

Patna has become crime capital, says Rahul after tycoon killing

The incident, which was caught on CCTV, has stirred a political row just months ahead of the state assembly elections, with Rahul Gandhi claiming that Bihar needs to be saved from the NDA government.

Rahul Gandhi appeals to voters to reject NDA government for failing to protect citizens
RJD's Tejashwi Yadav criticises police delay in crime scene response
Political tensions rise over Gopal Khemka's ahead of Bihar Assembly elections

The Sikh Times New Delhi.
Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday tore into the Nitish Kumar government over the murder of Patna businessman Gopal Khemka, claiming that the ruling NDA coalition has "turned Bihar into the crime capital of India." "Today, Bihar lives under the shadow of loot, gunfire, and murder. Crime has become the new normal, and the government has completely failed," he tweeted. The Congress MP further appealed to the people of Bihar, urging them not to vote for a government "that cannot protect your children" in the upcoming Assembly elections.

"Every murder, every robbery, every bullet is a cry for change. The time has come for a new Bihar — one of progress, not fear. This time, your vote isn't just to change the government — it's to save Bihar," he further wrote on his

X handle. Owner of the Magadh Hospital, Gopal Khemka, was shot dead by an unidentified bike-borne assailant at 11:40 pm on Friday in the plush Gandhi Maidan area of

chief Tejashwi Yadav claimed that the police took two hours to reach the crime scene. "It's a horrible incident. The businessmen want to leave Bihar. The incident occurred in the heart of Patna... Still, it takes the police two hours to arrive here," he told news agency ANI. "Six years ago, his (Gopal Khemka's) son was murdered, and none of the murderers were caught... By the time transfers and postings are done through bribery and performers are not posted, things will not improve. No one is safe in Bihar... The CM is unconscious and he is tired, officers are running the government," he added.

Soon after the incident came to light, Bihar Independent MP Pappu Yadav reached the location and questioned how

such an incident could occur in an area where all key officials, including the District Magistrate, reside.

He further asked whether the Bihar government wanted to see all members of the Khemka

family dead.



the capital, six years after his son, Gunjan, who was a BJP leader as well, was killed in broad daylight in a similar fashion.

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Temporary truce or end of internal bickering in Congress?

As things appear now, it is not an easy task for the high command to decide on the leadership issue in Karnataka, due to several factors.



The Sikh Times Karnataka.

After high-decibel internal bickering caused embarrassment to the party and threatened to undo the gains made by the Siddaramaiah government, an uneasy silence prevails in the ruling Congress camp. Many wonder if the party's top brass has managed to broker peace, or whether it is a lull before the storm, and the tussle for power will continue as the government approaches its mid-way mark in November this year.

No one — except the party high command, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar — knows about a power-sharing agreement, if any, reached before the formation of the government in 2023. A lack of clarity on the much-talked-about agreement, discontent among a section of legislators over funds for development works, and the aspirations of many senior legislators to become ministers seem to be among the major reasons for the crisis that manifests episodically, pushing the top leadership into a firefighting mode. While the exercise to gauge the mood among the party legislators, assess their contribution to implementing the government's flagship guarantee schemes, and provide a platform to express their aspirations is underway, Shivakumar took the initiative to cool down the political temperatures. His remark — "What option do I have? I have to stand by him (Siddaramaiah) and support him. I do not have any objection to it" — yet again made it clear that he is not someone who will rock the boat for selfish political gains, but rather wait for his turn. Having weathered the storm at the worst of the crisis when he was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED), he perhaps thinks that the worst is behind him.

Congress invokes Manmohan Singh's legacy as PM Modi set to join Brics summit

Agency New Delhi.

With Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Brazil to attend the BRICS Summit, the Congress on Sunday recalled the events leading up to the formation of the grouping as also the Summit hosted by India in 2012 during which then PM Manmohan Singh had proposed the establishment of a BRICS Development Bank.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said, "After dropping by in Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, and Argentina, the Super Premium Frequent Flier Prime Minister has reached Brazil. The Seventeenth BRICS Summit begins today in Rio de Janeiro." It was in 1998 that the Arabic-speaking, Asia-leaning, Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov floated the idea of a trilateral forum called RIC -- Russia, India and China, he



recalled.

This was done to promote multipolarity in global affairs when the US was triumphant, Ramesh said in his post

on X. "Then in November 2001, Jim O'Neill and his research team at Goldman Sachs in New York came out with a report titled Building Better Global Economic BRICs--Brazil, Russia, India and China that were identified as the four powerhouse economies for the future," he said. The report still makes for very interesting reading, Ramesh added. Thereafter at the G8 Summit (Russia was then a member of G7 and was to be excluded post-2014) outreach in St. Petersburg in July 2006, the Presidents of Russia, China, and Brazil, and the Prime Minister of India met and gave their nod to the formation of BRIC, he said.

"The very first summit of the BRIC countries - Brazil, Russia, India and China - was held in June 2009 in Russia.

Delhi Plans Solar Panel Cover Over Munak Canal to Curb Water Loss

The Sikh Times

New Delhi, 6 July 2025

In a bold and forward-looking step towards sustainable water management and renewable energy generation, the Delhi government is exploring a plan to cover the Munak Canal with solar panels. This ambitious initiative—currently under planning and feasibility assessment—aims to curb massive water losses, generate clean electricity, and enhance safety and cleanliness along the canal.

Parvez Sahib Singh inspected the Munak Canal last week and reviewed conditions on-site along with senior officials. Based on the findings, a comprehensive plan is being developed to install solar panels across the Delhi stretch of the Munak Canal by constructing four-foot-high walls on both sides, over which the panels will be mounted.

"The Munak Canal is a lifeline for Delhi's water supply. But in its current form, it is also a major source of loss, pollution, and risk. Our plan to cover it with solar panels will help us save water, produce clean power, and make the

canal safer and more secure for the people of Delhi," said Parvesh.

The inspection revealed alarming levels of water loss in the canal. Two of its main sections—the Delhi Sub-Branch (DSB) and the Carrier Lined Channel (CLC)—are suffering from significant leakage and inefficiency. Beyond water loss, the



Munak Canal also faces persistent issues of garbage dumping and accidental drownings. Open and unguarded stretches of the canal pose a danger to both residents and passersby.

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"The cooperative model is not just a business model: Vijender Gupta

The Sikh Times
New Delhi, July 6, 2025

"As India aspires to build an inclusive and self-reliant economy, cooperatives must continue to expand their reach into new sectors," said Hon'ble Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Vijender Gupta, today while addressing the International Cooperative Year 2025 celebrations as the Chief Guest. He participated in the Cooperative Run, Seminar, and Cooperative Felicitation Ceremony organized by the United Thrift and Credit Co-operative Societies Federation of Delhi at Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti to mark the International Year of Cooperatives 2025.

Gupta noted that the United Nations has declared 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives with the theme "Cooperatives Build a Better World." This global initiative highlights the vital

contributions of cooperatives in strengthening economic resilience, driving social inclusion, and advancing sustainable development worldwide. By bringing people together to meet their common economic and social needs through democratic ownership and collective action, cooperatives help achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in promoting decent work, reducing inequality, and eradicating poverty.

In his address, the Hon'ble Speaker highlighted that the Collection and Cooperation Felicitation Programme is a meaningful example of how local cooperative societies are upholding core cooperative principles —



encouraging savings, extending credit, and building strong community networks. He noted that such federations empower ordinary citizens, especially those without access to mainstream financial systems, by

providing them with tools and trust to improve their livelihoods.

Gupta underscored that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the cooperative movement is now seen as a key pillar of Viksit Bharat, contributing significantly to India's vision of becoming a developed, self-reliant, and inclusive nation. He emphasized that the country has embraced two guiding principles — 'Sahakar se Samriddhi' (Prosperity through Cooperation) and the Role of Cooperation in Viksit Bharat

— which are driving a renewed cooperative renaissance across sectors and revitalizing India's cooperative ecosystem. The Hon'ble Speaker added that these measures

focus on deepening financial inclusion, modernizing governance, diversifying into new sectors, and integrating cooperatives with global markets. This transformation is already visible in the strengthening of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), cooperative banks, tax frameworks, and export-oriented national cooperatives, directly supporting the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and positioning cooperatives as engines of equitable growth. On this occasion, participants who excelled in the Cooperative Run were felicitated and encouraged for their outstanding performance. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from cooperative leaders, society members, and dignitaries, all of whom reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the cooperative movement as a cornerstone of inclusive growth, community welfare, and the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

Dr Mukherjee dedicated his life to the unity and integrity of India: CM Yogi

The Sikh Times

Lucknow: On the occasion of Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee's birth anniversary, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath paid floral tributes at his statue on Sunday and remembered his invaluable contributions to nation-building. Hailing him as a visionary scholar, passionate patriot, and fearless voice for national unity, the CM noted that Dr. Mukherjee, born on July 6, 1901, became the youngest Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University at just 33, and dedicated his life to serving the country. CM Yogi emphasized that Dr. Mukherjee's commitment to national unity and integrity remains unparalleled. He said, "His leadership during the Bengal famine earned him widespread respect, and as the Food and Industry Minister in independent India under Prime Minister Nehru, he laid the foundation for food self-sufficiency and industrial growth—pillars that continue to shape New India." However, Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee resigned from the Nehru cabinet in protest against its appeasement-driven policies.

He strongly opposed the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 and the permit system, emerging

Ministers, two constitutions, and two flags in one nation). CM Yogi emphasized that Dr. Mukherjee's vision was fulfilled under the decisive leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who abrogated Article 370—ensuring the complete integration of Jammu and Kashmir with the rest of India, in the true spirit of "Ek Vidhan, Ek Pradhan, Aur Ek Nishan." He added that the region is now witnessing rapid development and progress, reflecting the realization of Dr. Mukherjee's dream of a united and empowered Bharat. He further added that under PM Modi's leadership, India has emerged as a global investment hub. The industrialization that Dr. Mukherjee once envisioned has now taken a massive form. Even during the global pandemic, India stood strong, providing free ration to 80 crore people—an initiative

ing as the first prominent voice of dissent. As the founding president of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, he laid the ideological foundation for nationalist politics and gave the stirring call—"Ek desh mein do pradhan, do vidhan, do nishan nahi chalenge" (There cannot be two Prime

aligned with the ideals of welfare and self-reliance that Dr. Mukherjee stood for. The tribute ceremony was attended by Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Dinesh Sharma, Mayor Sushma Kharkwal, BJP leader Neeraj Singh, and several other dignitaries.



PWD to repair three major flyovers in South Delhi

New Delhi: The Public Works Department (PWD) plans to carry out structural repairs on three major flyovers and a culvert in South Delhi and initiate the construction of three new bridges near New Ashok Nagar in the eastern fringes of the city. According to PWD officials, the IIT flyover, built in 1994, the Old Rao Tula Ram flyover and the Modi Mill flyover have been selected for comprehensive repair work. A structural audit of these flyovers, along with a culvert near Lala Lajpat Rai Marg, will be conducted in the coming days. In East Delhi, the PWD is set to construct three small bridges near the recently inaugurated RRTS metro station in New Ashok Nagar. Located near the Delhi-Uttar Pradesh border and adjacent to the Shahdara drain, the area has seen increasing traffic congestion, officials said. For the construction of three small bridges near the New Ashok Nagar metro station, the PWD will hire an agency to carry out a feasibility study and a ground survey of the location. The total cost of the consultancy projects is around 72 lakh. "The consultancy service includes carrying out a tree count survey on the central verge, roadsides and complete right-of-way of the whole stretch for the road widening work of East End apartment road," an official said. The Outer Ring Road stretch starting from the Modi Mill flyover to the IIT flyover is linked to several South Delhi areas like Greater Kailash 1 and 2, Chitranjan Park, Chirag Dilli, Pamposh Enclave and other areas. The flyover repair work would include repaving, patchwork, pothole repairs and restoration of roads cut by other agencies. The road repair work is carried out by the PWD from mid-March to mid-June and then it stops because of the monsoon season. In Delhi, PWD maintains 1,400 kilometres of road length, which are 60 feet wide. In April this year, PWD Minister Parvesh Verma announced that the Delhi Government plans to repair 600 kilometres of road in this financial year.

Police arrest fake doctor wanted for 10 years in two cheating cases

New Delhi: Delhi Police have arrested a man who had been living as a fake doctor in Haridwar for more than 10 years while being wanted in two cases of cheating and forgery in Delhi. The accused, Raj Kumar Sharma, 52, was caught by the Anti Robbery and Snatching Cell (ARSC) of the Crime Branch in a late-night operation Friday. Sharma had been absconding since 2007 and was declared a proclaimed offender by the courts in both cases. In Haridwar, he had changed his identity and was living as a doctor, claiming to be associated with AIIMS Rishikesh. Locals knew him and had no idea about his criminal background. The police team that arrested him was led by Inspectors Mangesh Tyagi and Robin Tyagi and supervised by ACP Arvind Kumar. The team tracked him using technical surveillance and human intelligence. After confirming his location, they arrested him from his house in Haridwar and brought him to Delhi. According to police, Sharma was first booked in 2007 in a case registered at PS Roop Nagar (now under NR-I, Crime Branch) for cheating government banks. He and five others took vehicle loans using fake documents. A car was also recovered from him, which he had fraudulently financed. During the trial, he stopped appearing in court and was declared a proclaimed offender in 2016.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHD ALI S/O SABIR ALAM residing at JHUGGI NO-95/23 T-HUTS SHAHZADA, ABGH INDER LOK DELHI -110035 have changed my name to MOHAMMAD ALI for all future purpose.

Religion change

I, LUCKY DOB.16/02/2006 Parshant SO/O Kulpur/R/O B-188 Johari pur Krawal Nagar Delhi 93. Information to all, LUCKY change my religion no any pressure CRISTIAN to MUSLIM know to all.

NAME CHANGE

I hitherto known as SAPNA KHARI D/O PRAMOD KHARI W/O PRAVESH KUMAR KARHANARO H. NO-12, SULTANPUR VILLAGE, SULTAN PUR, PO: MEHRULI, DISTRICT SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110030, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as PRISHA KARHANA.

NAME CHANGE

It is for general information that I, SHILPI BHASIN D/O SUSHIL KUMAR BHASIN and ex-wife of GAURAV ASHOK BATRA R/O 5/22, 2ND FLOOR TILAK NAGAR, NEAR CITY X-RAY, PO: TILAK NAGAR, SUB DISTRICT RAJOURI GARDEN, DISTRICT WEST DELHI, DELHI-110018, declare that I got divorce from my Ex-Husband GAURAV ASHOK BATRA v/o court decree NO-2515/13, Dated 21.08.2023, further I have changed the name of my minor son namely SHIVANSH GAURAV BATRA aged 17 years and he shall hereafter be known as SHIVANSH BATRA.

IMPROVEMENT OF PLATFORM SURFACE & OTHER ALLIED WORKS

Tender Notice No.: SCL-Engg-44-2025, Dated: 01-07-2025. E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work: Brief Description of Item : Improvement of Platform surface & other allied work at station under E/F/ Lumping.

