

No Hangings, No Healing – Delhi Police & Congress Still Untouched

The Sikh Times

Gurcharan Singh Babbar

"This is not history. This is a living wound. The blood may have dried, but the pain is eternal." More than four decades have passed since the November 1984 Sikh Genocide, but the most horrifying question still echoes in the conscience of the nation:

Who took away the 5,000 Sikh corpses from the streets of Delhi?

Who ordered their mass disposal? Where were these mutilated, burnt, and battered bodies taken? Were they buried secretly or mass-cremated without dignity, without names, without rituals?

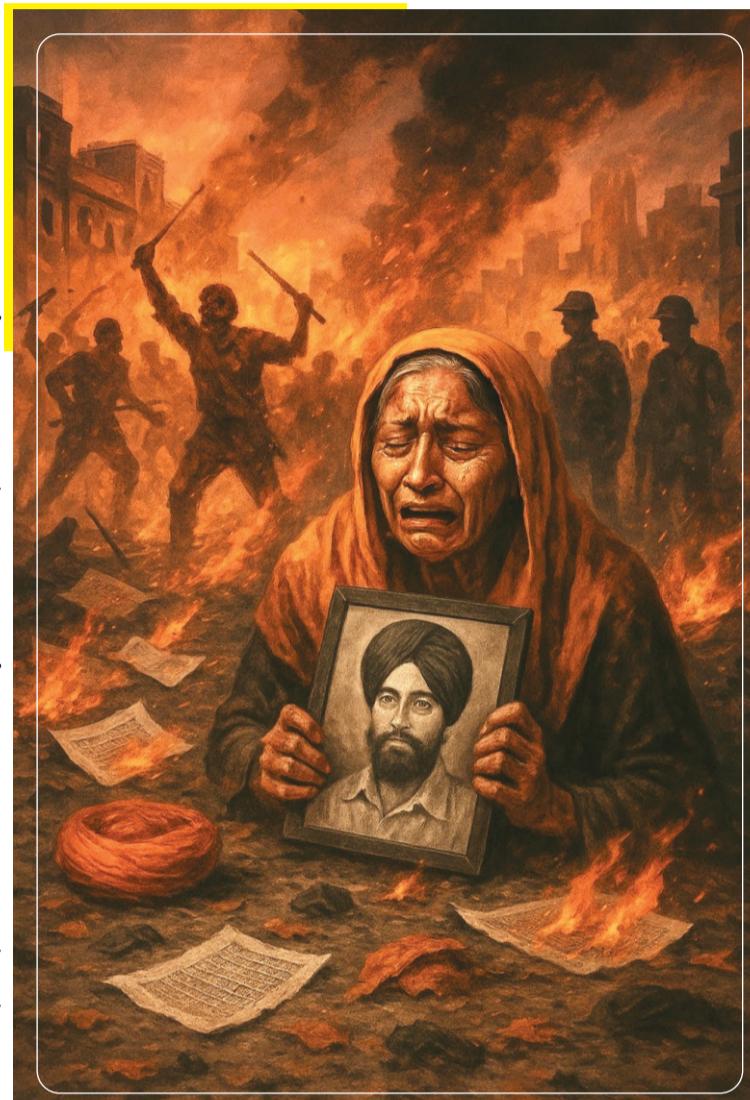
This is not a small or forgettable question. It is a question that shakes the foundation of India's justice system, its morality, and its claim of being the world's largest democracy.

Not a Riot – A Planned, Systematic Pogrom

Between 1st and 4th November 1984, thousands of Sikhs were hunted down and killed in cold blood, primarily in Delhi, but also in other parts of India. The mobs moved with voter lists, petrol, kerosene, and iron rods — clearly organized and politically shielded. This was not spontaneous public anger; it was planned extermination. Over 8,000 Sikhs were murdered including infants and elderly. Around 5,000 Sikhs were killed in Delhi alone. Hundreds of Sikh women were raped. 275 Gurudwaras were attacked or burnt down. Thousands of sacred Guru Granth Sahib sarops were desecrated.

Hundreds of Sikh homes, shops, and businesses were looted and destroyed. And yet, no President's Rule was imposed. No emergency was declared. No military intervention happened for 3 full days.

The Role of Congress Leaders and Delhi



Police

The genocide was enabled, sponsored, and protected by the then ruling Congress Party.

Senior leaders like Sajjan Kumar, Jagdish Tytler, HKL Bhagat, and others openly incited mobs, made

inflammatory speeches, and ensured that police did not act.

In many places, Delhi Police officers themselves became perpetrators: They disarmed Sikhs, leaving them defenseless. They handed over Sikh youth to mobs. They refused to register FIRs or file complaints. They joined the killings or stood aside, laughing. And to this day, not a single police officer has been hanged. Not one senior Congress leader has faced the gallows. Thousands of affected families still await justice.

The Most Disturbing Question –

The 5000 Disappeared Dead

Perhaps the most disturbing and unresolved question is this:

- After four days of open killings, when calm was finally restored, who collected the dead Sikh bodies?
- Where were they taken?
- Who ordered their disposal?
- Who signed the documents?
- Why were no proper records maintained?
- Were they buried in mass graves? Were they burnt in municipal crematoriums without names or rites?

The Government of India has never answered this. No Commission has exposed this. No media house has investigated this. It is a national shame. Why Only Sikhs Understand This Pain? This is not merely a tragedy of numbers or statistics. It is about the insult and trauma of a whole community. It is about watching one's father being burnt alive. It is about women being raped in front of their families. It is about Guru Granth Sahib being thrown into fire while mobs shouted slogans. These are not wounds that time can heal. Only justice can. The Sikh community, across India and the world, continues to carry these scars. Their faith was betrayed, their trust in law shattered, and their dignity crushed. But they did not forget. And they never will. [News continue page 02](#)

69 dead, 37 missing as flash floods, landslides ravage Himachal amid heavy rain

From the hills of Shimla to the valleys of Mandi and Sirmour, the state has witnessed record-breaking downpours in the past 24 hours, with alerts now in place for further intense weather through July 9.



New Delhi. The monsoon season has unleashed severe weather across Himachal Pradesh, with torrential rains triggering flash floods, landslides, and widespread destruction in multiple districts. From the hills of Shimla to the valleys of Mandi and Sirmour, the state has witnessed record-breaking rainfall over the past 24 hours. Authorities have issued alerts for continued intense weather through July 9. Between June 20 and July 3, at least 69 people have lost their lives in rain-related incidents, including landslides and flash floods. The state's infrastructure has taken a major hit, with numerous roads blocked and water supply systems badly disrupted.

The unrelenting downpour has left a trail of devastation, altering the landscape and displacing thousands, many of whom are now struggling without access to basic necessities.

Here's a quick rundown of the situation in Himachal Pradesh: Himachal Pradesh is witnessing heavy rainfall during the ongoing monsoon. In the last 24 hours, the highest rainfall of 133.3 mm was recorded in Pachhad, 92 mm in Barsar, about 60 mm in Ghanahatti, 55 mm in Una and Baijnath. The period of heavy rain will continue in the state till July 9. An orange alert has been issued in Shimla, Solan, Sirmour, while heavy rain is also expected in Hamirpur, Mandi, and Kangra. There is an alert of heavy rain in other parts except Kinnaur, Lahaul Spiti on July 6 and 7. Mandi district has recorded the highest rainfall in recent days and faces severe devastation: 14 deaths, 31 people missing, and damage to over 150 homes, 106 cattle sheds, and 14

3 Indians abducted in Mali; India asks West African nation to secure their safe release

Agency New Delhi.

India on Wednesday expressed deep concern over abduction of three Indian nationals in Mali amid a series of terrorist attacks in various parts of the West African country. A day after the Indians were abducted, New Delhi on Wednesday called upon the Mali government to take all necessary measures to secure their "safe and expeditious" release. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) expressed its "deep concern" regarding the abduction of Indians, employed at the Diamond Cement Factory in Kayes.

"The incident occurred on July 1, when a group of armed assailants carried out a coordinated attack at the factory premises and forcibly took three Indian nationals as hostages," the MEA said. There has been no claim of responsibility for the kidnappings. Al-Qaeda affiliate Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) has claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks across Mali on Tuesday.

The MEA said the Indian embassy in Bamako is in "close and constant" communication with the relevant authorities, local law enforcement agencies as well as the management of

Diamond Cement Factory.

It said the mission is also in touch with the family members of the abducted Indian nationals. "The government of India unequivocally condemns this deplorable act of violence and calls upon the government of the Republic of Mali to take all necessary measures to secure the safe and expeditious release of the



abducted Indian nationals," the MEA said in a statement. "Senior officials of the ministry are closely monitoring the evolving situation and remain engaged at various levels to facilitate safe and early release of Indian nationals," it said. The MEA also advised all Indians currently residing in Mali to exercise utmost caution, remain vigilant and stay in close contact with the embassy in Bamako for regular updates and necessary assistance.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visits childhood school, inaugurates new facilities

Agency New Delhi.

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Thursday visited his childhood school, Handidhua Primary School in Talcher, Odisha, and shared an emotional message on social media. He said the school campus, which gave him basic education, dreams, and values, still holds a special place in his heart. During his visit, he inaugurated a smart classroom, hygienic kitchen, renovated building, and dining hall. As part of the 76th Van Mahotsav 2025, he also planted a tree under the campaign "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" (A Tree in Mother's Name).

Calling it a deeply emotional and spiritual experience, Pradhan said that the kind of holistic, rooted, and future-ready education system envisioned under the New National Education Policy (NEP) will begin from such schools. He stressed that education should not just be about exams, but about building character and the nation.

He also praised the spark he saw in the eyes of the students at Handidhua school, saying that their bright futures will help shape a developed India by 2047.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar To Begin Three-Day China Visit On July 13

Agency New Delhi.

Starting July 13, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar will be on a three-day visit to China. This will be the Minister's first visit to China after both sides decided to lock the patrolling agreement last year in October. The EAM will first visit Beijing where he will hold a couple of meetings which will be followed by his visit to



Tianjin for the SCO Foreign Minister's Meeting. Before Jaishankar's visit to China, National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval visited China twice, once in December and once last month for SCO security meetings. Foreign secretary Vikram Misri visited China in January and Rakshan Mantri Rajnath Singh went to China to attend SCO Defence Minister's Meeting.

India and China both are normalising ties. The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra has resumed after a gap of five years. Both sides are also discussing resumption of direct flight. Singh, in a meeting with Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong Jun, stressed on border management and to have a permanent solution of border demarcation by rejuvenating the established mechanism on the issue. The two ministers also agreed to continue consultations at various levels to achieve progress on issues related to disengagement, de-escalation, border management and eventual de-limitation through existing mechanisms.

China said that its boundary dispute with India is "complicated" and expressed its willingness to engage in talks on border delimitation and maintain peace along the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Responding to a query on Singh's remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said, "What I can tell you is that China and India have established the Special Representatives (SRs) mechanism on the boundary question and reached the Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the China-India Boundary Question."

Siddaramaiah, Biocon founder spar over vaccine safety amid rise in Hassan deaths

Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw and Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah debated on X over the safety of Covid-19 vaccines. The exchange began after Shaw called out Siddaramaiah linking the vaccines to a spate of sudden heart-related deaths in Hassan district.

Agency Karnataka.

A public exchange between Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Biocon founder Kiran Mazumdar Shaw has brought national attention to the state's investigation into a series of sudden deaths in Hassan district. The debate between the two public figures is centred on whether Covid-19 vaccines might be linked to the rise in heart-related fatalities. In her latest post on July 4, the Biocon founder while agreeing with the Chief Minister's position on seeking scientific clarity reiterated that vaccines developed in India were approved through due process. "My response was that due process was followed

as prescribed by WHO for safety and efficacy for EUA. Losing lives in a sudden manner is always tragic and I am glad an investigation is being conducted in Hassan district," she wrote on X.

This came in response to Siddaramaiah's post on July 3 on the social media platform, where he clarified that asking questions about vaccine safety was a governance responsibility, not misinformation. "When parents lose their young children or families lose breadwinners without warning, seeking clarity is not misinformation; it is an act of governance rooted in empathy." Citing multiple peer-



reviewed studies, he added that some Covid-19 vaccines had been linked to rare cardiac events, and that global regulators, including the World Health Organisation (WHO), had

acknowledged the emergency rollouts involved "calculated risks".

Siddaramaiah defended his earlier remarks on July 1 suggesting that "hasty" vaccine approvals could not be ruled out as a factor in the increase in heart attacks. "It cannot be denied that the hasty approval and distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine to the public could also be a reason for these deaths, as several studies worldwide have recently indicated," he had said. Mazumdar Shaw had earlier countered that Indian vaccines were approved under the Emergency Use Authorisation framework, adhering to international safety and efficacy norms.

Siddaramaiah suggested vaccine link to sudden heart deaths in Hassan

Kiran Mazumdar

Shaw says vaccine approvals followed WHO protocols

Expert panel investigating rise in cardiac deaths in Karnataka

Karnataka

Changing City

Work begins on Mahim Causeway bridge, key connector linking South Mumbai and suburbs

The project to redevelop and widen the old bridge across Mithi River at Mahim Causeway into a 10-lane arch bridge is estimated to be completed in two years.

Mumbai. To ease congestion between Mahim and S V Road as well as the Western Express Highway, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has commenced work on the project to redevelop and widen the existing old bridge across Mithi River at Mahim Causeway into a 10-lane arch bridge.

What is the plan?

A key connector linking the western suburbs and South Mumbai, the bridge passes over Mithi River and forms a part of the Mahim Causeway, whose history dates back as early as the 1840s. The bridge links S V Road in the H/West ward to Mahim in G/North ward and other parts of South Mumbai. However, with the decades-old structure becoming a severe bottleneck owing to increasing vehicular density, the BMC in 2017 charted plans to redevelop the existing bridge and widen it into a 10-lane bridge. According to officials, the project will be executed in two phases. In the first phase, the BMC will construct two new bridges on either side of the existing structure. Following this, traffic will be rerouted on the lanes of the new

bridges, paving the way for the next phase. In the second phase, the civic body will raze the existing structure to reconstruct the next part of

length of 104 m. While the existing structure comprises an RCC deck slab, the upcoming structure is proposed to be a double-arch bridge.

Current status

Currently, the civic body has commenced work on the fabrication of the metal girders of the bridge on the eastern side of the existing structure. Furthermore, work on three of the four abutments of the structure has already been executed.

Timeline and cost

The contract cost of the project is pegged at Rs 103.26 crore. Currently, the bridge work is in the preliminary stage, with the project estimated to be completed in two years.

While the work order of the project was awarded in 2018, the project faced delays owing to the procurement of forest cell permission, as the bridge is aligned along a protected mangrove area. The project received the Maharashtra Maritime Board's no-objection certificate as well as the final Stage 2 approval from the forest department in January 2024, after which the work gathered pace.



the bridge.

Features

The existing 44.1 m-long bridge has three lanes on each side and is 31.8 m in width. The new bridge will be widened to 52 m with five lanes on each carriageway and have an increased

Frant News continue..

No Hangings, No Healing – Delhi Police & Congress Still Untouched

Modi Government – A Ray of Hope, but Incomplete Justice

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has acknowledged the 1984 massacre as a dark blot on the nation. Under his leadership:

► Some fresh investigations were initiated.

► Sajjan Kumar was jailed in 2018 – decades too late, but still historic.

The massacre has been officially termed as genocide in some BJP circles. But the work is far from over. The Modi Government must take strong, honest steps:

1. Reopen all closed 1984 cases.

2. Establish a fresh SIT with absolute powers.

3. Punish police officers involved.

4. Trace and identify the 5,000 dead bodies.

5. Bring Congress leaders who organized killings to justice.

6. Declare 1984 as a National Day of Remembrance.

7. Give official martyr status to the victims.

8. Create a public memorial at the site of maximum killings.

This Fire Still Burns Across Borders. The 1984 genocide is not just an Indian

tragedy — it is a global Sikh tragedy. In Canada, UK, USA, Australia, Germany — wherever Sikhs live — they observe November 1984 as Black November. They organize marches, seminars, candlelight vigils, and memory walls.

The flame of justice burns in every Sikh heart — from Amritsar to Toronto, from Delhi to California. The Government of India must understand this: Without justice, there can be no closure. Without justice, wounds will not heal. Without justice, India's democracy stands incomplete.

The Nation Must Answer – Who Took Those Bodies?

History has asked again and again :

► Who took away the 5,000 Sikh bodies?

► Where are their names, records, ashes?

► Why did the Indian state bury its shame?

This is not a political question. This is a moral question. This is not about the past. This is about India's future. A nation that cannot deliver justice to its own citizens cannot call itself great.

The Sikh Nation will not forget. The Sikh Nation will not forgive. And the Sikh Nation will not stop fighting until every killer is punished, every police protector exposed, and every martyr remembered with dignity.

Faridkot DSP arrested for 'attempting to bribe senior officer' in bid to settle graft case



Outsourced workers slam Centre, Punjab govt for privatisation; stage sit-in outside PSPCL Patiala

The protest was organised under the joint leadership of union leaders Krishan Singh Aulakh, Balbir Singh Kataria, Gurvinder Singh Pannu, Jagrup Singh and Balwinder Singh Saini.

Ludhiana (Agency)
Outsourced workers staged a sit-in protest opposite the head office gate of Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) in Patiala on Thursday. The protesters from Technical Services Union (Regd.) and the Coordination Committee of Powercom and Transco raised slogans and also held a march through the city streets.

The protest was organised under the joint leadership of union leaders Krishan Singh Aulakh, Balbir Singh Kataria, Gurvinder Singh Pannu, Jagrup Singh and Balwinder Singh Saini. The union members were accompanied by their family members. Many farmer unions and labour unions too supported them. Notably, the power corporation has over 5,500 outsourced contractual

staff who are on strike since July 1.

