

Who's Targeting Modi?

The Sikh Times

Gurcharan Singh Babbar

A dangerous and calculated conspiracy seems to be unfolding behind the scenes, aiming to tarnish the image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Through a barrage of unverified allegations and relentless media appearances, senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Subramanian Swamy has launched an unprecedented verbal assault on the Prime Minister, raising grave questions about the motivations behind this campaign. In a series of interviews and statements circulated widely on social media and private television channels, Dr. Swamy has directly targeted Shri Modi, making sweeping allegations that not only question his integrity but also attempt to connect him with international conspiracies involving the United States and China. The tone and tenor of Dr. Swamy's statements go beyond criticism—they amount to what many are now calling a character assassination campaign.

What is more alarming is the timing and

coordination of this wave. Alongside Swamy's allegations, several other media platforms, some reportedly with links to opposition interests are airing negative content about the Prime Minister. From within the Sangh Parivar itself, anonymous sources and unverified "leaks" have begun surfacing, hinting at discontent against Modi. Some claim that discussions are already underway within BJP about potential successors, as though a campaign to undermine Shri Modi's leadership is being scripted from within.

Adding to the gravity of the situation, Dr. Subramanian Swamy has not only targeted the Prime Minister but has also made sensational accusations against Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, even going so far as to make comments linking him to alleged criminal conspiracies. Such statements, made without producing concrete evidence, raise serious concerns about political stability, responsible speech, and national dignity.

Despite the seriousness of these public charges,

law enforcement and government agencies have yet to act. There is no FIR, no investigation, and no formal questioning of Swamy. Even while social media is flooded with abusive content targeting the Prime Minister, government agencies remain largely silent. Why is there no action being taken against those repeatedly and viciously abusing the Prime Minister of India on public platforms?

These questions are being echoed across political circles

- ↳ Why is the BJP's top leadership silent on these attacks?
- ↳ Who is backing Dr. Subramanian Swamy?
- ↳ Who is funding and facilitating this campaign?
- ↳ Is there a foreign hand or internal sabotage at play?
- ↳ What evidence does Dr. Swamy claim to possess, and why is he not presenting it to the appropriate authorities?

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"Vote Theft Like Maharashtra Being Attempted In Bihar": Rahul Gandhi

Speaking at the Bihar Bandh rally, Rahul Gandhi said, "The way there was vote theft in the Maharashtra elections, a similar attempt is being made in Bihar."

Patna. (Agency)

Congress MP and Leader of Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday warned that the pattern of electoral manipulation seen in Maharashtra could be repeated in Bihar. Speaking at the Bihar Bandh rally, Rahul Gandhi said, "The way there was vote theft in the Maharashtra elections, a similar attempt is being made in Bihar."

Mr Gandhi also raised questions over the rise in voter numbers between the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Maharashtra, alleging that all newly added votes went to the BJP. He claimed that the INDIA alliance's poor performance in the Maharashtra Assembly polls, despite a Lok Sabha majority, prompted a deeper data review that revealed suspicious voting patterns. He also said that between the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, one crore new voters were added, and in the assembly elections, 10 per cent more people voted.

Speaking at the Bihar Bandh rally, Rahul Gandhi said, "Shortly after the Lok Sabha elections, assembly elections were held in Maharashtra and Haryana. In the Lok Sabha elections, the INDIA alliance got a majority in Maharashtra. But just a few months later, in the assembly elections, the INDIA alliance did poorly. We didn't say much at the time, but we started working and looking into the



matter. The 21st century is the century of data, so we started studying the data. As we looked into it, we discovered that between the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, one crore new voters were added. In the assembly elections, 10 per cent more people voted. When we checked where these new voters came from, we were surprised. In every constituency where voter numbers increased, the BJP won. All the new votes went to the BJP."

Case against gatekeeper after Tamil Nadu railway crossing collision killed three

Karnataka. (Agency)

Following the accident between a school van and a train at Cuddalore railway crossing on Tuesday that killed three students, a case has been filed against gatekeeper Pankaj Sharma, with charges including culpable homicide not amounting to murder, causing death by negligence and endangering personal safety of others. The charges under Sections 105, 106, and 125 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 151 of the Railways Act was in connection with the accident that took place on Tuesday at Gate Number 170, a manned but non-interlocked level crossing at Semmankuppam near Cuddalore.

The Railways had earlier suspended Sharma, who was later arrested for the accident. A new gatekeeper, Anandraj, who is a Tamil speaker, has also been appointed in Sharma's place. The appointment follows remarks by DMK leader TKS Elangovan, who attributed the tragedy to a language barrier. The leader alleged that the gatekeeper's inability to understand Tamil may have contributed to the accident.

Reject Godse's path, follow Gandhi, Ambedkar and Periyar: MK Stalin to students

Tamil Nadu. (Agency)

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Wednesday warned students against embracing divisive ideologies and urged them to reject the path of Nathuram Godse. "We have several paths including those taken by Gandhi, Ambedkar and Periyar. But we should never take the path of Godse group," he said, addressing the students at Jamal Mohamed College in Trichy. His remarks were widely viewed as a firm ideological appeal to reinforce secular and inclusive values among the youth.

The Chief Minister also called on students to join the vision of 'Oraniyil Tamil Nadu' (Tamil Nadu as One), a 45-day statewide campaign

launched by the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam to "expose the betrayal" of the Union Government towards the state. Addressing the gathering, Stalin emphasised the importance of unity, social justice, and scientific progress in building a stronger Tamil Nadu.

"If Tamil Nadu stands united, no one can defeat us. I'm not speaking politics but letting students know about politics," he said, underlining the political significance of collective identity and action. He went on to assert that his government's initiatives, including the 'Naan Mudhalvan' skill development scheme and the Rs 1000 monthly financial assistance to girl students, were instrumental in transforming the



Tamil community into a science-based society. He credited these reforms to the Dravidian

Model of governance. "We got education only because of our leader's social justice struggle allowing education for everyone. Everything is for everyone is our Dravidian Model. I request students to join as 'Oraniyil Tamilnadu', said the Chief Minister, echoing the name and ethos of his party's recent poll campaign. The campaign began on July 1, flagged off by Chief Minister and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) president MK Stalin, and was formally rolled out across the state on July 3. The campaign will trace the two ends of Tamil Nadu, Palaverkadu to Kanyakumari and Anaikattai to Nagapattinam, covering all 234 assembly constituencies.

"Saw hope in people's eyes and trust in their hearts" : CM Rekha Gupta

The Sikh Times

New Delhi | 09 July 2025

Continuing her commitment to addressing public issues, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta met with residents of Delhi at the 'Mukhyamantri Jan Seva Sadan' on Wednesday and took effective steps to resolve their grievances. The CM resumed her public hearings in a newly formalized space at 2/8 Civil Lines, with enhanced arrangements and improved facilities.

On the occasion, CM Rekha Gupta remarked, "Today, I saw a spark of hope in people's eyes and a sense of trust in their hearts—trust that the government is listening, understanding, and actively working

toward solutions."

Previously, the Chief Minister had been conducting public hearings at her residence in Shalimar Bagh. As the area is residential, these gatherings often drew large crowds, sometimes requiring the CM to meet and listen to people on the roadside. Despite the limitations, she remained committed to direct engagement with citizens. With the formal inauguration of the 'Mukhyamantri Jan Seva Sadan' in Civil Lines, a dedicated space has now been established to



ensure a structured and effective redressal process. From 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM, CM

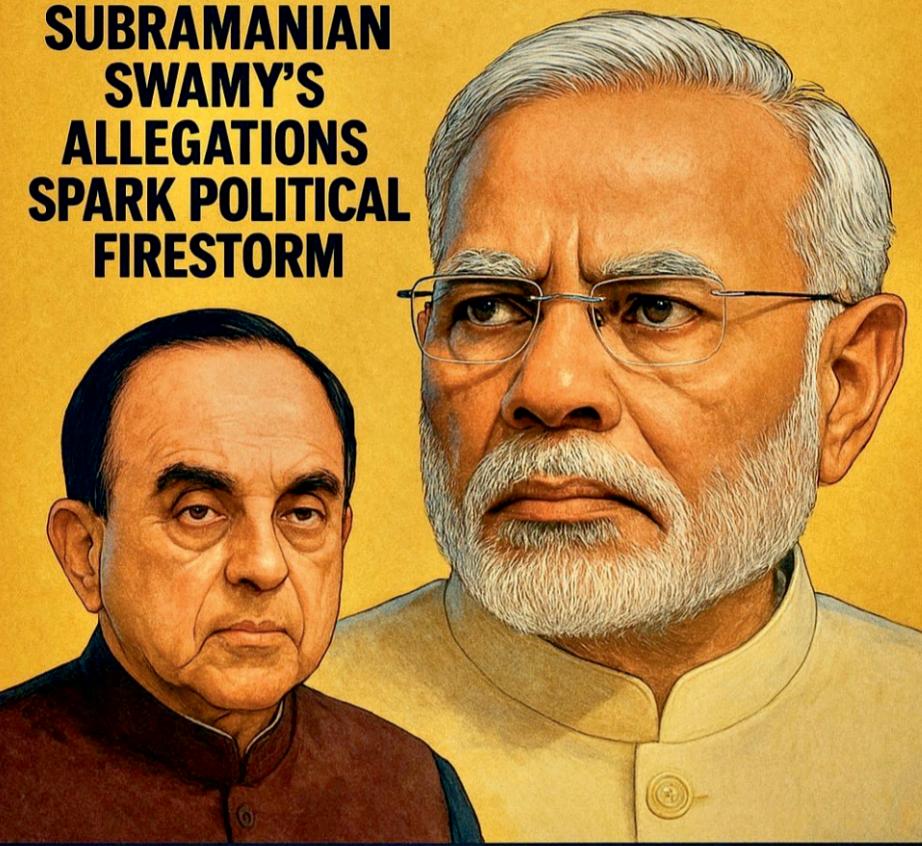
Rekha Gupta met with citizens at Jan Seva Sadan, where officers from around a dozen departments including the Delhi Jal Board, Education, Police, Health, and MCD were present. Citizens submitted their complaints, requests, and suggestions directly to the Chief Minister and senior officials. The CM issued immediate instructions to the concerned departments for redressal.

Most of the grievances pertained to issues like crime, drinking water, school admissions, health, roads, and encroachment.

Special arrangements were made at the venue for visitors, including seating, drinking water, and simplified entry procedures to ensure a smooth and dignified process for everyone. CM Rekha Gupta emphasized that public service is her life's mission. She said these public hearings are not just a bureaucratic formality but a vital channel of direct communication with the people. She reiterated, "Our government works on the principle of 'not just hearing, but resolving'. Today, I not only listened to people's problems but also saw their faith that this government is committed to finding solutions." [continue news page 02](#)

A SINISTER PLOT TO MALIGN PM MODI?

SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY'S ALLEGATIONS SPARK POLITICAL FIRESTORM



SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY'S ALLEGATIONS SPARK POLITICAL FIRESTORM

Deeply saddening: PM condoles deaths in Vadodara bridge collapse, announces aid

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh each for the victims and their families, the Rs 50,000 to the injured after a major chunk of the Gambhir Bridge connecting Vadodara and Anand collapsed, killing at least nine so far. In a statement released by the Prime Minister's Office, PM Modi said, "Wishing for the speedy recovery of the injured, PM Modi mourned the loss of lives and took to X and wrote, "The loss of lives due to the collapse of a bridge in Vadodara district, Gujarat, is deeply saddening. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones."



A portion of a four-decade-old bridge collapsed in Gujarat's Vadodara district on Wednesday morning, officials said. A slab of the Gambhir bridge, located on Mahisagar river which connects central Gujarat to the Saurashtra region of the state, collapsed, killing nine persons. Superintendent of Police (Vadodara rural) Rohan Anand told news agency PTI. The bridge was located near Padra town in the district. According to the details available, around nine persons have died and another nine persons have been rescued, out of whom five have been referred to the SSG Hospital in Vadodara.

PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan report**Maharashtra fares better in all three grades but decline in student performance in higher classes a concern****Mumbai .(Agency)**

With the release of the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan (National Survey) 2024 report, Maharashtra has performed better than the national average in all three grades — 3, 6, and 9. However, a more detailed analysis of the state's data reveals a concerning trend—a decline in student performance as they move from primary to secondary levels.

The Performance Assessment Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development, commonly known as PARAKH, is the country's top assessment body. In December 2024, it conducted the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, replacing the earlier National Achievement Survey (NAS). The results are now available on the PARAKH dashboard.

The objective of this assessment is to understand the baseline performance in developing competencies at the end of the foundational, preparatory, and middle stages in schools, at individual district levels. The data aims to guide focused interventions at the required stages to improve overall learning outcomes.

Despite outperforming the national average across all three grades, Maharashtra has shown a decline in student achievement as they



progress from primary to secondary classes. This downward trend is particularly evident in Language and Mathematics—the two subjects which are assessed across all three grades.

In Mathematics, the state's average score dropped significantly—from 64 per cent in Grade 3, to 51 per cent in Grade 6, and further down to just

Maharashtra. It is a nationwide trend and certainly calls for more focused and strategic interventions in secondary classes, as also recommended in the PARAKH report. State-level officials are currently analyzing the data, and a detailed action plan will soon be prepared.

The official also emphasized the need for localized strategies. "While there will be state-level planning, a district-wise analysis will help ensure targeted interventions. Performance varies across districts, so a one-size-fits-all approach will not be effective. Local context must be considered," the official said, urging education experts in the state to contribute their insights.

The assessment covered 4,314 schools in Maharashtra, involving 123,659 students and 13,930 teachers. Among the districts, Kolhapur, Sindhudurg, and Satara emerged as top performers across all three grades, whereas Gadchiroli consistently featured among the lowest-performing districts.

In addition to Language and Mathematics, which are common across all three grades, students in Grade 6 are assessed in 'The World Around Us', while students in Grade 9 are assessed in Science and Social Science.

Front news continue**"Who's Targeting Modi?"**

This is not merely a case of political disagreement; this is an orchestrated campaign that threatens the dignity of the office of the Prime Minister of India. When unproven accusations are aired repeatedly in public with no accountability, it weakens public trust and fuels conspiracies that can harm the fabric of Indian democracy.

The citizens of India deserve answers. The government must take cognizance of the seriousness of the matter and initiate an inquiry into who is behind this sustained attempt to discredit Prime Minister Narendra Modi. If there are conspirators inside or outside the party, their motives and funders must be exposed.

This is not only about one leader. It is about safeguarding the democratic institutions of India and the honor of the highest constitutional office of the land. The time for silence is over. The truth must come out.

"Saw hope in people's eyes and trust in their hearts": CM Rekha Gupta

The CM directed officials to resolve each issue within a specified time frame and assured the public that every complaint would be taken seriously. She further stated that the government's goal is not just to administer, but to build Delhi into a sensitive, empowered, and just city, where public participation in governance is fundamental.

Highlighting the essence of democracy, she said, "True democracy lies in knowing people's pain, understanding their struggles, and shaping policies based on their real needs. Public hearings are proof that people have faith in democracy and expect constructive change from the government."

CM Rekha Gupta pointed out that past governments lacked such communication mechanisms, which often left people helpless in getting their problems resolved. She asserted that the 'Jan Seva Sadan' would now act as a bridge between the government, governance, and the people, ensuring continuous and empathetic dialogue.

She concluded and said, "Our government considers the people's pain as its own. Jan Seva Sadan will not only bring governance closer to citizens but also reaffirm that this is a responsive, sensitive, and people-centric government. We are here not to rule, but to serve."

Bar Associations in Gujarat condemn denial of entry to advocate Italia at Rajpipla court**Ahmedabad .(Agency)**

The Bar Associations of Gujarat — Gandhinagar, Navsari, Bharuch, Deesa, Wankaner, and Gariyadhar — on Tuesday passed a resolution condemning an incident of alleged denial of entry to Visavadar AAP MLA and Advocate Gopal Italia at a Rajpipla court on Sunday. The associations have written to the Bar Council of Gujarat, the Chief Minister, Home Minister and the Bar Council of India seeking disciplinary actions against the police officers who denied him entry, asking them to ensure such incidents do not happen in future.

AAP MLA from Dediapada, Chaitar Vasava, was arrested by the Narmada police on Saturday evening, and was produced before the Rajpipla court on Sunday. Italia had reached the court to represent his client Vasava. The police officers deployed at the main entry gate of the court allegedly stopped Italia from entering the premises.

Carnac bridge renamed after Operation Sindoor, to be reopened today

Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis is set to inaugurate the bridge at 10 am on Thursday and the inauguration ceremony will also be attended by Deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar, and Narvekar.

Forwarded, not created: Punjab and Haryana HC grants bail to Fatehabad doctor booked for pro-Pakistan video

Chandigarh .(Agency) The Punjab and Haryana High Court has granted regular bail to a 65-year-old practising bone-setter from Fatehabad, who was arrested for allegedly sharing a pro-Pakistan AI-generated video on Facebook that was critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during Operation Sindoor.

Justice N S Shekhawat, while allowing the bail plea on July 7, observed that Mushtaq Ahmed is a senior citizen with serious health complications and has been in custody since May 17. The court noted that no material was left to be recovered from him and the investigation was nearly complete.

"Further custody of the petitioner will not serve any useful purpose," Justice Shekhawat said in his order.

The case was argued by Senior Advocate Bipan Ghai along with Advocates Nikhil Ghai and Paras Talwar, who

submitted that the video in question was not created by the petitioner but had been mistakenly forwarded by him. The police, they said, had already examined his Facebook account, call records, passport and bank details and found no suspicious foreign



transactions or recent visits to Pakistan.

"The petitioner visited Pakistan only till 1990 to meet his ailing relatives and hasn't returned in the last 35 years," Ghai told the court, citing the passport verification done by the investigating agency.

west connector linking Masjid in south Mumbai with P D Mello Road, the 154-year-old bridge was razed in a four-day operation in 2022, after a structural audit deemed it unfit for use.

It was following this that the BMC, along with the railways, launched the reconstruction of the British-era bridge at a cost of over Rs 60 crore over a period of three years.

While the civic body had completed works on the bridge and load testing by June 13, its opening had been delayed owing to the procurement of a No-Objection Certificate from Central Railway as well as final touches such as installation of signages.



The delayed opening had also become the grounds for the joint protest launched by the Shiv Sena (UBT) and MNS on July 2.