Tender Value: ₹3,18,97,440.0/-; Earnest Money: ₹3,09,500.0/- Date & time of closing of above tender at 15:00 hrs. on 28-07-2025 and opening at 15:00 hrs. on 29-07-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to 15:00 hrs. on 28-07-2025 in the website www.ireps.gov.in

DRM (W), Lumping
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Lost & found

LR No:2972594/2025/Delhi Crime Branch, Ranbir Singh SO Gurhann Singh (5656 8903 9421) RO-Bindra Po, Purkhar Dist- Punjab, Pinjrab-141018 I Have Lost My Original Document Number 1459/2004 Kurukulam North Sub Registrar Kazhugumalai Taluk Thiruvengadam Registration District Thenkasi Zone Tamizh Nadu State and also Previous Documents (i) Document No-1459/2004 Survey No-1-3552B-Acre-14.45Cents Survey No-3553-Acre-14.45Cents Survey No-3576/Acre-2.09 Cents Total-16.02.2 Document No-1460/2004 Survey No-1-2953-Acre-3.09 Cents 2 Survey no-3014-Acre-2.06 Cet 3.2812/Acre 0.72 Cet 4.2813/Acre 0.65 Cet 5.2824/Acre 1.91 Cet 6.3003/Acre 0.63 Cet 7.3004/Acre 0.61 Cet 8.3005/Acre 0.59 Cet 9.3007/Acre 0.62 Cet 10.2853/Acre 0.30 Cet 11.3572/Acre 0.75 Cet 12.3574/Acre 0.44 Cet Total Acre 15.04 Cet Two Document All Total Acre 31.06 Cet 1.2812/Acre 0.72 Cet 2.4813/Acre 0.65 Cet 3.2824/Acre 1.91 Cet 4.2813/Acre 0.63 Cet 5.2824/Acre 0.59 Cet 6.3003/Acre 0.62 Cet 7.3004/Acre 0.61 Cet 8.3005/Acre 0.59 Cet 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NEWS BOX

To give you back your freedom': Elon Musk officially launches America Party

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Elon Musk, an ex-ally of US President Donald Trump, said Saturday he had launched a new political party in the United States to challenge what the tech billionaire described as the country's "one-party system." The world's richest person, and Trump's biggest political donor in the 2024 election had a bitter falling out with the president after leading the Republican's effort to slash spending and cut federal jobs as head of the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Musk has clashed with Trump over the president's massive domestic spending plan, saying it would explode the US debt, and vowed to do everything in his power to defeat lawmakers who voted for it.

Now he has created the so-called America Party, his own political framework, through which to try and achieve that. "When it comes to bankrupting our country with waste & graft, we live in a one-party system, not a democracy," the Space X and Tesla boss posted on X, the social media platform that he owns. "Today, the America Party is formed to give you back your freedom." Musk cited a poll -- uploaded on Friday, US Independence Day -- in which he asked whether respondents "want independence from the two-party (some would say uniparty) system" that has dominated US politics for some two centuries. The yes-or-no survey earned more than 1.2 million responses.

"By a factor of 2 to 1, you want a new political party and you shall have it!" he posted on Saturday.

Musk also shared a meme depicting a two-headed snake and the caption "End the Uniparty."

F-16 Intercepts Plane Over Trump's Bedminster Golf Club For Airspace Violation

World. (Agency)

In a fresh airspace breach, a U.S. Air Force F-16 fighter jet on Saturday intercepted a civilian aircraft that entered temporarily restricted airspace over former President Donald Trump's golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, according to a statement by the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). According to a Hindustan Times report, the incident occurred while Trump was spending the holiday weekend at his Bedminster property. The fighter jet, scrambled under NORAD's directives, carried out an intercept after the civilian plane violated the Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) zone in place around the former president's location. According to NORAD officials, the F-16 executed a 'headbut' maneuver, a standard military tactic where a jet flies in front of an unresponsive aircraft to gain the pilot's attention. The civilian aircraft was then safely escorted out of the restricted area. This marks the fifth such violation of the TFR zone reported on Saturday alone, highlighting ongoing concerns over civilian awareness of temporary flight restrictions in high-security areas. "This is part of a concerning pattern," NORAD said, urging all civilian pilots to thoroughly check NOTAMs (Notices to Airmen) before departure. The command emphasized the importance of TFR compliance for national security and the safety of flight operations. Previous incidents at Trump Residences

Saturday's incursion echoes a similar episode earlier this year in March, when a civilian aircraft strayed into restricted airspace over Trump's Florida residence near Mar-a-Lago shortly after he completed a round of golf in West Palm Beach. In that incident, F-16s deployed flares to alert the pilot and redirect the aircraft.

US officials accuse Hamas of attacking two aid workers in Gaza

World. (Agency)

The United States on Saturday blamed Hamas for an attack that injured two American aid workers from the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation at a food distribution site in Gaza. The US and Israeli-backed GHF said in a statement that the injured Americans were receiving medical treatment and were in a stable condition with non-life-threatening injuries.

"The attack which preliminary information indicates was carried out by two assailants who threw two grenades at the Americans occurred at the conclusion of an otherwise successful distribution in which thousands of Gazans safely received food," the GHF said. US State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce blamed "Hamas terrorists" for the attack.

"This act of violence against the people actually bringing relief to Gazans lays bare the depravity of Hamas," she said in a post on X.

"GHF has contributed over 62 MILLION MEALS - nothing will stop these courageous aid workers. We are praying for the rapid recovery of the injured Americans." The Israeli military earlier accused what it called "terrorist organisations" of sabotaging the distribution of aid in Gaza. GHF, which began distributing aid in Gaza in May, employs private US military contractors to provide security at their sites. Gaza has seen an escalation in violence as efforts continue to reach a ceasefire agreement. Hamas on Friday said it had responded positively to a US-brokered deal and was prepared to enter talks. US President Donald Trump is scheduled to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday.

KILLINGS NEAR AID DISTRIBUTION SITES
Gaza authorities reported at least 70 people have been killed in the territory by the Israeli military in the last 24 hours, including 23 near aid distribution sites. The ministry did not specify where or how exactly they had been killed. The Israeli military had no immediate comment on the reports.

In a statement on Friday, the military said troops had killed 100 militants in Gaza in the past week, and that it had "operational control" over 65% of Gaza after an offensive against Hamas fighters in the north.

'I'm a Simple Buddhist monk': Dalai Lama marks landmark 90th birthday

The US president said he and Putin talked about sanctions "a lot," adding, "He understands that it may be coming."

TIBET. (Agency)

Calling himself a "simple Buddhist monk" who usually didn't celebrate birthdays, the Dalai Lama marked his 90th on Sunday by praying for peace after China insisted it would have final say on who succeeded the Tibetan spiritual leader. Chanting of red-robed monks and nuns rang out from Himalayan hilltop forested temples in India, home to the Dalai Lama since he and thousands of other Tibetans fled Chinese troops who crushed an uprising in their capital Lhasa in 1959. "I am just a simple Buddhist monk; I don't normally engage in birthday celebrations," the Dalai Lama said in a message, thanking those marking it with him for using the opportunity "to

cultivate peace of mind and compassion". Dressed in traditional robes and a flowing yellow wrap, walking with the aid of two monks while flashing his trademark beaming smile to thousands of followers, he watched dramatic dance troupes with clanging cymbals and bagpipes before the start of prayers. Beijing condemns the Nobel Peace Prize winner -- who has led a lifelong campaign for greater autonomy for Tibet, a vast high-altitude plateau -- as a rebel and separatist. Alongside the celebrations, however, is the worry for Tibetans in exile that China will name its successor to bolster control over the territory it poured troops into in 1950 and has ruled ever since. That raises the likelihood of rival challengers to the post; one by self-declared atheist Beijing, the other by the Dalai Lama's office based in neighbouring India, a regional rival of China. Good heart The celebrations on Sunday are the culmination of days of long-life prayers for Tenzin Gyatso, who followers believe is the 14th reincarnation



of the Dalai Lama, a man whose moral teachings and idiosyncratic humour have made him one of the world's most popular religious leaders. "While it is important to work for material development, it is vital to focus on achieving peace of mind through cultivating a good heart and by being compassionate, not just toward near and dear ones, but toward everyone," he said in his birthday message. "Through this, you will contribute to making the world a better place." The celebrations also included his key announcement that, after being inundated with messages of support from fellow Tibetans both inside and in exile, the spiritual institution will continue after his

death. He said he had received appeals from followers from across the Himalayan region, Mongolia and parts of Russia and China. The seemingly esoteric matters of reincarnation have real-world political consequences, with Tibetans fearing his death will mark a major setback in his push for more autonomy for the Himalayan region. The Dalai Lama said his India-based office alone would "exclusively" identify that successor -- prompting a swift and sharp reply from China that the reincarnation "must be approved by the central government" in Beijing. China said the succession would be carried out "by drawing lots from a golden urn", foreign ministry spokeswoman Mao Ning told reporters on Wednesday. That urn is held by Beijing, and the Dalai Lama has warned that, when used dishonestly, it lacks "any spiritual quality". Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi offered effusive birthday greetings on Sunday, calling the Dalai Lama an "enduring symbol of love, compassion, patience and moral discipline."

Japan PM says won't 'easily compromise' to Trump on tariffs

TOKYO. (Agency)

Japan's Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba said Sunday he won't "easily compromise" in talks with Washington as Tokyo seeks to avert President Donald Trump's threat to impose tariffs of up to 35 percent on Japanese goods. "We will not easily compromise. That's why it is taking time and why it is tough," Ishiba told a television talk show. His comments came as Japan rushes to negotiate with the Trump administration before the Wednesday deadline for trade deals. While Trump imposed a sweeping 10 percent tariff on imports from most trading partners in April, he unveiled -- then paused -- higher rates on dozens of economies including Japan to allow room for negotiations. This pause will expire July 9, meaning the elevated rates are

due to kick in if countries fail to reach agreements with Washington to avert them. Trump has said he was going to write a letter to Japan, asking it to "pay



and rice. Ryosei Akazawa, Tokyo's trade envoy, held telephone calls with US Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick on Thursday and Saturday.

In the Sunday television show, Ishiba reiterated that Japan, as the biggest investor nation in the US economy, should be treated differently from other countries. "What is unfair? How is it unfair? We need to examine each one" of the US claims, he said. "We are allies, but we have to say what we have to say. We are the world's largest investor nation and the largest job creator (in the US). We are different," he said. On another Sunday television show, Ishiba said Japan was "preparing to deal with all kinds of situations", when asked about how he plans to deal with Trump's letter.

Thousands show support for trans people at Pride in London

LONDON. (Agency)

Amid a sea of rainbow flags and sequined costumes, hundreds of thousands joined Pride in London on Saturday, showing their support for transgender people in the wake of a recent UK court ruling. They included Chase, 23, who cheered as dancers on floats paraded through Piccadilly Circus. As a transgender man, Chase came to let the government know that the community was "still here", even if it is "at the bottom of the barrel" at the moment. Like thousands of others in the United Kingdom, Chase will no longer be allowed to use certain single-sex spaces -- men's toilets and changing rooms in this case -- following the publication of new guidelines by the UK's equality regulator (EHRC) at the end of April.

The guidelines were issued days after the Supreme Court ruled that the legal definition of a woman is based on biological sex, impacting transgender people's access to hospitals and sports clubs. The new rules "invalidate us completely", said Chase, face covered in glitter and bedecked in a transgender flag, adding that the guidelines were

"just the beginning" of a tougher approach against their community. This edition of Pride in London should therefore serve to "show solidarity with



the trans community", said Jake Hills, the event's communications head.

The transgender community has been "scapegoated for so many problems in this country", lamented Dominic, a 26-year-old linguist who came from Reading, west London to attend the gathering. "A lot of people are going out their way to show support for the trans community. And I think we should," he added. Like last year, organisers expected nearly 1.5 million people to attend the event.

Rising intolerance

Political parties of all stripes have been banned from this year's Pride parades in London, Birmingham, Brighton and Manchester, due to their "refusal to platform those who have not protected our rights". Shortly after the Supreme Court's ruling, Labour Prime Minister Keir Starmer refused to repeat statements made in 2022, when he said that "transgender women are women". "We are very disappointed with the backsliding on LGBTQ+ rights that's currently taking place in the UK. We think there is a rising tide of intolerance, diminishing government support in the UK for our trans siblings," said Hills. Many in the parade were draped in the white, blue, and pastel pink transgender flag, chanting: "What do we want? Trans rights! When do we want it? Now!" They hope that the EHRC will amend its guidelines before passing them on to the government. Concerns about the rights of LGBTQ+ people have grown in several countries in recent months, notably in the United States and Hungary, where 200,000 people marched last weekend despite a ban by Prime Minister Viktor Orban.

Iran's supreme leader makes first public appearance since Iran-Israel war started

WASHINGTON. (Agency)

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Saturday made his first public appearance since the 12-day war between Israel and Iran began, attending a mourning ceremony on the eve of Ashoura.

Khamenei's absence during the war suggested the Iranian leader, who has final say on all state matters, had been in seclusion in a bunker -- something not acknowledged by state media. State TV in Iran showed him waving and nodding to the chanting crowd, which rose to its feet as he entered and sat at a mosque next to his office and residence in the capital, Tehran.

There was no immediate report on any public statement made. Iranian officials such as the parliament speaker were present. Such events are always held under heavy security. After the U.S. inserted itself into the war by bombing three key nuclear sites in Iran, U.S. President Donald Trump sent warnings via social media to the 86-year-old Khamenei that the U.S. knew where he was but had no plans to kill him, "at least for now."

On June 26, shortly after a ceasefire began, Khamenei made his first public statement in days, saying in a prerecorded statement that Tehran had delivered a "slap to America's face" by striking a U.S. air base in Qatar, and warning against further attacks by the U.S. or Israel on Iran. Trump replied, in remarks to reporters and on social media: "Look, you're a man of great faith. A man who's highly respected in his country. You have to tell the truth. You got beat to hell." Iran has acknowledged the deaths of more than 900 people in the war, as well as thousands of injured. It also has confirmed serious damage to its nuclear facilities, and has denied access to them for inspectors with the U.N. nuclear watchdog. Iran's president on Wednesday ordered the country to suspend its cooperation with the watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, further limiting inspectors' ability to track a program that had been enriching uranium to near weapons-grade levels. Israel launched the war fearing that Iran was trying to develop atomic weapons.

It remains unclear just how badly damaged the nuclear facilities are, whether any enriched uranium or centrifuges had been moved before the attacks, and whether Tehran still would be willing to continue negotiations with the United States over its nuclear program. Israel also targeted defense systems, high-ranking military officials and atomic scientists. In retaliation, Iran fired more than 550 ballistic missiles at Israel, most of them intercepted, killing 28 people and causing damage in many areas.

Ceremony commemorates a death that caused rift in Islam. The ceremony that Khamenei hosted Saturday was a remembrance of the 7th century martyrdom of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Hussein. Shias represent over 10% of the world's 1.8 billion Muslims, and they view Hussein as the rightful successor to the Prophet Muhammad. Hussein's death in battle at the hands of Sunnis at Karbala, south of Baghdad, created a rift in Islam and continues to play a key role in shaping Shiite identity.

Texas floods leave at least 51 dead, 27 girls missing as rescuers search devastated landscape

KERR COUNTY. (Agency)

Rescuers scoured a devastated central Texas landscape of mangled trees, overturned cars and muck-filled debris Saturday in an increasingly bleak mission to locate survivors, including 27 girls who have not been seen since their camp was slammed with a wall of water in a historic flash flood. The flooding in Kerr County killed at least 43 people, including 15 children, and at least eight people died in nearby counties. Authorities still have not said how many people were missing beyond the children from Camp Mystic, a Christian summer camp along a river in Kerr County where most of the dead were recovered. The destructive, fast-moving waters rose 26 feet (8 meters) on the Guadalupe River in just 45 minutes before daybreak Friday, washing away homes and vehicles. The danger was not over as rains continued pounding communities outside San Antonio on Saturday and flash flood warnings and watches remained in effect.

Searchers used helicopters, boats and drones to look for victims and to rescue people stranded in trees and from camps isolated by washed-out roads. Gov. Greg Abbott vowed that authorities will work around the clock and said new areas were being searched as the water receded. He declared Sunday a day of prayer for the state.