Addressing the gathering, Kataria said "under the imperialist-guided economic and industrial policies, the central and Punjab governments are implementing so-called economic reforms that in reality expand corporate loot through privatisation. All ruling parties are united in enforcing this anti-people privatisation agenda. In line with these imperialist policies, the Punjab government, by enforcing the Electricity Act 2003 and 2022, has accelerated the privatisation of the electricity corporation decades ago. They have withdrawn the Minimum Wages Act and imposed Deputy Commissioner (DC) rates instead, and have replaced permanent recruitment



with outsourced contractual hiring".

Sources revealed that to manage complaints, the PSPCL management, as part of their strategy, has recently issued orders at the division level to form special outsourced units to ensure uninterrupted supply of workforce during protests and strikes. The protesting workers rued that instead

GU to discontinue MSW programme, School of Commerce class timings changed

Ahmedabad (Agency)

The Gujarat University's (GU's) Executive Council (EC) on Thursday decided to discontinue its Master of Social Work (MSW) programme, which was running on Higher Payment Programme (HPP) mode, stating that the course was not being taught as per prescribed guidelines.

As per university authorities, among other major decisions taken by the Executive Council, which met for two hours from 5.30 pm to 7.30 pm under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Neerja Gupta, were change of timing for School of Commerce classes from afternoon shift to morning shift; filling of 50 vacant seats in postgraduate courses, including Science, Commerce, Arts by contractual teachers till permanent appointments are done; Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) for promotion to be held as per the University Grants Commission (UGC) guidelines.

GU had sought a legal opinion and based on it, it decided to close the programme. "The Higher Payment Programme (HPP) for the Master of Social Work (MSW) degree offered at the university's Samaj Vidy Bhavan

is not being taught as per the prescribed guidelines. So a decision has been taken to close it, based on legal opinion," university authorities told this paper.

It was a self-financed programme under the Department of Social Work established in 2013 designed to be self-sufficient on a higher fee than standard programmes. Sources revealed that the University might consider to relaunch the programme, but not as HPP.

Further, it was decided that a special committee will be formed to investigate into various matters, including the appointment of suspended Assistant Prof Vanraj Singh Chavda. Earlier, retired Prof Pradeep Prajapati, a former professor of GU, had submitted a written complaint regarding the appointment of Prof Chavda, following which disciplinary action was taken against him.

GU V-C Gupta stated that the EC has approved lateral entry courses, including Science, Commerce, Arts, as per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. In addition, students studying in the second semester of other universities have been allowed to enter the third semester of GU.

Vadodara school evacuated after 'bomb threat' email, third such incident in 10 days

An email, received by the Cygnus World School in Harni around 7 am, claimed that an 'RDX device' had been planted on the premises

Vadodara (Agency)

A school in Vadodara was evacuated on Friday morning following a bomb threat — the third such incident in the city in ten days.

An email, claiming that an "RDX device" had been planted on the premises of Cygnus World School in Harni, prompted an intensive search operation by the city police.

Police said the email, received by the school at around 7 am, was signed by a sender identifying themselves as "Madras Tiger". The message echoed previous hoax threats sent to other institutions, referencing political figures in Tamil Nadu and warning of large-scale explosions, according to senior police officers.

After the evacuation, students were sent home with their parents. Teams from the Bomb Detection

and Disposal Squad (BDDS), the Special Operations Group (SOG), and the Cyber Crime Cell were deployed to the campus for a thorough search.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone IV) Panna Momaya said,



"The school received an email early this morning, warning that a bomb had been placed on the premises. The Principal immediately informed the police. A joint team from the local police, BDDS, SOG, and Cyber Crime Cell reached the school and conducted a search after

of making new permanent recruitments to address manpower shortages, more outsourced units are being made.

"This is not about providing uninterrupted electricity supply to consumers — it is a conspiracy to weaken the struggle against privatisation. It is a clear attempt to pit consumers and employees against each other to divide them," Aulakh said. Kataria urged the electricity employees, farmers and labour unions to stand united at a time when their existence and livelihoods are at stake due to this disastrous privatisation drive". Only through a common struggle can we save the electricity department and our jobs," Kataria added.

safely evacuating all students. A probe is underway to trace the origin of the email."

The incident comes days after the Ahmedabad Cyber Crime Cell arrested a Chennai-based woman, Rene Joshilda, for

allegedly issuing hoax bomb threats to over 20 locations, including the Gujarat High Court, reportedly to avenge an unrequited romantic relationship.

The city police have already sought assistance from Central agencies, including the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (IC4C), to trace the source of bomb threat emails and investigate possible links between the threats. Officials said that nine bomb threats earlier received in Vadodara since June 2024 have turned out to be hoaxes.

UPSC to consider Haryana plea to promote 27 state civil services officers to IAS

In April 2025, the state government had formally requested the Centre to raise its cadre strength from 225 to 252 to address the shortfall.

Chandigarh (Agency)

The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has agreed to consider a request from the Haryana government to promote 27 Haryana Civil Services officers to the IAS cadre, it has been learnt.

The Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) of the UPSC is scheduled to hold a meeting on July 14 in this regard, a senior officer told the.

Haryana is acing a shortage of IAS officers in the state cadre — against the sanctioned strength of 225, the state currently has only 169 such officers in service, many of whom are shouldering multiple key departmental responsibilities.

In April 2025, the state government had formally requested the Centre to raise its cadre strength from 225 to 252 to address the shortfall.

In a recent proposal to the UPSC, the government has recommended the promotion of 27 HCS officers from the

2002, 2003, and 2004 batches to the IAS cadre. The proposal outlines three vacancies for the 2020 batch, four for 2021, eight for 2022, ten for 2023, and two for 2024.

Notably, in 2023, the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) filed a chargesheet in a Hisar court, alleging irregularities in the recruitment of the 2002 HCS batch, which has hindered the promotion of several officers in recent years.

Despite this, state officials remain optimistic. "We are hopeful of a positive outcome as in past too, the officers against whom the chargesheet was filed were promoted to the superior posts. However, there promotions may be subject to the final outcome of the court case. Further, in case of eight HCS officers, the charges have not been framed by the court yet," a senior official said.

In March too, when the state government approached the UPSC for the promotion of 27 HCS officers, it had conveyed that "the term chargesheet cannot be construed as the final form/report submitted under section



173 of the CrPC". However, the UPSC had returned the promotion proposal after the Solicitor

would be treated as filing of the chargesheets as stipulated in 'Regulations 5 (5) of the IAS Regulations, 1955,' the Solicitor General opined.

The Solicitor General also mentioned, "Section 173 is the stage at which the investigation is complete subject to further investigation which can be conducted under section 173(8) of the code... the term 'chargesheet' is not defined in the CrPC, it is used as a legally acceptable expression for the report under section 173 of the code.

THE SIKH TIMES

Edited, Printed, Published
Owned by Simmi Babbar
N-31, Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
Delhi-110009
Printed at Qaumi Patrika Printing
Press, A4/A144, Troncity
(Lon), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh)
Corporate Office:
5, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
Press Area, ITO, New Delhi
Editor-in-Chief:
Gurcharan Singh Babbar
Mob: 965407232, 9971359157
Website: www.thesikhstimes.in
Email: sikhstimesindia@gmail.com
RNI No. DELENG/2008/25465

UPITS 2025 Roadshow Held in New Delhi

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, July 4: As part of its mission to propel Uttar Pradesh onto the global trade map, the Government of Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with India Exposition Mart Ltd. (IEMPL), successfully held a high-powered Roadshow for the 3rd edition of UP International Trade Show (UPITS) 2025 on Friday, July 4, 2025, in New Delhi following Curtain Raiser held in Lucknow by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh in Lucknow held on 27 June 2025. The roadshow marked a crucial milestone in the lead-up to the third edition of UPITS 2025, scheduled from September 25 to 29, 2025, at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida. Focused on the theme 'Ultimate Sourcing Begins Here', the upcoming event is aimed at boosting exports across key sectors of the state, such as MSMEs, Electronics, IT, Handloom & Textiles, ODP, Khadi & Village Industries, Sericulture, Food Processing, Automobiles, EVs, Renewable Energy, and Traditional Crafts. The Delhi Roadshow was presided over by Shri Rakesh Sachan, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, MSME, Khadi and Village Industries, Sericulture, Handloom & Textile, Government of Uttar Pradesh alongside Shri Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, MSME & Export Promotion, Government of Uttar Pradesh; Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited; Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, Federation

of Indian Export Organisations; Dr. Neeraj Khanna, Chairman, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts; Shri Shaileendra



Bhatia, OSD, Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority and other senior officials. The gathering saw participation from representatives of many embassies including Austria, Canada, Vietnam, Norway and Singapore along with many trade associations, buying and sourcing consultants, sector leaders, and stakeholders from across North India. Shri Rakesh Sachan, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, MSME, Khadi and Village Industries, Sericulture, Handloom & Textile, Government of Uttar Pradesh, stated, Uttar

Pradesh has emerged as a promising hub of opportunity, driven by a strong focus on development, entrepreneurship, and global engagement. The upcoming third edition of the Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show (UPITS 2025), to be held from 25 to 29 September 2025 at India Expo Centre and Mart, Greater Noida, is a reflection of this momentum. This show is not just about exhibiting products, it is about showcasing the strength of Uttar Pradesh's industries, artisans, MSMEs, and entrepreneurs on a global stage. The Law & Order and Infrastructure has been improved resulting

in industries & MSMEs flourishing immensely in the State. From handlooms and ODP products to electronics, food processing, renewable energy, and more, UPITS presents a powerful blend of heritage and modern enterprise, all under one roof. With growing exports from 75 districts and rising interest from international markets, the state is building strong linkages across key sectors. UPITS is helping transform local excellence into global reach, offering a space where buyers, investors, innovators,

and producers can come together to form lasting partnerships. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath Ji, is creating a supportive environment through better law and order, equal opportunities, and industry-friendly policies. UPITS 2025 is not just a trade event; it is a vision to connect Uttar Pradesh's potential with the world. Speaking at the event, Shri Alok Kumar, Principal Secretary, MSME & Export Promotion, Government of Uttar Pradesh said, "Uttar Pradesh is seems like a giant waking up and rapidly growing and now it has UP International Trade Show to showcase its industrial and cultural strengths. It's an export gateway for our MSMEs, artisans, and entrepreneurs. With each edition, UPITS is building bridges from local businesses to global markets, strengthening our resolve to contribute to the vision of a trillion-dollar economy." Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Chairman, India Exposition Mart Limited & Co-organiser of UPITS, specially mentioned about the focus on several sectors and products performing excellence from State of Uttar Pradesh and these are being highlighted in UPITS. Dr. Rakesh Kumar said that the UPITS is a perfect sourcing platform for all the products and services from Uttar Pradesh at one place. Dr. Ajay Sahai, Director General & CEO, Federation

of Indian Export Organisations mentioned about the hosted overseas buyers program and extended financial support with the support of State Govt. FIEO is uniting buyers to explore the entire state's manufacturing and creative prowess under one roof, making it an unparalleled sourcing destination for both domestic and international buyers across all the products and services sectors. The Roadshow offered a glimpse into the enriched features of UPITS 2025—expanded exhibitor categories, focused B2B meetings, buyer delegations, ODOP showcases, and export promotion zones. The initiative also serves as a platform to attract industry participation and ensure strong regional and international buyer turnout. This Roadshow is part of a nationwide series organised to generate awareness and engagement for UPITS 2025. The Delhi edition, in particular, aimed at strengthening ties with sourcing consultants, institutional buyers, exporters, and industry bodies in the capital and surrounding regions. It will be followed by more Road Shows in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mumbai and Ahmedabad in the trail of promotion. Following the huge success of the previous editions, which drew lakhs of visitors and buyers, and thousands of crores in business enquiries, UPITS 2025 is expected to be even more ambitious in scope, delivering on its promise of trade, tradition, and transformation.

GNDU Vice Chancellor Prof. Karamjeet Singh Recognized by Canadian MP for Advancing Global Academic Ties

Amritsar: K.S.BEDI—In a significant affirmation of cross-border educational diplomacy, Professor Karamjeet Singh, Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University, was formally recognized by Canadian Member of Parliament Sukh Dhaliwal for his contributions to global education and academic leadership. The acknowledgment, issued in Surrey, British Columbia, was presented as a formal citation on behalf of the constituents of Surrey Newton. MP Dhaliwal lauded Prof. Singh for his "dedication to education as an educator, administrator, and Vice Chancellor," commanding his efforts in advancing bilateral university cooperation. Dr. Karamjeet Singh's vision serves as an inspiration," the citation reads. "I extend my heartfelt wishes for his success in his noble endeavors and continued service to education." This recognition comes during Prof. Singh's recent academic visit to Canada, aimed at strengthening institutional partnerships, faculty exchanges, and collaborative research between GNDU and Canadian universities. His efforts have been instrumental in shaping GNDU's strategic internationalization agenda and positioning the university as a global academic stakeholder. The formal certificate, adorned with the coats of arms of Canada's provinces and territories, reflects not just personal recognition but a broader symbol of growing educational bridges between India and Canada. Prof. Singh's leadership at GNDU has seen the university rise in national and global rankings, driven by innovation in teaching, research, and international collaboration. His recognition by a Canadian federal lawmaker underlines the increasing significance of academic diplomacy in global affairs. Educational leaders and observers have hailed the move as a positive step towards fostering knowledge exchange in a globally interconnected world.

Government school students to get free coaching says Education Minister Mahipal Dhanda

Chandigarh, July 2—Haryana Education Minister, Sh. Mahipal Dhanda said that the state government is committed to further improving the quality of education in government schools and providing better facilities for students. As part of this initiative, meritorious students from government schools will now get free coaching to help them succeed in competitive exams like IIT, NDA, and others. The Education Department is preparing a pilot project for this purpose. Under which, selected blocks will provide coaching to meritorious students after school hours, delivered by experienced government school teachers. If the project proves successful, it will be expanded across the state. The Education Minister, Sh. Mahipal Dhanda was presiding over a review meeting with the department officers at Shiksha Sadan Panchnkula today. He said that like private schools, parent-teacher meetings will soon be held regularly in government schools too. This will help parents stay informed about their children's academic progress and encourage their active involvement in improving the learning outcomes of their children. Talking about sports, Sh. Dhanda said that Haryana's athletes are making the state and the country proud on international platforms like the Olympics, World Championships, Asian Games, and Commonwealth Games. The foundation for good athletes is laid during school years. He emphasised the need to ensure quality sports training for students in government schools. Proper sports equipment should be made available to schools and teachers must encourage students to use it for regular practice. The Minister said he would personally review this from time to time, and strict action would be taken against teachers who neglect this responsibility, he added. Sh. Dhanda further emphasised the importance of the Hindi language, saying that since Haryana is a Hindi-speaking state and Hindi is our national language, all official work in the Education Department offices should be done in Hindi. He made it clear that any negligence in this matter will not be tolerated. Additional Chief Secretary, School Education, Sh. Vineet Garg, Director, Elementary Education, Sh. Vivek Aggarwal and other officers also remained present during the meeting.

NAME CHANGE

I, WASHIL CHAUDHARY S/O MEHARAN CHAUDHARY R/o L-125, G/F BLOCK-7 SUNDER NAGRI, DELHI-93, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my real and exact name is WASHIL CHAUDHARY & MD WASHIL both are same person. So know me in future for all purpose as WASHIL CHAUDHARY.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Dhamendra Rai S/O Chandra Rai R/O House No-407, Street Number 13, Vashishth Enclave, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Dhamendra Rai in my minor daughter name Tanishka Rai aged 16 years in her 10th class educational documents. The actual name of mine is Dhamendra Rai which is mentioned in my all intent proof but I am also known as MD WASHIL, WASHIL CHAUDHARY & MD WASHIL both are same person. So know me in future for all purpose as WASHIL CHAUDHARY.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, No-22055361A Rank-NM. KARAN THAPA Presently residing at VILL-TELPUR PO-AMBARI, TEHSIL-VIKASNAGAR, DISTT-UTTAKRANCH-248125, have changed my father's name from CHITRA BAHDUR THAPA to CHITRA BAHDUR for all future purposes vide Affidavit dated 04/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Kumari Dipti D/o Subhash Chander R/o B-311, DDA Flats, Pocket III Bindarpur Binda Pur, D/o Mohan Garden, West Delhi, Delhi-110059 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Dipti Dhansara.

NAME CHANGE

I, hitherto known as Tarun S/O Sunil Kumar Tokas R/O House No-249/H, Munirka Village PO Dist South West Delhi, Delhi-110067 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Tarun Tokas.

NAME CHANGE

I, JAT ROSHNI DEVI Mother of No. 16119162X Rank-NM. KARAN THAPA Presently residing at THASKA (139), PO-THASKA, DIST-HISAR, HARYANA-125047, have changed my name from JAT ROSHNI DEVI to ROSHNI DEVI for all future purposes and in my son's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 10/06/1957 instead of my correct date of birth as 26/04/1957 vide Affidavit dated 04/07/2025 before Notary Public, Delhi.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sangeeta Mohan D/o Subramanian Mohan W/O Rahul Sharma R/O G-102 Ibiza Town, Surajdih Road, NHPC Colony Sector 39 Faridabad Haryana 121010 Have changed my name to Sangeeta Mohan for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

I, Satish Dubey S/O Sri Nath Dubey R/O D-23 2nd floor East of Kalash South Delhi 110065 Have changed my name to Satish K Dubey for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Satish Dubey S/O Sri Nath Dubey R/O D-23 2nd floor East of Kalash South Delhi 110065 Have changed my name to Satish K Dubey for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Verma for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, Nishant Singh S/O Rajkaran Singh R/O Post Office Ahrula Ghat, Mora, PO Aholi Kali, Dist. Bihud, Madhya Pradesh-477111 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Punit Singh in my aadhar card No. 5789 3038 9759. The actual name of mine is Nishant Singh which may be amended accordingly.

