone was expecting a 10-wicket haul from him in his first outing and tipped the pacer to bounce back. "What do you expect from a debutant, that he should take 10 wickets? You have to assess his potential. If he's good enough, he will bounce back. Everyone is nervous when playing their first game. The result may not be ideal, but I believe the ability is there, and that's more important," said Kapil Dev at the launch of the second-half schedule of the Professional



GolfTour of India (PGTI).

**Kapil Dev defends Shubman Gill**

Kapil Dev also urged people to give time to Shubman Gill, whose captaincy calls have been under the scanner. The legendary all-rounder said that Gill will learn from his mistakes and get better. "Give him time. This is his first series, he will commit mistakes and there will be many positives over the period of time, he will learn. There is no problem if he is learning. There will be mistakes, but he is learning from his mistakes, that is very important," he said. Kapil Dev also said that the ongoing series will be a learning step for the young team. "This is a young team, they are getting the opportunity to play and in the coming days these players will win. It is just a new team. Any new team in the world takes time to adjust. Gill is a new captain, and he will learn a lot and I think this series will be a learning step," said Kapil Dev.

**Watch Oscar Piastri's audacious overtake on Lando Norris that won him Belgian Grand Prix**

**BASSETERRE. (Agency)**

Oscar Piastri pulled off a bold early move on McLaren teammate and title rival Lando Norris to win a rain-delayed Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday, extending his Formula One championship lead to 16 points.

Ferrari's Charles Leclerc finished a distant third as McLaren secured their sixth one-two finish of the season - and their third in a row - cementing their dominance in the 2025 campaign. The race at Spa-Francorchamps was red-flagged after the formation lap and delayed by 1 hour and 20 minutes due to heavy rain, standing water, and poor visibility. Once racing resumed with a rolling start after four laps behind the safety car, Piastri wasted no time in taking control. The 24-year-old Australian showed fearless commitment, using the slipstream through the iconic Eau Rouge before sweeping past Norris on the Kemmel



Straight into Les Combes - a move that defined the race. I knew lap one would be my best chance to win, Piastri said. "I got a good exit out of Turn One and lifted as little as I dared through Eau Rouge. We managed the race well overall, although the mediums were a bit tricky in the last few laps. Still, we kept it mostly under control." Piastri's sixth victory of the season puts him in elite Australian company, surpassing former world champions Jack Brabham and Alan Jones for most wins in a single season.

Norris, who reported a brief battery issue early on, acknowledged that Piastri simply outperformed him. "Oscar just did a good job. He was more committed through Eau Rouge, got the slipstream, and made the move. Nothing to complain about - he deserved it today," Norris said.

**A Championship Battle Between Two**

With 266 points to Norris' 250, Piastri now leads the championship by 16 points. Red Bull's Max Verstappen, the reigning champion, sits third with 185 points - 81 behind the leader - making it increasingly clear that this season's title fight is a McLaren-only affair.

"If he's not playing, I still think we have the right kind of bowling attack," Gill added.

**England goalkeeper Hannah Hampton saved spot kicks from Mariona Caldentey and Spain superstar Aitana Bonmatí, before substitute Salma Paralluelo dragged her shot wide of goal.**

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

BASEL: More drama, another penalty shootout and never giving up. England successfully defended its Women's European Championship title on Sunday in its own special way, thriving in high tension yet again to take down world champion Spain in a shootout in the final. Chloe Kelly lashed in her spot kick to give England a 3-1 win on penalties after a 1-1 draw after extra time. "I was cool, I was composed, and I knew I was going to hit the back of the net," said Kelly, whose goals decided a second straight Women's Euros final, and also the

semifinal five days earlier. England goalkeeper Hanna Hampton saved spot kicks from Mariona Caldentey and Spain superstar Aitana Bonmatí, before substitute Salma Paralluelo dragged her shot wide of goal. The defending champion won the only way it knew how at this thrilling Euro 2025.

"It was the most chaotic tournament we played," said England coach Sarina Wiegman, who has now won three straight Women's Euros titles. Super subs England had fallen behind in the first half, fought back in the second and relied on its superb substitutes — including Kelly — just as it did against Italy and beating Sweden on penalties previously in the knockout rounds.

"I actually can't believe it myself," Wiegman said. "How can this happen? But it happens. We're just going to party tonight."

England leveled the score in the 57th on Alessia Russo's header from a cross by Kelly after Caldentey had given Spain the lead in the 25th finishing Ona Batlle's cross.

Spain trailed for only four minutes in the entire tournament — and not for one second against England — yet could not seal its first European title against the team it beat in the



World Cup final two years ago.

"I think this team deserved more. At least not living with this bitter feeling," Spain coach Montse Tomé said in translated comments. Kelly had scored an extra-time winning goal for England at Wembley three years ago to beat Germany 2-1.

**Spain's missed chance**

In extra time Spain had good possession in the England penalty area so many times yet did not force a decisive goal. "It was cruel," Bonmatí told Spanish broadcaster La 1, after being named best player of the tournament. "We played better, created more scoring chances, but in soccer sometimes that's not

## Bayern Munich agree deal to sign Liverpool winger Luis Diaz: reports

**Diaz has reportedly been given permission to leave Liverpool's pre-season tour of Asia in order to complete a medical with Bayern.**

**LONDON. (Agency)**

German champions Bayern Munich have agreed to sign Liverpool winger Luis Diaz in a £65.5 million (\$88 million) deal, according to multiple reports on Sunday. Bayern had an initial offer of £59 million rejected by the Premier League champions last week, but their improved bid looks set to bring the Colombia international to the Allianz Arena. Diaz has reportedly been given permission to leave Liverpool's pre-season tour of Asia in order to complete a medical with Bayern. He joined Liverpool from Porto in January



2022 and won the Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup during his time at Anfield.