"I urge every Texan to join me in prayer this Sunday -- for the lives lost, for those still missing, for the recovery of our communities, and for the safety of those on the front lines," he said in a statement. Authorities were coming under scrutiny over whether the camps and residents in places long vulnerable to flooding received proper warning and whether enough preparations were made. The hills along the Guadalupe River in central Texas are dotted with century-old youth camps and campgrounds where generations of families have come to swim and enjoy the outdoors. The area is especially popular around the July Fourth holiday, making it

more difficult to know how many are missing. "We don't even want to begin to estimate at this time," Kerrville City Manager Dalton Rice said earlier. Raging



storm hit camp in middle of the night. "The camp was completely destroyed," said Elinor Lester, 13, one of hundreds of campers. "A helicopter landed and started taking people away. It was really scary." The raging storm, fueled by incredible amounts of moisture, woke up her cabin just after midnight Friday. When

rescuers arrived, they tied a rope for the girls to hold as they walked across a bridge with water whipping around their legs, she said. Frantic parents and families posted photos of missing loved ones and pleas for information. Among those confirmed dead were an 8-year-old girl from Mountain Brook, Alabama, who was at Camp Mystic, and the director of another camp just up the road. The flooding in the middle of the night caught many residents, campers and officials by surprise. AccuWeather said the private forecasting company and the National Weather Service sent warnings about potential flash flooding hours beforehand.

"These warnings should have provided officials with ample time to evacuate camps such as Camp Mystic and get people to safety," AccuWeather said in a statement. It called the Hill Country one of the most flash-flood-prone areas of the U.S. because of its terrain and many water crossings.

Bowring Hospital senior surgeon's son kidnapped, attacked



BENGALURU. (Agency)

In another instance of senseless road rage in the city, a 19-year-old engineering student, the son of a senior surgeon at the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, was kidnapped and assaulted by a group of men on Wednesday night.

The victim had to undergo a surgery to his head after he was tortured for more than one-and-a-half hour. Shockingly, one of the key accused is a 16-year-old. His father and another person involved in the assault were arrested and a notice has been served on the juvenile.

The incident happened near the Florence School Ground in Basaveshwaranagar police station limits between 8.30 pm and 10 pm. When the victim was riding his electric scooter near the school grounds, the juvenile, suddenly came in front. This led to a verbal altercation between them.

The juvenile then called his father and the latter rushed to the spot with a group of friends. The gang that came in different vehicles kidnapped the student in an autorickshaw. The victim identified as Akhilesh (name changed) is a resident of Basaveshwaranagar 3rd stage. After he was attacked and thrown out of the auto, the victim called his friends seeking help. He was rushed to Shanbhag Hospital in Basaveshwaranagar 3rd stage. The police who visited the hospital recorded the victim's statements and registered an FIR on Thursday.

The victim in his complaint has stated that the accused attacked him with a steel bangle and other weapons. The assailants who threw punches on his face also kicked him repeatedly. After snatching his mobile phone and a gold chain, the accused then put him inside the auto and took him to a secluded place and continued beating him again. They then forced him to unlock his mobile phone. After going through the mobile for some time, the accused threw the mobile phone on the road after pushing him out of the auto.

Folk singer Swarna revives ancient martial arts in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD. (Agency)

In a quiet morning in Hyderabad, the rhythmic clack of bamboo sticks echoes across a training ground. Under the open sky, children, some barely in their teens, practise Karram Sammu and Kathi Sammu, ancient rural martial arts from Andhra Pradesh, once on the verge of extinction. Leading this quiet revival is Swarna, a folk singer-turned-martial artist whose journey from melody to martial mastery is both unlikely and transformative.

Swarna doesn't fit the typical image of a martial arts instructor. Dressed in a simple kurta, staff in hand, she commands respect not through force, but presence. Her poise reflects years of discipline and quiet dedication to an art form few in Telangana had even heard of.



Not your regular influencer

Long before she picked up a staff, Swarna had found her voice through folk music. Born into an agricultural family in Nagarkurnool, she began singing at a young age. Her YouTube channel, Swarna Swaras, brought folk songs to a wider audience. One of her renditions, Diva Diva, went viral with 4.8 crore views. She reportedly became the first woman pursuing Telugu folk music to receive a CCRT fellowship from the Union government.

Kerala health minister visits hospital collapse victim's family amidst protests

Bindhu, who was accompanying her inpatient daughter, got trapped in the debris after part of a building in the hospital collapsed.

KOTTAYAM. (Agency)

Kerala Health Minister Veena George on Sunday visited the family of a woman who died after a portion of a building of the Government Medical College Hospital collapsed here three days ago. Veena George visited the victim's family amid protests seeking her resignation over the incident.

52-year-old Bindhu, who was accompanying her inpatient daughter, got trapped in the debris after part of a building in the hospital collapsed on Thursday.

George, along with local CPI(M) leaders, reached the home of the victim on Sunday morning, a day after the state witnessed raging protests seeking her resignation

over the tragedy. The minister interacted with Bindhu's husband, her mother and children and assured them all support from the government. While talking to reporters here later, the health minister said the tragic death of Bindhu was heartbreaking and utmost painful. "As far as I am concerned, this family's sorrow is my sorrow. I met her husband, mother and all other relatives and shared their grief. The government will be with them completely in all aspects," she said.



George said Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan already talked about this and the relief

measures for the family would be announced by him based on the decisions of the state cabinet. Appropriate decisions for the family would be taken soon, the minister added. Bindhu's husband, Vishruthan said the minister assured the family that their son would be given a permanent job in the government sector.

The family has hope in the government and they are satisfied with the interventions made by the authorities so far, he said.

The toilet complex adjacent to wards 10, 11, and 14 at Kottayam Government Medical College collapsed on Thursday while the hospital was in the process of fully shifting operations to the newly constructed surgical block.

Bindu (52) had died, and three others were injured in the incident.

While the Congress and BJP termed the death as "tantamount to murder" and staged widespread protests seeking the resignation of Veena George, state ministers, including VN Vasavan, Saji Cherian, P A Mohammed Riyas and V Sivankutty, strongly supported her and said such allegations were "politically motivated".

State a leader in cow protection, livestock development: UP govt

On January 2, 2019, UP became the first state in the country to launch a policy for the protection of stray cattle, as per the state government

Lucknow. (Agency)

The Uttar Pradesh government on Saturday said the state was the nation's frontrunner in cow protection and livestock development, accounting for 16 percent of India's cattle population. It said that cows are not only revered in UP, but are also powering the rural economy, creating jobs and strengthening livelihoods. The government claimed, citing the 20th Livestock Census (2019), the state is home to 1.90 crore cattle, including 11.84 lakh stray cattle, a figure that has grown from over 12 lakh in 2017, before formal policies were in place.

The government further claims, after Yogi Adityanath became Chief Minister in 2017, cow protection became a top priority in the state. On January 2, 2019, UP became the first state in the country to launch a policy for the protection of stray cattle. According to the government data there are 7717 cow shelters in the state, housing 12.52 lakh (1.25 million) cattle. The government spends Rs 50 per animal per day, around Rs 7.5 crore daily, for their care. For every large cow protection center, Rs 1.60 crore is being invested in construction. According to the official data the state produces 5,500 tonnes of cow dung daily, which is being used to make



various products like vermicompost, flower pots, cow-based lamps, cow-dung wood, incense sticks, Panchgavya, Jeevamrit, and Ghanamrit.

According to the government, the state has a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of rupees 25.63 lakh crore of which the livestock sector contributes rupees 1.67 lakh crore. While livestock contributes to 4.11 percent to India's overall GDP, while livestock contributes 4.11% to India's GDP overall, UP contributes a much higher, 7.1 percent according

to the government. The state also produces 390 lakh metric tonnes of milk every year, strengthening the rural economy. Under the Chief Minister's Indigenous Cow Promotion Scheme and the Nandini Krishak Samridhi Yojana, native breeds like Sahiwal, Gir, and Tharparkar are being promoted. These schemes provide 40-50% subsidy and rewards of Rs 10,000-15,000 through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to over 6,500 cattle rearers. The government data stated, to encourage artificial insemination in cattle, 3.08 lakh free procedures were done in 2024-25. Under the Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund and National Livestock Mission, 44 and 292 projects are being implemented with investments of Rs 1,094.38 crore and Rs 144.29 crore, respectively. Under the UP Global Investors Summit (UPGIS) 2023, 578 dairy and livestock units have attracted investments worth Rs 2,221.99 crore and created 1.23 lakh jobs. Through schemes like the Nandini Krishak Samridhi Yojana, the government is helping set up units with 25 milch cows, with 50% of the beneficiaries being women. Under the Fodder Policy 2024, Napier grass is being grown on 230 hectares of land, aiming to produce 1.73 lakh quintals of green fodder.

HR&CE permits SC couple to conduct their wedding in Palayamkottai temple

On June 24, the couple — J Gopal Sami and G Manju — submitted their application seeking permission to hold the wedding on the temple premises.



TIRUNELVELI. (Agency)
The Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (H R & C E) Department on Saturday granted permission for a couple belonging to the SC community (Hindu Puthiraivannar) to conduct their wedding at Melavasal Balasubramanya Swami Temple in Palayamkottai, a day after TNIE published a report on their plight on Friday (July 4).

On June 24, the couple — J Gopal Sami and G Manju — submitted their application seeking permission to hold the wedding on the temple premises. However, the HR&CE staff at the temple rejected it, citing that their parents have Christian names. Their request was turned down despite the couple and their family possessing Scheduled Caste (SC) Hindu Puthiraivannar community certificates issued by tahsildars. Gopal said, "It should be noted that if members of the SC community practise Christianity, they can only obtain Backward Class (BC) certificates."

Moreover, he said, "My late father, Joseph Sami, had been visiting Sabarimala Ayyappan Temple for over 15 years. The wedding engagement followed Hindu customs. Manju's brother, G Manoj, recently got married at the Ilanji Kumarar Temple, managed by the HR&CE. Despite submitting these proofs, the temple staff rejected our application."

First Skin Bank to be launched in Thiruvananthapuram MCH

Skin Banks are facilities which collect skin through donors for replacing the burnt skin of victims.

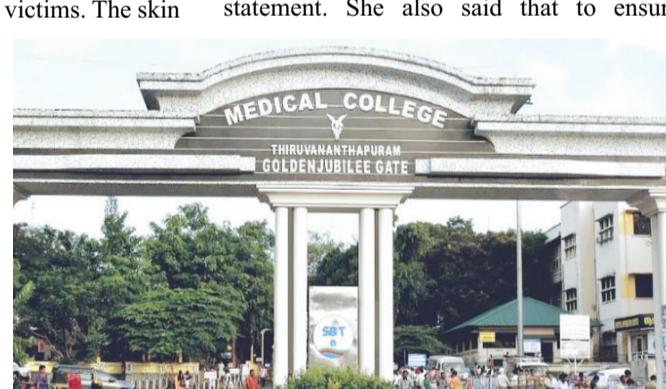
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM. (Agency)

At a time when questions are being raised against the efficiency of the health sector, the state's first skin bank is all set to open its door of relief for numerous burn victims. The skin bank is being set up in Thiruvananthapuram Government Medical College.

The bank will be inaugurated on July 15 coinciding with the World Plastic Surgery Day. The centre has also secured the approval of the Kerala State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (K-SOTTO) for receiving skin through organ donation. The facility has been constructed at a cost of Rs 6.75 crore.

Skin Banks are facilities which collect skin through donors for replacing the burnt skin of victims. In cases where a burn victim could not use his or her skin, the skins stored in the Skin Banks can be used. This helps reduce the pain and chances of infection. The skins are

kept at a specific temperature. "Works are in progress to start another Skin Bank in Kottayam Government Medical College," Health Minister Veena George said in a statement. She also said that to ensure



efficient treatment to burn victims, burn centres were set up in Alappuzha, Kollam, Kannur Medical Colleges. Plastic surgery units were also started in these medical colleges. Burns ICU were also set up in medical colleges.

Bindhu (52) had died, and three others were injured in the incident.

While the Congress and BJP termed the death as "tantamount to murder" and staged widespread protests seeking the resignation of Veena George, state ministers, including VN Vasavan, Saji Cherian, P A Mohammed Riyas and V Sivankutty, strongly supported her and said such allegations were "politically motivated".

The mirror of revisited classics

It's been a summer of classics for me. A series of events made me peer beyond the here-and-new into the phenomenon of enduring works of art. In May, Satyajit Ray's 1970 classic, *Aranyer Din Ratri* (Days and Nights in the Forest), was screened at the Cannes Film Festival in the presence of actors Sharmila Tagore and Simi Garewal after the film had gone through a six-year-long restoration process. A month later, an uncut, restored version of *Sholay* was unveiled at the Rediscovered Cinema festival in Bologna at a memorable setting—an al-fresco screening at dusk on the city's central piazza, with a full crowd watching the classic on the 50th anniversary of its release. A few days earlier, on the 50th anniversary of Indira Gandhi's Emergency rule, *Hazaron Khwaishein Aisi* (A Thousand Wishes Like This) became the buzz. Interestingly, Sudhir Mishra's 2003 film, like Ramesh Sippy's 1975 film and Guru Dutt's *Pyaasa* (1957)—whose restored version was commercially re-released this April and showcased at Cannes later—had initially opened to tepid audiences, but became all-time classics with word-of-mouth promotion.

But then, this is not just about movies. Be it movies, music or books, the phenomenon of classics begs questions on their enduring mystique, without any answer that involves mathematical certainty. However, with the wisdom of hindsight, I dare say there are several explanations that are equally fascinating.

The most obvious one is that some creative works have a timeless appeal based on human emotions that cut across generations. The cry for justice, the longing for love, childhood innocence, character flaws, and awesome heroism are identifiable across cultures. Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* is not about fishing, as a casual reading might show, but about endurance and the human spirit.

A favourite anecdote is about screenwriter Jean-Claude Carrière, who is said to have remarked that he wrote the script for a stage adaptation of the *Mahabharata* by Peter Brook in Paris because "when you see a character, you can say, There goes Shakuni". There are also storytelling styles that appeal with their innovation, timing or context. Think of the Salvador Dali or Vincent van Gogh paintings that come with stories about their creators, which built an aura with the contexts.

The cliché of struggling artists can bring attention back on their works. *Teesri Kasam*, the Basu Bhattacharya movie released in 1966, was a box office failure, but its songs live on along with the story about how its producer and renowned lyricist Shailendra died a broken man. I also believe classics help new generations understand their parents, ancestors or nations in a way that earns them the timeless tag. You can travel in time with classics, especially ones that are written or scripted as tales of the times. Cross-genre versions, send-ups or parodies can also be a path back to an old work. My own interest in Beethoven was kindled by a disco version of his 'Fifth Symphony' in the 1977 hit *Saturday Night Fever*, and I went on to listen to the sublime original and other works by the composer. One learnt later that the raucous opening guitar riff of rock group Deep Purple's 1972 classic 'Smoke on the water' was little more than a slightly modified reverse of Beethoven's Fifth. Classics also serve conduits between literature and history. This March, I listened to a captivating lecture on E M Forster's *A Passage to India* on the 100th anniversary of the publication of the novel set in the waning days of the British raj. For one, the book set in the 1920s reveals much about the subsoil that Hindutva grew on. The characters reflect the social realities of those times that shaped both the Gandhian approach to independence and Veer Savarkar's cultural orientations. Novels, after all, can capture the zeitgeist in a manner a droll history textbook cannot.