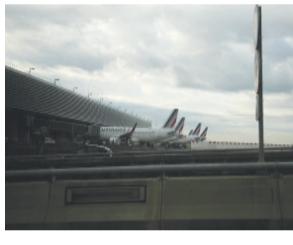
NAME CHANGE

I, Subhash Verma S/O Gangaram Charan Verma R/O SD 28, Sector 45, Noida, Gautam Budha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh 201303 have changed my name to Subhash Chandra Ver

NEWS BOX

Air traffic controller strike causes major disruptions across French airspace; 40 per cent flights cancelled

PARIS. About 40 per cent of flights were canceled Friday at all Paris airports and tens of thousands of passengers were rearranging plans at the height of the summer travel season because of a strike by French air traffic controllers seeking better working conditions. Disruptions started hitting airports around France on Thursday and intensified Friday. The national civil aviation authority asked airlines to cancel 40 per cent of flights Friday at Charles de Gaulle, Orly and Beauvais airports serving Paris, half of flights in Nice and 30% of flights in Marseille, Lyon and some other cities. Despite the preventive cancellations, the authority warned in a statement that disruptions and long delays are to be expected at all French airports. Ryanair was among airlines that announced widespread disruptions, saying in a statement it canceled more than 400 flights affecting 70,000 passengers. The company said the strike affects all its flights over French airspace, as well as traffic in and out of French airports, and urged the European Union to reform air traffic rules. One of the two unions leading the strike, UNSA-ICNA,



said in a statement there are not enough employees to handle surging air travel and that inflation is eating away at salaries. The unions also are protesting new reform measures aiming to more tightly monitor their work, prompted by a near-collision at the Bordeaux airport. Transport Minister Philippe Tabarot called the union demands — and their decision to strike just as French schools close for the summer and many families head on vacation — unacceptable.?

Pakistan security forces kill 30 terrorists trying to infiltrate from Afghanistan

PESHAWAR. At least 30 terrorists were killed while trying to infiltrate from Afghanistan in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, the military media wing said on Friday. The security forces successfully thwarted infiltration attempts from across the Afghan border in the Hassan Khel area of North Waziristan district on Tuesday and Wednesday night, the ISPR said. In a precise and timely operation, 30 terrorists attempting to enter Pakistan were killed when security forces responded to the movement of a large group of militants, it said in a statement. It said a large quantity of weapons,



ammunition and explosives were recovered from their possession. The ISPR described the operation as a testament to the vigilance of Pakistan's intelligence apparatus and the professionalism of its troops.

"This success highlights the effectiveness of our alert intelligence network and the operational excellence of our forces," the statement said. It added that Afghanistan should shoulder its responsibility to prevent its territory from being used by "foreign agents" for terrorist acts against Pakistan.

Rural hospitals in US brace for financial hits, closure under Trump's \$1 trillion Medicaid cut

OMAHA. Tyler Sherman, a nurse at a rural Nebraska hospital, is used to the area's aging farmers delaying care until they end up in his emergency room. Now, with Congress planning around \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts over 10 years, he fears those farmers and the more than 3,000 residents of Webster County could lose not just the ER, but also the clinic and nursing home tied to the hospital.

"Our budget is pretty heavily reliant on the Medicaid reimbursement, so if we do see a cut of that, it'll be difficult to keep the doors open," said Sherman, who works at Webster County Community Hospital in the small Nebraska town of Red Cloud just north of the Kansas border. If those facilities close, many locals would see their five-minute trip to Webster County hospital turn into a nearly hour-long ride to the nearest hospital offering the same services.

"That's a long way for an emergency," Sherman said. "Some won't make it."

Struggling hospitals will be hit hardest. States and rural health advocacy groups warn that cutting Medicaid — a program serving millions of low-income and disabled Americans — would hit already fragile rural hospitals hard and could force hundreds to close, stranding some people in remote areas without nearby emergency care.

More than 300 hospitals could be at risk for closure under the Republican bill, according to an analysis by the Cecil G. Sheps Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, which tracks rural hospital closures. Even as Congress haggled over the controversial bill, a health clinic in the southwest Nebraska town of Curtis announced Wednesday it will close in the coming months, in part blaming the anticipated Medicaid cuts. Bruce Shay, of Pomfret, Connecticut, fears he and his wife could be among those left in the lurch. At 70, they're both in good health, he said.

Murree Brewery has strong financials despite the prohibition, thanks to its history, scant competition and a small, thirsty and predominantly elite consumer base.

RAWALPINDI. A pungent fog of malt and yeastiness hangs over Murree Brewery, Pakistan's biggest and oldest producer of alcoholic drinks. The company is an outlier in a country where alcohol is outlawed for everyone except non-Muslims, who make up some 9 million people out of 241 million. Pakistan, an Islamic republic, banned booze for Muslims in the 1970s. Murree Brewery has strong financials despite the prohibition, thanks to its history, scant competition and a small, thirsty and predominantly elite consumer base. But the government exerts significant control over the sale and marketing of alcoholic beverages through red tape and high taxes,

pushing brewery chairman Ispahyan Bandhara to expand the company's footprint in Pakistan's non-alcoholic drinks industry, which, although bigger, is more crowded and less lucrative. "Even I tell my staff of about 2,200 that we cannot sit on our laurels by selling alcohol," said Bandhara, the third generation of his family to run the 165-year-old business that was founded by the British. "It's a restricted market, so we have to rely and focus more on the non-alcoholic side. That's where I think I would like to flex my muscles and take credit, rather than being a liquor baron." The brewery already manufactures energy drinks, juices and malted beverages, but they are not as well known as products from big international brands. However, this part of the business is registering double-digit growth, and Bandhara wants to cash in on the country's youth bulge. Around 64% of the population is under 30. The state has a lot of say. Pakistan's government determines the brewery's alcohol prices, points of sale and customer base. Last year it took \$35 million from the

brewery's revenue in taxes. The company cannot advertise its alcoholic beverages or expand that part of the business inside Pakistan. Online shopping is

dollars in sales every year. PepsiCo and Coca-Cola dominate, but there are also homegrown brands. "The multinationals are thriving in Pakistan," Bandhara said.

"It's a rewarding market. There might be less money (in non-alcoholic drinks), but it's more secure." Murree Brewery's malted drinks line is packaged in a way that strongly resembles its beer counterparts. The taste, while not unpleasant, is distinctive, sweet and slightly yeasty.

How to drink in Pakistan

Alcohol is a niche item in Pakistan. Even cooking ingredients like red wine vinegar, and buying essentials like cough medicine, is hard because of their alcohol content, however minuscule. Five-star hotels slip a drinks list into the in-room dining menu or decant alcohol into a more discreet vessel, like a teapot. Some restaurants, usually upscale, allow diners to bring a bottle but seat them away from others or shield the pour from prying eyes.



unavailable. The brewery is permitted to export beer to countries outside the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, a 57-member bloc, even though there is a "big demand for liquor and beer" in Muslim-majority countries, Bandhara said. Meanwhile, more Pakistanis drink far more sodas and juices, with billions of

Foreign medical residents fill critical positions at US hospitals amid Trump's visa crackdown

world. Some hospitals in the US are without essential staff because international doctors who were set to start their medical training this week were delayed by the Trump administration's travel and visa restrictions. It's unclear exactly how many foreign medical residents were unable to start their assignments, but six medical residents interviewed by The Associated Press say they've undergone years of training and work only to be stopped at the finish line by what is usually a procedural step.

"I don't want to give up," said a permanent Canadian resident who matched to the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center Harrisburg but had her visa denied because she is a citizen of Afghanistan. She requested to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal. "But the situation also seems so helpless." Initially, the medical community was worried that hundreds

of positions — many in hospitals in low-income or rural areas of the US — could be affected. The pause on interviews for J-1 visas for approved work or study-related programs was lifted in mid-June. The national nonprofit that facilitates the residency match process said the visa situation is resolving, but it will take weeks to know with confidence how many medical residents have had the start of their careers derailed because they got their visa too late or were blocked by US President Donald Trump's travel ban on 12 countries, according to people who coordinate the residents' training. Four foreign medical residents told the AP that US embassies have been slow to open up interview slots — and some have not opened any. "You lose out on the time you could have used to treat patients," said one resident from Pakistan, who matched to an internal medicine

program in Massachusetts and requested to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal. Thousands of foreign medical residents fill gaps. The US is projected to face a physician shortage in the next 11 years, per the Association of American Medical Colleges, and foreign medical residents fill critical gaps in the health care system. More than 6,600 foreign-born international medical residents matched into US programs in 2025 — the highest on record — and another 300 filled positions that were vacant after the match process was complete. Not all of those residents were affected by visa issues or the travel ban on foreign nationals from countries including Afghanistan, Haiti and Sudan. International medical graduates often take jobs in places where US medical trainees tend not to go, said Donna Lamb, president of the National Resident Matching Program.

Indonesian rescuers intensify search for 30 people missing after ferry sinks near Bali

GILIMANUK. Indonesian authorities intensified on Friday a search operation for 30 people missing after a ferry sank near the tourist island of Bali. The KMP Tunu Pratama Jaya sank almost half an hour after leaving Ketapang port in East Java late Wednesday for a trip of about 5 kilometers (3 miles) to Bali's Gilimanuk port. The search and rescue operation was halted Thursday evening due to visibility problems and resumed on Friday morning with more than 160 rescuers, including police and soldiers, said Ribut Eko Suyatno, the deputy chief of operations at the National Search and Rescue Agency.

Three helicopters and a thermal drone were deployed to conduct an aerial search over the waters of the Bali Strait, while about 20 vessels were mobilized for the sea search, Suyatno said. As weather forecasts predict high waves and rough waters around the Bali Strait on Friday, he said at least three navy ships to be deployed to replace small boats.

Videos and photos released by the agency showed rescuers looking desperately from rescue boats in the waters but no new survivors.

The agency released the names of 29



survivors and six people confirmed dead late Thursday. It didn't release names of the missing, but according to the passenger manifest there were 30 people missing. On Friday, survivors were being treated at Bali's Jembrana Regional Hospital, while the bodies have been handed over to the families for funerals. Distraught relatives

gathered at the port office in Gilimanuk, hoping for news of missing family members. Indonesian authorities are investigating the cause of the accident. Survivors told rescuers

there appeared to be a leak in the engine room of the ferry, which was carrying 22 vehicles including 14 trucks. Ferry tragedies occur regularly in Indonesia, an archipelago of more than 17,000 islands, with weak enforcement of safety regulations often to blame. Fifteen people were killed after a boat capsized off Indonesia's Sulawesi in 2023, while another ferry sank in rough seas near Bali in 2021, leaving seven dead and 11 missing. In 2018, an overcrowded ferry sank with about 200 people on board in a deep volcanic crater lake in North Sumatra province, killing 167 people.

In one of the country's worst recorded disasters, an overcrowded passenger ship sank in February 1999 with 332 people aboard. There were only 20 survivors.

Arificial Inteligence uses Arificial Inteligence uses

Trump wins major victory as Congress passes flagship bill

WASHINGTON. US President Donald Trump on Thursday secured a major political victory when Congress narrowly passed his signature tax and spending bill, cementing his radical second-term agenda and boosting funds for his anti-immigration drive. A jubilant Trump said the bill's passage would supercharge the US economy "into a rocket ship" -- glossing over deep concerns within his own Republican Party that it will balloon the national debt and gut health and welfare support.

Speaking to reporters as he headed for a rally in Iowa to kick off America's 250th birthday celebrations, the president called the spending package "the biggest bill of its kind ever signed." A small group of Republican



opponents finally fell into line after Speaker Mike Johnson worked through the night to corral dissenters in the House of Representatives behind the "One Big Beautiful Bill." The bill squeaked past a final vote, 218-214. The White House declared "VICTORY" on social media and said Trump would sign the bill into law on Friday, the July 4th Independence Day holiday.

The timing of the vote had slipped back to Thursday as Democratic House minority leader Hakeem Jeffries spoke against the bill for nearly nine hours to delay proceedings.

Arificial Inteligence uses Arificial Inteligence uses

Mass deportations, tax breaks

The legislation is the latest in a series of big wins for Trump, including a Supreme Court ruling last week that curbed lone federal judges from blocking his policies, and US air strikes that led to a ceasefire between Israel and Iran. His sprawling mega-bill narrowly passed the Senate on Tuesday and had to return to the lower chamber for a rubber stamp of the senators' revisions. The package honors many of Trump's campaign promises: boosting military spending, funding a mass migrant deportation drive and committing \$4.5 trillion to extend his first-term tax relief. "Everything was an absolute disaster under the Biden-Harris radical regime, and we took the best effort that we could, in one big, beautiful bill, to fix as much of it as we could," Johnson said.

And I am so grateful that we got that done."

But it is expected to pile an extra \$3.4 trillion over a decade onto the country's fast-growing deficits, while shrinking the federal food assistance program and forcing through the largest cuts to the Medicaid health insurance scheme for low-income Americans since its 1960s launch.

Strikes kill 94 Palestinians in Gaza, including 45 people waiting for aid, authorities say

TEL AVIV. Israeli airstrikes and shootings killed 94 Palestinians in Gaza late Wednesday and Thursday, including 45 who were attempting to get much-needed humanitarian aid, hospitals and the Health Ministry said Thursday. Families wept over the bodies from a strike that hit a tent camp during the night as displaced people slept in southern Gaza. At least 13 members of a single family were killed, including at least six children under 12. "My children, my children ... my beloved," wailed Intisar Abu Assi, sobbing over the bodies of her son and daughters and their young children. Another woman kissed the forehead of a dead little girl wrapped in a blanket on the floor of the morgue at Nasser Hospital in the city of Khan Younis. In central Gaza, a boy stroked the face of his dead sister, 6-year-old Heba Abu Etiwi, in a morgue at Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Hospital. The girl and another of her brothers were among eight people killed when a strike Wednesday evening hit near a stand selling falafel. A

separate strike on a school in Gaza City sheltering displaced people also killed 15 people. The toll from strikes emerged as more Palestinians were killed in near-daily shootings while trying to obtain aid.

Five were killed on the roads leading to food-distribution sites run by the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, the newly created, secretive American organization backed by Israel to feed the Gaza Strip's population. Another 40 were killed while waiting for trucks carrying U.N. aid in several locations around Gaza, according to hospital officials. Witnesses have said Israeli troops regularly unleash barrages on crowds of Palestinians trying to reach the GHF sites. Witnesses have also reported troops opening fire when crowds of people mass near military-run zones of Gaza, waiting for U.N. trucks to enter.

More than 500 Palestinians have been killed and hundreds more wounded since the food-distribution sites opened in May.

The Israeli military, whose forces are deployed on the roads leading to the sites, says it fires warning shots to control crowds or at Palestinians who approach its troops.



Armed U.S. contractors guard the sites. Amnesty says Israel using starvation as a weapon. Amnesty International on Thursday issued a report saying Israel was continuing to "use starvation of civilians as a weapon of war ... as part of its ongoing genocide." It said the GHF distribution

system appeared intended only to "pacify international concerns" even as Israel allows in only a small amount of food for the U.N. to distribute separately. "By maintaining a deadly, dehumanizing and ineffective militarized 'aid' scheme, Israeli authorities have turned aid-seeking into a booby trap for desperate starved Palestinians," it said.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry denounced the Amnesty report, saying the organization has "joined forces with Hamas and fully adopted all of its propaganda lies." Israel has rejected allegations it is committing genocide in Gaza in the war with Hamas, and it is challenging the accusation filed by

South Africa at the International Court of Justice. Amnesty accused Israel last year of committing genocide, saying it has sought to deliberately destroy Palestinians by mounting deadly attacks, demolishing vital infrastructure and preventing the delivery of food, medicine and other aid.

Graft: Lokayukta Court rejects bail plea of Palike engineer



BENGALURU. The trapping of more than six BBMP engineers within a span of two weeks shows the range of corruption and its impact on society, said the Special Court for Lokayukta Cases while rejecting the bail application filed by HV Yarappareddy, Executive Engineer, Sir CV Raman Nagar Division, BBMP East Zone. Yarappareddy was arrested by the Lokayukta police on June 17 after he collected Rs 10 lakh as bribe from the contractor for the release of the bill for the work undertaken pertaining to the comprehensive development of drainages and roads from the BBMP through a private firm.

"In the BBMP, no one can expect the work at the hands of the officials without paying illegal gratification", observed Judge KM Radhakrishna while passing the order rejecting the bail application of the accused.

Hemanth GM, a civil contractor, did the civil work during 2023-24 and submitted the bill for payment. The accused engineer has kept those bills pending with him without clearing. He made a call through his friend's mobile number to the accused, who in turn demanded the undue advantage of Rs 10 lakh to do the official favour in the matter of clearing the bills. Unable to pay the bribe, the contractor approached the Lokayukta police, who laid the trap and arrested the accused along with the bribe money on June 17.

Before the court, the accused, through his counsel, claimed that there was no demand by him and acceptance of a bribe, but a story of 'demand and acceptance' was created by the complainant with the help of his friend, whose mobile phone was used to call the accused.

Opposing the bail application, the public prosecutor apprised the court as to how the accused was actively involved in the crime and the impact on the prosecution witnesses if he is released on bail, besides destroying the evidence.

The court observed that the material prima facie goes to expose the direct involvement of the accused in committing the alleged offence, which is socio-economic in nature.

Government PU college student develops facial-recognition attendance system

BENGALURU. (Agency)

A government PU college student in Puttur, Dakshina Kannada, has developed a face-recognition-based attendance system that not only records student attendance within seconds but also sends an instant message on the Telegram app to parents every time their child arrives at school.



Arun Kumar V, a PU II student at Government PU College, Kombettu in Puttur taluk, created the system using his knowledge from the IT stream under the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), which he has been studying since Class 9.