The 28-year-old made 50 appearances and scored 17 goals in all competitions last season as Arne Slot's team clinched the English title for the first time in five years. Diaz was left out of Liverpool's 4-2 friendly defeat against AC Milan in Hong Kong on Saturday as speculation mounted over his future. Artilical Inteligence uses Artilical

Intelligence uses "In Lucho's (Diaz's) situation, there's a lot of rumours around him lately and I cannot go into that," Slot said after the Milan match. "He's training really well with us but we have decided for now not to play him yet. "I'm used to talking to most of my players on a regular basis. I cannot comment much more about that." Diaz's impending signing gives Bayern a quality replacement for Germany forward Jamal Musiala, who has been ruled out for a "long period" after he suffered a broken leg and dislocated ankle at the Club World Cup this month. Liverpool have been busy in the transfer window, bolstering their attacking options with expensive swoops for Bayer Leverkusen playmaker Florian Wirtz and Eintracht Frankfurt striker Hugo Ekitike. Defenders Jeremie Frimpong and Milos Kerkel arrived from Leverkusen and Bournemouth respectively, while goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili joined from Valencia. The Reds are also believed to be interested in making a bid for Newcastle's £150 million-rated striker Alexander Isak.

## Tactically Gambhir hasn't made it easier, he needs to take chill pill: Sanjay Manjrekar

**MANCHESTER. (Agency)**

Gautam Gambhir needs to loosen up, may be take a "chill pill", feels cricketer-turned-analyst Sanjay Manjrekar, who strongly believes that India earned a creditable draw in the fourth Test against England here despite some not-so-great tactical calls by the national team's head coach. Manjrekar didn't mince words when he said that the former southpaw hasn't strategically been on point in the red-ball format. Despite the fighting draw on Sunday, India are trailing 1-2 in the series with just one match to go.

"I feel India has done well despite some of his (Gambhir) tactical decisions. Let's not forget: India lost 3-0 at home (to) New Zealand, lost comfortably to Australia (away). The fight we've seen in this team? That's down to the players. "Because tactically, Gambhir hasn't always made things easier - especially with some of his selections." Manjrekar also urged the fiery head coach not to treat every



contrarian opinion as mindless criticism after the former India opener hit back at critics of skipper Shubman Gill describing them as people who lacked cricketing knowledge.

"There was never any doubt about Shubman Gill's talent. If someone had doubts, they probably don't understand cricket. Some players take time to settle in international cricket." In this dressing room, no one is surprised by what he's done on this tour," Gambhir said at the post-match press conference. "Even if he hadn't performed the way he did, we would still have had complete faith in his talent. What matters is that he's living up to his expectations and potential. More importantly, the so-called pressure of captaincy doesn't seem to affect him when he bats; he plays as a batsman, not as a captain," he added.

## Want a hundred against Brook? Of course! Ashwin slams Stokes for 4th Test fiasco

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

R Ashwin slammed Ben Stokes and England for the fiasco they created by trying to end the Manchester Test early and get a draw. The game was heading for a stalemate on Day 5 as Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar's partnership ended the chances of a win for the hosts and saved India. However, when both men were heading towards their hundreds, Stokes decided to extend the handshake and call for early stumps.

Jadeja and Sundar both rejected the offer and continued to bat on and this frustrated Stokes, who was seen asking the former if he wanted to score a hundred against a part-time bowler like Harry Brook. Jadeja and Sundar went on to slam their hundreds. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin slammed England for their double standards. The former spinner said that both men had bravely fought whatever the hosts dished out at them and it was Stokes' mistake to give the ball to Brook.

"Have you heard the term double standards? You shake hands



and then you say I'm frustrated. You also don't make a hundred, you also cry and go away." "Since morning, he played your Archer, played your Matthew Hoggard, played Darren Gough, played Andrew Flintoff — played all your bowlers, whoever you guys gave, he played them — and now when it's going towards a draw, both sides, and after putting in full hard work since morning he has reached here — and he should leave the hundred and walk away?" "And what was your question? 'You want to make a hundred against Harry Brook?' No brother, he wants to make a hundred. Please bring Steve Harmison. Okay, fine.

Bring Flintoff. He didn't say no. You're giving bowling to Harry Brook — that's your mistake, not ours," said Ashwin. "I would have told them to bat the whole 15 overs."

Ashwin pointed out that the early stumps can be called during the mandatory overs when both captains feel that a result isn't possible. The former spinner said that while one of the reasons why England wanted an early end was to protect their players, the second one was out of pure frustration.

Ashwin didn't find it to be a valid reason for calling for an early stop and said if he was the Indian skipper he would have batted the remaining 15 overs as well.

"If both captains believe that the game cannot head towards the result, you both can shake hands after the mandatory overs and you can call it a draw. One captain wanted to draw the game. He wanted to close out." "Why did he want to close out? Two things. He didn't want to tire his bowlers. Okay, fine.

## Jasprit Bumrah playing fifth Test would be "great deal for us", says Gill

**MANCHESTER. (Agency)**

India captain Shubman Gill said it would be a big deal for the team if pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah manages to play series-deciding fifth Test despite the team's original plan to restrict him to three matches.

Bumrah who suffered a stress reaction earlier in the year, was initially scheduled to feature in only three Tests on the long England tour to manage his workload and prevent further injuries. He missed the second Test at Edgbaston but played in the other three.

With England leading the series 2-1 after a draw in Manchester, India must win at The Oval to level the five-match contest.

"If he feels like he's fully fit and available for us, I think it would be a great deal for us," Gill told BBC's 'Test Match Special'.