MAY we live in interesting times, goes the Chinese proverb. In a fast-moving world, the week gone by threw up some interesting facets in the world around us. In any case, the end of the week is always a good time to take stock of things. The China-Pakistan bond—"higher than the mountains, deeper than the seas and sweeter than honey," a phrase that is invoked like a mantra between leaders of both countries when they meet—is fast becoming a reality that is staring India in the face, wherever it turns to look. Deputy army chief Lt Gen Rahul R Singh's eloquent remarks about China using the "borrowed knife" approach—meaning that, during Op Sindoor, it aided Pakistan every step of the way to hurt India—is confirmation, if confirmation was needed, that China is India's foremost adversary. Two other factors are equally significant. The first, that China's key adversary, the US, is also warming towards the Pakistanis. The second, that as the Dalai Lama turns 90 this weekend and has, himself, put to rest speculation about his reincarnation—by saying that he will be born outside China, in a free and democratic country, for example like India—it is not clear how the Modi government is viewing this transition-in-the-making.

Let's take the first, first. It now seems that just before the Quad foreign ministers met in Washington DC earlier this week—and issued a statement that refused to name Pakistan as the sponsor of the Pahalgam attack, although it condemned "cross-border terrorism", a compromise phrase that indicated it was the farthest it would go—the Pakistan air force chief, Zaheer Ahmed Baber Sidhu, was also warming his heels in the US capital. Sidhu's visit comes in the wake of the Pakistan army chief, Field Marshal Asim Munir's trip to the US, where he was feted to an extraordinary meeting with US President Donald Trump. Meanwhile, trade negotiations between India and the US are concluding—the Indian team is back home. If New Delhi gets away without opening up its agricultural basket, it would be a big triumph. It might be seen by the US as a quid pro quo on expanding ties with Pakistan.

And this is exactly where the cookie is beginning to crumble these days. The US knows that the word "Pakistan" is anathema to the Modi government, but it continues to meet its senior military leadership. Parts of

the US are upset that India continues to buy oil from Russia. Meanwhile, Russia has just become the first country in the world to recognise the Taliban, Pakistan's neighbour and now friend-turned-antagonist, in an effort to gain influence in this part of inner Asia.

At least the Quad statement named "Pahalgam," even if it didn't name "Pakistan." Last week, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh refused to sign the joint statement of the China-led Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) because it named neither the country behind the Pahalgam attack nor the venue of the attack.

The bigger question, or questions, are why the Quad, a powerful grouping in the Indo-Pacific of which India is a key partner, is refusing to fully buy what India is saying.

actress has acted in it. Some days ago, the government tested a balloon by unblocking some social media accounts of key Pakistani influencers like Shoaib Malik, Shahid Afridi and Mawra Hocane—but the social media backlash was so huge that it was forced to block them again. The interesting thing is that some of the information that underlines India's success during Op Sindoor is coming from these blocked social media accounts—like Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's key aide Rana Sanaullah telling well-known Pakistani journalist Hamid Mir (whose account is blocked) that Pakistan was under a lot of pressure when India's BrahMos missiles were honing in towards Nur Khan airbase. According to Sanaullah, the Pakistani defence forces only had "34 seconds" to decide how to act. If they had responded by firing their own missiles, he said, the tit-for-tat reaction may have led towards an escalatory situation. Clearly, Sanaullah was admitting the nervousness in the Pakistani camp that early morning of May 10 when the IAF basically settled the matter.

Now snatches of this interview are being played out on social media today—but imagine the effect if the full interview was available to all Indians, not just a truncated version of it. And then there is the Dalai Lama question. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, who hails from Arunachal Pradesh, which is where the sixth Dalai Lama was born, in Tawang, as well as where the current, the Fourteenth, set foot when he fled Tibet for India in 1959—has been fielded these last few days to insist that the Dalai Lama, and no one else, (meaning, China) will decide what happens to the holy institution of Tibetan Buddhism. The Modi government will more or less go along with what the Tibetans-in-exile want, but all sides know that in the knuckle-hard world of today, where each country will protect its own interest, it is unlikely that New Delhi will go out on a limb to unduly irritate the Chinese. The Chinese, on their part, have warned India to "exercise caution" on this matter before it affects bilateral relations—there's the not-so-coded threat.

Old-timers remember the one meeting between PM Modi and the Dalai Lama about 10 years ago—a secret meeting to which the Tibetan leader was taken to meet the PM in an unmarked car and darkened windows. Today, New Delhi has put out that it doesn't take positions on matters of faith, although it upholds freedom of religion. Question is, what does this coded message mean?

No ifs and buts about Constitution's amended preamble

When the government says on record that it holds the Constitution as the 'holiest of holy books', there can be no ifs and buts about the amended Preamble

An Emergency-era constitutional amendment inserting a couple of words to the Preamble—socialist and secular—is back in public gaze. That it was flagged by RSS General Secretary Dattatreya Hosabale, a politically savvy leader, made its latest iteration consequential. Emphasising that they were added at a time when the fundamental rights were suspended, parliament was dysfunctional, and the judiciary had become pliant, Hosabale suggested a debate on the Preamble's reset. But that came in the teeth of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assertion in 2023 that any talk of amending the Constitution was "meaningless". Rumours about tinkering with the Constitution through the parliamentary supermajority the BJP sought played its part in opposition consolidation in the run-up to the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. It contributed to the BJP's slide, as the party fell short of majority in the Lower House. Yet, when the second-most senior leader in the RSS makes a point, the BJP listens. Soon enough, people holding high



offices—Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Union ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Jitendra Singh—concurred with Hosabale.

However, last November, the Supreme Court had thrown out petitions seeking the purge. A bench led by the then

Chief Justice, Sanjiv Khanna, ruled that the concept of secularism represents one of the facets of the right to equality. Several landmark Supreme Court verdicts have also upheld secularism as part of the Preamble and the Constitution's basic structure. On socialism, the court said, "The way we understand socialism in India is very different from other countries. In our context, socialism primarily means a welfare state. That is all."

With the judiciary drawing the red line and closing the door, the issue can only be dealt with by parliament. The opposition is already sharpening its knives, warning it will not allow any such change to the Constitution. When the government says on record that it holds the Constitution as the 'holiest of holy books', there can be no ifs and buts about the amended Preamble. Despite multiple debates in the past on the insertion of the two words and scoring polemical points, there was no parliamentary consensus on removing them. India's social fabric of a multi-ethnic, multi-religious welfare state must be kept out of harm's way.

Heartburn over rebels with a cause

Shashi Tharoor, like V P Singh & Somnath Chatterjee before him, has put his party in a quandary by not toeing the line. Principled defiance is not easy to brush off

Political parties in India ostensibly have two kinds of rebels or dissenters. The first kind of rebels are the common, pedestrian variety. They crudely bargain for power. They could be seeking an election ticket, a higher position, a hefty ministerial berth or greater funds. They threaten to disrupt if their expectations are not met. The second type is rare to come by. They are the ones who put their parties in a piquant moral situation. They prick the conscience of their parties. They do so by either arguing from a higher ideological plane; by prescribing higher values to their colleagues, or via aligning themselves, parallelly, with a purpose far greater than that being advocated by their parties at a given time. These high-minded grumblers, if we may call them so, may be difficult to handle, but parties cannot easily dismiss them. That is because they form a virtuous smokescreen before the voting masses, and sometimes become fossilized symbols of the foundational principles of their parties.

In recent days, Shashi Tharoor, a member of parliament from Thiruvananthapuram, has come across as the second type of rebel within the Congress. Ever since he became the most eloquent, nonpartisan voice by leading an official delegation to foreign nations to explain India's war against terrorism, his party has suspected his loyalty. They have coldshouldered him, attempted to play down his importance and even underplayed his certain mastery over English. But more the effort the Congress has put in, Tharoor has sparkled more in the eyes of a larger audience. The headlines have

not stopped chasing him. To the extent that many think he is independent of the Congress; that he may get a newly-crafted diplomatic assignment under the Modi dispensation to regularize his patriotic services; that he may even cross over to the BJP and become a minister in the cabinet, or ultimately head to Kerala to head the state.

All these are far-fetched. Tharoor is not politically naïve to start believing the publicity that surrounds him. However, he is smart enough to leverage the fair winds among the masses in his favour, to position himself as a singularly independent politician in India in times of polarised affinities. It is this well-crafted independence that gives him the power over two large warring ideological constituencies. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses

Tharoor's recent statement on the RSS was proof of his political deftness. It directly challenged the Congress position on the issue, and more so that of Rahul Gandhi. Tharoor said: "At the time of the adoption of the Constitution [75 years ago], Mr. Golwalkar, among others, said that one of the great flaws of the Constitution is that there is nothing of the Manusmriti in it. But I think the RSS itself has moved on from those days. So, as a historical statement, it's accurate. Whether it's a reflection of how they feel today, the RSS should be in the best position to answer that." The RSS and the BJP were somewhat let off the Congress hook after this statement. They had been segued out of the embarrassment, courtesy Tharoor. Since the debate

was happening in the context of 50 years of the Emergency, when the Constitution was dismantled by Indira Gandhi, it was as if a mirror of duplicity had been held before the Congress. The party's self-righteous propaganda on the Constitution had



been happening without it actually apologising for the horrors it had perpetrated during the Emergency and the anti-democratic institutions, including the idea of political dynasties, that it had established.

The ruling Modi dispensation seems to have happily adopted Tharoor because it saw the need for a reasoned patriotic voice on the international stage after Operation Sindoor. Perhaps they realised that their own jingoistic tone wouldn't work. And Tharoor needed an open arena to escape the stifling atmosphere inside his party. The regime's need and

the politics of Tharoor appears to have aligned at the same time to cause a massive heartburn within the Congress. Yet, they cannot be seen acting against him, at least not immediately. It is apparent that the Congress is not enjoying this checkmate.

The dynasty may eventually act and its courtiers may add to the glossary of trolls, yet it won't be as easy as seeing off others who had crossed over for power. Over the years, Tharoor has become an aspirational symbol of new India where everybody seems to want his charm, his coiffure and his English accent. In contemporary history, there are two outstanding examples that reconstruct a similar moral quandary that Tharoor has put his party in. V P Singh, in the mid-1980s, had similarly thrown a moral challenge at Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress. Even while inside the party and the cabinet, he had accused the

regime of corruption and grabbed the mantle of 'Mr Clean'. Singh's biographer Debasish Mukherjee writes that on May 16, 1987, at a Congress rally in Delhi's Boat Club grounds, Rajiv Gandhi could not contain his growing unease against Singh. Without naming him, Rajiv said: "Today we should remember how a Mir Jafar rose in our midst, a Jaichand rose in our midst, to weaken the country... we'll give them a fitting reply." Jaichand was purportedly Singh's ancestor and the implication was clear. Singh left the rally midway and the rest was history.

Unauthorised religious structures on govt property get MCG notices

Gurgaon. (Agency)

MCG is preparing to act against unauthorised religious structures constructed on govt property, public parks, and green belts. According to MCG records, around 90 such religious structures, including temples, mosques, churches, and gurdwaras, exist in the city.

The municipal corporation has issued a public notice, citing a Supreme Court directive prohibiting such construction in public spaces, particularly after Sept 29, 2009. The officials said that failure to comply will result in the competent authority undertaking demolition, with all associated costs to be borne by the responsible parties. Also, the authorities have warned that any violations of this directive will face legal consequences.

"We will proceed with measures against unauthorised constructions situated on govt-owned land and green zones, following the Supreme Court's directives and state govt's instructions, as the state maintains oversight of this issue. Given the religious significance and public sentiments involved, the situation will be handled with appropriate care and consideration. We will ensure proper maintenance of law and order throughout the process," the MCG commissioner Pradeep Dahiya told TOI. Meanwhile, Faridabad DC Vikram Singh also said that, in accordance with the clear directives of the Supreme Court, any construction of religious structures on public land, especially in parks and green belts, will no longer be tolerated in the Faridabad district.

Officials said that their goal is not to disrespect any religious sentiments but to ensure the proper use of public land according to regulations. They have appealed to all citizens to cooperate and report such



Gurgaon. (Agency)
The city is likely to experience heavy rain in the coming days, with India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a yellow alert till June 9. Monsoon activity over Haryana is set to intensify, bringing widespread rainfall and thunderstorms, particularly on Sunday and Monday, the IMD forecast read. Meanwhile, on Saturday, the minimum temperature was recorded at 27.4 degrees Celsius, down from Friday's 28.4 degrees Celsius. While the lower nighttime temperature provided some relief, residents continue to experience humid conditions during daytime. The maximum temperature settled at 35.1 degrees Celsius—almost unchanged from the previous day's 35.2 degrees. Moreover, a brief spell of scattered showers took place around 5pm, which brought 3mm of rainfall to the city. "Monsoon activities are

likely to strengthen across Haryana with the peak intensity of the spell expected between Sunday and Monday, covering most parts of the state," an IMD official said, adding that multiple weather systems will bring rainfall in the region. A cyclonic circulation over northeast Madhya Pradesh in the lower tropospheric levels, combined with an upper air cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal and neighbouring regions, are influencing weather conditions. Under its influence, a low-pressure area is likely to form in the next 24 hours, further fuelling monsoon activity in the region, the weather department said. So far this monsoon, the state recorded 90mm of rainfall, with an excess of 25% against the normal of 72.1mm. While Yamunanagar received

saw very light rain on Saturday, but hot and humid conditions made the outdoors uncomfortable. However, relief is expected on Sunday as the India Meteorological Department has issued a 'yellow' alert for light to moderate rain along with thunderstorms and lightning.

The maximum temperature on Saturday was recorded at 37.1 degrees Celsius, one degree above normal. It was 36.2 degrees Celsius a day earlier. However, due to high humidity, the heat index or 'feels like' temperature was higher. The heat index settled at 54 degrees Celsius at 5.30 pm. The relative humidity oscillated between 57% and 89%. The minimum temperature was reported at 27.9 degrees Celsius, which is near normal for this time of the year.

50k trees to make up for green cover loss along metro route in Gurgaon

Gurgaon. (Agency)

A 47-year-old physically challenged man—granted bail in connection with a cheque bounce case—died in police custody as his family waited outside the gates of the Civil Hospital to take him home. An insurance agent with 80% disability, Lokesh Kumar was arrested on June 24 despite objections from his family that he was too ill to be taken out of home and had been confined to the bed for 10 days before that. He was lodged in Bhondsi jail until a local court granted him bail this Friday. Anticipating his release, Kumar's family stood outside the jail when they saw an ambulance wheeling him out unconscious. Despite their attempts to check on him, the family claimed they received no response from the jail authorities and could only follow the ambulance to the hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 2.30pm. The arrest itself was contentious, Kumar's relatives alleged, saying they had repeatedly pleaded with the proclaimed offender staff not to take him into custody because of his poor health. "He had 80% disability and was not keeping well for some time. When we requested the cops that he be allowed to stay home, they informed us that he was declared a proclaimed offender as he did not appear before the court in his cheque bounce case. They said they were bound to take him into custody. They arrested him on June 24 from his house, and he remained in jail until he was granted bail on Friday. After the release order was sent to the jail authorities, the family waited outside the gates to take him home. But he couldn't make it," said Anuj Raghav, a lawyer and Kumar's relative. The family accused the jail authorities of negligence, claiming they weren't informed about Kumar's deteriorating health before he was rushed to hospital. Kumar's paternal cousin has demanded a thorough investigation, asserting that the death occurred in police custody. Jail superintendent Naresh Goyal, however, denied any negligence on the part of the cops, pointing to Kumar's existing health conditions.