"The bridge has been renamed after Operation Sindoor. On Tuesday, we

Kolkata Law College Rape Case: 4 accused sent to judicial custody; bail plea of security guard rejected

Reject statements as they were made in absence of counsel: Accused Mishra's lawyer to court

Kolkata .(Agency)

A court in Alipore in Kolkata on Tuesday sent all the four men, arrested in connection with the alleged rape of a 24-year-old student at a law college, to judicial custody till July 22.

The court rejected the bail plea of one of the accused — the security guard. The other three accused did not move plea for bail. Police have arrested four persons — prime accused Monojit Mishra (31), a contractual staffer who was a TMC students' wing functionary; two students — Zaib Ahmed (19) and Pramit Mukherjee (20) — and security guard Pinaki Banerjee — in connection with the June 25 incident. All four accused were

brought to the court on Tuesday.

During the hearing, Public Prosecutor Subhash Bhattacharya did not seek police custody of the four accused, saying all the required measures to gather evidence have been taken. "From recording statements to reconstructing the crime scene, police have left no stone unturned in the case. The medical examination has been done, the clothes worn by the

accused and the victim have been collected, and their biological samples have been taken. CCTV footage, mobile phones of the accused have been retrieved and sent to forensics, and all electronic evidence has been transferred to a hard disk," the public prosecutor informed the court.

The public prosecutor said that they were not seeking the police custody of the accused now as the complete forensic report is yet to arrive. While Raju Ganguly, the counsel of Monojit Mishra, the 31-year-old prime accused in the case, did not seek bail for his client, he urged the court to allow him to be present during Mishra's interrogation.

Bharat Bandh: Trade union stir evokes mixed response in West Bengal

CPI(M) workers tried to stop the public transport system in different parts of West Bengal. At Sealdah North suburban railway terminal and the South division, strike supporters tried to stop rail services.

Kolkata .(Agency) The Bharat Bandh called by 10 central trade unions on Wednesday evoked a mixed response in West Bengal, as CPI(M) workers tried to stop the public transport system, including the train services at different parts of the state. In some places, the strike supporters were involved in heated arguments with the police and administration officials. At the Sealdah North and Sealdah South railway divisions, strike supporters tried to stop rail services. However, the state administration acted swiftly to ensure normalcy by deploying additional police forces across major transit points and urban centres, and operating more bus services. In many places, police lathi-charged demonstrators to maintain normalcy and smooth transport operations.

The government has made attendance mandatory for all state

employees, reinforcing its position against shutdowns that disrupt public life and economic activity. The government notice stated, "In view of call given by different trade unions and others for a 24

hours' nationwide strike/bandh on the 9th July, 2025 (Wednesday), it has been decided that all State Government offices, including those provided with Grants-in-Aid by the State Government, shall remain open and all the employees shall report for duty on that day. It has been decided that no Casual Leave or any other leave for

absence either in the 1st half or in the 2nd half or for the whole day shall be granted to any employee on the above-mentioned day."

The government notification mentioned that the absence of employees will be treated as 'dies-non' and no salary will be issued for the day. However, it granted exemptions in cases such as hospitalisation of the employees; bereavement in the family; severe illness and absence continuing before July 9; employees who had been on child care leave, maternity leave, medical leave, and earned leave sanctioned before July 9.

The nationwide general strike was called on Wednesday to oppose the "anti-worker, anti-farmer and anti-national pro-corporate policies" of the Central government. The Samyukt Kisan Morcha and the joint front of agricultural workers'

unions have also extended support to the bandh and decided to organise massive mobilisations in rural India, as per the trade union leaders.

West Bengal CITU president Anadi Sahu said the strike was called in protest against the Centre's economic and labour policies, including the rising cost of living, widespread joblessness, and the increase in contractual work. He criticised the new labour codes and the push for public sector privatisation, arguing they undermine workers' rights and long-standing protections.

We planted 204 crore saplings, reforested 5 lakh acres in eight years: Yogi Adityanath

The Sikh Times

Ayodhya: During his visit to Ayodhya on Wednesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath planted saplings of banyan, neem, and peepal at Triveni Vatika on the banks of the Saryu River, dedicating them to Lord Shri Ram, Mother Earth, and 'Janmadayini Maa (all mothers)' under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign. Addressing a public gathering on the sacred soil of Rampur Halwara, he emphasized the initiative's vital role in tackling climate change and promoting environmental conservation. Highlighting Uttar Pradesh's environmental progress over the past eight years, the Chief Minister informed that over 204 crore saplings have been planted, with a remarkable 75% survival rate. "This massive effort has led to a 5 lakh acre increase in the state's forest cover," he pointed out. "We have turned the heatwave into a green wave," CM Yogi said, emphasizing that this initiative not only helps in purifying the environment, but also plays a critical role in mitigating the adverse effects of climate change. Quoting renowned scientist Jagdish Chandra Bose, he affirmed that trees possess life and serve vital functions, providing shade, fruits, conserving soil, and reducing pollution. Describing the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' cam-

paign as an expression of gratitude towards both Mother Earth and all mothers, CM Yogi cited the Vedic verse "Mata Bhoomi:



Putroham Prithivyaah", meaning, "The Earth is my mother, and I am her son." He

stated that a true son protects and serves his mother. The campaign saw enthusiastic participation from citizens, who began planting trees as early as 7:00 AM across the state. He asserted that this movement is a pledge to improve the present and safeguard the future, as trees offer protection against pollution, respiratory ailments, and the harmful effects of carbon emissions.

Calling climate change a global crisis, the Chief Minister attributed extreme weather events—like excessive rainfall, droughts, and cloud-bursts—to unplanned development. He cited a recent example from Texas, USA, where hundreds of children reportedly went missing due to sudden flooding. CM Yogi emphasized that sustainable development and environmental conservation must go hand in hand, which can be achieved through planned and scientific interventions. He also noted that when the campaign began eight years ago, only 5 crore saplings were available. Today, thanks to the collective efforts of the Forest Department, MGNREGA, and pri-

Yogi Adityanath highlighted that the ongoing plantation campaign is not just an environmental boon, but also a catalyst for rural prosperity. Under the carbon financing initiative, farmers are receiving \$6 per tree for a period of five years. He shared that over 25,000 farmers benefited from the scheme last year, and this year, Rs 42 lakh in carbon credits will be distributed among farmers across seven commissioners. On this occasion, farmers who played a key role in planting and nurturing saplings were felicitated. Expressing pride in Ayodhya's transformation, CM Yogi said the once-quiet city is now emerging as a major center of global and national interest. "Ayodhya is steadily regaining its Treta Yuga glory," he remarked. Highlighting its growing stature, he noted that Ayodhya is on its way to becoming India's first solar city. He also mentioned major developmental initiatives such as the construction of an international airport and the adoption of the Miyawaki method for forest development. Individuals who contributed to the rejuvenation of the Tlodki river were also honored. The Chief Minister lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership in environmental protection. He credited the PM's initiatives for steering Uttar Pradesh

toward a greener future. Measures like replacing traditional stoves with LPG cylinders and banning single-use plastics have been crucial in safeguarding Mother Earth, he said. CM Yogi highlighted the special significance of launching this plantation drive in Ayodhya, especially following the historic Pran Pratishtha of the Shri Ram Temple by PM Modi last year. He praised the enthusiastic participation of public representatives and citizens, adding that the drive will continue until 7 PM. Appealing for collective action, he urged citizens to join this noble cause and contribute to environmental conservation. Reaffirming his commitment to Ayodhya's holistic development, the Chief Minister concluded, "I am always with Ayodhya. This campaign will further elevate its prestige on the global stage." Cabinet Minister Surya Pratap Shahi, Dr. Arun Kumar, Mayor Girishpati Tripathi, District Panchayat President Roli Singh, MLAs Ved Prakash Gupta, Amit Singh Chauhan, Ramchandra Yadav, Abhay Singh, Chandrabhaga Paswan, MLC Hariom Pandey, former MP Lallu Singh, BJP District President Sanjeev Singh, Mahanagar President Kamlesh Srivastava, Principal Secretary Environment and Forest Anil Kumar and other dignitaries were present in the program.

Seminar-Cum-Workshop on Ending Plastic Pollution

Amritsar: Department of Sciences, along with the Science Club and Eco Club of Khalsa College for Women (KCW), Amritsar, in collaboration with Paryavaran Sanrakshan Gatividh (Hariyaval Punjab), organized a Seminar-cum-Workshop to mark World Environment Day 2025. The theme for this year's campaign, led by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) and the Punjab Pollution Control Board (PPCB), Dean CDC Guru Nanak Dev University Amritsar was "Ending Plastic Pollution Globally." The event featured a distinguished panel of speakers from Paryavaran Sarankshan Gatividh (Hariyaval Punjab), including Rajbir Singh, Dr. Rajiv, Dr. Gayatri Shoor and P.N. Sharma, and other dignitaries who shared their insights on environmental protection and sustainable practices. Dr. Surinder Kaur, Dean Academic Affairs K.U., formally welcomed the guests with a sapling plantation and addressed the audience on the occasion of World

emphasizing plastic pollution as a critical global concern. Dr. Manbir Kaur, Head of the Department of Sciences, delivered the keynote address, highlighting the college's ambitious move toward a Zero Waste Campus, launched in February 2025. As part of the interactive sessions, Dr. Rajiv from the Hariyaval Punjab team demonstrated eco-friendly practices such as making eco-bricks from plastic waste and preparing bioenzymes from wet waste. Rajbir Singh encouraged students to adopt sustainable habits, such as planting trees on birthdays and embracing the principles of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle (3Rs). The Air Care Team of the college played an active role in the program. Eakpreet Kaur, an Air Care Fellow, delivered an impactful talk on the health implications of pollution, which was highly appreciated. In recognition of their efforts, Air Care Fellows were awarded medals by the Hariyaval Punjab team. College also conducted tree plantation on the occasion of World

Environment Day, 2025 "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0" plant for Mother Campagin under the guidelines of MoEF & CC, Department of Higher education, Dean CDC GNDU, Department of School Education

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, MD SHAHID SIO MOHD FARID R/o 896, Sri Krishna Apartment, Ward no. 8, Mehruli, PO: Mehruli, DIST: South Delhi, Delhi-110030 declare that name of my father has been wrongly written as FARID in my 10th and 12th class certificate of CBSE Board. The actual name of my father is MOHD FARID which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE
It is for general information that I, RIMA BOTHRA W/o MANISH KUMAR BOTHRA R/o 16758 2nd FLOOR, Gali NO-2, GOVINDPURI EXTN, Kalkaji, SOUTH DELHI, DELHI-110019 declare that name of my minor daughter has been wrongly written as RAJSHREE BOTHRA in my minor daughter name RAJSHREE aged 14 years in her school record. The actual name of my minor daughter is RAJSHREE which may be amended accordingly

NAME CHANGE
I, KHUSHI YADAV D/o RAKESH YADAV, R/o H No. -35, Gali No -1, Surat Gali, Pusta No. - 04, Katar Nagar, Garhi Mandu, Seelampur, PO: Seelampur, DIST: North East Delhi, Delhi - 110053, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced BUDDHIST Religion and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 06-12-2023. I have changed only my religion, and not my name.

NAME CHANGE
I, URSHITA TANWAR D/o HARIBIR TANWAR, R/o 143, Bich Patti, Asola, Fatehpur Beri, Mehrauli, South, NCT Of Delhi - 110074, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I have embraced BUDDHIST Religion and renounced HINDUISM with effect from 14-10-2023. I have changed only my religion, and not my name.

NAME CHANGE
I, K. SHRIYA SARKAR D/o AMIT SARKAR, R/o 102, Gali No. 21, Baljeet Nagar, New Delhi - 110062 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as SHIVANGI Rawat.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to public at large that my client Mr. Ankit Gupta is purchasing the Property No. 27, admeasuring 100 Sq. yards, out of Khasra no. 68, situated in the area of Village Sarai Pipal Thala, colony Known as Mohinder Park, Delhi from Mr. Jugal Kishor who is the owner of the property vide GPA, Agreement to Sale & Will dated 16.12.1992 & 21.10.1992 and Intend to mortgage the said property with Aditya Birla Housing Finance Ltd. That SMC of Late Mr. Trikot Singh not available. If any person(s) has/have any objection(s) or claim(s) with respect to the right, title or interest in the said property please contact us within 07 days from the date of this notice on the number & address mentioned herein below, failing which my client(s) shall not be held responsible in any manner whatsoever.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Prithviraj Chavan S/o Sanjay Chavan R/o Flat No. 4, Police Colony, Sector A 5 Pocket-6, Mamor Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Jitendar in my minor son Kartik Chaurasia aged 15 years in his School Records. The actual name of mine is Jitender.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for general information that I, Prithviraj Chavan S/o Sanjay Chavan R/o Flat No. 4, Police Colony, Sector A 5 Pocket-6, Mamor Pur, North West Delhi, Delhi-110040 declare that name of mine has been wrongly written as Prithvi Raj in my 10th and 12th Class Educational Documents. The actual name of mine is Prithviraj Chavan.

PUBLIC NOTICE
I, Minal Tayal W/o MANJEET KUMAR, resident of H- NO- F-60A, RAJENDRA PARK EXTENSION, NANGLOI, DELHI-110041 have changed my name to MINAL SINGAL for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, GOPA KUMAR BALAKRISHNA PILLAI residing at B-63 PLOT NO. 40, HAHNEMANN ENCLAVE SECTOR 6, DWARAKA NAGAR, DELHI-110039 have changed my name to GOPA KUMAR R/o for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, PASHITI S/o MOTI CHAND SHARMA residing at HOD-N1045, TUWEL NO-2, PATEL NAGAR, SECTOR-4, BALLABGARH, FARIDABAD, HARYANA-121004 have changed my name to PASHITI NATH for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hemant Lal Nawal alias Hemant Lal S/o KUNDAN Lal R/o A-41422, Paschim Vihar, S.O. PO, DIST: West Delhi, Delhi - 110063, have changed my name to Hemant Lal Nawal for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, EFFAT JAHAN W/o MOHD MERAJ KHAN, R/o Khasa No. 24/46, Gali No-3, Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad, Mandir Wali, Gali No.3, Sangam Vihar, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, have changed my name from MOHD MERAJ to MOHD MERAJ KHAN, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHD MERAJ S/o ABDUL RASHID KHAN, R/o Khasa No. 24/46, Gali No-3, Sangam Vihar, Wazirabad, Mandir Wali, Gali No.3, Sangam Vihar, Burari, North Delhi, Delhi-110084, have changed my name to MOHD MERAJ KHAN, for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, SHIVANI CHAURASIYA residing at 368 B VILL-SADAR BAZAR, PO-SATARA, TEH-SATARA, DISTT-SATARA, MAHARASHTRA-415001, have changed my mother's name from SHIELA SITABABA SHELAR to SITABABA SHIELAR for all future purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, NEERAJ S/o KAMAL KUMAR residing at 102, Gali No. 21, Baljeet Nagar, Patel Nagar, S.O. DIST: Central Delhi, Delhi - 110008 have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as NEERAJ S/o KAMAL KUMAR.

NAME CHANGE
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NAME CHANGE
I, SHIVANI CH

NEWS BOX

Nine killed, 20 missing after floods on Nepal-China border

KATHMANDU. (Agency)

At least nine people were killed and 20 others were missing after monsoon rains flooded a river in Nepal's Rasuwa district, sweeping away the "Friendship Bridge" that links the country to China. The continuous monsoon rainfall in China on Monday night triggered a flood in the Bhotekoshi River in Nepal. The flooded river carried away at least nine people. Their bodies were recovered downstream, miles away from Dhading and Chitwan districts, the Republica newspaper reported. The Miteri Bridge in Rasuwa district, 120 km northeast of Kathmandu, was swept away by flooding at around 3:15 am on Tuesday. Of the 20 individuals reported missing, three are security personnel and six are Chinese nationals. Dozens of rescuers were already in the area. The flood damaged four hydropower projects in the district, affecting the supply of at least 211 MW of electricity to the national power grid. The flooded river swept away 23 cargo containers, six freight trucks, and 35 electric vehicles.

Pakistan government stepping up efforts to sell cash-strapped PIA: Report**ISLAMABAD. (Agency)**

Pakistan's government is firming up efforts to sell Pakistan International Airlines by the end of 2025, following a botched bid to sell the loss-making national flag-carrier last year, according to a media report on Wednesday.

The Privatisation Commission board on Tuesday declared four local parties, including three associated with the cement business, eligible for bidding for the acquisition of the airline, The Express Tribune newspaper reported. In its previous attempt, the government had set the minimum price at Rs 85.03 billion with a Rs 45 billion negative balance sheet; however, it only managed to secure an offer of Rs 10 billion. The Privatisation Commission board, which met under the chairmanship of Adviser to the Prime Minister on Privatisation Muhammad Ali, approved the pre-qualification of four interested parties for the divestment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation Limited (PIACL), according to a press statement. The board reviewed recommendations of the pre-qualification committee based on the evaluation of Statements of Qualification (SOQs) submitted by five prospective investors. Of these, one could not qualify for bidding. The commission said that the pre-qualified parties would now proceed to the buy-side due diligence phase - a critical step in the transparent and competitive privatisation process.

PIA's bidding is expected to take place in the last quarter (October-December) of the current calendar year, Muhammad Ali was quoted as saying by the newspaper. The government wants to sell the majority shares in PIA along with management control.

It has offloaded more debt from the balance sheet, which should positively impact the minimum price. Meanwhile, the ban on the airline's operations to the EU has been lifted. The PIA has been in financial crisis for many years now. The issues came to the fore in 2023 when 7,000 employees of PIA did not receive their salaries for November 2023. It claims "that he was conducting an exploratory flight to see if he could follow this route or not."

June Was Hottest On Record In Western Europe: Climate Monitor**world. (Agency)**

Western Europe sweltered through its hottest June on record last month, as "extreme" temperatures blasted the region in punishing back-to-back heatwaves, the EU climate monitor Copernicus said Wednesday. Globally, this past June was the third warmest on record, continuing a blistering heat streak in recent years as the planet warms as a result of humanity's emissions of greenhouse gases. The previous hottest June was in 2024 and the second hottest was in 2023, the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) said.

Sweltering extremes were particularly pronounced in Europe, which is warming several times faster than the global average. Millions of people were exposed to high heat stress across parts of the continent as daily average temperatures in western Europe climbed to levels rarely seen before -- and never so early in the summer. Several countries recorded surface temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius, with heat of up to 46C in Spain and Portugal, Copernicus said. Samantha Burgess, the EU monitor's Strategic Lead for Climate, said the impact of the heatwaves in Europe was "exceptional", intensified by record sea surface temperatures in the western Mediterranean -- which hit an all-time daily maximum in June.