"If he's not playing, I still think we have the

Bumrah bowled 33 overs in the fourth Test at Old Trafford and has approximately four and a half days to recover for the final match, which begins on July 31. He has bowled 119.4 overs in five innings across three Test matches so far, which is roughly 24 overs per innings. However, given that he is India's joint highest wicket-taker in the series with 14 scalps (with Mohd Siraj), including two five-wicket hauls from three matches, the team may be tempted to bring him back for the finale. Former England captain Alastair Cook believes Gill made the right tactical decision by not revealing whether Bumrah would play the fifth and final Test of the series. "Even if he isn't going to play, you wouldn't tell people now, just on a purely tactical basis," Cook said.

"They made mistake at the beginning of the series saying he could only play three,



because you get thrown into a situation like now where the series is still on the line. "If he's not fit to play, not playing is the right decision," he added. India head coach Gautam Gambhir confirmed that all fast bowlers are available for selection ahead of the Oval Test and didn't rule out Bumrah featuring in a fourth match.

"All the fast bowlers are there. There is no injury scare," Gambhir asserted on Sunday.

"We haven't had any conversation around the combination for the last Test. "No decision has been made on whether Jasprit Bumrah will play or not. Ultimately, whoever plays, they will try and do the job for the country," he added. After the Lord's Test, India suffered a spate of setbacks, with Arshdeep Singh nursing a blow to his bowling hand, Akash Deep ruled out with a groin issue, and Mohammed Siraj battling general fatigue.

All-rounder Nitesh Kumar Reddy was also ruled out of the series. As a result, India had to fly in reinforcements from home. Anshul Kamboj joined the squad and was preferred over Prasidh Krishna in the playing XI.

## Indian markets open lower amid IT, banking drag

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Indian stock markets opened on a weak note on Monday, July 28, tracking broad-based selling, particularly in IT and private banking stocks. The BSE Sensex fell 306 points, or 0.38%, to 81,155 at open, while the Nifty50 declined 93 points, or 0.37%, to trade at 24,744. Leading the losses were Kotak Mahindra Bank, which dropped over 6%, followed by IT majors TCS, Infosys, and HCL Tech. Other laggards on the Sensex included Bharti Airtel, Titan, and Bajaj Finance. On the positive side, Tata Motors, Bajaj Finserv, Ultratech Cement, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Steel, and Power Grid posted gains, lending some support to the benchmarks. The broader markets also saw weakness, with the Nifty MidCap index down 0.28% and the Nifty SmallCap index slipping 0.58%. Sectorally, the Nifty IT index was the worst performer, falling 1.4%, while the Nifty Private Bank and Realty indices also lost over 1% each.

In the IPO space, the listing of SME issues Swastika Castal and Savvy Infra is in focus. Meanwhile, new SME IPOs from Repono and Umiya Mobile opened for subscription. PropShare Titania's mainboard IPO enters its final day, while ongoing issues from Shanti Gold International, Sellowrap Industries, Shree Refrigerations, and Patel Chem Specialities continue into their second day. Brigade Hotel Ventures' IPO enters Day 3, and allotment status is expected today for Indique Space, TSC India, and GNG Electronics.

## What homeowners need to know about house property tax rules, explains tax advisor

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

The way you're taxed on your house property income may soon change, especially if you plan to shift to the new income tax regime. A key benefit many taxpayers currently enjoy might no longer be available. Sujit Bangar, Founder, TaxBuddy.com shared a fact on LinkedIn, "In FY23, 60 lakh taxpayers claimed Rs 77,808.7 crores of loss under house property head. With 95%-97% of taxpayers may opt for new tax regime, this benefit is going to go away." So, what exactly does the new regime say about income from house property? Let's break it down in simple terms.

**TYPES OF HOUSE PROPERTY YOU'RE TAXED ON** Under income tax rules, house properties are classified into three types. A Self-Occupied Property (SOP) is one that you use for your own residence. You can have up to two such properties, and their taxable value is considered nil.

If you rent out a property, it is categorised as Let-Out Property, and the rental income you earn from it is taxable. If you own more than two properties, any additional property is treated as "Deemed to be Let-Out", even if it's vacant. In such cases, tax is calculated based on notional rent. "Self-Occupied Property (SOP): Used for own residence - Taxable value = NIL (max 2), Let-Out Property: Actually rented - Rental income is taxable, Deemed to be Let-Out: If you own >2 properties, max 2 considered as SOP and rest as deemed let out," Bangar said.

**HOW IS HOUSE PROPERTY INCOME CALCULATED** To calculate your taxable income from house property, there's a simple two-step process. First, you find the Net Annual Value (NAV), which is the rent you earn or could earn after subtracting municipal taxes.

"A 30% of standard deduction of NAV and interest on property are allowed on the NAV. That's your taxable income u.t.h. house property," he then added.

## Have you got your BluSmart refund yet? It's been 90 days

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

Several customers of electric cab company BluSmart are still waiting for refunds from their in-app wallets, even after more than 90 days. Now, users say that the app itself has stopped working, making matters worse. BluSmart, which operated electric cabs in Delhi-NCR and Bengaluru, had paused ride bookings in April 2025 and promised users that their wallet balances would be refunded within 90 days if services didn't resume. However, as July comes to an end, users say they have not received their money back and are struggling to even access the app.

One user wrote on social media, "I had money in my BluSmart wallet, there's been no refund for the past 3 months and now the app isn't opening either. What's going on? No communication, no update. This is seriously concerning." Another customer posted, "BluSmart has not yet refunded my wallet balance after saying refund will be provided within 90 days and 90 days are over." Many other users are sharing similar complaints, tagging the company and government bodies like Sebi and RBI.

A user on X said, "BluSmart has not yet refunded my wallet balance after saying refund will be provided within 90 days and 90 days are over."