Inspired by his learning at the Atal Tinkering Lab - innovation workspaces established in schools across India by the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog, Arun spent three months designing and building the system with guidance from his IT teacher, Ashlesh Kumar.

The device uses a web camera to recognise students' faces as they arrive at school. Once identified, the student's name appears on a display screen, and a message is immediately sent to their parents' phone. This message includes name, date, time, and confirmation of

56 Mahila Samras Gram Panchayats emerge in Gujarat, Mehsana tops the list

Samras Gram Panchayat is a scheme of Gujarat government under which villagers choose their ward members and sarpanch with consensus and do not go to polls. If all unopposed ward members and Sarpanch are women, it is known as a Mahila Samras Gram Panchayat.

Gandhinagar. (Agency)

Out of the total 761 gram panchayats which were declared Samras in the recent elections of over 4,500 gram panchayats, 56 have emerged as Mahila Samras Gram Panchayat, according to a statement from Gujarat government issued on Thursday. Of the 56 such Mahila Samras Gram Panchayats, Mehsana has a maximum of nine followed by Patan (7), Bhavnagar (6), Banaskantha (6) and Vadodara (4), the government added.

Samras Gram Panchayat is a scheme of Gujarat government under which villagers choose their ward members and sarpanch with consensus and do not go to polls. If all unopposed ward members and Sarpanch are women, it is known as a Mahila Samras Gram Panchayat. Those villages which become Samras get special benefits from the state government. The scheme was launched by the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi in 2001.

The 56 Mahila Samras Gram Panchayats include Ilampur Gram Panchayat and Chadasana Gram Panchayat in Patan districts. As per the government release, the two gram panchayats have become Mahila Samras Gram



Panchayat for the fifth consecutive time. While Ilampur has become Mahila Samras Gram Panchayat for the first time, Chadasana has got the distinction for the second time. Both

the gram panchayats will receive a grant of Rs 8.50 lakh each from the state government for development purposes. Both the panchayats have a total of nine members each including the Sarpanch.

Quoting Ilampur Sarpanch Kesarben Thakor, the release stated, "Ilampur, with a population of over 1,100, has never had Panchayat elections since Independence. People here are mostly involved in farming and animal husbandry. With the grant we receive, we are committed to ensuring that the village sees real and lasting development."

Meanwhile, Chadasana Sarpanch Amathiben Desai was quoted as saying, "Chadasana has a population of 547, where people from all communities live with mutual respect and unity. If the village continues to remain Samaras, peace will prevail and development will continue without disruption."

Heavy rains in capital causes flooding in Badagada houses

however, was reported. The situation is under control," Patel also said. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert in Banaskantha for July 6, along



with Sabarkantha and Aravalli. As per an IMD forecast, while the state is expected to receive heavy rainfall till July 9, an orange alert has been issued in the districts of Sabarkantha and Aravalli for July 5 and Navsari and Valsad for July 7 and 8. Districts of Banaskantha and Sabarkantha received heavy rainfall till 6 pm on

Thursday. While Idar in Sabarkantha recorded 5.5 inch (140 mm) of rainfall, Dhanera received 116 mm, Dantiwada 81 mm, Vadgam 81 mm, Palanpur in Banaskantha district received 63 mm. Other districts in Saurashtra region including Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Botad and Junagadh received heavy rainfall on Thursday. In these districts, Jamkanderna received 110 mm rainfall, Dhoraji 83 mm, Jodiya 101 mm, Lalpur 86 mm, Chuda 84 mm, Wadhwan 78 mm, Bhiloda 67 mm, Vadnagar 65 mm, Jetpur 64 mm, Rajkot 62 mm, Ranpur 58 mm, Kalavad 57 mm. As per the IMD, the state continues to be on alert owing to the "monsoon trough that continues to pass through Bikaner, Sheopur, Khajuraho, Daltonganj, Digha and thence east southeastwards to northeast Bay of Bengal, cyclonic circulation over central parts of west Rajasthan, trough from northeast Arabian sea to northwest Bay of Bengal across Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, the cyclonic circulation over north Odisha adjoining Gangetic west Bengal between tilting southwestwards".

The emergency operation disrupted traffic along the stretch and exposed glaring gaps in the BMC's monsoon preparedness, an issue that had drawn Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi's attention just a month ago.

Following the downpour, around 10 to 15 residents remained stranded in their homes as floodwaters transformed parts of the Badagada canal road into a swamp. The local market was also submerged under knee-deep water after the stormwater drains failed to function due to blockages. Rescue teams from the civic body evacuated affected residents, while the BMC resorted to cutting through both embankments of the canal using an excavator to create a trench, enabling stagnant water from the low-lying area to flow out.

Locals blamed the waterlogging on delays in completing drainage repair work. "The water reached chest level in some houses because of the authorities' negligence," said a resident whose home was flooded. She also alleged that an old syphon, which had sustained damage over the years, was buried instead of being repaired three months ago. "Since then, the BMC has not come up with any alternative drainage solution," she added.

The chief minister, in a public address last month, had flagged the issue of road damage in the area following heavy rains in May and instructed officials to remain vigilant during the monsoon. In a subsequent review meeting, he directed the BMC to complete all drainage-related repairs by June 20.

The canal road, which had already suffered substantial damage in May due to torrential rains, saw another round of chaos on Tuesday. The incident has again sparked outrage among locals, some of whom had earlier voiced their concerns directly to BMC mayor Sulochana Das during her visit to the site.

Finish Anakaputhur sewage work in a month: Chief Secretary N Muruganandam

The underground system involves pipelines running 50km and covering 389 streets in Anakaputhur, and 100 km across 877 streets in Pammal.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A deadline of August has been set for the completion of the long-delayed underground sewerage project at Anakaputhur in Chennai. This comes after the mounting pressure on the state to curb untreated waste being discharged into the ecologically fragile Potheri Lake in Pallavaram.

At a high-level meeting held on June 26 at the Secretariat in Chennai, Chief Secretary N Muruganandam directed senior officials to expedite construction of the underground sewerage system (UGSS) and sewage treatment plant (STP) at Anakaputhur. The meeting was convened to assess the state's compliance with

environmental directives issued by the NGT (South Zone) bench concerning restoration of Potheri Lake and sufficient sewage infrastructure in Tambaram. Shifting from conventional norms, the project proposes to replace 2,212 manholes in Pammal and 768 in Anakaputhur with machine holes. The officials also decided on stricter enforcement to deter illegal dumping of solid and liquid waste around Potheri Lake. Surveillance is set to be ramped up with the integration of CCTV systems around the lake with both police and the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) for real-time monitoring.



"All sewage transport vehicles operating in the Tambaram zone will be GPS-enabled, with permission for release only at authorised treatment plants," official sources told TNIE. "Unlawful disposal will result in steep penalties, including licence revocation."

The push to fast-track environmental safeguards comes in the wake of a contempt notice issued by Kancheepuram resident V Pattabiraman. The NGT had earlier directed the state in its July 18, 2022 order to implement corrective measures and the timeline for this has since lapsed.

Teen electrocuted after stepping into puddle above damaged power cable in Chennai

The boy's family and residents staged a protest demanding action against officials of the electricity board whose alleged inaction led to the death.

CHENNAI. (Agency)

A 17-year-old boy, returning home after his evening tuition class, was electrocuted as he stepped into a pool of stagnant rainwater on the road above a damaged underground electric cable at Peer Payilvan Street in Thiruvottiyur late on Wednesday evening. The deceased has been identified as Nafeel, a class XII student at a private school, residing on the same street.

A senior officer of the Thiruvottiyur police said the puddle was formed following the rain on Tuesday evening. "A few months ago, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) had laid interlocking paver blocks along the street. We suspect that during the work, the underground cable may have been damaged," he said.

"We have registered a case of unnatural death as of now, and after an inquiry, we will decide whether to alter it to death by negligence," the officer added.

The boy's family and residents staged a protest demanding action against officials of the electricity board whose alleged inaction led to the death.

Speaking to , one of the residents M Iliyas said just as Nafeel collapsed on the ground, a group of more than 10 children were about to leave a madrasa adjacent to the spot. If they had reached the puddle before Nafeel, several of them would have met a similar fate. "Seeing Nafeel fall to the ground, they stayed inside," he said.

Another resident, Usman, said, "As Nafeel



was lying on the ground in front of his mother, some of the neighbours tried to rescue him but they experienced electric shock and had to distance themselves. After more than 10 minutes, the boy was rescued

and was taken to a nearby clinic, and from there, to a private hospital, where he was declared dead."

Upon information, the police recovered the body and sent it to Government Stanley Hospital for postmortem. A probe is on. When contacted officials from Tamil Nadu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TNPCL), they said a proposal to give a compensation of Rs 5 lakh to the family has been sent for the chief minister's approval and once cleared, the amount will be handed over to the family. Departmental action has been initiated to identify if there was negligence in play, the officials said.

Panel formed

Chairman and Managing Director of

TNPCL J Radhakrishnan, on Thursday evening, issued an order, constituting a committee under the chief engineer (Planning and RC) to look into recent incidents of damage to underground electrical cables and infrastructure caused during road cutting and excavation. The panel has been asked to submit a preliminary report with actionable recommendations within 15 days.

The committee will review accidents reported in Chennai and other districts, identify gaps in coordination, and propose stronger preventive and mitigation measures.

It will also suggest revisions to existing operating procedures for agencies carrying out road or emergency works near electrical lines, transformers, or related installations.

The world's only mega-bomber

There is a quote often attributed to Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbour, that it might have "awakened a sleeping giant". A similar simile is attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte, albeit with a few variations: "China is a sleeping giant/dragon/lion." That the quotes are apocryphal is beside the point. They indicated directions in which the countries were likely to go. In the event, America got there first: it nuked Hiroshima and Nagasaki, becoming the first and only country in the world to have deployed nuclear weapons. China took a half-century more to get to a place where it can use nuclear weapons—but has refrained, as a matter of policy, from even hinting at the possibility of ever using them. The US went on to design other big bombs: the 6,800-kg 'daisy cutter', which it used in Vietnam, the Gulf War and outside the Tora Bora caves in Afghanistan in 2001. When it was 'retired' in 2008, it was replaced with the 9,850 kg Massive Ordnance Air Blast (MOAB, or 'mother of all bombs') first used in 2017 in Afghanistan and still in stock. And in 2011, the US made the 'biggest bomb of them all'—the 12,304-kg Massive Ordnance Penetrator or 'bunker buster'. After 14 years of aggregating 20 of these gigabombs, the US used them on Iran.

In effect, in order to escape proscriptions in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons or NPT, to which the US is a founder-signatory, America went the way of non-nuclear devices with the explosive output of a small, tactical nuclear bomb. In her 2007 book, *The United States and the Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons Since 1945*, Nina Tannenwald wrote about the "four critical instances where US leaders considered using nuclear weapons—Japan 1945, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf War 1991". That they did not was because of the so-called 'nuclear taboo', a moral construct that exists and, going by the number of nuclear weapon-owning countries that have not signed the NPT, despite the prevalence in governmental military quarters of the rationalist deterrence theory (or MAD, mutually assured destruction). But the way around the albatrosses of the 'nuclear taboo' and the NPT is building bigger and more destructive non-nuclear bombs. This is the route the US has taken. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses America has always been in love with the monumental: the bigger, the better; shock and awe. Since the end of the Second World War, it has built more and more colossal explosive devices. But wars and armament run on capital. The potential income from conflicts must outstrip expenditure on weapons manufacturing. Therefore, the bigger these bombs have got, the fewer are being made.

The 'daisy cutters', with a blast yield equivalent to 11 tonnes of TNT, numbered 225 before production was shelved. Production of the MOAB, which also has a blast yield of 11 tonnes of TNT but is a far more complex and expensive device, stopped at 15. The MOP, even more high-tech, delivers, according to *Scientific American*, "800 to 900 megajoules of kinetic energy—comparable to a Boeing 747-400 touching down at 170 mph" with "all that energy concentrated into a tiny area". Only 20 of these monsters have been built, with 14 of them expended in a single attack on Iran.

China and Russia have also built giant bombs. In 2007, Russia field-tested the Aviation Thermobaric Bomb of Increased Power, which was nicknamed the 'father of all bombs' or FOAB, and is reportedly deadlier than the MOAB. With a blast yield of 44 tonnes of TNT, it is a thermobaric (air-burst) bomb with the destructive potential of a small tactical N-weapon.

LAST WEEK, the US Senate—by a 53-47 vote—decided not to bar the Trump administration from initiating further military action against Iran, turning down a war powers resolution introduced by Senator Tim Kaine. The US Constitution splits the prerogative to initiate armed hostilities, colloquially referred to as war, between Congress and the President due to a twilight expanse of overlapping authority. Article 1 of the US Constitution singularly vests in Congress the power to initialise kinetic action, recruit, train and mobilise armed combatants and superintend their deployment. Oxymorically, Article 2 of the Constitution titles the President as the commander-in-chief of the US armed forces. The War Powers Resolution or the War Powers Act was enacted in 1973. The Vietnam War raging at that time. The relentless bombing of Cambodia and Laos was intensifying. Concurrently, domestic disenchantment was exacerbating against the Richard Nixon administration's prosecution of the war.

Under such circumstances, the US House Foreign Affairs Committee observed that the dichotomy between the war-making functions of Congress and the President was a grey area of contemporaneous power, lacking precision on when the President can act independently vis-à-vis when congressional sanction becomes sacrosanct. The War Powers Resolution was therefore approved with the resolve to reaffirm Congress' role in deploying US armed forces for conflicts overseas. The resolution provided the President with just enough leverage to act with dispatch whenever imperative. It was done disregarding the veto of President Nixon. It laid down presidential reporting imperatives and Congressional processes predicated upon reaffirming the statutory responsibility of Congress in necessitating the deployment of US forces in armed conflict abroad. Moving the said resolution in the context of President Donald Trump's decision to bomb three nuclear sites in Iran, Tim Kaine said on the Senate floor, "Only Congress declares war." He pointed out that the founding fathers of the US Constitution, way back in 1787, were so circumspect of bestowing the control of opening hostilities on any individual that they deliberately chose not to even delegate this function to George Washington, the first commander-in-chief. The imprimatur of the Constitution, therefore, ordained that the United States of America would not go to war without a Congressional vote. Had the measure passed muster, it would have compelled the Trump administration to obtain Congress approval before launching further

bombing and other forms of armed combat against Iran. This raises an obvious question in India—from a constitutional standpoint, who has the power to declare war? Is it the President as the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces on the Cabinet's advice provided in writing or Parliament or none of these entities? The answer seems to be "none", for the Indian Constitution does not really contemplate resolving disputes through the force of arms. The question, therefore, remains: did we fight wars in 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999 without a formal declaration of war? This seems to be the case.

transnational disagreements. Under the UN framework, armed force may only be used in "self-defence" or when authorised by the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter. India's Constitution, to a substantial extent, imbibed the spirit of this provision. What then are the provisions of the Indian Constitution dealing with war? There seem to be none explicitly. Article 352 allows the proclamation of an emergency when a threat of war, external aggression or armed rebellion is imminent. It does not confer a power. It essentially lays down a procedure. When there is an emergency because of "external aggression", the President can make a proclamation, the condition precedent being a decision of the Council of Ministers communicated in writing. It also requires that Parliament ratify the proclamation within one month. The Constitution ordains that Parliament be summoned and requested to either ratify or reject it.

Then there is Entry 1&2 of the Union List—Article 246, Seventh Schedule. Entry 1 delineates what the Union Government must do for the "defence of India" in times of war—from prosecution to demobilisation. "Defence of India" is the operative phrase here. It, however, does not extend so far as to provide the legislative basis to the Union of India to declare war. Entry 2 only provides an exclusive field of legislation to the Union vis-à-vis the armed forces. Article 51 in the Directive Principles of State Policy further mandates that the government undertake a peaceful approach to international relations. In essence, the Union of India may initialise the full spectrum of options to counter a war, plan and train for a response to it, enact legislation to mobilise the materials and resources critical to its success, but constitutionally it is not authorised to initiate war as an exercise of sovereign will. It is a delicate but critical particularity. India, therefore, constitutionally is a defensive State not just in disposition, but in its very constitutional construction. Given the rather 'interesting' times we live in, there must be a crisp and clear constitutional provision laying down precisely who has the power to declare war, why and under what circumstances? Is it the President on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers or Parliament? It could also be a hybrid like Article 352, whereby the proclamation is issued by the executive but ratified by Parliament within a month.

Heed prevailing factors in vaccine safety study

The Indian Council of Medical Research claims to have conclusively proved the lack of a direct link between Covid vaccines and sudden deaths, other studies have relayed confusing signals on the vaccines' safety for cardiovascular health

The death of 21 people over 40 days in a single Karnataka district has brought focus on the possible links between Covid vaccines and sudden heart attacks. The state government has ordered a probe into the deaths in Hassan and is expecting a report in 10 days. But it's unlikely that any conclusive evidence of the link would emerge.

Studies worldwide have reported a high degree of uncertainty on such a link, but that has not stopped speculation. A study conducted last year in South Korea's Yonsei University College of Medicine revealed a higher risk of heart disease among individuals receiving mRNA vaccines than the other types, but no significant link between the vaccine type and the risk of "acute heart disease". The study also noted that younger individuals receiving mRNA vaccines (like Gencovac-OM, an Omicron-specific booster vaccine used in India) had a higher risk than older individuals.