"In a warming world, heatwaves are likely to become more frequent, more intense and impact more people across Europe," she said. The two heatwaves -- from June 17 to 22, and again from June 30 to July 2 -- were linked to heat domes trapping warm air over affected regions, prolonging the stifling weather, and worsening pollution and wildfire conditions. Portugal, Spain, France, Italy, and much of the Balkans saw some of the hottest "feels-like" temperatures, which measure the impact on the human body by taking into account factors like humidity. Maximum feels-like temperatures north of Lisbon hit 48C, around 7C above average and associated with "extreme heat stress", said Copernicus. Sea surface temperatures across the western Mediterranean were "exceptionally high" in the month, some 5C above average in some areas, with temperatures surging to a record 27C on June 30. The higher water temperatures reduced nighttime air cooling along the coasts, contributed to higher humidity, and harmed marine life, Copernicus said.

Heat, fires and floods

An AFP analysis based on Copernicus data found that 12 countries and some 790 million people around the world experienced record heat last month. Dangerous heat blanketed parts of the United States, while in China, 102 weather stations logged the hottest-ever June day, with some measuring temperatures above 40C, according to state media.

Texas inspectors approved Camp Mystic's disaster plan 2 days before deadly flood, records show**HUNT. (Agency)**

Texas inspectors signed off on Camp Mystic's emergency planning just two days before catastrophic flooding killed more than two dozen people at the all-girls Christian summer camp, most of them children. The Department of State Health Services released records Tuesday showing the camp complied with a host of state regulations regarding "procedures to be implemented in case of a disaster." Among them: instructing campers what to do if they need to evacuate and assigning specific duties to each staff member and counselor. Five years of inspection reports released to The Associated Press do not offer any details of those plans at Mystic, raising new questions about the camp's preparedness ahead of the torrential July 4 rainfall in flood-prone Texas Hill Country.

The National Weather Service had issued a flood watch for the area on July 3 at 1:18 p.m. That danger prompted at least one of the roughly 18 camps along the Guadalupe River to move dozens of campers to higher ground. The uncertainty about what happened at Mystic comes as local officials have repeatedly dodged questions about

who was monitoring the weather and what measures were taken ahead of the flooding. Tragedy falls on the historic camp. Camp Mystic, established in 1926, did not evacuate and was especially hard hit when the river rose from 14 feet (4.2 meters) to 29.5 feet (9 meters) within 60 minutes in the early morning hours of the disaster. Flooding on that stretch of the Guadalupe starts at about 10 feet (3 meters).

A wall of water overwhelmed people in cabins, tents and trailers along the river's edge. Some survivors were found clinging to trees. At least 27 campers and counselors died during the floods, and officials said Tuesday that five campers and one counselor have still not been found. Among the dead was Richard "Dick" Eastland, the camp's beloved director described by campers as a father figure. Charlotte Lauten, 19, spent nine summers at Camp Mystic, mostly recently in 2023. She said she didn't recall ever receiving instructions as a camper on what to do in the case of a weather emergency. "I do know that the counselors go through orientation training for a week before camp starts," she said. "They do brief them on all those types

of things." One thing that likely hindered the girls' ability to escape was how dark it would have been, Lauten said. Campers



don't have access to their phones while at camp, she said, adding they wouldn't have cell service anyway because of the remote location. "This is the middle of nowhere and they didn't have power," she said. "It would have been pitch black, like could not see 5 feet in front of you type of darkness. I've never seen stars like there because there's just no light." Inspections found no issues. The state inspected Camp Mystic on July 2, the same day the Texas Division of

Emergency Management activated emergency response resources ahead of the anticipated flooding. The inspection found no deficiencies or violations at the camp in a long list of health and safety criteria. The camp had 557 campers and more than 100 staffers at the time between its Guadalupe and Cypress Lake locations. The disaster plans are required to be posted in all camp buildings but aren't filed with the state, said Lara Anton, a spokesperson for the Texas Department of State Health Services. "We do not have them," Anton wrote in an email. "You'd have to get it from the camp."

Camp Mystic did not respond to requests for comment on its emergency plan. In a statement on its website, the camp said it has been "in communication with local and state authorities who are tirelessly deploying extensive resources to search for our missing girls." Camp Mystic notes that it is licensed by the state and a member of the Camping Association for Mutual Progress, which says its goal is to "raise health and safety standards" for summer camps. Leaders of that association didn't return messages.

Trump's previous tariff push terrified the world economy. He's betting this time is different**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

When President Donald Trump last rolled out tariffs this high, financial markets quaked, consumer confidence crashed and his popularity plunged. Only three months later, he's betting this time is different.

In his new round of tariffs being announced this week, Trump is essentially tethering the entire world economy to his instinctual belief that import taxes will deliver factory jobs and stronger growth in the U.S., rather than the inflation and slowdown predicted by many economists.

On Tuesday, he told his Cabinet that past presidents who hadn't aggressively deployed tariffs were "stupid." Ever the salesman, Trump added that it was "too time-consuming" to try to negotiate trade deals with the rest of the world, so it was just easier to send them letters, as he's doing this week, that list the tariff rates on their goods.

The letters marked a change from his self-proclaimed April 2 "Liberation Day" event at the White House, where he had posterboards with the rates displayed, a choice that led to a brief market meltdown and the 90-day negotiating period with baseline 10%

tariffs that will end Wednesday. Trump, instead, chose to send form letters with random capitalizations and punctuation and other formatting issues. "It's a better way," Trump said of his letters. "It's a more powerful way. And we send them a letter. You read the

far hope to negotiate over the next three weeks before the higher rates are charged on imports.

"I would say that every case I'm treating them better than they treated us over the years," Trump said. The president said Tuesday evening on Truth Social

that he would be releasing letters to "a minimum of 7 Countries" on Wednesday morning, with additional letters coming out in the afternoon. There are three possible outcomes to this political and economic wager, each of which could drastically reshape international affairs and Trump's legacy. Trump could prove most economic experts wrong and the tariffs could deliver growth as promised. Or he could retreat again on tariffs before their Aug. 1 start in a repeat of the "Trump Always Chickens Out" phenomenon, also known as TACO. Or he could damage the economy in ways that could boomerang against the communities that helped return him to the White House last year, as well as hurt countries that are put at a financial disadvantage by the tariffs.



letter I think it was well crafted. And, mostly it's just a little number in there: You'll pay 25%, 35%. We have some of at 60, 70." When Trump said those words, he had yet to issue a letter with a tariff rate higher than 40%, which he levied Monday on Laos and Myanmar. He plans to put 25% tariffs on Japan and South Korea, two major trading partners and allies deemed crucial for curbing China's economic influence. Leaders of the 14 countries tariffed so

Macron urges new era of Anglo-French unity in address to UK parliament**WINDSOR. (Agency)**

President Emmanuel Macron argued Tuesday that France and Britain must work together to defend the post-World War II "international order", as he addressed parliament on the first day of his UK state visit. The first such visit by an EU head of state since Brexit, Macron said in a wide-ranging speech that the two countries must renew their century-old alliance to face down an array of threats. "As permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, deeply committed to multilateralism, the United Kingdom and France must once again show the world that our alliance can make all the difference," he told British lawmakers, speaking in English. "Clearly, we have to work together... to protect the international order as we fought (for) it after the Second World War," Macron added.



Touching on various thorny issues, from global conflicts to irregular cross-Channel migration, he insisted European countries will "never abandon Ukraine" in its war with Russia while demanding an unconditional ceasefire in Gaza. Hours earlier, the French president and his wife Brigitte had received a warm, pomp-filled welcome from King Charles III and Queen Camilla in Windsor as the three-day visit got underway. They had been greeted off

the presidential plane at an air base northwest of London by heir-to-the-throne Prince William and his wife Catherine, Princess of Wales.

After a 41-gun salute sounded from Windsor's Home Park and a royal carriage procession through the town, which was decked out in French Tricolores and British Union flags, the group entered its castle for lunch.

The first state visit by an EU head of state since the UK's acrimonious 2020 departure from the European Union, it is also the first by a French president since Nicolas Sarkozy in 2008. Touching on Brexit in his speech in parliament, which follows in the footsteps of predecessors Charles de Gaulle and Francois Mitterrand, Macron said it was "deeply regrettable" but the result of its 2016 referendum was respected.

Trump prevented war between India, Pakistan during presidency: US Secretary of State Rubio**WASHINGTON. (Agency)**

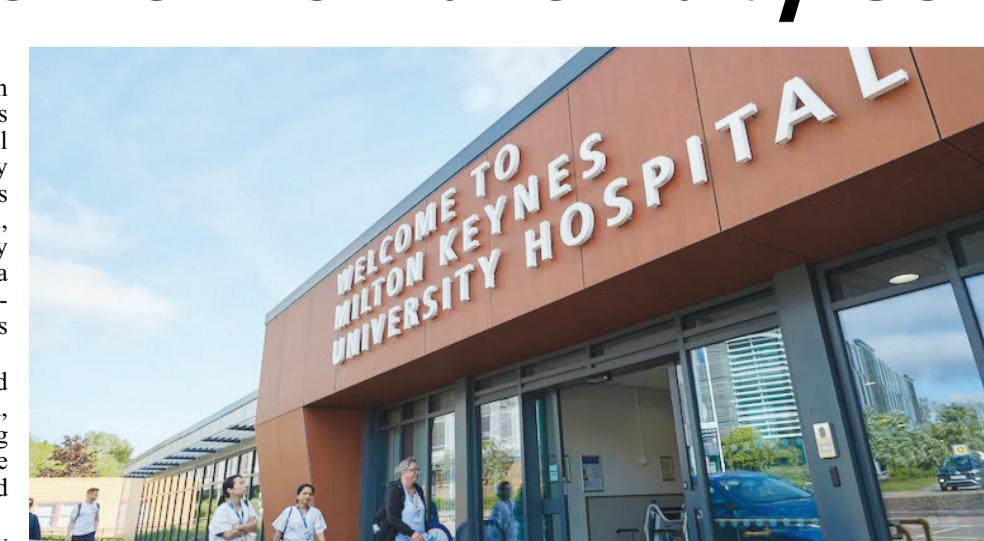
US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said that under President Donald Trump's leadership, America prevented and ended a war between India and Pakistan. "Just going through a list here Mr President and all these achievements that have happened domestically. Under your leadership, we've prevented and ended a war between India and Pakistan," Rubio said, sitting next to Trump, during remarks at a Cabinet meeting at the White House Tuesday. Rubio also listed the peace deal between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda, "a 12-day war that ended with an American operation that we're the only country in the world that could have done, hopefully pretty soon a peace deal between Azerbaijan and Armenia." The entire Middle East and the infrastructure of it has the potential now to change because of Syria and Lebanon. And it hasn't even been 6 months. It's a great testament to your leadership and the team," he said. A day earlier, Trump had again repeated the claim that he stopped the war, that could have gone nuclear, between India and



Pakistan by telling the two neighbours that Washington will not do trade with them if they continued the fighting. "We did a job with India and Pakistan, Serbia, Kosovo, Rwanda and the Congo, and this was all over the last three weeks or so? and others that were ready to fight," Trump had said while speaking to reporters ahead of a bilateral dinner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the White House Monday. "And we stopped a lot of fights. I think the very big one, frankly, a very, very big one was India and Pakistan. And we stopped that over trade. We're dealing with India. We're dealing with Pakistan," Trump had said. "We said we're not going to be dealing with you at all if you're going to fight. And they were maybe at a nuclear stage. They're both nuclear powers. And I think stopping that was very important," he had said.

Indian-Origin Doctor In UK Suspended For Forcing Mother To Have Baby Using Forceps**world. (Agency)**

An Indian-origin consultant gynaecologist in the UK has been suspended after she was found guilty of serious professional misconduct. The 62-year-old allegedly pressured a first-time mother into a forceps delivery against her will. Premila Thampi, from Mitcham in South London, allegedly bullied the patient - who requested a caesarean section - into accepting forceps-assisted delivery at Milton Keynes University Hospital in October 2016.



The woman, 41 weeks pregnant and suffering from a neuromuscular condition, later reportedly said she was feeling traumatised by the experience and said the forceps caused injuries to her baby's head and face.

During the encounter, Ms Thampi allegedly made it clear that she was the senior, implying she could have left the delivery to a junior doctor instead of staying beyond her shift. Testimony at the Medical Practitioners Tribunal Service (MPTS) in Manchester said that she ignored the

patient's repeated objections to forceps, saying, "You are putting your own baby at risk." "You need to let me do this, as I don't know what is going to happen to your baby." The patient eventually gave in to the

forceps delivery but reportedly shouted at the doctor, "I hate you, you haven't listened," as the instrument was used. "She just marched into the room to ask me if I was ready for an instrumental delivery and

then marched back out again. Dr Thampi didn't explain what an instrumental delivery would involve, or what the instruments to be used were... I verbalised to Dr Thampi that I was against the use of forceps," the woman told a British tabloid.

The MPTS ruled that Ms Thampi committed serious professional misconduct, citing her failure to obtain informed consent, her pressure on the patient, and her inappropriate communication. It suspended her from medical practice for three weeks.

Tribunal chair Tehniat Watson called the misconduct serious, citing lack of consent, patient pressure, and poor communication, and said the "action is needed to mark the seriousness to uphold the wider public interest." In her defence, Ms Thampi argued the patient raised objections to the use of forceps only when it was already too late, from a clinical standpoint, to safely proceed with a caesarean section.

Now Pimpri Chinchwad residents can reserve parking space on WhatsApp



Currently operational at 10 key locations in the city, the system allows real-time booking under the user's name for a specific time slot. If the vehicle isn't parked within the reserved time, the slot is automatically released and made available to others.

Pune.(Agency)

In a significant step towards digital governance, PCMC on Tuesday launched its WhatsApp-based 'Pay and Park' facility during the civic standing committee meeting. The initiative, inaugurated by municipal commissioner Shekhar Singh, enables people to reserve parking spaces through WhatsApp without the need for paper tickets or manual processes.

Currently operational at 10 key locations in the city, the system allows real-time booking under the user's name for a specific time slot. If the vehicle isn't parked within the reserved time, the slot is automatically released and made available to others. Users receive instant notifications, making the process transparent and time-efficient, officials said. The system offers seamless access to booking status, real-time availability, and smart alerts—all through WhatsApp, officials said.

According to joint city engineer for urban mobility Bapu Gaikwad, the service will not only ease parking hassles for citizens but also enhance overall traffic management in Pimpri Chinchwad.

The standing committee meeting was held at the Late Mayor Madhukar Pawale Hall at the Main Administrative Building in Pimpri. It was chaired by Shekhar Singh, and attended by additional commissioners Pradip Jambhale Patil, Vijaykumar Khorate, Trupti Sandbhor and key department heads among others.

Navayuga, 2 others bid for Rs 2,368-crore Deonar work

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) Rs 2,368 crore tender for bioremediation of 185 lakh tonnes of waste and the reclamation of 110 hectares of land at the Deonar dumpsite has received submissions from three companies—Navayuga Engineering Company (NEC) Limited, Re Sustainability Limited and H G Infra Engineering Limited. The civic body is now set to scrutinise the bids received from the three firms, who will be tasked with clearing mounds of untreated waste which lie at the Deonar dumpsite through bioremediation. The cleared land will be handed over for construction of housing tenements under the Dharavi Redevelopment Project.



The redevelopment is being carried out by a special purpose vehicle (SPV) Navbharat Mega Developers Private Limited (NMDPL)—a joint venture steered by the Adani Group and Maharashtra Government's Slum Rehabilitation Authority (SRA). All the three bidders of the bioremediation project have prior project related associations with the Adani Group.

The NEC is currently working in a joint venture with the Adani Enterprises Limited to develop the

Vile Parle Jain temple demolition: HC extends status quo of Jain temple for four weeks, rejects Trust's appeal

Dismisses Trust's appeal against refusal of protection from demolition.

Mumbai.(Agency)

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday rejected an appeal by the Trust which runs Digambar Jain temple in Vile Parle (East), that challenged an order of the city civil court refusing interim protection from the BMC's demolition action.

On April 16 this year, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) demolished most of the Digambar Jain temple in Vile Parle that sparked outrage and protests from members of the Jain community. The HC observed that the BMC's action cannot be faulted with and there was no "illegality" or "perversity" in the impugned order of the city civil court.

A single-judge bench of Justice Gauri V Godse issued an order, extending the status quo it granted on April 16 against further demolition to continue for another four weeks. This came after the judge was informed that appellant—Shree 1008 Digambar Jain Mandir Trust—had given an undertaking to the BMC that it will remove the temporary shed constructed for

protection from monsoon before October 31 this year.

On April 7, a city civil court had rejected the temple Trust's plea against demolition action but it gave the Trust interim protection from demolition for seven days to allow it to file an appeal in the high court. On April 15, the city civil court rejected an application by the temple Trust, seeking extension of interim protection from demolition. On April 16, the Trust informed the HC that the BMC officials and police were present at the site to begin demolition, after which the HC passed an order that status quo in respect of the suit structure as of now shall be maintained. However, the court was informed that most of the structure had already been demolished.

Senior advocate Surel Shah, representing the Trust, on Tuesday sought the HC's interference in the impugned order, stating that the BMC could not have initiated the action at the subject premises. However, advocate Drupad Patil for the BMC



submitted that there was no restrictive order against it to take an action.

The HC noted that two separate actions were initiated by the BMC in December, 2024, including one implementing its notice under Section 53 (notice against unauthorised development) of the Maharashtra Regional Town Planning (M RTP) Act.

The notice issued by BMC under said provision was confirmed and upheld by the Supreme Court. The Trust had withdrawn its challenge against the implementation of the

said notice. The second notice was issued by the BMC under Section 488 (inspection of premises by civic authorities) under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation (MMC) Act.

The HC further noted that the BMC was not prevented from taking action of implementing notice under Section 53 of the M RTP Act, as the same had attained the finality before the Supreme Court and the Trust "would not be entitled to seek any relief." Thus, the *prima facie* opinion expressed by city civil court in impugned order to refuse grant of any interim relief cannot be faulted. In the absence of any *prima facie* case made out by the plaintiff, the reasons recorded in impugned order cannot be faulted," the HC observed. "I do not see any legality or perversity in the impugned order. The appeal is devoid of any merit, hence the same is dismissed," Justice Godse held. The HC said that it will pass an order on other appeals and contempt plea along with issue of removal of debris on Wednesday, July 9.

