

Purnima University Sikh Girl Episode: Silence Raises More Questions

The Sikh Times
Gurcharan Singh Babbar

Jaipur. July 30: Yesterday morning, around 6:00 AM, I, Gurcharan Singh Babbar, Editor-in-Chief of The Sikh Times, along with my associates Sardar Avtar Singh (Punjabi Bagh) and senior journalist Mr. Sourabh Sharma, travelled from Delhi to Purnima University, Jaipur, to investigate the shocking incident where a Sikh girl was allegedly forced to remove her Kirpan and Kada, sacred symbols of the Sikh faith. Our purpose was clear to meet the Vice-Chancellor, Chairman, and Principal of the university.

To ask why the religious kakars of a Sikh student were forcibly removed, and under whose orders?

To find out who is behind this deliberate attack on the religious freedom of Sikhs?

Before our visit, we formally informed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, and Director General of Police Rajasthan through official emails about our



scheduled visit to the university.

Shocking Reception at Purnima University
However, upon reaching Purnima University, Jaipur, we were stunned. The gates of the university were locked, and not a single official—no Vice-Chancellor, no Chairman, no Principal, no administrative authority—was present. The campus appeared deserted. Only a few security guards were seen on duty, who categorically refused to provide any information.

This raises serious questions

1. Why did the university shut its doors on journalists seeking the truth?
2. Why is the administration refusing to clarify?
3. Under whose direction a Sikh girl was humiliated?
4. What action has been taken against those who forced the student to remove her religious kakars? The university's silence only deepens the suspicion that this is not an isolated incident but part of a larger, orchestrated anti-Sikh conspiracy.

Previous Story Context: Earlier, The Sikh Times reported the courage of the brave Sikh girl who refused to

surrender her Kirpan and Kada despite immense pressure. We compared this to the Mughal era of Aurangzeb, where Hindus were forced to remove their sacred Janeu threads.

"Back then, Aurangzeb attacked Hindu faith by forcefully removing Janeu. Today, in a so-called 'Hindu Raj', Sikh students are being compelled to remove their Kirpan and Kada. This is not just an insult to Sikh faith but a direct attack on India's constitutional right to freedom of religion."

This incident has become a hot topic of debate across Punjab, India, and the global Sikh diaspora. The Sikh community is outraged, viewing this as a blatant religious assault. We demand that:

1. Prime Minister Modi intervene directly and ensure strict action against those responsible.
2. The Rajasthan government conduct a high-level inquiry and publicly disclose the findings.
3. Immediate assurance of protection of Sikh students' rights in all educational institutions nationwide.

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PM corrected Nehru's mistakes by suspending Indus treaty with Pak: Jaishankar

Participating in the debate on Operation Sindoor, S Jaishankar said that the Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960, was not an act of peace but one of appeasement.

New Delhi. (Agency)

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Wednesday told the Rajya Sabha that the PM Narendra Modi-led government had "corrected the wrongs" of former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru by suspending the Indus Waters Treaty with Pakistan, saying that "blood and water cannot flow together".

Participating in the debate on Operation Sindoor, Jaishankar said that the Indus Waters Treaty, signed in 1960, was not an act of peace but one of appeasement.

"We were told for 60 years that nothing can be done. Pandit Nehru's mistakes can't be corrected."

The Narendra Modi government showed it can be corrected. Article 370 was corrected. The Indus Water Treaty is being corrected," he said, reiterating that the treaty is being held in abeyance until Pakistan irrevocably gives up its support

of terrorism.

Criticising Nehru's decision, Jaishankar said, "The then PM is saying that let us do this treaty because the Indian government should put the interest of the Pakistani Punjab. Not a word about the interest of the farmers of Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Himachal."

Referring to Nehru's 1960 statement, Jaishankar said, "He now says that because people are saying, we felt that in the circumstances, this is the right settlement. We purchased peace and it is good for both countries... We didn't purchase peace, we purchased appeasement because within one year, the same PM accepted

that with Pakistan, there is no peace."

The minister also underlined the "uniqueness" of the agreement. "Indus

has allowed its major rivers to flow to the next country without having rights on that," he said.

One of the steps taken by India in response to the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which left 26 people dead, was to place the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, citing cross-border terrorism.

Recounting India's experience with cross-border terrorism, Jaishankar stated that the country has been a victim of terror since 1947. "In 2007, 44 people died in Hyderabad. In 2008, the Mumbai attacks of 26/11 happened. In 2008, 64 people died in Jaipur. In Delhi, I am from Delhi and I remember the bomb blast of 2008. We went through a series of it," he said.



Waters Treaty in many ways is a very unique agreement. I cannot think of any agreement in the world where a country

remember the bomb blast of 2008. We went through a series of it," he said.

Centre approves Rs 821.26 crore to accelerate Delhi's Development: CM Rekha Gupta

**The Sikh Times
Sourabh Sharma**

New Delhi. 30 July 2025: Chief Minister Mrs. Rekha Gupta announced that the Central Government has sanctioned Rs 821.26 crore as special assistance to accelerate the transformation of the National Capital into a 'Developed Delhi'. She stated that 66 percent of the sanctioned amount has been released as the first instalment, enabling the immediate commencement of key projects. The funds will be utilised for critical public service sectors including health, education, housing, drinking water, electricity and transport.

The Chief Minister informed that the Union Ministry of Finance has approved the allocation under the Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) 2025-26. Of the total amount, Rs 716.00 crore under Part-I has been earmarked for 33 major infrastructure projects, while an additional Rs 105.26 crore under Part-III has been sanctioned for the Priority Corridor of MRTS Phase-IV.

Expressing her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the Chief Minister said that this approval lays a strong foundation for realising the vision of a 'Developed Delhi' in alignment with the Honourable Prime Minister's goal of a 'Developed India'. She affirmed that the Delhi Government will continue to seek additional allocations to ensure comprehensive development of the capital. Mrs. Rekha Gupta highlighted that the proposals were submitted promptly and in compliance with all procedures through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) portal. The seamless coordination with the Ministry of Finance ensured expeditious approval. The Chief Minister stated that these projects will strengthen essential public services, urban mobility and civic amenities, while also generating employment and boosting economic activity in the capital. She assured that the Delhi Government will implement all projects in a time-bound, transparent and quality-driven manner to deliver direct benefits to the citizens of Delhi.



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan criticised the arrest of Malayali nuns in Chhattisgarh, alleging they were targeted based on a false complaint by Bajrang Dal. He urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to intervene.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan came down heavily on the BJP over the recent arrest of Malayali nuns in Chhattisgarh. Calling it an act of targeted harassment, the Chief Minister said the nuns were arrested and jailed on the basis of a false complaint filed by Bajrang Dal activists.

Vijayan alleged that the incident exposed the "true nature of the Sangh Parivar" and accused them of consistently attacking the Christian community under the guise of curbing religious

conversions and trafficking. "The same people who walk into Christian homes with cakes and smiles are now hunting down nuns," he said.

The Chief Minister added that the Sangh Parivar fears the pluralism and coexistence that defines India, and that attacks on minorities are part of a larger agenda to undermine secularism and promote divisive politics.

Stating that he had written to the Prime Minister as soon as the news broke,

Vijayan said there had been no effort from the Centre to correct the injustice. "Shockingly, the arrests were even justified by the Chhattisgarh Chief Minister," he said.

The Kerala Chief Minister warned that minority rights and the fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution were under threat and urged citizens to resist any such encroachments.

Kerala BJP Chief Rajeev Chandrasekhar said the Kerala BJP has taken proactive steps, with State General Secretary Anoop Antony already in Chhattisgarh to offer legal and logistical support to the arrested nuns.



Why idea of free-fair polls in Bengal is ghorar dim

At a recent meeting, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee reminded block-level officers (BLOs) that they were state government employees. Bengal is the only state to have a Chief Electoral Officer's office under the Home and Hill Affairs Department. These and large-scale illegal immigration make the dream of free-fair polls in Mamata's Bengal nothing but bunkum.

New Delhi. (Agency)
"Ghorar dim", as the Bangla phrase, which means "a horse's egg" goes, captures the absurdity of the idea of free and fair elections in West Bengal. Not just reported large-scale immigration and the shadow of political violence, an election machinery, which is allegedly far from independent, makes the idea of a fair franchise a pipe dream. As ghorar dim, the idea of fair elections here remains a fantasy.

In an administrative meeting last week, West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee reminded block-level officers (BLOs) that they were state government employees. This is important because the BLOs are key to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls that is expected to begin in Bengal soon.

Also, West Bengal is the only state where the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) office

operates under the state's Home and Hill Affairs Department, without functional freedom. The state has seen an influx of illegal immigration from Bangladesh, leading to demographic changes in several



districts. Retributive political violence, as seen after the last Assembly elections, also cast a cloud over the idea of participatory democracy.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND SIR IN WEST BENGAL

Even as the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise is underway in Bihar and speculated to begin in poll-bound Bengal next, Mamata Banerjee has openly opposed it, calling it a targeted move against Bengal voters. The Trinamool Congress leader, who has launched a Bhasha Aandolan from Rabindranath Tagore's Sanctuary Bolpur, has asserted that "people from Gujarat were preparing Bengal's [voters'] list".

This even as the West Bengal CEO flagged major irregularities during sample checking of voter lists in South and North 24 Parganas, where 127 fictitious voters were allegedly entered by two Electoral Registration Officers (ERO) without BLO verification, reported The Economic Times newspaper on Wednesday. The SIR is a legal and essential exercise mandated under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, to ensure the accuracy and integrity of electoral rolls ahead of major elections.

Silver is the new gold: Showrooms in A'bad scale up to meet rising demand

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

With gold prices hitting new highs and slipping out of everyday gifting budgets, silver is getting its moment under the spotlight. Jewellers across Ahmedabad aren't letting the opportunity go to waste. From expanding display counters to launching entire showrooms dedicated to silver jewellery, the city's jewellers are betting big on the white metal. "We've gone from one silver counter to dedicating 3x the space for it," said Manoj Soni, a jeweller based in Ahmedabad. "There's huge interest across the board — from Navratri-themed traditional sets to sleek, Italian machine-made pieces for daily wear. Customers want something stylish yet accessible, and silver fits the bill perfectly and makes a style statement too."

Gold prices stood at Rs 1.01 lakh per 10 gram on Tuesday in the Ahmedabad market whereas silver is priced at Rs 1.14 lakh per kilogram here. Shoppers are turning to silver jewellery and artefacts as elegant, value-for-money alternatives. This is especially true for the gifting ticket size of Rs 20,000 and Rs

25,000.

Rohit Zaveri, former president of the Jewellers Association of Ahmedabad (JAA), said, "We've halved our 22-carat gold inventory and doubled our silver stock — up from 50 kg to 100 kg. Just this month, we opened a 2,000 sq



ft silver-only studio-style showroom near Science City Road."

The shift is not just in volume, but also in variety. According to jewellers, there's a visible uptick in demand for 925-grade silver crafted into everything from oxidised Jaipuri jewellery and antique Jadair-inspired designs to sleek,

stone-studded Italian imports. Silver's lightweight nature, lower making charges (Rs 25–30 per gram for oxidised styles and Rs 100–200 for premium finishes), and stylish appeal have made it a hit among millennials and traditional buyers alike.

Even jewellers who never stocked silver before are now diversifying. "Earlier, we didn't even keep silver rings or bracelets," said Jigar Patel, JAA treasurer. "Since January, we've introduced items in the Rs 2,000 to Rs 10,000 range. And with Rakshabandhan coming up, we're expecting a spike in demand for such pieces."

Gold is no longer the go-to for gifting, so people are turning to silver — be it jewellery or artefacts," said Kailash Kabra, founder of a jewellery store in Ahmedabad. "Silver has emerged as both an investment and everyday wear option. We've launched a dedicated silver showroom with increased stock and variety, and are also planning to roll out an e-commerce portal soon to offer customers even more convenience. Whether it's for Navratri or routine wear, stylish silver pieces are clearly in demand."

MMRDA deposits Rs 560 crore with Bombay high court registry in arbitration dispute with Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) deposited Rs 560.2 crore with the registry of Bombay high court in an arbitration matter involving Mumbai Metro One Pvt Ltd, in accordance with a directive recently issued by Supreme Court. MMRDA, a joint venture between Reliance Infrastructure and MMRDA, is a special purpose vehicle set up to run the Versova-Andheri-Ghatkopar Metro 1 corridor.

In Aug 2023, a three-member arbitral tribunal awarded Rs 992 crore to MMOPPL as compensation for cost escalations and contractual disagreements. With interest accrued till May 2025, the total award rose to Rs 1,169 crore.

On July 10, 2025, HC directed MMRDA to deposit the entire amount, rejecting its plea for an unconditional stay. The court observed that MMOPPL's arbitration win could not be rendered meaningless during the pendency of MMRDA's challenge to the award. It noted that MMRDA failed to make a *prima facie* case to justify stay without deposit. HC also pointed out that MMRDA, as a 26% equity holder in MMOPPL, was involved in key financial decisions and project execution. The audit committee of MMOPPL, chaired by an MMRDA nominee, endorsed the financial statements on which the tribunal partly relied. It concluded that the award —

passed by a 2:1 majority — could not be dismissed as perverse or arbitrary. MMRDA filed a challenge under Section 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, calling the award illegal and based on flawed assumptions regarding project delays, rent recovery, and cost escalations. MMOPPL, in turn, accused the authority of attempting to backtrack from previously



approved decisions. After the HC ruling, MMRDA approached Supreme Court, which granted partial relief by allowing it to deposit only 50% of the award amount pending final adjudication. In a stock exchange filing, Reliance Infrastructure confirmed that MMRDA complied with the SC order and deposited Rs 560.2 crore with the HC registry. The final outcome of this arbitration matter is likely to set a precedent for public-private partnership infrastructure disputes in India.

Frant continue news

Revival of the lake to give Delhi tourism a new identity: Kapil Mishra

To enhance the environmental value of the lake, he directed the tourism department to coordinate with the environment department for installing a pneumatic system to increase oxygen levels in the water and to introduce ducks, swans, and other aesthetically pleasing birds.

Work on setting up cafés, family spaces, walking tracks, decorative plants, and palm trees along the lakeside will also begin soon. The meeting also discussed plans to promote cultural activities through annual events like 'Dev Deepawali' and the 'Naini Lake Festival'. The Hon'ble Minister directed the tourism department to prepare and present a detailed plan for these events so that the lake can also become a hub for cultural engagement. He also instructed that work on repairing and installing essential technical components such as water pumps, power panels, and LED screens be expedited.

At the end of the meeting, Kapil Mishra stated that Rekha Gupta has given clear directions that lakes and water bodies in the capital should not merely serve as ornamental spots but must also be developed as vibrant cultural, ecological, and tourism hubs.

Purnima University Sikh Girl Episode: Silence Raises More Questions

The Sikh Panth worldwide is watching closely. The government must ensure that such attacks on Sikh identity and faith do not recur, or else this could escalate into a serious religious and legal confrontation.

The Constitution of India (Article 25) guarantees every citizen the right to freely practice and propagate their religion. Forcibly removing a Sikh student's Kirpan or Kada is a direct violation of this fundamental right. If such incidents go unchecked, they threaten India's secular and democratic fabric.

Purnima University's silence today speaks volumes. Until those responsible are punished and an official explanation is given, this matter will remain a stain on Rajasthan's administration and a challenge to India's commitment to religious freedom.

We urge the Modi Government: Act now. Stop these attacks on Sikhs. Restore justice and faith in the rule of law.

Judge resigns after senior, whom she accused of harassment, elevated to High Court

Bhopal. A woman civil judge in Madhya Pradesh has resigned in protest, expressing anguish over the appointment of a district judge accused of harassing her to the Madhya Pradesh High Court. In a strongly worded resignation letter addressed to the Chief Justice of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, Junior Division Civil Judge Aditi Kumar Sharma said the very judiciary that preaches justice and equality had failed her by promoting the man she accused of serious misconduct.

Judge Sharma's resignation follows the elevation of Shahdol District Judge Rajesh Kumar Gupta, whom she had accused of harassment, to the post of a High Court judge. Describing the appointment as a "reward" for her alleged tormentor, she questioned the silence and inaction of the judicial system in the face of documented complaints.

Row erupts over paid 'Vallasadya' at Aranmula temple; PSS accuses TDB of breaching ritual norms

PATHANAMTHITTA.(Agency)

Amid the controversy at Aranmula Sree Partha Sarathy Temple over the Travancore Devaswom Board's (TDB) launch of a paid version of the traditional Vallasadya — a ceremonial temple feast — the Palliyoda Seva Sangham (PSS), which denounced the move as a breach of long-standing temple customs, remains steadfast in its opposition. The TDB's Vallasadya, priced at Rs 250 per head, is being offered to devotees who book in advance. Coupons for the feast can also be availed online. As of now, the feast is scheduled exclusively on Sundays. However, the PSS, which traditionally oversees the conduct of the Vallasadya, has strongly objected to the Board's move. "Palliyoda Seva Sangham has no involvement whatsoever in the Vallasadyas proposed by the Devaswom Board. This is a serious

breach of ritualistic norms," K V Sambadevan, president of the PSS, told. He cited a Kerala High Court order which mandates that any decision related to the Vallasadya must be taken jointly by a committee comprising representatives of both the PSS and the TDB. "Selling food coupons in the name of Vallasadya without the participation of Palliyodams is tantamount to commercialising the ritual," he added. In protest, PSS activists had recently marched to the office of the Devaswom Assistant Commissioner singing Vanchippattu, the traditional boat song, demanding that the ritual be conducted only in the presence of snake boats. "If the Board is determined to override ritual norms and hold Vallasadya for money, the Sangham will intensify its agitation," Sambadevan warned.