On the other hand, a 2024 study by University of Minnesota's Centre for Infectious Disease Research and Policy—on data of 46 million adults gathered by the British Heart Foundation—had found that adenovirus-

based Covid vaccines, which includes the Covishield variety widely used in India, potentially caused thrombotic thrombocytopenia, or clotting in small blood vessels causing a drop in platelet count, red blood cell breakdown and potential organ damage. Meanwhile mRNA-based vaccines were found to potentially cause

slightly increased rates of myocarditis, an inflammation of the muscular layer of the heart wall that weakens the organ's ability to pump blood, and pericarditis, an inflammation of the sack-like structure surrounding the heart that can cause chest pain and, in some cases, serious complications. However, the study also indicated that the incidence of cardiovascular diseases dropped after every Covid vaccination. So, while the Indian Council of Medical Research claims to have conclusively proved the lack of a direct link between Covid vaccines and sudden deaths, other studies have relayed confusing signals on the vaccines' safety for cardiovascular health. As the scientific community pursues an accurate proof, the importance of evidence-based public health measures cannot be ignored. This must include focusing on the role played by underlying health issues, genetic predisposition and risky lifestyle choices in unexplained deaths. And that—as much as the safety of vaccines—needs urgent attention for a healthier India.

Manipur's moral imagination takes off after a crash

The grief following the death of two Manipuri women in the Ahmedabad crash cut across the state's ethnic divide. Empathy over common suffering brought the warring groups closer

Twenty-five months after a violent ethnic conflict broke out between Meiteis and Kuki/Zo tribes, and four months into president's rule, the guns have more or less fallen silent in Manipur. There are signs of relief everywhere, yet none is fooled into believing that this is peace. It is, at best, the proverbial peace of the graveyard. There is little to be surprised about this. The inferno that raged in the state for two years was unprecedented and bloody, claiming over 260 lives and displacing an estimated 60,000 people. There has also been a matching scale of losses of properties to arson attacks, and worse still, the two sides have mutually cleansed each other from their traditional homelands. The Meiteis are primarily in the Imphal valley and the Kukis/Zo in the foothills adjoining the valley. In the higher reaches are the Nagas.

Probably fatigue and a realisation of the senselessness of continued hostility are ensuring this semblance of calm. But for this 'negative peace', as Johan Galtung called it, to transform into 'positive peace', a reconciliatory process is vital. There can be no gainsaying that horrific atrocities have happened, but in paving a path to reconciliation, both warring sides must first overcome their victimhood syndrome and have the courage to acknowledge they have been both the victims as well as the perpetrators, depending on the locations of riots. Casualty figures bear testimony to this. From day one of the conflict, social media has played a key role in igniting and fueling inflammatory passions. If not for it, in all likelihood, the trouble could have been arrested at

Torbung area itself where arson rampages first broke out on the afternoon of May 3, 2023. Terabytes after terabytes of misinformation and disinformation have flooded social media space ever since, making the overall atmosphere corrosive and toxic. Then suddenly, an event of 'terrible beauty' happened to temporarily cleanse Manipur's social media spaces of this toxicity. In a devastating tragedy, on June 12, the London-bound Air India flight crashed soon after take-off from Ahmedabad. Among the cabin crew were two flight attendants from Manipur—one a Kuki, Lamunthem Singson, 26, and the other a Meitei, Kongbrailatpam Nganthoi Sharma, 20. From the video clips that have surfaced since the crash, Lamunthem impresses as being quiet and graceful. She is the daughter of a widowed mother, and before the conflict, lived in their home at Old Lambulane in the heart of Imphal city, but had to flee to Kuki-dominated Kangpokpi town 45 km from Imphal, where the family now lives in a rented accommodation. The younger woman, Nganthoi, exudes childlike naughtiness, and an easy, amiable, charming smile. She is from Thoubal, a township 23 km from Imphal.

The shock at the news of the tragic deaths of the two women created a tidal wave of empathy in Manipur that breached the ethnic divide. Reciprocally, the routine slanging matches on social media spaces

between the warring communities also faded considerably, to be replaced by days of bursts of prayers and condolences. Many had believed that in the enormity of the public grief over their death, the two women would purge and redeem Manipur to pave a path to a reconciliatory process.



Heeding to calls by civil society organisations, a large number of people had gathered to receive the two bodies with honour at Imphal airport. The government had assured that Lamunthem's body would be escorted under heavy security through Imphal Valley. A hearsay doing the rounds at the time was that Lamunthem's mother wished for her daughter's body to be first taken to their abandoned

Imphal home, and, from there, brought to Kangpokpi for burial. The public mood too was to have this supposed motherly wish fulfilled. Sadly, the plans changed. The announcement came on certain digital media outlets that Lamunthem's body would be brought via Dimapur airport in Nagaland, 200 km away from Kangpokpi and not via Imphal airport. The explanation for this came not from her immediate family, but from certain relatives in Kangpokpi, who said with a hint of condescension that they were not interested in fanfare, and that Imphal was still not safe for Kuki/Zo tribes. Disappointment was the dominant emotion but there were also some angry allegations that even death was being politicised thus. However, this was not pushed too far and the matter was allowed to rest without further ado. Lamunthem's body, which was DNA-matched and identified on June 17, was routed through Dimapur airport and eventually given an honourable public Christian burial in Kangpokpi. Almost a week later, Nganthoi's body too was DNA-matched and flown back to Imphal airport and from there taken to her hometown in Thoubal to be given the last rites as per the faith of her family and cremated.

Probe launched into illegal construction in Raisina hills

Gurgaon. A formal investigation into illegal construction activities in Sohna Aravalis' Raisina Hills was ordered in light of large-scale land clearing, tree felling, and constructions in the region. Divisional commissioner Ramesh Chandar Bidhan ordered the investigation in response to a growing outcry against such activities on the land protected under the 1992 Aravali notification. Speaking with TOI, he said that the probe will identify those responsible for encroachments and assess the extent of environmental violations. Moreover, complaints from residents revealed that earthmovers were being used to level vast patches of land, raising fears of irreversible damage to the fragile ecosystem, he said. "We received complaints that non-forest activities were being carried out in the area. An inquiry has been initiated," Bidhan said.

The 1992 notification, which restricts

Four months after elections, MCG House yet to meet in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla on Thursday spoke about the importance of regular meetings among elected representatives in municipal corporations. Ironically, this was being said when one of the two municipal corporations of the city — MCG — failed to conduct its inaugural House meeting since the election results were announced on March 12, although a special budget meeting took place on April 8.

The LS speaker — while addressing national conference of urban local bodies (ULBs) in Manesar — said he saw in several municipalities that House meetings "did not happen for a year." Birla said meetings should occur every one to two months to discuss the city's challenges. Regular meetings hold the officials accountable and bring more transparency, he said.

"When elected officials pose questions during these sessions, it enhances transparency and accountability within municipal corporations. Through observations across various municipal corporations, it is evident that meetings are either not conducted for extended periods, sometimes up to a year, or when convened, they are disrupted, leading to agenda approvals without proper deliberation. It is crucial to maintain regular meeting schedules, preferably every one to two months. The meetings should incorporate a zero hour. Moreover, proper discussion should be held on the budget," the LS speaker said. MCG mayor Raj Rani Malhotra could not be reached despite repeated attempts. The councillors told TOI they have been regularly enquiring about the House meetings. However, the meeting schedule has not been fixed yet. Councillor Kuldeep Yadav, who was present at the ULB conference, said, "Every councillor wants the House meetings to happen every month."

A meeting of the councillors with the city mayor should happen every fortnight. However, nothing is being done about it. A special budget meeting was held for budget approval. The councillors are keen to address ward-specific concerns through regular House meetings."

construction of buildings, wall erection, road development, and tree felling in protected areas without authorisation, prohibits all non-forest activities on 'gair mumkin pahad' (uncultivable) land. The Union environment ministry's notification designates 'gair mumkin pahar' as protected territory where construction, electrification, and tree removal require permission.

On Dec 9, 2022, NGT instructed Haryana and Rajasthan govt to set up monitoring committees for quarterly reviews of encroachment clearance in 'gair mumkin pahar' areas of Gurgaon, Faridabad, Nuh, and Alwar. The tribunal's order, issued by a bench comprising NGT chairperson Adarsh Kumar Goel, judicial member Sudhir Agarwal, and expert members A Senthil Vel and Afroz Ahmad, instructed chief secretaries of both states to ensure compliance with the directions. Following this, the Gurgaon district administration

carried out demolitions on Nov 13, but illegal construction did not stop. According to a forest department survey, at least 500 farmhouses were



constructed illegally on Aravali land in Gurgaon, concentrated in areas like Gwalpahari, Abheypur, Gairatpur Bas,

Sohna, Raisina, and Manesar. In Sept 2021, NGT ordered govt to remove illegal structures and restore forest land, along with submitting reports on the actions taken. A list of these structures was submitted to the tribunal in the Sonya Ghosh vs State of Haryana case in 2022. The report included details of the total area occupied and their locations.

Meanwhile, according to environmentalists, the area continues to witness encroachments on a massive scale despite various demolition drives. "We require a robust mechanism to monitor sensitive zones of the Aravalis and ensure these wildlife corridors remain undisturbed. An increase in man-animal conflicts has been witnessed as trees are being felled and forest areas being transformed into urban spaces," said Vaishali Rana, an environmental activist.

What host can learn from the guests: Indore to Surat & Vishakhapatnam, several municipal initiatives that Gurgaon can learn from

Gurgaon. The city, which is growing at a rapid pace, stands at a crossroads where it can learn from several innovative urban management practices of other Indian cities to tackle its own challenges. At the national conference of urban local bodies in Manesar on Thursday, mayors and municipal corporations from across the country shared their strategies, offering valuable insights for Gurgaon to consider. Surat generates Rs 140 crore from selling sewage-treated water to industries and has introduced artificial intelligence to detect waste dumping; Indore segregates waste into six streams at source; In Pune, ragpickers have formed a cooperative for solid waste management; in Visakhapatnam green ambulances protect trees — these are some of the best practices. Surat Municipal Corporation (SMC) commissioner Shalini Agarwal said all the cattle in the city have been RFID tagged and e-challans are issued to the owners to prevent cattle from straying on the city roads. Explaining how Surat is

using water in a circular economy, Agarwal said, "We are providing 115 MLD of sewage-treated water to the textile industry in Surat, which is fetching us a revenue of Rs 140 crore annually. We plan to gradually enhance it to 450 MLD. Our target is to utilise 70% of Surat's drainage water by 2030 and 100% by 2035." SMC has set up three tertiary treatment plants with capacities of 40 MLD, 35 MLD and 40 MLD. "For Indore, waste segregation is their backbone," IMC commissioner Shivam Sharma said. The residents of Indore segregate the waste into six streams — dry, wet, domestic hazardous, plastic, sanitary and e-waste. The vehicles for waste collection also have six compartments to transport six streams of segregated waste, ensuring 100% waste segregation. "We ensure 100% processing of waste. We keep track of even 1 gram of waste," the commissioner said. Indore mayor Pushyamitra Bhargav emphasised public participation behind Indore's consistency

in being the cleanest city in the country. "The public brought the behavioural change and made 100% segregation at source possible. They treat their neighbourhood and ward as their home and ensure it is cleaned," Bhargav said. The IMC commissioner said Indore houses Asia's largest bio-CNG plant, capable of processing 550 tonnes per day (TPD). The civic body is now working towards expanding its capacity with the aim of establishing it as the world's largest bio-CNG production unit. As per an affidavit submitted by MCG to National Green Tribunal in Sept 2024, the city's waste segregation stood at a mere 15%. It was also said that achieving 100% waste segregation would require more than a year, with the target set for Dec 2025. The corporation has also outlined its plan to increase the city's waste segregation level from the current 15% to 30% by the end of Dec 2024. MCG will have to work on waste segregation at source.

Want to bring Disneyland to Gurgaon, says Saini, unveils plan for big tourism push

Gurgaon. The city could play host to India's Disneyland amusement park, chief minister Nayab Singh Saini has said, unveiling ambitious plans to develop areas off the Western Peripheral (KMP) Expressway as tourist destinations. Saini said govt was in talks with officials from Disney and has identified 500 acres of land near Pachgaon Chowk in Manesar for the project. A Disneyland in NCR will be "game-changing", the CM said, after meeting Union culture and tourism minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in Delhi on Wednesday. He said the entertainment hub will bring economic, cultural and social benefits, not only to the state, but the country too. "The project will generate thousands of direct and indirect employment opportunities and bring major changes to the area. It will attract international tourists too," Saini said. Gurgaon, he said, was chosen as the

site for the park as many Fortune 500 companies are headquartered in the NCR city, and it gives the state most of its revenue. "The upcoming Global City project in Gurgaon will be another milestone for the region. Hence, Gurgaon is the most suitable location for Disneyland. The site in Manesar is strategically located along KMP Expressway and Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC). People from across NCR can easily visit," Saini said. The Global City project is a 1,000-acre mini-city that the state govt plans to build across sectors 36, 36B, 37 and 37B. Apart from links to the Delhi-Gurgaon and Dwarka expressways, the project will be based on a walk-to-work concept, and all facilities and services will be easily available. Separately, Haryana govt is planning to expand the scale of International Gita Mahotsav, an annual

event in Kurukshetra, and organise three melas, instead of one, at Surajkund every year. "Considering the popularity of the Surajkund Mela, govt is planning to organise a Diwali mela and a book fair at Surajkund as well... We have also sought support from the Union tourism ministry and the central govt to organise Gita Mahotsav on a grand scale," he said. The CM added, "Together, these projects will firmly establish Haryana as a tourism hub. 'Disneyland, if it goes ahead, will be the first to be built in collaboration with the animation giant in India. Earlier this Feb, the Maharashtra govt had announced plans to develop a park inspired by the Disneyland theme in Navi Mumbai. In 1989, then Haryana CM Om Prakash Chautala had proposed to set up Disneyland in Gurgaon but the project was eventually shelved amid opposition by other political parties and

'Lack of announcements a deficiency in service': Railways told to pay Rs 7,000 to family that missed train



Ghaziabad. The district consumer forum has ruled that failure to provide proper information on train schedule through public announcements constitutes a "deficiency of service" under the Consumer Protection Act. The consumer commission made this observation while ordering the Ghaziabad railway station authorities and senior officials at Northern Railways to pay Rs 7,000 as compensation to a family that missed their train due to inadequate announcements. On Feb 29 last year, Muradnagar resident Anubhav Prajapati, along with his wife Priyanka and two children, missed the Chhattisgarh Express to Jhansi. The family had arrived at Ghaziabad railway station well before the train's scheduled departure at 3.20am and waited in the first-class lounge. After an announcement about a 40-minute delay, they moved to platform 3 at 3.25am. However, they found Ayodhya Express stationed there for over 45 minutes. As the clock ticked, there was no further announcement about their train. "I tried to approach the station master, but his room was locked," Prajapati told the forum. He even tweeted about the situation at 5.21am, tagging railway

authorities, but received no response. Around 6am, he came to know that as they waited on platform 3, the Chhattisgarh Express departed from platform number 2. Railway authorities, who failed to furnish a written explanation, made an oral representation at the forum through their counsel. They argued that they could have allowed a ticket refund, but could not as the train wasn't running more than three hours behind schedule — a prerequisite for refunds under railway policy. The commission agreed while refund couldn't be granted on technical grounds, the railway's failure to make proper announcements to inform the family about the arrival of the train and its departure warranted compensation. "Since no evidence on the part of the railways has been presented on record to claim that there was a proper announcement, the commission treats this as a deficiency of service that resulted in missing the train and caused mental harassment to the passenger," the June 23 order stated. The commission asked the station superintendent, station master, divisional railway manager, and general manager of Northern Railway to pay the compensation within 45 days of the order.

News box

Probe into illegal mining in Haryana delayed, pollution board served notice; NGT seeks swift action

Gurgaon. National Green Tribunal (NGT) on Thursday issued a notice to Haryana pollution board for failing to comply with its earlier directive on an investigation into alleged illegal mining activities in Yamunanagar, Charkhi Dadri, Mahendergarh and Bhiwani.

The matter is now scheduled to be heard on Sept 1. The directive had required Haryana State Pollution Control Board (HSPCB) to conduct a detailed inquiry into the illegal mining of boulders and gravel between 2017 and 2022. The tribunal stressed need for a factual investigation, including scrutiny of transit passes and mining records, to determine the extent of unauthorised extraction. The state has a total of 119 mines, of which 61 are lying vacant and 49 are operational. Most of the active mines are in Yamunanagar, Charkhi Dadri, Mahendergarh and Bhiwani. In Gurgaon, Faridabad and Nuh, mining stopped officially after the 2009 order of Supreme Court. The inquiry was to be completed within four months, with environmental compensation to be levied if violations were confirmed. However, it was submitted — by HSPCB counsellor — the board had failed to carry out the mandated investigation within the stipulated timeframe. The tribunal has now issued a notice to the respondent authority (HSPCB) and directed the applicant — petitioner Mohinder Pal, a resident of Yamunanagar — to serve the notice and file an affidavit at least one week prior to the next hearing.

The bench, comprising Justice Prakash Shrivastava (Judicial Member) and Dr A Senthil Vel (expert member), expressed concern over the delay, underscoring the importance of "timely enforcement of environmental regulations".

Class 10 girl dies by suicide in Sector 14

Gurgaon: A tragic incident unfolded in Sector 14 on Wednesday evening, where a 15-year-old girl, a Class 10 student, allegedly died by suicide at her home. Police said the girl had been struggling with mental health issues and was under regular medical treatment for anxiety. According to officials, the girl returned home from school in the afternoon and was alone when she allegedly hanged herself from the ceiling fan around 4 PM. Her parents, who were away on duty at the time, rushed home after being informed. The family told us she was under consistent medical supervision and was taking prescribed medication, a police officer said. Despite ongoing treatment efforts, the tragedy occurred in their absence. Sector 14 police reached the scene shortly after being alerted, took possession of the body, and sent it for post-mortem examination. An initial investigation has been launched, though the exact reason behind the suicide remains unclear. No suicide note was recovered from the spot. Authorities are questioning the girl's family members, friends, and classmates to better understand the circumstances that may have led to the incident. "No conclusive motive has emerged so far. However, we are exploring all possible angles to identify what may have triggered her distress," a police official said. This incident adds to a growing list of recent suicides linked to mental health struggles in the region. On June 26, a 29-year-old MNC employee was found dead at her rented flat in DLF Phase 3. Police said she was undergoing psychiatric treatment. A day later, a 25-year-old woman working in a private firm died by suicide at her paying guest accommodation.