Gangsters, especially from abroad, running extortion racket pose a formidable challenge to Punjab Police



Chandigarh.(Agency)

The murderous attack on a Moga doctor and the killing of a businessman in Abohar in quick succession have once again brought into sharp focus the extortion racket run in Punjab by gangsters, either domestic or from abroad, instilling fear among businessmen, public figures, and ordinary citizens.

According to police sources, from January 2023 to March 2025, Punjab registered 569 FIRs related to gangster threats, including extortion and intimidation, with over 600 extortion and threat calls reported in 2023 and 2024. The state faces challenges from over 500 gangs operating under 10 major networks.

Punjab Police officers acknowledge the extortion cases have "grown significantly" in recent years into a widespread organised criminal activity having deep-rooted connections to domestic and international gangs. Businessmen, industrialists, Punjabi singers, doctors, and now even small traders are targets of these gangs.

Extortion demands range from as small as Rs 50,000 to whopping Rs 5 crore, depending on the target's profile. For instance, a Batala businessman is said to have paid Rs 50 lakh in February 2025, while an Amritsar businessman got a demand of Rs 5 crore in August 2024, police sources say.

Senior police officers, tracking gangsters involved in extortion cases, say gangsters employ sophisticated methods such as international phone numbers, social media platforms and local operatives to gather intelligence and issue threats. Many operate from foreign countries like Canada, the US, and Portugal, making it difficult for the police to apprehend them. They recruit local 'foot soldiers' from villages to carry out shootings or intimidation tactics.

Valsad: Oil spills reported in Nargol and Umargam beaches

Bengaluru.(Agency)

Surat. Oil spills, in the form of tar balls, were reported along the beaches of Nargol and Umargam in Valsad district—the reason behind which is yet to be ascertained—following which the officials of Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB) reached the areas and collected samples for tests. According to officials, the oil spill, after coming in contact with coastal sands, turns into tar balls. The matter came to light on Sunday morning when fishermen from Nargol and Umargam went to the beaches and found a black layer of tar balls spread all over the area.

In Nargol, the fishermen reported the incident to village sarpanch Sweety Bhandari, who reached the beach with the gram panchayat members and surveyed the entire 7-kilometre stretch of the beach. The GPCB authorities have set up multiple teams and deployed them to various beaches in Valsad, said sources. On Monday, a team from the GPCB, Valsad division, visited Nargol beach and collected samples from the beach.

Meanwhile, the Nargol Gram Panchayat started the cleaning work on the beach as it witnesses a large footfall of tourists.

Repeated phone attempts to contact Valsad division GPCB regional officer A O Trivedi for his remarks over the development went unanswered. Nargol resident and

environment activist Yatin Bhandari told this paper, "Oil spills were reported along the beaches of Nargol and Umargam. The oil spill may have taken place deep into the sea due to the neighbouring ONGC Bombay High oil field. During the monsoon season, with high-speed winds and high tides in the sea, oil spill incidents take place at Nargol and Umargam beaches."

We had requested the GPCB officials to clean the spill as a large number of tourists visit the beach. Since the officials did not take any action, the village sarpanch and a few volunteers started the cleaning work."

Sarpanch Sweety Bhandari told The Indian Express, "We have started the procedure to get Blue Flag certification for Nargol beach. Currently, Dwarka's Shivrajpur beach is the only one in the state that holds a Blue Flag." The Blue Flag certification is awarded to beaches for meeting high standards of water quality, environmental management and safety among other criterias.

Sweety Bhandari added, "Every year, over 6,000 people from Gujarat and Maharashtra come to Nargol beach for a pre-wedding shoot. We charge Rs 500 as a fee, which is used to clean and maintain the beach. We also keep a record of the people attending the pre-wedding shoots at the Gram Panchayat office. The beach is a popular destination among foreign tourists also."

As senior citizens complain about long queues in post offices, Pune Postal Services promises priority service

Senior citizens in Pune said they regularly visit post offices to avail of the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS), collect their pension payments, and renew or withdraw deposits, among other services.

Pune.(Agency)

Senior citizens in Pune say they have a tough time standing in long queues at post offices, despite most services now being available online. They say that since most of them can't handle electronic devices, they have to visit post offices.

To address the issue, the director of the Indian Postal Services (IPoS) in the Pune region has stated that they will take steps to give preference to senior citizens in the counter queues to expedite their services.

Many of them regularly visit post offices to avail of the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme (SCSS), collect their pension payments, and renew or withdraw deposits, among other services. Although most services are

now available online, the lack of knowledge about handling electronic devices leads them to visit post offices.

"I have been a loyal customer of India Post for more than 5 decades. And the trust is still intact.

As a teacher at Rayat Shikshan Sanstha, my job for the last four decades has been standing one. But now that I'm aged and suffering from arthritis and joint pains, I need assistance while walking and cannot stand for long. So my request is that if we are given tokens, we can sit and rest in the meanwhile, and this major issue with our elderly generation will be taken care of," said Anjani Mangale, 78, a resident of Nigdi. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)



offers a range of online services that are accessible through its mobile app and website. These include account management (balance checks and statements), fund transfers, bill payments,

ATMs and money transfers. But its real potential is not realised due to server issues and the halt of some services.

"We haven't got the ATMs yet, through which we could've withdrawn cash easily through nearby ATMs. Also when we visit Post Offices, many times the servers are down, so the waiting time increases," said Gitabai Vetal, 70, a resident of Wakad.

Acknowledging the issue, Abhijeet Bansode, Director, Postal Services, Pune region, said, "We have post offices of different sizes, in some places, there's less waiting period while in others the footfall is more, so it is not usually possible to apply a one-size-fits-all approach. But directions are given to the superintendents of the

respective regions that they visit every post office in their jurisdiction, check the waiting time and footfall."

"Through this assessment, we can provide priority service to senior citizens or in some cases, may bypass long queues, while other necessary actions will be taken to provide a hassle-free experience to the customers. Also, an effort will be made to sensitise the staff," Bansode added. Responding to the delay in issuing ATM cards, Bansode said, "It is a pan-India issue because the services of the current third-party vendor have been discontinued, while the process of onboarding a new partner is ongoing. However, the issue will be sorted soon."

Urgent need to plan against 3-front threats

The public has often heard of the two-front threat to India's border security. However, for the first time in recent history, the country finds itself confronting an active and complex threat environment on three distinct fronts. Each adversary—Pakistan, China and potentially Bangladesh—presents a unique security challenge demanding entirely different response spectrums. Bangladesh is really not an adversary yet. But in view of the current dynamics in bilateral relations, it's fair enough to consider threat options from that direction too. Together, this creates a continuous arc of strategic tension along India's western, northern and eastern borders. Managing this tri-junction of pressure calls not just for better resource optimisation, but for a complete review of how India perceives threats, including those in concert, in the near future. In the case of Pakistan, it's all about hybrid war under a conventional and nuclear umbrella. The conventional military equation remains in India's favour, but the role of Pakistan's military remains dangerous because of its historic irrationality, an offensive nuclear posture and the continued patronage of radical non-state actors. The terrain here is a complicated mosaic—high-altitude battle zones in J&K, riverine and canal obstacle systems in Punjab, and deserts in Rajasthan. While Pakistan's army remains a professional conventional force, its real warfighting doctrine continues to be hybrid in nature. Radical proxies, extremist ideological mobilisation, information operations, cyber warfare, and cross-border terrorism remain the preferred instruments. Despite the recent failings in West Asia in the domain of hybrid conflict, Pakistan is likely to persist with its more refined and technologically proficient versions.

Importantly, Pakistan is also increasingly reliant on air and missile deterrence. The emphasis appears to be on counterbalancing India's emerging air dominance and growing missile strike capabilities. Pakistan's strategy also appears designed to pose limited but credible offensive threats—particularly to ensure India keeps its reserve formations committed in the proximity of the western theatre, creating the inevitable decision dilemma about insufficient reserves for the northern borders. The northern border with China presents a different class of threats—of intimidation, strategic distraction and geopolitical messaging, rather than imminent all-out war. Unlike Pakistan, China does not rely on proxies. It employs a calibrated strategy of grey-zone operations—transgressions across the Line of Actual Control (LAC), military infrastructure buildup, psychological warfare and diplomatic signalling. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is technologically far more advanced, better funded and integrated. But it's untested in modern conflict. Its preference has been to maintain controlled tensions along the LAC without triggering full-scale war. From Galwan to Yangtze, the PLA has sought political dividends from military standoffs while keeping escalation tightly managed. Missile exchanges, cyber intrusions, isolated special forces engagements, and forward base upgrades are more likely PLA scenarios than a full-frontal assault. The strategy comes at a steep cost for us. India must commit significant, high-quality troops year-round to Ladakh, Arunachal and Sikkim, often dual-tasked with other roles. This stretches human endurance, operational readiness, and logistics in some of the world's harshest terrains. The application of pressure on the Himalayan borders is designed to divert focus from maritime aspirations that China has in the Indian Ocean, where its freedom of operation is linked to its export-led growth story. The third front is perhaps the least expected. Bangladesh, until recently a dependable—if delicate—partner, has now become a strategic question mark. The fall of Sheikh Hasina's government and the rise of a radicalised political ecosystem marked by Jamaat-e-Islami's resurgence, has changed the character of Dhaka's policy orientation.

FOR more than a decade, an idea has been in the air, that of a post-Western world order. Back then, the West was still recovering from the recession of 2009. The US was mired in the Global War Against Terror, expediently renamed 'Overseas Contingency Operations' after Osama bin Laden had been found and killed in Pakistan's Abbottabad, but the Taliban were showing staying power. In West Asia, the disillusionment with the US began when the Barack Obama administration dropped an old friend, Egypt's Hosni Mubarak, like a hot potato during the Arab Spring. It was a rude awakening for other American friends and partners in the region. Cut to 2025, many believe we are already on the threshold of that post-Western world in which the United States will soon cease to be a superpower, and its unipolarity will be replaced by a more dispersed, multipolar world. All that President Donald Trump had to do in his second presidency was to turn that dream of a multipolar world into an urgent necessity, a task in which he seems to have succeeded.

Year after year, the BRICS grouping grows larger, far from a Goldman Sachs economist's idea of a small group of four emerging economies—call it the original 'Quad'. The Rio summit, held on July 6, showed how the BRICS has expanded from the first tentative meeting of the leaders of Brazil, China, India and Russia in 2009. South Africa joined the next year. In 2024, five new members joined—Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. This year, Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country, entered the grouping, while Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Cuba, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan have been admitted as partner countries. In the West, BRICS has been routinely dismissed as unwieldy and riven with internal differences for any meaningful joint action. Yet, this large, fractious group pulled off a 31-page consensus joint declaration at Rio, standing in stark contrast to the G7, which ended without a joint communique because the US refused to sign off on portions relating to the Russia-Ukraine war. The NATO joint communique after the Hague summit in June was a bare four paragraphs compared to the expansive document of last year's summit in Washington, reflecting the current divisions within the trans-Atlantic security organisation.

No doubt, the 126-para document that emerged from Rio will be parsed for many days to come for Brazil's leadership and diplomacy in forging a consensus that

would have sounded impossible just days ago. For instance, on Iran, India had distanced itself from the statement of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) condemning the June 13 Israeli strikes inside Iran. Yet all, including India, have signed off on a para in the BRICS document that condemns the "military strikes since June 13 against the Islamic Republic of Iran", which includes both Israeli and US strikes, without naming either country.

Just a few days ago, India may not have agreed to paragraph 13, reflecting the world's anger with Trump's "liberation day" tariff war that upended the economies of many small countries along with the long-accepted notion that tariffs

plan (it does not find a mention in the joint communique). And until a few days ago, Delhi believed it could hammer out a fairish trade treaty despite Trump's "devil take the hindmost" approach. The July 9 deadline is upon us, but an agreement is unlikely. India's decision to sign off on the offending paragraph seems like confirmation that the trade treaty is not happening soon. At this stage, India clearly believes it stands to gain by standing with the Global South, something it has not done at least since the start of Israel's war on Gaza in retaliation to the Hamas attack of October 7, 2023. Even as recently as June, India abstained from voting on a resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, as it had on other similar resolutions against Israel's out-of-control rampage against Palestinian civilians that has killed over 50,000 people, and denounced as genocidal by both the ICJ and ICC. India stood out as one of the few countries in not showing solidarity with the Palestinians on these resolutions. The only exception was when it voted for a ceasefire last December, breaking with an established pattern. Some have questioned if it was wise of PM Modi to attend the BRICS summit when the Russian and Chinese presidents stayed away. But India's isolation post-Operation Sindo too showed how far Delhi had strayed from the Global South in its eagerness to be seen at the world's high table. Observers are also puzzled by PM Modi's five-nation, nine-day itinerary through countries whose names don't sound familiar anymore—Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Namibia, besides Argentina and Brazil (for the BRICS summit). The first three are members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) that Modi's foreign policy czars are in the habit of dissing. Perhaps it was a pilgrimage of penance. The absence of the big two—Presidents Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping

—gave Modi a chance to have his say. Now, BRICS has given India a statement on the Pahalgam massacre, albeit without mentioning Pakistan or the Lashkar-e-Taiba that the SCO did not. It would be a mistake to assume that this is an either-or situation, that with this India has turned its back on the US or the West. It's not how foreign relations are conducted. Trade negotiations with the US are set to continue. The Quad is still alive. Trump has indicated he will attend the Quad summit in Delhi. But certainly, Delhi has learnt a lesson or two about not putting all eggs in one basket, pretending that it had the world eating out of its hands. And perhaps the present leadership will stop denouncing the NAM.



should not place an undue burden on developing countries. Trump is so riled by this collective show of defiance that he has threatened to impose an additional 10 per cent tariff on all the countries that participated in the "anti-US" activities of BRICS. The irony is that barring Russia, China and Iran, most countries in BRICS would not describe themselves as anti-US or anti-West. Certainly not India, whose relations with the US are nothing less than robust, as the India-US joint statement during PM Modi's invitation to Washington soon after Trump's inauguration showed.

Earlier this year, India did a contrite backpedal after Trump's threat of "100 per cent tariffs" against BRICS members if they moved ahead on a common currency

India's calculated BRICS bet: Balancing morality and realpolitik

The condemnation of the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam in the summit declaration underscores BRICS' growing alignment with India's counter-terror agenda. It strengthens New Delhi's global campaign against cross-border terrorism, while reaffirming that terror cannot be justified by religion or ideology



India's engagement with BRICS reflects a deliberate pursuit of multi-polarity, leveraging the platform to amplify the Global South's concerns while preserving strategic autonomy. As BRICS evolves from an economic coalition into a more politically-assertive bloc, India is tasked with carefully navigating its role to maximise national interest without alienating key partners such as the US. The condemnation of the April 22 terror attack at Pahalgam in the summit declaration underscores BRICS' growing alignment with India's counter-terror agenda. It strengthens New Delhi's global campaign against cross-border terrorism, while reaffirming that terror cannot be justified by religion or ideology.

India also endorsed BRICS' strong statement on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, condemning the Israeli strikes and aid blockades. It voiced concern over Palestine while preserving its vital defence and strategic partnership with Israel in demonstration of the ability to balance moral leadership with realpolitik, which has become a strategic imperative. The bloc also denounced Israel's strikes on

Iran, a country critical to India's regional calculus, especially because of the Chabahar port and energy routes. Support for Iran's sovereignty, without deepening confrontation with the West, reflects India's nuanced diplomacy amid regional volatility. However, BRICS' growing geopolitical assertiveness has rattled Washington. In a post on Truth Social, Donald Trump warned: "Any country aligning themselves with the anti-

American policies of BRICS will be charged an additional 10 percent tariff. There will be no exceptions." The blunt threat reveals a deeper fear that BRICS is becoming a counterweight to US-led global structures. India's strategy has not been about confrontation; it's about hedging bets in a world of fractured alliances. However, it will take a great deal of convincing to drive home this point with President Trump. India also made clear it does not support de-dollarisation or a BRICS currency. While it promotes bilateral trade in local currencies, New Delhi has acknowledged that the US dollar remains central to global finance. India's message is subtle but firm: BRICS is not an anti-Western alliance. Rather, it's a platform to reshape global governance more equitably. As power centres shift, India must balance Great Power ties with pragmatic multi-polar engagement. Having a role in shaping outcomes need not always mean choosing sides. In a divided world, India's BRICS playbook should evolve into a strategic clarity that is driven not by ideology, but by national interest.

The disturbing return of 'scientific rigging' charges

The hurried voter roll revision in Bihar risks disenfranchising up to a quarter of the state's voters. With this, the Election Commission has needlessly inserted itself into vicious political fight that threatens to spread to other states soon

The Election Commission's special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar is turning into a political confrontation that's threatening to spread like wildfire to the four states and one Union territory due for assembly polls in 2026.

The documentary proofs required to verify citizenship under the new SIR rules are highly unusual. It seems not all citizens are presumed equal in the eyes of the Election Commission. Voters who have been enrolled after 2003, when the previous SIR was conducted, need a new set of documents that effectively delegitimises Aadhaar, voter IDs, ration cards, MGNREGA job cards and even passports. In 2025, voters need to produce birth certificates for themselves and their parents, land deeds and revenue receipts. By adding this new list of documents, the EC has inserted itself into the vicious political clash that routinely descends into accusations of being 'anti-national', converting the accuser into a self-appointed vigilante. The disruptive format and the obvious rush to get it done have transformed the Bihar election into a confrontation between the EC and non-NDA political parties. The face-off will likely spread to West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry, where the next round of elections are scheduled in 2026. The list of additional documents demanded is problematic for more reasons than one. Neither the Union home ministry nor the police in states that have recently embarked on a mission to identify and deport illegal immigrants

from Bangladesh accept land deeds, school certificates, revenue receipts, pension records, caste or other certificates as proof of citizenship. As it happens, some deportees submitted land deeds, school certificates and revenue receipts going back beyond a generation. The West Bengal government has been dealing with thousands of such cases of wrongful deportation from the BJP-ruled states Haryana, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and Madhya Pradesh—where, to be Bengali-speaking, lungi-wearing and Muslim seem to be enough evidence of illegality. In West Bengal, the legitimacy of residents as citizens has loomed larger with every election for over a decade, coinciding with the BJP's ascent as a challenger to Mamata Banerjee's Trinamool Congress. Politics has divided the state's population into Hindu and Muslim vote banks—the first group deemed citizens by virtue of their religious identity and the second often deemed illegitimate because of the presumption of illegal migration.