Another affected user, posted, "The 90-day refund timeline communicated by BluSmart India has elapsed, yet users have not received their wallet refunds. I truly hope BluSmart is looking into this matter and taking steps toward a resolution including processing my Rs 34k refund." BluSmart had earlier changed its refund policy, increasing the refund wait time from six days to 90 days after it stopped accepting new bookings. At the time, the company had said, "We have decided to temporarily close bookings on the BluSmart app. While we strive to be back soon to serve you with the same warmth and smile, we will initiate a refund within the next 90 days if services do not resume before then." Indiatoday.in tried to check the app and found it did not open, showing an error message saying, "Something went wrong."

# Asian shares are mixed after Wall Street sets more records for US stocks

**US futures and oil prices were higher ahead of trade talks in Stockholm between US and Chinese officials.**

**BANGKOK. (Agency)**

Stock markets in Asia were mixed on Monday after US stocks rose to more records as they closed out another winning week. US futures and oil prices were higher ahead of trade talks in Stockholm between US and Chinese officials. European futures rose after the European Union forged a deal with the Trump administration calling for 15% tariffs on most exports to the US. The agreement announced after President Donald Trump and European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen met briefly at Trump's Turnberry golf course in Scotland staves off far higher

import duties on both sides that might have sent shock waves through economies around the globe. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 1% to 41,056.81 after doubts surfaced over what exactly the trade truce between Japan and U.S. President Donald Trump, especially the \$550 billion pledge of investment in the U.S. by Japan, will entail. Terms of the deal are still being negotiated and nothing has been formalized in writing, said an official, who insisted on anonymity to detail the terms of the talks. The official suggested the goal was for a \$550 billion fund to make investments at Trump's direction. Hong Kong's Hang Seng index gained 0.4% to 25,490.45 while the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.2% to 3,587.25. Taiwan's Taiex rose 0.3%. CK Hutchison, a Hong Kong conglomerate that's selling ports at the Panama Canal, said it may seek a Chinese investor to join a consortium of buyers in a move that might please Beijing but could also bring more U.S. scrutiny to a geopolitically fraught deal. CK Hutchison's shares fell

0.6% on Monday in Hong Kong. Elsewhere in Asia, South Korea's Kospi was little changed at 3,195.49, while Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.3% to 8,688.40. India's Sensex slipped 0.1%.



Markets in Thailand were closed for a holiday. On Friday, the S&P 500 rose 0.4% to 6,388.64, setting an all-time for the fifth time in a week. The Dow Jones Industrial Average climbed 0.5% to 44,901.92, while the Nasdaq composite added 0.2%, closing at 21,108.32 to top its own record. Deckers, the company behind Ugg boots and Hoka shoes, jumped 11.3% after reporting stronger profit and revenue for

the spring than analysts expected. Its growth was particularly strong outside the United States, where revenue soared nearly 50%. But Intel fell 8.5% after reporting a loss for the latest quarter, when analysts were looking for a profit. The struggling chipmaker also said it would cut thousands of jobs and eliminate other expenses as it tries to turn around its fortunes. Intel, which helped launch Silicon Valley as the U.S. technology hub, has fallen behind rivals like Nvidia and Advanced Micro Devices while demand for artificial intelligence chips soars. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses Companies are under pressure to deliver solid growth in profits to justify big gains for their stock prices, which have rallied to record after record in recent weeks. Wall Street has zoomed higher on hopes that President Donald Trump will reach trade deals with other countries that will lower his stiff proposed tariffs, along with the risk that they could cause a recession and drive up inflation. Trump has recently announced deals with

## Edelweiss' Radhika Gupta slams Dior for ignoring Indian artisans behind \$200K coat

**New Delhi. (Agency)**

A luxury fashion piece is making headlines, but for more than just its price. Dior, the global fashion brand, recently showcased a coat worth \$200,000. What makes this coat special is the delicate 'mukaish' embroidery used on it, a traditional craft from Lucknow, India. It took 12 Indian artisans 34 days to complete the detailed handwork. But there was no mention of their names, no reference to India, no credit given in the campaign. That silence spoke louder than words. Radhika Gupta, MD & CEO Edelweiss Mutual Fund, voiced what many were thinking. "One more handloom, one more headline. Dior sells a \$200K coat using Lucknowi mukaish embroidery," she wrote on X. The world loves Indian craftsmanship — But rarely credits the craftspeople. And almost never shares the value," she added. India's artisans have been creating world-class work for generations. From handwoven saris to embroidered fabrics, their skills are unmatched. Yet, when these works are featured on global platforms, the origin often goes unnoticed. "The branding, storytelling, and



## Nxtra by Airtel expands renewable power partnership with AMPIN

**The addition of this new capacity is expected to reduce its carbon emissions by nearly 1.5 lakh tonnes of CO2 equivalent annually.**

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Nxtra by Airtel, a data center company and subsidiary of telecom major Bharti Airtel, has expanded its renewable energy partnership with AMPIN Energy Transition, adding 125.65 MW of inter-state transmission system (ISTS)-connected solar-wind hybrid capacity, the company said on Monday. This development takes the total renewable energy capacity sourced by Nxtra from AMPIN to over 200 MW. The new capacity will be supplied from hybrid power plants located in Rajasthan and Karnataka, enabling Nxtra to draw power across states through the national grid. This marks a shift from the earlier model where AMPIN had been supplying solar energy through intra-state open access routes in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha.

AMPIN, founded by Pinaki Bhattacharya and backed by international institutional investors from the US, Europe, and Asia, is a pioneer in renewable energy transition in India. According to Nxtra, the addition of this new capacity is expected to reduce its carbon emissions by nearly 1.5 lakh tonnes of

CO2 equivalent annually.