Close call for commuters as buses collide on flyover in Faridabad

Faridabad. Passengers narrowly escaped injury after a Haryana Roadways bus collided with a private bus near Sector 8-9 bypass road close to Badauli flyover in Faridabad on Thursday. The collision damaged the front and side mirrors of the Haryana Roadways bus. The driver of the private bus fled the scene. Vijay, the driver of the government bus, reported that while transporting 14 passengers from Ballabgarh to Badarpur, the private bus driver abruptly applied the emergency brakes in an attempt to avoid colliding with a Swift car. He could not apply the brakes in time and hit the private bus from behind. "My bus got completely mangled and hit a railing on the roadside," Vijay said. "I even chased the other bus on the bike of a bystander, but the driver managed to flee. I made a video of his bus," he said, adding that fortunately, no passengers were injured. An emergency response vehicle arrived at the location. As of now, no case has been registered against any individual.

Woman dies, family injured in hit-and-run accident in Faridabad

Faridabad. A 36-year-old woman died, and her husband and two children sustained injuries after their bike was struck by a speeding car near Kheri Bridge around 10pm on Wednesday. Anita died on the spot after being crushed under the four-wheeler, while her husband, Ram Kumar, 45, along with their children, Rishabh, 13, and Pari, 8, were discharged after first aid for minor injuries, police said. Anita, along with her daughter, had been staying with her parents in Faridabad for the last two months. Her husband and son arrived in the city on Wednesday to take them back home near Raebareli in Uttar Pradesh. The family was scheduled to return by a 12.30pm train on Thursday. Lovely, the younger sister of the deceased, said, "They had some time on their hands before their scheduled departure, so they went to offer their prayers at a temple, after which they went to meet our paternal aunt in Sector 21. They left her house around 10pm and met with an accident near Kheri Bridge. Passersby informed the police, and the victims were taken to Sarvodaya Hospital. The accused car driver is yet to be identified. "We will identify and trace the car driver soon."

Nandu gang members behind killing of rival gangster Manjeet Mahal's nephew arrested: Delhi Police

A purported social media account, allegedly belonging to Kapil Sangwan, alias Nandu, claimed responsibility for the hit on Manjeet Mahal's nephew Deepak Thakran.

A week after two bike-borne assailants gunned down gangster Manjeet Mahal's nephew Deepak Thakran in Delhi's Najafgarh area, the police said they arrested a shooter and a plotter for the eight-round shooting after an exchange of fire early Friday. According to the police, Sombir alias Chinu, 28, was one of the shooters who killed Thakral and injured his seven-year-old daughter while they were out on a morning walk in the Thakran village in Outer Delhi last month. They added Vijay, 31, who harboured the shooters, and provided them with the vehicle and munitions to execute the crime. Both are alleged henchmen of Mahal's rival Kapil Sangwan alias Nandu, according to the Delhi Police.

The police said a Crime Branch team led by Ashok Sharma, Assistant Commissioner of Police, got

a lead Thursday that one of the shooters was present in the Rohini area of the city. On the directions of Harsh Indora, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime), the team laid a

trap near Munak Canal at night. The team spotted Sombir, one of the shooters, and his associate Vijay on a bike, and directed them to stop. Officers said an intense encounter between

the police and the alleged Kapil Sangwan gang members followed. The accused opened fire at the police team as soon as they saw the personnel. The police then retaliated, eventually nabbing both men. "Despite repeated warnings to surrender, both accused opened five rounds of fire on the police team. In the exchange of fire, both accused sustained gunshot injuries in their legs, and both of them were apprehended," DCP Indora said.

On June 27, Thakran, the nephew of jailed gangster Manjeet Mahal, was killed while his seven-year-old daughter was injured by bullet splinters when alleged shooters of the Kapil Sangwan gang shot at them with Thakran's father close behind. After the shooting, the police said they suspected the assailants to be from the Nandu gang. A purported social media account, allegedly belonging to Sangwan, who is hiding in London, has already claimed responsibility for the hit.



In big boost after Op Sindoos, defence proposals worth Rs 1 lakh crore get nod

Agency New Delhi.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on Friday cleared 10 proposals to acquire military hardware worth Rs 1.05 lakh crore through indigenous sourcing, in a major boost to India after Operation Sindoos. The DAC, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, gave Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement of Armoured Recovery Vehicles, Electronic Warfare System, Integrated Common Inventory Management System for the tri-services and surface-to-air missiles. This was the first meeting of the crucial body after the hostilities with Pakistan, where India used multiple equipment in its military arsenal to destroy nine terror camps and target military bases.

"These procurements will provide higher mobility, effective air defence, better supply chain management and augment the operational preparedness of the armed forces," a Defence Ministry statement said.

The acquisition of indigenous Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM) systems will help strengthen India's air defence along the Pakistan border. The purchase plans also include moored mines, Mine Countermeasure Vessels, Super Rapid Gun Mount and Submersible Autonomous Vessels. These will enable mitigation of potential risks posed to naval and merchant vessels.

The development comes as the Defence Ministry eyes speedy modernisation of the armed forces while boosting self-reliance in the sector.

Demanding waste removal in Delhi's central zone, AAP councillors dump garbage outside Mayor Raja Iqbal's office

Agency New Delhi.

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillor and Leader of Opposition in the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) Ankush Narang staged a protest along with party councillors on Thursday afternoon against poor sanitation conditions in the central zone and emptied garbage bags outside Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh's office. Demanding the mayor's resignation and the removal of waste from the area, the protesters dumped huge bags full of garbage outside the office. The mayor was not present there at the time, they said.

Holding placards that read: "BJP's 4-engine government is a failure" and "Despite the 4-engine BJP government, Delhi residents still suffer from poor sanitation", the protesters alleged that under the party's control, the civic body was failing to keep the central zone clean.

Since the BJP's win in the MCD mayoral polls, the AAP has been referring to its four-engine government – with the saffron party wielding control at the Centre, state, MCD as well as at the Lieutenant Governor level. "We won't stop the protest until the central zone is free of litter, and its citizens get cleaner surroundings," said Narang, adding that many councillors in the central zone had submitted written complaints about garbage piles lying across the region.

"There has been no sanitation agency in place for the last two years. When there used to be ten tipper trucks earlier, now only two are in place. In some places, only three are in service where 15 were previously required to collect garbage," he said.

The issue of lack of sanitation had been raised by multiple councillors in the first meeting of the Standing Committee held last week post a delay of over two years.

The MCD is responsible for maintaining sanitation in all 12 zones under its jurisdiction. However, the contract awarded to Dakshin Dilli Swachh Initiatives Limited (DDSL), the private concessionaire tasked with garbage collection in the zone, expired in November 2023 and the service has since been running on temporary extensions.

Kolkata college had flagged Manojit Mishra's misconduct, sought police help

Agency New Delhi.

In the ongoing South Calcutta Law College rape investigation, a 2018 letter accessed exclusively by IndiaToday.in reveals that the college's former principal had raised serious concerns about the disruptive conduct of the prime accused, Manojit Mishra.

The letter, dated December 12, 2018, was sent to the Kolkata Police Headquarters by then Principal Debasish Chattopadhyay. It expressed apprehension regarding Manojit Mishra's behaviour. The letter, addressed to the Joint Commissioner of Police (Headquarters), highlighted Mishra's history of causing disturbances during college events. It also voiced fears of similar issues during the college's annual social programme scheduled

for December 13, 2018. Principal Chattopadhyay formally requested adequate security arrangements from the Kolkata Police for the event.

Manojit Mishra, along with two others,



was arrested on June 28 for allegedly raping a woman student of South Calcutta Law College. The arrest came a day after the survivor filed a police complaint against them. The complainant alleged that Mishra, who had previously proposed to her for

marriage, which she rejected, raped her while the other two students watched.

Since the rape case surfaced, more students have come forward with disturbing accounts of Manojit Mishra's intimidation, sexual harassment and physical assault.

One student of the institution accused Mishra of allegedly molesting her and threatening her two years ago. Speaking exclusively to IndiaToday.in, the student said Mishra, a Trinamool Congress Chhatra Parishad leader, assaulted and threatened her during a college trip. She further claimed that around 15 female students fell victim to his misconduct. Another student came forward and stated that Mishra used to mentally torture and physically assault students. The student said, "Whoever speaks against ex-students gets tortured. Some are mentally tortured, and those who still don't get scared are physically assaulted."

Delhi to Jaipur now in just 3 hours on new Rs 2,000-crore greenfield highway

Agency New Delhi.

With the completion of a 66.916-km-long greenfield spur connecting the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway to Jaipur via Bandikui, travellers will be able to reach Jaipur from Delhi in just three hours. Built at a capital cost of 2,016 crore, the 4-lane, access-controlled stretch aims to decongest existing corridors.

"We have successfully completed the 66.916 km long, 4-lane Greenfield Bandikui Spur, constructed at a capital cost of 2,016 crore. This strategically significant project provides direct, access-controlled connectivity between the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway and Jaipur—addressing the lack of a direct route that previously compelled commuters to take longer, fuel-

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X. According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

provide direct Access Controlled connectivity from Delhi-Vadodara Expressway to Jaipur, reducing travel time from 3.45 hours to 3 hours, giving major relief to the general public," the official said.

Inaugurated on June 1, 2025, after the foundation stone was laid in February 2023, the spur is expected to ease pressure on both National Highway 48 (Delhi-Gurgaon-Jaipur highway) and NH-21 (Jaipur-Dausa section), enhancing safety and overall travel efficiency. "Jaipur has a lot of tourist attractions like Amer Fort, Hawa Mahal, Jalmahal, Jantar Mantar, etc., which attract foreign tourists also in large numbers. Therefore, there will be a benefit in tourism by access-controlled connectivity between Jaipur and Delhi," the official said.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

According to a senior official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the project is a strategic intervention aimed at addressing the lack of direct connectivity between Jaipur and the Delhi-Vadodara Expressway. "This Spur project will

intensive journeys," Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said in a post on X.

How kids respond to differently Foods

How children perceive high-calorie foods depends on how much fat have accumulated around their waistlines, a new study says.



So lean children will have more powerful brain responses while looking at high-calorie foods compared to children with lower lean body weight.

On the contrary, the researchers found that children with higher body fat had lower activity in this same brain area when they saw pictures of healthier, low-calorie foods.

"Kids with more lean body weight might have a greater reward response to higher calorie foods, in part because they have greater energy needs compared to children with less lean body weight," said Nicole Farnbach from Pennsylvania State University's department of nutritional sciences in a statement.

"Bigger kids burn more calories and our results show that their brains respond differently to foods," Farnbach added.

The study involved 38 children aged seven to 10 and their parents. Interestingly,



the team also found that children with more body fat had a reduced brain response to healthy foods. It might be that kids with higher body fat find those healthier foods to be less rewarding. The results suggest that children's body composition may influence how their brains respond to food. Future studies are needed to determine how these findings relate to children's food intake or their body weight over time, the authors said.

What your eyes say about Your health

Here is what a few common eye symptoms could reveal about your body's health

Is there more to your health than meets the eye? According to experts, your peepers may hold clues to undiagnosed health problems and a routine eye test could reveal the truth. Eyes are the window into the body, offering a great pre-warning for many life-threatening illnesses. Most of us think we only need their eyes checked for vision problems, but all of us should have regular examinations, as conditions such as diabetes can be detected in the eye before they start to cause problems in the body. Here are some common eye symptoms that can be detected by opticians and what they could reveal about your health.

Red eyes
Could be: High Blood pressure
When an optician shines a light into your eyes, they see the tiny blood vessels in your retinas - the sensitive tissue at the back of the eye.

High blood pressure can make these blood vessels appear twisted - or even cause them to burst so the eyes look red. A quarter of adults with high blood pressure don't know they have the condition, which can cause strokes.

Yellow deposits behind the eye

Could be: Diabetes

Yellow deposits of fat, or small tears in the retina, are signs of Type 2

diabetes. A big change to your glasses prescription is another. Early diagnosis is key to avoiding long-term, sometimes fatal, complications.

Iris rings

Could be: High cholesterol
White rings around the iris — the coloured part of the eye — are a sign of

high cholesterol levels.

Another clue is 'xanthelomas' — flat, white fat deposits under the skin on or around your eyelids.

Studies show people with both these symptoms have a higher risk of heart disease.

Pale inner eyelids

Could be: Anaemia

If the inside of your lower eyelids look pale when pulled down, you may be anaemic - lacking iron, which helps makes red blood cells. Anaemia can be treated with iron supplements, but can be a sign of internal bleeding, so see your GP.

Bulging eyes

Could be: Thyroid problems

Prominent-looking eyes can run in families, but eyes that appear to bulge

may be evidence of an overactive thyroid. Abnormal levels of thyroid hormone cause the tissues around the eye to swell, making it appear the eye is popping outwards.

Droopy eyelid

Could be: Bell's Palsy or Stroke

A drooping eye can indicate Bell's Palsy, a temporary facial paralysis. It can also be a symptom of a stroke, especially if the speech is slurred.

More rarely, it could also be evidence of a brain tumour or an autoimmune disease that is known as myasthenia gravis.

Yellow eyes

Could be: Liver disease

Liver conditions, including hepatitis and cirrhosis, can turn the whites of your eyes yellow — a symptom which requires an immediate doctor's trip.

The colour is caused by bilirubin, a chemical created by the breakdown of hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying molecule inside red blood cells.

Pale optic nerve

Could be: MS or Brain tumour

The optic nerve, which transmits information from the retina to the brain, is visible at the rear of the eye to an optician. A pale optic nerve can be an early manifestation of MS or evidence of a brain tumour.

Different sized pupils

Could be: Stroke or tumour

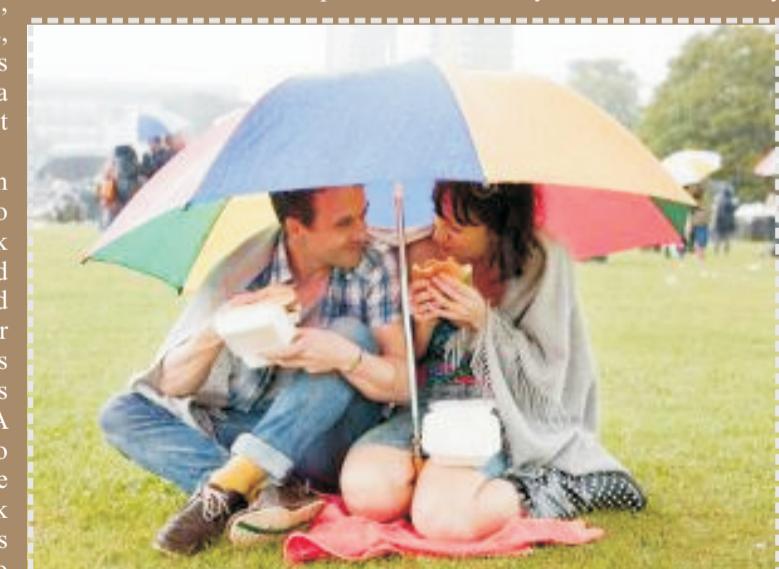
Healthy pupils are around the same size and react similarly to light. If this is not the case with you, check yourself for problems such as stroke, brain or optic nerve tumour, a brain aneurysm or MS.

Ways to improve immunity during monsoons

The arrival of the Monsoon season always tends to stir a feeling of nostalgia and excitement in our hearts.

such as curried rice which can cause bloating during Monsoons.

3. Switch to Light Cooking Oils: As much as you love eating pakoras during monsoons - avoid deep fried foods as they make one feel heavy,



slow metabolic rate, and are difficult to digest. If you still want to indulge in a few monsoon munchies use lighter oils such as Corn oil or Olive oil instead of heavy cooking oils such as Mustard or Sesame oil.

4. Use Natural Immunity Boosters: Take a leaf from your grandmother's remedy book, literally! Herbs such as neem, turmeric powder, and methi seeds boost metabolic rate and are natural antibiotics - great at increasing immunity and digestion.

5. Add Lime and Honey: To further boost our metabolic rate and immunity, add lemon juice and honey as they assist in the digestion process and help the intestines carry out their functions properly and effectively.

Gold gathering dust in locker? Financial advisor explains how to make it work

New Delhi. (Agency)

What happens when the gold meant to secure your future quietly begins to decay in a bank locker? Financial advisor Lovish Anand recently shared the story of a close friend who discovered that her family's heirloom jewellery had rusted after water seeped into a basement locker during flooding. The bank offered little help, as the standard insurance barely covered Rs 3 lakh. "If you think your gold is safe in that locker think again," Anand wrote in a recent LinkedIn post. "Most lockers are insured for just Rs 3 lakh. That's barely enough to cover the value of even a modest set of jewellery." According to Anand, many people still treat lockers as the ultimate vault for family gold. But in reality, these lockers come with minimal protection. Even in the case of theft, fire, or natural disasters, the compensation offered is often linked to the annual locker rent, typically no more than a few thousand rupees. That means the maximum insured amount rarely exceeds Rs 2-3 lakh, regardless of what's inside.

"People keep gold bars, old coins, wedding jewellery worth lakhs, sometimes crores, in these lockers. But the protection they assume is there doesn't really exist," Anand explained. "It's false comfort." For countless Indian households, gold is more than just an investment. It's tradition, emotional security, and often a family's hidden financial backup. But Anand believes that leaving it idle and unprotected exposes it to risks—not just physical deterioration but also poor documentation and missed financial opportunity.