The politics of weaponising the legitimacy of citizens as voters has an even longer history in Assam. The rise of Asom Gana Parishad in the 1980s was based on a demand for verifying citizenship and excluding anyone the party deemed not a 'bhumiputra' (son of the soil). The timing of the SIR in Bihar—which is just the beginning, as Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced—is a political bunker-buster grenade with the pin pulled out. The EC is not mandated by

the Constitution to undertake this verification; its job is to enlist voters and remove dead persons or fake voters, including those whose names have been incorrectly listed more than once. A clarification is necessary that not all fake voters can be presumed to be illegal Muslim immigrants given documents by political parties, as has been alleged



by the BJP.

Fake voting and "scientific rigging" by the CPI(M)-led Left Front was converted into a mammoth protest by Banerjee, who launched a mission in 1993 to forcibly occupy Writers' Buildings, the state secretariat at the time, and throw out the Jyoti Basu government. Distribution of EPIC (Electors' Photo Identification Card) or voter card was initiated in 1993 to weed out fake voters and, by extension, kill the rigging methodology the Congress alleged had been put in place by the CPI(M). The EC's SIR exercise, however, is

different—it is focused on citizenship, not falsification or misrepresentation. Even before SIR was unrolled in Bihar, Banerjee had sounded the tocsin about revising the rolls in West Bengal and warned that the opposition had to prepare to fight the EC over inclusions and exclusions. Post the Maharashtra polls, her politically hyper-sensitive antennae had interpreted the emanating signals for potential trouble over the rolls and a revision in the EC's jargon. "The cat is out of bag as to how the BJP is manipulating the voter list with the blessing of the EC," Banerjee declared in February 2025 after reports that voter IDs with the same EPIC number had been issued in more than one state. In March, she accused the EC of issuing duplicate IDs in Haryana and Gujarat. The accusation amplified Rahul Gandhi's charge that some 39 lakh new voters had been added in Maharashtra in just five months before the assembly elections.

In Bihar, SIR could disenfranchise up to an estimated 2 crore or 25 percent of the voters. The July 9 statewide agitation called by opposition parties looks like the start of a battle that will spread to Bengal. In March, Banerjee declared that as a person who had gone on a 26-day hunger strike in 2006 to protest against the then state government, "If required, we will protest indefinitely in front of the EC office." India's electoral democracy project—a bold adventure when it began in 1950—had a very large purpose as an inclusive exercise through universal adult franchise.

Gurgaon swelters as humidity soars, maximum temperature rises to 35.4°C

Gurgaon. (Agency)

After a brief respite, humid conditions returned to the city on Tuesday as rainfall remained elusive despite partly cloudy skies. The minimum temperature rose by over 1.5 degrees Celsius, settling at 26.7°C, up from 25.2°C on the previous day. The maximum temperature climbed to 35.4°C from 33.8°C a day earlier.

Despite a partly cloudy sky, most parts of the city stayed dry, and the sunshine during the day only worsened the discomfort. "It was humid and sticky all day. The clouds gave some hope in the morning, but the sun came out strong by noon," said Shruti Sinha, a resident of Sushant Lok-1. Weather officials said while intense rainfall is unlikely, light to moderate rain is expected over the next two days, accompanied by thunderstorms and lightning, which may help keep temperatures in check. Thereafter, very light to light rain is likely to continue through the weekend. A yellow alert has

been issued for Wednesday across the city. "While the monsoon will remain active over the central part of the country, rain activity over the region will be on the lighter side, but isolated areas in the state may see heavy rainfall over the next two days. Temperature is not expected to rise significantly over the next few days, but humidity may add to discomfort," an IMD official said. For Wednesday, the weather will be generally cloudy with a few spells of rain and thunderstorms. The minimum and maximum temperatures are expected to hover around 23 and 32 degrees Celsius. Meanwhile, even after the arrival of the southwest monsoon in Delhi on June 29, intense rain has been eluding it. The city is now facing a rain deficit of 20%. Among all the districts, only Southwest Delhi has received excess rainfall while North and Northwest Delhi have been placed in the large-deficit category. However, India Meteorological Department has issued a yellow alert for



light to moderate rain on Wednesday. From 8.30am to 5.30pm on Tuesday, only Mungeshpur station received 2mm of rainfall. Delhi received 75.6mm of rainfall compared to the normal 94.1mm during the ongoing monsoon period from June 1 to July 7. IMD has marked five districts as deficit while two districts are in normal, two in large deficit and one in excess categories. No district has been placed in the large-excess category. Southwest Delhi, which received the most monsoon

showers, logged 149.6mm of rainfall against the normal 101.6mm, with 47% excess so far. It is followed by adjoining West Delhi, which saw normal rainfall at 99.3mm. New Delhi was also placed in the normal category at 89.9mm rainfall so far. North Delhi has witnessed the least rainfall, logging just 11mm rainfall so far against the normal 88mm. It has been placed in the large-deficit category.

Northwest Delhi also occupied a place in the same category, with the district receiving 10mm of rainfall compared to the normal 71.1mm. The districts that have recorded deficit rainfall are Central, East, Northeast, South and Southeast. IMD classifies rainfall as deficit when it is more than -19%. If the rainfall is between -19% and 19%, it is classified as normal, and between 20% and 59% is considered excess. The category is large excess when the rainfall is 60% more than normal.

Funds allocated to buy vans for doorstep garbage collection, Gurgaon to roll out 200

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Bringing some respite to the city that lacks a dedicated service for door-to-door waste collection, the Haryana govt on Tuesday sanctioned retrospective approval for procuring light commercial vehicles (LCVs) to collect waste from households. The govt authorised Rs 12.6 crore, enabling the municipal corporation to acquire these vehicles and commence household waste collection services in Gurgaon.

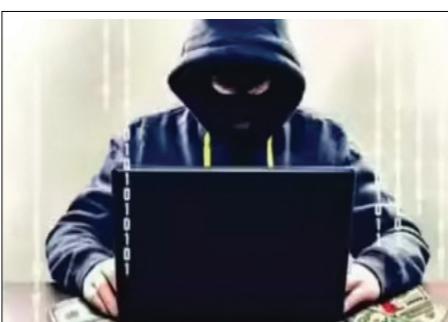
Zone 1 will receive Rs 3.6 crore, Rs 3.2 crore has been sanctioned for Zone 2, Rs 3.19 crore has been sanctioned for Zone 3, and Rs 3.09 crore will be sanctioned for Zone 4. "We floated the tenders in anticipation of the approval. Now that we have received approval from the govt, 200 LCVs will be deployed for doorstep waste collection from Wednesday, and 200 more will be added within four days. These vehicles will be GPS-enabled and will be monitored by our teams. We are also expecting 90 assistant sanitary inspectors to join us through HKRNL soon for monitoring door-to-door waste collection," MCG commissioner, Pradeep Dahiya, told TOI. In June, the secretary and commissioner of the ULB department, Vikas Gupta, approved a proposal to hire 400 LCVs through a seven-day short-term tender. The plan involved deploying 100 vehicles in each of the city's four zones for six months, or until the new model request for proposal (RFP) to hire an agency becomes operational. This stop-gap arrangement is being done since MCG's contract with the city's door-to-door waste collection agency expired on June 15. The agency was hired for a year in June last year after the MCG terminated its contract with the previous solid waste management concessionaire. TOI reported on July 3 that MCG modified its plan for engaging door-to-door waste collection agencies for the third time. According to the latest plan, MCG will now engage four separate companies, allocating one for each zone. Officials said they would ensure the tender is distributed among four distinct agencies.

Awareness first line of defence against cybercrime, says Gurgaon top cop

Gurgaon. (Agency)

The city saw an uptick in cybercrime cases, with more than a 17-fold increase in 2024 compared to 2021. Cybercrime recorded a skyrocketing trend from 79 to 1,300 cases by last year. Meanwhile, police action in terms of arrests also reflected a corresponding rise, though there was a substantial gap between the cases reported and arrests made.

According to data obtained by TOI through a Right to Information (RTI) query, the number of cyber fraud cases registered by the city police showed a steep and alarming rise over the past few years, highlighting the growing threat of digital crimes in the region. Cyber fraud cases rose significantly to 216 in 2022, from 79 a year ago. The upward trend continued in 2023, with 589 cases recorded, and surged further in 2024, reaching a staggering 1,358 cases. However, there were zero arrests in 2021 despite the 79 cases registered that year. In 2022, 157 people



were arrested in connection with cyber fraud cases, followed by 403 arrests in 2023. The number jumped to 1,064 in 2024. While this shows an improvement in enforcement, the growing number of cases continues to outpace arrests, underlining the urgent need for enhanced cyber policing and investigation infrastructure. A police official said, "The complex and technical nature of the investigation often involves cross-border digital trails, use of encrypted

communication and anonymous transactions through crypto-wallets or fake accounts. This makes it a time-taking process." City police commissioner Vikas Arora said, "Cybercrime doesn't target one group anymore. It affects anyone with a phone or internet access. We aim to make people understand the mechanics behind these frauds and the importance of swift reporting. It's not about being naive — it's about being misled under pressure. Awareness is the first line of defence." Arora said this while interacting with IT professionals at a cybersecurity awareness workshop organised by Gurgaon Police, Nagar, NASSCOM and GACS (Global Association for Corporate Services) on Monday.

The commissioner said among the key types of cyber frauds are investment scams, parcel and customs frauds, phishing (voice phishing), task-based online scams and fraudulent listings in search engines.

In tears, MCM mayor accuses minister of framing husband

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Manesar mayor Inderjeet Kaur Yadav on Monday accused state minister Rao Narbir Singh of falsely implicating her husband in a case of alleged abduction and assault of a councillor's brother. The minister denied the allegations as baseless.

A video of the mayor's address at a panchayat meeting in Hayatpur village was circulated widely on social media. In the 1.5-minute clip, the tear-eyed mayor says she and her family have not been able to return home for the past two days because cops are stationed there. "Our local leader, Rao Narbir Singh, along with some other ministers, opposed us greatly, but with your support and the people's backing, I became the first mayor (of Manesar). I want to tell you all that for the past few days... we have been very troubled. We have been roaming in the car... in the case involving councillor Daya Ram's brother, a false case was filed against my husband. Rakesh Hayatpuria

was with me at the time of the incident and has no involvement," Kaur is heard saying.

She goes on, "I wish to convey to everyone that, if someone is elected without a govt ticket, and wins, and the central and state govt act this way, then in the future, there will be tyranny." Narbir Singh on Tuesday told TOI that Kaur's allegations were "politically motivated". "An FIR was registered regarding the case involving the brother of a Manesar councillor, and legal procedures are being followed accordingly. I am not intervening in the ongoing police inquiry or the case," he said. The mayor and her husband Hayatpuria could not be reached for comment till Tuesday evening. The case of abduction and assault was filed by councillor Daya Ram's cousin Pradeep last month. The FIR, dated June 21, names Hayatpuria among the accused. Of the ten Haryana municipal corporations that went to the polls in March this year, Manesar was the only civic body that the BJP did not dominate in.

Results showed that 13 out of 20 councillors in MCM House were Independents and the remaining were BJP nominees. BJP eventually gained full majority after seven Independent councillors joined the party in June. Daya Ram, who fought as an Independent, is among the seven. Sources told TOI that Hayatpuria had initially sought a BJP ticket for Kaur, who also claimed to have the backing of Union minister and BJP MP from Gurgaon, Rao Inderjit Singh. But the party went ahead with Narbir Singh-backed Sunder Lal Yadav as its mayoral nominee. Kaur defeated Sunder Lal by 2,293 votes. TOI had reported in the run up to civic polls that the BJP's campaign in Manesar was fractured by this power tussle. While senior BJP functionaries urged voters to elect candidates with clean records — in apparent reference to Hayatpuria's criminal cases in the past — Union minister Inderjeet Yadav stayed away from campaigning in the industrial town.

Border flooded, but not for rain: No drain at Kapashera, GMDA's plan still on paper

Gurgaon. (Agency)

Every monsoon, Gunja Devi braces herself for the daily challenge at the Delhi border. As she nears the submerged junction at Kapashera, she carefully hops from one broken pavement slab to another, trying to avoid stepping into the ankle-deep, murky water spread across the road. Sometimes, she makes it across. Sometimes, she slips. "There's no way to tell how deep the water is. The water looks shallow, but you never know. Sometimes, it even smells of sewer. We also need to be mindful of electric cables. Who wants to walk through that? But we have a job to do," said Gunja, a domestic help, who lives in Delhi's Kapashera.

For thousands of commuters and office-goers in Udyog Vihar, be it pedestrians or motorists, who pass through this stretch daily, the story is the same. Every year during this time, the stretch of the Delhi-Gurgaon border near Kapashera gets severe waterlogging, with no drainage solution in sight. The area acts as a natural depression, collecting runoff from Kapashera in Delhi and Dundahera in Gurgaon, and becomes virtually impassable during heavy downpours. The Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road is key to getting to Udyog Vihar, where scores of businesses and companies employ thousands. Many pedestrians are often seen hopping across broken pavements or



risking a slippery walk along the edge of the submerged road. "This happens every year during monsoon. It is impossible to judge the depth when the road is flooded and many motorists lose their balance here. The authorities should have fixed this years ago," said Prakash Yadav, a daily commuter who crosses the border every day on his two-wheeler. The city buses also stop at the border and passengers are forced to walk through the

RRTS corridor along Old Delhi-Gurgaon Road as hindering the project. Now, even though the RRTS route has been shifted to NH8, the drainage work is still nowhere in sight. "We have been highlighting the issue multiple times, but it seems like authorities have turned a blind eye to the situation. Imagine if there is an electrocution during the monsoon. Who will be responsible?" RWA president of Surya Vihar Rajesh Gera said. He further said, "It has been three years since GMDA planned to ensure proper drainage connectivity. Yet, there is no clear timeline from authorities on drainage construction. We fear that the story will continue to repeat — unless the govt finally walks the talk on infrastructure upgrades in this perennially flooded zone. "Rainwater mixed with sewer was seen stagnating near the FOB at Dundahera, leaving half of the road blocked. "There is no outlet for rainwater. Even the overflowing sewer stagnates. We have complained to civic authorities but to no avail," a resident said.

A senior GMDA official, when contacted, did not give a clear timeline to address the perennial issue. "The metropolitan authority is preparing an estimate of the missing drainage link from sector 1 to sector 23 to channelise rainwater into master stormwater drains," the official said.

News box

Noida, Ghaziabad teachers association join statewide protest against school merger

Noida. (Agency)

Over 2,000 teachers from Noida and Ghaziabad staged a sit-in at the district basic education offices and collectorate on Tuesday, stating that the state's decision to merge primary and upper primary schools, which have less than 50 students, with nearby institutions would deprive children, aged 6 to 14, from getting education in their neighbourhood in violation of Article 21A of the Constitution of India. Protesters claimed the policy would also reduce vacancies for teaching staff in the state and would deepen the job crisis, especially for DELEd candidates. Teachers in Noida also claimed that the policy is contradictory to campaigns such as School Chalo Abhiyan, as after pairing, several students stopped going to schools due to increased distance. The protest comes just a day after the Lucknow bench of the Allahabad high court upheld UP govt's June 16 order. A bench of justice Pankaj Bhatia dismissed two separate writ petitions filed by Krishna Kumari and others seeking the cancellation of the govt order. The court, however, observed the state govt is bound to ensure that no child is left out because of any action taken by it. Teachers argued that the policy will severely impact children's access to education, particularly in rural areas where schools are often the only accessible learning centres within walking distance. "This policy is not welcome at all," said Amit Goswami, president of Ghaziabad Teachers' Association. "It will reduce teaching positions, eliminate principal posts, and worsen the job crisis, especially for DELEd graduates. Currently, so many students pursue DELEd courses from private colleges too. Where will they go if there's no job in teaching services? It's demoralising for both students and teachers." According to officials, around 1.89 lakh candidates enrolled for the DELEd course in the admission process for the 2024 session. The last advertisement for assistant teachers' recruitment in primary schools was issued in 2018.

Crumbling roads to overflowing drains: What ails Ghaziabad's Makanpur and Kala Patthar road

Ghaziabad. (Agency)

Monsoon's arrival has turned the yearlong mess on both sides of Kala Patthar Road, the central artery of Indirapuram that connects the trans-Hindon township with NH-9 and Delhi-Meerut Expressway, into an unmanageable reality for the thousands who use it every day. And seemingly for the police and corporation, too, with neither able to come up with a solution that streamlines traffic and put an end to the civic mess that people of Makanpur village on one side and families living in housing societies in Ahimsa Khand-1 and Vaibhav Khand on the other have had to put up with month after month, year after year. In the last three years, two big administrative reforms have taken place, the formation of the police commissionerate and the handing over of Indirapuram, which used to be under GDA, to the corporation. But the change appears to have bypassed residents of Indirapuram, which has seen little reprieve from traffic unriliness and civic lapses. On both sides, Kala Patthar Road has enough width to accommodate utilities like a footpath and regulated parking areas for vehicles. But the roadsides are broken, uneven and encroached either by vehicles or by food carts. As a result, the pedestrians and vehicles are locked in a daylong jostle for space past a maze of haphazardly parked cars, people crowding around stalls, autos and e-rickshaws picking up and dropping off passengers and two-wheelers darting to and from every direction, never mind the direction of the traffic. "It's like there are no rules here. There are two traffic signals at the Gaur mall and Aditya mall crossings, but no one bothers to even look at them. Vehicles are merrily driving on the wrong side all the way to NH-9 and even on it. They are coming from all directions. It's a driving nightmare. Have I ever seen police doing something about it? No. Have I ever seen the roadsides getting cleared? No," says Smita, resident of a housing society in the area who travels to Delhi for work every day.

University staffer, cop among four held for supplying MDMA to students in Greater Noida

Noida. (Agency)

A lab technician working at a private university in Greater Noida was among four men arrested on Tuesday for supplying MDMA in the city. Police recovered 600 grams of the synthetic drug from their possession, valued at around Rs 25 lakh. The other three accused include a constable of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Rohit Kumar, and two locals, Krishan and Luvkush, all from the Jarcha area. Police said the gang was involved in distributing the contraband in small sachets, especially targeting college students and hostel residents in the region. According to police, Nakul, the lab technician, supplied drugs to students from his college and nearby hostels. "They accepted orders via call or WhatsApp and delivered the packets manually. The sachets were prepared and distributed by the three accomplices, who earned a commission on each packet," SHO (Knowledge Park) Sarvesh Singh said. Singh added that the police had been working to dismantle drug supply networks in the district. "Over the last few weeks, we received inputs about a gang operating in the area. A team was formed, and they posed as customers to contact the group," he said. On Monday, the team placed an order for the drugs, which led them to Nakul. "He came to deliver the parcel near the Gurjarpur underpass and was immediately arrested. During interrogation, he revealed the names of three more associates in the area, who were also arrested shortly after," Singh said. Police said a total of 600 grams of MDMA was recovered from the group. During questioning, it was revealed that Rohit was on vacation and had brought MDMA to his native village in Greater Noida. A senior officer said, inks with other dealers, the officer added.