Ambaji set to become model temple town

Ahmedabad.(Agency)

The Gujarat govt has prepared a Rs 1,632 crore master plan for developing the famous Ambaji temple in north Gujarat as a model temple town. The govt said on Tuesday that new facilities will be added, keeping in mind the requirements of the next 50 years.

To be implemented in two phases, with work on the first phase to begin shortly, the master plan addresses various needs of the entire Ambaji pilgrimage site. "The aim is to establish a new benchmark for pilgrimage sites by integrating sacred places and improving facilities for pilgrims," an official statement said. The site attracts lakhs of devotees during the Bhadarvi Poonam fair and throughout the year.

The Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board (GPYVB), working under the state's tourism department, will execute the master plan. At the centre of the master plan is Gabbar Hill, believed to be where Goddess Sati's heart fell, and the Ambaji Mata Temple.

The plan envisions the integration of

these two sacred sites and constructing an interactive corridor — Shakti Corridor — to enhance the spiritual journey between Ambaji Temple and the flame on Gabbar," the statement added. The govt said various development works costing Rs 950 crore will be undertaken in the first phase. The main attraction in this phase is the construction of the Shakti Corridor connecting Ambaji Temple and Gabbar. This Shakti Corridor is a major attraction, forming a comprehensive network connecting Gabbar Hill, the temple, and Mansarovar. A vast Shakti Chowk will connect with Gabbar Darshan Chowk through the Shaktipath. In the second phase, development works costing Rs 682 crore will be carried out for the Gabbar Temple and its surroundings, the expansion of Ambaji Temple and Mansarovar, and the development of Sati Sarovar. Event plazas and garba grounds will be developed in the Sati Sarovar and Sati Ghat areas.



Considering the devotees reaching from faraway places, he also said the normal feast can be booked through the PSS website, clarifying that they are 'paid feasts' and not Vallasadya. Vallasadya has various rituals

connected to faith, he said, adding that it cannot be compared with other feasts.

Other PSS leaders, including secretary Prasad Anandabhan, joint secretary Ajay Gopinath, vice-president K S Suresh, treasurer Ramesh Malimel, and executive members B Krishnakumar, Sashikumar Kurup, and Dr Suresh Babu also addressed the gathering, echoing their concern over what they termed the Devaswom Board's unilateral and commercial approach. The Sangham reiterated that the Vallasadya, a traditional feast offered to the oarsmen of the Palliyodams, must not be conducted in their absence. They demanded that the Devaswom Board respect established rituals and practices tied to the Aranmula Parthasarathy Temple's centuries-old heritage.

Senior govindas hand over baton of dahi handi to next generation

Mumbai.(Agency)

The festival of dahi handi coming up Aug 16 is a household affair in certain families. A number of father-son and mother-daughter pairs are part of govinda teams. Even the third generation of little boys and girls joins their grandparents in this adventure sport.

profiles a few families where the baton of dahi handi is being handed down, with school and college students, IT engineers and rickshaw drivers all making this sport a level playing field. The founder of Mumbai's most prominent women govindas' team, Geeta Zagde of Parle Sports Club, said, "My daughter Ashtami, who was born on Janmashtami, plays dahi handi as do my sister and my niece. Each girl born into our family comes to

watch practice from childhood and becomes a govinda. I have never allowed our girls to fear injury or worry about their prospect of marriage should they fall." Sanket Salvi, 33, an IT engineer based in Bhandup, works as a software developer. Work life balance for him involves climbing the human pyramid for the local Shivneri Govinda Pathak after he is done with his day job. As a teen he

would accompany his father, Arvind Salvi, now 68, who is a mentor to a professional govinda championship. Sanket's six-year-old daughter Tvisha is also developing interest. She joins her father and climbs the pyramid under his watchful eye. This Bhandup pathak has a separate handi for women.

In Malad, autorickshaw driver Sachin Sharad Mhashelkar, 41, playing since 2007, trains his son Vedant who is studying in 12th grade. The father-son duo is attached to Om Brahmand Sai Govinda Mandal. In 2007, Mhashelkar was motivated to form a mandal in Malad. "From a sand sport to harnesses, mats and helmets, dahi handi has progressed well, much like kabaddi," Sachin said.

Kerala Kalamandalam marks 60 years of Kutiyattam legacy with global festival

CHERUTHURUTHY.(Agency)

Sixty years ago, a quiet cultural revolution unfolded in the heart of Kerala. In 1965, Kerala Kalamandalam etched its name in the annals of art history by becoming the first public institution to introduce Koothu and Kutiyattam — the world's oldest surviving Sanskrit theatre tradition, as academic disciplines. This landmark decision, under the stewardship of legendary maestro Guru Painkulam Ramachakryar, would go on to rescue an ancient ritual art from the fading shadows of obscurity. Now, in 2025, Kerala Kalamandalam is set to mark this extraordinary legacy with a grand celebration — the International Festival of Kutiyattam (IFK-2025). The five-day global gathering that began on Tuesday (from July 29 to August 2), promises to be both a tribute and a forward-looking exploration of an art form that continues to evolve. Kutiyattam, once performed in temple theatres for select audiences, is a complex blend of classical Sanskrit drama, stylised gestures (mudras), facial expressions (rasas), and musical accompaniment. Passed down through generations of Chakyars and Nangiars, the form teetered on the edge of extinction by the mid-

20th century. Enter Guru Painkulam Ramachakryar — an artist and reformer — who, through Kerala Kalamandalam, opened the art to institutional training, public performance, and academic

inquiry. His vision democratised Kutiyattam, balancing its sacred depth with contemporary relevance. Today, his legacy lives on not only through his disciples but also through a new wave of practitioners, scholars, and cultural custodians.

Themed "Kutiyattam: Past, Present & Future," the International Festival of Kutiyattam will feature daily performances by some of the most respected names in the field. Among the star performers are Padma Shri Kalamandalam Sivan Namboodiri, Ammannur Kuttan Chakyar, Kalamandalam Rama Chakyar, Kalamandalam Girija, Kalamandalam Eswaranunni, Usha Nangiari, and Kapila — each a stalwart who has contributed to Kutiyattam's artistic refinement and international acclaim. Scholarly sessions will complement the performances, fostering debate, dialogue, and demonstration.

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NFR Collaborates with IIT Guwahati for Eco Friendly Waste Management in Railway Colonies

The Sikh Times

Maligaon: In a significant step towards enhancing environmental sustainability and promoting scientific waste management practices, Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) has commenced a comprehensive survey for the implementation of an Integrated Garbage Treatment System at Maligaon and Pandu Railway Colonies under the jurisdiction of the Lumding Division. The survey is being conducted by the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG), under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with NFR. As a part of this collaboration, IITG will provide technical consultancy and conduct extensive field studies to assess the feasibility design and

execution strategy of the proposed system. The initiative is expected to set a benchmark in smart and sustainable waste disposal across railway establishments. Upon completion of the field survey, a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared and submitted to NFR. The DPR will outline the required infrastructure, estimated costs, treatment methodology and implementation timelines for the proposed system. The proposed integrated garbage treatment system will focus on segregation at source, scientific disposal of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, composting and recycling measures in line with Swachh Bharat Mission guidelines



and national waste management protocols. This initiative is aimed at improving the overall cleanliness, hygiene and living conditions for railway employees and their families residing in these colonies. It will also help reduce the environmental footprint of railway operations and contribute towards a zero-waste colony model.

Northeast Frontier Railway remains steadfast in its dedication to sustainable practices, infrastructural innovation and enhancing the quality of life for its employees and neighbouring communities.

Rollout of IT 2.0 Application A Digital Transformation Initiative

Amritsar: The Department of Posts is proud to announce the rollout of the next-generation APT application, marking a major leap forward in our journey towards digital excellence and nation-building. As part of this transformative initiative, the upgraded system will be implemented across all post offices in Amritsar Postal Division on 04.08.2025. To enable a seamless and secure transition to this advanced digital platform, a planned downtime has been scheduled on 02.08.2025. On 02.08.2025, no public transactions will be carried out at the post offices. This temporary suspension of services is necessary to facilitate data migration, system validations, and config-

uration processes ensuring that the new system goes live smoothly and efficiently. The APT application is designed to offer an enhanced user experience, faster service delivery and a more customer-friendly interface, reflecting our unwavering commitment to delivering smarter, efficient, and future-ready postal operations. We request our valued customers to kindly plan their visits in advance and bear with us during this brief interruption. We deeply regret any inconvenience caused and assure you that these steps are being taken in the interest of delivering better, faster, and more digitally empowered services to every citizen. 14 out of 24 complaints resolved on the spot during monthly District Public Relations and Grievances Committee meeting Excise

NAME CHANGE
I, hitherto known as SANGEETA W/O MAHESH PAL SINGH R/O-367, Mangal puri N-Block, North west Delhi, Delhi-110083, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SANGEETA DEVI.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRIYA D/O JITENDER KUMAR residing at C-499, Vikas Puri, West, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to PRIYA WASAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, JITENDER KUMAR S/O PURSHOTAM DASS WASAN residing at C-499, Vikas Puri, West, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to JITENDER WASAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUNITA W/O JITENDER KUMAR residing at C-499, Vikas Puri, West, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to SUNITA WASAN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, JITENDER KUMAR S/O PURSHOTAM DASS WASAN residing at C-499, Vikas Puri, West, Delhi-110018, have changed my name to JITENDER WASAN for all future purposes.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Information is given to general public at large that our client Seema Sehgal and Preetam Kumar are the owner of Freehold Residential Built-up Property bearing no. 17/1, area measuring 45 Sq. Yards i.e. 37.62 Sq. Meters, out of Rec. No. 3, Killa no. 30, situated at Aban of Radhey Puri Extn-11 in the area of Village Khurji Khas, Iliaqha Shandar Delhi-110051, by virtue of Sale Deed dated 03.01.2025 vide No. 2025/4/139, Book no. 1, Vol. No. 11925, Page No. 57 to 78, dated 04.01.2025, SRA East Central Colony. In the Chain Documents above mentioned documents not available. Death Certificate & SMC Late of Smt. Anjali Devi died on 09.07.2017 now our client is declaring that any other person does not have any right over the said property and same property sold too Meht Chand and same has been finance by Pramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd. Branch: Lori Ghazibad Uttar Pradesh. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said Property then contact us within 07 days from the date of Publication of this notice and or the same to the undersigned if found by anyone. Thereafter no claim shall be entertained

[NAVEEN KUMAR VERMA]

Advocate

F-211,sector-3 Vaishali Ghazibad

Uttar Pradesh-201010, Contact at 09558871432

Information is given to general public at large that our client Mr. Rohit, Mr. Vishnu & Ms. Muskan Aggarwal are the owner of Freehold Residential Property No. 16013662K, VILL-HAV NAME-SANJAY KUMAR residing at C-147/1 KH NO-401 UPPER GROUND FLOOR TAYYAB, LANE SHAHEEN BAGH ABUL FAZAL ENCLAVE-2, Delhi 110025, have changed my name to YASMEEN NAEEMUDIN for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, YASMEEN NAEEMUDIN ISM/W/O ABDULLAH HAV NAME-SANJAY KUMAR, R residing at VPO-KARUVATTI, TEHSIL-KARTHIKAPALLY, DIST-ALAPPUZHA, KERALA-690517, have changed my name from SOUMYA RAJESH to SOUMYA AS for all future purposes, in my husband's service record my date of birth wrongly mentioned as 01/04/1987 instead of my correct date of birth as 11/05/1987. Vide Affidavit dated 30/07/2025 before Notary Public Delhi.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ranveer Kaur w/o Amolak Singh R/O H.No.R-4, Nanda Block, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Ranbir Kaur Permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, Amlak Singh s/o Gujjar Singh R/O H.No.R-4, Nanda Block, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi-110045, have changed my name to Amolak Singh Permanently.

NAME CHANGE
I, MARYAM AKHLAQ D/O MOHAMMAD AKHLAQ RESIDING AT HOUSE NO 1570 PATAUDI HOUSE DARYA GANJ DELHI 110002 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MARYAM AKHLAQ TO MARYAM FOR ALL FUTURE PURPOSE

NAME CHANGE
I, DARMENDRA KUMAR SINGH PATEL S/O SUKH DEV SINGH R/O 23, GALI NO 1 IN BLOCK, SUNDY MARKET, OM VIHAR CARTARPURI ALIAS DAUDLAPUR, NASIRABAD GURGAON HARYANA-122017, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME TO DHARMENDRA KUMAR SINGH FOR ALL PURPOSE

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NAME CHANGE
I, DARMENDRA KUMAR SINGH PATE

NEWS BOX

8.8 magnitude earthquake near Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula triggers tsunami warning for Japan's Pacific coast

TOKYO. (Agency)

Japan's meteorological agency issued a tsunami alert for Japan's Pacific coast, upgrading an earlier advisory stemming from the powerful, magnitude 8.8 quake that hit on Wednesday morning near Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. The agency issued an advisory for a tsunami of up to 3 meters (yards) across the Pacific coast of Japan, possibly starting to arrive along the northern Japanese coasts in less than half an hour after the alert. A tsunami warning also was extended to the U.S. state of Hawaii, with the National Weather Service's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center saying a tsunami from the quake had been generated that could cause damage along the coastlines of all the Hawaiian islands.

"Urgent action should be taken to protect lives and property," the warning stated. The first waves were expected around 7 p.m. local time. Japan's meteorological agency said the quake occurred at 8:25 a.m. (2325 GMT Tuesday) and registered a preliminary magnitude of 8.0. The quake was about 250 kilometers (160 miles) away from Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost of the country's four big islands, and was felt only slightly, according to Japan's NHK television. The U.S. Geological Survey said it hit at a depth of 19.3 kilometers (12 miles). The USGS said shortly after initial reports that the quake's strength was 8.7 magnitude. Russia's Tass news agency reported from the biggest city nearby, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, that many people ran out into the street without shoes or outerwear. Cabinets toppled inside homes, mirrors were broken, cars swayed in the street and balconies on buildings shook noticeably. Tass also reported power outages and mobile phone service failures in the capital of the Kamchatka region. The National Tsunami Warning Center, based in Alaska, issued a tsunami warning for parts of the Alaska Aleutian Islands, and a watch for portions of the West Coast, including California, Oregon, and Washington, and Hawaii. The advisory also includes a vast swath of Alaska's coast line, including parts of the panhandle. The Japanese government said it set up a taskforce for information gathering and response in case of any emergency. A University of Tokyo seismologist Shinichi Sakai told NHK that a distant earthquake could cause a tsunami that affects Japan if its epicenter is shallow.

US says Trump has 'final call' on China trade truce

STOCKHOLM. (Agency)

China and the United States agreed Tuesday to hold further talks on extending their tariff truce, but a top US trade official stressed that President Donald Trump would make any "final call."

The world's top two economies met for a second day of negotiations in Stockholm, with both sides seeking to avert tariffs from returning to sky-high levels that had ground trade between the rivals to an effective standstill. The meeting in a Swedish government building, led on the Chinese side by Vice Premier He Lifeng and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent for the Americans, ended without a resolution but with the US side voicing optimism. Neither government has made public any details from the talks, which started on Monday, although US Trade Representative Jameson Greer said Trump would have the "final call" on any extension in the truce. "Nothing has been agreed until we speak with President Trump," added Bessent, calling the tone of the talks "very constructive". The negotiations are taking place in the wake of a trade deal struck over the weekend that set US tariffs on most European Union imports at 15 percent, but none on American goods going to the EU. The truce between China and the United States has temporarily set fresh US duties on Chinese goods at 30 percent, while Chinese levies on trade in the other direction stand at 10 percent. That accord, reached in Geneva in May, brought down triple-digit tariffs each side had levelled at the other after a trade war sparked by Trump spiralled into a tit-for-tat bilateral escalation.

Elon Musk Confirms \$16.5 Billion AI Chip Deal With Samsung Electronics

Seoul. (Agency)

Tesla Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Elon Musk said he discussed the details of a recent semiconductor supply deal with Samsung Electronics Chairman, Lee Jae-yong. In a response to a user's comment on his X account on Tuesday (U.S. time) that Samsung Electronics "has no idea what they signed up for," Musk replied, "They do." "I had a video call with the chairman and senior leadership of Samsung to go over what a real partnership would be like," he continued, adding they will "use the strengths of both companies to achieve a great outcome." Later, when another user commented that "Samsung is definitely the underdog when it comes to chipmaking," Musk defended the South Korean tech giant, saying: "Both TSMC and Samsung are great companies. It is an honor to work with them." Shortly after Samsung Electronics announced a 22.8 trillion-won (US\$16.5 billion) deal to supply artificial intelligence (AI) chips to an undisclosed customer, Musk revealed that Tesla was the partner behind the contract, reports Yonhap news agency. He said Samsung Electronics will manufacture Tesla's next-generation AI6 chip at its new semiconductor plant in Texas, stressing, "The strategic importance of this is hard to overstate." Meanwhile, Samsung Chairman Lee departed for Washington, D.C., on Tuesday amid ongoing South Korea-US tariff discussions ahead of Friday's trade deadline.