Gurgaon. (Agency)
A land parcel spanning 18 hectares in Kadarpur village has been earmarked for compensatory afforestation to offset the environmental impact of the Millennium City-Cyber City metro corridor project. The identified non-arable hilly terrain is part of a 190-hectare land parcel currently under MCG's possession. The compensatory afforestation is a statutory requirement under forest conservation norms, mandating authorities to plant 10 times the number of trees cut for infrastructure projects. According to officials from GMRL, the agency executing the metro project, the identified land has been earmarked by the MCG for afforestation, and the formal demarcation process has begun. The proposed metro corridor is planned to be executed in two phases. In Phase 1, which is already in the tendering process, around 1,800 trees are

set to be felled to make way for the construction of pillars, stations, and depots. For Phase 2, officials said the exact number of trees to be removed is yet to be finalised, but initial estimates suggest the number is around 3,000. Going by the estimates, GMRL is required to plant 48,000 trees to offset the loss of green cover. GMRL officials said that since the metro project is essential for urban mobility, ensuring environmental mitigation alongside construction is a key priority. MCG has approximately 190 hectares of land in Kadarpur. Of this, the municipal corporation has earmarked 18 hectares for compensatory afforestation linked to the metro project. This area will be developed as a green zone with species that have a better survival rate. The forest department has already given permission for 1,300 trees to GMRL, as master roads are under their jurisdiction, for removal of

Old doesn't mean unfit: Judge car not by age, but condition, say end-of-life vehicle owners in NCR

Gurgaon/Noida. (Agency)

"In the pink of health," Pradeep Pachauri insists of his Nissan Sunny, which he has kept parked in the garage of his Gurgaon house in Sector 37D, of late, fearing the car will be seized if he takes it to Delhi. "My car is parked in the garage, and I have been taking cabs to go to Delhi. Imagine," says Pachauri, whose diesel-powered sedan has run less than 1 lakh km in 10 years. "The car is in good running condition. I have an up-to-date Pollution Under Control (PUC) certificate for it. When I bought the car in 2015, I also paid a one-time road tax for 15 years. Despite adhering to all norms, I can't run my car in NCR. The system is forcing me to purchase a new car without getting any meaningful price for my old vehicle," adds Pachauri, saying cars should be judged by emissions and running condition rather than the sole criteria of age. Based on a 2015 NGT order and subsequent rulings by the Supreme Court

that diesel vehicles over 10 years old and petrol vehicles more than 15 should be deemed "high-polluting" and EOL (end-of-life) vehicles and taken off roads, Delhi govt had announced they would not be given fuel from July 1, and the vehicles would be seized if seen on roads. But implementation proved thorny. A mix of logistical issues, such as inconsistent rollout timelines across states, and emotional ones—like the distress of parting with a still-functioning car—have made enforcement unpopular. On Thursday, the govt backed away from it, citing public sentiment. Noida police, however, forged ahead and impounded 76 EOLs between July 1 and 4 alone. In Delhi, around 90 were seized till July 3. While a policy decision is yet to be taken, the deadline to scrap or shift EOL vehicles from the five high-density NCR districts of Gautam Budh Nagar, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Faridabad and Sonipat remains Nov 1 as of now, with plans to cover the

rest of the districts in the region by April 2026. The order, meanwhile, has left many vehicle owners, like Pachauri, anguished about making a fresh investment in a new car—a new car like Nissan Sunny would cost over Rs 20 lakh—when there is nothing wrong with their old vehicle.

"The rule seems to be blind to individual realities, especially for vehicles that saw minimal use during the pandemic and are still roadworthy," says IT professional Sapan Rastogi, a resident of Greater Noida's Gaur City, whose diesel Renault Duster has run just 52,000 km in nearly nine years. "We hardly used it for two Covid years. But we made so many memories—from office runs to trips across Rajasthan and Himachal. It's not just a car—it's part of our family history," he says. In Noida's Sector 51, Sanjeev Kumar's white Volkswagen Vento, a 14-year-old petrol car, has clocked just 58,000 km. "It's well maintained. I've replaced parts, serviced it regularly.

Noida. (Agency)
A 38-year-old man was arrested after a gunfight for allegedly murdering his partner by slitting her throat in Nirman Vihar. The accused, Mukeem, allegedly killed the woman after deciding to end their eight-year-long relationship. Police said they received information around 6pm on Friday about a woman found dead inside a rented accommodation in the colony. "Following the information, a team from Ecotech 3 police station, along with senior officials, rushed to the spot. The woman was found with her throat slit. She was taken to a hospital where doctors declared her brought dead," said DCP (central Noida) Shakti Mohan Avasthy. The deceased, Shabnam, is from Luharli village and stayed in Haibatpur before being killed. The house where her body was found had been rented by Mukeem around 15 days ago, police said.

Based on a complaint by Shabnam's son, an FIR was registered under Section 103(1) (murder) of BNS at Ecotech 3 police station. Avasthy said two police teams were deployed to trace the accused. He was arrested after a brief encounter on Saturday morning near Chauganpur roundabout. The team signalled a suspicious man on a motorcycle to stop. Instead, he turned and tried to flee. During the chase, he abandoned his motorcycle and attempted to escape through an empty courtyard. When surrounded, he opened fire at the police team. In retaliatory firing, he sustained a bullet injury and was subsequently arrested," Avasthy said. Police recovered a knife, a pistol, and the motorcycle from his possession. During interrogation, Mukeem, a resident of Dadri and a carpenter by profession, confessed to killing Shabnam. "He told us they had been in a relationship for over eight years. His family, particularly his wife and children, disapproved of the affair and pressured him to end it," the DCP said.

On Friday, Mukeem called Shabnam to the rented room around 3 pm and killed her with a knife, police said. Another senior officer said Shabnam had been living separately from her husband, Shabuddin, for the past eight years. "Both Shabuddin and Mukeem are relatives. After separating from her husband, Shabnam began a romantic relationship with Mukeem. As his children grew older, they objected to the relationship, leading to tensions. Mukeem recently took a carpentry contract in Nirman Vihar and rented a room nearby, where he planned and executed the murder," officer said.

They built NCR's cities, but never got a home of their own

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

"Life is tough," Mangi Ram said, standing outside a four by three-metre room fashioned out of loose brick walls with tin sheets and polythene for a roof that is his home. For the time being.

The 34-year-old construction worker lives in a makeshift settlement along with hundreds of others, who—like him—have been employed to build a multi-storey building in Siddharpur Vihar. "Even if we have a job, living conditions are not good. We don't have access to clean water and other necessities. At night, we live in huts. That is, till we need to move for work elsewhere," Ram said.

Some six kilometres away, Ram Narayan (35) of Mathura stays in a similar settlement in Indirapuram. Ram and Narayan are not among the 3.27 lakh workers registered with the labour department in Ghaziabad. Because of this, they remain outside the bracket of any welfare schemes introduced by the govt to make life easier. Though NCR's construction boom has been on the back of workers like Ram and Narayan, most of them live in poverty, on the sidelines of rapidly growing cities. Workers and their families leave their villages behind in search for better lives. But once here,

they neither find stable jobs nor a place to call home. Employed by contractors, workers and their families must stay on the move, living in temporary settlements near construction sites. Work is scattered over months and salaries aren't fixed. At the end of a work day, they get Rs 500, and there are no paid leaves for the days they fall sick. "We have our people in far-flung areas of the country like Bihar, UP, Odisha and Jharkhand. As per labour demand, we facilitate their movement. In NCR, however, there is no dearth of labour demand," said Ratnesh Sahu, a contractor. Sahu said contractors have the first line of contact with developers. "Developers tell us how many workers they need at a construction site. We provide them (workers) with accommodation and other basic amenities, and when the work at a construction site is over, we move them to another part of the region," he said.

Asked if contractors helped workers get registered with the labour department, Sahu scoffed and said, "There are many schemes, but most of them are on paper. Here, labourers are content that, at the end of the day, they get their daily wage

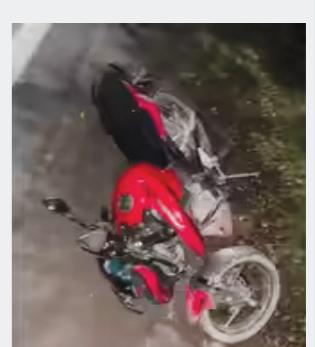


instance, provides financial assistance to construction workers in case of illness or treatment at public hospitals. Under UP's Nirman Kamgar Mrtu Va Divyangta Sahayata Yojana, financial aid up to Rs 5.25 lakh is given to the families of registered workers in case of death or disability due to accident or illness. In FY2024-25, the families of 17 workers

got compensation under this scheme. But accidents aren't uncommon in this unorganised sector. Just this Feb, two labourers died after falling from the 10th and 11th floors of separate under-construction buildings in Raj Nagar Extension. The same month, eight

workers were injured while attending to an under-construction overhead tank in Muradnagar. Anurag Mishra, deputy labour commissioner of Ghaziabad, told TOI that the district administration provided compensation to the families of any construction workers involved in accidents while at work. Still, he admitted that more needs to be done. "It is important to admit that govt schemes vis-a-vis construction workers need to be publicised, and workers should be made aware of them. Our department, from time to time, holds camps at construction sites. But the nomadic nature of their jobs adds to the problem," Mishra said.

Another official of the labour department said the district disbursed Rs 37.9 lakh under various schemes meant for construction workers in FY2024-25.



500 varieties of mangoes from across India on display at Delhi's Chanakyapuri

Agency New Delhi.

At this celebration of aam, mango lovers are no longer sticking to their favourites: they are wandering from one stall to another, exploring the varieties they have never seen before. While some pick up the fruit to inhale its aroma, others press gently to assess its ripeness.

This is day one of the two-day mango festival 'Khass-ye-Aam', being organised for the first time by the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) at Chanakyapuri. Free and open to all, the festival, which began on Saturday, serves as a platform for empowering farmers, promoting agricultural innovation, and celebrating India's rich agricultural diversity.

A total of over 500 varieties of mangoes from across the nation are at display, including Arunika, Ambika, Sansesan, Tomy, Fajali, Langra, Lucknow Safeda, Kachha Meetha, Dudhiya Gola, Matka Gola, Safeda Amin, Desi Kism, Desi Gola,

Desi tuharu, Munjar Amin, Kism Azad, Gulab Khas, Gulab Jamun, Dashari, Amrapali, Hathi jhool, Malika, and Chausa. The NCR from April 1, 2026. Farmers and cooperatives from states such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, and Bihar are participating, along with government institutions, including the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Institute for Subtropical Horticulture (CISH) in Lucknow, and ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi.

From the capital, farmers and vendors from Azadpur Mandi display their mango varieties—Nepali Dussehra and Chausa.

"It is an effort to provide direct exposure to farmer societies, research institutes, and vendors, with the spirit of Atma Nirbhar Bharat, while it also highlights the NDMC's commitment to inclusive growth



mangoes are kept in multiple rows. The stalls read the names of the farmer, cooperatives and their native place. "Taste it first, then buy it," says a farmer from Uttar Pradesh as he cuts a fresh slice

of Amrapali mango, a hybrid of the 'Dasher' and 'Neelum' varieties and offers it to a lady.

While the farmers attend to the crowd, a sweet competition is unfolding on a round table at a corner, where scientists hold a book and a pen, observing and testing the following categories: Dasher, Amrapali, Mallika, Chausa, and Ram Kela. Here, along with the scientists, visitors are allowed to taste and provide their input.

The air has become sweet, and farmers and scientists have become busy answering the queries of mango lovers. "Kitne din tak theek rahega ye?" (For how long will this mango be fresh?), "Bhaiya iski khusboo toh mast aa rahi hai, ek peti ka kitna?" (Brother, this smells good, what is the price of a full box?) were some of the questions asked of the farmers. However, some varieties of mangoes stole the limelight with either their bizarre names or sizes.

DU announces start of second phase of UG admission process



Agency New Delhi.

The University of Delhi (DU) on Saturday announced the commencement of its second phase of undergraduate admission process under the Common Seat Allocation System (CSAS-UG) 2025. Beginning July 8, students who have cleared the Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG) will be able to fill in their programme and college preferences on the university's admissions portal. In a detailed schedule released by the Registrar's office (see box), the university clarified that the preference-filling window will remain open till 11.59 pm on July 14. Preferences will be auto-locked if not submitted by the deadline. Importantly, both Phase I (registration) and Phase II (preference-filling) of CSAS will remain open simultaneously until July 14. This means candidates who haven't registered earlier still have the opportunity to enter the admission cycle.

"Due care must be exercised while ordering the preferences," the advisory stated.

The university has also introduced a correction window, available from July 6 to 11 for those who have already registered under Phase I and wish to make final edits to their forms. However, this is a one-time facility—candidates can only open the form once, make all desired changes in a single sitting, and must submit immediately. "The form once submitted will not re-open," the university cautioned. In a move aimed at student convenience, DU has introduced an auto-accept feature.

Delhi sees longest spell of clean air this year with 'satisfactory' AQI for 10th day

Agency New Delhi.

In the longest spell of clean air this year, Delhi's air quality index (AQI) remained in the "satisfactory" category for the tenth consecutive day on Saturday.

The AQI was recorded at 89, a slight increase from 78 the previous day. According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), AQI, between 51 and 100, falls within the "satisfactory" range. Light rainfall was recorded in several parts of the Capital, with the Safdarjung observatory—considered the city's representative station—logging 1.8 mm. Palam received 2.6 mm of rain, SPS Mayur Vihar 0.5 mm, and Pragati Maidan 0.1 mm, while Lodhi Road reported trace rainfall. In the NCR, Gurgaon recorded 3 mm and Faridabad 0.5 mm. The normal rainfall for the month, based on the long-period average, is 23.3 mm.

In its daily weather bulletin, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) noted that South Easterly winds prevailed over Delhi with speeds up to 15 kmph.

The IMD has forecast light to moderate rain, accompanied by thunderstorms or lightning over the next three days.

On Saturday, the maximum temperature in the city settled at 37.1 degrees Celsius, close to normal for this time of year. The minimum temperature was recorded at 27.9 degrees Celsius, also within the normal range. A yellow alert ('be aware') has been issued for Sunday, with a forecast of thunderstorms or lightning. While no specific alerts have been issued for the rest of the week, the Met Office has predicted generally cloudy skies, with the likelihood of rain, thunderstorms, or lightning continuing.

Teen gym caretaker stabbed in South Delhi, two juvenile suspects held

Agency New Delhi.

A juvenile gym caretaker was stabbed in South East Delhi's Tughlakabad Extension in the early hours of Saturday, according to police officials.

Two juvenile suspects have been apprehended in connection with the incident.

The stabbing was reported via a police control room (PCR) call following which officers rushed to the scene. Upon arrival, the responding team assisted PCR personnel in transporting the injured victim to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Trauma Centre, where he underwent emergency surgery. He remains in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit under close observation, the police said. The



victim was on his way to open a local gym where he works as a caretaker when the attack happened. "He was stabbed by the two juveniles over personal enmity as they had quarrelled

intention) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Govindpuri Police Station. Medical-legal documentation was completed, and a manhunt was launched for the suspects. Both accused were located and taken into custody shortly thereafter.

Police identified the assailants as a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old, both residents of Tughlakabad Extension. The elder had dropped out after completing Class 9 at Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, while the younger is currently a Class 10 student at the same institution.

During the course of the investigation, the dagger used in the attack as well as the clothing worn by the suspects at the time of the incident were recovered. The police said that further investigation is on to establish the full scope and motive behind the attack.

CAQM reviews action plan for stubble burning, vehicular emissions with Punjab, Haryana

Agency New Delhi.

From eliminating stubble burning to curbing vehicular emissions to intensifying road dust abatement measures—the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) earlier this week held high-level meetings with Punjab and Haryana governments to review their preparedness to implement pollution control measures. In a statement issued on Saturday, the CAQM said the meetings took place on Thursday in Chandigarh. Chief Secretaries and senior officials from both states attended the meeting.

Concerning Haryana, the review touched upon key issues such as the state's action plan to eliminate paddy stubble burning in 2025, the use of paddy straw-based biomass pellets in



brick kilns, and compliance with thermal power plant emission norms. The Commission also reviewed the target of 5% biomass co-firing in thermal plants for 2025–26.