Fake ED, DRI raids: Delhi Police caution people against 'suspicious activities'

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi Police Wednesday asked the public to be on alert and urged them to exercise caution after two incidents of fake raids were reported within a week last month. In one case, which occurred in the highly secured area of Chanakyapuri, three people were arrested for allegedly posing as officials from the Enforcement Directorate (ED). In another case reported from Prasad Nagar in North Delhi, the imposters allegedly claimed to be from the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). In a press note, the Delhi Police urged "people to exercise caution and immediately report suspicious activities". "Always inform the local police station if any government or police official visits your doorstep. Demand proper identification from anyone claiming to be a government official, especially if they ask for money, documents or access to your property. If you suspect someone of impersonation, contact your local police

station immediately by dialling 112. Businesses should conduct thorough background check on employees particularly those with access to sensitive information or valuables. Your cooperation and vigilance are vital in preventing such incidents," the note read.

The first incident occurred on June 20, when a Bentley showroom assistant manager was allegedly abducted and robbed of approximately Rs 30 lakh on the pretext of raid by ED officials. According to a police officer, three people were arrested, including a showroom employee who allegedly leaked confidential information about the cash stored in a car in the showroom. The accused have been identified as Sunil Kumar Taneja, 46; Suraj, 22; and Sumit Yadav, 25. While Yadav works as a sales



executive at the showroom, Sunil is a driver by profession for a multinational company and Suraj is unemployed but has a prior criminal record with three cases registered under the Excise Act in Delhi, the officer added. The showroom is located within the premises of the five-star Samrat Hotel in Lutyens' Delhi, a highly secure area of the national capital.

According to the police statement, on June 20, the showroom's assistant manager, Anil Tiwari, was intercepted by two men — Sunil and Suraj — in a car while he was on his way home on his scooter near the Hungarian Embassy in Chanakyapuri.

"Two individuals, one of them dressed in a police uniform, informed Tiwari that he was being arrested in connection with an ED case and physically assaulted him. They showed him a fake ED letter and insisted he take them to the showroom, claiming they needed to search the premises due to a large sum of cash allegedly stored there," the statement said. The duo then allegedly took him back to the showroom, retrieved the keys to a parked Bentley from him, and fled with the cash stored in the vehicle's boot.

Murder accused cow vigilante dies by suicide, alleges harassment by Bajrang Dal in video sent to wife

Agency New Delhi.

Cow vigilante Lokesh Singla, accused in the murder and lynching of two Muslim men in Bhiwani in 2023, died allegedly by suicide on July 5, police said. The development comes a month after a video, allegedly recorded by Singla before his death and accusing senior Bajrang Dal members of mental harassment, went viral. A FIR was registered on Tuesday based on a complaint filed by his wife. The police have invoked the offences of abetment to suicide and criminal acts done by multiple accused with a common intention.

In the video, purportedly sent to his wife on WhatsApp, three individuals have been accused of stalking, threatening, and attempting to frame him. "These men are harassing me, sending people to follow me, and trying to implicate me in fabricated cases," he said in the video. Rajesh Kumar Chechi, Deputy Superintendent of the Government Railway Police Faridabad, said, "We will look into all the allegations thoroughly. All the three named in the video have been made accused in the FIR. The investigation is on. The body was released to the family after the autopsy." A Bajrang Dal member on condition of anonymity said in his personal capacity that due process of law should be followed.

"If Bajrang Dal members or anyone else has been named there should be strict action and a fair investigation regardless."

Singla's body was recovered near the train tracks on the Agra-Palwal route. He has three kids. The Indian Express earlier reported that Singla was an informer and witness for the police in Haryana's Nuh district during raids on alleged cattle smugglers, even accompanying police teams on raids. Singla was among 13 accused initially named in connection with the alleged murder of Junaid and Nasir, and are part of cow vigilante groups. The list also includes Monu Manesar, a Bajrang Dal member and face of the cow protection task force of the Haryana government in Gurgaon."

Coming soon in Delhi, Saheli cards for free bus travel. Check if you're eligible for one

Agency New Delhi.

The BJP-led government is planning to replace the 'pink ticket' system introduced by the previous AAP regime for women, with smart cards — set to be known as Saheli Cards, said officials. And to avail of this facility, the women would have to furnish proof of residence, they added. According to officials, the new smart card system is likely to be implemented by August 15. The 'pink ticket' scheme was launched in 2019. Under it, any woman could travel for free on buses run by DTC and cluster bus services.

Officials said that the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) has floated a tender inviting expressions of interest for empanelment from banks/financial institutions for the issuance of smart cards for travel on all types of public transport for women and transgender persons.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, in her first Budget speech, announced the government's plan to introduce smart cards, which will allow only women from Delhi to travel for free on public buses.

Stating that the welfare schemes should only benefit the Delhites, Gupta had said, "The AAP government ran Delhi's schemes under votebank politics; this not only violated the rights of residents of Delhi but also meant benefits of schemes were extended to ineligible people... We are going to stop one thing that the previous government was doing — corruption in the name of subsidy and welfare schemes. We will do it in the transport sector too." A senior DTC official said two types of cards are set to be issued to commuters — KYC-verified cards and non-KYC-verified cards. However, both would be compatible with the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) standard.

"Non-KYC smart cards can be used in both public buses and Delhi Metro. Any woman aged 12 and above will be eligible for the same. All they need is a valid resident proof showing that they are residents of Delhi... Women and transgender persons can use this card both in buses and Metro..." "However, while money will not be deducted while one takes a bus, while travelling in Metro, one will have to pay as per the ticketing charges... The key aim is to make travelling and ticketing hassle-free while also ensuring that only Delhi residents avail the free commuting benefits," said a senior official.

'Become a role model, put phone away': Ghaziabad health dept's advisory to parents to curb screen use in kids

Maintaining that the problem is not only limited to urban areas, the department said "every parent is troubled by their child's behaviour".

Agency New Delhi.

Unchecked screen time is not just harming children physically, but also affecting their emotional and psychological well-being, the Ghaziabad Health department said in an advisory issued on Tuesday to address an increase in behavioural problems faced by children due to cellphone overuse. Maintaining that the problem is not only limited to urban areas, the department said "every parent is troubled by their child's behaviour".

Issued by Ghaziabad Chief Medical Officer Dr Akhilesh Mohan, the advisory read, "In today's time, it is observed that behavioural problems are more prevalent in children of both rural and urban areas, and a major reason for this is mobile addiction. Initially, it remains less, but gradually

it increases to an extent that it appears as a mental problem. In today's time, almost every parent is troubled by their child's behaviour."

The advisory also included



recommendations for parents — gradually reducing screen time, encouraging outdoor play, and engaging children in social activities.

"Parents are also advised to become a role model and use mobile phones less

and utilise children's time in social activities," it added.

The advisory listed a range of physical, emotional and psychological ailments that may occur due to excessive use of mobile phones. The list includes eye strain, obesity, headaches, neck and back pain from prolonged sitting, and disruptions in sleeping and eating habits. It added that addiction to mobile phones leads to anxiety, stress and irritability. "Children get irritated when they are stopped from using mobile phones and get angry. It also leads to a loss of interest in things that they previously enjoyed, fear of not receiving messages or important updates, becoming insensitive, leading to them being envious, introverted, stubborn, aggressive and developing violent tendencies," the advisory stated.

Delhi govt sanctions Rs 900 crore to install smart classrooms and blackboards

Agency New Delhi.

The Delhi Cabinet on Tuesday approved over Rs 900 crore to install 2,446 smart blackboards across 75 CM Shri Schools and set up 18,966 additional smart classrooms for students of classes 9 to 12.

With this, the number of smart classrooms is set to increase to 21,412 by 2029-30, in line with the National Education Policy (NEP), 2020 recommendations, Education Minister Ashish Sood said. Tender for the same have already been invited, he added.

In a dig at the previous AAP regime, Sood said, "You will be surprised to know that Delhi has 37,778 classrooms in government schools, yet between 2014 and 2024, only 799 of these were equipped with smart blackboards, and even those came through CSR (Corporate Social

Responsibility) donations, not government funding..."

He added that this was the first major step in the BJP government's mission to make Delhi's government schools



better than private schools.

During the Cabinet meeting, Chief Minister Rekha Gupta approved Rs 33 crore for the District Project Fund, while Rs 20 crore was allotted for the

Integrated District Project Fund. The funds will be utilised for all the 11 administrative districts of Delhi, with every district receiving Rs 3 crore for local projects.

According to the CM, the funds will help support projects on infrastructure, community amenities, and social welfare. These projects will include repairs in schools, dispensaries, public toilets, and parks; maintenance of cow shelters, installation of street lights and CCTV cameras; upkeep of drains, pond rejuvenation, and flood control works.

"Implementation of these projects will be carried out through departments like PWD, Irrigation and Flood Control, MCD (Municipal Corporation of Delhi), among others," Gupta added.

Fuel ban on old vehicles in Delhi, NCR from Nov 1

As per Tuesday's order by the Centre's panel, the ban will be enforced in the Capital along with five high vehicle density (HVD) neighbouring districts of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Sonipat.

Agency New Delhi.

Citing "technological" and "cross-border fuelling" concerns, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on Tuesday deferred the ban on fuel to end-of-life vehicles in Delhi. The enforcement of the ban will now begin from November 1, as per the Commission's order, which enabled an amendment of its previous directions.

As per Tuesday's order by the Centre's panel, the ban will be enforced in the Capital along with five high vehicle density (HVD) neighbouring districts of Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon, Gautam Buddha Nagar, and Sonipat.

The CAQM's decision came after a review meeting was held earlier in the day. "The amendment to the Direction No. 89 shall allow GNCTD (Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi) some more time to address the technological gaps in the implementation of the ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system and shall also align enforcement across the NCT of Delhi with the

enforcement in five HVD districts of NCR," read the order.

The Transport department officials of Delhi and nearby states have been directed "to ensure proper installation and operation of the ANPR system". The officials also need to ensure the timely trial of the ANPR system and training of manpower, as per the directions.

The decision follows a written request last week from Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa, who flagged "critical operational and infrastructural challenges" in rolling out the measures outlined in Direction No. 89, issued on April 23.

Welcoming the CAQM's latest decision, Sirsa called the move a "citizen-centric" step in Delhi's pollution control approach. He underlined that the government is working "in people's interest" under CM Rekha Gupta's leadership. "This is a big relief for thousands of citizens who were unfairly impacted... Delhi will not tolerate faulty and selective enforcement," he asserted.

Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said the Central panel has taken "a significant and commendable decision in the interest of the public". "We will utilise the time provided by CAQM until November 1 to



bring further relief to the residents of Delhi. We will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to move towards a long-term, just, and practical solution," she said in a post on X. "Our resolve is to ensure that, alongside environmental protection, the needs, employment, and dignity of Delhi's citizens are fully

Hunger strike by JNUSU enters 12th day



Agency New Delhi.

Members of the elected student union at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Tuesday entered the 12th day of a hunger strike demanding automatic extension of hostel accommodation rights for research scholars who have received academic extensions to complete their PhDs.

The Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union (JNUSU) has strongly rejected an undertaking issued by the JNU administration to students seeking continued hostel access beyond their original deadlines for PhD completion. The protest, which drew several students to the Sabarmati T-point on campus, took a grim turn on Monday night when JNUSU president Nitish Kumar was hospitalised with chest pain. The union has alleged many protesters are facing deteriorating health conditions.

At the heart of the stand-off is an undertaking issued by the Dean of Students on July 7, which required students seeking hostel extension to declare their PhD submission date and acknowledge that such extensions are granted only "on humanitarian grounds subject to the availability of hostel accommodation on a case-to-case basis".

The JNUSU has dismissed the format as "patronising" and "tone-deaf". "It seems the template has been taken off from the JNU V-C's (vice-chancellor) favourite 'maafiveer' Savarkar's mercy petition," the union stated in a statement issued on Monday.

"The V-C must know that JNU students will not bow down to such ill-thought undertakings," it added. The statement, signed by Nitish Kumar, JNUSU vice president Manisha, and general secretary Muneha Fatima, spoke of growing concern over how the policy "disproportionately" affected women, students from marginalised communities, and persons with disabilities.

'Entire room was covered in blood': Woman, 6-month-old baby found killed at Delhi's Majnu ka Tila

Agency New Delhi.

By the time the police arrived, the news had spread. Everyone knew what had happened in the house where a young couple and their children had recently shifted. Curious onlookers gathered at the mouth of the narrow alleyway leading to the couple's house, barely leaving any space for the police and forensic experts cordon off the crime scene. Everyone had a running theory on what happened, but mostly, the neighbours felt frightened. "The entire room was covered in blood. My mother told me she got to know what had happened after she heard my sister-in-law scream for help and called the police," recalled a family member of a six-month-old baby girl, who was killed at her house in Majnu ka Tila on Tuesday. Also found dead at the house was a woman, her mother's friend. The suspect in the double murder, the woman's former partner, is yet to be traced, said police. The woman was temporarily living with her friend and her family amid frequent fights with her partner, who lived nearby, said officers.

"The woman, who was from Uttarakhand, used to live in the same area with her partner, who is also from Uttarakhand. She had issues with him and there were a lot of fights. So, she left him and started living with her friend, the baby girl's mother," said DCP (North) Raja Bantia. The suspect allegedly targeted the woman and the baby when they were alone at the house. When the baby's parents returned home Tuesday afternoon after picking up their daughter from school, they found the six-month-old and the woman dead at their home with their throats slit.

considered," she asserted. The CAQM direction had initially mandated that the denial of fuel and legal action against old vehicles identified using ANPR cameras at fuel pumps would commence from July 1 in Delhi, November 1 in five HVD NCR districts and April 1, 2026, across the rest of NCR. As per the latest decision, the CAQM will stick to its initial timeline to enforce the ban in the rest of the NCR. In his letter to the CAQM last week, Sirsa had pointed to widespread glitches in the ANPR systems, including faulty sensors, poor camera placement, and failure to detect vehicles lacking High Security Registration Plates (HSRP). He also flagged the lack of system integration with vehicle databases in neighbouring states, warning of fuel tourism and a potential illegal cross-border market. Sirsa said that "immediate implementation... may be premature and potentially counter-productive".



Working Mothers

shoulder more responsibilities

Add a baby in a couple's lives, and they no longer share equal amount of household chores, claims a new study.

The study has found that women shoulder a greater amount of workload than men in a high income household when a baby is born, though both thought they shared it equally.

Detailed time diaries that the new mothers and fathers overestimated their increased workload - but by widely varying amounts. Compared to the parents' estimated four hours of extra work each day, the time diaries showed women's workloads increased by two hours a day, while men's total working time each day increased by only about 40 minutes.

Claire Kamp Dush, co-author of the study and associate professor at The Ohio State University, said that women ended up shouldering a lot more of the work that comes with a new baby, even though both men and

women thought they added the same amount of additional work. The results were especially surprising because before the baby was born, these couples were sharing household chores relatively equally.

182 couples participated in this study, where they all had higher-than-average levels of education, both spouses had jobs and both spouses, and reported their intention to keep working after the child was born.

Results showed that the couples shared duties equally before the baby was born. Both men and women reported doing about 15 hours of housework per week, as well as 42 to 45 hours of paid work, respectively. Moreover, 95 percent of both men and women agreed during the pregnancy that mothers and fathers should equally share the child care responsibility.

However, after the arrival of their child, men did about 10 hours a week of physical child care - the less fun work like changing diapers and bathing the baby. Meanwhile, women did 15 hours per week.

The more "fun" part of parenting, such as reading to the baby and playing, is called child engagement, and the time diaries showed a

much smaller gender gap here. Men spent about four hours per week in child engagement, while women spent about six hours. Men also cut back their housework by 5 hours per week, while women did not reduce their housework to compensate for additional childcare work.

One explanation for women's increased post-parenthood workloads compared to men has been that they are spending less time at their paid jobs. But this study didn't find that. Neither men nor women had significantly decreased the number of hours spent at their paid jobs, the results showed.



Don't take cat bites lightly

While all injuries to the hand caused by human and animal bites should receive medical care, infections due to dog bites occur at less than half the rate of cat bites, says a study.

"An estimated 30 percent to 50 percent of cat bites are complicated by infections, which can occur as early as three hours after injury in approximately 50 percent of the infection cases," the study noted.

"Although many people may be reluctant to immediately go to a doctor, all bites to the hand should receive medical care," said orthopaedic surgeon and lead study author Stephen Kennedy from University of Washington.

"And while routine antibiotics are not



necessarily recommended for other bite wounds, they are recommended for a bite to the hand to reduce the risk of infection and

disability," Kennedy added.

Symptoms of infection include erythema (redness), edema (swelling), progressive pain, and fever, the researchers who reviewed literature concerning hand injuries caused by human and animal bites.

Cats don't have the jaw strength of dogs; however, their sharp, narrow teeth also can cause serious injury, they said.

The researchers noted that in case of a bite injury, it is important to inspect the hand carefully for any puncture wounds as even a small wound can inject virulent bacteria under the skin.

"If there is a puncture wound of any size, wash as soon as possible with soap and water then seek medical advice," they added.

The findings appeared in the Journal of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons

Things bosses can't live without

Featured on job networking site LinkedIn, the full list resulted after questioning more than 50 influential people, according to News.com.au. While Virgin king pin Richard Branson insisted that having an assistant who is on the ball 24/7 is one of the main ways he stays on top of business while Hewlett-Packard CEO Meg Whitman makes sure that she always carries her laptop (HP Envy x2), swimsuit and country music when travelling to focus, tune out and stay flexible. Branson admitted that he'd be hopelessly lost without his personal assistant Helen.

And Whitman asserted that she always carries a swimsuit while travelling and try to stay at a location near a pool so she can get in a morning swim regardless of time zone.

Things that Indian-born American physician Deepak Chopra said he just can't travel or work without: "Mybasis, Dream Weaver, and my iPhone and iPad in my toolkit."

His mybasis acts as his online personal dashboard recording information about his body, while his Dream Weaver helps him relax and his iPad keep him connected to family, office and friends, something he asserted is important to him.

But Peter Guber, CEO of Mandalay Entertainment and owner of Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Dodgers, can't function without his smartphone, which he admits he's addicted to.

The author also revealed that he's gone back home to get his phone if he's forgotten it but not his wallet.