'Taken out of the spa': Trump says Epstein 'stole' young women from his Florida club

Trump expanded on remarks he had made a day earlier, when he said he had banned Epstein from his Mar-a-Lago club two decades ago because his one-time friend "stole people that worked for me."

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

US President Donald Trump said Tuesday that Jeffrey Epstein "stole" young women who worked for the spa at Mar-a-Lago, the latest evolution in his description of how their highly scrutinized relationship ended years ago. One of the women, he acknowledged, was Virginia Giuffre, who was among Epstein's most well-known sex trafficking accusers. Trump's comments expanded on remarks he had made a day earlier, when he said he had banned Epstein from his private club in Florida two decades ago because his one-time friend

"stole people that worked for me." At the time, he did not make clear who those workers were. Trump has faced an outcry over his administration's refusal to release more records about Epstein after promises of transparency, a rare example of strain within Trump's tightly controlled political coalition. The Republican president has attempted to tamp down questions about the case, expressing annoyance that people are still talking about it six years after Epstein died by suicide while awaiting trial, even though some of his own allies have promoted conspiracy theories about it.

Ghislaine Maxwell, Epstein's imprisoned former girlfriend, was recently interviewed inside a Florida courthouse by the Justice Department's No. 2 official, Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche, though officials have not publicly disclosed what she said. Her lawyers said Tuesday that she's willing to answer more questions from Congress if she is granted immunity from future prosecution for her testimony and if lawmakers agree to satisfy other conditions. Aboard Air Force One while returning from Scotland, Trump said he was upset that Epstein was "taking people

who worked for me." The women, he said, were "taken out of the spa, hired by him — in other words, gone." "I said, listen, we don't want you taking our people," Trump



said. When it happened again, Trump said he banned Epstein from Mar-a-Lago.

Asked if Giuffre was one of the employees poached by Epstein, he demurred but then said "he stole her." The White House originally said Trump banned Epstein from Mar-a-Lago because he was acting like a "creep." Giuffre died by suicide earlier this year. She claimed that Maxwell spotted her working as a spa attendant at Mar-a-Lago in 2000, when she was a teenager, and hired her as Epstein's masseuse, which led to sexual abuse. Although Giuffre's

allegations did not become part of criminal prosecutions against Epstein, she is central to conspiracy theories about the case. She accused Epstein of pressuring her into having sex with powerful men. Maxwell, who has denied Giuffre's allegations, is serving a 20-year-prison sentence in a Florida federal prison for conspiring with Epstein to sexually abuse underage girls.

A spokeswoman for the House Oversight Committee, which requested the interview with Maxwell, said the panel would not consider granting the immunity she requested. The potential interview is part of a frenzied, renewed interest in the Epstein saga following the Justice Department's statement earlier this month that it would not be releasing any additional records from the investigation, an abrupt announcement that stunned online sleuths, conspiracy theorists and elements of Trump's political base who had been hoping to find proof of a government coverup. Since then, the Trump administration has sought to present itself as promoting transparency, with the department urging courts to unseal grand jury transcripts from the sex-trafficking investigations.

Massive 8.8 quake triggers tsunami across Russia, Japan, Hawaii and Alaska; Pacific coast on alert

World. (Agency)

One of the world's strongest earthquakes struck Russia's Far East early on Wednesday, an 8.8-magnitude tremor that caused small tsunami waves in Japan and Alaska and prompted warnings for Hawaii, North and Central America and Pacific islands south toward New Zealand.

Ports on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia near the quake's epicenter flooded as residents fled inland. Cars jammed streets and highways in Honolulu hours before tsunami waves were expected. People were advised to move to higher ground around much of the Pacific coast and warned that the potential tsunami danger may last for more than a day. Most places where tsunami waves have already washed ashore have reported no significant damage so far.

A tsunami 1.3 metres (4.3 feet) high

reached a port in Japan's northern Iwate prefecture at 1:52 pm (0452 GMT), Japan's weather agency said.

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) kept its tsunami alerts that waves of up to three metres (9.8 feet) were expected along Japan's Pacific coast, after a magnitude-8.8 earthquake off Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula. But higher waves were still arriving, said Shiji Kiyomoto, an earthquake and tsunami response official at JMA. A tsunami of 50 centimeters (1.6 feet) was detected at the Iwahomaki port in northern Japan, according to JMA. White waves washed up to the shoreline on Japan's Hokkaido in the north and Ibaraki and Chiba, just northeast of Tokyo, in footage aired on Japan's NHK public television. Tsunami waves over five feet were reported in Kahului, on the north-central coast of Maui, while

four-foot waves struck Haleiwa on Oahu's north shore, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Waves less than a foot (under 30 centimeters) above tide levels were observed in the Alaskan communities of Amchitka and Adak, said Dave Snider, tsunami warning coordinator with the National Tsunami Warning Center in Alaska. Russian authorities said a tsunami hit and flooded the port town of Severo-Kurilsk, while local media said one of between three and four metres high was recorded in the Elizovsky district of Kamchatka. A video posted on Russian social media showed buildings in the town submerged in seawater. Authorities said the population of around 2,000 people was evacuated. Several people were injured in Russia by the quake, state media reported, but none seriously.

Gunman who killed 4 in NYC building blamed NFL for mental health issues and was targeting its office

NEW YORK. (Agency)

A gunman who killed four people inside a Manhattan office tower blamed his mental health problems on the National Football League and intended to target its headquarters but took the wrong elevator, officials said Tuesday. Shane Tamura, a Las Vegas casino security worker, was carrying a handwritten note in his wallet that claimed he had chronic traumatic encephalopathy, known as CTE, investigators said. He accused the league of hiding the dangers of brain injuries linked to contact sports.

Tamura, 27, sprayed the skyscraper's lobby with bullets then shot another person in a 33rd-floor office on Monday before he killed himself, authorities said. Among the dead were a police officer, a security guard and two people who worked at companies in the building. An NFL employee was badly wounded but survived. The attacker's grievances with the NFL emerged as police worked to piece together his background and motivations, and as loved ones began to mourn the dead. It's unclear whether Tamura showed symptoms of CTE, which can be diagnosed only by

examining a brain after death.

Tamura, who played high school football in California a decade ago but never played in the NFL, had a history of mental illness, police said without giving details. In the three-page note found on his body, he accused the NFL of concealing the dangers to players'



the weapon's lower receiver. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said in a video statement. She and members of the force also paid tribute to Officer Didarul Islam, who was guarding the building on a paid security job when he was killed. His flag-draped remains arrived late Tuesday afternoon at the Bronx mosque preparing for his funeral.

A multifaith vigil

Mayor Eric Adams visited the scene and recalled working in the mailroom of the building as a young man.

"To have to walk through and see the remnants of violence at that level, tore at me," he told mourners at an evening multifaith vigil for those killed.

Muslim, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu, Christian and other faith leaders delivered prayers at the gathering held at a park about a dozen blocks from where the shooting took place. Both Adams and Gov. Kathy Hochul spoke of the need for stronger gun laws. Hochul said guns designed to kill people on battlefields shouldn't be in New York buildings.

Flagrant violation': Thailand accuses Cambodia of breaking ceasefire

The Spanish Air Force later took to X to explain what happened at the airshow and said the pilot performed the evasive manoeuvre to avoid hitting birds in the jet's flight path.

BANGKOK. (Agency)

Thailand accused Cambodia on Wednesday of a "flagrant violation" of a truce deal to end cross-border fighting, saying Cambodian troops launched an overnight attack on the frontier. The nations agreed to a ceasefire starting Tuesday after five days of clashes killed at least 43 on both sides, as a long-standing dispute over contested border temples

boiled over into open combat on their 800-kilometre (500-mile) frontier.

But Thailand's foreign ministry said its troops in Sisaket province "came under attack by small arms fire and grenade assaults launched by Cambodian forces" in an offensive which continued until Wednesday morning. "This represents a flagrant violation of the ceasefire agreement," said a foreign ministry statement. Thai government spokesman Jirayu Huangsab also reported overnight clashes but said in a statement "the Thai side maintained control of the situation" and "general conditions along the border are reported to be normal" from 8:00 am (0100 GMT). Cambodia has previously denied breaking the truce, designed to end fighting which has seen the two countries evacuate a total of more than 300,000 people from the border region. An AFP journalist on the Cambodian side who heard a steady drumbeat of artillery fire since fighting began last Thursday

reported hearing no blasts between the start of the truce and Wednesday morning. Still fragile: The armistice got off to a shaky start in the early hours of Tuesday, with Thailand accusing Cambodia of



continuing attacks in "a clear attempt to undermine mutual trust" -- before peace generally prevailed. Meetings between rival commanders along the border -- scheduled as part of the pact -- went ahead, with Thailand's army saying de-escalation

steps were agreed including "a halt on troop reinforcements or movements that could lead to misunderstandings". But later in the day a foreign affairs spokeswoman for Bangkok's border crisis centre, Maratee

Nalita Andamo, warned: "In this moment, in the early days of the ceasefire, the situation is still fragile. Jets, rockets and artillery have killed at least 15 Thai troops and 15 Thai civilians, while Cambodia has confirmed only eight civilian and five military deaths. The flare-up has surpassed the death toll of 28 in violence that raged sporadically from 2008 to 2011 over the territory, claimed by both nations because of a vague demarcation made by Cambodia's French colonial administrators in 1907. The peace pact was sealed in Malaysia after intervention from US President Donald Trump -- who both Thailand and Cambodia are courting for a trade deal to avert his threat of eye-watering tariffs.

Pothole-ridden road outside Ulhasnagar hospital puts patients, commuters at risk



ULHASNAGAR. (Agency)

The deteriorating condition of roads in Ulhasnagar city, particularly in front of the Central Hospital in Ulhasnagar-3, has become a daily source of inconvenience and danger for residents, commuters, and even patients visiting the city's main govt hospital.

The main road connecting various parts of the city developed large potholes, creating massive traffic snarls, especially during peak hours. Motorcyclists are particularly at risk, with multiple incidents reported of riders losing balance and falling due to uneven surfaces.

Adding to the gravity of the situation, this critical stretch leads directly to Central Hospital, where hundreds of patients and their relatives visit every day. Many of them, already dealing with health concerns, now face the added burden of navigating treacherous road conditions to access medical care.

The same road also houses several key govt institutions, including the Public Works Department (PWD), Excise Department, Ulhasnagar Police Station, and even the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Office. Despite the importance of this stretch, no significant repair work was initiated, raising serious questions about Ulhasnagar Municipal Corporation administrative apathy. Local citizens and shopkeepers have expressed growing frustration with the lack of response from municipal authorities. "It's shocking that a road leading to the main hospital and police station is in such poor condition. Authorities are well aware, but no action is being taken," said Ashok Bajaj, a local resident.

Chairman among two held in Rs 140 cr Mudra co-operative scam



HYDERABAD. (Agency)

The CID has arrested two key accused in a Rs 140 crore scam involving the Mudra Agriculture Skill Development Multi-State Co-operative Society, which allegedly defrauded farmers, daily wagers and shopkeepers with promises of high-interest returns. Chairman Thippineni Ramadasappa Naidu (61) was held in Amaravati, while member Thippineni Sai Kiran (43) was arrested in Hyderabad. The duo mimicked the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, falsely claiming government backing and luring people with promises of jobs and returns.

Telangana CID chief Charu Sinha said the society grew to 330 branches with 1,600 employees and over 2,000 victims. Jobseekers were asked to deposit money as share capital, submit original certificates and were assigned collection targets. Many were penalised, denied salaries and certificates or threatened with defamation.

Funds were diverted for personal gain, including investments in APIIC Ltd for industrial plots in Andhra Pradesh. Further probe is on to trace the money trail and identify more accused.

Wayanad disaster a year on: Time stands still in valley of despair

Mumbai. (Agency)

CHOORALMALA. "I lost 11 members of my family. Body of only one was found. The earth swallowed the rest," said 68-year-old Asiya, her eyes fixed on the rain-soaked graves at Puthumala. A year has passed since the landslide that tore through the hills of Chooralmala and Mundakkai, but for people like her, time has not moved on. On Tuesday morning, as clouds hung low over the hills, Asiya returned to Puthumala — the mass burial site of the victims. The IUML had organised an all-religion prayer meet to mark the first anniversary of the tragedy. "Sometimes I wake up hearing their voices," she whispered. "I don't know if it's a dream or a memory. I lost everybody," said Asiya.

She was not alone in her grief. Survivors and former residents arrived from across Wayanad, most now living in rented homes in Meppadi and Kalpetta, with flowers and heavy hearts.

"We have nothing left in Chooralmala. We buried our dreams and happiness along with our loved ones here," said Sainaba, standing

by the edge of the graveyard. Many wandered through what remained of their old homes. Overgrown paths now lead to collapsed roofs and moss-covered walls. A few residents had returned after months, just to see what the place that raised them had become.

On the intervening night of July 29 and 30, 2024, a massive landslide struck Chooralmala and Mundakkai in Wayanad, triggered by heavy monsoon rain. It claimed nearly 300 lives, injured hundreds, and displaced over 10,000 people. Entire settlements were wiped out, with many people buried under debris as they slept.

Rescue teams, including the Army and NDRF, worked round the clock to save survivors, and a Bailey bridge was built in 31 hours to restore access. One year later, many still struggle with trauma, loss, and slow-paced rehabilitation. For Shyja Baby,

the visit brought back unbearable memories. As the former ward member of Mundakkai, she had lived among the victims. On the morning of the landslide, she found herself helping



officials identify the bodies. "These weren't just my neighbours. They were my people. I knew every face, every family," she said. "Some I recognised by the clothes they wore. Others... just by a slipper or a bit of jewellery. That pain stays with you."

The Bailey bridge still stretches across the Punnappuzha river. Faded, it says nothing, but holds the weight of everything that happened. On Tuesday, officials from ULCCS visited the site to take measurements for a new bridge, which the PWD hopes to begin building by August.

Outside the no-go zone, a few shops remain open. One of them belongs to Rekha, a Chooralmala native who refused to leave. "Only plantation workers and a few policemen stop by," she said. "But we have nowhere else to go. Even if it hurts, this is home." As usual a special KSRTC bus rolled through the Chooralmala road, picking up children. They used to study at Mundakkai LP School and Vellarmala GVHSS — schools that were swallowed by the landslide. Now, the children sit in borrowed classrooms — Mundakkai LP students inside the Meppadi Panchayat Hall, and Vellarmala students at the Meppadi HSS.

Iconic pair's era ends: Jay reunites with Veeru in death

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

A dominant presence will no longer be felt in Gir. Jay and Veeru, the iconic pair of lions who hunted and ruled together have reunited — in death. Over a month after Veeru's death from fatal fight injuries, his partner, Jay joined him, losing his battle with serious injuries suffered during an episode of in-fighting on June 7 that had also left buddy in death's arms. Forest officials announced Jay breathed his last on Tuesday afternoon. Veeru had died during treatment on June 11.

"Jay too suffered serious injuries to his rear and was under treatment. We tried our best to save him. When modern medicine could not heal him, we even tried ayurveda, but in vain," said Mohan Ram, a deputy conservator of forest headquarters, Sasan. The pair, always together for close to five years, were given the names for their bond which was as fierce as their dominance, just like the heroic pair of the film, 'Sholay'. "They were inseparable when alive, and could not be separated by death either, till they died," said a senior officer who has tracked the duo in the past.

Department officials said the two lions were attacked separately by two different groups of males. Jay, attacked first by a group from the Kasia area, was brought in for treatment with serious injuries to his rear. "Left alone, Veeru was attacked by another group from the Khokar side, all in the protected Gir Sanctuary. The injuries were grave — Veeru had three to four deep bite marks in the rear — which proved fatal for him. He stopped eating and died on June 11," an official said.

"Jay and Veeru dominated nearly half of the tourism zone and were never spotted alone. It was destiny that Jay ventured out alone while Veeru went in the other direction. The two had control from Malanka to Kasia Ness and Gadharia. The two males had about 15 females in their group, eight to nine sub-adults and about 14 cubs who were below one year," said a senior officer.

Mumbaikars lose Rs 1,127 crore to cybercrime in 15 months

Mumbai. (Agency)

Mumbaikars lost Rs 1,127 crore to various cybercrimes in the 15 months from Jan 2024 to March 2025, data with the city police shows. Around 85% of the total financial losses — nearly Rs 964 crore — were a result of cyber-cheating, which includes share trading frauds, digital arrests, cryptocurrency scams, provident fund scams and such.

Incidents of sextortion resulted in losses up to Rs 47 crore while credit card fraud resulted in losses of Rs 34 crore in the same period.

Experts demanded more accountability from banks and penalties for non-compliance of guidelines. They demanded govt-run insurance schemes for cybercrime related financial losses and mental health interventions for victims.