Progress on road dust mitigation, especially related to the redevelopment of identified roads, as well as the CAQM's earlier directions on curbing vehicular emissions, were discussed. These include the

liquidation of end-of-life vehicles, the installation of ANPR camera systems (as per its April directions), and the shift to clean mobility among aggregators, delivery services, and inter-city buses. The meeting also reviewed the phasing out of diesel autorickshaws. In its meeting with Punjab, the CAQM focused on the implementation of the state's approved plan to eliminate paddy stubble burning in 2025.

As per the statement, the Commission assessed the mandatory use of biomass pellets in brick kilns and reviewed thermal power plants' compliance with emission norms, including biomass co-firing targets.

Similar to its review of the Haryana government, vehicular pollution control norms were reviewed.

Nod at key DU meeting to course on 'Sikh martyrdom', credits through online platforms leads to objections

Another agenda item that was criticised was the formal adoption of a provision allowing undergraduate and postgraduate students to earn up to 40% of their credits through online platforms such as SWAYAM and MOOCs

Agency New Delhi.

A slew of curriculum changes were approved on Saturday at the Academic Council (AC) meeting of the University of Delhi amid a sharp dissent from a section of faculty over content control, outsourcing of credit hours, and the shifting locus of teaching authority.

Among the key decisions was the approval of a new general elective course titled "Sikh Martyrdom in Indian History (c.1500–1765)" to be offered by the Centre for Independence and Partition Studies (CIPS).

The course aims to critically explore the development of Sikhism and the historical context of martyrdom under Mughal rule, covering key figures such as Guru Arjan Dev, Guru Tegh Bahadur, and Banda Singh Bahadur.

To streamline implementation, nine superintending engineers have been appointed as nodal coordinators to liaise with the respective district magistrates.

council. AC member and history professor Maya John called its academic positioning "highly objectionable." "The offering of this course by the CIPS is itself concerning," she said, objecting that it will be taught outside the History department.

John further flagged the absence of clarity on where and how the 60-hour course will be taught, given that students enrolled in various colleges will be selecting it as a generic elective.

Calling for scholarly rigour, John said: "I strongly recommend the inclusion of primary readings like the Zafarnama, Aurangzeb's Will, the writings of Bhai Mani Singh, and works by scholars such as Yoginder Sikand, K.S. Duggal, G.S. Chabra, and Hardip Singh Syan." She urged that the course be suitably modified and taught by trained historians. Another

agenda item that was criticised was the formal adoption of a provision allowing undergraduate and postgraduate students to earn up to 40% of their credits through online platforms such as SWAYAM and MOOCs. SWAYAM has been developed by the Indian government to provide free online courses. While the move aligns with UGC guidelines and aims to offer flexibility and multidisciplinary access, it drew strong opposition from several faculty members.

"The award of 5% credits through Swayam and MOOCs will gravely jeopardise the integrity and academic standards of DU's UG and PG programmes," said John. "It will contribute to endemic flux in teaching workloads, diminish meaningful student-teacher engagement, and compromise classroom instruction," John added. Echoing these concerns, the Academic for Action and Development, Delhi Teachers' Association, the university teacher body, said in a statement: "What's more alarming is that institutions may allow up to 40% of the total courses in any semester to be offered online. Courses taught in classrooms for decades will now be shifted online. And with that shift, teachers will slowly be pushed out of the system, silenced by screens, replaced by portals."



arrangements are in place well before the yatra begins. The DJB has stressed the need for "assured potable water supply" at all designated camps. It also directed officials to deploy sufficient number of water tankers and prepare a fixed daily schedule outlining the frequency and volume of supply.

At larger and well-established camps, the DJB has suggested setting up temporary water connections or stand posts, but only after proper technical assessment confirms safety and feasibility.

The order also mandated regular water quality checks. Water supplied through tankers and temporary setups must be tested frequently to ensure it meets potable standards.

To streamline implementation, nine superintending engineers have been appointed as nodal coordinators to liaise with the respective district magistrates.

Business meeting with clients to get positive results or output - with your own image and reputation is also Stablis. Professional attitude at the meeting and could make an impression Manor. It is necessary to continue to update their skills. Additionally, whenever you go to a Inporret meeting, make absolutely sure you follow a few basic business Attikets, as it works to prevent negative effects.

Time Access

Perfect leader arrived at the meeting place at the time. Indeed, professional timing and place of the meeting is already Decide. Therefore Sr. or Jr. must take care of all time. Those arriving late to a meeting is deemed negligent. If you're hosting the meeting, according to the protocol is necessary to arrive on time.

Proper Introduction

Introduction to the Role of the Business Meeting is very important, therefore, Highest rank first or the most senior person to introduce yourself. At the time of introduction, smiles and decency should have. Also, when you arrive at a meeting, then greet Guests and Business Partners in a civil manor. To her handshake. Let them take their business card business card, it

Consntreshn



Ship's Engineer



ships. Over time, the increasing size of ships increase in jobs in the region. If you have passion and deal with the challenges the country - is fond of foreign travel, then a career as Naval Architecture nautical miles at a speed of several permits. Ship Operations professionals in this field, technical maintenance etc are attached to tasks.

Nature of Work

Director of Indian Institute of Nautical Science and Engineering Kulshreshtha said Sanjeev, a special branch of engineering is it. Naval Architecture, Ship Building and Ship under shipping technology designing, construction,

maintenance and equipment used in maritime traffic, etc., are taught such repairs ships and submarines. Naval engineering Ktrej can guess from the fact that the professional course related to it sit empty. Naval Engineers currently in demand not only in India but also abroad is cool.

Courses and qualifications

The Naval Architect or Naval Engineers are in demand also grew. Today, most jobs are in the field. How to make career in this field..

The first short sea trade - used by small ship, but their place is taken by large



ship building or B.Tech., BE, B.Sc. Ship Building and Repairing of course can be.

Indian Mritaim University, Cochin University of Science and Technology (Siuosatti), the Institute of Nautical Science and Engineering from the Indian Ship Building and Repairing course you can. In addition, the Institute of Ship Building B TECH. Course is also available, such as - Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering at IIT Madras B.Tech. Course you can. For admission to this course CET (Common Entrance Test) is conducted, the Aiamayu (Indian Mritaim University) does conduct. For admission in 12th physics, chemistry and math is required at least 55 per cent marks. In addition, 50 per cent marks in English in the 10th and 12th should be. The opportunity to apply those same students who do not pass the CET exam. 180 objective type written test for admission are concerned, the PCM / English / General Knowledge and reasoning are based on. Ship Building and Repairing all new BSc course. There is good scope of placement after the course.

Job Oprchunitij

After the course the shipyard, ship, cargo ship and can find jobs in the Merchant Navy. Ship Building Industry, naval dockyards and shipping companies, naval architects and ship technology nowadays in great demand by the people involved. To perform better in the field of promotion opportunities are good.

Salary Jess in the field -

such as your merit increase, promotion and salary increase will tend to be easier. There is no limit to growth. Assistant managers and CEO's salary starts from Rs 30 lakhs is reached. News Feature

Key to Success in Business

Inporret

The patient should be listening to the speakers at the meeting. Then the question and answer session, so consider who said what and what the logic behind it, has he? When it becomes clear, then, that no one Kwashcn Related to the meeting. Jmeka your impressions and the rest of the meeting will not take you too lightly.

Professional meeting came several times on mobile calls are disturbing. Many big corporate houses in meeting the Strictly Mobile is instructed not to move. Meetings are taking the mobile, then switch off or put on silent mode. Lay on the table during a meeting or a hand-held mobile professionals Attikets also be considered against.

Focus on the agenda

Professional is pre-fixed agenda of the meeting. As such it becomes the responsibility of having to conduct the meeting that he attended a meeting agenda wander from anyone else. When that happens, then the meeting will be effective. People who want to keep their things, they should make arrangements in advance, To The Point. Start with the tag line 'strong point. Additionally, Ricorridg and documentation of Proceedings after meeting members to share Attikets part of the business. Simple Business Attikets such a significant affect on the image.

Careers with No Risk Insurance Underwriter

If a career option recession and uncertainty found in the environment, where the risk is minimal, then who would Nhinajmana involvement. Particularly if he is interested in finance or accounting. Insurance underwriters for such people the opportunity to become the Finance Sector Stablis ourselves, because everyone needs insurance has become today.

Work responsibility

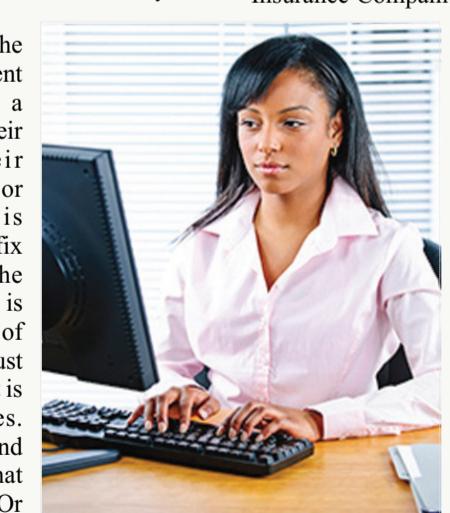
In addition to the client or the company's risk management underwriter, insurance is a study of the proposals, their background and their applications to accept or collect Information is discarded. Review and fix the responsibility of the insurance policy premium is also Inhinki, ie how much of an insurance company must charge the policy holder, it is the underwriter decides. Between the company and the policy holder can say that it serves as Mediator. Or renew insurance coverage to cover new individuals and companies, both he helps.

Basic Skills

Powerful ways you can keep your talk, with excellent communication and interpersonal skills with the knowledge of computers, you can debut as underwriter. Underwriters often have to take sudden decisions. The analytical and decision making skills are essential. Additionally, the maths should also be strong, because the whole thing is associated with the risk and premium calculation. They should also have the capability Judgment.

Growth Options

As underwriter, you can find opportunities to work in many Areas like - life insurance, health insurance, mortgage insurance and property



insurance. In addition, Auto, Loan, Commercial, Farm and group health insurance underwriter as growth in the area are good options. By the way, people who want to become medical underwriter, for them to have a medical background is Inporret.

Courses and Institutes

Insurance Companies to act as underwriter in Finance and Business Adimistreshn must be g r a d u a t e . With specialization in the accounting, then even better. If desired, Insurance and Risk Management BA in Management and Marketing of Insurance or can. Graduate in any stream candidates can work as an insurance underwriter. There are many institutes and universities in India, from where you can do the course:

- Asia-Pacific Institute of

Management Studies, Delhi

- Birla Institute of Management Technology, Greater Noida

- Guru Nanak College of Arts, Science and

Commerce, Mumbai

SS Institute of Management, Lucknow

- APJ Instiug of Management, Jalandhar

Many opportunities in this field India is the underwriter of the new field, but it's enough growth opportunities. In addition to Finance and Commerce, Medical Professionals Traditional jobs are not coming from the background, medical underwriter can earn as well. Mathematical and analytical skills with the Basic Kwlifikeshn would benefit from having.

India's Forex Reserve Is Now Almost Twice The Pakistan's GDP

New Delhi. (Agency)

India's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 4.84 billion to USD 702.78 billion for the week ending June 27, close to the record high of USD 704.89 billion in September 2024, according to RBI data. This is a strong recovery from January when reserves had dropped to around USD 624 billion. The increase came mainly from foreign currency assets, which jumped by USD 5.75 billion to USD 594.82 billion, while gold reserves fell by USD 1.23 billion to USD 84.5 billion. Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) rose by USD 158 million to USD 18.83 billion during the week, while India's reserve position with the IMF also increased by USD 176 million to USD 4.62 billion, as per RBI data released on July 4. Although reserves have grown, RBI's forward dollar book—which shows future dollar obligations—fell by USD 19 billion in April and May, reducing it to USD 65.2 billion in May from USD 88.7 billion in February. RBI's net dollar sales in this period were modest at USD 3.2 billion. The rupee has faced volatility since April due to global trade tensions, but RBI interventions have helped stabilize it. RBI buys dollars when the rupee is strong and sells when it weakens to control sharp fluctuations.

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that India's forex reserves can cover 11 months of imports and 96 percentage of external debt, reflecting India's strong external position. A healthy forex buffer not only supports the rupee but also boosts investor confidence during global challenges.

Mcap of 6 of top 10 firms declines by Rs 70,325.5 cr; HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank big laggards

New Delhi. (Agency)

The combined market valuation of six of the top-10 valued firms eroded by Rs 70,325.5 crore last week, with HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank emerging as the worst-hit in line with a bearish trend in equities. Last week, the BSE benchmark Sensex dropped 626.01 points or 0.74 per cent. In the top-10 pack, Reliance Industries, State Bank of India, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever Ltd were the gainers, while HDFC Bank, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Bajaj Finance faced erosion from their market valuation. HDFC Bank's valuation declined by Rs 19,284.8 crore to Rs 15,25,339.72 crore. ICICI Bank lost Rs 13,566.92 crore in its market valuation which stood at Rs 10,29,470.57 crore. The valuation of Bajaj Finance dropped by Rs 13,236.44 crore to Rs 5,74,977.11 crore and that of LIC diminished by Rs 10,246.49 crore to Rs 5,95,277.16 crore. TCS faced an erosion of Rs 8,032.15 crore from its market capitalisation (mcap) which stood at Rs 12,37,729.65 crore. The mcap of Bharti Airtel fell by Rs 5,958.7 crore to Rs 11,50,371.24 crore. However, the market valuation of Reliance Industries jumped Rs 15,359.36 crore to Rs 20,66,949.87 crore. Infosys added Rs 13,127.51 crore in its valuation to Rs 6,81,383.80 crore. The mcap of Hindustan Unilever climbed Rs 7,906.37 crore to Rs 5,49,757.36 crore and that of State Bank of India went up by Rs 5,756.38 crore to Rs 7,24,545.28 crore. In the ranking of top-10 firms, Reliance Industries retained the title of the most valued firm, followed by HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, LIC, Bajaj Finance and Hindustan Unilever Ltd.

Mobility revolution: Union minister Nitin Gadkari unveils futuristic roadmap; pitches electric buses, ropeways and hyperloops

New Delhi. (Agency)

Union minister Nitin Gadkari has outlined a bold vision to transform India's transport landscape, with a focus on electric rapid mass transport, hyperloop corridors in urban centres, and ropeway and cable-car connectivity in remote regions.

In an interview with news agency PTI, Gadkari said the government is working on multiple futuristic mobility solutions that aim to cut pollution, improve connectivity, and reduce logistics costs.

"We are driving innovation. A revolution in mass mobility is underway," he said, underlining how technology, sustainability, and accessibility will shape the next phase of India's infrastructure growth. According to the minister, work is underway on 360 ropeway and funicular railway projects in hilly terrains, including Kedarnath, with 60 already in progress. These systems, designed for steep inclines, are seen as essential for providing safe and efficient transportation in remote areas. At the urban level, Gadkari revealed that pilot projects like Metro rail, hyperloop systems, and pillar-based transport networks are planned for Delhi and Bengaluru. "Days are not far off when cities will have cable-run buses and electric rapid mass transport with aeroplane-like facilities," he said.

He also confirmed that tenders have been floated for 135-seater electric buses in Nagpur, equipped with premium seating, AC, and the ability to travel at 120-125 km/hr. These buses, capable of recharging in 30-40 minutes, will initially operate on trial and then be introduced on intercity routes like Delhi-Jaipur and Mumbai-Pune.

On the road infrastructure front, Gadkari reiterated the ministry's goal of building 100 km of highways per day and upgrading 25,000 km of two-lane roads to four lanes. National highways have expanded from 91,287 km in 2013-14 to 1,46,204 km today, he claimed.