Unlike others Vivian Schiller, Chief Digital Officer at America's NBC News said he carries almost nothing.



Some of the world's most powerful and influential business people have revealed the secrets behind their success and things they simply can't function without, which include personal assistants, gadgets, and an old fashioned book.

Neil Weinberg, Editor-in-Chief at American Banker, said he has learned to stay away from his smart phones and laptops as far as possible after he realised it was raising his blood pressure and stress.

Now, he usually carries only a book while travelling.

Meanwhile Clara Shih, CEO of Hearsay Social and Author of The Facebook Era, insisted that being on the go as head of a fast-growing tech company means she can't be without her Droid 4 (phone), her Tory Burch ballet flats and one business card with an important reminder: to slow down and take a deep breath.

Interestingly, RedBalloon founder Naomi Simson said she never gets by without a smile.

Jennifer Dulski, President and COO at Change.Org simply can't live without her calligraphy pens because she finds that a handwritten personal note can be especially precious.

But Craigslist.com founder Craig Newmark insisted that he couldn't function without his Samsung Galaxy Note II which he uses 80 per cent of the time.

71% Indians fear AI scams during Prime Day: Report

New Delhi. (Agency)

Prime Day is one of the biggest online shopping days for Indians, but it has also become a hotspot for scammers. More than 70% of Indian shoppers fear getting trapped by fake deals and AI scams, according to McAfee's 2025 Global Prime Day Scams Study.

FAKE AMAZON SITES AND SCAM TEXTS EVERYWHERE

According to the study, over 36,000 fake Amazon websites and more than 75,000 scam texts pretend to be from Amazon. These scams often appear just before big sales like Prime Day, when people are keen to grab discounts on clothes, gadgets and other must-haves.

INDIANS LOVE ONLINE SHOPPING, SO DO SCAMMERS

Most Indians love shopping online, 96% say they plan to buy during Prime Day this year. But the same excitement that brings deals also attracts scammers. Many of these scams use deepfakes, fake websites, or urgent texts that look like real delivery updates or refunds. All of this is designed to make people panic and click before thinking. Sadly, the cost can be high. The study says 80% of scam victims in India lose more than Rs 40,000. Even worse, 1 in 5 people who get scammed feel too embarrassed to tell anyone. The stress goes beyond money, affecting people's confidence and mental well-being.

YOUNG SHOPPERS MOST AT RISK

Young shoppers are more at risk. Many 18–24-year-olds see ads from unknown brands on social media and trust them if the offer looks good. This makes it easier for scammers to target them with fake deals or fake Prime membership renewals. Still, shoppers are trying to be careful. Most say they plan to use safer passwords, turn on extra security, and even use scam-detection tools. Nearly half say they would think about using an app that checks for fake sites or links before they click.

SMART TIPS TO STAY PROTECTED

It is advisable to always verify before you trust any calls or messages. Big retailers like Amazon will not call you out of the blue about suspicious purchases. Use the official app to check your account instead of clicking on random links.

Travel Food Services IPO to close soon: Should you subscribe? Check latest GMP

New Delhi. (Agency)

The initial public offering (IPO) of Travel Food Services (TFS), a company known for running food outlets and lounges at airports, is nearing its close. The IPO aims to raise Rs 2,000 crore entirely through an offer for sale (OFS) of 1.82 crore equity shares. There is no fresh issue component in the offer.

The bidding for the IPO began on July 7 and is set to close soon. Travel Food Services has set the price band for the issue between Rs 1,045 and Rs 1,100 per share. The minimum lot size for retail investors is 13 shares, which means the smallest investment required is Rs 13,585. For small non-institutional investors (sNII), the minimum application is 14 lots or 182 shares, amounting to Rs 2,00,200. For large non-institutional investors (bNII), the base investment stands at 70 lots or 910 shares, amounting to Rs 10,01,000.

The IPO also includes a special reservation of 40,382 shares for eligible employees, who are offered a discount of Rs 104 on the issue price.

Kotak Mahindra Capital Company Limited is the book-running lead manager for the IPO, while MUFG Intime India Private Limited (also known as Link Intime) is the registrar.

SHOULD YOU SUBSCRIBE?

The Travel Food Services IPO has received mostly positive reviews from analysts and brokerage firms. Several have recommended subscribing to the issue for long-term gains, given the company's strong presence in the airport food services space and the growing air travel market in India. SBI Securities sees the IPO as a good way to ride the growth of Indian aviation. The brokerage highlighted that TFS is present at several major airport terminals and has upcoming projects at the Greater Noida and Navi Mumbai airports.

Mutual fund inflows rise 24% in June to Rs 23,587 crore: AMFI data

New Delhi. (Agency)

Investment in mutual funds saw a strong rise in June 2025, with net inflows into equity mutual funds increasing by 24% to Rs 23,587 crore, according to the latest data released by the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). This was higher than the Rs 19,013 crore invested in May, indicating a renewed interest from retail investors.

Among the 11 equity mutual fund categories, all except equity-linked savings schemes (ELSS) recorded positive inflows. Flexi cap funds emerged as the most preferred option for investors, bringing in Rs 5,733 crore in June compared to Rs 3,841 crore in May. This marked a 49% month-on-month rise.

Small-cap and mid-cap funds also continued to attract strong investor interest. Small-cap funds saw inflows of Rs 4,024 crore, up 25% from the previous month, while mid-cap funds collected Rs 3,754 crore, reflecting a growth of 34%.

However, ELSS funds saw outflows for the third straight month, with investors pulling out Rs 556 crore in June. These tax-saving funds have been facing lower demand since the start of the financial year.

DEBT FUNDS POST REDUCED OUTFLOWS

Debt mutual funds reported net outflows of Rs 1,711 crore in June. Although still negative, this was much lower than the outflow of Rs 15,908 crore seen in May. Out of the 16 debt fund sub-categories, eight recorded net inflows while the other half saw outflows. Short duration funds led the inflow chart with Rs 10,276 crore, followed by money market funds which attracted Rs 9,484 crore. Dynamic bond funds saw a modest inflow of Rs 44 crore.

Need national strategy on critical materials, says ACMA

Leveraging its mineral dominance for geopolitical influence, China has restricted exports of vital rare earths, including EV magnet components; the Indian auto industry must soon figure out an alternative.

New Delhi. (Agency)

Automotive Component Manufacturers Association (ACMA) is advocating for a national strategy on critical materials to safeguard the future of EV and mobility production in the country. This call comes as the auto industry is possibly looking at production cuts when the existing inventory dries out, as there has been no import of rare earth magnets in India since April this year. "The limited availability of rare earth magnets remains a concern,



underscoring the need for a national strategy on critical materials to secure the future of EV and mobility manufacturing in India," said ACMA President Shradha Suri Marwah on Tuesday. She termed the rare earth magnet shortage a major concern and said that the industry is agile and has started to work on alternative solutions. She stated that the industry will have to become self-reliant in order to

avoid the current situation where the sector is staring at a potential crisis with China putting a lid on the export of rare earth magnets.

Leveraging its mineral dominance for geopolitical influence, China has restricted exports of vital rare earths, including EV magnet components. These elements are essential for power steering, electric windows, and high-efficiency

motors, making them indispensable for automakers. The move has unsettled India's auto industry, which already depends heavily on Chinese imports for EV batteries and parts. India isn't alone in this struggle. The US and EU also rely on China, which controls nearly the entire supply chain of these materials. Currently, China supplies 85-95% of the world's rare earth metals, cementing its grip on advanced industries.

Marwah said that there are long-term solutions, but in the immediate there are some challenges which the industry is 'trying to work around'. "There are some issues that we are facing right now with China holding back on them (rare earth magnet licenses). People have stocks of the commodity; it's a low-cost item, but an important item. So till stocks are there, things are looking good," she added.

Realising the importance of localisation, India's government recently launched the National Critical Mineral Mission for self-reliance in the critical mineral sector. Several auto component makers are working alternatives to replace rare-earth magnets.

IT cos' Q1 earnings to be hit by US tariffs, global cues

New Delhi. (Agency)

With a volatile macro environment, largely led by geo-political issues and tariff-related uncertainty, Indian IT services firms will report a soft quarter in Q1 FY26 and revenue performance is likely to be weak in an otherwise seasonally strong quarter, according to analysts. The country's largest IT services company Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) will release its first quarter results on Thursday. HCLTech will release its Q1 earnings on July 10, Infosys on July 23. Equirus Securities expects mixed results across Enterprise IT services companies with very soft quarters for ER&D (Engineering and Research & Development) services companies on a QoQ basis. According to Equirus, Infosys might guide for 1.0-3.25% CC growth in US\$ sales. It expects Wipro to guide for (-) 1% to (+) 1% q-o-q growth in IT Services US\$ sales for 2QFY26E in CC terms. "We expect 3.4% q-o-q increase in US\$ Sales (CC: +1.4% q-o-q growth) for Infosys. EBIT margins are expected to dip by 10bps q-o-q led by wage hikes for leaders/seniors and normalisation of various expenses," it said.

According to PL Capital, Q1FY26 revenue performance of IT firms is expected to be weak in an otherwise seasonally strong quarter. Although the intensity of tariff uncertainties has reduced to some extent, demand recovery in tariff-induced verticals continues to be weak with global enterprises remaining cautious and sensing near-term uncertainties, it said. It said despite the deferment in wage hikes, the improvement in margins would either be flat or negligible due to missing operating leverage.

Arificial Intelligence uses Arificial Intelligence uses As far as verticals are concerned, BFSI will continue its growth momentum. "Manufacturing and consumer performance is expected to remain on a weaker trajectory, due to mounting pressure on automotive and retail/CPG segments. Deal signing activities are likely to be flat or see slight improvement sequentially, due to slower decision making and incremental scrutiny weighing on deal closure activities," PL Capital said.

It expects both Infosys and HCLTech to inch up the lower band of the FY26 organic revenue guidance by 100bps. For TCS, it expects revenue to decline by 0.9% QoQ CC due to ramp down of BSNL deal and weakness continuing in international business. Analysts said clients may not materially postpone their investment when it comes to AAI/Gen AI. While Tier I companies are expected to report median revenue decline of 0.7% QoQ CC, Tier II companies are expected to report median revenue decline of 2.5% QoQ CC with sharp decline in Tata Elxsi & Tata Tech due to weakness in the automotive segment.

Sensex, Nifty edge higher after early dip in Wednesday trade

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Indian equity benchmarks started the day on a cautious note, responding to increasing uncertainty around the looming US tariffs by President Trump. At 11:20 AM, the Nifty 50 traded at 25,536.00, up 13.50 or 0.05%, while the Sensex stood at 83,748.57, up roughly 34 points or 0.02%, although both these indices were marginally down in the opening trade.

Weak cues from Asian markets, along with persistent foreign institutional investor (FII) selling, contributed to the negative bias at the open.

US President Trump's announcement—that 50% tariffs on copper and upcoming levies on semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, and BRICS imports would take effect soon—has heightened market jitters.

In pre-market trading, the GIFT Nifty was down approximately 25 points, suggesting a subdued start.

Anticipated Flow Dynamics & Strategy Foreign institutional investors (FIIs)



have been net sellers for multiple consecutive sessions, though domestic institutional investors (DIIs) have partially offset this with steady inflows. Analysts suggest a "buy-on-dips" approach, placing emphasis on capitalizing on dips with tight stop-losses and booking profits near resistance levels. Operational & Regulatory Context Despite a nationwide Bharat Bandh scheduled today, both BSE and NSE have confirmed that trading will proceed as

usual, though regional impacts on transport or liquidity are possible. Additionally, the MCX is set to launch electricity futures tomorrow (July 10), marking a significant evolution in India's energy derivatives landscape. Sensex had closed at 83,432.89, gaining 193.42 points (+0.23%) on Tuesday, while Nifty settled at 25,461, up 55.7 points (+0.22%).

Broader indices: Nifty Midcap 100 was flat with a slight negative bias; Nifty Smallcap 100 rose 0.03%.

Sectoral trends: All sectors rose except

Auto and Metal. Oil & Gas was the top gainer (+1.05%), led by BPCL, IGL, Indian Oil, Mahanagar Gas, HPCL, Realty, Pharma, IT, Bank, Media, Consumer Durables also rose up to 1%.

Sensex gainers included Bajaj Finance, Infosys, HUL, ICICI Bank, HCL Tech, Ultratech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Trent, Tata Steel, Tech Mahindra, Maruti Suzuki, Adani Ports.

Sebi's ban on Jane Street: Could it rattle Dalal Street

New Delhi. (Agency)

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has taken a strong step as the regulator has barred U.S.-based trading firm Jane Street from operating in the equity and derivatives markets. The decision came after an investigation found the firm was involved in manipulative trading practices. This move is being seen as one of the most serious actions taken by Sebi against a global trading firm. While the ban is focused on a single player, many believe it may have wider effects on liquidity, trading volumes, investor confidence, and even foreign investor behaviour.

A MAJOR LIQUIDITY PROVIDER IS OUT

Jane Street is not just another foreign investor. It is one of the largest high-frequency trading and market-making firms in the world. Its strategies involve trading large volumes and providing tight buy-sell spreads that help maintain liquidity in the markets.

Now that Sebi has banned the firm, many worry that liquidity, especially in Nifty and Bank Nifty options may fall. These contracts see a lot of activity from both institutional and retail traders. If fewer firms provide liquidity, the cost of trading could rise. This happens because wider spreads make it harder for traders to enter and exit positions efficiently. Even before Sebi's order was made public, derivatives turnover on Indian exchanges had already fallen by 13–17% in June. With Jane Street now out, this drop may continue, especially if other similar firms come under the radar.

BROKERAGES AND EXCHANGES MAY FEEL THE PINCH

The fall in derivatives volumes has already begun to hurt the market-related businesses. Shares of listed brokerages like Angel One and Nuvama Wealth, as well as the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), dropped between 6% and 9% after the Sebi order. These companies earn a

significant part of their income from trading activity, and lower volumes could hurt their revenue in the short term. There's also concern among brokerages that global institutional clients could reduce their activity or delay new strategies if they feel India is becoming difficult for complex trading models. Some fear a slowdown in foreign inflows into the derivatives market.

WILL FOREIGN FIRMS RETHINK INDIA STRATEGY?

Dinesh Thakkar, Chairman and Managing Director of Angel One, said the controversy surrounding Jane Street should not be seen as a danger to the overall Indian market, even though it has sparked debate around proprietary trading. "Retail participation in equity derivatives has grown from just 2% in 2018 to over 40% in 2025. This influx fuels liquidity, volatility, and, with it, opportunity. Proprietary trading desks thrive in such environments,

India is currently the world's largest equity derivatives market. According to the Futures Industry Association, it accounted for nearly 60% of the derivatives contracts traded globally in April.

CHENNAI. (Agency) For non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), education loans have emerged as the fastest-growing asset class, with assets under management (AUM) expanding by over 50% in recent years. However, that growth rate is expected to halve this fiscal, as disbursements for educational courses in the US slow following a raft of policy changes, according to a latest analysis by rating agency Crisil Ratings. The US has

introduced sweeping visa and policy reforms, including the suspension and subsequent resumption of visa processing under a tighter social media scrutiny—especially targeting certain countries and academic fields. The reforms also propose fixed-term student visas, enforce visa revocations linked to political activism, and have triggered legal challenges and institutional pushback. These developments have heightened enrollment anxiety and financial risks for universities. For students from India and other countries, this has translated into longer waiting periods, additional documentation requirements, potential term limits, and greater uncertainty—particularly for those involved in activism or pursuing sensitive academic disciplines. To mitigate the potential decline in business, NBFCs are diversifying into new geographies and adjacent product segments. While non-performing assets (NPAs) in the NBFC sector have remained stable so far, asset quality remains a monitorable factor given global

uncertainties and the significant portion of AUM still under contractual principal moratorium. In fiscal 2025, the education loan AUM of NBFCs grew a robust 48% to ₹64,000 crore, following an even sharper 77% growth in fiscal 2024. However, growth is expected to moderate to around 25% this fiscal, with AUM reaching approximately ₹80,000 crore, according to Crisil Ratings. Policy uncertainties in the US, combined with measures such as reduced visa appointments and the proposed elimination of Optional Practical Training norms, have curbed new loan originations. This led to a ~30% decline in total disbursements to the US last fiscal," says Malvika Bhotika, Director, Crisil Ratings. Disbursements linked to Canada—the second largest market—also declined as student visa rules became more stringent, including increased financial requirements through proof of available funds and caps on permits. As a result, overall education loan disbursements rose by just ~8% in fiscal 2025, compared with about 50% in

NBFCs' education loan AUM growth to halve amid US headwinds

fiscal 2024," she adds. To offset these headwinds, NBFCs have sharpened their focus on other geographies. Disbursements for courses in the UK, Germany, Ireland, and smaller destinations doubled in the past fiscal, as students increasingly opted for alternative study destinations. The share of these geographies in total disbursements rose to nearly 50% in fiscal 2025, up from 25% a year earlier. However, this shift is unlikely to fully compensate for the decline in US-linked disbursements. Notably, the US share in the overall education loan portfolio fell to 50% as of March 31, 2025, from a peak of 53% a year earlier, and is expected to decline further over the coming years as lenders pivot toward other markets. NBFCs are also expanding into domestic student loans and adjacent segments such as school funding, and loans for skill development, certification, and coaching. While these loans typically involve lower ticket sizes and may not materially alter portfolio composition, they can offer stability amid global headwinds.

Shreya Ghoshal

Sings 'Piyu Bole' To Pregnant Woman's Baby Bump, Internet Can't Stop Gushing



Shreya Ghoshal is one of the most loved singers in the industry, and her voice often leaves fans mesmerised. Now, it looks like Shreya has found her youngest fan. A video of the singer is doing the rounds, where she can be seen singing her famous Piyu Bole song to a pregnant fan's baby bump. The singer was left stunned as the baby moved inside the womb while she sang the melodious tune. In the video, which is now winning the internet, Shreya can be seen placing her hands on the fan's baby bump as she sings the song. This heartwarming incident took place in Amsterdam, where Shreya was performing as part of her ongoing All Hearts Tour. Backstage, a pregnant fan walked up to Shreya Ghoshal, expressing her admiration. In a touching moment, Shreya knelt down, gently touched her baby bump, and sang Piyu Bole from Parineeta.

As the video went viral, netizens began reacting to it. "Such a pure soul is she," one wrote. Another user commented, "You're all hearts, SG. That child is so blessed. What a special moment!" "Om Sri Sri Ram. Good gesture by Shreya Ghoshal," another fan wrote.