Cybercrime lawyer Prashant Mali said actual losses could be higher than what the police data reflects. "Fearing social ostracisation, not every victim would approach the police to report a cybercrime. Even in instances where

victims come forward, the complaint may not be converted into an FIR," Mali said. In March, an elderly woman from south Mumbai lost Rs 20 crore in a digital arrest scam where she was accused of money laundering and kept hostage at home for two months. Earlier this month, a pilot working with a leading airline was duped of Rs 3 crore in a meticulously planned investment scam which involved a malicious trading app.

In the first three months of this year alone, digital arrest scams led to Rs 73 crore in losses, while investment scams resulted in Rs 118 crore in losses.

Mali said victims of cyber financial crimes are left running from pillar to post in an attempt to get their money back. "I'm handling cases where individuals have lost their life's savings and are under severe mental trauma. There is a need for cyber crime trauma centres where such victims can seek help. The union govt should have Digital India Insurance schemes offering cover for cybercrime related financial losses," he said. Financial cybercrimes are a blow to the country's economy as sums defrauded from individuals here are often converted to cryptocurrency and sent to masterminds overseas. Cybercrime investigator Ritesh Bhatia argued that while the thrust of all govt-led cybersecurity campaigns is on creating awareness among individuals, what is missing is a robust accountability framework.

HC lifts stay on civil prison order against builder, initiates contempt proceedings

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

The Gujarat high court has lifted the stay on an order by the Gujarat Real Estate Regulatory Authority (GujRERA) to detain office bearers of Pacifica Developers Pvt Ltd, including its managing director Rakesh Israni, in a 60-day civil prison. The developers were penalised for failing to hand over possession of a house to a customer and allegedly selling the same property to a third party.

In addition to clearing the way for execution of the civil prison order, Justice Vaibhavi Nanavati last week referred the case to a division bench for the initiation of contempt of court proceedings against Israni, the company, and other office bearers — Darpan Tarwani, Kaushik Patel, and Jay Chandani — for making false statements before the court. "The conduct of the original petitioners in SCA No. 20527 of 2022 is contemptuous and requires action. This court deems it fit to refer the original petitioners to the bench handling contempt matters," the order reads.

In 2019, GujRERA had ordered Pacifica



Developers to hand over possession of a flat to the complainant, Rachna Sharma. When they failed to comply, GujRERA, in October 2022, directed that Israni and others be sent to civil prison for 60 days.

The developers approached the high court after couple days, offering a settlement and depositing Rs 24 lakh, as ordered by the court, to

be paid to Sharma. The court accepted the proposal and stayed the GujRERA order of civil detention.

Later, Sharma's advocate, Vishal Dave, informed the court that the developers had approached the high court again and sought to withdraw their petition, stating they would instead file an appeal before the RERA appellate tribunal. The court allowed this and continued the stay on the civil detention order.

However, in 2024, Sharma approached the court again, stating that the developers had never filed an appeal before the appellate tribunal and had continued to enjoy the stay order wrongfully.

Justice Nanavati observed, "The aforesaid in the opinion of this court, is nothing but abuse of process of law and the said act is contemptuous in nature and in the opinion of this court, the original petitioners (builders) are jointly and severally liable for the same." While referring the matter to a division bench for contempt proceedings, the high court also ordered the release of the Rs 24 lakh deposit to Sharma.

LDF, UDF delegations in Chhattisgarh protest over arrest of Malayali nuns

Ahmedabad. (Agency)

KOCHI. Amid rising political tension over the arrest of two Catholic nuns hailing from Kerala, delegations of LDF and UDF arrived at Durg in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday. While the UDF delegation could meet Sr Vandana and Sr Peethy Mary, the LDF team was asked to return on Wednesday. Angamaly MLA Roji M John, Kollam MP N K Premachandran, Chalakudy MP Benny Behanan, Kottayam MP Francis George and Saji Joseph comprised the UDF delegation. The LDF delegation, led by Brinda Karat and including Rajya Sabha MPs Jose K Mani, A A Rahim, P P Suneer and John Brittas and Alathur MP K Radhakrishnan, is scheduled to meet the nuns between 9am and 10am. Francis told TNIE that they were not

allowed to meet the nuns initially. This led the UDF delegation to stage an impromptu dharna in front of the police station. "The police prevented us from entering the station and told us to come the next day. However, we came to know BJP leaders Anoop Antony and Shone George had been allowed to meet the nuns earlier. They are the reason why we were turned away," alleged Francis.

Following this, the UDF leaders contacted former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel. "He ensured that we meet the nuns. The nuns are doing okay under the current circumstances. We talked to them. Though emotionally traumatised, they have not been harmed physically. But that can't be said about the man who had accompanied the three girls. He

suffered physical harm," said the UDF MP.

Meanwhile, the LDF delegation arrived at Durg only in the evening. "We arrived late and were told that the visiting time was over. We have been asked to come between 9am and 10am on Wednesday. We will be talking to the nuns and also their family members, who have arrived here, to coordinate the next legal steps that need to be taken. A bail application will be moved on Wednesday," Jose K Mani told.

Church outfits protest against arrest of nuns

Various Church organisations staged protests in Ernakulam and Thrissur on Tuesday against the arrest of two nuns in Chhattisgarh. In Kochi, the Kerala Latin Catholic Association (KLCA) took out a protest march,

condemning the arrests as being based on false charges.

The protesters termed the incident an encroachment on the Constitution and accused the Chhattisgarh government of enabling communal forces. The KLCA also called for strong intervention from the Central government in the matter. In Thrissur, a protest march was held under the aegis of the Syro-Malabar Church's Thrissur archdiocese.

Muraleedharan alleges attempts to target BJP

Senior BJP leader V Muraleedharan has come out against attempts to target the BJP in the arrest of nuns in Chhattisgarh. At a political explanation meeting at Pallithura here, Muraleedharan alleged a conspiracy behind the allegations targeting the BJP.



Big platforms take over, small businesses flutter

Small is beautiful. Well, it was. Once upon a time. Today, life in the fast-track world of business and commerce is about scale. Big is beautiful, the model embraced by all. I talk of India today in particular. If you peek into the realm of commerce, it is e-commerce and D2C. If you peek into the food ordering and restaurant business, it is the big that dominates. Food-delivery apps are the norm, and no small restaurant can afford to be outside of it. If you look into the realm of public commute, cab-aggregator apps are the norm. The standalone autorickshaw or cab driver outside of this ecosystem is struggling to survive. I base this entire column on my recent research exercise, where I took random sample sizes from three distinct realms: The grocery business, fresh food outlets (restaurants) and the cab commute business (autorickshaws and taxi cabs included). The data summation is of India's top eight cities.

The breaking news is the sad fact that every small business across these three verticals is battling to survive. Being a standalone player in these three spaces is no longer a viable business proposition. This is particularly so when it comes to traditional nondifferentiated businesses in each realm. Take autorickshaw drivers in Bengaluru. The city currently has 3,55,000 autos. Competition is intense, and the ratio of autorickshaws to humans is rather dense. The small, standalone autorickshaw driver, who is not on a cab aggregator app, is fighting to survive. Therefore, every auto driver wants to be on an app because finding customers is suddenly that much easier. The app appropriates that task. Business happens. And for this business to happen, you need to belong to an app. The restaurant business in the past was about establishing a set of in-restaurant diners who would come in seeking a great taste. Every restaurant had a set of items which no one else had. A Peter Cat in Kolkata had to be visited for something specific, just as an Arsalan was a mandatory visit for the best biryanis to try. Things have changed, however, today. The food-delivery apps are in with vigour. If you observe the traffic flow in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Kolkata, or any of the eight cities we have studied, at lunchtime, 13 percent of it comprises food delivery aggregators. Arifical Intelligence uses Arifical Intelligence uses

The same is the case with your corner 'kirana' grocery outlet. You need to belong to an app that takes online orders and distributes them. Out here, however, life is more complex. The aggregator has decided not to distribute orders around to the kirana stores. Instead, the aggregator has invested in their own dark store. He procures stocks directly from the manufacturer, eliminating the shopkeeper as a middleman. The app is the middleman. In the bargain, kirana outlets in Indore have lost as much as 31 percent of their top-line business volume. In Chennai, the hit rate is a deeper 37 percent. Every city has its unique story about top-line volume loss. On top of it, the top-line volume loss has put pressure on the small store and its margin. The small store owner has now reduced his prices to sell to those who still come to him as part of a desperate customer retention policy. In the bargain, his margin is down as well. A typical 12 percent margin on most fast-moving products has now decreased to 8.5 percent in Indore and 8 percent in Chennai. This loss of topline volume and bottom-line margin has impacted those employed in these stores. Job losses are the norm. Livelihoods are, therefore, under stress.

We then checked 107 traffic signals in the big cities. At lunchtime (between 12:30 and 2:30 pm), a whopping 13 percent of vehicles belong to food aggregator apps, and 14 percent to grocery delivery apps. The rest of the traffic belongs to you and me; nearly six percent represents the cab aggregator apps. That's a lot of vehicles on the road that have replaced the small ones. Big is the norm.

IT seems that we are living in a wounded society characterised by some sort of cultural neurosis, widespread violence, hatred and anger. Where are the ideals of India as a civilisation—the ideals we learned from great sages, mystics, poets, philosophers and freedom fighters? Why is it that all noble visions—say, the ethos of cultural/religious/linguistic pluralism; the quest for a fine thread of harmony and connectedness amid splendid diversities; and the longing for the union of the material and the spiritual—are disappearing fast? Of course, it is possible to say that these ideals are just empty words, and India was never free from institutionalised hierarchy, social and economic inequality, cultural conflict and associated violence.

Yet, in the process of our journey towards modernity and decolonisation, as a careful look at the works of Gandhi, Tagore, Nehru, Ambedkar, Maulana Azad and above all, the vision implicit in our Constitution would indicate, we sought to strive for these principles. India was economically poor, but our civilisational ideal was pretty high. The irony is that at this moment, when the nation loves to flaunt the tag of the 'fourth largest economy' in the world, there is no end to our moral and cultural fall. Take, for instance, what we witnessed recently in the streets of Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh: the degradation of Kanwar Yatra—an annual pilgrimage of the devotees of Shiva to sacred sites like Hardwar, Gaumukh and Gangotri in order to fetch holy water of the Ganga, and carry it on their shoulders for hundreds of miles to offer it in their local Shiva shrines—into sheer hooliganism and vandalism.

Yes, some of these 'pilgrims', it seems, were on a mission to demonstrate their anger and brute masculinity. We saw how they targeted roadside dhabas and stalls over disputes on nameplates; we saw them vandalising a school bus in Meerut; and they even punched a CRPF jawan at Mirzapur railway station during an argument over train tickets. Their noisy journey generated fear and anxiety, not the rhythmic music of spiritual harmony.

Even though Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath warned us against 'defaming' Kanwariyas,

the fact is that some of these 'devotees' looked like a gang of directionless youngsters carrying hockey sticks and trishuls, demonstrating their hidden anger, frustration and the utter meaninglessness of a non-reflexive, non-meditative existence. In fact, it is this lumpen brigade the Machiavellian political masters often pamper in order to implement their divisive agenda. There seems to be no end to this sort of cultural neurosis. Think of, for instance, our refusal to accept that India is about diversities. Imagine that you are travelling on a local train in Mumbai. You are bound to see people speaking in many languages—Marathi, Bhojpuri, Hindi, English. This is cosmopolitanism; this is the experience of modernity and mobility; and this is

broken Hindi or English. This is understandable. However, because of the absence of even this minimal empathy, we are seeing overenthusiastic 'pro-Kannada' groups asking these 'outsiders' to speak Kannada or leave Karnataka immediately.

Of course, it is desirable to see beyond our mother tongues, expand our mental horizons and become sensitive to the rich traditions of many other languages. In fact, it is the art of good translation that helps us internalise the spirit of cross-cultural conversations. I do not know Kannada. However, it is the power of good translation as a bridge between cultures that has enabled me to read the works of a great Kannada literary figure like the late UR Ananthamurthy, and enrich my vision of the world.

Likewise, I assume that there are many Tamil-speaking people who too, because of translation, have read the works of Munshi Premchand and got a glimpse of the rich Hindi literary sphere. We need this willingness to overcome the otherness of the 'other'. However, the closure of the mind we see in the recent language politics negates this very spirit of India as a civilisation.

Possibly, it is the fear of the 'other', and the resultant paranoid and psychic insecurity that leads to this sort of cultural neurosis. Is there any way we can heal ourselves, and move towards collective sanity? Even though the master narrative of Hindutva speaks of unity, it is essentially divisive as it is based on a conflicting binary: Hindus vs Muslims. The violence implicit in such a homogenised doctrine is infectious. No wonder it even simplifies Hinduism and misses the heterodoxy within it. Not every Hindu, for instance, worships Rama. Or, for that matter, not every Hindu is a vegetarian.

If you visit Kolkata during the Durga Puja festival, you are bound to see Bengali Hindus enjoying chicken biryani and fish cutlet outside pandals. Even if a vegetarian Gujarati Hindu feels uneasy with this indulgence with non-vegetarian food, the fact is that it can't be wished away. We need to accept this wonder called India, and cherish these diversities. It is this libertarian education that alone can enable us to overcome the prevalent cultural neurosis.



the reflection of India's diversities.

Yet, when we see angry members of the Maharashtra Navnirman Sena attacking a food stall owner in Thane for his inability to speak in Marathi, we realise how this sort of linguistic chauvinism negates the very spirit of India. Or, imagine a young software engineer from West Bengal or Assam who has just arrived in Bengaluru in search of a better fortune. You cannot expect her/him to speak Kannada fluently; possibly, she/he will try to communicate with a cab driver or a delivery boy in

TCS layoffs flag AI-induced pain, need for safety net

The TCS disclosure reminds us of the consequences of AI—the programming of machines to simulate human intelligence

Everyone knew that artificial intelligence (AI) had arrived, and it would cost jobs. When it has hit home, it hurts. India's largest IT services provider, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has announced it will lay off 12,260 employees, around 2 percent of its global workforce, this financial year. The company deemed it necessary to become 'future-ready' in an era of AI-led business transformation. It is a euphemism for describing the challenging times TCS and other IT companies face in a slowing global economy, increased competition and turbulent tariff and other geopolitical challenges. TCS's plans come soon after its poorest first-quarter financial performance since 2020. The results showed that overall revenue fell by 3.1 percent, while dollar revenues slipped 1.1 percent.

Arifical Intelligence uses Arifical Intelligence uses TCS isn't the only one letting go of its employees. Start-ups have retrenched 3,600 personnel early this year. Other tech companies, including Infosys, Wipro, and HCL Tech have slowed fresher recruitment and let go of small batches of older staff. At the international level, it's a stampede. Tech



giant Microsoft terminated over 6,000 employees this May. The announcement followed the confirmation by CEO Satya Nadella that AI currently writes 30 percent of the company's code. One employment tracker has claimed that over 80,000 employees across 169 tech companies

have been laid off in 2025. The TCS disclosure reminds us of the consequences of AI—the programming of machines to simulate human intelligence, enabling them to 'think' and 'learn' to solve problems, make predictions and take decisions. Management consultancy Goldman Sachs reminds us we could lose as many as 300 million full-time jobs worldwide. McKinsey projects that by 2030, nearly 30 percent of working hours in the US could be automated. However, all technological change—AI is a significant one—creates turbulence in the present, but yields rewards in the future. Many have forgotten that computerisation arrived decades ago, accompanied by some job losses, but it ultimately expanded the employment base manifold in the long run.

The World Economic Forum's recent "Future of Jobs" report, for instance, forecasts that 83 million jobs globally will be eliminated by 2027, but 69 million new roles will emerge. What is necessary, though, is an immediate safety net that will retrain and redeploy those who have been rendered redundant.

17th BRICS Summit: Bold words, blunt impact

While this Declaration is timely and music to many, and at first glance looks impressive and ambitious, a closer reading reveals its limited substance. Instead of providing new solutions, many of the clauses reiterate past positions and lack substantive commitment

If one were to go solely by the Declaration of the 17th BRICS Summit held in Rio de Janeiro without context, the Summit appears to be a roaring success. It hit the right notes on cooperation, projecting a cohesive voice for the Global South, and standing up to the Global North with calls for radical economic and governance reform. With the Declaration spanning over 100 clauses that cover the BRICS pillars of political and security, economic and financial, cultural and people-to-people cooperation, the Declaration at first glance appears both extensive and impressive. However, beneath the rhetoric, the document essentially reiterates past positions, which lack substance and fail to provide a clear roadmap for implementation. The core of the BRICS agenda has been to position and present itself as an alliance to counter Western dominance and advance Global South cooperation. The Declaration recognises the need for progressive tax reform to help reduce inequality. However, it limits itself to the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, while missing the opportunity to discuss and develop other mechanisms for just taxation, such as global corporate tax or programmes for regional tax cooperation among BRICS+ countries.

The Declaration raises alarm about an increase in global military spending. It also reiterated BRICS' commitment to the peaceful resolution of international disputes through dialogue, consultation and diplomacy. It condemned the military strikes against Iran, a member of BRICS, in particular on 'peaceful nuclear facilities'. It called it a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as well as relevant resolutions of the IAEA.

It raised grave concern about the continuous Israeli attacks against Gaza, obstruction of the entry of humanitarian aid into the territory and use of starvation as a method of warfare, and called for adherence to international law. It called for negotiations to achieve an "immediate, permanent and unconditional ceasefire, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and all other parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory".