"The partnership reinforces the company's leadership in sustainable digital infrastructure and supports its broader commitment to achieve net zero operations," said Nxtra CEO Ashish Arora. Artificial Intelligence uses AMPIN's MD & CEO, Pinaki Bhattacharya, stated that the company's pan-India presence and hybrid energy solutions enable nearly 100 percent clean energy transitions for large infrastructure players like Nxtra. This agreement builds upon Nxtra's earlier deal signed in February 2024 with AMPIN and Amplus Energy to procure 140,208 MWh of renewable energy annually through a 25-year

captive power-wheeling arrangement. At the time, Nxtra had committed to sourcing solar and wind power for its data centers in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha. That phase alone was expected to reduce emissions by approximately 99,500 tonnes of CO2 equivalent each year.

Nxtra became the first Indian data center company to join the RE100 global initiative in June 2024, pledging to power all its operations with 100 percent renewable energy. The company's green energy program is aligned with science-based net zero targets and has already resulted in 70 percent of its core data center operations running on clean power. As Nxtra ramps up its infrastructure investments—including six new hyperscale data centers across India—it plans to double its total capacity to over 400 MW. The expanded renewable energy sourcing from AMPIN is a critical component of this transition, helping Nxtra meet rising digital and AI-driven workloads while staying aligned with sustainability goals.

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clients and ourselves, deepening our partnerships, creating next-gen infrastructure and realigning our workforce model."

It added, "Towards this, a number of reskilling and redeployment initiatives have been underway. As part of this journey, we will also be releasing associates from the organisation whose deployment may not be feasible. This will impact about 2% of our global workforce, primarily in the middle and the senior grades, over the course of the year." The company also made it clear that the layoffs are not being rushed. "It's a process through which we identify the people.

pricing power stay elsewhere," Gupta added. "The hand that creates remains invisible." This is not just about giving credit. It's about giving artisans their rightful place in the global fashion story. Luxury fashion houses make billions, while the artisans, often working in small homes or rural workshops, earn a fraction. The disconnect between the creator and the consumer grows. It's not just about money. It's about identity, pride, and global recognition. "Culture is soft power," Gupta added. Japan did it with design. Korea did it with pop culture. India must do it with craft. "She believes it's time for India to shift gears."

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## Only 20% of employers offer health screening as 70% of employees battle lifestyle diseases in India: Report

**CHENNAI. (Agency)**

Over 70% of employees in India carry at least one lifestyle-related health risk, yet only 20% of employers offer routine health screenings, according to a new report released by MediBuddy, India's largest digital healthcare platform, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The findings highlight the need for a shift from episodic, event-based wellness efforts to always-on, digital-first health ecosystems that enhance productivity, support talent retention, and ensure business continuity. These outcomes are increasingly critical in a workforce landscape defined by hybrid work models, evolving employee priorities, and rising chronic health risks.

The report—titled Workplace Health Reimagined: Corporate India's Readiness for Digital Health Leadership—is the second edition of MediBuddy's corporate wellness survey. It reveals how employee well-being is no longer a peripheral concern but a core business strategy in India Inc., especially in the face of rising medical inflation (14%), growing chronic

disease burden, and increasing demand for inclusive, preventive care.

In today's hybrid work environment, companies are increasingly prioritising both physical and mental health while adopting continuous care models. Technology is central to this transformation, with AI-powered insights, personalised engagement, and mobile-first platforms enabling more targeted and effective healthcare delivery. India's digital health infrastructure is rapidly scaling, supported by government initiatives such as the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) and IRDAI's push for 100% cashless insurance claims, which are accelerating the transition to integrated, outpatient-first systems.

The report highlights key health indicators, noting that non-communicable diseases now account for 63% of all deaths in India, with conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and stroke affecting working-age individuals at median ages of 32, 34, and 36 respectively. The doctor-to-population ratio remains below WHO guidelines, and 70% of India's rural and

semi-urban populations face significant barriers to diagnostics and preventive care. Further, only 41% of Indian



households have health insurance, leaving more than 50 crore people—primarily gig, daily wage, and informal sector workers—vulnerable to catastrophic health expenses. Out-of-pocket expenses continue to dominate India's healthcare spending, accounting for 63% of total expenditure. OPD insurance penetration remains below 0.1%, a stark contrast to over 85% in the US and 95% in Singapore, despite outpatient care constituting nearly 70% of out-of-pocket health costs. India's journey to becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047

cannot rest on economic metrics alone; it must be built on the health, productivity, and well-being of its people. As we stand at this inflection point, employee wellness must no longer be seen as an optional benefit but a strategic imperative," said Satish Kannan, Co-founder & CEO, MediBuddy. The report outlines several challenges impacting corporate productivity and workforce well-being. Chronic illnesses and presenteeism are estimated to cost Indian employers up to 1.12 lakh per employee each year, while structured wellness programs have shown a 3-4x return on investment. Despite this, fewer than 20% of corporate health programs include essential diagnostics, which contribute to 60-70% of clinical decisions. Preventive screening among women is especially low, with only 1.9% undergoing cervical cancer checks. Meanwhile, just 36% of companies offer targeted wellness benefits for women, and even fewer provide eldercare or mental health support.

# Radhika Madan

Backs Deepika Padukone In 8-Hour Shift  
Debate: 'Male Actors Are Given That Privilege'

**R**adhika Madan is adding her voice to the growing debate over working hours in Bollywood, especially for women. The actress behind *Angrezi Medium*, *Pataakha*, *Shiddat*, and *Sarfira* says there's a double standard when it comes to how long male and female actors are expected to work, in a chat with *Hindustan Times*. Ever since Deepika Padukone was ousted from Sandeep Reddy Vanga's *Spirit* due to her requests for an eight-hour workday, it has sparked a debate around work-life balance in Bollywood. "I have worked for 12-14 hours, but I have also seen work be achieved in eight hours for certain actors. Kaam utna hi hota hai, woh unn hours mein hi nikaal lete hain. Project ban bhi jaata hai, movie hit bhi ho jaati hai. I have seen how it works because people then are focused and prepped ki uss din yeh shot lena hai, sirf eight hours hain. If that would not have happened, I would have said maybe itne hours mein kaam nahi ho paata hai," the actress shared.