Shreya Ghoshal's contributions to the Hindi film industry are beyond measure. In fact, her impact is so profound that June 26 is officially celebrated as 'Shreya Ghoshal Day' in Ohio, USA. The day honours her talent, global influence, and enduring legacy in music. In 2010, the 41-year-old singer presented an enchanting performance in the US state.

Impressed by her melodious vocals, then-Governor Ted Strickland of Ohio issued a formal proclamation declaring June 26 as 'Shreya Ghoshal Day' to recognise her talent and ability to unite music lovers across the globe.

Shreya Ghoshal's All Hearts Tour began in 2023, and since then, the world tour has held more than 40 sold-out shows in multiple countries. From soulful melodies to upbeat dance numbers, Shreya has mastered the art of captivating her audience in this 3-hour show. Shreya Ghoshal kicked off her musical journey at 16. She won the children's edition of the singing competition Sa Re Ga Ma in 1995. Just seven years later, she made her Bollywood debut with Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Devdas. Shreya Ghoshal is credited with singing more than 2,000 songs in over 20 Indian languages.



Disha Patani

Goes Bold In An Extra-Plunging Halter Top & A Sultry Bikini

Disha Patani never fails to raise the temperature, whether she's gracing the big screen or dropping scorching hot pictures on Instagram. This time, the actress turned up the heat yet again by flaunting a chic and daring gradient halter-neck dress that featured a deep plunging neckline. Her stunning style moment had fans double-tapping in seconds, and the images have since gone viral. In the photos, Disha oozes hotness and glamour in the ombré-toned outfit, perfectly blending edgy fashion with timeless elegance. But the glam wasn't all about high fashion, she also gave fans a peek into her softer, more playful side by sharing a picture of her beloved dog, reminding everyone that her Instagram is as much about personal warmth.

Earlier, Disha set beachwear goals by posing in a lime green bikini layered under a sheer black cover-up. Her mirror selfie, barefoot and carefree, oozed boldness with a hint of beachy mystery. Another set of viral pictures saw her soaking in the sun in a bright yellow bikini, posing by the ocean with tousled hair and a glowing tan. The beach goddess vibes were undeniable, and her fans couldn't help but flood the comment section with fire and heart emojis.

Whether it's sunkissed coastal shots or fashion-forward selfies, Disha has mastered the art of looking effortlessly hot. Her knack for mixing sultry with chic has consistently earned her a spot among the internet's favourite fashionistas.

Professionally, Disha Patani is not slowing down either. She has an exciting cameo lined up in Vishal Bhardwaj's upcoming project with Shahid Kapoor, and



she'll soon be seen in the third installment of Welcome to the Jungle. Adding another feather to her cap, Disha is also stepping into Hollywood with Holiguards, marking her international debut.

'Saved Her Own': Internet Criticises Kavita Kaushik For Rescuing Only Her Dog



Kavita Kaushik faced severe backlash on social media after she shared a video that featured the actress saving her pet dog from drowning in a waterfall. The seemingly adorable video received extreme criticism after netizens noticed that while Kavita rescued her pet dog and made a video out of it, she deliberately ignored stray dogs who were seen getting swept away in the strong currents.

On Sunday, July 6, Kavita took to her Instagram handle to share a video of their adventure while wishing her husband on his birthday. The video started with the actress enjoying herself near a waterfall when suddenly her pet dog, Raka, spotted his arch-rival, a stray dog, and chased it into the stream. What started as a light-hearted, fun moment quickly turned to a serious scenario when the water level rose up and both the dogs were on the verge of drowning.

Kavita was seen handing over the camera to her husband and asked him to record while she went on to save her pet dog. Kavita went downhill and successfully saved Raka from drowning while ignoring the stray dog, who was seen getting swept away by the strong currents and was nowhere to be found.

Sharing this video, Kavita wrote, "Thank you for saving us, Mahadev; we couldn't find the other dog." Soon after she shared the video, netizens quickly jumped to the comment section, asking the whereabouts of the stray dog. One user asked, "Not at all good, madam... you saved your Raka, but what about the other one?" Another user commented, "You guys call yourselves dog lovers?!! One died, and you guys put up the video with music and cheering. These days people are so emotionless and self-centred." As netizens kept criticising Kavita for her careless action, the actress restricted the comment section and did not respond to the queries. Kavita gained popularity after playing the role of Inspector Chandramukhi Chautala in the popular sitcom F.I.R., which aired from 2006 to 2025. She was last seen on Bigg Boss 14, which she quit midway after an ugly altercation with Rubina Dilaik and Abhinav Shukla.

Shanaya Kapoor, Vikrant Massey On Shooting Intimate Scenes In Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan: 'It's The Trust...'



Shanaya Kapoor and Vikrant Massey talk about trust, comfort, and connection while filming intimate scenes in their upcoming film Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan.

Trust was the key behind creating natural chemistry in the upcoming romantic drama Aankhon Ki Gustaakhiyan, says debutante Shanaya Kapoor, daughter of actor Sanjay Kapoor and reality show star Maheep Kapoor, who stars opposite Vikrant Massey in the Santosh Singh directorial. The fresh pairing has caught the internet's attention, especially after the trailer showed their emotional connection unfolding between a visually impaired musician and a blindfolded theatre artist.

While audiences are curious to see how Shanaya performs in her first film, the buzz around her onscreen bond with Vikrant is already building. In a recent chat with Filmyyan, the lead actors opened up about how they worked through the challenges of shooting intimate scenes—particularly with the added layer of performing while visually restricted. Vikrant explained how their shared values helped create comfort and connection on set.

He said, "We've spoken about this. I think it's the trust factor that was built over a point of time. It strikes me that we are both very alike as people. Besides the acting workshop, or you know, chahe fir woh blind school ki baat ho ya fir you know the challenges as actors we faced, uske alawa when we got to know each other as people, especially during the scene when we opened up as Vikrant and Shanaya and not just as actors, I think that also brought us closer."

Shanaya echoed Vikrant's thoughts, agreeing that their off-screen bond was crucial. Vikrant continued, "We are very much alike as people, and I think woh jo trust factor humara tab ek doosre pe aaya, mere mann mein at least inke liye woh trust factor tab aaya when I realised that she and I are pretty alike as people and our world view is pretty similar and we are very hungry actors and we want to go out there and give our best. And the only way that can happen is by trusting each other and there's no other way because you have blindfolds on, I can't see anything, so let's empower each other and bring the best from each other."

NEWS BOX

The Incredible Hulk: Nico's F1 Redemption is the life lesson we all need

New Delhi. (Agency)

In my 15 years of being a TV journalist and watching an endless parade of celebrities in the newsroom, I've only been starstruck once. It wasn't for an actor, a cricketer or any celebrity who would otherwise make heads turn in India.

It was with Nico Hulkenberg.

The year was 2011. The fastest circus in the world—Formula 1—was finally coming to town as part of the inaugural Indian Grand Prix. The German was lined up as a guest on the sports show of the news network I worked for at that time. Then a reserve driver for the erstwhile Force India Formula One team, Hulkenberg was barely noticed by most people in the newsroom (who anyway saw F1 as a spectacle where cars just went round and round in circles). But I was on cloud nine. Nico had made a sensational debut only a year ago on track for the Williams F1 team—bagging a pole position at the Brazilian GP—only to be unfairly dropped in 2011 for a driver ready to pay for his seat. While I was getting a picture clicked with him, I wished



him good luck in getting back to the grid. Hulkenberg smiled and nonchalantly shrugged it off. He knew even then that F1 is not always a meritocracy. But Hulk—and his fans like me—need not have worried. He was back on the grid the next year as a full-time Force India driver. Back at his favourite stomping ground in Brazil, he led for most of the race—on course for a sensational maiden victory for him and the Indian F1 team. Sadly, tragedy struck just 16 laps from the chequered flag as he collided with Lewis Hamilton. The dream of a maiden podium—much like Hulkenberg's car—was left wrecked. That stormy day in Brazil would be the closest Hulk came to a podium—for over a decade. Over the next few years, the German driver would have giant-killing stints with underdog teams such as Force India, Sauber and Renault, but tantalisingly never managed to stand on the podium. Gradually, he built up a rather unfair reputation of “being good, but not really great”—which is why the big teams never truly saw him as a driver worthy of a race winning car.

Wimbledon 2025, Day 10 schedule: Sinner, Djokovic, and Swiatek eye semi-final spot

New Delhi. (Agency)

Wimbledon's quarter-finals continue on Day 10 at The Championships, held at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, London, with top contenders Jannik Sinner, Novak Djokovic, and Iga Swiatek aiming to secure coveted semi-final spots.

Novak Djokovic continues his quest for a record 25th Grand Slam title against Italy's Flavio Cobolli, while Poland's Iga Swiatek looks to get past Liudmila Samsonova. Meanwhile, Jannik Sinner battles an injury going into his quarter-final match.

Flavio Cobolli vs Novak Djokovic

Djokovic's pursuit of a 25th major has been a tale of near misses, having been knocked out in three semi-finals and losing to Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon final for the second consecutive year. The 38-year-old Serbian was tested again in the last 16, dropping the first set to Australian Alex de Minaur while struggling with double-faults and errant forehands. However, Djokovic rallied to claim the next three sets. "He was



exposing my game, exposing my weaknesses," Djokovic said of De Minaur. "I went into kind of full lock-in mode ... I finally was able to kind of do what I wanted to do and swing through the ball." Despite this confidence-boosting win, Djokovic expressed caution ahead of facing 22nd seed Flavio Cobolli in the quarter-finals, saying he was "pleasantly surprised" to see the Italian reach this stage. He doesn't strike me as a grasscourt specialist with his game, but he reached the quarter-finals," Djokovic noted of the 23-year-old, who has reached the last eight of a Grand Slam for the first time. "He's beaten Marin Cilic and some big servers and grasscourt specialists, so huge credit to him. He's a big fighter." Cobolli, with only two clay-court titles on the ATP Tour, has surprised many with his rapid improvement on grass. His rise puts the veteran Djokovic at risk of yet another fall just shy of the summit.

- **Nasser Hussain says series may have shifted in India's favour**
- **England were outbowled heavily in the Edgbaston Test match**
- **Jofra Archer set to make first red-ball appearance in four years**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former England captain Nasser Hussain believes the ongoing five-match Test series may have "shifted in India's favour" after the hosts were comprehensively beaten in the second Test at Edgbaston. However, Nasser reckons that the return of a "special" Jofra Archer could be the spark England desperately need. "England were completely outbowled at Edgbaston," Hussain said. "The difference between the two sides, for me, was how well the two opening bowlers bowled for India. It looked like they were bowling on a different surface." The numbers support his concern. Across the first two Tests, India have amassed a net total of 1,849 runs, frequently crossing the 350-run mark in each



innings. In contrast, England's bowling attack—featuring seasoned names like James Anderson, Chris Woakes, and Ollie Robinson—had looked flat, lacking both pace and bite. While India's top order has thrived, England's seamers have struggled for consistency and movement. One glaring issue is the absence of a genuine fast bowler capable of reversing momentum and intimidating batters. That's where Jofra

Archer re-enters the picture. Expected to feature in the third Test at Lord's, Archer is set to make his first red-ball appearance in four years, having endured a long and painful stretch with injuries—including a recurring elbow problem, a stress fracture in his back, and most recently, a thumb injury sustained during the IPL while playing for Rajasthan Royals. We only see Jofra bowling into a mit, we don't see all of the rehab work that you

Shubman Gill has shown he can fill the boots of the 'Fab Four': Mark Ramprakash

- **England were outplayed by India in all departments at Edgbaston**
- **Atherton feels the match at Lord's will be a test of Stokes leadership and resilience**
- **Atherton recommends Archer and Atkinson replace Tongue and Carse**

New Delhi. (Agency)

Former England cricketer Mark Ramprakash believes that young Indian captain Shubman Gill is not only leading with distinction but also proving that he is ready to inherit the legacy of the celebrated 'Fab Four'—Virat Kohli, Joe Root, Steve Smith, and Kane Williamson. In a column for The Guardian, Ramprakash lauded Gill's recent performances and leadership, stating: "We have to pay testament to his stamina, his skill and his hunger—not just for runs, but to set an example as the new captain of a young



team." Gill has been in sublime form during the ongoing Test series in England. In the second Test at Edgbaston, he scored a double century (269) and followed it up with 161 in the second innings.

This came on the back of a 147 in the series opener at Leeds, bringing his total to an astonishing 585 runs in two Tests. Reflecting on the generational shift in world cricket, Ramprakash wrote: "We are coming to the end of a period that has been dominated by the so-called Fab Four—Virat Kohli, Joe Root, Steve Smith and Kane Williamson—and the search has been on for players who can take over. Gill has shown he can fill those boots and in a wonderfully orthodox style: he plays all formats and is brilliantly adaptable, but with a foundation of classic technique." At just 25, Gill has not only led

by example but also broken significant records. He became the first Indian and Asian captain to score a double century in a Test match in England and the second Indian after Sunil Gavaskar to register both a double hundred and a century in the same Test. His match-defining performances helped India to a 336-run win over England at Edgbaston, leveling the five-match series 1-1. Ramprakash, who played 52 Tests for England, also noted how the captaincy seems to have brought out the best in Gill: "Captaincy can affect a player's form detrimentally, but it seems to have focused him and his three highest Test scores have been made in the past three weeks." Describing Gill's dominance in the second Test, he added: "Two games into the series we have already witnessed something very special from Shubman Gill. In the second Test at Edgbaston he produced a real rarity: an individual performance that defines and dominates a game. Not just piling on the runs, but forcing his opponents to toil in the field until they felt exhausted and out of options." Ramprakash further explained how Gill's innings had a cascading effect on the match: "That fatigue affects batters' mental clarity and their decision-making—what to play, when to leave—as well as their movement and their footwork.

The electronic line-calling system malfunctions during a quarterfinal match at Wimbledon

LONDON. (Agency) A malfunction with Wimbledon's new electronic line-calling system required a point to be replayed during a quarterfinal match between Taylor Fritz and Karen Khachanov on Tuesday. The latest issue with the system occurred during the opening game of the fourth set on Court No. 1 after Fritz had served at 15-0 and the players exchanged shots. Then came a random "fault" call. Chair umpire Louise Azemar-Engzell stopped play and a few moments later announced: "Ladies and gentlemen, we will replay the last point due to a malfunction." The system had tracked Fritz's shot in the rally as if it was a serve, the All England Club said. "The player's service motion began while the (ball boy/ball girl)

was still crossing the net and therefore the system didn't recognize the start of the point. As such the chair umpire instructed the point be replayed," the club said in a statement.

After the "fault" call, a perplexed Fritz turned to the umpire's chair and spread his hands as if asking "what was that?" Neither player seemed upset and Khachanov won the replayed point, but the fifth-seeded Fritz advanced to the semifinals with a 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 7-6 (4) victory. Artificial Intelligence uses Artificial Intelligence uses "If it would happen on a break point or deuce or maybe tiebreaker, OK, you can get more mad," the 17th-seeded Khachanov said. "But it was just beginning of the set, 15-Love or Love-15. I don't remember. It was

maybe not that important moment. That's why I stayed really focused and calm."

Wimbledon switched this year to the electronic system that replaced human line judges but it's been anything but smooth.

On Sunday, there was a glaring mistake at Centre Court during Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova's three-set victory over Sonay Kartal in the fourth round. A shot by Kartal clearly landed past the baseline but wasn't called out by the automated setup—called Hawk-Eye—because it had been shut off. On Monday, club officials blamed "human error" for the oversight. Club chief executive Sally Bolton said the technology was "inadvertently deactivated" by someone for three points in the match.

year-old is still one of the fittest cricketers in the game. Many believed he still had a few more years left in him, possibly even enough time to reach 10,000 Test runs. Kohli also reflected on his close friendship with Yuvraj Singh. He recalled how Yuvraj, along with senior players like Harbhajan Singh and Zaheer Khan, helped him settle in when he was new to the Indian team. "We shared a very good bond both on and off the field. When I started playing for India, Yuvraj pa, Bhajji pa and Zak took me under their wings and made me feel comfortable in the dressing room," Kohli said. He also remembered watching Yuvraj play through his health battles and return to cricket with pride. "His comeback after cancer was incredible. I was captain when he returned and played an amazing knock against England in Cuttack—150, I think. I told someone that day, this feels like watching cricket in our childhood again." I have a lot of love and respect for him. I wouldn't come to an event like this for anyone else," Kohli added.

New Zealand's Finn Allen ruled out of Zimbabwe T20I tri-series due to foot injury

- **Allen was injured while playing for San Francisco Unicorns in MLC**
- **Allen will return home for further checks and specialist advice**
- **New Zealand are yet to name replacement for the key opener**

New Delhi. (Agency)

New Zealand opener Finn Allen has been ruled out of the upcoming T20I tri-series in Zimbabwe due to a foot injury picked up while playing for the San Francisco Unicorns in the Major League Cricket (MLC) in the United States. The tri-series, which also features South Africa, is set to begin on 14 July in Harare. The injury means Allen will also miss the MLC playoffs, with the Unicorns due to face MI New York in the Eliminator on Wednesday. According to a statement from New Zealand Cricket (NZC), Allen will return home for further checks and specialist advice before a timeline for his recovery is confirmed. Allen played his last MLC match against the Los Angeles Knight Riders on 6 July in Lauderhill, Florida, where he was dismissed for 4 runs while chasing a big total of 244. Despite the low score in his final game, Allen had a strong season with the bat, scoring 333 runs in nine matches. Allen played a record-breaking 151-run knock in the opening



game against Washington Freedom, which remains the highest individual score in the league so far. The 25-year-old has been a regular in New Zealand's white-ball squads and was expected to play a key role in the upcoming series. With his absence now confirmed, NZC is yet to name a replacement. The New Zealand team is scheduled to arrive in Zimbabwe on Thursday and will open their campaign against South Africa on 16 July. Allen's absence is a

blow for New Zealand, who are looking to build momentum ahead of a busy white-ball calendar. The tri-series is seen as a good opportunity to test combinations and give younger players a chance in different conditions.

Meanwhile, the San Francisco Unicorns have also lost another key player ahead of the MLC playoffs. West Indies all-rounder Romario Shepherd has left the team to return home for duties with the Guyana Amazon Warriors in the Global Super League. Shepherd was an important player for the Unicorns, getting eight wickets in five innings and contributing useful runs down the order. Like Allen, the Unicorns have chosen not to name a replacement. With both players missing, the Unicorns will face a tough challenge in the Eliminator match, while New Zealand will need to adjust their plans quickly before the tri-series begins in Harare.