Arifical Intelligence uses Arifical Intelligence uses

Taking the US tariff regime by its horns, it raised serious concerns about the rise of unilateral tariff and non-tariff measures. That, and several trade cooperations on agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture and digital infrastructure, among others, have invited an immediate and (now) predictable response from President Trump, threatening to impose a 10 percent additional tariff on nations backing 'anti-American' BRICS. The Declaration also acknowledges the high debt levels in some countries, which reduce the fiscal space needed to address ongoing development challenges as well as resolving to remain united in the pursuit of the purpose and goals of the Paris Agreement, at a time when the Trump Administration withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, reversing prior US commitments to global climate action.

While this Declaration is timely and music to many, and at first glance looks impressive and ambitious, a closer reading reveals its limited substance. Instead of providing new solutions, many of the clauses reiterate

past positions and lack substantive commitment. For example, from 2012 to 2023, six BRICS summit declarations—hosted in New Delhi (2012, 2021), Ufa (2015), Moscow (2020), Beijing (2022), and Kazan (2023)—have explicitly demanded reforms in multilateral institutions, including the UN Security Council, IMF, WTO, and related bodies. The demand did not go any further. With 45 percent of the global population and over 35 percent of the world's GDP, this



Declaration does not outline how they intend to leverage the power of this alliance to achieve something differently this time. Across this and previous Declarations, importance and centrality are placed on Western-led institutions, rather than creating mechanisms for autonomy and leverage or developing alternative frameworks. Countries like India, which try to tread two paths simultaneously—being the 'Voice of

Global South' and maintaining good relations with the United States regime—weakens the ability of BRICS to stand upright. India seemed to have sleepwalked into the Declaration. After abstaining from a UNGA resolution calling for "immediate, unconditional, lasting ceasefire in Gaza" and refusing to sign the SCO statement condemning Israel's military strikes on Iran, both in June 2025, India's signing the BRICS statement, which is unequivocal on both issues, is either because its sleepwalking into it or for the FOMO effect.

Persisting with this trend of contradiction, India continues to strengthen economic and security ties with Western allies. Despite the emphasis of the Declaration on multipolarity and South-South solidarity, India's growing relations with powers such as the US, the UK, Israel, and other countries in the EU suggest otherwise, with India even hosting the QUAD dialogue in 2025. Many of India's actions contravene the commitments in the Declaration. For example, the current talks between India and the US, which could potentially open up India's agricultural sector, oppose the commitment to protecting farmers and food systems. These contradictions in India and other countries also contribute to the alliance's inability to function as a powerful bloc. Seventeen years into its formation, it is clear that BRICS+ must evolve beyond mere words and commitments to consider meaningful reform. Within the current geopolitical context, this need becomes more urgent than ever. With India set to assume the BRICS+ presidency in 2026, it has an opportunity to implement the 17th BRICS Declaration into practice.

'System has collapsed': 650 private hospitals in Haryana to exit Ayushman Scheme; reimbursements stuck, facilities strained

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Indian Medical Association's Haryana unit on Tuesday issued a notice announcing that 650 private hospitals across the state will stop treating patients under the Centre's Ayushman Bharat scheme from Aug 7 if reimbursements amounting to Rs 500 crore aren't cleared by then. Officials of IMA (Haryana), which had issued a similar warning in Jan earlier this year, said the state's administration of the scheme was in a state of "chronic breakdown". Most private hospitals have only gotten 10-15% of their billed amounts in reimbursements since March, forcing them to dip into their own reserves or turn patients away, they said.

"The situation is worse than before. Hospitals cannot continue offering free treatment under the scheme without timely reimbursements. We're now at a point where running the system is financially impossible," said Dr Mahavir Jain, president of IMA (Haryana).

According to Haryana govt data, there are 1,300 hospitals, including 650 private ones and 60 in Gurgaon, empanelled under the Ayushman Bharat scheme. Around 1.8 crore people in the state are registered under the health insurance scheme, which was launched by the central govt in 2018 to provide free medical facilities and treatments up to Rs 5 lakh a year. Ayushman Bharat, which covers anything between routine tests to surgeries, can be availed by families with annual income of less than Rs 2.5 lakh, the elderly, and others. Hospitals empanelled under the scheme provide free-of-charge treatment to registered patients and later raise reimbursement requests from the govt on an online portal. These reimbursements are reviewed and cleared by a state agency, after which payments are disbursed.

"Govt promised us that dues would be cleared soon after our meeting with the chief minister earlier this year. But the delays have continued, and many hospitals are now getting reimbursement amounts with arbitrary deductions and without any explanations," said Dr Dhirendra K Soni, secretary of IMA-Haryana.

33-year-old man found dead, father alleges murder by two friends

Faridabad.(Agency)

A 33-year-old property dealer allegedly took his life by hanging himself in his home in Sector 8, Faridabad. His father, however, alleged his two friends, who were also his business partners, had murdered him. A case has been registered under BNS sections 103 (murder) and 3(5)(common intention).

Audit had been living in Faridabad for the last three years and had a property business with his friends, Yatin and Amit. "My son told me several times that his business partners were threatening and intimidating him over business transactions," Audit's father said in his complaint. He was informed on Monday afternoon that his son was admitted to Sarvodaya Hospital and found out he had passed away once he reached the hospital. According to the police, his body was found hanging from his house's ceiling fan using a bedsheets. "Yatin came to his house around 9.30am. When Audit did not answer the door, Yatin knocked the door down and found him there," police officials said. The officer said the family could not reach the hospital by the evening, so the postmortem was delayed. "We have now conducted the postmortem and have handed over the body to the family," police said. According to police, the exact cause of Audit's death will be known after the forensic report is published, after which further investigation will begin. As of now, none of the alleged accused have not been questioned in the matter.

Man accused of theft hung upside down and thrashed in Gurgaon condo, 4 arrested

NOIDA.(Agency)

A man was hung upside down and thrashed with sticks as people watched from a distance at an under-construction building at ILD Greens society.

The victim, a resident of Rajasthan who worked as an earthmover operator, was allegedly caught stealing power cables from the society campus in June. A video of the assault recently uploaded on social media showed him crying and pleading for mercy while being thrashed by his assailants. A security guard's attempt to intervene proved futile. Although no formal complaint was filed, cops in the city took *suo motu* cognisance of the video and arrested four security guards employed at the society in Sector 37C. The arrested accused are Pushpendra (39) from Madhya Pradesh, Kirshan Kumar (19) and Ajit Singh (38) from Haryana, and Amit Kumar (39) from Punjab. "We initiated legal action despite the victim not approaching us. The incident appears to be from June 10 or 11," said assistant sub-inspector Sandeep Kumar. A case was registered against the guards under sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt), 127(2) (wrongful confinement), 3(5) (act done by several persons), and 351(2) (criminal intimidation) of the BNS at Sector 10 police station.

Crèche & girls' hostel at housing units: Buildings sealed in Gurgaon's Sushant Lok-1

Gurgaon.(Agency)

Upscale Sushant Lok 1 township saw a major enforcement drive on Sunday and Monday after "glaring violations of residential zoning regulations".

Crèche plots used for schools and dance training facility and a girls' hostel in a residential area — these were among the violations that led to the action by the department of town and country planning (DTCP), which has sealed three key locations. The drive was launched in coordination with local authorities and personnel from Sector 29 police and Sushant Lok police post in the first case, authorities sealed six rooms at a plot designated for crèche use in C-2 Block.

The premises were being used for unauthorised activities such as primary and secondary school classes, as well as dance training — none of which are permitted in residential crèche plots.

This misuse raised serious concerns

6 lanes, footpaths: Revamp for key e-way link by early next year in Gurgaon

Gurgaon.(Agency)

The long-pending revamp of the stretch connecting Naurangpur Road and Rampura Chowk on NH8 may kick off early next year, with GMDA having received the administrative approval for the project in April. According to the GMDA's plan, the upgraded stretch will have an 84m wide road, featuring a six-lane main carriageway, surface drains, footpaths and a central verge. The corridor will also improve connectivity with Taura, Nuh and parts of Rajasthan. The key arterial road — connecting Naurangpur to Rampura Chowk on NH8 — serves as a lifeline for residents of sectors 78, 79 and 80.

It has long suffered from poor road conditions and increasing traffic volumes due to rapid urbanisation in the surrounding areas. This expansion is expected to ease mounting traffic pressure in the newly developed sectors along the highway. The existing 5.5-metre-wide stretch has become "increasingly unsafe" and inconvenient for daily commuters.

GMDA is now in the process of appointing a consultant to prepare a detailed project report (DPR), which is crucial, officials said, since multiple utilities — such as water pipelines, sewerage lines, electricity cables and telecom infrastructure — are laid along the 2km-long corridor. A proper assessment is needed to plan their relocation and estimate the overall project cost. GMDA earlier estimated the cost of redevelopment at Rs 41.8 crore. A GMDA official said, "The report will help assess the cost of relocating these utilities and help in executing the work in a planned manner to minimise disruption."

While the alignment of this master road was finalised years ago and land compensation awarded in 2016, the project faced multiple setbacks due to encroachments and administrative delays. A breakthrough came in March this year when Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran carried out a demolition drive to remove illegal structures blocking the proposed alignment.

regarding child safety, traffic congestion and violation of approved land use.

In the second case, an entire building in B-Block was sealed after it was found to be operating as a girls' hostel and for other commercial purposes, despite being situated in a residential zone. According to officials, the conversion of residential premises into high-density commercial accommodations like hostels not only violates zoning laws but also disturbs the peaceful character of the neighbourhood and puts pressure on civic infrastructure. The third and perhaps most concerning violation involved unauthorised construction in the stilt (parking) area of a residential building, despite the property having already been granted an occupation certificate. Authorities found fresh brickwork and partitioning activity underway, indicating an attempt to convert the stilt space into habitable or



commercial units. The space was promptly sealed to prevent further misuse. A senior DTCP official

said, "Such enforcement drives are necessary to maintain the planned character of Gurgaon's residential areas. Illegal conversions not only breach development norms but also compromise structural safety and public convenience."

Reactions from residents were mixed. Kavita Sharma, a long-time resident of Sushant Lok 1, welcomed the crackdown. "I'm glad the authorities are finally taking action. These illegal setups were turning our quiet lane into a noisy, congested commercial street," she said.

However, not everyone was in agreement. Ramesh Arora, a property owner in the area, expressed disappointment, saying, "There's no clear communication or warnings. People invest their savings into these properties. A little flexibility or at least prior notice would help."

Flaws in infra, sewage spills into parks & open plots, raises a stink in Gurgaon's Sector 9A

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Residents of Sector 9A have been facing persistent sewage overflows due to a malfunctioning main pumping station (MPS) in the area. They pointed out repeated failure of the pumping station to channel sewage to the treatment plant (STP), resulting in raw sewage continuing to stagnate near residential areas and creating an unbearable stench, further posing severe hygiene and environmental risks. Residents have written to GMDA CEO Shyamal Misra, seeking his intervention on the matter. The MPS was built to channel sewage across the railway line to a treatment plant at Dhanwad.

Residents say that raw sewage flows along the railway track and spills into nearby green belts, parks, and open plots. "This is not a one-off issue after rains; we have been living with this for years. Our parks have turned into dumping grounds for sewage. The trees we planted five to six years ago started dying, and the park is no longer safe for any kind of use," said Lalit Bhol, general secretary of the RWA.

According to residents, they have made repeated complaints to GMDA officials, but no lasting measures have been taken to resolve the issue. "Every time we raise the matter, we are told the motors are under capacity or the system is overloaded — but nothing is done to prevent the sewage

from spilling out," Bhol added. In response, a GMDA official maintained that the system is working as intended. "The main pumping station is functioning at full capacity, and the discharge is occurring through freefall, ensuring smooth outflow. During the monsoon season, the MPS can pump up to 230

MLD against its 168 MLD usual capacity," the official said. Residents, however, questioned these claims. "If everything is running smoothly, then why is sewage still flowing through our sector?" asked RS Balwada, a resident.

With the ongoing monsoon intensifying the overflow, residents say the situation is worsening, with no interim arrangements such as containment or redirection in place. "Besides creating unlivable conditions in our sector, it is causing environmental degradation. There should be some temporary arrangement as they cannot remain in denial while residents keep suffering," Balwada added. In July last year, the govt had approved the augmentation of the existing main pumping station up to 665.5 MLD capacity. Subsequently, the GMDA started the tendering process in May this year, but extended the timeline for submitting the bid to August. Once construction begins, the project, estimated at Rs 97.6 crore, will take two years to complete.

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behind the wheel, and Abhishek Rawat (22) of Sector 70, who was accompanying him in the car, were arrested on Sunday within hours of the crash. On Monday, the two men got out on bail. "They killed two people and walked free in 24 hours. How is that justice?" Tanzeela's younger brother, Masoom, asked. "If this is the value of a poor person's life, what are we supposed to believe? These rich people can buy their way out while we lose everything." Masoom also flagged delays in Raza's treatment at the hospital. "When Raza and my brother-in-law were taken to the hospital, they didn't get immediate medical help. We were told to first deposit money. How could we arrange Rs 1-2 lakh in the middle of the night? Every moment mattered.

In the FIR, police said Gul had approached a U-turn near the hospital from the wrong side on his scooter when the BMW rammed it. Yash Sharma (20) of Sector 37, who was

Torn between grief & bills, says mother of 5-yr-old killed in BMW hit-&-run

Noida.(Agency)

Tanzeela Khatton's life has been upended by grief as she tends to her critically injured husband while mourning the loss of her five-year-old daughter and 20-year-old brother in a hit-and-run crash involving a BMW on Sunday. "I am praying for my husband's recovery," she said. "But one sad news after another has shaken my faith. I haven't even had the time to grieve properly for my daughter, and now my brother is gone too." With her husband, Gul Mohammad, admitted at Delhi's Safdarjung hospital, Tanzeela says she has just been running between the hospital and home. On Saturday evening, Tanzeela had sat holding Ayaat in her arms as the child writhed in pain — throbbing earache had left her nauseous. Ayaat kept crying the whole evening. So, when my husband

came home around 9pm, he decided to take her to the hospital. Who knew she'd never return? Her siblings keep asking about her, and I don't know what to say," Tanzeela added. Ayaat, who had started attending a local Anganwadi school a few months ago, died on the spot after the BMW, allegedly driven by a 20-year-old man under the influence of alcohol, crashed into Gul's scooter near Child PGI in Sector 30 around 12.20am on Sunday as they were returning from the hospital. Gul and Raza, who had also accompanied them to the hospital, were critically injured as the scooter was dragged for nearly 100 metres due to the impact of the collision.

In the FIR, police said Gul had approached a U-turn near the hospital from the wrong side on his scooter when the BMW rammed it. Yash Sharma (20) of Sector 37, who was

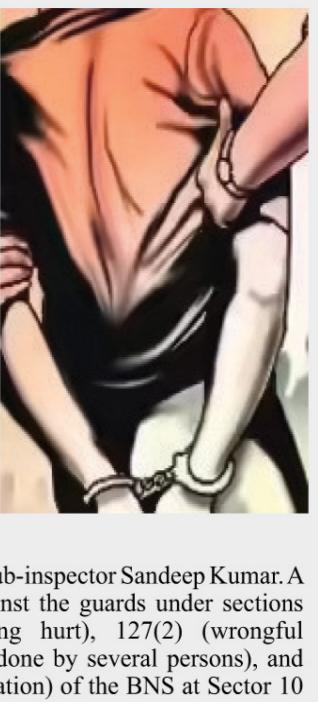
indiscriminately. "These illegal detentions are an insult to our mother tongue and ashmita (identity)... Speaking Bangla is being treated as a crime..." Mamata Banerjee had said. A senior police officer told TOI the drive was simply to identify and deport undocumented migrants. He added that many workers were seen leaving the city to go back to their hometowns in buses with West Bengal registration plates.

"We had asked West Bengal authorities to verify documents within 48 hours, but they took long, and that's why people had to stay at holding centres for four days. They were given good food, bedding and filtered water. Some people are doing politics and causing unnecessary panic, forcing people to leave," the officer said. Lok Sabha MP Mondal refuted Gurgaon police's claims that the workers were detained for days because the West Bengal govt delayed the verification process. Mondal, who represents Jaynagar constituency, said police had seized workers' mobile phones. "So, they couldn't reach out to us. Still, we responded speedily to verification queries," he said.



was sent to Gurgaon by chief minister Mamata Banerjee to address panic among people from the state after the verification drive led to many of them packing up and leaving. "The drive could have been handled better. These people came with dreams, but they have been disgraced in Gurgaon," Sarkar said. Starting July 18, Gurgaon police started detaining workers to follow up on the Union home ministry's May 2 directive to

identify and deport illegal immigrants from the country. Around 250 people, most living in slum settlements, were detained for days because the West Bengal govt delayed the verification process. Mondal, who represents Jaynagar constituency, said police had seized workers' mobile phones. "So, they couldn't reach out to us. Still, we responded speedily to verification queries," he said.



Delhi Residents Can Now Resolve Gas, Loan, Banking Disputes Without Court

At present, Delhi has three PLAs, mainly handling electricity-related disputes with private discoms. A fourth Lok Adalat is being planned to deal with other notified services like transport, telecom, water, health, sanitation and insurance.