Radhika says, "If women are speaking out for that balance, and demanding a similar thing, it's not new. If the reasons are understood by both the parties, and respect is there, it can be worked out. It is really weird when certain male actors are given that privilege and women are not."

Burnout is another concern Radhika addressed. She recalled juggling seven films in a single year: "I have experienced it, a lot of times. A few years ago, I was working in seven projects in a single year. I went into depression, I was really drained and took baggage of all my characters. I had to seek help. Burnout is real, I just want equality in the industry and no special treatment given to certain male actors."

In one of her recent YouTube vlogs, Farah Khan visited Radhika Madan and asked her about her first show. Farah said, "You didn't have an 8-hour shift, I am guessing?", Radhika replied, "56 hours non-stop or 48 hours non-stop." At this point, Farah hinted that even she does not support an 8-hour work shift and shared, "Aise tapke hi toh sona banta hai (this is how gold is made)."

Celebs like Vikrant Massey, Rashmika Mandanna, and Anurag Basu have earlier weighed in on the subject.



# Aisha Sharma

Turns Up The Heat In Her Latest Hot Viral Video

**A**isha Sharma is raising temperatures yet again. The stunning actress and fitness enthusiast took to Instagram on Sunday to drop a scorching new video that has set social media on fire. Dressed in a sultry black outfit with bold makeup and effortless confidence, Aisha flaunted her toned physique and style quotient, leaving fans in awe. Taking to her Instagram handle, Aisha Sharma shared a video in which she is flaunting her fits and flaunting her physique. "A week in fits, in my single, unready to mingle, want to be soft,

Aisha left fans stunned as she flaunted a daring look in a cleavage-baring outfit that oozed confidence and charm. The photo, which she shared on Instagram stories, features Aisha in a deep-cut black ensemble, accentuated with minimal accessories and bold makeup. The photo quickly went viral. She is seen posing for a selfie and opted for a casual flaunting her cleavage.

Aisha Sharma raised the temperature as she dropped a sizzling video where she's seen striking poses in front of a mirror, dressed in a barely-there cream halter bralette and a thigh-high slit skirt that highlights her toned frame. The outfit features a twisted cross-front design, making the ensemble look both sensual and sculptural. This isn't the first time Aisha Sharma has turned a mundane backdrop into a fashion runway. Whether it's an elevator, a bar, or a sunlit corner at home, Aisha knows how to serve fashion with a side of effortless confidence. In a recent series of mirror selfies, she was seen rocking a strapless powder blue mini dress with midriff cut-outs, paired with fierce black knee-high boots.

forced to be strong, writer's era," read the caption. Fans reacted with heart emojis in the comment section. One of the fans wrote, "Stunning."

Recently, Aisha Sharma shared a photo in which she is seen posing in front of the window mirror. She is wearing a denim skirt and a black off shoulder top. The actress looked sexy as she flaunted her toned physique.

For the uninitiated, Aisha Sharma is an actress and model with a massive social media presence. With over 6.3 million followers on Instagram, she keeps fans engaged with glimpses into her glamorous life, gym routines, travel escapades, and fashion experiments. She is also the younger sister of actress Neha Sharma and frequently trends for her daring, fashion-forward looks.

**Fatima Sana Shaikh Poses With Tamannaah Bhatia Amid Vijay Varma Dating Buzz**



**F**atima Sana Shaikh is basking in the glory of her two back-to-back releases — Anurag Basu's *Metro...* In *Dino* and *Aap Jaisa Koi* alongside R Madhavan. Apart from her work diaries, the actor's dating rumours with *Gustakhi Ishq* co-star, Vijay Varma, have also been circulating online. Both Fatima and Vijay have chosen to stay silent on the matter. Amid this, Fatima shared multiple photos from India Couture Week, many of which featured Tamannaah Bhatia, Vijay's ex-girlfriend.

"Starting night with your stunning show, which was more like party and then ending with stuffing my mouth with 2 plates of Rabdi this is what I call a perfect night," wrote Fatima Sana Shaikh, lauding fashion designer Manish Malhotra for India Couture Week. For the unversed, he is also producing Fatima and Sana's *Gustakhi Ishq*. Some of the photos posted by the *Chachi 420* actor featured Tamannaah Bhatia, rooting for Manish. Yet another photo in the carousel comprised of Fatima posing in the middle with Tamannaah and Shalini Passi on either sides. Take a look:

Recent rumours have been swirling around actor Vijay Varma's love life once again. His dating speculations with Fatima began after the duo was spotted by paparazzi outside a Mumbai café, where they were seen laughing and sharing a warm hug — moments that quickly went viral on social media.

The candid interaction has left fans curious about their equation, with many wondering if there's more than just friendship between them. While neither Vijay nor Fatima has addressed the dating rumours, social media is abuzz with assumptions that a new romance might be blossoming.

Interestingly, the two actors are currently working together in an upcoming film titled *Gustaakhi Ishq*, directed by Vibhu Puri. The film also stars veteran actor Naseeruddin Shah and *The Family Man* fame Sharib Hashmi in key roles. Notably, *Gustaakhi Ishq* marks the third production venture under Manish Malhotra's Stage 5 Production, launched in September 2023.

**Ankita Lokhande Pens Emotional Note Ahead Of Laughter Chefs' Finale: 'Acha Toh Main Chalti Hoon'**



**Ankita Lokhande thanked fans and co-contestants of Laughter Chefs on Instagram as season 2 nears its finale. The show will be replaced by Pati Patni Aur Panga.**

**L**aughter Chefs has been making headlines since the day it premiered, and now, as season 2 of the show inches towards its grand finale, Ankita Lokhande took to her social media and shared a collab reel with Vicky Jain to pen a note thanking fans for all the love. Taking to her Instagram, Ankita Lokhande wrote, "This one's a long one, and it's coming from both of us. Firstly, a big thank you to all the audience who loved and appreciated the show so much. Your love has been felt and it truly keeps us going. Secondly, thank you, thank you @colorstv and Sheetal ma'am for giving us an extended family we didn't even know we needed..."