High-speed corridors have also grown substantially, from 93 km in 2014 to 2,474 km now.

Market Outlook: India-US Trade Deal, Q1 FY26 Earnings Key Drivers This Week

The broader market saw support from key sectors like banking, pharma, IT, realty, oil and gas, and media, which posted gains between 0.4% and 1%.

Mumbai. (Agency)

After witnessing a phase of profit booking last week, considering the broader indices currently trading at elevated levels, the market participants will closely watch for signs of earnings catch-up from upcoming Q1 — starting next week — along with the outcome of the interim Indian-US trade deal before the July 9 deadline, analysts said on Sunday. Additionally, the OPEC+ meeting

scheduled for this weekend could influence global oil prices. "On the macroeconomic front, the broader economy stands to benefit from favourable conditions such as easing inflation and declining interest rates. A positive outcome from the US-India trade negotiations could further lift market sentiment, particularly benefiting trade-sensitive sectors like IT, pharma, and auto," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited. Markets ended last week on a positive note despite a largely rangebound trading environment. The Nifty closed at 25,461, up 55.7 points, while the Sensex added 193 points to end at 83,432. The broader market saw support from key sectors like banking, pharma, IT, realty, oil and gas, and media, which posted gains between 0.4 per cent and 1 per cent. However, metals, telecom, and auto stocks underperformed, limiting the overall upside. Investor sentiment remains cautiously optimistic ahead of the anticipated US-India trade agreement.

with the tariff deadline drawing closer. A favourable outcome from the talks could act as a major trigger for the next phase of the rally, especially given the recent lack of directional momentum. This event is being closely tracked by institutional



participants and could determine the near-term trend," according to a note by Choice Broking. As per Fibonacci extension, the next major upside targets are seen at 27,300 and 28,600. On the downside, key supports are placed at 25,000 and 24,500,

Feeling Safe With Your Health Cover Here's Why You're Playing With Fire

New Delhi. (Agency)

For many middle-class Indians, having a health insurance policy brings a sense of comfort. You pay your premium, keep the card in your wallet, and go about your life believing you're protected if something goes wrong. But as chartered accountant Abhishek Walia warns, this feeling of security can be misleading—especially if your policy's coverage is too low.

Take the case of Suresh, a 38-year-old IT professional from Pune. He thought his Rs 3 lakh health insurance policy would be enough for any medical emergency. But when his father needed urgent heart surgery, the hospital bill crossed Rs 7 lakh. Suresh's insurance covered less than half, forcing the family to dip into savings and borrow money from relatives. "I never thought I'd need

more than what my policy offered. It was a rude shock," he admits. Stories like Suresh's are becoming more common as medical costs in India rise every year. A few days in a private



hospital, a surgery, or a critical illness can quickly wipe out years of savings. Many people only realize their insurance is too little when a crisis hits—and by then, it's too

late. Financial experts say this is a classic case of being "underinsured." It's not that you don't have insurance, but that your cover is too small for today's realities. Many people stick with the minimum sum insured just to save on premiums, or rely only on the group policy provided by their employer. But with healthcare inflation running high, what seemed like enough cover a few years ago may now fall short. Review your health insurance regularly. Don't wait for a medical emergency to find out your policy isn't enough. Consider increasing your sum insured, or adding a top-up plan. If you have a family, make sure your cover is enough for everyone. And don't just depend on your company's insurance—having a personal policy is crucial.

UPS vs NPS: Choosing The Right Pension For A Secure Retirement

New Delhi. (Agency)

Choosing between different government pension schemes can be confusing while UPS can provide steady inflation-proof income, NPS can provide much better return on your pension depending on how bonds and market performs. Government employees often wonder whether to choose the National Pension System (NPS) or the Universal Pension Scheme (UPS) for their retirement. NPS is a system where both the employee and the government contribute regularly to a retirement fund, which is then invested in the stock market and bonds. This means that the returns from NPS depend on how the market performs, leading to uncertainty in the pension amount one will receive after retirement. In NPS, part of the money is given as a lump sum upon retirement, while the rest is used to give a monthly pension, but this pension does not automatically increase with inflation. On the other hand, UPS offers a



stable and predictable pension after retirement. It guarantees a fixed monthly income, which increases over time to match inflation, ensuring that the retired employee's purchasing power remains the same even when prices rise. This is particularly important for those who want stability and do not wish to worry about market ups and downs in their retirement years. Many government employees prefer the idea of a guaranteed pension that will not decrease even if the markets perform poorly. While NPS can provide higher returns if the markets do well, it also carries the risk of lower returns if the markets fall. UPS, by providing a fixed pension that increases with inflation, offers peace of mind and stability to retirees. For government employees who value financial security over the possibility of higher but risky returns, UPS may be a wiser choice for retirement planning. It allows retirees to plan their monthly expenses confidently, knowing that their pension will arrive regularly and keep up with rising costs, making retirement life smoother and less stressful.

This Tech Giant Beats Apple To Become Most Valuable Company In The World

New Delhi. (Agency)

Nvidia becomes the world's most valuable company. Nvidia, led by Jensen Huang, has come the most precious company in the world, beating Apple and Microsoft. On Thursday, Nvidia compactly reached a record request value of USD 3.92 trillion before closing at USD 3.89 trillion, staying ahead of both Microsoft and Apple.

Nvidia beats Apple's record. Nvidia's value compactly crossed USD 3.915 trillion, beating the record Apple set on December 26, 2024. It took Nvidia just over six months to break that record. Now, Microsoft is the alternate most precious company with a USD 3.7 trillion value, while Apple is third with USD 3.19 trillion. Why did Nvidia come so precious? According to Reuters, Nvidia's rise is because Wall Street believes AI technology will keep

growing presto. Nvidia makes important chips that are essential for AI, and this has made investors veritably confident in the company.



As Nvidia's stock and other big tech stocks rise, people saving for withdrawal using S&P 500 indicator finances are now heavily invested in the future of AI. How Nvidia is leading the AI race. Big tech

companies like Google, Microsoft, Meta, Tesla, and Amazon are rushing to make advanced AI data centers. This is helping Nvidia, as further companies need its technical chips to power their AI technology. Nvidia now makes up 7 of the S&P 500 indicator. Together, Nvidia, Microsoft, Apple, Amazon, and Alphabet regard for 28 of the indicator. Nvidia's value is bigger than some countries' stock requests. Nvidia is now worth further than the entire Canadian and Mexican stock requests combined, according to Reuters data. It's also worth

further than all intimately listed companies in the UK. The recent rise in Nvidia's stock comes after a slow launch to the time when investors were more upset about tariffs and trade pressures with China than AI growth.

The stark irony of world's 4th largest economy with 81 crore free-mealers

India's growing wealth gap often sparks despair, but the author, a retired ESIC Regional Director, argues the real solution lies in enforcing India's long-ignored labour laws.

New Delhi. (Agency)

It is rightly said that India still has a long way to go before poverty can be totally eradicated. But for this to happen, merely accelerating our annual GDP growth rate to 10% or more will not be enough. An increase in GDP, though vital, will not automatically eliminate poverty, let alone reduce income inequality. For that to happen, a range of measures is required, starting with the strict enforcement of labour laws, many of which were enacted as early as 1948, soon after Independence. These laws were intended not just to

protect workers, but to ensure a fairer distribution of economic gains. I will now go into some detail.

LIMIT WORKING HOURS TO CREATE MORE JOBS

It is common knowledge that workers in the unorganised and informal sectors often work 10 to 12 hours a day, without any overtime compensation. Despite a growing GDP, youth unemployment remains worryingly high. According to the Ministry of Statistics, the unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 29 in May this year was 17.9% in urban areas and 13.7% in rural areas. If the working hours for both regular and contract or outsourced workers are restricted to 8 hours a day and 48 hours a week—as mandated by the Factories Act, 1948—significant employment opportunities can be created. The same applies to the Shops and Establishments Act across states. If strictly enforced, these provisions would drastically reduce unemployment.

MINIMUM WAGES STILL DENIED TO MILLIONS

Without first ensuring fair wages, we cannot even begin to talk about living wages for India's working class in accordance with

Article 43 of the Constitution. What is disheartening is that workers, not only in the unorganised and informal sectors but even outsourced workers in the organised sector, are frequently denied the minimum



wages mandated by law, despite long working hours.

This is no secret. The returns submitted by employers under the Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) and Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Acts reflect the actual situation. They expose widespread violations, as these returns include wage details and the number of days worked against each employee. The evidence is there in plain sight, but we do not want to see. I raised this issue during my deposition before the Second National

Labour Commission while serving as Director, Odisha region, ESI, but to no avail.

ESI COVERAGE REMAINS WEAK AND SELECTIVE

The compliance levels under the ESI Act, 1948, are similarly troubling. Many small- and medium-scale factories either fail to register their units or exclude large segments of their workforce—particularly contract workers—from ESI coverage.

Yet the Act is a vital social protection tool. It covers medical expenses, provides cash compensation for sickness and disability, and offers monthly pensions in the form of dependents' benefits in case of workplace fatalities. Proper enforcement could greatly improve workers' quality of life.

CONTRACT LABOUR LAW DILUTED BY STATES

The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970, was designed to regulate and, where appropriate, abolish contract labour. But the Act's provisions are undermined by loopholes. For instance, it does not apply to establishments engaged in intermittent or casual work.

Helly Shah

On Playing Contrasting Roles In Deda, Zyada Mat Udd: 'Exciting, Exhausting'

Helly Shah, a prominent television actress, had been out of the spotlight for several years since her debut in the daily soap Ishq Mein Marjawan 2. This year, she ended her hiatus and was back on TV with the weekend show Zyada Mat Udd as well as her first Gujarati film Deda. The actress spoke out about the difficulties she encountered while preparing for two extremely different roles: one as a pregnant lady Deda and the other as an air hostess in Zyada Mat Udd. In an interview with Tellychakkar, Helly shared that balancing these opposing personalities wasn't easy, especially when it came to her physical appearance. Deda required Helly to gain weight and mimic the physique of a pregnant woman, which necessitated dietary and body language modifications. On the other hand, Zyada Mat Udd needed to be healthy and toned to maintain the sharp and polished appearance of an air hostess.

"Playing such different roles at the same time was both exciting and exhausting. For Deda, I had to put on some weight to look the part, and for Zyada Mat Udd, I had to get back into shape quickly. Managing the diet and looking for both roles was extremely difficult, but I was determined to give my best," she said. Deda is Helly's first Gujarati film which was released on July 4.

Helly Shah's character in her new programme Zyada Mat Udd appears to be already popular with her followers. The show, which airs on ColorsTV and JioHotstar, follows the life of airline cabin staff members. Zyada Mat Udd also stars Shehzada Shaikh and Aishwarya Sakhuja. The show is primarily about Goldie, the wealthy, spoiled son of an airline owner. Goldie takes on the character of an obedient cabin crew member in order to establish his worth as CEO of his father's firm. Helly Shah also made her OTT debut in Gullak 4. The series, which

represents the spirit of India's middle class, resonated with viewers due to its genuine portrayal of daily problems and joys. The cast includes Jameel Khan, Geetanjali Kulkarni, Harsh Mayar, Vaibhav Raj Gupta, Saad Bilgrami, Deepak Kumar Mishra, Gaurav Sarathe and Sunita Rajwar. Shreyansh Panday developed and directed the series for Viral Fever Media Labs.



Sana Makbul

Greets Paps With a Smile, Shares Health Update Amid Liver Cirrhosis Diagnosis

Actor and former Bigg Boss OTT 3 winner Sana Makbul was clicked in the city earlier today, July 5. Known for her chirpy attitude and candid conversation with paparazzi, she was seen sharing her health update. Last month, the actor revealed that she has been diagnosed with liver cirrhosis and is currently undergoing treatment for the same. Sana Makbul wore a black T-shirt with a short skirt for her outing today. She replied to paparazzi with a smile, who were concerned for her health. The actor said that she is feeling better amid treatment for liver cirrhosis. Take a look at her video here:

Fans only wished well for her in the comment box. They wrote, "Thik ho jaygi", "Bimar to sab hote hai". Some also posted red heart emojis.

In June, Sana Makbul opened up about her diagnosis. She told Hindustan Times, "I've been living with autoimmune hepatitis for a while now, but recently things got worse. My immune system started attacking my liver more aggressively, and I've now been diagnosed with liver cirrhosis. But I'm trying to stay strong and taking one day at a time."

She added, "The doctors and I are doing everything we can to avoid a liver transplant. I've started immunotherapy — it's really intense and tiring. Some days are harder than others. But I'm holding on to hope. I just want to get better without needing something so big as a liver transplant. It's not going to be easy, but I am not ready to give up so easily. Some days I cry, some days I laugh, but every day, I try. As they say, healing is a journey, and I'm learning as I go."

She also said, "I'll come out of this stronger, and that I am pretty sure of, as I am a fighter." And with her recent post and

the visible improvement in her condition, she has indeed proven that she is a true fighter, coming back stronger than ever. Later, the actor shared an update, expressing gratitude and assuring everyone that she was doing better.



Abhishek Bachchan Dismisses Divorce Rumours With Aishwarya Rai: 'My Wife Does Not Let...'



Abhishek Bachchan has finally addressed the ongoing buzz and speculation around his personal life, especially the rumours claiming that he and his actress wife, Aishwarya Rai, are getting divorced. In a recent interview with Instant Bollywood, Abhishek opened up about the speculations and shared that, "I go back home to a happy family." He further mentioned that his wife does not let the outside noise affect the family and added, "One thing is for sure, first my mother (Jaya Bachchan) and now my wife (Aishwarya Rai Bachchan), they don't allow that outside world to come in there."

"I have grown up in this film industry, so I also know what to take seriously and what not to take seriously. I don't get affected by what's happening on social media," Abhishek stated.

Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai tied the knot in 2007 and are parents to a girl, Aaradhyaa Bachchan. However, for a long time now, rumours of trouble in Abhishek and Aishwarya's married life have been making headlines. It all started after the couple appeared separately for the media at the Anant Ambani and Radhika Merchant's wedding last year. Later, Aishwarya also shared photos from daughter Aaradhyaa's birthday bash which did not feature any of the Bachchan family members, including Abhishek. Abhishek was also not seen cheering for Aishwarya during her Cannes appearance this year.

Previously, Amitabh Bachchan had also shared a post seemingly addressing speculations surrounding their family's personal affairs.

"I rarely say much about family, because that is my domain and its privacy is maintained by me.. Speculations are speculations.. they are speculated untruths, without verifications.. Verifications are sought by the seekers to authenticate their business and commercials of the profession they be in.. I shall not challenge their desire to be in the profession of their choice.. and I shall appreciate their effort in serving society.. But untruths.. or selected question marked information can be a legal safeguard for them that inform.. but the seed of suspected belief is sown with this most used emblem.. the question mark..." he had said.

Fatima Sana Shaikh Is All Praise For R Madhavan, Calls Him India's 'Crush'



Fatima Sana Shaikh said that she really enjoyed working with R Madhavan in the upcoming film Aap Jaisa Koi.

Fatima Sana Shaikh is gearing up for some exciting projects. The actress was recently seen in Anurag Basu's 'Metro...In Dino', co-starring Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur, Ali Fazal and others. Up next, she will be seen in Vivek Soni's upcoming family drama 'Aap Jaisa Koi', which is set to release in a few days. Fatima stars opposite R Madhavan in the film, and she recently opened up about her experience working with him. She called him 'incredible', and said that he has been India's crush for many years. She also shared her admiration for director Vivek Soni.