Instead, he points to a government-backed option that offers both safety and growth: the Gold Monetisation Scheme or GMS.

EPF, NPS can build Rs 12 crore retirement fund. Tax expert breaks it down

New Delhi. (Agency)

A tax-free salary today and a Rs 12 crore retirement corpus tomorrow. That's the financial outcome tax expert Sujit Bangar says is possible using just two tools: the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and the National Pension System (NPS).

For salaried individuals earning up to Rs 14.65 lakh annually, Bangar believes this combination offers the best of both worlds: zero tax under the new regime and long-term wealth creation. In a recent LinkedIn post, Bangar, who is the founder of TaxBuddy.com, shared a straightforward calculation. Take a 30-year-old earning Rs 75,000 a month. If this person contributes Rs 12,500 each to EPF and NPS—a figure that includes both employee and employer shares—and increases both salary and investments by 8% every year, the results can be substantial. Over a 30-year period, the EPF contribution would grow into a corpus of Rs 4.74 crore, while the NPS investment would reach Rs 7.42 crore. Combined, that's a retirement fund of Rs 12.16 crore, most of it tax-free. What makes this strategy more appealing, according to Bangar, is how it aligns with the tax rules under the new income tax regime.

Employer contributions of up to 12% of basic salary in EPF and up to 14% in NPS are tax-exempt. When structured correctly, these exemptions can effectively eliminate any tax liability for those with annual salaries up to Rs 14.65 lakh.

How Jane Street gamed Bank Nifty on expiries, made Rs 36,500 crore

MUMBAI. (Agency)

Why the markets watchdog Securities and Exchange Board (Sebi) has debarred US proprietary trading firm Jane Street and three of its related entities—JSI2 Investments, Jane Street Singapore, Jane Street Asia Trading—from accessing the markets and has ordered impounding of Rs 4,843.5 crore of illegal gains from the Rs 36,500 crore of total profits it has scooped up from manipulating the Bank Nifty index on the expiry days between January 2023 and March 2025, is a case in of understanding how big players with high technology can game the system. In a late night interim order on Thursday, issued by whole time member Anantha Narayan G, has also ordered these entities to deposit in an escrow account in favour of Sebi of illegal gains to the tune of Rs 4,843.5 crore. The regulator has also directed a debit freeze on the bank accounts of these entities.

Overall, Jane Street made a profit of Rs 36,500 crore during the examination period between January 2023 and March 2025, Sebi said in its 105-page order.

The Sebi has found the manipulative trading patterns of JS Group early this year. Also, the NSE as a first-line regulator clearly and explicitly cautioned the JS Group to desist from taking on large risks in the index options markets, and to desist from undertaking trading patterns that raised concerns of manipulative behaviour. In turn, the JS Group itself represented in February 2025 to the NSE of their commitment to adhere to all regulations, the regulator said in its order. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses

According to the Sebi findings, Jane Street used to heavily buy Bank Nifty futures as well in the cash segment and sell Bank Nifty options in big numbers—all in the morning of the expiry days. By the afternoon of the same day, its related entities used to aggressively sell large quantities of Bank Nifty futures and pocket hefty profit.

According to Sebi calculation, JS and three of its associated entities made a whopping Rs 36,671 crore in profits between January 2023 and May 2025. Of the total gain, Sebi considers as much as \$566.3 million or Rs 4,843.5 crore of illegal gains.

SBI credit card rules changing from July 15: Here's what cardholders must know

At present, many cardholders pay only a small part of their bill to avoid late charges. But now, the way the minimum amount due (MAD) is calculated will change starting July 15, 2025.

New Delhi. (Agency)

If you have an SBI credit card in your wallet, you must pay attention to this update. From July 15, 2025, some important rules related to SBI credit cards will change. These changes will affect how you pay your bills and the benefits you get.

MINIMUM PAYMENT RULES WILL CHANGE

At present, many cardholders pay only a small part of their bill to avoid late charges. But now, the way the minimum amount due (MAD) is calculated will change. From July 15, your MAD will include 100% of GST, EMI amounts, charges, finance charges, any overlimit amount, and 2% of the remaining balance. In simple words, you will now have to pay a bigger minimum amount every month. If you don't pay this higher amount, your dues will increase quickly, and you may end up paying more interest.

HOW YOUR PAYMENT WILL BE ADJUSTED

The way your payments are settled will also change. From now on, whatever amount you pay will be adjusted first towards GST, then EMIs, then charges and interest, and lastly towards your main spending like retail shopping or cash withdrawal. So, if you have unpaid charges or finance

charges, your payment will first clear those. If you only pay a part of the total, interest will keep adding up on your other spends.

NO MORE FREE AIR ACCIDENT COVER



There is another big change for customers who have enjoyed free air accident insurance on their cards. Many SBI credit cards used to offer free air accident insurance cover between Rs 50 lakh to Rs

1 crore. This benefit will stop soon. From August 11, complimentary air accident insurance will be discontinued on popular cards like UCO Bank SBI Card ELITE, Central Bank of India SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card ELITE, KVB SBI Card ELITE, KVB SBI Signature Card and Allahabad Bank SBI Card ELITE. Likewise, free cover of Rs 50 lakh will be withdrawn from cards like UCO Bank SBI Card PRIME, Central Bank of India SBI Card PRIME, PSB SBI Card PRIME, South Indian Bank SBI Card PRIME, Karnataka Bank SBI Card PRIME and many others.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO NOW?

If you have any of these cards, check your card's features and see if they still suit your needs. Since benefits like air accident cover are ending, you may want to think about upgrading, switching, or even closing your card.

Why did Soham Parekh work multiple jobs Indian techie shares his reasons

New Delhi. (Agency)

Soham Parekh, the Indian tech professional based in the United States, who has been in the news for the past few days has spoken out about why he took up multiple jobs at the same time across US startups. In a recent interview, he admitted to the allegations but explained that his actions were driven by financial pressure, not greed.

PAREKH ADMITS TO HOLDING MULTIPLE JOBS

In a candid appearance on a TBPN show, Parekh did not shy away when asked if the claims were true. "It is true," he said clearly. "I would surely like to add colour to it, but it is true."

He confirmed that he worked at several companies simultaneously and misrepresented his location and employment status in the process.

NECESSITY, NOT PROFIT, SAYS PAREKH



While many have accused him of wrongdoing for personal gain, Parekh insisted that his actions were not motivated by profit. "No one really likes to work 140 hours a week, but I had to do it out of necessity," he explained. He said the decision was made during a difficult time, where survival and financial stability were his main priorities.

When asked whether he believed he had broken any laws, Parekh said he accepted full responsibility. "I'm not proud of what I've done. It's not something I endorse either," he said. "I did what I had to do to get out of a tough situation."

He also denied accusations that he had taken advantage of junior developers while holding multiple jobs. "That's simply not true," he stated firmly. **SOCIAL MEDIA REACTS TO VIRAL VIDEO** Parekh's interview has gone viral online, sparking strong opinions. Some supported him, saying companies today are unreliable due to frequent layoffs. "There's nothing wrong in working for multiple companies at the same time if he's delivering results," one user wrote. "Everyone needs to have multiple jobs."

Another user commented, "If anyone is going to be the first one-person unicorn, it'll be Soham Parekh."

Where are ITR-2 and ITR-3 forms? Why they're missing and what to do

New Delhi. (Agency)

It's that time of the year when taxpayers rush to file their returns. But many are stuck because ITR-2 and ITR-3 forms are still not available. This has caused confusion and worry among salaried individuals and professionals. Why the delay? Here's a simple look at the reasons behind it.

WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG?

Tax experts say that ITR-2 and ITR-3 are far more detailed than the basic ITR-1 or ITR-4 forms. People who file ITR-2 or ITR-3 usually have earnings from multiple houses, capital gains, foreign income, foreign assets, business or professional work, directorships, unlisted company shares and more.

This time, the government has made major changes to these forms. For example, taxpayers now need to report capital gains earned before and after July 23, 2024 separately. There's also extra reporting for deductions, exemptions and Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) section codes. Because

of these changes, the Income Tax Department needs more time to update the online and offline filing systems. This is one of the main reasons behind the delay.

WHO NEEDS TO FILE ITR-2 AND ITR-3?

Not everyone needs these forms. ITR-2 is for individuals and Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) who have salary income, more than one house, capital gains, foreign assets or overseas income, or if they are company directors or hold unlisted shares. People earning from business or professional work do not use this form. On the other hand, ITR-3 is for self-employed people, independent professionals and partners in firms. It covers income from business, profession, capital gains, unlisted shares, derivatives trading and more. Contrastingly, if your income is simple, only salary or pension, ITR-1 or ITR-4 is usually enough.

WHAT THE TAX DEPARTMENT SAYS

Meanwhile, the government has already extended the last date to file your ITR to 15 September 2025. So, taxpayers who usually file by July 31, have extra time this year.

On May 27, 2025, the government in its press release said, "In view of the extensive changes introduced in the notified Income Tax Returns (ITRs) and considering the time required for system readiness and rollout of ITR utilities for Assessment Year (AY) 2025-26, the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has decided to extend the due date for filing returns." Contrastingly, if your income is simple, only salary or pension, ITR-1 or ITR-4 is usually enough.

WHAT THE TAX DEPARTMENT SAYS

Meanwhile, the government has already extended the last date to file your ITR to 15 September 2025. So, taxpayers who usually file by July 31, have extra time this year.

Sebi bans Jane Street for stock market manipulation. Here's what went wrong

MUMBAI. (Agency)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has issued an interim order against four entities of the Jane Street Group, accusing them of manipulating the Indian stock market by distorting prices of index derivatives, particularly on expiry days. The regulator said the trades executed by the group were "prima facie fraudulent and manipulative" and violated the country's capital market regulations.

The order was passed against JSI Investments Pvt Ltd, JSI2 Investments Pvt Ltd, Jane Street Singapore Pte Ltd, and Jane Street Asia Trading Ltd.

HOW THE MANIPULATION WORKED Sebi found that the Jane Street Group engaged in a repeated trading pattern on weekly expiry days in the BANKNIFTY index.

On these days, the group would aggressively buy stocks and stock

futures in the morning, pushing up the index level artificially. At the same time, they would build large short positions in index options, buying puts



and selling calls, taking advantage of the temporarily inflated index value.

Later in the day, the group would aggressively sell the stocks and futures it had bought earlier, bringing down the index level. This would make their bearish options positions highly profitable. On January 17, 2024, one of

the days analysed in detail, this strategy led to a net gain of over Rs 734 crore for the group. "Jane Street Group net purchases INR 4,370.03 crores of BANKNIFTY constituents in cash and futures markets. Simultaneously [they] build large short BANKNIFTY positions, 7.3 times the size of the long cash/ futures positions," the order said.

VAST RETAIL PARTICIPATION USED AS LEVERAGE

Sebi observed that index options on expiry days attract a disproportionately large number of retail participants. For example, on January 17, 2024, over 16 lakh unique entities traded in BANKNIFTY index options, compared to just 4,675 in the cash market for top three constituent stocks. Jane Street's strategy, according to Sebi, was designed to exploit this asymmetry.

One in 4 Indians still below minimum standard of living: World Bank

New Delhi. (Agency)

India has made progress in reducing extreme poverty, but many people still struggle to meet their basic needs. According to the World Bank, one in four Indians—over 35 crore people—live below the minimum level needed for a decent life. They may no longer fall under the traditional "extreme poor," but they still lack access to basic needs like nutritious food, safe housing, healthcare, and education. A World Bank spokesperson told IndiaToday.in that while India's poverty levels have declined, the way poverty is measured has also changed in recent years. "There is corroborating evidence that household welfare in India has improved since 2011, including declining trends in multidimensional poverty, rising social transfers, and growth in per capita GDP," the spokesperson said.

"At the same time, the 2022-23 household survey introduced several improvements in questionnaire design and implementation compared to 2011-12, which are likely to have enhanced the measurement of household expenditures." Official data shows that only 5% of Indians now live in extreme poverty, based on the \$3-per-day global

benchmark (adjusted for purchasing power parity or PPP). This marks a steep drop from 27% in 2011. Nearly 26.9 crore people moved out of extreme deprivation in just over a decade. But the World Bank says the \$3/day threshold is no longer appropriate for India's stage of development. "\$3/day PPP is not the appropriate threshold for India," the spokesperson said. "The relevant international poverty line for India today is the lower-middle-income (LMI) threshold of \$4.20 per person per day."

That benchmark is already used to assess poverty in countries like Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh. It is considered a more realistic threshold for what it takes to live with basic dignity in a growing economy. But even by this standard, over 35 crore still fall short of meeting essential needs. India has not updated its official national poverty line since 2011-12. While new methods like the Modified Mixed Recall Period (MMRP) have helped capture higher household consumption, experts say this change also makes poverty estimates

appear lower. Meanwhile, politically sensitive thresholds like the old Rs 33-a-day urban poverty line have quietly faded from use.

To compensate, India increasingly relies on global benchmarks and broader tools like the Multidimensional Poverty Index



(MPI), which looks at education, electricity, housing, and other services. MPI figures show that multidimensional poverty fell from 29% in 2013 to 11.3% in 2022. Over 20 crore people exited deprivation during that time, especially in states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Madhya Pradesh. Yet despite these gains, the gap between rich

and poor remains wide. India's Gini Index—used to track income inequality—improved only modestly from 28.8 in 2011 to 25.5 in 2022. The top 1% of Indians now control over 40% of national wealth, while the bottom 50% own just 6.4%.

In cities, high rents and fragile employment mean that even those above the poverty line live on the edge. In rural areas, land fragmentation and seasonal work keep incomes unstable. One medical emergency, job loss, or missed paycheck can push families back into crisis. "There is a lot of work left to end poverty in India," the World Bank spokesperson said. "Using a more relevant benchmark for India's current development status—the lower-middle-income poverty line of \$4.20 per day—reveals that nearly one in four Indians still falls below an appropriate standard of living."

"Our current estimates suggest that about 5% of India's population lives in extreme poverty—surviving on less than \$3 per day. While extreme deprivation has declined, this still amounts to over 7 crore people unable to meet even the most fundamental needs."

Mrunal Thakur

Politely Corrects Paparazzo Mispronouncing Her Name

Ajay Devgn and Mrunal Thakur are all set to share screen space in Son of Sardaar 2. The film is releasing on July 25, clashing with Janhvi Kapoor and Sidharth Malhotra's Param Sundari. Well, today the whole cast was spotted at The Great Indian Kapil Sharma Show for the promotion. A video of Mrunal correcting the pronunciation of her name at the set has gone viral on social media. In the video, shared by Instant Bollywood, we can see Mrunal Thakur looking beautiful in a black dress and as she heads towards the stage, a paparazzo mispronounced her name. She immediately corrected him saying, "Murnal nahi Mrunal" leaving everyone laughing. Fans too dropped laughing emojis in the comment section.

Recently, Son of Sardaar 2 title track was released. Taking to his Instagram handle, Ajay shared the video which shows his funny side as he reprise the role. "From the world of Son of Sardaar 2 presenting the Song of Sardaar. Son Of Sardaar 2 Title Track Out Now. Link in bio.



#SonOfSardaar2 in cinemas this 25th of July!" read the caption. Fans mentioned 'Paaji is back' in the comment section. Directed by Vijay Kumar Arora, the film features a powerhouse cast including Ajay Devgn, Ravi Kishan, Sanjay Mishra, Mrunal Thakur, Neetu Bajwa, Chunky Panday, Kubbra Sait, Deepak Dobriyal, Vindu Dara Singh, Roshni Walia, Sharat Saxena, Sahil Mehta, and the late Mukul Dev.

Recently, the teaser was released. Ajay returns as Jassi in Son of Sardaar 2, the high-octane sequel to the 2012 hit that left audiences in splits. The teaser highlighted key moments from the film, including glimpses of his chemistry with Mrunal.

Kubbra Sait appears, dancing to dhol beats in the middle of the roads in Scotland, where the film's premise is now set. One can also spot Devgn, balancing between two battle tankers, a fitting tribute to his debut film Phool Aur Kaante entry. The teaser ends with a dialogue: "Paaji, kabhi hass bhi liya karo".



Nick Jonas Helps Wife

Priyanka Chopra

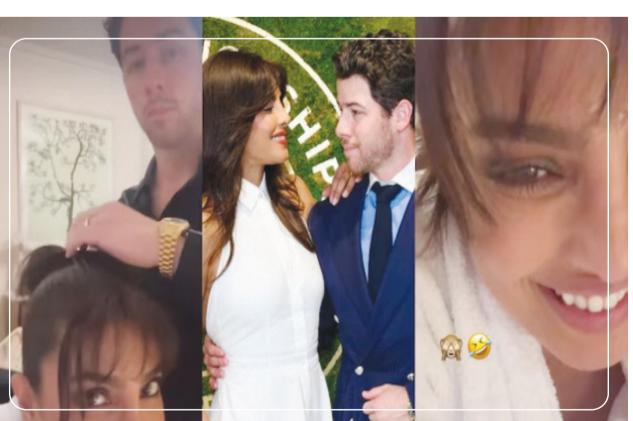
Untie Her Ponytail; Cutest Video Goes Viral

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas are one of the cutest couples and there is no doubt about it. The two often drop adorable videos and pictures on social media, leaving everyone in complete awe. On Thursday too, PeeCee took to his Instagram handle and dropped a clip in which Nick Jonas was seen helping her untie her ponytail. In the video, which looks like from London after the Heads of State event, Priyanka is seen sitting on a chair as she says, "here we go, again". She then turns the camera towards her husband, Nick, who is seen untying her ponytail. PeeCee smiles as she lauds Nick for helping her "diligently".

Sharing the video on her Instagram handle, Priyanka Chopra wrote, "Hair wanted to stay as is! @nickjonas said No! 'Ponytails are complicated' 2.0." Watch it here:

Previously, Nick also took to Instagram to share a heartwarming video from what he called a "date night" for the premiere of Priyanka's action-comedy film, Heads of State.