She further named all the co-contestants and thanked her extended family, writing, "Ali, Karan, Nia, Kash, Reem, Sudeeshji, Krushna, Abhishek, Sam, Elvish, Rubi, Rahul, Jannat, and last but never ever the least, Bharti & Harpal ji... uff, what a madly beautiful team we've been. Only we know how much fun, chaos, and love we've shared on and off camera..."

The actress concluded the caption by writing, "Laughter Chef is not just a show — it became a therapy for all of us. Something we all needed at this point in life... And we hope it became that for you too... Acha toh main chalti hoonz (And i'm a gine Vicky laughing behind — HeHeHahahaha)" In the reel, Ankita looked stunning in a beautiful purple sequin saree, while Vicky Jain aced a three-piece suit. The reel also featured co-contestant Elvish Yadav, who was seen having fun as the couple did their photo shoot. Elvish was seen wearing a blue suit. Meanwhile, Nia Sharma was also seen sharing a hug with Ankita, and the reel concluded with the entire team and cast of the show posing for the camera as they wrapped filming.

Laughter Chefs is a one-of-a-kind reality show that features different celebrity pairs cooking several dishes, which leads to chaos and invites laughter attacks. The show is hosted by Bharti Singh and Chef Harpal Singh. The show, which will have its finale today, on July 27, will be replaced by *Pati Patni Aur Panga*.

## Two quick ways to cook corn



Hot corn tastes great in the monsoon. Here's how to cook with it in these two easy ways...

### CORN SALAD

#### Yield:

Ingredients: Corn kernels - 1 cup Red bell peppers - 1 tbsp Onions and spring onions chopped - 1 tbsp each Chopped Kairi - 1/4 tbsp Celery stalk, diced - 1 tbsp Cherry tomatoes - 5 Pineapple diced - 1 tbsp Parsley - 1 tsp Cilantro leaves - 1 tsp Basil - 3 leaves Avocado, diced - 1/2 each Olive oil - 1 tbsp Lemon juice - 2 tsp Black salt - to taste Tacos - 3 shells

Method: Blanch the corn in hot water with salt. Do not overcook it. Drain and set aside. Now, cut the onions, peppers, pineapple, kairi (raw mango), celery and avocado. Also dice the cherry tomatoes and add the herbs like basil, parsley and cilantro basil to the vegetables. Season this. Add the lemon juice and olive oil. Toss it well and serve it in the shells with herb buttered rice on the side.

#### Corn broth

#### Yield:

Ingredients: Onions, chopped - 1 Leeks, chopped - 1/2 cup Celery, chopped - 1/2 cup Potatoes, diced - 1 cup Corn kernels - 2 cups Yellow peppers, chopped - 1/2 cup Garlic, chopped - 1 tbsp Vegetable stock - 1 litre Milk - a cup Parsley - 1 tsp Chives - 1 tsp Cream - 1/4 cup Olive oil - 1 tbsp Butter - to taste

Method: Heat a pan and drizzle the butter into it. When it melts add some of the oil and the onions, chopped potatoes, leeks, celery plus the yellow bell peppers and corn kernels, taking care not to over cook it. Add the garlic and saute too. Add the milk and vegetable stock. Cook till the vegetables turn soft. Blend this and add cream plus the seasoning, as well as the chopped herbs. Serve hot with garlic bread.

## Gourmet products you must use in your kitchen

### Don't be scared by the word Gourmet.

Here we list some fancy ingredients along with easy ways to use them at your next party at home.

#### Vanilla Beans

The sweet aroma of vanilla can live up the most bland dish and that hold true even more for toothy desserts. You might have tasted vanilla in the form of artificial essences and now its turn to upgrade and treat yourself to the real deal. Even though a bit expensive vanilla beans can be used in desserts such as ice cream or waffle syrup and they will make you feel like you've seen heaven! Look for whole vanilla beans that are about 6 to 8 inches in length for best results. Glossy dark brown in colour and ever so slightly moist are the best ones.

#### Fish Sauce

Just the mention of fish sauce makes people rethink altogether. They probably imagine their dish soaked in fish liquid. The truth being much different, first fish sauce should be used in mild quantities. It is tangy in nature that adds zest to the preparations. Here are a few ways to include fish sauce in your food:

You can use a spoon of fish sauce in the marinade of a



large chicken waiting to be grilled. Use a drop or two in pastas and salads. Be careful not to use more than required as it may ruin your dish. For all Thai food lovers, a pinch of fish sauce can add a punch to your gravy.

#### Exotic Salts

You cannot even imagine any dish without salt. If normal salt can add such value to your food imagine what different gourmet salt can take the level of your food onto. Gourmet salt is mostly used to finish the dish and therefore sprinkled just before serving the dish. Some of the top gourmet salts are Black salt, Himalayan Pink salt, Sea Salt, Kosher Salt and Fleur de sel. Here are a few useful tips:

#### Flake salts do wonders to salads.

Japanese salts are ideal for fish preparations. Hawaiian Black Salt makes meat even more delectable.

#### Flavored Vinegars

Well, this ingredient may not be considered as gourmet but can definitely add X factor that will turn an ordinary dish to extraordinary.

Balsamic Vinegar is best for Italian preparations. You can also whip it along with salad dressings and you're good to go.

Wine Vinegar is also a result of fermented wine and does wonders to prep up a dish. Use it in sweet and sour dishes, pickles and even chutneys.