Fatima Sana Shaikh On Working With R Madhavan

While speaking with Zoom, Fatima said, "I'm very excited for Aap Jaisa Koi. It's a very sweet film. Vivek Soni is an incredible director—I think, out of the newer lot of directors, he is very talented. He's got a strong visual voice, and the moment you see his films, you instantly know it's a Vivek Soni film, and that is very special. Also, I love Maddy—he is incredible. He's been the country's crush for years now, and his smile is still the most beautiful smile of any actor, I believe. I really enjoyed working with him."

Meanwhile, earlier, Fatima mentioned that she feels truly blessed to be a part of this film. "I've been a huge fan of Madhavan, and getting the chance to share the screen with him was such a joy. Playing Madhu was incredibly special. We often associate strength and confidence with masculinity, but Madhu embodies these qualities with such softness and femininity... Through this film, I got to dive into different shades of love, and oddly enough, it felt quite therapeutic," she said.

About Aap Jaisa Koi

R Madhavan plays a 42-year-old man Shrenu Tripathi in Aap Jaisa Koi, while Fatima Sana Shaikh will be seen as Madhu Bose, bringing audiences a heartwarming family drama that celebrates connection, companionship, and the beauty of discovering 'Barabari Wala Pyaar' in the most unexpected circumstances.

NEWS BOX

WI vs AUS, 2nd Test: Steve Smith braves West Indies pace battery to put Australia in driver's seat

Grenada. (Agency)

A gritty half-century from Steve Smith and a composed knock by Cameron Green helped Australia wrest back control on a rain-hit third day of the second Test against West Indies, putting the visitors firmly in the driver's seat. Australia recovered from the top order collapse, which they faced late on Day 2. Resuming at a precarious 12 for 2 in their second innings, Australia clawed their way to 221 for 7 at stumps on Saturday, stretching their lead to a commanding 254 runs on a tricky surface that continued to play unpredictable tricks, keeping low and offering variable bounce throughout the day. Smith, returning to the playing XI after missing the first Test due to a finger injury, weathered both the West Indian pace attack and a blow to his recently dislocated pinkie to compile a patient 71 off 119 balls. His knock, which included seven boundaries and a six, formed the backbone of Australia's resistance and revival.

Green, who resumed the day on 6, looked increasingly assured at No. 3 and brought up his half-century with his fifth boundary, a milestone he reached in 122 balls. But he perished the very next delivery, chopping on against Shamar Joseph for a well-made 52, ending a crucial 93-run stand with Smith that



pulled Australia out of early trouble.

"It was not ideal getting hit on the finger, but it feels all right," Smith said after play. "It's that kind of surface. Some balls can shoot up, and sometimes you just have to take a few on the hands." Rain interruptions dominated the morning and afternoon sessions, with nearly two hours of play lost to passing showers. When play resumed, scoring remained a grind as the West Indies seamers, particularly Shamar Joseph and Justin Greaves, extracted life from the deteriorating surface. Greaves, in a sharp post-tea spell, removed both Smith and Beau Webster in quick succession to briefly revive West Indies' hopes. Smith's decision to review his LBW dismissal proved futile, with replays confirming the ball was crashing into the off stump. Greaves ended with two wickets for the day, while Shamar Joseph added to his tally with the important scalp of Travis Head, who had threatened to accelerate with a brisk 39.

ENG vs IND: Will rain spoil India's chances of maiden Test win at Edgbaston

New Delhi. (Agency)

India, led by Shubman Gill, stand just seven wickets away from making a bold statement — their first-ever Test win at Edgbaston, and a dominant one at that. As the second Test heads into its final day, England find themselves deep in trouble, needing 536 more runs with only seven wickets in hand. India, on the other hand, have done almost everything right so far. They piled on the runs with authority, declared at 427 in their second innings to set a daunting target of 608, and then ripped through England's top order before stumps on Day 4. Zak Crawley was dismissed for a duck, Ben Duckett couldn't survive either, and the biggest blow came when Joe Root was removed — all thanks to a disciplined bowling display from Mohammed Siraj and Akash Deep. Gill has led by example with the bat, scoring a stunning 269 in the first innings and



following it up with a fluent 161 in the second. Siraj, with six wickets across the game, has spearheaded the bowling attack, while Akash Deep — standing in for Jasprit Bumrah — has delivered crucial breakthroughs when it mattered.

India are in the driver's seat, and the series, currently 1-0 in England's favour, could be levelled. But there's one big variable that could throw a spanner in the works — the Birmingham weather.

ENG vs IND, Edgbaston Test: Rain threat on Day 5

The rain gods might still have their say at Edgbaston. According to both the BBC and AccuWeather, showers are expected early in the morning on Day 5. The probability of rain is as high as 79% around 7 am local time. However, the forecast becomes more encouraging as the day progresses, with chances dropping to about 22% by 1 pm.

Ankara Messi 2.0: 38-year-old floors 5 defenders, scores stunning solo-goal for Inter Miami

- **Inter Miami beat CF Montreal 4-1 in MLS**
- **Messi scored two goals to help Miami win against Montreal**
- **Inter Miami were knocked out of the Club World Cup earlier**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Ageless Lionel Messi turned back the clock in Inter Miami's match against CF Montreal on Saturday, scoring an incredible solo goal. Messi took the ball in the midfield, dribbled past 5 defenders to slot in a perfect shot to the top right corner of the goalkeeper. Messi, now 38, reminded fans of his sensational solo goal against Getafe way back in 2007, which went viral for its Spanish commentary - Ankara Messi. Messi's brace on the day, helped Miami grab a 4-1 win over their opponents, as they shook off their poor Club World Cup campaign.

MLS: Inter Miami vs CF Montreal

Montreal had stunned Miami early, taking the lead in just the second minute through Prince



Osus. The forward capitalised on a rare Messi miscue, intercepting an errant pass near the top of the box before calmly slotting the ball through goalkeeper Oscar Ustari's legs. For the next half-hour, Inter Miami struggled to find rhythm. Montreal's Jonathan Sirois put in a stellar shift between the sticks, denying multiple chances including a sharp Jordi Alba strike that was

pushed onto the post in the 15th minute. Sirois continued to frustrate Miami with brave interventions, darting off his line to snuff out dangerous opportunities from Tadeo Allende and Telasco Segovia. But the breakthrough finally came in the 33rd minute when Messi, dropping deep into playmaker mode, teed up Allende just outside the box. The Argentine midfielder

took two quick touches before firing home a thunderous equaliser. Just seven minutes later, Messi produced a moment of pure magic. Collecting the ball near the right flank, he ghosted past five Montreal defenders in trademark fashion, weaving into the box with a combination of balance, control, and agility that left the home side frozen. Despite briefly losing control, Messi recovered quickly to smash a rising shot into the top right corner - a finish reminiscent of his prime years. Segovia added to Montreal's misery in the 60th minute with a piledriver from outside the box that kissed the underside of the crossbar before bouncing in, extending Miami's lead to 3-1. Then came Messi's second. Picking the ball up near midfield, he again slalomed forward, shrugging off pressure before slipping into the box. A moment of chaos saw him lose the ball temporarily, but he was quickest to react, smashing the loose ball high into the net for his brace and sealing a dominant 4-1 win for Miami. With this performance, Messi not only led his side to a third straight league victory but also delivered a highlight-reel moment that reignited comparisons to his younger self. At 38, Ankara Messi lives on - not in Barcelona blue, but in Miami pink.

Djokovic's daughter wins hearts after imitating father's special celebration

New Delhi. (Agency)

Novak Djokovic introduced a special celebration after winning his third-round match at Wimbledon 2025 - a moment that was sweetly echoed by his daughter Tara, who imitated the move from the stands. On Saturday, July 5, Djokovic defeated his Serbian compatriot Miomir Kecmanovic 6-3, 6-0, 6-4 in just an hour and 47 minutes and advanced to the fourth round of the championships. With the win, Djokovic became only the third player in history - after Roger Federer and Martina Navratilova - to reach 100 match victories at the prestigious grass-court major. Following the win, Djokovic celebrated by pumping his fists downward, a gesture that caught the crowd's attention. During his on-court interview, he was asked about the meaning behind this new celebration. "It's called 'pumpa' in our language (Serbian) and 'pump it up' in English," Djokovic said about the



celebration. The cameras then panned to Tara in the stands, where she mimicked her father's celebration, drawing loud cheers from the crowd at the All England Club. Djokovic dominates Kecmanovic.

After an evenly contested start, with the score level at 3-3 in the opening set, Djokovic quickly shifted into another gear. From that point on, he dominated proceedings, reeling off nine straight games in a commanding stretch. The gap in experience and execution was evident, as Djokovic fired 60 winners - a staggering 42 more than Kecmanovic - making the difference clear and sealing a comfortable victory. "I am very grateful, privileged to be in the position that I am. I have said it many times. Tennis made me who I am. It has given me things in life that I can experience. I try not to take anything for granted, particularly at this age. I'm still going strong, trying to compete with the young players and do some slides and some splits on the court," Djokovic said in the on-court interview. Up next, Djokovic will face Australia's Alex de Minaur in the fourth round. De Minaur booked his spot by defeating Denmark's August Holmgren 6-4, 7-6 (5), 6-3 on Court 2. Djokovic is chasing history on multiple fronts at Wimbledon 2025.

- **Animesh Kujur became first Indian to run 100m under 10.20 seconds**
- **He set the new national record at Dromia International Sprint in Greece**
- **Mohammed Afsal broke his own 800m national record in Poland**

New Delhi. (Agency)

India sprinter Animesh Kujur smashed the 100m national record with an incredible timing of 10.18 seconds at the Dromia International Sprint and Relays Meeting in Greece on Saturday. Sprinting in the second heat of the competition, the 22-year-old Kujur became the first ever Indian to



register a sub-10.20 second timing in 100m, bettering Gurinderv Singh's earlier 100m national record of 10.20 seconds in the meet at Vari, a suburb of the Greek capital Athens. Sotirios Garaganis of Greece (10.23s) and Samuli Samuelsson (10.28s) were second and third respectively in the World Athletics Continental Tour silver label meet. Kujur now holds both the 100m and 200m national records. He had clocked 20.32 seconds in the men's 200m final of the Asian Athletics Championships in South Korea in May to break his own previous national mark of 20.40 seconds created at the Federation Cup earlier in the year.

Earlier in the day, Asian Games silver medallist Mohammed Afsal broke his own national record and became the first Indian to run below the 1:45 minute mark in the men's 800m race at Memorial Czeslawa Cybulskiego at Poznan in Poland. Afsal, who had won the silver medal in the 2022 Asian Games in Hangzhou, clocked 1:44.96 minutes and finished sixth in Heat A/1 of the event. In May, the 29-year-old Afsal had recorded 1:45.61s to break the seven-year-old national record of 1:45.65s which was set by Jinson Johnson in 2018, during the UAE Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.

Afsal had finished second in the event. On Saturday, the first three positions were taken by Polish runners with Maciej Wyderka finishing first with a timing of 1:44.23s, which was his personal best as well as the meet record. Filip Ostrowski (1:44.25s) and Patryk Sieradzki (1:44.56s), who finished second and third respectively, also recorded their personal bests.

Inspired by Shubman Gill, Vaibhav Suryavanshi aims 200 after record-shattering century in Youth ODIs

New Delhi. (Agency)

Young Vaibhav Suryavanshi is already targeting his next milestone just moments after rewriting the record books in the Youth ODI format on July 5. Vaibhav, while playing the fourth U19 ODI against England in Worcester, smashed a stunning 52-ball century, the fastest ever in Youth ODIs, breaking the previous record of 53 balls set by Pakistan's Kamran Ghulam. Speaking right after the game, the 14-year-old Vaibhav revealed that he wanted to score a double hundred in the youth format. Vaibhav revealed that he was inspired by Shubman Gill after seeing the India captain bat at Edgbaston. Shubman scored 269 and 161 runs in the two innings in the 2nd Test match between India and England, putting the visitors in pole position to win the Test match. I did not know that I had broken the record. I got a lot of inspiration from Shubman Gill when he scored his 100 and 200. He kept at it and took it forward," Vaibhav Suryavanshi said after his century. "I could have batted for longer. There were still 20 overs left in the



match. I could have played a longer innings. I got out to a shot that I was not able to execute 100 per cent, but I wanted to bat long like him," he added. There is no celebration. I will just be happy that I was able to do well for the team. My next goal will be to hit 200 and play a full 50 overs," Vaibhav concluded.

Notably, no one in the recorded history of Youth ODIs has ever scored a double hundred. The record for the highest individual score in a Youth ODI stands at 191, by Sri Lanka's Hasitha Boyagoda.

Generational Vaibhav Continues Rise

Already regarded as a generational talent,

Suryavanshi's latest feat only adds to the growing list of records he's been collecting. Earlier this year, the teenager had burst onto the national spotlight when he became the youngest player to score a T20 century and the fastest Indian to reach a hundred in the IPL. Representing Rajasthan Royals, he lit up the stage with a jaw-dropping 35-ball century against Gujarat Titans, immediately making headlines and catching the eye of fans and legends alike. On Friday, Suryavanshi opened the innings alongside skipper Ayush Mhatre after England opted to bowl first. Things looked bleak for India early on when Mhatre was dismissed for just 5 by James Minto in the fourth over, with the scoreboard reading 14/1. But Suryavanshi held firm, calm, composed, and already brimming with confidence after scoring 86 in the previous match. What followed was a breathtaking display of fearless batting. The young opener reached his hundred in just 52 balls, going on to score a remarkable 143 off 78 deliveries. His innings featured 13 boundaries and 10 sixes.

England becomes first reigning champion to lose a Women's Euro opener

- **Keira Walsh reduced the deficit three minutes from time but it wasn't enough to prevent England from becoming the first titleholder to lose its opening match at a women's Euros**
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ZURICH. England set a number of unwanted firsts as it began the defense of its Women's European Championship title by losing to France 2-1 on Saturday. Marie-Antoinette Katoto and Sandy Baltimore scored two quickfire goals towards the end of the first half as France recorded a ninth straight win and stunned the defending champion. Keira Walsh reduced the deficit three minutes from time but it wasn't enough to prevent England from becoming the first titleholder to lose its opening match at a women's Euros. "The positive is that I've not seen us like that ... for a while," England captain Leah Williamson told British broadcaster ITV. "We hold ourselves to higher standards in individual battles and we improved on that throughout the game, which is good." The defeat also ended England coach Sarina Wiegman's remarkable flawless record in the competition, after winning 12 out of 12 matches across two tournaments as she steered the Netherlands to the title and then England. "We're frustrated because we had such three very good weeks and we trained really



well, but that's never a guarantee that of course you win the game," Wiegman said. "You have to do things really well and we just didn't get it right at those moments." The Lionesses next face the Netherlands on Wednesday, before taking on Wales in their final group match four days later. The Netherlands beat Wales 3-0 in the early match in Group D. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence to predict the outcome of the match. SKIPIt was a statement victory for France, which — despite being without injured captain

Griedge Mbock — was in firm control for most of the match, apart from the opening 15 minutes and a tense finale after Walsh's goal. However, France coach Laurent Bonnadei was quick to dismiss any suggestion his team was emerging as one of the favorites. "I won't change my position on our status. At the moment we haven't won anything, we are still challengers with a lot of ambition," he said. "We showed a lot of courage tonight and the ability to compete with a very good team." But we just won one match, there are still two left in this group." England got off to a strong start and Lauren James — starting her first match since a hamstring injury at the start of April — almost gave England the lead within 40 seconds with a clever run into the box but fired narrowly over. Alessia Russo thought she gave England the lead in the 16th minute, turning in the rebound after Lauren Hemp's shot was saved but it was ruled out for a tight offside decision on Beth Mead in the buildup. "No one expected that to be disallowed," Wiegman said.