In the video, Priyanka Chopra Jonas looked stunning in a purple fringed maxi dress as she danced to Camila Cabello's hit track Bam Bam. She styled her hair in a chic bun and kept her look elegant and bold. Meanwhile, Nick was dapper in a classic black suit paired with glasses. The video ended with Nick pulling her into a sweet embrace, captioned: "Date night for #headsofstate premiere in London." Directed by Ilya Naishuller, the Amazon Prime Video film features Priyanka as a fierce MI6 operative. The plot follows the British Prime Minister (Elba) and the U.S. President (Cena) who find themselves at the centre of an international conspiracy and must work together to survive. Priyanka's character is on a mission to save the powerful duo, setting the stage for a high-octane ride full of action and humour. News18 Showsha gave the movie 3/5 stars and wrote, "For Indian audiences, Priyanka Chopra's role as MI6 agent Noel Bisset is a huge reason to hit play and thankfully, the payoff is real. The movie opens with her high-octane action sequence at Spain's Tomatina festival, setting a thrilling tone. Though she disappears for a while, she returns midway with commanding presence, fluid fight choreography and whip-smart one-liners."



Anshula Kapoor Gets Engaged To Boyfriend Rohan Thakkar In Dreamy NYC Proposal, Flaunts Ring



Anshula Kapoor is engaged! Bollywood actor Arjun Kapoor's sister took to Instagram to announce her engagement to longtime boyfriend Rohan Thakkar, sharing a heartwarming glimpse into their romantic proposal in New York City. The couple got engaged in Central Park, in front of the historic castle, during what Anshula described as a "magical" moment. In one photo, Anshula is seen overcome with emotion, holding her face in surprise as Rohan gets down on one knee with a ring box in hand. Dressed in a vibrant, flowy floral dress, Anshula's candid reaction captured the joy of the moment. In another close-up shot, she proudly flaunts her pear-shaped diamond ring against the lush greenery of the park.

Alongside the pictures, Anshula shared a heartfelt caption recounting how their love story began. "We met on an app. Started talking on a random Tuesday at 1.15AM. We spoke until 6am that morning. And somehow, even back then, it felt like the beginning of something that mattered," she wrote.

She added that Rohan proposed at exactly 1.15 AM India time, mirroring the time of their first-ever conversation, making the proposal all the more meaningful. "Just the quiet kind of love that feels like home... What Rohan gave me that day was better than a fairytale. Because it was intentional. Thoughtful. Real. Us."

Anshula revealed that after saying "yes" through "ugly tears" and "shaky laughs," the newly engaged couple celebrated with Shake Shack, a nod to their first-ever conversation about their shared love for the Shroom Burger.

Fans and industry friends flooded the post with congratulatory messages. One user commented, "Stay blessed both of you," while another wrote, "You deserve only happiness. Love you both. Congratulations and God bless always!" Anshula's engagement announcement has taken the internet by storm.

Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur And Fatima Sana Shaikh Make Heads Turn At Metro In Dino Screening



Metro... In Dino also stars Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and others.

Anurag Basu's directorial Metro In Dino is all set to release on July 4. The makers have organised a special screening and stars were seen making a stylish entry. Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, and Fatima Sana Shaikh led the evening with their charming presence. The videos are going viral. In the videos shared by Viral Bhayani, we can see Sara Ali Khan in a white colour salwar suit. She is looking very beautiful as she poses for the camera. Aditya Roy Kapur and Fatima Sana Shaikh also made a stylish appearance at the screening. Both pose for the paps and also greeted them with a smile. Earlier, Sara shared a video giving glimpse of her promotional days. She also thanked fans for their love.

Metro In Dino is a masterclass on modern-day love. It's for the lonely, for the ones who won in love and then lost some. It's as much Anurag's film as Pritam's. Zamaana Lage, Dil Ka Kya and Mann Ye Mera stand out particularly. Apart from Sara and Aditya, Metro... In Dino also stars Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal, Fatima Sana Shaikh, and others.

The first song from Metro... In Dino was released. Titled Zamaana Lage, the track reunites music maestro Pritam with Arijit Singh and Shashwat Singh, delivering a heartwarming ballad that beautifully ties the film's interconnected stories together.

Directed by Anurag Basu, Metro... In Dino is a spiritual successor to the 2007 film Life in a... Metro and explores multiple urban relationships. The song's music video gives a glimpse into the lives of its ensemble cast. Sara Ali Khan and Aditya Roy Kapur share a gentle romantic arc, where he sees her off at the metro. Konkona Sen Sharma's character seems hesitant about accepting affection from Pankaj Tripathi.

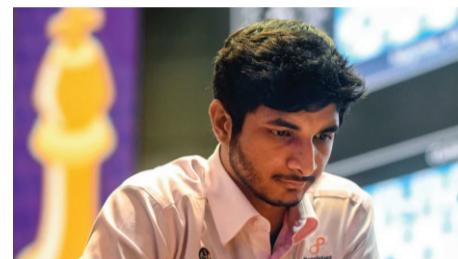
Last week, the star cast of Anurag Basu's film graced the album launch of Metro... In Dino. Aditya Roy Kapur showcased his singing talent by singing 'Ishq Hai Ya Tharak', one of the songs from the film's album. The video went viral, with fans praising his singing talent.

NEWS BOX

Chess star Vidit Gujrathi calls out LiverDoc for insulting his family

New Delhi. (Agency)

Indian chess star Vidit Gujrathi got into a scuffle with popular X user LiverDoc on Thursday, July 3. Vidit, one of the key members of India's Olympiad gold-winning team, called out the user for insulting his family. It all started with Vidit wishing his family on Doctor's Day. The Indian Grandmaster posted a family photo that included his parents, wife, and sister. Vidit shared the specialties of his family members upon the request of another X user. He stated that his father was an Ayurvedic migraine specialist, his mother a cosmetologist, his wife an MD in homeopathy, and his sister a physiotherapist. After revealing this information, Cyriac Abby Philips, also known as TheLiverDoc on X, quoted the tweet and replied that "none of Vidit's family members were really doctors." The reply went viral, prompting Vidit to respond



strongly. "Your entire brand and personality is built on insulting others. While you chase retweets by tearing people down, my family quietly heals lives without needing a spotlight. They've helped more people than your ego can count. Stay in your lane. And for a change, try being useful," Vidit replied on his timeline. "My parents are certified doctors who sacrificed thriving careers to travel with me and shape my journey. They rebuilt themselves, found new ways to heal, and continue helping others with quiet dignity. You don't have to agree with them. But you don't get to dismiss them," he added. While this could have been the end of it, LiverDoc once again responded, this time with a detailed post. He wrote that Doctor's Day in India marks both the birth and death anniversary of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, one of India's most revered physicians and a key figure in shaping the healthcare system. He added that Ayurveda, homeopathy, cosmetology, or physiotherapy were not forms of clinical medicine and that their practitioners were not clinical physicians. "Physiotherapy is a legit branch of healthcare (adjunct to clinical medicine), but the rest are just plain sham, especially homeopathy."

Ravindra Jadeja breaks BCCI rules in 2nd Test, but unlikely to face sanction: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

All-rounder Ravindra Jadeja broke one of the key rules in the new Indian Cricket Board guidelines during the second Test match against England. Jadeja, who scored a crucial 89 runs in the first innings of the match, travelled separately to the Edgbaston Stadium. According to the new BCCI Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), issued after India's disastrous tour of Australia, all team members are required to travel together in the team bus to and from the stadium and practice sessions. Travelling separately is strictly prohibited under the new SOP, aimed at maintaining discipline within the team. ESPNcricinfo reported on Thursday that Jadeja had travelled alone to the Edgbaston Stadium, thereby violating the BCCI rules. However, the report also noted that Jadeja is unlikely to face any sanction, as he had reached the stadium earlier than the rest of the team to get in some



extra batting practice before the match. Somewhere I felt that I should go and bat extra because the ball was still new. I felt if I could see the new ball off, it would become easier for the rest of the innings. Luckily, I could bat till lunch, and then Washington [Sundar] also batted well with Shubman. The more you bat in England, the better it is because you never feel you are set here. At any time, a ball can swing, take your edge, or bowl you," Jadeja said in the press conference after the end of Day Two's play. Jadeja and Shubman Gill helped guide the Indian team to a mammoth 587-run total in the first innings of the second Test match. Jadeja played a vital role, scoring 89 off 137 balls.

What Are the New BCCI Rules?

The BCCI implemented a 10-point rulebook for the Indian team after the disappointing Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25. One of the key changes is that players are now prohibited from travelling with personal staff such as cooks, hairdressers, stylists, or personal security guards during tours.

ENG vs IND: Courageous Akash Deep comes back to give England another mini scare

→ Akash Deep picked up 2 wickets on Day 2 of the Birmingham Test

→ Akash Deep got the wickets of Ben Duckett and Ollie Pope

→ England trail by 510 runs with 7 wickets in hand

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's bowling unit came under intense scrutiny after the Leeds Test, where they failed to defend a target of 371. With the series on the line, the visitors made a bold and arguably baffling decision to rest Jasprit Bumrah for the second Test in Birmingham, citing workload management. This, despite Bumrah being their standout performer at Headingley with a five-wicket haul in the first innings. The timing raised eyebrows. India had lost seven of their eight previous Tests at Edgbaston and needed all the firepower they could muster. One of the

notable changes was the inclusion of Akash Deep, a pacer making his first Test appearance in England. At first glance, it looked like India had shot themselves in the foot by benching arguably the world's best fast bowler in favour of an untested option. But by the end of Day 2, Akash had silenced many doubters with a spirited performance, helping put India in a commanding position.

AKASH DEEP BOUNCES BACK

Akash Deep didn't have the ideal start after India posted a mammoth 587 in their first innings, having been asked to bat first. Entrusted with the new ball, he conceded 12 runs in the opening over as Zak Crawley took him on with two boundaries. His nerves were evident—he even overstepped to bowl a no-ball. At that moment, doubts resurfaced over India's decision to rest Jasprit Bumrah. It's hard to imagine England attacking Bumrah the way they did Akash. But the young pacer showed impressive grit and resilience to bounce back. First, he dismissed Ben Duckett—the same batter who tormented India with a blistering knock in the second innings at Leeds. Then, he removed Ollie Pope, who

had scored a century in the first innings at Headingley. Remarkably, both Duckett and Pope, who made tons in Leeds, were dismissed for ducks in Birmingham. While Akash was a bit expensive—conceding



36 runs in seven overs—the breakthroughs he provided were crucial in tilting the momentum India's way. His spell bore a striking resemblance to his Test debut back in February 2024 at the JSCA Stadium in Ranchi, also against England. On that occasion, he dismissed Crawley, Duckett, and Pope to leave England reeling at 57 for 3. India eventually won that match by five

wickets, sealing the series 3–1. 'AKASH DEEP SHOWED COURAGE' Meanwhile, following Akash Deep's impactful burst late on Day 2 in Birmingham, Cheteshwar Pujara had high praise for the young pacer. The veteran of 103 Tests lauded Akash for showing great heart and courage, commanding the way he handled the pressure and rose to the occasion. "The way he started was brilliant to see. The first over went for 12 runs, but the way he came back—bowling the same length again and again—showed real courage. As a fast bowler, you need to trust your ability. He was under pressure early on, but came back strong and took two wickets. That's impressive, especially considering it's his first Test match in England. He hasn't played any county cricket either, so to perform like that takes guts," Pujara told the broadcasters. "It's not easy for a fast bowler playing his first game here, but he really set the tone for India—first with the score they put on the board, and then with the bowlers making early inroads," Pujara added.

Shubman Gill shares father's hilarious reality check after 269: Missed 300

New Delhi. (Agency)

Shubman Gill revealed his father's hilarious reaction after the Indian skipper scored a magnificent 269 against England in the Birmingham Test on Thursday, 3 July. Despite a nervy start, Gill went on to smash 30 boundaries and three sixes in a marathon 387-ball innings, helping India post a formidable first-innings total of 587. Following the close of play on Day 2, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shared a video on their official Instagram handle in which Gill reacted to messages from his parents after the landmark knock. "Well played, I enjoyed watching your batting, and my heart was at peace. You were batting like in your U-16 and U-19 days—I felt very proud," said Gill's father in a voice message featured in the video. "Felt amazing watching you bat, keep going, God bless you," added his mother. Interestingly, Gill concluded the video by sharing a light-hearted moment that wasn't included in the voice notes, his father's cheeky



Wimbledon 2025 Day 5 schedule: Carlos Alcaraz, Emma Raducanu headline 3rd round fixtures

→ Chris Woakes had figures of 21-6-59-2 on Day 1 of Edgbaston Test

→ Woakes got the wickets of KL Rahul and Nitish Kumar Reddy

→ India finished Day 1 at 310 for 5 in 85 overs

New Delhi. (Agency)

The fifth day of the All England Championships promises some blockbuster clashes in the men's and women's singles draws. Good friends Carlos Alcaraz and Emma Raducanu will headline proceedings on Centre Court later today. We're into Day 5 of Wimbledon, and some of the tournament's biggest stars are set to light up the courts as they aim to book their places in the fourth round. Reigning champion Alcaraz, home favourite Raducanu, and

world number three Sabalenka will all be eyeing convincing wins. Day 4 saw top seed Jannik Sinner continue his imperious form with a dominant 6-1, 6-1, 6-3 win over Aleksander Vukic on Centre Court. However, one of the biggest upsets of the day came in the form of Jack Draper's early exit. The American was knocked out in four

sets by veteran Marin Ili, who won 6-4, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4. Carlos Alcaraz faces Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff as he looks to build on his recent form. The defending champion

survived a five-set scare in the first round against Fabio Fognini, but rebounded strongly with a straight-sets win over Oliver Tarvet. He'll be aiming to hit top gear today against the unseeded German.

Later in the day, Emma Raducanu takes on her toughest test yet as she faces world number three Aryna Sabalenka in what promises to be a high-octane encounter. Raducanu has been in scintillating form so far, winning both her matches in straight sets and conceding no more than six games in either outing. Sabalenka, meanwhile, has had to work a little harder. In her opening match against Canada's Carson Branstine, the Belarusian was forced into a second-set tie-break. She faced similar resistance in the second round and has yet to fully hit her stride. Amongst the Indian tennis players, Yuki Bhambri, alongside China's Xinyu Jiang (CHN) will go up against the

Pakistan's Mehwish Ali flashes middle finger after defeat at Squash Championship

New Delhi. (Agency)

Pakistan's squash player Mehwish Ali was seen engaging in unsportsmanlike conduct following her defeat to Hong Kong's Chung YL in the Round of 16 match at the 32nd Asian Junior Individual Championships, held at the Gimcheon Sports Complex in South Korea on Thursday, 3 July. Ali, who lost with the scoreline reading 11-13, 5-11, 11-13, 4-11, was seen showing the middle finger as she walked off the court after the match, drawing criticism for her behaviour. Chung YL later faced India's Ankita Dubey in the quarterfinals, where the young Indian player came out on top with a 11-8, 9-11, 11-7, 13-11 victory. Dubey's impressive run in the tournament ended in the semifinals, where she went down to Malaysia's Harleean Tan, the second seed, with the scores reading 11-8, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7.

India enjoyed a strong showing overall at the event, with three players finishing on the

podium. Amarya Bajaj picked up a bronze medal in the boys' U-13 singles category, Aryaman Singh secured bronze in the boys' U-15 event, and Ankita Dubey added another bronze for India in the girls' U-17

will be taken against the Pakistani player for her behaviour, which was captured on video and circulated widely. This is not the first instance in recent months where a Pakistani junior athlete has been called out for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Earlier in May, during the U16 Davis Cup tie between India and Pakistan held in Kazakhstan, a similar controversy emerged. Following Pakistan's defeat, a player from their camp was seen making a disrespectful attempt at a handshake with an Indian opponent. The gesture, which appeared dismissive and intentional, drew criticism online. The Indian player, however, chose not to react and walked away calmly. These repeated incidents have sparked concerns about the spirit of the game and the example being set for young athletes.



division with her semifinal finish. The incident involving Mehwish Ali has raised questions about player conduct and the response from governing bodies. It remains to be seen whether any disciplinary action

Team India unlikely to travel to Bangladesh for white ball series amid diplomatic tensions: Sources

→ The Indian cricket team is unlikely to travel to Bangladesh amidst diplomatic tensions between the two countries. A top source has told India Today that the cricket has been advised to call off the tour.

India's six-match white-ball series against Bangladesh has effectively been called off amidst rising diplomatic tensions between the two countries. A top source in the know told India Today that the Indian team is unlikely to travel to Bangladesh after the government advised the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to not go ahead with the tour.

India and Bangladesh are currently facing trade-related tensions. On May 17, the Indian government announced major import route restrictions on goods, including ready-made garments and processed food items from Bangladesh. According to a Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) notification, no ready-made garment products will be allowed into India via northeast-based integrated check posts (ICPs). This move was seen as a response



to a similar restriction imposed by Bangladesh back in April. The political situation in Bangladesh is not stable, and in light of the diplomatic standoff, the Indian government has advised the BCCI not to go ahead with this tour, the source told the publication on

condition of anonymity. An official confirmation from the BCCI is still awaited. India were scheduled to play three ODIs and three T20Is against Bangladesh in the build-up to the 2026 T20 World Cup. The potential cancellation of the tour will be a blow for both sides. The Indian T20I team has not played any matches since their bilateral series against England in January–February, which they won 4-1. The Indian cricket team is currently in England for a five-match Test series that will continue until the first week of August. The tour of Bangladesh was supposed to be their next assignment, beginning on August 17. According to the original schedule, India were to play three ODIs first, followed by three T20Is. After the Bangladesh tour, India are set to host a home Test series against the West Indies in October.