**There might be a surfeit of food shows on TV but they will never replace the good old cookbooks, says chef Milind Sovani, who has, in his three-decade-long career, served Bollywood stars like Amitabh Bachchan, Madhuri Dixit and Sanjay Dutt - and created awareness about Indian cuisine in Singapore where he worked for 13 years.**

"In the time of internet and TV, printed cookery books are facing a challenge of existence...but, no, things are not all that bad yet. We have to accept the forces of change, but still there are many positives in owning and using cookery books - and of course writing them too," Sovani told us in an e-mail interview.

"Cooking with the help of a cookery book in the kitchen is always the best help around. You can keep it on your table, you do not require electric connections, or WiFi and the like. You can always mark some points on them, make earfolds for important pages, make small notes on them for your future reference and pass them down to the next

# TV shows will never replace Cookbooks

generation or even share them easily with friends," added Sovani, who has worked with establishments like New Delhi's Hotel Samrat and Hotel Jaipur Ashok.

Then, books are always handy to keep, loan and borrow and have good mobility.

This apart, "in a country like India, where internet or TV signals are not widely or easily available, books can be of great help in any place and location. The visual charm of using a cookery book, which is attractively and artistically printed with appetizing photos, is always a delight. Coffee table books also look good on your book shelves," Sovani maintained.

Elaborating on the theme, Sovani said: "While cooking using a cookery book, your imagination is also at work and you tend to draw from the experience and skill of the writer. Books can be handed over from one generation to another, especially books rich in traditional and regional cooking for newly-wed brides. Books are a rich source of history tradition and culture too.

"Lastly, but most importantly, I feel cookery books are more trusted than the cookery shows on TV or internet recipes. As these books are written by experts or chefs, they are also considered more authentic and accurate too,"



Sovani explained.

Now, he is penning an autobiography to inspire others with his journey. Writing a book on his life has been on the mind of the 52-year-old for the last five years, but it was in 2012 when he returned to India from Singapore that he gave it a serious thought.

"I have been working on it for a year and half now. I want to share with readers, especially youngsters, about the journey of a chef, the hardships faced and the sweet success moments. I wish to do this to inspire people and also spread awareness among the masses. Recipes... anyone can write, but the experiences I have and can share are unique," Sovani said.

To be available on stands after six months, the book "will be a very good read for everyone".

"It covers stories of my celebrity interactions, glorious moments, mega banquets, international experiences, my cookery tips, guidance to aspiring chefs and more," he said.

The chef often travels to Singapore as he has his own consultancy firm, Hospitality Innovations Pvt Ltd, which works for innovations in restaurants and cuisines. He was even honored with the 'Culinary Trail Blazer of Singapore' award by 'Michelin Star Guide' for his work of transforming the image of Indian cuisine from a mundane, ordinary five-to-seven-dollar-cuisine to a modern high-end one.

Asked how one can popularize Indian food in other countries, he said: "Firstly, you need to be honest with your roots and have in-depth knowledge of Indian cuisine.

"Secondly, understand the market need of that country, the current perceived image of Indian cuisine and how you can develop the taste buds of the local population towards Indian cuisine. Open Indian restaurants which can offer good, healthy and modern food."

But, as of now, he has plans of increasing the number of branches of his restaurant April Rain, which has two outlets in Pune. "I plan to take this brand pan-India and the next outlet would surely be in Mumbai," said the Mumbai-based chef.



## The many delectable avatars of Momos

**The history of dumplings, it is said, dates back to the 16th century during the time of the Ming Dynasty. Today, dumplings can be found in dozens of versions, from the street food variety to the more nuanced, fine dining ones.**

We take a look at some of the avatars.

From classic Chinese dim sum to Italian ravioli, Japanese Gyoza and Tibetan momos, these little pockets of heaven have seen many transformations. Filled with meat, veggies and adequately flavoured with aromatics, the succulent wraps are everyone's comfort food. From crab fillings to spinach dumpling skins, you'd be surprised that the city has an array of

dumplings to offer. We scoured around looking for the most unique options available. Siu Mai Siu Mai originated in China. Unlike wontons, these deceptively simple dumplings are wrapped but left open-faced and served as dim sum. Traditionally filled with pork and shrimp, dim sums are styled like a flower and served as appetizers. If you do not eat pork, choose from chicken



or fish filling.

Har Gow Essentially prepared with minced shrimp meat stuffed inside almost-transparent dumpling skin with multiple pleats. The lump of shrimp mixed with scallions and water chestnuts is sauteed and flavoured with salt, pepper, garlic and sauces of your choice and steamed in a bamboo steamer. Juicy prawns wrapped in succulent wheat wrap — what's not to love?

#### Momos

These originated in Tibet and migrated to Nepal. Filled with veggies, meat (chicken, mutton, pork) and flavoured with spices, the dumplings are snugly folded and served steamed, fried or pan-fried. Momos are typically served with a red chilli and garlic sauce known as sepen and



chicken or vegetable stock.

Gyoza Dim sum's Japanese counterpart, the gyoza, is a delectable dumpling wrapped in a thin wonton wrapper, filled with finely minced meat, veggies, scallions, celery and served with a dipping sauce. The wrapper of a gyoza is thicker and chewier than other dumplings. Served as steamed, fried, deep fried or pan grilled, a platter of gyoza is typically served with a gyoza sauce (made with soya sauce and chilli oil) and salad.

Wontons Some 2000 odd years back, wontons were simply known as dumplings. It was only during 618-912 that it got its name and has been on everyone's mouth ever since. A staple in China, wontons are dumplings filled with meat, fish or shrimp. Here is a variety of wontons available in and around the city — Chinese cabbage and pork wonton, chicken wonton dumped in clear soup, fried wontons served as appetizers with a puddle of zesty sauce and the classic steamed wontons served alongside chicken broth or stock.