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi residents facing issues loan defaults, gas supply disruptions or service lapses by banks and NBFCs may no longer need to take the long road to court. Delhi Lieutenant Governor V.K. Saxena has approved a proposal designating banking, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and gas supply as Public Utility Services, enabling their disputes to be resolved through Permanent Lok Adalats (PLAs).

This decision allows complaints about banking, NBFCs, or gas services—such as billing errors or service delays—to be settled out of court via Lok Adalats.

The Law Department of the Delhi government had sent the proposal, flagging a rising number of consumer

disputes tied to banks, NBFCs and gas providers. "Most of these cases involve everyday issues like EMI defaults, faulty billing, or service delays," a senior official from the department said, adding that "a lot of complainants don't have the time or means to fight prolonged legal battles."

Permanent Lok Adalats are quasi-judicial forums that offer a quicker and low-cost alternative to courts for resolving service-related disputes. Unlike regular courts, they can settle cases even if one party doesn't agree to a compromise, provided the matter falls under public utility services and doesn't involve criminal allegations.

This inclusion is expected to ease the load on civil courts while offering consumers a

more accessible legal remedy. "People shouldn't have to wait years to resolve simple issues like incorrect bank

private discoms. A fourth Lok Adalat is being planned to deal with other notified services like transport, telecom, water, health, sanitation and insurance.

The move is seen as particularly helpful for consumers who are typically at a disadvantage when facing off against large financial or utility companies. "This could be a game-changer, especially for senior citizens, daily wage workers, or those with limited legal access," a legal aid volunteer told. For now, the DLSA will be responsible for implementing the change and facilitating the hearing of cases under the newly included services. Residents can approach the nearest Permanent Lok Adalat for any non-criminal disputes involving these three sectors.



deductions or faulty gas billing," an official associated with the Delhi State Legal Services Authority (DLSA) said.

At present, Delhi has three PLAs, mainly handling electricity-related disputes with

Delhi MLAs Can Now Raise Issues Digitally As Assembly Goes Paperless



Agency New Delhi.

MLAs wishing to raise issues under Special Mention in the Delhi Assembly will now have to submit their notices through the National e-Vidhan portal as the House goes paperless from the Monsoon session commencing on August 4, officials said on Tuesday. This will be the third session of the Eighth Legislative Assembly of Delhi. According to the schedule announced by Speaker Vijender Gupta, the sittings of the House are tentatively fixed from August 4 to 8. However, depending on the exigencies, the session may be extended beyond these dates, the statement said. Each sitting of the House will begin at 2 pm and continue until the scheduled business is concluded for the day.

The speaker has directed that the members intending to raise matters under Rule 280 (Special Mention) must submit their notices exclusively through the NeVA Portal (<https://cms.neva.gov.in/>) by 5 pm on the working day before the intended date, it said.

Delhi rains: Downpour cripples capital once again

Agency New Delhi.

Delhi and its adjoining areas woke up to waterlogged streets and bumper-to-bumper traffic on Tuesday morning, as an intense spell of rain once again crippled city's movement. The IMD issued an orange alert following the continuous rain in the first half of the day. The AAP and Congress came forward to slam the BJP government in Delhi over waterlogging in the city on Tuesday, sarcastically calling it a "marvel" of the four-engine model.

From the Zakhira underpass to Connaught Place, from Safdarjung Hospital to LNJP Hospital, Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders shared videos of waterlogged locations. Sharing a clip of severely waterlogged roads of Connaught Place, AAP National Convener Arvind Kejriwal took to 'X' and wrote, "When this is the condition of Connaught Place, the heart of Delhi, it's not hard to imagine the state of the rest of Delhi. Just 10 minutes of rain and the roads have turned into ponds. In 5 months, where has the BJP brought Delhi to? Is this the speed of the 'four-engine' government?"

Delhi State President Saurabh Bharadwaj and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Atishi, tore down BJP for turning waterlogging into a daily affair under its misgovernance. Bharadwaj posted videos from across Delhi—Connaught Place, the Tibetan Market on Janpath Road just 200m from BJP minister Parvesh Verma's residence, and even RML Hospital. Sharing visuals of stagnant water in RML's gallery, he wrote, "The Centre has ruled it (RML) for 11 years. What excuse will they give now?"

Meanwhile, Delhi Congress president, Devender Yadav, alleged that the BJP government's lack of preparations to tackle the monsoon chaos was once again exposed when showers on Tuesday created heavy traffic snarls and waterlogging everywhere. Yadav also claimed that Delhi Congress has been warning the Rekha Gupta government even before the onset of monsoon that the desilting of stormwater drains and sewers should be completed quickly. Delhi went under water in key areas like ITO, Daula Kuan, Naryana, Patel Nagar, Kamla Nagar Market, Ambedkar Stadium, Pragati Maidan, GTK Depot, Model Town, Kingsway Camp, among many other areas, he added.



Mother And Teen Son Killed In Wall Collapse, 4 Days After Arriving In Delhi

Locals claimed that the boundary wall, built in the 1960s and stretching over 250 metres, collapsed following continuous rainfall.

Agency New Delhi.

Just four days after arriving in Delhi in search of employment, a woman and her teenage son died when a decades-old boundary wall collapsed on their makeshift tent in north Delhi's Sehgal Colony on Tuesday morning. Two other family members were injured in the incident. Meera (40) and her son Ganpath (17) died, while her elder son, Dashrath (19) and brother-in-law Nanhe (35), sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment. According to police and fire officials, the family had set up a tin shelter on the premises of a residential construction site near Raj Nivas, where they had started working as daily wage labourers for Rs 500 a day. "We came just four days ago to earn a better livelihood. Now we are returning with two bodies," Nanhe

said, speaking from his hospital bed. He said that his brother is still in the village and is unaware of the incident. Nanhe said that they had pitched the tent a couple of feet away from the



boundary wall. "It suddenly collapsed. I was outside with Dashrath but Meera and Ganpath were inside and couldn't escape. I was in shock... I remember people pulling us out and shouting," he recalled. The incident occurred around 9.40 am. Officials received a call regarding the

wall collapse at 9.53 am. A Delhi Fire Services official confirmed the identities of the woman and her son and said that both were declared dead at Aruna Asaf Ali Hospital. Locals claimed that the boundary wall, built in the 1960s and stretching over 250 metres, collapsed following continuous rainfall. They alleged that trees on the elevated land behind the wall had recently been cut down to make way for ongoing construction, which destabilised the soil. "With the downpour, the loose earth slid and pushed against the wall, causing it to collapse," a resident said. The resident, who lives right across the site, said he rushed upon hearing a loud crash. "My 78-year-old sister-in-law was doing her morning prayers when the debris crashed into our compound.

In Big Relief For Factory Owners, Delhi Civic Body Simplifies Licensing Rules

Agency New Delhi.

New Delhi, Jul 10 Factory owners in Delhi's notified industrial areas will no longer need separate license from the MCD, as a new rule will treat their property tax receipt as a valid factory license.

The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Thursday passed a proposal to treat allotment or lease deeds issued by the Delhi government and Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises' Udyam Registration Certificates as "deemed factory licences" under Sections 416 and 417 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

In a move aimed at promoting ease of doing business, the proposal passed

during the Corporation's ordinary meeting eliminates the need for MCD-issued factory licences in industrial



areas notified by the Delhi government or DSIIDC. Factory owners in these areas will now pay 5 per cent of their annual property tax as the license fee. A single receipt will serve as proof of

both property tax payment and factory license, thus ending the era of frequent inspections and reducing the scope for rent-seeking by officials.

Delhi Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh said that the new system will reduce unnecessary inspections by MCD officials. The responsibility for ensuring compliance with fire safety, environmental clearances and structural norms will rest solely with the factory owner or occupier, who must obtain all necessary approvals from the competent authorities. Necessary changes will be made to the MCD Property Tax portal to integrate factory license issuance and automate the payment and compliance workflow.

100 lapses, including 7 critical, found at Air India base during audit: Report

Agency New Delhi.

India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has flagged nearly 100 safety violations and observations at Air India - including seven critical lapses - following a detailed audit of the airline's Gurugram base earlier this month, reports said Tuesday.

The audit, conducted between July 1 and July 4, examined operations, flight scheduling, rostering, and other key functions. According to the DGCA's findings, the airline was found to be non-compliant in areas such as crew training, duty and rest period regulations, inadequate crew strength, and airfield qualification. Seven of the violations were classified as Level-1, which the DGCA defines as serious safety risks requiring immediate corrective action.

Air India confirmed it had received the audit report and said it would respond within the stipulated timeframe. "All airlines undergo regular audits to test and continuously strengthen processes. Air India's annual DGCA audit took place in July, during which it was fully transparent



with auditors in the spirit of such continuous improvement," the airline said in a statement. "We acknowledge receipt of the findings and will submit our response to the regulator within the stipulated time frame, along with the details of the

corrective actions taken. Air India remains fully committed to ensuring the safety of its passengers and staff," it added. The audit findings come amid heightened scrutiny of the airline following the June 12 crash of its London-bound Boeing 787

Four more foreign universities set for India launch

Agency New Delhi.

The fifth anniversary of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 was marked by the handing over of Letters of Intent (LoIs) from the University Grants Commission (UGC) to four universities to open their campuses in India - three from Australia and one from UK.

They were handed over by the Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Tuesday during the launch of an education summit, Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam (ABSS) 2025.

Projects for more than Rs 4,000 crore across the country including the campus inaugurations were launched by Pradhan. The Western Sydney University will open its campus in Greater Noida, La Trobe University in Bengaluru, and Victoria University in Noida while the University of Bristol will open in Mumbai. With these four, the number of universities handed over the LoI to open their campuses stands at six with one campus already opened.

The University of Liverpool was handed over the LoI for a campus in Bengaluru in May 2025 and the University of Southampton in August 2024. The latter became the first to open its campus in Gurugram in Haryana on June 16 this year under the new NEP policy. "Many more such campuses are in the offing," a senior education official said.

Dr Nicolene Murdoch, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Western Sydney University, said its campus was on course to commence classes by August or September 2026. "We will be offering Bachelors in Business Administration and in IT to start with. We are expecting at least 100 students to join us in the inaugural year in these graduate streams."

Infrastructure work has already commenced and the first phase will be ready next year, she said. "In the future, we are looking at inviting both Indian companies and Australian ones to offer placements for our students," Murdoch added.

Pradhan said, "Indian ethos lies at the core of NEP.

Over the past five years, the government has succeeded in taking NEP 2020 from policy to practice - bringing about a paradigm shift in the education system and reaching classrooms, campuses and communities."

Delhi HC upholds conviction of Patkar in two-decade-old defamation case

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday upheld the conviction of social activist Medha Patkar in a defamation case filed by Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena over two decades ago. Justice Shalinder Kaur ruled that there was no error in the trial court and appellate court decisions that found Patkar guilty. The court also agreed with the earlier decision to release Patkar on probation rather than jail her.

However, the High Court gave her some relief by modifying the probation condition that required her to appear before the trial court every three months. Now, she can either appear virtually or be represented by a lawyer.

The case dates back to the year 2000, when Saxena, then President of an organisation called National Council of Civil Liberties, had published an advertisement criticising Patkar's Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA), a movement against dam construction on river Narmada.

In response, Patkar issued a press note alleging that Saxena had earlier supported the NBA and had even donated Rs 40,000 through a cheque from the Lalbhai Group, which later bounced. The press note also questioned Saxena's patriotism and claimed he was acting as an agent for the Gujarat government.

Saxena filed a defamation case against Patkar in Ahmedabad in 2001. The Supreme Court later transferred the case to Delhi in 2003. In 2024, Patkar was found guilty by a magistrate court, sentenced to five months in jail, and asked to pay Rs 10 lakh in compensation. The court said her statements were made with clear intention to harm Saxena's reputation. On April 2, 2024, a Sessions Court upheld her conviction but reduced the punishment. Patkar was released on probation for one year and asked to pay Rs 1 lakh in compensation instead of Rs 10 lakh.

Dreamliner. The aircraft lost thrust seconds after takeoff from Ahmedabad and crashed into a medical college hostel, killing 241 of the 242 people onboard and 19 on the ground. It was the deadliest aviation disaster in India in over a decade. On June 21, the DGCA directed Air India to remove three officials from all crew scheduling and rostering duties due to serious violations. On July 23, it issued four show-cause notices over breaches related to cabin crew rest norms, training regulations, and operational protocols following certain voluntary disclosures made earlier by the airline, reports added. A 15-page preliminary report released this month by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) on the AI171 crash found that fuel supply to both engines was cut off within seconds of each other shortly after takeoff. The cockpit voice recorder captured one pilot asking, "Why did you cut off?" to which the other responded that he had not done so. Both fuel switches had shifted from 'RUN' to 'CUTOFF' just seconds apart, the report noted.

NEWS BOX

India unlikely to risk Jasprit Bumrah at Oval as medical staff advises rest: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

India are unlikely to risk fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah in the 5th Test match of the England series. The pace spearhead, who has already bowled 120 overs in 3 Test matches, has been advised rest, ESPNcricinfo reported on Wednesday, July 29. This is Bumrah's first Test series since his back injury in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25, and the Indian Cricket Board medical staff remains conservative over his workload, keeping future tournaments in mind.

The 31-year-old pacer appeared off-colour during the drawn fourth Test at Old Trafford, where he struggled with his pace and failed to make breakthroughs. The report added that Akash Deep, who missed the fourth Test due to a groin niggle, is likely to replace Bumrah in the XI. Earlier, head coach Gautam Gambhir had stated that no decision had been taken regarding team composition and that



all bowlers, including Bumrah, were fit.

"We haven't had any conversation around the combination for the last Test," Gambhir had said after the fourth Test in Manchester. "No decision has been made on whether Jasprit Bumrah will play or not. Ultimately, whoever plays, they will try and do the job for the country."

India Bowlers Toil in 4th Test

England piled up a massive 669 in response to India's 358, taking a 311-run first-innings lead at the fourth Test. However, India mounted a remarkable fightback from 0 for 2, batting 143 overs in the second innings with centuries from captain Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar, and Ravindra Jadeja to earn a dramatic draw and stay alive in the five-match series, trailing 1-2. Bumrah bowled 33 overs in the first innings of the fourth Test, the most he has bowled in a single innings, but returned figures of 2 for 103, the first time he conceded over 100 runs in a Test innings. The number of deliveries he bowled over 140kph dropped significantly over the series, from 42.7 percent at Headingley, to 22.3 percent at Lord's, and just 0.5 percent at Old Trafford. Despite his dip in effectiveness, Bumrah remains the joint-highest wicket-taker for India in the series alongside Mohammed Siraj, with 14 wickets to his name.

Jake-Fraser McGurk snubbed from T20I squad as Australia announce squad vs South Africa

New Delhi. (Agency)

Swashbuckling opener Jake Fraser-McGurk was dropped from Australia's white-ball squads against South Africa for the upcoming 6-match white-ball series. Fraser-McGurk, popularly known as JFM, was dropped from the side amidst prolonged poor outings in the T20I format.

JFM has played 8 T20Is so far after his sensational outing in the 2024 season of the Indian Premier League. The opener has played 8 matches, where he has scored just 115 runs at an average of 14.37. His outings in the ODI format have not been up to the mark either. In 7 matches, he has scored just 98 runs at an average of 14.

As Australia build up for the T20 World Cup 2026, they have extended Mitch Owen's stay with the side. The 23-year-old has been rewarded for his fine form in his first 5 T20Is against West Indies by being named in both



of Australia's squads for short-format series against South Africa in the far north of the country next month. The 23-year-old all-rounder, who has yet to play a one-day international, scored 125 runs and took two wickets as Australia swept West Indies in all five T20s in the Caribbean this month.

Mitch Marsh captains both T20 and ODI squads in the absence of regular 50-overs skipper Pat Cummins, who will sit out the series with fellow quick Mitch Starc. Paceman Josh Hazlewood and batter Travis Head return to both squads as Australia continue their preparations for the T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka early next year. Steve Smith and Glenn Maxwell have both retired from ODIs but the latter was named in the T20 squad, which will face South Africa in two matches in Darwin and another in Cairns. "As we build towards the T20 World Cup the flexibility and depth shown in the West Indies, outside of the obvious results, has been a huge positive," said chief selector George Bailey.

Defending champion Brazil's dominant first half secures spot in Copa America Femenina final

Brazil will play for the championship next Saturday against Colombia, which progressed to the final by edging Argentina 5-4 on penalty kicks on Monday.

QUITO. (Agency)

With three goals in the first half-hour, defending champion Brazil eased past Uruguay 5-1 on Tuesday to qualify for the Copa America Femenina final for the fifth straight tournament. Amanda Gutierrez opened the scoring in the 11th minute, Giovana Queiroz doubled the lead two minutes later and six-time player of the year Marta converted on a penalty kick in the 27th for the Brazilians, who have won the past four editions of the Copa America. Gutierrez added a goal in the 65th off a free kick, giving her five for the tournament. She's behind only Paraguay's Claudia Martinez, who has



six. Dudinha finished off the scoring in the 86th.

Brazil will play for the championship next Saturday against Colombia, which progressed to the final by edging Argentina 5-4 on penalty kicks on Monday. The match will be played at Estadio Rodrigo Paz Delgado, in the capital Quito. It will be a rematch of the final of the 2022 Copa America Femenina that was played in Colombia and that Brazil won 1-0.

The 39-year-old Marta, who has played in six World Cups and six Olympics, has 120 goals in 205 games with Brazil.

The Brazilian women have won eight of the nine editions of the Copa America and are considered the best team in South America. Their best finish at the World Cup was runner-up in 2007 and they have reached the Olympic final three times, including in Paris 2024, where they lost to the U.S.

Coco Gauff overcomes 23 double-faults for first win since French Open title

MONTREAL. (Agency)

Coco Gauff made a winning return to competition on Tuesday night, even though some old serving woes came back with her. Gauff had to overcome 23 double-faults to win for the first time since the French Open final, outlasting fellow American Danielle Collins 7-5, 4-6, 7-6 (2) in the second round of the National Bank Open. Gauff hadn't played since losing in the first round at Wimbledon and appeared to have made a change to her serving grip during her time away. She struggled with it during the match, hitting some serves that were well long and others that were soft and easily pounced on by the powerful Collins. "It was a frustrating match for me," Gauff said. "I felt like I was practicing well and then I don't think I transferred it today, but hopefully I got my bad match of the tournament out of the way and I could come back stronger the next round." A balky serve ended her U.S. Open title defense last year, when she committed 19 double-faults in a fourth-round loss to Emma Navarro. The serve was even more erratic Tuesday, though Gauff did hit a good one to end the match with an ace. She is the top seed in Montreal due to the withdrawal of top-ranked Aryna Sabalenka, the player Gauff beat to win the French Open in June.

England have given serious advantage to India: R Ashwin on Gambhir vs Oval curator

Gambhir and Oval pitch curator had a heated argument on July 29
Ashwin says Indian team thrives under adversity and pressure
The former spinner recalled how India always bounced back after such incidents

New Delhi. (Agency)

R Ashwin claimed that India have a serious advantage heading into the final match of the series against England after the Gautam Gambhir and Oval pitch curator spat on Tuesday, July 29. Gambhir and Lee Fortis were involved in heated argument after the curator shouted at the Indian backroom staff and asked them to keep a distance from



the pitch. Speaking on his YouTube channel, Ashwin said that this isn't how you want to play against the Indian team as they have the character to strike back amidst adversity. The former spinner said that the Indian team become a different side when they're riled up and this wasn't the way they should have been triggered ahead of the Oval Test. "After all that, when I saw the video of that fight today, I am thinking, 'Boss, what are you guys doing?' This is not how you want to play against this Indian

team. I have always seen that when adversity strikes the Indian team, however it may be, someone will rise up. When things are not going right, or when we are pushed against the wall, the Indian team is a different kettle of fish; it becomes a different beast." "I think that particular thing, going into this Test match, is a serious advantage for India. Maybe this will mean nothing if England play good cricket and India don't end up on the right side, but somehow I have a feeling that this is not the way it has to be triggered," said Ashwin. These incidents galvanize the team!

Ashwin pointed out several incidents in India's cricket history, like the monkeygate incident, where the team bounced back brilliantly and secured big wins. The former spinner feels that such an incident will galvanise the team ahead of the crucial match.

Australia pacer bowls 18 balls in single over, including 12 wides

New Delhi. (Agency)

Bizarre scenes unfolded in Australia's match against Pakistan in the World Championship of Legends 2025. Playing their final group-stage game on Tuesday, July 29, Australia put up a sorry show against the Pakistan side and lost by 10 wickets. As if a 10-wicket defeat was not embarrassing enough, Australia pacer John Hastings bowled 12 wides in a single over on Tuesday, adding insult to injury. Hastings had to bowl a total of 18 balls to complete his over, as Pakistan chased down a total of 75 runs in just 8 overs. Hastings simply failed to pitch the ball in the right areas, bowling wides against both Sharjeel Khan and Shoaib Maqsood. It was Hastings' first over of the match, which went horribly wrong as the pacer conceded 19 runs from 5 balls, resulting in Australia's loss in the game. With the win against Australia, Pakistan qualified for the semi-final of the tournament by topping their group. Pakistan are now set to face India in the knockout stage.



Sponsor Pulls out of India vs Pakistan Semi-Final. Meanwhile, sponsor EaseMyTrip pulled out of the India-Pakistan semi-final clash in the World Championship of Legends 2025, just hours after the Indian team sneaked into the semi-final spot with a solitary win in the tournament. On Wednesday morning, EaseMyTrip founder Nishant Pitti put out a big message on X, publicly stating that they will not be supporting the India vs Pakistan clash in the Legends League. Pitti congratulated the Indian team led by Yuvraj Singh on reaching the semi-final of the tournament but stated that as an organisation they believe that "terror and cricket cannot go hand in hand." "We applaud Team India @India Champions for their outstanding performance in the World Championship of Legends, you've made the nation proud. However, the upcoming semi-final against Pakistan is not just another game. Terror and cricket cannot go hand in hand. EaseMyTrip, we stand with India. We cannot support any event that attempts to normalise relations with a country that promotes terrorism. The people of India have spoken and we hear them."

Find it humiliating: Aakash Chopra slams Oval pitch curator for double standards

Gambhir and Fortis had a heated argument during training session on July 29
Fortis tried to stop the Indian team from getting close to the pitch
Fortis played down the entire spat with Gambhir on Tuesday

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former cricketer Aakash Chopra slammed the Oval pitch curator Lee Fortis for his double standards after the spat with Indian coach Gautam Gambhir. Fortis and Gambhir were seen involved in a heated argument on Tuesday, July 29, as the Indian coach went at the Oval pitch curator during the optional training session of the visitors at the venue. Gambhir was seen telling Fortis, 'go, report whatever you want to report, you are only a groundsman.' India



batting coach Sitanshu Kotak lifted the lid on the incident during the press conference, where he said that Fortis was trying to keep them away from the pitch, despite them wearing rubber spikes. He also said that the pitch curator also shouted at the support staff, which made Gambhir snap at him. Later on, a picture of Fortis and England coach Brendon McCullum from the 2023 Ashes emerged online, where it was seen that the curator had no issues standing on the pitch just two days before a match. Chopra talked about this on his YouTube channel and said he found Fortis'

behaviour bizarre and humiliating. "It was the same curator in 2023, it was an Ashes match, and two days before that, he was standing on the pitch along with Brendon McCullum, the home team's coach. If he can stand on the pitch 48 hours before the game, can the Indian players not go even close to the pitch? Can the Indian coach not go and see how the pitch is? I find this absolutely bizarre. I find this actually humiliating," said Chopra. Chopra also said that while the words used by Gambhir to Fortis should have been better, he said that he understands where the Indian coach was coming from. "There might be a question whether the choice of words was alright. This is about Gautam. Maybe that's not right because you need to be politically correct, as your designation is like that. However, I can totally understand what goes through a person's mind," Chopra observed. Fortis played down the entire spat with Gambhir on Tuesday and declined to discuss the incident further.

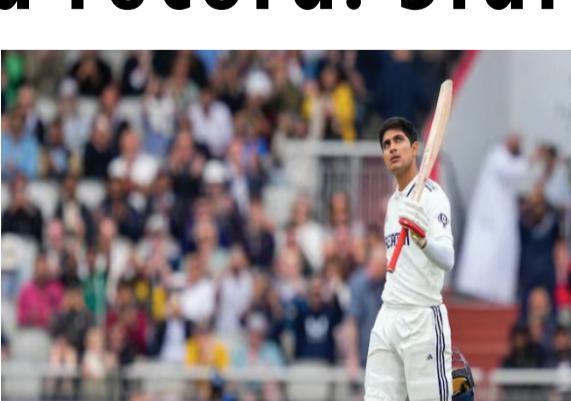
Shubman Gill eyes Sunil Gavaskar's 54-year-old historic India record: Stats Preview

KITTS. (Agency)
Shubman Gill has emerged as the standout performer for India in the ongoing 2025 Test series against England. Displaying exceptional skill and composure, Gill has so far amassed 722 runs from four matches at an impressive average of 90.25. His most memorable performance came during the second Test at Edgbaston, where he scored a career-best 269 in the first innings, followed by a commanding 161 in the second. This remarkable effort not only set new benchmarks but also made him the highest-scoring Indian captain on debut in Test series. Gill is now the first Indian captain to score over 700 runs in an away Test series. In the fourth Test at Old Trafford, Manchester, Gill once again proved his mettle. Batting alongside KL Rahul, the pair forged a gritty partnership that lasted more than two

sessions, helping India stave off defeat. Gill's 103 was critical in holding the innings together and underscored his ability to deliver under pressure. Gill's consistency and leadership have been central to India's strong performance in the series. With one Test remaining - the fifth and final match set to begin on July 31 at Old Trafford - all eyes are on him as he looks to surpass Sunil Gavaskar's historic record of 774 runs in a single series, set in 1971 against the West Indies. Here are some of Shubman Gill's records to look forward to in the fifth Test.

53 - Runs Shubman Gill needs to become the highest run-scorer for India in a single Test series. The current record is held by Sunil Gavaskar, who amassed an incredible 774 runs at an average of 154.80 against the West Indies in 1971. 53 - Runs Shubman Gill needs to score the most runs by a No.4 batter in a single Test series. That mark is held by Steve Smith, who scored 810 runs from five games with three hundreds and one fifty against England in 1936-37.

1 - Shubman Gill is only one century away from equalling the record for most centuries in a Test series. Only Clyde Walcott of the West Indies has five hundreds in a Test series, a record which he achieved back in 1955 against Australia. 1 - Shubman Gill needs only one hundred to become the captain with the most centuries in a Test series. He is currently locked on four with Don Bradman (1947 against England) and Sunil Gavaskar (1978 against West Indies).



needs to score the most runs by a No.4 batter in a single Test series. That mark is held by Steve Smith, who scored 810 runs in just four matches during the 2019 Ashes against England, including three centuries and three

Meet Shailesh Jejurikar, The Next CEO Of Procter & Gamble; He Shares His Alma Mater With Sundar Pichai And Top Global CEOs From India

New Delhi.(Agency)

Shailesh Jejurikar has been appointed as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of US consumer goods giant Procter & Gamble (P&G). Jejurikar will assume his position on January 1, 2026. He is currently serving as the Chief Operating Officer.

Jejurikar and Nadella are friends

Jejurikar, who joins the ranks of top Indian-origin CEOs such as Google's Sundar Pichai and Microsoft's Satya Nadella, did his schooling at Hyderabad Public School. The 100-year-old institution has produced some of the top students who went on to become prominent CEOs and head some of the world's top companies. Jejurikar, who has been appointed as the CEO of P&G, shares the same school with some of the top global CEOs from India. Jejurikar shares his alma mater with Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. Jejurikar was Nadella's classmate in school and both are reportedly still friends. Who is Shailesh Jejurikar?

The 58-year-old IIM Lucknow graduate, Jejurikar joined P&G in 1989. He has held various senior leadership roles and helped build several of P&G's core businesses in North America, Europe, Asia and Latin America. He has played a key role in spearheading the company's innovative strategy and operational outcomes in the supply chain, information technology and global business services. P&G people, our brands, and our capabilities in innovation and operational excellence fuel my confidence for a future of sustained growth and value creation," Jejurikar said after his announcement as the CEO of the company.

India top smartphone supplier to the US in April-June 2025, pips China: Canals report

New Delhi.(Agency)

India has emerged as the largest manufacturing hub for smartphones shipped into the US for the first time in Q2, 2025, as China's share shrunk amid tariff negotiations, according to Canals. The research from Canals (now part of Omdia) revealed that United States smartphone shipments grew 1 per cent in the second quarter of the current calendar year as vendors continued to frontload device inventories amid tariff concerns. The uncertain outcome of negotiations with China has accelerated supply chain reorientation, it said.

The share of US smartphone shipments assembled in China fell to 25 per cent in the April-June period, from 61 per cent a year earlier. "Most of this decline has been picked up by India; the total volume of 'Made-in-India' smartphones grew 240 per cent year-on-year and now accounts for 44 per cent of smartphones imported into the US, up from only 13 per cent of smartphone shipments in Q2 2024," it said. In Q2, iPhone shipments declined 11 per cent year-on-year to 13.3 million units, a correction from the 25 per cent growth in Q1, 2025, as per Canals. Samsung's shipments grew 38 per cent year-on-year to 8.3 million units.

Motorola continued its expansion in the US, growing two per cent to 3.2 million units. Google and TCL rounded off the top five, with Google growing 13 per cent to 0.8 million while TCL declined 23 per cent, shipping 0.7 million units. "India became the leading manufacturing hub for smartphones sold in the US for the very first time in Q2 2025, largely driven by Apple's accelerated supply chain shift to India amid an uncertain trade landscape between the US and China," said Sanyam Chaurasia, Principal Analyst at Canals.

Sensex, Nifty open in the green; check prominent gainers and laggards

Kolkata.(Agency)

The Indian benchmark indices of the equity market Sensex 30 and Nifty 50 opened in the green on Wednesday, July 30, in a market enlivened by the robust quarterly results of infrastructure major L&T. At 9:15 am today, Sensex stood at 81,354.32, up 16.37 points or 0.020%, while Nifty was trading at 24,829.65, up 8.55 points or 0.034%. However, within a few minutes BSE Sensex raced up 256.57 points to reach 81,594.52 while NSE Nifty rose 69.3 points to reach 24,890.40. The global cues were mixed on July 30 morning. Among the major US indices only Dow Jones ended in the green (0.13%) on July 29, while S&P500 and Nasdaq ended in the red by 0.30% and 0.38% respectively. However, all the major European indices FTSE (0.60%), CAC (0.72%) and DAX (1.02%) ended the day in the green. However, the crucial GIFT Nifty was trading in the red on July 30 morning. Nikkei 225, Straits Times and Hang Seng were also in the red. But Taiwan Weighted, KOSPI, Jakarta Composite and Shanghai Composite were in the green. Prominent gainers and laggards

In the Sensex basket, Larsen & Toubro surged by more than 4% per cent following the 29.8% jump in consolidated net profit at Rs 3,617.19 crore in Q1 of FY26. Other major gainers were Bharti Airtel, Asian Paints, NTPC and Bajaj Finserv. Among the major laggards in the Sensex basket were Tata Motors, Hindustan Unilever, Eternal and Infosys.

Agilent opens its Indian biopharma capability center in Hyderabad

The new investment is part of the US analytical and clinical laboratory technology company's broader three-to-five-year India growth strategy

New Delhi.(Agency)

Agilent Technologies, a global leader in life sciences, diagnostics, and applied chemical markets, has inaugurated its new Biopharma Capability Center in Hyderabad. The facility represents a significant investment in India's expanding life sciences ecosystem and aligns with the U.S.-based company's broader three-to-five-year growth strategy for the country. The center was inaugurated by Telangana's Minister for

Information Technology, Electronics, Communications, and Industries, Duddila Sridhar Babu, in the presence of Agilent's global CEO Padraig McDonnell. Designed to support the entire drug development process, the center features advanced laboratory technologies, expert training, and regulatory-ready workflows to help researchers, scientists, and companies develop high-quality, life-saving medicines. It will serve as a hub for innovation and collaboration, focusing on the development of biologics, biosimilars, and precision medicine. The facility offers end-to-end solutions across key modalities such as chromatography, mass spectrometry, cell analysis, and lab informatics. These capabilities allow companies to simulate real laboratory environments, test for quality and compliance, and co-create solutions tailored to both Indian and global markets. For Hyderabad's biopharma startups, academic institutions, and skilled professionals, the center provides

access to global expertise, cutting-edge instrumentation, and real-world application environments. It supports accelerated R&D, hands-on training aligned with international regulatory standards, and fosters stronger industry-academia collaboration.

"India is a strategic growth market for Agilent, and Hyderabad is at the forefront of biopharma innovation," said Padraig McDonnell, CEO of Agilent Technologies. "Our future will be shaped by continued innovation and a relentless focus on our customers." "This new experience center reinforces our support for the 'Make-in-India' initiative by empowering local innovation, nurturing talent, and enabling scalable, affordable, and sustainable solutions," McDonnell added. Commenting on the launch, Minister Sridhar Babu said, "With a strong talent base and a clear focus on innovation, we are building a future-ready healthcare system. The Agilent Biopharma Experience Center is a significant milestone that strengthens

Telangana's position as a global life sciences leader and adds value to our growing innovation-driven ecosystem."

Telangana currently accounts for nearly one-third of India's pharmaceutical production and 40% of bulk drug exports. Hyderabad boasts one of the most mature and future-focused life sciences ecosystems in India, with deep industry expertise, strong R&D capabilities, and a conducive policy environment. Building on the city's legacy in generics and increasing emphasis on advanced therapies, the new center adds cutting-edge analytical and regulatory capabilities that support local innovation and global delivery. Earlier this year, Agilent also launched its India Solution Center in Manesar. With this expansion, the company is deepening customer partnerships and positioning India as a strategic hub in its global innovation and growth roadmap. "Agilent is already working closely with many of India's leading biopharma companies," McDonnell said.

Trump's tariffs could squeeze US factories and boost costs by up to 4.5%, a new analysis finds

WASHINGTON.(Agency)

As US President Donald Trump prepares to announce new tariff increases, the costs of his policies are starting to come into focus for a domestic manufacturing sector that depends on global supply chains, with a new analysis suggesting factory costs could increase by roughly 2% to 4.5%. "There's going to be a cash squeeze for a lot of these firms," said Chris Bangert-Drowns, the researcher at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth who conducted the analysis. Those seemingly small changes at factories with slim profit margins, Bangert-Drowns said, "could lead to stagnation of wages, if not layoffs and closures of plants" if the costs are untenable. The analysis, released Tuesday, points to the challenges Trump might face in trying to sell his tariffs to the public as a broader political and economic win and not just as evidence his negotiating style gets other nations to back down. The success of Trump's policies ultimately depends on whether everyday Americans become wealthier and factory towns experience revivals, a goal outside economists say his Republican administration is unlikely to meet with tariffs.

Trump has announced new frameworks

with the European Union, Japan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Britain that would each raise the import taxes charged by the United States. He's prepared to levy tariffs against goods from dozens of other countries starting on Friday in the stated range of 15% to

world economy. A June survey by the Atlanta Federal Reserve suggested companies would on average pass half of their tariff costs onto US consumers through higher prices. Labor Department data shows America lost 14,000 manufacturing jobs after Trump rolled out his April tariffs, putting a lot of pressure as to whether a rebound starts in the June employment report coming out Friday. With new tariffs in place, there are new costs for factories. The Washington Center for Equitable Growth analysis shows how Trump's devotion to tariffs carries potential economic and political costs for his agenda.

In the swing states of Michigan and Wisconsin, more than 1 in 5 jobs are in the critical sectors of manufacturing, construction, mining and oil drilling and maintenance that have high exposures to his import taxes. The artificial intelligence sector Trump last week touted as the future of the economy is dependent on imports. More than 20% of the inputs for computer and electronics manufacturing are imported, so the tariffs could ultimately magnify a hefty multitrillion-dollar price tag for building out the technology in the US.



50%. The US stock market has shown relief the tariff rates aren't as high as Trump initially threatened in April and hope for a sense of stability going forward. Trump maintains the tariff revenues will whittle down the budget deficit and help whip up domestic factory jobs, all while playing down the risks of higher prices. "We've wiped out inflation," Trump said last Friday before boarding Marine One while on his way to Scotland. But there's the possibility of backlash in the form of higher prices and slower growth once tariffs flow more fully through the

Over 1.06 Lakh Claims Settled Under Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme: Health Ministry

New Delhi.(Agency)

The government has settled over 1.06 lakh claims under Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme since its launch October 2024, Minister of State for Health Prataprao Jadhav told the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday. On 29th October 2024, Indian Government expanded the scope of the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) to include all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status. Under this initiative, beneficiaries will receive free treatment benefits of up to Rs 5 lakh per year through Ayushman Vay



Vandana cards. In addition, the portability feature of AB-PMJAY allows eligible beneficiaries—including those under the Vay Vandana scheme—to access healthcare services at any of the 31,466 empanelled hospitals across the country, regardless of their place

of residence. This ensures seamless and equitable access to quality healthcare for the elderly population nationwide. Vay Vandana scheme beneficiaries can also avail treatment through a vast network of 14,194 private healthcare providers empanelled under the scheme. To ensure quality and consistency in service delivery, the National Health Authority (NHA) has issued comprehensive Hospital Empanelment and Management (HEM) Guidelines for the empanelment of hospitals under the Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Igan said that the driver of this relatively stable growth for India "is the fact that there has been a reform momentum supporting robust consumption growth and a push for public investment." She said that going forward, it will be important for India to "keep this momentum going and to continue the recent good growth performance that we have seen." For India, the priorities would include fostering job creation and absorbing excess labour from the agricultural sectors by reskilling labour, by allowing more labour market flexibility, while at the same time, continuing to invest in infrastructure and removing trade restrictions.



point in 2026," she said. Igan said that the driver of this relatively stable growth for India "is the fact that there has been a reform momentum supporting robust consumption growth and a push for public investment." She said that going forward, it will be important for India to "keep this momentum going and to continue the recent good growth performance that we have seen." For India, the priorities would include fostering job creation and absorbing excess labour from the agricultural sectors by reskilling labour, by allowing more labour market flexibility, while at the same time, continuing to invest in infrastructure and removing trade restrictions.

Indian indices traded with mild gains in mid-morning trade; Sensex adds over 180 points

CHENNAI. (Agency)

Indian benchmark indices traded with mild gains in the mid-morning trade on Wednesday, supported by strong corporate earnings from key players like Larsen & Toubro (L&T), even as caution prevailed ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision. The Nifty 50 was seen trading above 24,850, up around 0.08%, while the BSE Sensex added over 180 points to hover near 81,370. The broader BSE Midcap and Smallcap indices also registered marginal gains.

Top gainers and losers

L&T led the gains on the Nifty, rallying nearly 4% after reporting a strong 30% year-on-year rise in Q1 profits, which beat street estimates. Other notable gainers included NTPC, Sun Pharma, Tata Consumer Products, Grasim Industries, and Axis Bank. On the flip side, Tata Motors was the top loser, falling around 3.5% following concerns related to its reported interest in acquiring Iveco for over \$4.5 billion. Other laggards included Hero



MotoCorp, Hindustan Unilever (HUL), IndusInd Bank, and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M), each shedding between 1% and 2%.

Sectoral performance

Sector-wise, weakness was seen in auto, media, and realty indices, each declining about 0.5%. Meanwhile,

buying interest remained intact in capital goods, pharma, and power stocks, which helped cushion the broader market.

Broader market and global cues

The overall sentiment remained mixed as investors awaited cues from the US Federal Reserve's interest rate policy

and commentary on inflation. Additionally, concerns over a potential US-India trade standoff continued to linger, with reports suggesting that export tariffs of up to 25% could be imposed on Indian goods if no agreement is reached by August 1.

Foreign institutional investors continued to be net sellers, pulling out Rs 4,640 crore on Tuesday. July's cumulative FII outflows have now crossed \$1.6 billion. Despite global uncertainty, Indian markets recovered from a three-day losing streak on Monday, with value buying in heavyweights like Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank supporting the rebound.

Outlook

According to market analysts, the near-term direction of the market will likely hinge on global macroeconomic developments, foreign fund flows, and domestic earnings announcements. While gains in infrastructure and pharma sectors signal investor preference for fundamentally strong counters, they believe.

Rocky Jaiswal Is A Green Flag For

Hina Khan

And We Have Proof Of That

Hina Khan is all set to make her Television comeback with the upcoming reality show, Pati Patni Aur Panga, wherein she will be participating with her husband, Rocky Jaiswal. Hosted by Munawar Faruqui and Sonali Bendre, the show is set to premiere on August 2, 2025. As the excitement for the show among fans is at its all-time high, the couple was recently papped outside the sets of Pati Patni Aur Panga, where the husband gave major green flag goals.

Hina Khan And Rocky Jaiswal's Adorable Moment

In a video shared on Instagram, Hina is seen walking on the road to pose in front of the paparazzi stationed outside the sets amid Mumbai rains. Rocky, exuding major green flag goals, held a long trail of his wife's outfit along with one of their team members, which grabbed the attention of the audience. As the clip progresses, we see the duo posing together with Rocky holding his wife close and kissing her on her cheeks.

Hina Khan And Rocky Jaiswal's Outfit

As for their look, Hina looked drop-dead gorgeous in a traditional green and maroon embroidered anarkali suit, exuding regal charm, while Rocky looked handsome in a pink and white Indo-western outfit.

How Did Social Media React?

As soon as the video was shared online, it captured the audience's attention, prompting several reactions. An Instagram user commented, "The way he looks at her." Another one wrote, "Cute couple." One of them shared, "Super excited to see them."

Pati Patni Aur Panga: Everything You Need To Know

Pati Patni Aur Panga – Jodiyon Ka Reality Check has already created a buzz on the internet with its star-studded cast, promising a deep insight into the lives of celebrity couples.

Apart from Hina and Rocky, the show will also feature celebs like Rubina Dilaik-Abhinav Shukla, Gurmeet Choudhary-Debina Bonnerjee, Avika Gor-Milind Chandwani, Sudesh Lehari-Mamta Lehari, Swara Bhakar-Fahad Ahmad and Geeta Phogat-Pawan Kumar. The show will premiere every Saturday and Sunday at 9:30 pm on Colors TV, starting from August 2.



Sophie Choudry

Is 'Ready To Slay' As She Explores Thailand

Sophie Choudry was seen enjoying the scenic beauty of Phuket, Thailand, as she went to the tropical heaven to attend an event. The singer took to social media to share glimpses from her work trip. Sophie was seen taking time out from her busy schedule and exploring the city as well as spending time at the beach.

Sophie Choudry Explores Phuket

Sophie took to Instagram to share a thread of pictures, giving fans a sneak peek of her Thailand trip. The first photo in the thread showed a selfie of the singer relaxing at the beach. Sophie was seen wearing a yellow bikini top and layered it with a blue shirt. For the bottom, she opted for a pair of denim shorts, keeping her overall look casual yet stylish. Sophie kept her makeup minimal and added a pair of brown sunglasses and went for statement gold earrings as she enjoyed the sun on her skin. The 12-picture thread further highlighted Sophie's day in Phuket and showcased all the activities she had done. From shopping to enjoying the famous Torry's ice cream—the thread covered it all. She also posted a video of herself tasting the delicious ice cream.

Sophie Choudry Dazzles In High-Slit Gown

The thread ended with a few snaps of her posing at the Radio City Business Titans 2025 Chapter 4 award ceremony. The singer turned heads in a gorgeous ensemble. For the event, Sophie was seen donning a mousse-coloured high-slit sequin gown, adorned with embellishments all over it. The ensemble, featuring an off-shoulder sweetheart neckline, elevated her entire look.



judge. Alongside Sophie, the film featured Paritosh Tiwari, Abhinav Singh, Bonita Rajpurohit and Swaroopa Ghosh, among others. Sophie Choudry's most recently released song, Lips, won the hearts of her fans. Composed by Raahi, the song included a recreation of the iconic melody Hothon Pe Aisi Baat, originally composed by SD Burman. The energetic music video featured Sophie Choudry and Freddy Daruwala and surpassed 50 lakh views on YouTube.



Avika Gor, Milind Chandwani Bring Real-life Love To Reel-life In Pati Patni Aur Panga



Avika Gor and Milind Chandwani are ready to bring their real-life chemistry to the small screen. The adorable couple is all set to appear together for the very first time on television in the upcoming reality show Pati Patni Aur Panga – Jodiyon Ka Reality Check, and fans can't keep calm. On Tuesday, the soon-to-be husband and wife were spotted on the sets of the show, and their off-screen chemistry was simply mesmerising, making fans fall in love with the two. Totally at ease in each other's company, the couple posed arm-in-arm for the paparazzi, smiling brightly and lovingly exchanging glances. For the shoot day, Avika was dressed in a contemporary lehenga featuring a deep purple skirt and blouse combo elevated by a stylish long jacket. Walking towards the set, she was seen gently lifting the lehenga to prevent it from brushing the ground. Milind looked equally stylish in an Indo-western ensemble that perfectly complemented Avika's outfit.

Avika Gor Wedding Announcement

Avika Gor, who won hearts across the country as television's most iconic child bride in Balika Vadhu, is busy writing her own love story with Milind Chandwani, and it is every bit adorable. In a surprise announcement, the actress recently shared that she was set to tie the knot with her longtime partner, Milind Chandwani, on COLORS, the platform where she began her career to stardom. In the upcoming premiere episode, Avika will be seen getting emotional with tears welling up in her eyes, as per Filmbeat. Later, she will share the super amazing news, saying, "Balika Vadhu taught me and so many people out there, the power of choice, and the courage it takes to rewrite your destiny. Years later, I return to COLORS not as Anandi the balika, but as Avika Gor the woman, ready to make the choice of a lifetime. My fiancé, Milind, has been my partner in growth, my strongest ally, and the fellow dreamer who sees me beyond the roles and scripts. When he asked me to spend my life with him, I yelled out the easiest yes of my life."

Kartik Aaryan Looks For 'Mumtaaz' As He Touches Down In Agra For Tu Meri Main Tera...Shoot



Kartik Aaryan and Ananya Panday are busy with the shoot of romantic drama Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri. The team has been moving from country to city for the shoot. And his latest shooting destination is none other than the city of love, Agra. The actor shared the video, but it was his caption that grabbed our attention. Taking to his Instagram handle, Kartik Aaryan shared a video in which he is seen filming Taj Mahal while fans are seen recording him. "Taj ban gaya .. Mumtaaz dhoondh raha hu," read the caption. One of the fans wrote, "Shahjahan ki Banai Hui Tajmahal ko dekhne Gaya Shahzada." Another wrote, "Sara is best fitted for Mumtaz." Many dropped heart emojis in the comment section.

Earlier, the actor was in Rajasthan for the shoot. He also met the Chief Minister. He later took to his X, formerly Twitter, and shared a picture from their meeting. In the picture, the actor can be seen wearing a pink coloured shirt and a pair of white pants. The CM wrote, "Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan paid a courtesy call at the Chief Minister's residence. @TheAaryanKartik". Earlier, Kartik Aaryan and Jackie Shroff shared a candid moment with filmmaker Subhash Ghai during the shoot of 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri'. Kartik had shared a string of photographs from the shoot diaries in Nawalgarh on his Instagram. One of the photos showed Kartik and Jackie doing a video call with the 'Taal' maker.

It must be noted that Ghai launched Jackie back in 1983 with the film 'Hero', prompting Kartik to give Jackie the title of the 'OG Hero of Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri'.

Earlier, Kartik introduced Jackie as the 'OG Hero' of 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri'. Taking to his Instagram, Kartik posted a video where Jackie was seen showering flying kisses on the board of the film. The leading lady of the much-anticipated drama, Ananya Panday, also welcomed Jackie to the 'Tu Meri Main Tera Main Tera Tu Meri' family through a special social media post.

The film, directed by Sameer Vidwans, is slated for a theatrical release on February 13, 2026—just in time for Valentine's Day. Months back the announcement poster was released. Kartik and Ananya seem to share a passionate kiss in the photo shared by Karan. However, their lips were covered with a passport, hinting at the film's premise. She will be seen with Kartik Aaryan and this will be their second film together. The duo first collaborated in the 2019 film Pati Patni Aur Woh, where their on-screen pairing garnered significant attention.

Corporate hacks you can try while dealing with kids



Yes, parenting is a tough task, especially for those who also juggle a career. "However, sharp and smart individuals know that the scenario at work and at home are almost similar. The situations and the solutions are almost always interchangeable. The tactics that you apply at office can also work wonders with your children," says parental adviser and psychologist Rashmi Desai. Here are some simple corporate survival techniques you can try when dealing with your kids...

SETTING OBJECTIVES MAY LEAD TO NOWHERE

The only place where 'goals' look nice is probably on your resume. For, many parents vouch that setting objectives, both at home and at office, is almost always pointless. Narendra Jain, a marketing manager and father of two, says, "I convince myself that I need to achieve a specific target within

two months, but I never manage to do that because my goals are influenced by external factors as well. In the end, I am left feeling dejected. Similarly, my wife and I vowed that we would potty train our twins by the time they are two. But we kept racing between our bedroom and the restroom till they turned four. Letting things take its own course is one of the parenting mantras we follow now."

BONUS, INCREMENT, BRIBES ARE GOOD MOTIVATORS

'Carrot and stick approach' works brilliantly well both with kids and at office. Rehana K, an HR professional, says, "Just like how bonus and increment push staff to perform better, promise of extended playtime and a picnic over the weekend motivates my daughter to study and behave well. Bribery is a punishable offence, but all is fair in love, war and parenting."

REHANA K'S TIPS

Rehana K, an HR professional, shares her tips for dealing with kids while working.

1. **Set clear boundaries:** Establish rules and consequences for both work and home. Make sure your child understands what is expected of them.

2. **Be consistent:** Stick to the rules you have set, even if it's difficult. Consistency is key to建立孩子的信任.

3. **Communicate:** Keep your child informed about your work schedule and any changes. This helps them understand your needs and be more patient.

4. **Offer incentives:** Use positive reinforcement to encourage good behavior. This can be anything from extra screen time to a special treat.

5. **Be a role model:** Show your child how to handle work and family responsibilities in a positive and productive way.

6. **Take breaks:** Make sure you take breaks throughout the day to recharge and spend quality time with your child.

7. **Be flexible:** Be open to changes and adapt to your child's needs. This will help you maintain a healthy work-life balance.

8. **Stay positive:** Maintain a positive attitude and be a good role model for your child.

9. **Seek support:** Don't be afraid to seek support from your partner, family, or friends when you need it.

10. **Stay organized:** Keep your work and home life organized to prevent stress and keep things running smoothly.

11. **Be patient:** Remember that parenting is a learning process for both you and your child. Be patient and stay positive.

12. **Take care of yourself:** It's important to take care of your physical and mental health to be a better parent and work professional.

13. **Be a good listener:** Listen to your child's concerns and interests, and try to understand their perspective.

14. **Be a good role model:** Show your child how to handle work and family responsibilities in a positive and productive way.

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